

South Tea Echo



THE VOICE OF CAMP TAMAKWA • ALGONQUIN PARK



THE BEST OF SUMMER 2016

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 Remembering Dave Bale with love





HOW TO LIVE A BETTER LIFE

Some of the adages often heard at Tamakwa may seem a bit hackneyed but the values they espouse are at the heart of what camp has long strived to instill in campers and staff.



Tamakwa founder Lou Handler's adages — and the philosophy behind them — live on, to everyone's lasting benefit.

As one of the gatekeepers of all things Tamakwa for almost the past 50 years, I've always taken great pride and pleasure in the many time-honoured traditions that are an integral part of camp. One that's sometimes taken for granted is the collection of adages that have long been included in staff manuals and shared often with campers throughout every summer.

Many were coined by Unca Lou Handler decades back while others have been added along the way. All help make up or reflect the core values and ideals of Tamakwa.

Such is their timeless wisdom, I never tire of citing them. I've learned to live by and teach these adages at camp and in life itself.

Every Tamakwan, re-

gardless of his/her vintage, will recognize — hopefully with fondness — the following Louisms:

- “Camp, like life, has golden and silver days. It's a package deal.”
- “There are no problems in life, only challenges.”
- “Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Take advantage of it.”
- “Tamakwans leave a campsite better than they found it.”

Those of us, like me, who had the good fortune to be at Tamakwa while Unca Lou presided over it will forever remember him saying the above to campers and staff on countless occasions.

He genuinely believed in and practiced those principles for which he was usually proven right in most situations.

I'm amazed at how these same proverbs have stayed with me until today and have helped guide me through all kinds of circumstances. They've made me a better person. I'd like to think many alumni would say the same about themselves.

At camp, these Louisms are yet another way we try to instill and perpetuate the Tamakwa philosophy and positive attitude to life in our campers. It's gratifying to see how even young campers relate to the basic good sense contained in these truisms. Such is their eternal relevance that they apply as much to today's world as to the reality of when they were first uttered.

In recent years, Program Director Daniel “Garf” Garfinkel has put one of the adages to good

use every morning at camp. At the end of breakfast, he recites in front of campers and staff: “Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Take advantage of it.” He means it.

It sinks in, to varying degrees. Maybe it even has an impact on how numerous Tamakwans live their lives. So many are so full of life, giving, achieving and doing great deeds. Did this and other adages have anything to do with it?

I've always appreciated Lou's concept of golden and silver days. Some of it is self-explanatory but it is also another way of saying it's easy to deal with and revel in our successes but it's really how we deal with adversity that defines us and shows our true character.

Over the years, as we saw how Tamakwans responded to the use of the adages, we added others to the collection. Today, it also includes the following: “Laughing is second only to breathing.”

- “No one walks alone.”
- “Always thank the bus driver.”
- “Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.”
- “Do the right thing when no one is watching.”
- “Cheer on your cabin mates and fellow staff. They are your new family.”
- “Silence is consent.”
- “It's never raining at Camp Tamakwa when there's sunshine in your heart.”
- “Don't wait for someone else to do it.”
- “Talk to campers as if their parents were there.”
- “Sharing is caring.”

Together they encapsulate the Tamakwa way, a roadmap to what every camper and staffer should aspire to in how they conduct themselves, especially at camp.

For all the great skills and talents developed at Tamakwa, these lessons in life are among the most valuable gifts camp gives to campers and staff. Hopefully, they're also the most enduring.

Vic Norris
Senior Director



FAMILY CAMP 2017

Where parents are campers too...



Friday, August 25
to
Sunday, August 27

tamakwa.com/familycamp2017



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THE SUMMER AT A GLANCE

A selective listing of major events and other memorable highlights from the 2016 season



JUNE

- 17 **Fri.** – Head Staff arrive for Pre-Pre-Pre Camp
- 18 **Sat.** – Head Staff procedures training
- 19 **Sun.** – Head Staff breakfast cookout
- 20 **Mon.** – Activity Leaders and Trip Staff Arrive for Pre-Pre Camp, Icebreakers
- 21 **Tues.** – Activity Leaders and Trip Staff White Caps; Introduction to camp routines and duties; Twilight Beaver Paddle and sports night
- 22 **Wed.** – Trippers Trip departs; Activity Leaders cookout; Intercamp with Taylor Statten Camps at Tamakwa
- 23 **Thurs.** – General Staff arrive for Pre-Camp; Icebreakers on the Plat-form; Head Staff and Activity Leaders Introductions; Staff campfire
- 24 **Fri.** – Staff White Caps; History of camp
- 25 **Sat.** – Trippers Trip returns; Section and Activity assignments; Directors Block Party
- 26 **Sun.** – Staff First Aid day; Ropes staff training begins; Canoe trip skills training; All-staff PPP; Staff Night at the Portage Store
- 27 **Mon.** – Cabin assignments; Open activities
- 28 **Tues.** – Sleep-in; Section campfires
- 29 **Wed.** – First-session campers arrive; Cabin night
- 30 **Thurs.** – Lice checks; White Caps; Block Schedule Day 1; Camper PPP, Staff Show; Noon-Way ceremony

JULY

- 1 **Fri.** – Canada Day; Block Schedule Day 2; Individual Choice sign-up; Beaver Council speeches and elections
- 2 **Sat.** – First canoe trip departures of the summer; Forester trip skills, Individual Choice periods begin; Treasure Quest evening program
- 3 **Sun.** – Trailblazer trip skills; Tamakwa Stock Exchange evening program
- 4 **Mon.** – USA Independence Day; Can-Am softball game; Ballfield lunch; Section program night
- 5 **Tues.** – Buffet brunch; Cabin cookouts; Campfire at the Beachers
- 6 **Wed.** – Staff windsurf; Olympic evening program; All-day program break
- 7 **Thurs.** – Schlectentina Olympics all-day program
- 8 **Fri.** – 15-day trips depart; Individual choice sign-up; Camp Bar Mitzvah evening for Stephanie Judd and Bennett Magy
- 9 **Sat.** – Z-Machine afternoon; Section program night
- 10 **Sun.** – 13-day trips depart; Outdoor Fun cookout day; Dance party
- 11 **Mon.** – Buffet brunch; Cabin cookouts; Campfire at the Beachers
- 12 **Tues.** – All-day sail; Camp musical production of *Frozen*
- 13 **Wed.** – Survivor all-day program; 10-day trips depart
- 14 **Thurs.** – Individual Choice sign-up; Cabin night
- 15 **Fri.** – Tamakwa Teaser Day; JSG Temagami trip departure; Friday night speeches; Hobby Hubs; JT bedtime stories
- 16 **Sat.** – JT Triathlon; Casino Night evening program
- 17 **Sun.** – Voyageur canoe program cookout; Treasure Swim; JT day trip to the Logging Museum; Section program night
- 18 **Mon.** – Buffet brunch; Cabin cookouts; Loon Lodge
- 19 **Tues.** – Twin Day; Time Trials evening program
- 20 **Wed.** – 16U Intercamp with Manitou at Tamakwa; All activities open at Twilight; Cabin night
- 21 **Thurs.** – Camper triathlons (morning and afternoon); All activities open at Twilight
- 22 **Fri.** – Long trip returns; Friday night speeches; Air Bands evening program; Mini-Colour War break
- 23 **Sat.** – Mini-Colour War: Wrinkle in Time
- 24 **Sun.** – Packing and cleaning day; Senior Girls present “You’re On Trip” Mini Banquet; Camp musical production of *Fiddler on The Roof*; Session-ending video presentation; Extended campfires
- 25 **Mon.** – First-session camper departures; Visiting Day; Beach Party; Staff BBQ
- 26 **Tues.** – Second session campers arrive; Lice checks; Cabin night
- 27 **Wed.** – All-day block; PPP for second session campers; Individual Choice sign-up; Cabin photos; Tamakwa-Go evening program
- 28 **Thurs.** – First day of Individual Choice; Beaver Council elections; Battle of the Sexes evening program
- 29 **Fri.** – Camp Bar Mitzvah evening for Mitchell August, Daryn Goldstein, Gen Hurwitz, Josh Kaufman and Dean Sallan
- 30 **Sat.** – Halloween evening program
- 31 **Sun.** – Alumni hockey game; Cabin program night; All-day program break

AUGUST

- 1 **Mon.** – Sponge Bob Square Pants all-day program
- 2 **Tues.** – CanAm hockey lunch; 15-day trip departures; Section program night
- 3 **Wed.** – Buffet brunch; Cabin cookouts; Campfire at the Beachers
- 4 **Thurs.** – Day 1 of Sail Regatta; 13-day trip departures; Beaver Council presents Cats of Peace evening program
- 5 **Fri.** – Weekend Mini-Session campers arrive; All-Day Sail; Friday night speeches; Hobby Hubs
- 6 **Sat.** – Food Chain evening program
- 7 **Sun.** – Weekend Mini-Session campers depart; Camp musical production of *Aladdin*
- 8 **Mon.** – JT Triathlon; 15-day re-supply; Parkella evening program followed by outdoor dance party
- 9 **Tues.** – Two-week and six-week campers depart; Section program night
- 10 **Wed.** – Buffet brunch; Cabin cookouts; Campfire at the Beachers
- 11 **Thurs.** – Arowhon Intercamp at Tamakwa; Individual Choice sign-up; Counsellor Hunt evening program
- 12 **Fri.** – Harvey Deutch Camper Triathlon; Friday night speeches and Camp Bar Mitzvah for Robert Sarner
- 13 **Sat.** – Beaver Council presents Colour Run afternoon program; Saturday Night Live evening program
- 14 **Sun.** – Harvey Deutch Staff and Camper Triathlons; Half-court tennis Intercamp with Tamarack at Tamakwa
- 15 **Sat.** – All-Day Surf; Treasure Swim; Voyageur canoe program cookout; So You Think Your Cabin Can Dance evening program
- 16 **Sun.** – Rio Olympics viewing; Long trip returns; Camp musical production of *Hercules*; Colour War break: Lost Cities
- 17 **Mon.** – Colour War, Day 1
- 18 **Tues.** – Colour War, Day 2
- 19 **Wed.** – Packing and cleaning day; CITs present “Sweet Dreams” Banquet; Final video presentations; Extended campfires
- 20 **Thurs.** – Summer of 2016 ends as Tamakwans leave for home

TURTLEY AWESOME

Bowser proves an ideal model for this year's plaque BY JEN SPENCE



This summer, Tamakwans were graced with an abundance of turtles, snappers and painted. At the Swim Docks, one in particular enjoyed making his presence known. Due to his enormity, the swim staff christened him Bowser, who proved a frequent companion.

Bowser also helped provide the inspiration behind the 2016 plaque. As Art Director Shauna Dempsey and I deliberated over ideas for the all-important piece of art that would forever represent the summer in the Dining Hall, we realized that Bowser could be an excellent symbol of all

the amazing golden days Tamakwans were blessed with on the sunny shores.

In late July, Junior Counselor and Arts and Crafts Assistant Sophie Linden set to work, using her artistic talents to paint a magnificent turtle to adorn the plaque. Despite having never painted something of this size, she rose to the occasion big time, using acrylic paint to create a masterpiece.

"I liked Shauna's idea to do a different pattern on each of the segments on the turtle's shell," says Sophie, who's taking art in high school in Farmington Hills, MI and plans to continue studying it when she

goes to college next year. "To fill the segments on the shell, I thought it would be cute to paint pictures relating to nature, so I did things like acorns, the sun and moon and a couple of animals."

Sophie, who was in her ninth summer at Tamakwa, took about a week to paint the turtle, doing it on wood which was then cut out by Woodshop Director Ric von Neumann.

The result is one of the most eye-catching plaques in recent years which now has pride of place on the Dining Hall rafters where Bowser will forever watch over Tamakwans enjoying their meals.



OF A TIME AND PLACE

Each summer has its defining moments — and objects. That's why the Tamakwa Museum exists. Here are the latest additions from 2016.

Tamakwans often marvel at what one summer alone can generate in the way of new artifacts for the Tamakwa Museum. While putting a strain on the building's exhibition capacity, each annual addition to what's on view only enhances the museum's stature and appeal.

The Tamakwa Museum is the only place devoted to showcasing all things Tamakwan. It's the official

repository of artifacts that shed light on life on the shores of South Tea. It's home to an impressive collection of objects, big and small, that have contributed to making a summer so memorable. Little surprise it's become a place of pilgrimage for Tamakwans far and wide.

To the uninformed outsider, the Museum's collection might seem made up of mere detritus. Tamakwans, of course,

know better, recognizing the content for the buried treasure it is, literally.

This year, the curators of the Tamakwa Museum, all members of the 2016 Head Staff in good standing, chose 38 irreplaceable items to preserve for posterity. They'll be taking turns giving tours of the museum in its underground shelter on Adventure Island every day except Good Friday and Schlect Tuesday.

1. Aaron's BBQ sauce
2. One of Night Michael's well-written morning reports
3. Tom's short shorts
4. A key to Schelberg's secret closet
5. A button from the CITs' Sweet Dreams Banquet
6. The lantern carried by the main characters in the Colour War break
7. A photo of the new Tamakwa Stock Exchange board
8. The Schlectentina flag
9. The broken clock from the Mini-Colour War break
10. The Square Pants costume from the August All Day Program
11. A wheelbarrow of water from the Cats of Peace evening program
12. A program from both stages of the Parkella music evening program
13. A stained T-shirt from the Beaver Council/Senior Camper Colour Run afternoon at the ballfield
14. The keys to Bennett's car
15. The walkie talkies used by Craig to Vic
16. Yellow lighters
17. Senior Girls fake break script
18. Big Nate's lyrics from his Parkella performance
19. Soggy piece of the roof from the old weight room
20. An intercamp T-shirt
21. A picture of Kaine's pre-canoe trip shoes and post-canoe trip shoes
22. Mitchell's dream of finally winning Survivor Day rope burning
23. Unused gross food from eating contests
24. Keenan's Pre-Camp Donald Trump costume
25. One of Adrian's suplexes from staff mud wrestling
26. A paddle from the Activity Leader Beaver Paddle during Pre-Pre-Camp
27. The foiled plan to steal every left shoe in camp
28. A bucket of mud from the Schlectentina swamp
29. A banana peel from one of El Presidente's snacks
30. Sully's Costume (aka Nitsua 2.0) from the mini-Colour War break
31. Any of the costumes made by Kara Ropes
32. A chip from the changeover night beach party
33. A Pikachu from the Pokemon Go evening program
34. 'Baby On Board' sign from Nate and Snaige's "break"
35. A receipt from one of many CIT Uber rides from Casino night Evening Program
36. A pineapple under the sea from the SpongeBob all-day program
37. A photo of Jeff's Banquet nap
38. The apple thrown by Mike and caught by Tom at Tootsie Frootie from the trip dock to swim dock

SITTING PRETTY

Barely batting an eyelash, Ken Elder creates a new place for Tamakwans to collect their thoughts near Tetherball Alley. BY ROBERT SARNER

Tamakwa's longtime engineer Ken Elder's handyman prowess and fix-it resourcefulness are legendary, with good reason. He may have an incredibly quiet and modest manner but his presence at camp is felt in many ways, big and small. Thanks to Ken, Tamakwa's infrastructure has greatly improved over the years and runs smoothly. If there's something he can't build or

repair, we've yet to discover what it is.

One of his latest additions to the Tamakwa landscape was small potatoes for him, whereas for almost anyone else it would have been far more challenging. Near Tetherball Alley is an adult tree that Ken figured lent itself to have a circular bench built around the base of its trunk.

No sooner did he think about it than he quickly

build it in late July. True to the adage, if they build it, they will come, within minutes of the bench's installation, Tamakwans gravitated to the round structure, putting it to good use. Painted in the Tamakwan green, it now has pride of place as a new fixture for campers and staff to use for both relaxing and socializing—and for monitoring the comings and goings of Tamakwans in the vicinity.



TAKE FIVE

Four staff members recognized for their half-decade of devoted service to Tamakwa – and now have something to show for it. BY ANDREA BASEN

As most Tamakwans know, a camp Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a time-honoured tradition that honours those in their 13th summer on the sunny shores. It's usually marked by a Friday night ceremony in front of the entire camp family, along with the friends and relatives of BM inductees.

In 2010, Tamakwa added a new tradition to Friday night services to pay tribute to those in their fifth summer on staff, presenting them with a customized Tamakwa Swiss Army pocket knife. While it may be hard for campers

to imagine how spending a summer at camp could be hard work, former staffers will readily admit that in addition to being an incredibly fun, rewarding job, working at camp can be both challenging and exhausting.

To be an amazing camp staff member takes a really special type of person. Camp staff work from sun up to sun down, and sometimes in between. They need to be high energy, kind, outgoing, fun, safe and willing to give up their personal social lives in the city to commit themselves to providing incredible

experiences to children in the woods. Without the hard work and dedication of our incredible Tamakwa staff, we would not be able to provide incredible life-changing experiences for our campers.

Tamakwa is fortunate to have so many staff return year after year. While rookies bring new energy and new ideas, returning Tamakwans are critical to maintaining camp's spirit and venerable traditions and to teach first-time staff what it means to be a true Tamakwan.

This summer, in honour of their staff milestone,



Tamakwa presented Mikey Davidson, Daryn Goldstein, Andrew Schelberg-Miller and Nadav Sprague

the commemorative keepsake for their devotion to camp. Amid hearty cheers of How!-How!, Vic and

Craig expressed the hope the four will be back at camp in 2017 for their sixth summer on staff.

DON'T TAKE THE JACKET AND RUN

Camp honours nine men and women who celebrate a milestone summer, otherwise known as the Tamakwa Bar/Bat Mitzvah. BY ANDREA BASEN

Anyone who was fortunate enough to be on the shores of South Tea this past summer heard from longtime Tamakwans that it was one of the hottest, sunniest seasons in recent memory.

With almost incessant golden days, campers were lucky to have an exemplary veteran team running some of Tamakwa's biggest and most popular waterfront activities.

Stephanie "Canoe"

Judd, Bennett "Sail" Magy and Josh "Windsurf" Kaufman all had their hands full on most days as blue skies and warm temperatures persisted from late June until mid-August.

What a fitting way to spend

their 13th summer at camp, qualifying them for the venerable Tamakwa Bar/Bat Mitzvah honours.

On the counselor side, 4 distinguished inductees: Gen Hurwitz, Daryn Goldstein, Dean Sallan and

Mitchell August – were incredible role models for their respective campers. They also worked hard at their respective activities and took out long trips (even Mitchell, much to the surprise of many). Their campers were all lucky to have time-tested counselors in their cabins, leading the way and showing them what it means to be a true Tamakwan.

Rounding out the BM contingent of 2016 were two Tamakwans with

distinctly different roles at camp. Andrew Schelberg-Miller works tirelessly at camp to help anyone and everyone with basically anything to make the summer run smoothly. For his part, Robert Sarner captures each summer in the pages of the *South Tea Echo*, the camp's annual newspaper you're reading now and which Robert first created in 2002.

True to the hallowed camp tradition, the latest members to join camp's BM club were all proud recipients of the customized and highly coveted Tamakwa jackets (made by Roots), presented to them by Vic and Craig. The ceremony is never complete unless someone instructs the honourees: Don't take your jackets and run! For Tamakwa's sake, let's hope they don't.



TRY OVERNIGHT CAMP WITH US FOR JUST 1 DAY (ages 6-10)

TAMAKWA

TEASER DAY
Friday, July 14, 2017

THE IMPORTANCE OF INNOCENCE

A Forester counselor reflects on how Tamakwa is experienced by his young campers BY ANDY HOFFMAN

Smoke travels across the lake at a break-neck pace, struggling to keep up with the wind. The stars shine bright as the moon fights for its rightful place in the sky. The lake lays calm except for a wake made by a bird searching for a late-night snack. The flames of a campfire illuminate the faces of the Foresters in awe who, like soldiers returning from war, share tales of battles that filled their day complimented by vivid details.

In the eyes of men so young, every award is something for which they must fight relentlessly. They will share every memory at home

for families to hear over the next 10 months while friendships will endure for a lifetime.

After the campfire, the Forester unit migrates to their cabin for much-needed shuteye. Teeth are brushed and beds are tended to like protocol. An impromptu dance and glow-stick party ensue and before JT Director Julie can say goodnight, the young campers are out like a light. A sweet end to a long day.

As the summer continues, time forms an infinitely repeating pattern of golden and silver days. The bell becomes a second thought as second home transitions to first

and the nights become cooler, engaged by the northern winds pushing the sails across the lake. Kitchen raids and star gazing take centre stage as the leaves begin to change their appearance while the campers never fail to lose excitement or motivation for new activities or skills. Every day features a new experience; each one a new memory.

If camp is a break from the stress of urban life, then a canoe trip is a break from camp life. Stories over a fire are amplified when enriched by freshly cooked food, sore muscles, bug bites and the sublime presence of the untouched world. Nature's isolation



simultaneously softens the aching ears of the staff and the endless quest for adventure that captivates the young men.

A Junior Tamakwan's summer is predicated on the preservation of his innocence. From the first

award until the last laugh before bed, Tamakwa allows children to explore themselves without the regulations of a parent's watchful eye but with the safety of a home away from home. For that reason, it's important to keep in mind

that camp seems like a much larger place to the young men and women walking next to us along the shores. We must work to make the most of our time and theirs, before it slips away like smoke on the water.

MORE THAN A MATTER OF TASTE

In an effort to draw attention to an important but often overlooked aspect of camp life, Tamakwa publishes a new book that puts the accent on healthy eating for campers and staff BY MARGOT PERLMUTTER

Every year, I write an article in the *South Tea Echo* highlighting some of the food or envi-

ronmental innovations we implemented at camp the previous summer. This year's piece is a bit dif-

ferent. It's not quite the actual food changes I want to share with you but the exciting way in which we are sharing them.

Last year, during a meeting with a Tamakwa parent, we began discussing some of our many food changes at camp. By the end of our chat, I suddenly realized that these little improvements being made each year were adding up to one big movement. I also realized that what started out as a small "Margot project" was now becoming something of interest to many others, including campers, staff and current and prospective parents. So, how could we share all these awesome developments in a fun and easy format? The answer? In a book!

I've never considered myself a writer but as we so often say to our campers, camp is about pushing

yourself outside your comfort zone and trying new things. So, I pushed myself way outside my comfort zone and wrote a book on easy ways to make your life healthier. Not in a preachy "never-eat-flour-again" sort of way but more in a campy, schticky, "eat-an-Unca-Lou-diet" sort of way.

Even if you've never given five minutes of thought to the way you eat, this book might open your eyes to how easily you can make some changes or, maybe help you realize all the awesome things you already do without even knowing it. Titled *Camp Food Matters*, each short chapter gives manageable steps or tips we at camp have started and anyone at home can start as well.

In the book's introduction, I say: "So, if we have a passionate, talented chef and camp family that enjoys our camp food, what am I doing writing this book? Well, I believe that progress and improvements can always be made and while grilled cheese is a favourite, why does it have to be made with highly processed white bread with hydrogenated oils? Why does breakfast have to include cereals that have refined sugar as the main ingredient and little or no nutritional ingredients? The answer is it doesn't! Camp food doesn't have to mean bad food. The goal of any camp director and chef should not be to feed as many mouths as possible for the least

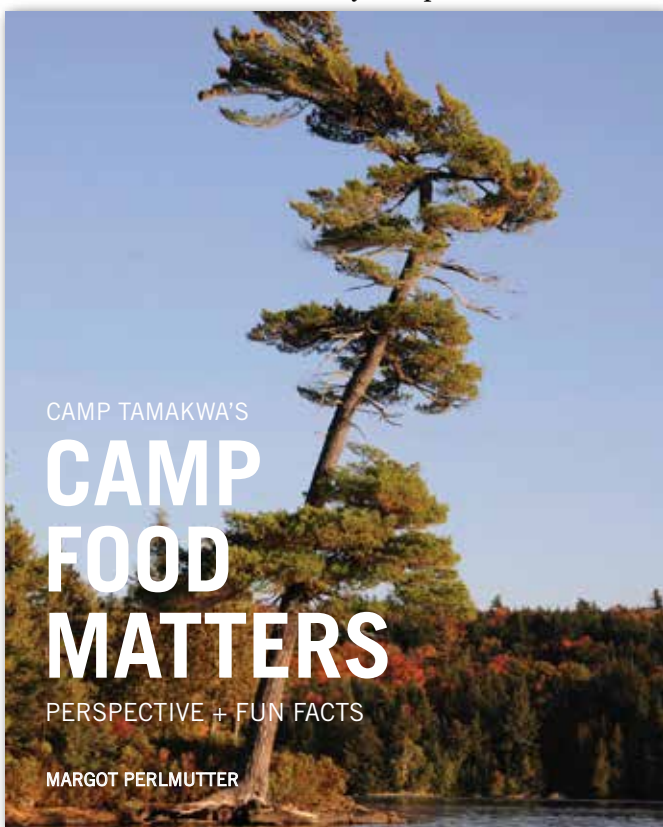
amount of money. It should be to make as many people happy with great tasting food that is actually great for them."

While we may not be expecting *Camp Food Matters* to make any bestseller lists, we are hoping people of all ages will realize camp food matters. Maybe in some small, itty bitty way, we can mentor a new generation of campers to take a few extra minutes to know what they are putting in their bodies, become aware of what's hidden in many of their foods and

hopefully want to eat clean, wholesome, tasty food.

So, if you want to learn more about the exciting changes we've made at camp, want to spread the Tamakwa love with others or just want to see all the fantastic camp pictures (yes, there might even be a picture of someone you know and love), a PDF of *Camp Food Matters* is available online, or just email us to learn how to get your own copy.

Whether you are a proud camp director, a dedicated alumni, a caring parent, an enthusiastic camper, an Algonquin Park enthusiast or just someone who loves to eat delicious food, we hope you'll read and enjoy *Camp Food Matters*.



GOING THROUGH THE GREAT WITHDRAWAL

To come to Tamakwa is to be suddenly deprived of the technology campers take for granted back home. How's life free of iPhones, iPads, texting, Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook?

INTERVIEWS BY ROBERT SARNER

ZACH KAM, 14, Voyager, West Bloomfield, MI, 7th year at camp

"During the first few days at camp, I miss the technology. But then I learn that having real conversations with real people means more than a phone conversation.

The initial transition can be tough. It's sometimes hard to get people's attention right away. You have to do things, you have to be social. You can't control someone on your iPhone telling them what to do. You have to have a conversation with people. If you have a problem, you have to handle it without all the websites telling you what to do. At camp, you can observe what's around you much more than in the city with technology. I think it's a very good thing, quite healthy, not to be hooked up to all the technology at Tamakwa."

CHLOE SISKIND, 10, Pioneer, Toronto, ON, 3rd year

"I like how at camp you get your mind off all the things you do at home where you're always on your screen, seeing new pictures, responding to things, because that's what you're used to. Then, at camp you don't have it. It helps me appreciate what we have at Tamakwa. It changes the way you communicate with other kids. I can have full conversations with them. You learn to appreciate people more.

But for some, it's worse in a way because they can't communicate with others. The internet gives them a way to communicate with and see people through Snapchat or FaceTime. Some people have family members they usually FaceTime but at camp they can't see them. For some, it's not good but for others it's better that they're not always on their phone."

CARTER WAGNER, 13, Voyager, Chicago, IL, 5th year

"I don't really look at it as losing the technology. I see it simply as giving it up for two months. I feel it's good for me because when I'm at camp, I appreciate it more and I'm not distracted. I feel like I read more, I write more letters, and I spend more time with friends instead of watching endless YouTube videos. I play volleyball, try out for the intercamp team and all these other things.

It's a nice break, a needed break, from tech-



nology. I feel like it's easier, instead of being in the city and being able to look on Instagram and seeing 'oh, someone went to the beach today,' I can say to someone in person at camp, 'Hey, what did you do today?' and they will answer like 'I went to the beach and swim docks.' I feel it's something really important for me to do, to step back, take a break and experience everything else.

The only possible disadvantage is if I have questions or want to know how to do something, it's kind of rough not having the internet -- not being able to look up something and not having the information at my fingertips. At camp, I sometimes make a list of what I want to look up on Google when I get home."

ROXIE PARKER, 12, Pioneer, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 5th year

"It's difficult at first but it's good to be able to leave the technology and not check it every minute. It makes you appreciate nature and makes you talk to people more. While it's true you don't know much about current events, at the same time it's kind of nice. It helps you in your relationship with other kids. It makes you more sensitive to other people. You aren't looking at your phone all the time or comparing and looking at Instagram, Snapchat, and MusicMe.

When you return home, you're not as connected to the technology. I can appreciate what people say and hear them more clearly. Talking to them face-to-face is more helpful

in my life."

SETH LESSNER, 9, Forester, Toronto, ON, 1st year

"At home, I always use technology. So it's difficult not to have it at camp. But what's good is it allows me to have more time to do stuff outdoors and makes me appreciate things around me more because I'm not looking at a screen."

DEAN HYSNI, 16, CIT, West Bloomfield, MI, 9th year

"I like the transition because I like to stay away from technology as much as possible. It allows me to interact with my friends and make connections with real people and have real conversations instead of technology being a huge part of our lives. It allows us to focus on each other and create experiences with each other.

What's most difficult about it is not staying up to date on sports news or what's happening with your friends back home."

NOAH BERNSTEIN, 12, Ranger, New York, NY, 2nd year

"At first, it can be difficult when you realize you don't have lots of connection with those who aren't next to you but then you get used to it. I think it's good because when kids just stare at their phones, so focused on one screen, they don't realize the beauty around them. Tamakwa is such a beautiful place where people shouldn't be staring at a device.

"For me, I feel like I'm more aware of things around me. I can see the

beauty of things that I wouldn't with my phone. I learn more about people because you're more aware of your surroundings and see what they're doing. When you're texting, it's just a sentence with abbreviations. It's so limited. When you're talking to people, you meet them and see what they're like.

After camp, I miss being in a place where I can see the beauty around me. Even with my phone, I try to use it as little as possible, which I feel is a good thing."

DANIEL GLASSER, 15, Voyager, Farmington Hills, MI, 5th year

"The transition isn't too bad. On the first day, getting on the bus without having any technology with you is a little weird. But once you're at camp, it doesn't matter. You forget about all of it because you're with your friends. It's good to be away from technology, to talk to people up close and personal, to see the beautiful place around us and not be always looking down at a screen. I do feel like it should be allowed in cabins. Not full-blown iPhones but iPods. Some people can't fall asleep unless they watch a video."

MARTINA RUFIN, 14, 49er, Barcelona, Spain, 2nd year

"It's kind of difficult because you're always trying to see what's going on with your city friends and speaking with people. When I come to camp, I see my friends who I don't usually see during the year, apart from pictures

in Snapchat or Instagram. Seeing them in person is different and getting to talk to them is a good experience. If we had cell phones at camp, we'd talk to less people and meet less people. The biggest advantage is talking in person to others and having more time to get to know other stuff in the outdoors, not staying inside with your cellphone. It helps get us outside. I admit I wish I could talk to my friends at home on my phone. I understand the camp's policy because they want us to learn to be outside more and so we don't need technology at camp unless you need music for the Airbands activity. Music is something that's OK to have in our cabins."

SYDNEY SCHACTER, 13, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year

"It's initially a bit difficult because during the year, you're talking with all your camp friends by texting and Snapchatting them, and then at camp you have to adjust to the fact it's face-to-face conversations.

When you're on your phone, you don't really get to make memories but in person you do and things last longer. I like that I get to see my camp friends as I don't live where many of them live, so it's an advantage not to have my phone at camp. But it's also a bit of a disadvantage that you can't talk to people back home, although you can always write them a letter. That's why I both agree and disagree with Tamakwa's policy."

AVI TEICH, 15, Voyager, Toronto, ON, 9th year

"It's always a smooth transition for me. I love being away from the technology, just being in the nature. Technology may be a big part of my life in the city but it isn't hard to give it up when I come to camp. I love the change.

Once you take the step to get off of technology and get comfortable with that, it feels amazing. In the city, you have your phone in your pocket and you always feel the need to take it out and start texting or whatever. At camp, you don't. You appreciate things around you more. If I'm sitting at home not doing much, I'd probably take out my phone and Snapchat my friends. At camp, you don't need any of that. You don't feel the need to be distracted by anything because you're taken in by the beauty around you."

LOLA PITMAN, 11, Pioneer, New York, NY, 4th year

"It's really not that hard because I got an iPhone only a year and a half ago and my parents made a rule that I have one hour of TV or on my phone a day, so I don't really care when they

take it away. It's not really a difficult adjustment when I come to camp.

It's a good thing I don't have my phone so I won't play video games and such, but it's also for emergencies. I understand why the rule exists at Tamakwa. Everyone would be on their phones and wouldn't want to interact with each other. It wouldn't be what camp should be. This way, you interact more with your friends, you talk to them and get closer to them."

ABBY SIGEL, 14, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year

"For me, it's not difficult because camp offers a nice break from technology. I enjoy putting it away. I get so excited for camp that I don't even think about the technology. It's such a good thing because you get to enjoy the nature of Algonquin Park. You get so much closer with your friends as there's no technology between you. At home, everyone is always on their phone but at camp it's nice to just talk to the people around you.

Sometimes when I'm walking around camp looking for someone, I wish I could text them and ask them where they are. But I never think, 'Oh, I wish I had my phone right now.' I fully agree with Tamakwa's policy on this."

BRITNEY WASSERMAN, 11, Pioneer, West Bloomfield, MI, 6th year

"It's not difficult for me as I don't really care that much about technology. Not having it at camp helps me get out to try new activities, gets my head away from the screen and just relax from the phone. While the technology and social media may be part of my reality back home, it's not my life."

JOSHUA KOOLIK, 14, JSB, Boca Raton, FL, 6th year

"I like the adjustment because it creates a stress-free environment. I don't really have to worry about much. I can just see people face-to-face and say hi to them in real-life. I like it much better than at home.

Technology can be a source of stress because you have to worry about everything that's going on with all your friends and stuff like that. The only disadvantage is you may not know where people are at camp. If you want to see someone, you might not get to talk to them right away. If I had the technology, it would be easier to connect with them. But since Tamakwa isn't that big, you can see them very often. While you can't talk to people who aren't at camp, like your family and friends at home, it's still nice having a break from technology. I like the policy a lot."

IN PRAISE OF AWESOMENESS

Since its inception in 2011, Daniel Garfinkel's post-breakfast ritual recognizing exemplary campers has become a popular tradition. BY NATHAN DEAN

At first glance, it may seem an unlikely symbol of greatness or dubious sign of recognition. But in recent years at Tamakwa, the McDonald's Bib of Awesomeness has come to represent a value far greater than the object itself.

Every morning right after breakfast, Program Director Daniel Garfinkel awards the bib to an individual who "exemplifies what it means to be a true Tamakwan." Some wear their bib for the rest of the day, others take it home and have it framed, but all glow with pride when Daniel presents them the bib in a special ceremony just outside the Dining Hall.

Although most current Tamakwans will recognize this award, few know its origins. When they think of the McDonald's Bib of Awesomeness, they picture Daniel standing by the Main Camp Fireplace addressing campers and staff in a goofy voice he reserves for this ritual: "Today," he bellows, "the McDonald's



Bib of Awesomeness goes to a young man/lady who exemplifies what it means to be a true Tamakwan." He then calls up the honoured camper to receive the plastic bib.

This tradition dates back to 2011 when Daniel joined the Tamakwa family. Determined to make his new role a visible one, he initiated the "Bib" shtick to help Tamakwans get to

know him and his distinctive sense of humour. He also felt it would assist him in getting to know each camper on an individual basis.

Initially, some people may have been confused about the award's purpose but it didn't take long for the routine to catch on. In the process, many campers became involved and ever since the McDonald's Bib

of Awesomeness has been a popular fixture at camp.

And what does it mean to be a 'true Tamakwan'? According to Daniel, it's an individual who displays "persistence, resourcefulness and who acts in a kind and selfless manner." As it's not common enough for someone to demonstrate all these noble attributes in a single act, he believes worthy behaviour

should be recognized in front of the whole camp.

In July, Matthew August performed an act of heroism few others would have been capable of, that was instantly recognized by those around him and subsequently earned him the exalted Bib of Awesomeness. While on cookout, a friend of his lost her glasses in a Biffy Box. As all Tamakwans know, "a friend in need is a friend indeed" and Matthew did what had to be done to retrieve the glasses and return them to his friend.

In the second session, while walking up Boys Hill back to their cabin, Sam Zamir and AJ Axelrod encountered a friend sitting on the ground in agonizing pain. Realizing this friend had rolled his ankle, they used all their strength and determination to carry him to the Clinic so he could receive medical attention.

In both cases, and as with all instances of the McDonald's Bib of Awesomeness, these heroic

acts were noticed by surrounding friends who later nominated the individual for the award. Jacob Coburn, winner of the Bib in the first session, said he was surprised when his name was announced as winner of the award. He hadn't realized he'd been recognized nor nominated and felt honoured to receive this.

Given its daily frequency, how does Daniel procure enough bibs to cover the whole summer? He recalls that in the shtick's early days he'd have strange conversations with McDonald's employees who refused to give him a bib unless he bought a Happy Meal. This was especially true in Toronto. After he discovered the branch in Huntsville, it's been Tamakwa's main supplier of the valued Bib of Awesomeness.

Daniel intends to stay true to this tradition in the future. So a final message to campers: who aspire to greatness continue to act in ways that exemplify the actions of a true Tamakwan and one day you too may be the winner of a McDonald's Bib of Awesomeness. Some say there's no higher calling in life.

TRACKS WORTH MAKING

The hike to Drummer Lake comes in for much praise by someone who discovered it for the first time in 2016. BY JEN SPENCE



A wilderness paradise on the shores of South Tea Lake, Tamakwa has many hidden treasures accessible to those who seek them out. One of those I came to love this summer was Drummer, the lake-side site at the end of a therapeutic hike from Main Camp.

If you like to walk for exercise, enjoy being immersed in nature and have a couple of hours to spare, trekking to and from Drummer is well worth your time. It's like a portage but without having to shoulder any onerous burden like a canoe or backpack.

As someone who on most days gets up with the sun before most Tamakwans are even awake, I often enjoyed making the early morning journey through the forest to Drummer. After walking up the path to the ballfield, you enter the thick bush at deep right field on a winding trail that has been marked by other Tamakwans before you.

If it's your first time, don't do it alone as it's surprisingly easy to lose your way. Make the trip with a guide, someone like Stephanie Judd or Ellen Michaels, both of whom know the trail well and are great to hike with. Ellen has lots of interesting stories to share, and Steph... well, we won't talk about the turkey incident.

Having someone with you will help you stay on

course, make the time go faster and not end up at a different lake or on the nicely groomed portage trail, which may or may not have happened a few times to me as I'm directionally challenged.

When you finally arrive at Drummer, it's quiet and calm. (I only say "finally" because being at the lake is the best part of the experience. Even if the hike is still awesome and only takes about 45 minutes each way, I could never wait to get to Drummer.) If you're there early enough in the day, the mist may still be rolling in off the lake which is eerily soothing.

I liked to go to Drummer with a few fellow lifeguards so we could take turns swimming and using the rope swing there to jump into the lake. It's pretty cool when you meet others out there as it's also a campsite, which means you'll usually run into people if it's on the weekend. It's interesting to chat with them about where they're from and the route they've taken around Algonquin Park.

Unfortunately, time seems to slip away when you're there and before you know it, you have to head back to camp to get ready for the day. I could usually hear the first bell ringing on the hike back and once my feet regained Tamakwa soil the day was ready to begin as breakfast beckoned.

WHY I KEEP COMING BACK

Whether in a canoe or on dry land, being at Tamakwa can answer personal needs and aspirations BY STEPHANIE JUDD



In 1978, when I was attending Camp Arowhon in Algonquin Park, Omer Stringer came to give a canoe paddling demo. He was a legend at the camp. Whenever someone would do something amazing, we'd say: "Omer Stringer." As I was then one of the dedicated paddlers at Arowhon, I got to meet Omer and watch him paddle from up close. His prowess in a canoe was breathtaking. He could do a full 360° with just three

prys. It was then and there that I aspired to paddle like Omer.

In 1994, during my first summer at Tamakwa, I never would've imagined that 22 years later I would be on the sunny shores as canoe director. In 1995, Jessica Robertson, a junior counselor on my dock, predicted to me I'd be at Tamakwa for many years to come. She told me I was just one of those people, she could feel it. Little did I know it then how right

she was. All this time later, Jessica and I are still in contact with each other.

The first time I ever set foot at Tamakwa was in 1989 when I was a tripper at Arowhon. I had no idea it was the camp Omer had helped establish in 1936. I was accompanying a group of boys from Arowhon to Tamakwa for the first-ever intercamp between the two camps. During that visit, I met former Tamakwa co-owner Dave Bale who told me if I ever wanted a job at

Tamakwa to look him up. Five years later that's exactly what I did which led to the start of my Tamakwa career in 1994 as canoe director.

In my early years, I thought of Dave as the camp rabbi. His door was always open. He always listened and made me feel I was the only person that mattered at that moment. Even if my problem wasn't resolved, I left his office feeling I no longer had a problem, only a challenge I was capable of dealing with successfully. Today, I strive to have a similar impact on others.

People often ask me why I go to camp. I usually tell them this is my happy place, my wonderland, my escape from the city, my time in a canoe. But it isn't just a place, it's a family. The friends I've made here are special. We share this magical place together. At camp, you can have your best day ever and your worst day ever on the same day.

Tamakwa -- both the place and the people -- has helped me grow and given me the opportunity to watch and help others

grow. Walking through the Dining Hall, looking at the plaques and counting the number of Voyageur canoeists I've had a part in teaching and mentoring is the source of much joy for me. In case you're wondering, the number is 29 and growing.

This summer, I had two of the most memorable Voyageur tests. The first occurred at the four-week mark with Chaz, aka Rocket, Frank, who's 12-years-old and a phenomenal paddler. He was the last of several paddlers. He had blown up a yellow balloon, attached it to his canoe and proceeded to speed back and forth in a straight line, coming to sudden stops throughout the test. He was doing this behind the other paddlers who were awaiting their moment to shine. As he approached the judges for his second pattern, he asked if we would mind if he tried out his new stop that he had just invented while we were watching everyone else. Needless to say, Chaz is a Voyageur canoeist and possibly the youngest ever.

The second memorable test took place at the seven-week mark, which we'd never done before at that point in the summer. It was dark and raining but we all watched Leo Zolberg get his A.

For years, my mother would ask me: "So, are you now finally done with camp?" Recently, she stopped asking.

I think she's finally accepted that Tamakwa is an inseparable part of who I've been, who I am and who I will become. Much the way Alice must feel when arriving in wonderland, every summer when I arrive at camp, I feel like I've fallen through the rabbit hole once again.

This past summer was bittersweet for me. The person responsible for originally bringing me to Tamakwa, Dave Bale, passed away too soon in June. It was also a milestone summer for me as I marked my 13th year on the shores of South Tea. As such, I celebrated my camp Bat Mitzvah with a group of other Tamakwans who earned the same distinction.

Mazel Tov to Bennett Magy, Mitchell August, Daryn Goldstein, Genevieve Hurwitz, Josh Kaufman, Dean Sallan and Andrew Schelberg-Miller. I was honoured to share summer 2016 with you. Thank you to everyone who has spent time down at the canoe docks learning the fine art of style paddling. You are the main reason I come back to Tamakwa year after year.

BAYVIEW PRIDE IN ACTION

A group of Senior Boys show their real colours during Survivor, staying true to what really matters regardless of what comes their way. BY DEAN SALLAN



Ever since I was a Forester, I remembered looking over to beside the "In" door of the kitchen seeing and hearing Bayview campers chant at the top of their lungs the legendary Bayview cheers we've come to know and love. Most cheers were

created by members of Bayview many decades ago but are still thriving in the Dining Hall and echoing throughout the sloping hills of green.

The Survivor all-day program is something that most Tamakwans and even newcomers look forward

to. It's a time when you and your entire cabin come together and compete for your "cabin survival." Each section of Boys camp and Girls camp get split up and do various tasks competing against each other but if your cabin gets voted off the Tamakwa shores, you

go on cookout for the rest of the day with food for the remaining meals.

Judges not only judge who the winner is but they award points for loud cheering, sportsmanship and respect. This year, my campers in Bayview wanted to do something

special. They told me -- as well as Senior Counselor Ben Canvasser and Junior Counselor Sam Borman -- that they wanted to express their pride in a Bayview-related theme as many Bayview cabins did in the past.

"A major part of being in Bayview and a Senior Boy is the sense of pride that comes along with it," one of my campers told me. "In almost every Bayview cheer, there's a verse or line where referring to the strength and honour of being a Senior Boy representing yourself as well as your cabin mates in Bayview."

When it came to Survivor Day, we were all sitting around thinking of themes we could use for our team. We knew the name had to be a Bayview-based pun because that's what most Bayview survivor themes are. With this in mind, we bounced around ideas until someone noticed the Bayview Pride rainbow plaque in our cabin from the 2011 Senior Boys. We thought this would be a good idea because of its two meanings.

We also had several coloured masks. After the boys decided Bayview Pride would be how they would represent themselves, they pulled it off perfectly. Each one picked a colour to dress up head-to-toe in coordination with

the colours of a rainbow. All day we walked around in the same order as the rainbow, chanting "Bayview Pride" cheers. All in all, we were happy with the way our theme turned out. Although we didn't win, we still had a great time being Bayview Pride.

Watching these boys give it everything they had proved a proud and rewarding feeling for myself as well as for Ben and Sam. The three of us knew what it feels like to compete in Survivor as a camper in Bayview and seeing our campers do everything they could to advance to the next round spoke volumes for the rest of the summer. They fought for every inch in the sink-or-swim relay and also worked together admirably with two other Voyageur cabins to build a huge fort in which eight members could comfortably sit and relax.

Unfortunately, we ended up getting voted off right before dinner and while our spirits were low, we held our heads high. I'm extremely proud of my campers for staying positive throughout the entire day and, more importantly, keeping a smile on their faces and having so much fun. Ben, Sam and myself couldn't have asked for a better illustration of Bayview Pride in action.



GETTING AN EARFUL

We asked campers what's their favourite sound at Tamakwa, and why. INTERVIEWS BY ROBERT SARNER

DEAN HYSNI, 16, CIT, West Bloomfield, MI, 9th year at camp
 "I'd probably say the best sound at camp is the bell because it kick starts my morning and gets me excited for the day. I like that sound."

BRITNEY WASSERMAN, 11, Pioneer, West Bloomfield, MI, 6th year
 "During the summer, I love the sound of the wind through the trees. It has a soothing effect. When you're doing yoga and other fun activities or even just walking around camp with your friends, and you hear the nice breeze, it's calming. I also like the sound of the music at dance parties and all that fun stuff. On the first day of camp, it's great when we hear the pointer going around the bend and we see Tamakwa. I love hearing the pointer."

AVI TEICH, 15, Voyageur, Toronto, ON, 9th year
 "I love the sound of cheering in the Dining Hall because it really shows the

spirit of camp. When you're standing on the benches and chanting with your friends and everybody around you, it really feels like you are a family and it reflects the spirit of camp. Even though it's loud, I love it."

CARTER WAGNER, 13, Voyageur, Chicago, IL, 5th year
 "For me, the best sound is the rain on the metal roofs. I like the way it sounds and how it puts me to sleep. I don't know why but I find it so soothing."

MARTINA RUFIN, 14, 49er, Barcelona, Spain, 2nd year
 "The best sound is when I'm cheering with my friends in the Dining Hall because we're all together as one voice. It's really something. When it comes to nature, I like the sound of the birds, and the lake with the wind."

ROXIE PARKER, 12, Pioneer, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 5th year
 "My favourite sound at camp is the water hitting

the docks, especially when it's windy out. You don't hear that a lot at home. There's just something so calm and soothing about the sound. That's why I sometimes go to down to the docks to listen to it."

CHLOE SISKIND, 10, Pioneer, Toronto, ON, 3rd year
 "I like the sound of cheering. If you're cheering, you can connect with everyone. If it's a camp cheer, everyone knows it and starts singing. The whole camp unites. It makes me feel excited that everyone is singing together in one dining hall."

SYDNEY SCHACTER, 13, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year
 "One of the greatest sounds is the cheering on the first day when you're coming to camp. As you round the bend on the pointer, you see and hear everyone cheering because you finally feel like you are home after 10 months and everyone is waiting and welcoming you back. It's a similar feeling when you're return-

ing from a canoe trip. Apart from that, I like hearing the loons and the sound of nature at night. The call of the loon is unique and not like anything you hear in the city. I like how calming and peaceful it is."

NOAH BERNSTEIN, 12, Ranger, New York, NY, 2nd year
 "My favourite sound is when the whole camp gets together and sings Taps at the end of the day. It makes me feel part of the whole camp and makes the whole camp as one. We hold hands and sing the beautiful song of Taps. It makes us all one. Whenever I hear it, I automatically think of camp, my friends, my counselors and our friendships."

The other sound I like at camp is when I hear the white-throated sparrow. That bird makes a tune that's very cool. My favourite part about it is I like to whistle back to the sparrow and I keep hearing its tune, like an echo, back and

forth. It's usually in the mornings when they start whistling. I hear it around Boys Hill where there are lots of trees."

DANIEL GLASSER, 15, Voyageur, Farmington Hills, MI, 5th year
 "For me, the favourite sound at camp is actually the absence of sound. When I'm looking at the lake and it's just still, either at dusk or dawn, it's just so beautiful looking out and having the peacefulness of it. It's really calming."

ZACH KAM, 14, Voyageur, West Bloomfield, MI, 7th year
 "My favourite sound is probably when I walk around the Plat-Forum and there are always these birds that hum the same sound every time I go there. It makes me happy because when I'm there or in Main Camp, I hear the same sound in my ears. The birds make a similar sound and it feels welcoming. I'm not sure what kind of bird it is but the sound is very consistent."

ABBY SIGEL, 14, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year
 "My favourite sound at

camp is hearing everyone cheering when you come back from a long trip and you can hear everyone singing. It's a great sign to know you're back at home, back at camp where all your friends are. It's so nice to see everyone again. This year, I liked how they were cheering "S.E.N.I.O.R.S" because we were Seniors."

LOLA PITMAN, 11, Pioneer, New York, NY, 4th year
 "It's not so much a sound I heard at camp as much as I heard it a lot during trip. It was the beginning of the wedding song. It was really pretty and it was from a bird that did it. It's soothing but it can be kind of creepy when you hear it sometimes during the night."

JOSHUA KOOLIK, 14, JSB, Boca Raton, Florida, 6th year
 "The best is hearing people cheering in the Dining Hall because of all the spirit that goes on there. I like how everyone is so into the cheers. It makes me feel proud of Tamakwa because hearing that shows how everyone has so much spirit and is so into camp. It's nice."



DEJA VU?

Seen any of these people before? Help us place a face

Nothing like a time-honoured group shot to trigger fond memories of former Tamakwans, some better remembered than others. But who are they? Can you name any of them? Are you one of them? Here's a hint: this picture dates back to 1983.

Help us identify the campers and staffers in this photo for the next issue of the *South Tea Echo*. We want names. We'd especially like to hear from anyone who recognizes himself/herself in the distinguished group to the left. If you appear in the photo, share with us your recollections about your fellow cabinmates and other Tamakwans seen here.

• Please write echo@tamakwa.com



I RECOGNIZE THAT FACE
 In response to the Déjà Vu photo in the previous issue of the *South Tea Echo*, Julie Stahl sent us the following letter:

This is my cabin photo from first month in 1968. I can't recall which Pioneer cabin I was in but I remember most of the names of those in the photo: From left to right, campers: Gwen Wilcox, Naomi Kirsch(?),

Linda Bandalene, Julie Stahl, Lori Lutz, I can't remember name of next person, Marcia Goldberg, Betty Feuring.

From left to right, back row, counselors: I can't remember the first person, then Carol (our section head) whose last name escapes me, then Marilyn (like-wise her last name eludes me), and I don't remember the name of our last counselor (a JC?).

The only reason I even came upon this in the *South Tea Echo* is that my daughter, Dorothy Goldstein-Stahl, a now 10-year veteran of Tamakwa, saw the photo and asked me if it was me.

Julie Stahl
 San Francisco, CA

MAKING MUSIC IN THE GOLF CART

Every evening, for the past decade, David Stringer can be seen and heard playing his clarinet at his unusual perch. BY OLGA VILKOVA

Tamakwa's Associate Director David Stringer is a fixture at camp in more ways than one. The son of camp co-founder and legendary outdoorsman Omer Stringer, David has spent more than 60 summers on the shores of South Tea. Among his many talents, he's a gifted musician, playing multiple instruments including at many dramatic productions at camp.

In recent years, he's been most associated with the clarinet he plays every evening after dinner, sitting outside on a golf cart in front of his cabin next to the Clinic. We felt it was high time we learned what was behind this camp tradition.

OV: When you're at camp, why do you always play in your golf cart after dinner?

DS: Where else would I play? It's padded and there's often sunshine. I guess I could play inside but it's dank and dark and depressing and there's no sunshine. For some reason, I just started doing that more than 10 years ago and it's nice and comfortable. I could play on the picnic table nearby I suppose but it wouldn't be



as pleasant.

Why do you have more than one clarinet?

The same reason I have four guitars. You always need a clarinet for backup. You have a plastic one in case you need to play outside in the cold or the rain. Before I bought an expensive clarinet, I had a bunch of cheap ones. I sold most of them and turned one into a lamp. I also became aware of coloured clarinets. So I had to buy a red one and eventually a blue one. I now have three clarinets at camp, each one

a little different.

When did you start playing music?

I was very young but I can't remember exactly when. I come from a family that had a lot of musical instruments and everyone played something. Everybody in my father's family was expected to play an instrument. That's probably because if you go back far enough, I'm related directly to people who would've grown up without entertainment of any kind, just a fiddle or piano in the parlor.

What musical instruments do you play?

I play the piano, guitar and the clarinet, sort of. When I was growing up, my father told me I had to play it so he could play his fiddle. As a result, I had to learn some chords and how to accompany that. He never taught me how to play the piano. When I was five, I also had a ukulele. I can play one song incredibly well. I keep up my ukulele skills through people who have a ukulele. I ask to borrow the instrument and rip through my one spectacular song, "Ain't

She Sweet." It's a very old song.

What do you mean you "sort of" play the clarinet?

I'm not very good but I guess I'm the best clarinetist on Tea Lake. If you were to put me in the middle of downtown Toronto, I wouldn't be able to make that claim.

When did you start playing the clarinet?

I was a latecomer, picking it up myself. I was a piano player in various bands all my life, New Orleans jazz mostly, a couple of rock n' roll bands. I often looked at the clarinet player wishing I was playing that instead of the piano. I've just always liked it. So I'd usually ask the clarinet players if I could see their clarinet but they always said no because they thought I would ruin the reed, so I never got to touch one.

Then I had a friend who played the clarinet. She didn't play it very well and she let me play it. I got a few notes out and then she took it away. That takes us up to 1975 or so and I still had no clarinet because they're too expensive, you can't touch them and so on. Then around 2000, when my son was 10, he refused to play the piano or guitar because I played them. In grade 7, he had the opportunity to pick up an instrument and he chose the saxophone because I didn't play it.

To his disappointment,

I figured I should pick up a reed instrument as well so I could help him. He took off way better than me on the reed but for the first time I had my very own clarinet and thanks to the internet, I was able to progress to almost where I want to be.

What kind of music do you play?

I like good music, I don't care about the genre. I play different music on different instruments too. I stick to jazz on the clarinet. I play mostly popular music on the piano. I learned to play the piano by playing basically every Beatles song there is. And on the guitar I tend to play rock and roll.

How did you end up being a Tamakwa musician?

Over the years, we've had piano players who got injured the day of the play so I'd have to learn the music 20 minutes before the show. Sometimes I also play the Dining Hall songs. I come and go as the camp piano player.

How many musicals have you played for over the years either on your own or as part of a house band?

Many. I think I was actually the first to put a band together for a Tamakwa musical. Camp has been a great opportunity to learn more about playing piano. I've met so many players over the years and I've been able to get something from almost everybody.

SHARING THE GIFT OF CAMP

Tamakwa joins Amici, a Toronto charity that helps make camp available to children whose families couldn't otherwise afford it. BY ANDREA BASEN

If you were to ask any child (or his/her parents) about the benefits of summer camp, most will have a similar response.

After a summer away in nature, unplugged from technology far from the stress of city life, campers invariably return home

more confident, more independent and happier. As Echo readers, you likely already know this from personal experience,

or you've seen the impact Tamakwa has had on your child.

For many families, even if they understand

camp's lasting benefit for children, it's just not an option due to financial reasons. Fortunately, there's a wonderful Toronto-based organization called Amici Camping Charity that provides assistance in such situations.

Established in 1966 by staff from Camp Kilcoo, Amici began as a way to subsidize a few children to attend Kilcoo whose parents couldn't otherwise afford it. The motivation was based on a desire to share with others what the founding members had gained from their positive experiences at camp. As stated on its website, Amici aims to "share the gift of camp, recognizing that life-long skills such as leadership, independence and self-confidence are most effectively developed over time at camp."

Today, a half-century later, Amici sends more than 250 children to 40 partner camps across Ontario every year. Together with participating

campers, the charity funds eligible campers to attend the camps of their choosing. As of 2016, Tamakwa is proudly one of those partner camps.

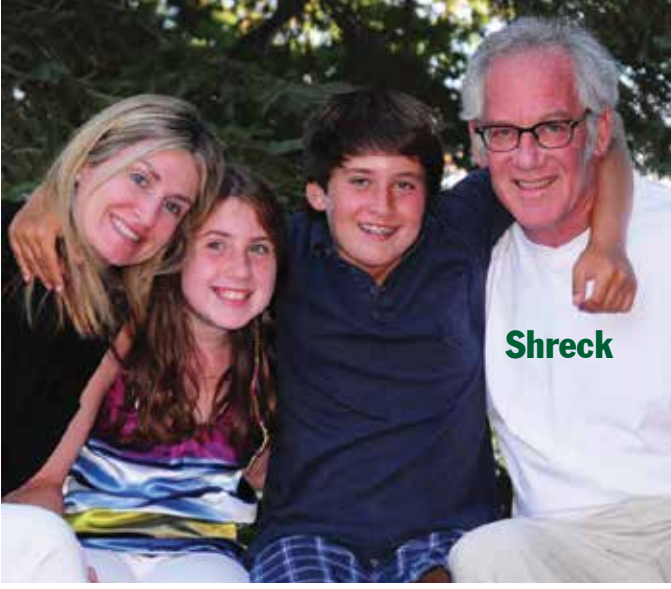
"This past summer, we were so excited to welcome our first group of Amici campers and their families to Tamakwa," says Craig Perlmutter. "Moving forward, we look forward to continuing to support them throughout their camper careers."

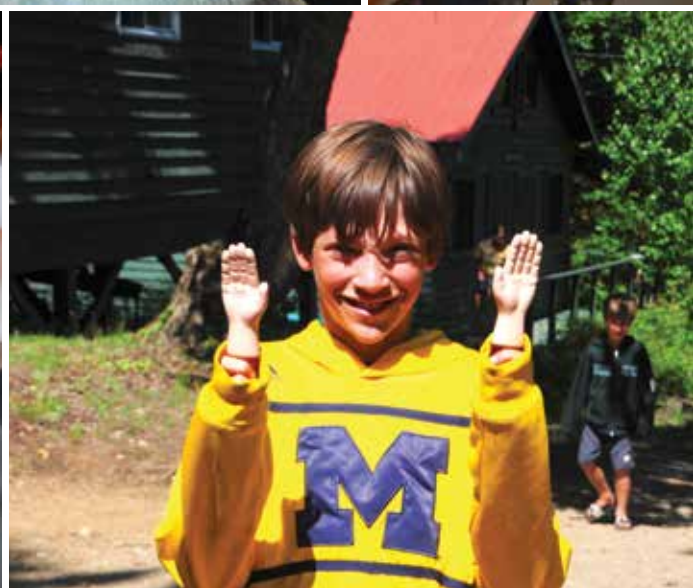
One of Amici's main fundraising events is "Canoe Heads for Kids." It involves some 130 participants paddling and portaging 20 km over water and land through Toronto. Each "canoe head" turns to his/her families, friends and local businesses for donations with all proceeds directly supporting Amici campers.

In June, the 2016 "Camp Tamakwa, Freeze You're Busted" team (in memory of John Fiddes) raised more than \$5,000 for Amici's great work.

• For more information about joining the Canoe Heads team to benefit Amici, please contact Andrea Basen in Tamakwa's Toronto office.









ON THE FACE OF IT

The front of the Dining Hall is rich in history, with a diverse collection of objects, each of which has its own great story BY BRENDAN O'REILLY

As one of Canada's more venerable summer camps, Tamakwa has grown and adapted to accommodate more campers and staff over the years. Its Main Camp area -- most notably the Dining Hall -- has seen the better part of a century. During that time, the face of the Dining Hall has changed considerably, as all faces eventually do. Like with many things at Tamakwa, campers and staff often take them for granted. All the more reason that taking stock

of their evolution invariably proves an interesting exercise.

As the largest building in camp and given its role, the Dining Hall has a strong presence at Tamakwa, especially its interior due to the hundreds of colourful historic plaques, big and small, that adorn its walls. But the exterior also has an interesting story. The porch that currently spans the front of the Dining Hall is a relatively recent addition. Previously, that side

of the building was home to concrete porches, which Senior Camp Director Vic Norris considered ill-suited to Tamakwa's aesthetic. Vic feels the wood porch and its post and beam-supported roof are a far better alternative to the concrete, making it feel what he calls "more lodge-like."

When it rains, the porch does a wonderful job of keeping hungry campers and staff relatively dry as they wait to enter. It also protects a fascinating array of diverse objects from the

elements, items that go largely unnoticed or unappreciated by those who pass them by daily.

The most recent addition is a series of painted wooden canoe paddles. There's also a large wood chip carving that adorns the facade. Vic had it made while he was in the southern US on a business trip, commissioning a local artist after seeing his work. When he showed the piece to his business partners, one of them said the painting looked like

something his brother-in-law would do. Sure enough, it turned out the artist Vic had commissioned to make the piece was none other than the brother-in-law in question.

Another piece Vic commissioned is the wooden beaver sculpture that resides on the porch. He had seen the artist's work by the side of the road near Orillia and so he stopped in and asked if the man could make a custom sculpture. The artist worked off of the photo of a beaver that Vic left with him. The following year, Vic stopped by and there was the beaver, ready for its new home at Tamakwa.

The Dining Hall patio

is also home to some unique seating -- a combination of log furniture made for the 1993 movie *Indian Summer* that was filmed at Tamakwa, as well as rows of seats from the now defunct Detroit Tigers baseball stadium that closed in 1999.

Above the Dining Hall's entrance are signs with the names of those who have carried on the work started by Tamakwa co-founders Lou Handler and Omer Stringer. They've rejuvenated and revitalized the face of not only the Dining Hall but also many of the buildings gracing the shores of South Tea Lake, preparing them for many years to come.

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

There's more than meets the eye in the journey to become a great sailor at Tamakwa BY BENNETT MAGY

As the bell rings at 10 a.m. for first period, I instinctively look up at the Tower at the Swim Docks. Seeing the green and white Tamakwa flag flailing, I know there's a solid breeze. I start the engine on the crash boat and scan the shore as I pass the swim buoys. Six JY16 sailboats bob in the water and at least 20 campers eagerly buckle up their life-jackets as they wait on the shore. I park the boat and march down the dock with my clipboard in hand and prepare to start another perfect day at sailing.

By now, it's a ritual I know well as I've spent almost every day of camp over the past decade at the sail docks. I'm a "home-grown" sailor, meaning I've learned almost everything I know about sailing at Tamakwa. I started out as just a camper learning the basics, but after rising through the ranks, I had the privilege this past summer of being Sail Director for a third consecutive year. Every day of camp, my staff and I pursue the ambitious goal of teaching as many campers and staff as we can how to sail.

You may ask: how does one become a great sailor? Well, the road to becoming a great Tamakwan sailor almost always starts off at the Knot Board. If the sailboat is a body, then the ropes, sheets and lines

serve as the ligaments holding it together. The Knot Board is where up-and-coming mariners learn the essential knots to keep their sailboat from falling apart on the water. Eight example knots are nailed to the board, from which ropes descend to allow sailors to train a dexterous knot-tying hand. Unfortunately, the Knot Board is also where mischievous campers try to replicate the Gordian knot during off-periods of the day.

The next step on the journey is to learn the sailboat. When a camper arrives at sailing, the boats are typically de-rigged, meaning the sails are not up. In this state, the boat is anything but ready to glide across the water. Before any sailing can occur, campers must learn how to use their knot-tying skills to rig up the boat. Along the way, campers learn to identify tillers, rudders, booms, jibs and countless other strange sailboat part names that sound like they came straight from Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem *Jabberwocky*.

Once the boat is rigged, the eager sailor can now theoretically guide it up and down South Tea Lake. But first, they must understand the most important aspect of sailing -- the wind. Knowing the wind is the difference between winning the Tamakwa

Regatta on a perfect run and receiving a love tap on the back of your head from a fast-swinging metal bar (AKA the boom).

A sailor cannot control the wind but the wind controls the sailboat. A sailboat pointed directly into the wind will not sail but a sailboat pointed with its back to the wind will continue to sail until it gets so far up shore it's shooting hoops on the Plat-Forum. Needless to say, a great sailor must know how to control the direction in which their sailboat moves, and it takes a lot of sailing experience to get there. However, before long, a dedicated sailor will grow a wind compass in his/her head, and he/she will know exactly what the wind is doing at all times, even while gossiping about Senior boys.

Once a mariner masters the wind, he/she will know how to use the sails to harness it. Given enough time at the sail docks, a good Tamakwan sailor will be able to navigate forwards, backwards, sideways and even upside down. Their love for sailing will drive them to take a sailboat out in the rain, sunshine or even -- gasp -- no wind.

The journey to being an excellent Tamakwan sailor is definitely a long one but I've learned over my many years at the sail docks that



anyone can become a great sailor. This is thanks to the incredible staff, CITs, and camper teachers who

share their passion for this time-honoured activity like a contagious disease. No less impressive are the

dedicated sailing students who devote every day of their summers to becoming the best sailors they can be.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU

We asked campers what animal in Algonquin Park they would like to see up close if such an encounter could be arranged without risk or danger. INTERVIEWS BY ROBERT SARNER



ZACH KAM, 14, Voyageur, West Bloomfield, MI, 7th year
 “It would probably be a black bear. While I know bears can be very aggressive, black bears don’t mean much harm to humans if we don’t bug them. Algonquin Park is their home and we should never be bugging them. I love watching how they perceive the woods because they’re almost the kings there besides wolves and other animals. They control the woods. They observe a lot of things, they attack, and they help.
 I’ve only seen a black bear once before, on a canoe trip in Algonquin Park. It was a baby bear and it was staring right at us. We knew there had to be a mama bear that wouldn’t be too happy we were nearby. So we left the campsite as it wasn’t the best thing to stick around.”

CARTER WAGNER, 13, Voyageur, Chicago, IL, 5th year

“My choice would be either a heron or a moose. When I was on a canoe trip, I saw a heron and it was cool because it was hunting and you could see it looking for fish. A heron is a bird that looks like a mini-flamingo but it’s not pink. It has long legs and a big body. It would be cool to just watch it go through its day. Seeing it hunt, seeing it go to its kids would be really cool.
 The more obvious choice might be a moose because they’re so big and peaceful, unless they’re being attacked. I’m seeing less and less of them on canoe trips. In past years, I’ve seen two to three moose on canoe trips but this summer on trip, I didn’t see one. I feel like their numbers may be going down.”

ROXIE PARKER, 12, Pioneer, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 5th year
 “Seeing a moose would be really cool because you

don’t see them a lot in zoos or back home. Many of the smaller animals can be seen at home and they’re not so dangerous but you can’t get too close to a moose.”

DANIEL GLASSER, 15, Voyageur, Farmington Hills, MI, 5th year
 “My choice might seem weird to some people as I’d like to see an otter up close. I feel like it would be really cool. Otters are just interesting animals, more interesting than beavers, and I love marine life. Ever since I was little, I’ve been obsessed with marine life and when I grow up I want to be a marine biologist.”

CHLOE SISKIND, 10, Pioneer, Toronto, ON, 3rd year
 “My choice would be a moose. You can’t see them in most places in the world but there are moose in Algonquin Park. Last year, we had a moose at camp and we really got to see it and how it lives. The moose

was sick but it was still cool to see one up close. In Algonquin Park, people are more used to some animals than moose which many are afraid of. If they’re safe, people would want to see them more often.”

LOLA PITMAN, 11, Pioneer, New York, NY, 4th year
 “For sure, it would be a loon because when you’re out on the lake, they always dive under the water before you can get close enough to really see them. Loons fascinate me. They’re really pretty and the way they move is so graceful.”

SETH LESSNER, 9, Forester, Toronto, ON, 1st year
 “I’d love see a bear up close because they’re one of my favourite animals. I like that they’re really big.
 I’ve seen one once before but not in Algonquin Park.”

MARTINA RUFIN, 14, 49er, Barcelona, Spain, 2nd year
 “I’d like it to be a beaver as

I’ve never had the chance to see one, even though it’s the symbol of Tamakwa. It’s an animal you usually don’t see because it’s underwater which makes it even more interesting. There are beavers in Spain but you don’t usually see them.”

DEAN HYSNI, 16, CIT, West Bloomfield, MI, 9th year
 “It would probably be a bear because it’s so unique and you don’t really see many bears in Algonquin Park. At least, I haven’t on my canoe trips. It would be so interesting to see how they live in the wild and how they adapt to their environment.”

ABBY SIGEL, 14, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year
 “I think it would be a mosquito so I could ask it why it keeps biting me. I’m not really that interested in mosquitoes but I just don’t like getting bitten by them.”

BRITNEY WASSERMAN, 11, Pioneer, West Bloomfield, MI, 6th year
 “I would choose a moose because we had one last summer at camp. It was very interesting how it would just come into camp and we got to see it and take pictures of it. But I wish I could’ve touched it and seen it up close. Moose are animals we don’t have in Michigan. I find them more attractive than bears

which are also interesting creatures.”

JOSHUA KOOLIK, 14, JSB, Boca Raton, Florida, 6th year
 “If I could choose, I’d go with the dragonfly. I’ve always really liked dragonflies and wondered how they live and what they do all day.”

AVI TEICH, 15, Voyageur, Toronto, ON, 9th year
 “My choice would be a bear. I’ve seen them here and there on the side of the road, but I’ve never been able to get up close and personal with one. They’re pretty cool animals. I’d love to see how a bear lives and how it walks around and does things. There’s a stigma built around animals like bears that they’re dangerous and they’ll kill you but I feel like that’s not true. I’d like to see how they’re just animals, just like we are. They’re just living and in a family the mom and dad take care of their kids. It’d be cool to see them in action.”

SYDNEY SCHACTER, 13, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year
 “I’m not sure which animal because there’s a lot of beautiful wildlife in Algonquin Park. Maybe a moose as I saw so many last year on a canoe trip and the one at camp, I’d like to see moose more so I could better understand and know them better.”



WEEKEND MINI-SESSION

An amazing intro to overnight camp!

Friday, August 11
 to
 Sunday, August 13

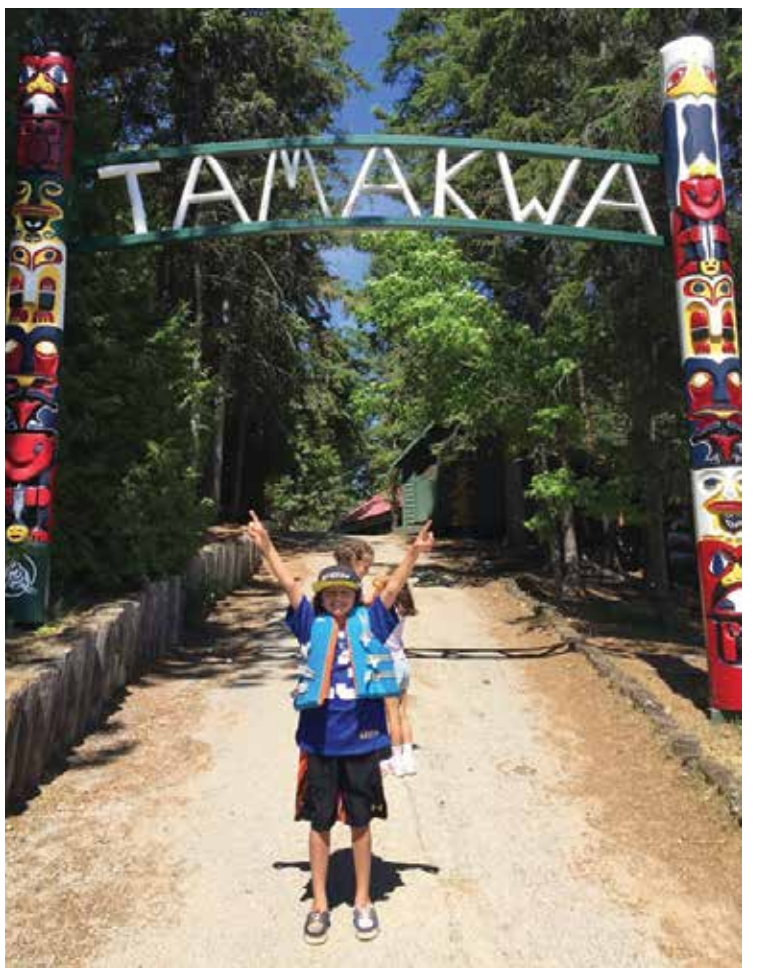
tamakwa.com/weekend-mini-session





MAKING THE SCENE ON VISITING DAY

Family and friends of Tamakwans come from afar for annual festivities at camp



WHEN VOICES ARE RAISED

A time-honoured tradition at Tamakwa, cheers are a popular custom at camp. We asked campers to choose their favourite one and explain why. INTERVIEWS BY ROBERT SARNER



NOAH BERNSTEIN, 12, Ranger, New York, NY, 2nd year

“My favourite cheer is the North, South, East, West cheer with the Rangers. I like it the most because it’s fun and very exciting. It makes all the Rangers one. It’s really loud and annoys a lot of people.”

ZACH KAM, 14, Voyageur, West Bloomfield, MI, 7th year

“If I had to pick one, it would probably be the Hello song we sing to welcome trips back to camp. It’s a

song of welcoming everyone. When you think about it, Tamakwa is a little village that is stress-free with so much to do and no need to worry about things. The Hello song welcomes everyone to our village.”

CARTER WAGNER, 13, Voyageur, Chicago, 5th year

“I like the Voyageur cheer because this is my first year doing it and so I feel more pride. Also, I feel like it’s good because it brings all the different years of Voyageurs together, from first year, JSB to Senior

boys. When I was a Forester, I always thought, ‘Wow, the Voyageur cheer is such a cool cheer. I can’t wait until I can do that.’ I like how the Senior boys lead it and they have their own parts and everyone else has their response. It’s great how it unites all the guys together.”

ROXIE PARKER, 12, Pioneer, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 5th year

“The cheers I like the most are the ones the entire camp sings together, like the Z-Machine cheers. It’s

really exciting and fun when everyone in camp comes together to do something like sing these cheers.”

CHLOE SISKIND, 10, Pioneer, Toronto, ON, 3rd year

“Young Folks, Old Folks is my favourite cheer because it’s going from someone that’s young to someone that’s old. Someone who’s maybe 40 and who started at Tamakwa when they were young and they hear that cheer and think, ‘I use to be a young folk but now I’m an old folk at camp.’ I get really excited when I hear it and I always sing it as loud as possible because it’s my favourite cheer.”

DANIEL GLASSER, 15, Voyageur, Farmington Hills, MI, 5th year

“My first pick would be the Unity cheer of Senior Boys. It signifies the brotherhood that we share in a cabin and I love that. We sing it whenever we’re in the mood. Seeing the boys around me singing Unity gives me a great feeling.”

DEAN HYSNI, 16, CIT, West Bloomfield, MI, 9th year

“The CITs don’t have a lot of cheers. This summer, it made me a bit sad when we would just sit there listening to the cheers by all the other campers. I missed doing the cheers. My favourite one is Bayview Pride. When you’re a Senior Boy, you tend to cheer a lot with all your friends because it’s really fun. Last year, when we sang Bayview Pride, it showed our pride within the cabin and made us closer by cheering together. It allowed us to create bonds with each other. Looking back, that cheer made all of us have pride in ourselves and in our cabin as a group at camp.”

BRITNEY WASSERMAN, 11, Pioneer, West Bloomfield, MI, 6th year

“My favourite cheer would have to be ‘We are Pioneers. We’re number one. Our reputation has just begun. So if you see us, step aside cause we don’t take no pride.’ I love that the cheer is something we can all do together, it’s loud and has a strong meaning. When I sing it with my friends, I feel confident and happy I’m at camp.”

MARTINA RUFIN, 14, 49er, Barcelona, Spain, 2nd year

“I really like the JSG beat. Knocking on the tables, it’s fun to do and it’s something you just get to know when you get to that age. Not everyone knows how to do it because it’s a bit hard.

It took me time to learn it but now that I know it, I really like it.”

AVI TEICH, 15, Voyageur, Toronto, ON, 9th year

“The cheer that means the most to me is Unity because it really shows the brotherhood and strength in the bond between your cabin mates. When you’re a Senior boy, you have already gone through so much with your cabin mates and Unity is one of those cheers that brings everything together and talks about how strong your bonds are. It shows that you’re a unit and you stick with each other.”

ABBY SIGEL, 14, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year

“I like so many cheers that it’s hard to pick just one. If I could only choose one cheer, it would have to be Algonquin’s Elite. It’s a Senior girl cheer and it’s really fun to do. Every year, you watch the Seniors do it until finally you become a Senior and you get to do it. It’s so unreal to be able to do the cheer. One year, it was so much fun making up a cheer for the JSGs, which was called Young and Free, Living on South Tea. This year, we taught it to them, and it was really nice to hear them sing it in the Dining Hall knowing you made up that cheer.”

SYDNEY SCHACTER, 13, 49er, Toronto, ON, 5th year

“There are a lot of 49er cheers I really like but my cabin made up our own cheer and that became my favourite. We never actually gave it a name but it felt special because it wasn’t like we were learning a cheer that other people had created. It was something original to our cabin that we made up ourselves.”

LOLA PITMAN, 11, Pioneer, New York, NY, 4th year

“My favourite is ‘We are Pioneers. We’re number one. Our reputation has just begun. So if you see us, step aside because we don’t take no pride.’ It keeps going. I like it because at home people judge you by what they see but the song reminds me our reputation has just begun and that it lasts forever. It doesn’t stop, you keep getting a new reputation.”

JOSHUA KOOLIK, 14, JSB, Boca Raton, FL, 6th year

“I like the cheer that is about three wood pigeons sitting on a fence. Whenever one leaves or comes back to the fence, everyone either boos or cheers and it’s really fun. It’s not a section cheer. The whole camp joins in singing it in the Dining Hall. I don’t know the name of it. I just call it Three Wood Pigeons.”

THE BEST OF TAMAKWA FROM COVER TO COVER



The South Tea Echo presents Tamakwa like you won’t find it anywhere else. Since 2002, it has been capturing the best of Tamakwa life through an engaging mix of words and photos. Highly informative and entertaining, each issue showcases the summer’s greatest moments as seen by campers and staff.

Find every issue of the South Tea Echo at www.tamakwa.com. Click on “Free Play,” go to “Archives” and scroll down.

THE SOUTH TEA ECHO
Telling the Tamakwa story since 2002



BETWEEN BEING A CAMPER AND STAFFER

CITs learn to appreciate Tamakwa from a new perspective BY ANNA MCKINNEY

A famous line often heard around camp states: “At Tamakwa, as in life, there’s a beginning, middle and end.” This quote holds true for several aspects of camp including the different stages of one’s Tamakwa journey.

Tamakwans take different pathways when joining the family. For many, their beginning is as Junior Tamakwans until their final Senior Boy/Girl summer and still wanting more. Others hit the South Tea shores as first time Tamakwans already on

staff as a counselor, activity leader or specialist. For those who’ve either grown up at camp or decide to embark on their Tamakwa journey at age 16, they get to experience a special summer at camp that’s extremely important.

The transitional year between camper and staff is the summer spent as a Counselor in Training (CIT). This group is made of about two dozen 16-year-olds who are hoping to one day become a staff member at Tamakwa and/or to improve their

leadership skills.

Whether the CIT summer is a part of the beginning, middle or end of one’s Tamakwa journey, the two months these lucky individuals spend together as a close group are full of challenges and opportunities. The most special thing about the CITs of this past summer was the welcoming of one of those Tamakwans whose beginning was being a CIT. It came after she decided to branch out and come to Tamakwa in search of a new experience. “Everyone was so wel-

coming,” says Ajah Tanis, 16. “I knew I had a family at Tamakwa from the moment I stepped onto the docks. You definitely gain a new and unique perspective of camp. CIT year is one for learning responsibility and it really shows how much you can learn.”

Getting used to a new place can be scary, especially when faced with the responsibility and challenges of the CIT program. There are many opportunities presented for the CITs to demonstrate their learning. The program includes

working at activities over the summer and practicum where each CIT is assigned to a cabin group, acting in the counselor role. They get to interact more closely with campers, helping prepare them for future work as a counselor.

Not only are CITs given the responsibilities of activity and cabin placements, allowing them to have other role models and mentors from activity leaders or counselors, they’re also introduced to behind-the-scenes work at camp. This includes working with the Program Director planning camp-wide evening activities, being involved in all-day programs, helping with intercamps, and even acting as counselors for mini-session campers. CITs are also challenged to work together as a group to plan and facilitate a year-end banquet, theme, decorations and all.

All of this would be near-impossible unless led by a CIT director who acts as a guide and mentor and runs an incredible program for all CITs. This summer, a Tamakwan who had previously thought he had seen the end of his Tamakwa career returned to the South Tea shores to take on the position.

Mikey Davidson returned for his fifth summer on staff after a hiatus of many years. He helped improve the program, adding more sessions to give CITs additional guidance in their evolution to becoming counselors. Among his innovations, he worked with Junior Tamakwan Head Julie Hirsch to give CITs more insight to working with JT campers dealing with homesickness and other issues.

Some may question just how significant the CIT experience is. For returning camper and CIT

Matthew August, this transitional summer proved transformative.

“You learn how to become more reliable,” says Matthew, 16. “As a camper, you rely on staff to help you but when you’re a CIT, you become more that person so when you step into the new role as a counselor the campers can fully rely on you.”

Suddenly, you’re no longer the camper looking up for guidance. You have to be the one who’s ready to leap into action, help staff trips, get introduced to duties including land and serving and doing it all alongside your new and old best friends. Being a CIT puts you in the position to do special things like dressing up as a tuck fairy, helping a camper build a pot at clay, or reading bedtime stories to the JTs. You see the impact you’re able to have on a camper, the impact your evening program idea had on all of camp once it was carried out, the impact you had by helping a staff at an activity. You’re presented such opportunities to take initiative and, in turn, learn the lessons that will help you become successful in the future.

No matter where you are on your Tamakwa journey, the CIT experience is unlike no other. The opportunities it gives to participants to improve their leadership and people skills are endless.

Being a CIT changes the way you see and appreciate camp, as well as the way you perceive the world. By gaining new large-scale perspectives and skills, the program’s benefits are lasting.

At Tamakwa, the CIT summer is inevitably a high point in one’s camp career. It’s a critical link in the chain of Tamakwa life.

Waxing Poetic

A canoe trip can be a moving experience with lots of time for thinking which inspired Eli Winer to write three poems

Portage

*When waters of Algonquin seem to reach their limit
The portage serves as a bridge to a parallel universe
The portage connects in that way
But separates the weak from the strong
Those with the will to go on
When with age and experience
The weight on your back
Evolves to the weight on your neck
And you pass by those who have dropped on the path
You think
Was that me all those summers ago
Did I have the will I remember now
Or did I succumb to the weight on my mind
As the portage trekked through my head
And opened lakes in my eyes
But the portage spoke to me in new ways this time round
As Wakonda howled and crashed on the shore
But we nestled in close for the night at the gate
And we listened
Close
To the creeks of her own weight.*

Ten Days

*So we’re off
With the wind at our backs
And ten days in our eyes
And I wonder
How a parent or two would trust
A complete stranger with their futures
Yes, eight campers of the sunny shores
On South Tea Lake
Taken out to the varying waters
Of Algonquin Park
Where for ten days
In a way their first ten days
We will take to the embrace of the wild
Never resting, always moving onward
And attempting to instill
Patience, will, and respect.*

Welcome

*Though I’m tired
Though my toes may be blistered
And my knuckles may be bitten
Though my name is worn out
And there is only a headwind
Though when it rains it pours
And I’ve forgotten the sun
I am resurrected
By my stale wool socks
And the beach site
On Welcome.*

*Though I’m knotted
Though I’m set back to circadian
And Sunday seems so long ago
Though my brim is worn in
And there is only Opeongo
Though the creek is a labyrinth
And inhabitants keep damming
I am resurrected
By my stale wool socks
And the beach site
On Welcome.*



TAKEAWAYS FOR STAFF

Weighing in on working at Tamakwa, staff say the dividends go far beyond the financial compensation and are far more lasting. BY EMILY HARPER



Tamakwa is known as a special place for children of all ages where some of their fondest memories are made, lifelong friendships take root, skills flourish and talents develop. While Tamakwa's main focus is rightly on the kids, staff also gain greatly from the camp experience.

Whether a staff member has just set foot on the sunny shores for the first time or has grown up as a Tamakwan, working there is rich in rewards. As this was my first summer at Tamakwa, I was curious to know more about the experiences of other staff at camp. Here's a selection of what I learned.

• **Nicole Doctoroff, 18, second-year Junior Counsellor in the Pioneer section and a Tamakwan since 2006:**

"At home, I think of myself as being a kid. At Tamakwa, I'm the adult. There's a lot of ups and downs being on staff and they can be difficult to navigate but I've learned how to deal with them. I love being a counsellor, developing relationships and connections that come out of the job.

What's most rewarding about Tamakwa are the relationships you build with the kids. I sometimes get texts during the year saying 'I can't wait to see you, I miss you' which is really great and so gratifying. My favourite three things about Tamakwa are my friends, everyone's passion for the place and how pretty Algonquin is.

Tamakwa taught me that I get on pretty easily with people, especially with kids and it's great they saw me as someone they could talk to and con-

fide in. I've learned how responsible and patient I can be. I've learned to rely on other people and that asking for help is not a bad thing. Tamakwa made me grow up and mature. Each year I've been a staff member, I've come home feeling more responsible."

• **Anna McKinney, 20, who spent her first summer at Tamakwa as the Ropes Director, plans to be a teacher.**

"Tamakwa was my first little adventure all by myself. It was a new environment for me, unlike anything I'd ever seen before. I had to figure it out and make a home for myself which proved easier than I expected. It felt like home.

My first year at Tamakwa taught me a lot. I grew as a leader. I was in a position to teach every day including things unrelated to my activity like sitting with the JTs at dinner and teaching them how to set a

table. It helped me grow in confidence.

When campers came down from the zip line and gave me a big hug and shouted 'Anna, I did it!' and mentioned my activity in their Friday night speeches and what they've achieved, I knew I'd made a big impact, especially among those who were afraid of heights.

It took me a couple of weeks to get into a routine but by the second month, I knew exactly what I had to do, what was going on and I was more prepared. But even within the first few days, Tamakwa already felt like home and as time went on, I felt even more confident.

The most rewarding part of my job was when kids look up to you, tell you they can't wait to come and climb and then do something they never thought they could do in their wildest dreams. Being a part of that is so special.

Tamakwa has taught

me I can be whoever I want to be. You have so much choice in how you act and treat others. It taught me I'm a lot more than I thought I was. Everyone has the potential to be the ideal version of themselves.

One of my favourite things was seeing how much the kids love it at camp. Even on rainy days everyone is standing up and cheering together. I also loved that we ended every night with Taps. It gives the feeling we are doing something together, which really adds to the sense of community."

• **Emma Wehner, 18, spent her first year at Tamakwa as a Tripper although she's a seasoned explorer who's been going on canoe trips her whole life.**

"Tamakwa is a place to get away to, to break from reality. It's great to be in Algonquin Park all summer, hanging out, taking a

load off, chilling with the kids who have no concept of stress. There's a great atmosphere.

Tamakwa helped me develop as a person. It gave me a lot of patience. The kids asked so many questions, often the same ones, so to be able to respond without sarcasm by the end of the summer was slightly difficult but I became more patient. I also became physically stronger. As a tripper, I carried my canoe so often I became emotionally attached to it. It also made me slightly stricter but in a good way. As a safer person now, I'm more aware of what all the kids are doing all the time, making sure they're not going to hurt themselves, that they're not going to get lost on the portages.

As a first-year Tamakwan, it was pretty chill. As trippers, we're our own group inside a bigger group. It was like an automatic friendship group. We hung out a lot together but not enough to annoy each other, just a good amount. We always had the group to back each other up. We discussed all our ideas, bounced ideas off each other and a lot of collaboration took place. Even though we didn't go on trip together, we were always working together. I've been tripping my whole life but I learnt many new things this past summer. The way Tamakwans do it is so different but in a good way, as everything is done a lot more efficiently. For example, we usually do our portages in one run, whereas where I'm from we usually do it in two or three.

The most rewarding part of my job was watching the kids develop. I had kids the first month and they struggled on a 1.8 km portage and then the same kids second month did a 1.6 km. They didn't need any help, they put on their own packs and just

blew through it. To see that through two trips was really awesome.

I also had some Trailblazers who didn't make it across the Joe Lake portage on the first day of their trip. On the second day, we made some adjustments with the packs and they blew through it. I like to see their excitement when they finish something and understand how awesome it is to finish and the reward of completing your own challenge.

In terms of favourite things, it's first, Algonquin Park. Its location is absolutely incredible. Every time I went out on trip, I got to see something slightly different and even on the same route, the weather and views were different. Then the food: trip food not camp food! I'm not even a great cook but trip food is always delicious. On trip, everything just tastes better because you're really hungry and the kids get really excited. Thirdly, the weather this summer was incredible. Out of eight trips, it rained on two, so I got rained on three days all summer which is practically unheard of. It's ridiculous."

The most rewarding aspect of my job was building a relationship with children through my love of an activity and using my own energy and enthusiasm to get them involved. I loved seeing the kids keep coming back to my activity week after week, sometimes for the whole summer.

I learned a tremendous amount about the way children flourish when given independence away from the constrictions placed on them by parents and society. Children can be exactly who they want to be at camp. I also learned how thoughtful they can be, how well they grow with praise and how their creativity grows when they're given the chance to thrive in an environment like Tamakwa.

Tamakwa also made me even more aware of the importance of community and conversation. Talking and listening to people and getting to know them properly away from the daily strain placed on us by technology and social media was so important this summer. Seeing people who were so passionate about their jobs made it clearer to me that I only want a career in something I enjoy and find rewarding. Finally, Tamakwa allowed me to remember what it was like to be a certain age and gave me time to reflect in beautiful surroundings, reminding me that life can be simple and that people are still people away from the daily pressures of life.





GOING THE DISTANCE

Athletes competing in the Harvey Deutch Triathlon aren't the only ones worthy of applause. BY ANDREA BASEN

Given the physical challenge of the Harvey Deutch Triathlon, it's little surprise staff and campers who complete it receive most of the spotlight. The main Triathlon involves swimming from Robbie's Point to Treasure Island, canoeing from Treasure Island to the Canoe Dock, and running from the Canoe Dock to the Ballfield to Robbie's Point and then to Main Camp. No easy feat.

The event dates back to the early 1980s when it began as a staff-only competition. It was named after Harvey Deutch, a

popular longtime Tamakwan (camper, counsellor, and Landsports Director, parent/alumni) who took part in the first triathlon at camp but sadly passed away a year later. Since then, Vic Norris has the distinction of participating in more HD triathlons than any other Tamakwan.

To administer this event safely, staff are assigned important roles including paddling canoes to escort swimmers, catching canoes on Treasure Island, entertaining kids on the Slope, and checking off names along the running route. During the

summer, various triathlons take place -- one for Junior Tamakwans (a slightly shorter but still challenging route which replaces canoeing with kayaking), one for other campers and one for staff.

Campers not competing play a vital role supporting their Tamakwa family. Many watch and cheer on the swimmers and canoeists from the Slope before moving to Main Camp. Some cheer from the swings while a select few take initiative and volunteer for important jobs.

While participating in my third Tamakwa Tri-

athlon this summer, I was impressed by how many campers assisted along the way with critical tasks. These jobs include water dispenser, water splasher and the coveted finish line toilet paper holder.

In an interview with first-time Tamakwa camper Ben Yosowitz, (aka Benny, age 8) who was holding the toilet paper as I crossed the finish line (in under 30 minutes, thank you very much!), I learned about these "other" roles. Here are some highlights from my chat with Benny and other JTs about their experiences.

Andrea: What do you like about the toilet paper holding job at the finish line?

Ben: It's nice because you get to congratulate every runner. They're al-

ways so happy and excited and it's nice to be a part of it. Ripping and throwing the toilet paper is so much fun and it's important. How else would the runners know it's the end?

A: Very good points, Benny. Have you done any other jobs?

B: Gave out water a few times, not as much fun.

A: Any tips for future toilet paper holders?

B: Just have fun and stick with it. Sometimes it's hard when too many people are finishing close to each other. That's when it's good to have more campers helping.

Another toilet paper holder, Wyatt Bedard, had a similar perspective.

"When there are so many runners, it's hard to keep up," says Wyatt. "With the pressure, it can be a challenge."

Then, 8-year-old Tamakwa veteran Nate Perlmutter piped in. He's been holding toilet paper at the triathlon finish line since he could walk and seems to have it down to a science.

"When there are a lot of people finishing, you need two toilet paper rolls and three kids," Nate advises. "One kid stands on the top step of the porch, one on the bottom and another across the finish line. The kid across the line holds both rolls of toilet paper. When the first runner runs through, the top step kid lowers their roll ready for the next runner. It's pretty simple."

First-time campers, sisters Rose and Bella Gerlants-Mavashev, prefer the water throwing/hand-

ing out assignment.

"I didn't love toilet paper holding," says Rose. "I prefer to be at the water station where you ask each runner if they want to drink water or be splashed. If we're lucky, you get to splash them with it as they run past. If we're really lucky, we get to splash when they run to Robbie's Point and on their way back."

For her part, Bella had her own memories. "Yeah, it was so fun," says Bella. "And we got to collect cones with AD Ellen. I liked being a cone collector."

In 2016, there were seven triathlons and 208 triathletes. MVP Triathlete of the Summer goes to second-year camper Levy Back, 8, who completed four triathlons (two full and two JT) and holds the second-fastest JT time ever of just 10 minutes and 20 seconds. When I asked Levy his goals for 2017, his final summer as a JT, he told me, "I think I can improve my run time and maybe even beat the record."

A huge How! How! and thanks go out to the entire Tamakwa family for a wonderful summer of triathlons. Special appreciation goes to Stephanie Canoe for organizing the safety canoes; to Jen Swim for organizing the campers to complete their laps; to the staff who kept our athletes safe as they completed the circuit; to all those who participated in the event, and, of course, to the incredibly diligent water dispensers and toilet paper holders.

CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY MIND

A Pioneer camper explains her near-obsession with becoming a camper at Tamakwa and her journey to the shores of South Tea BY CORAL DAVIDSON



All of my excitement about Tamakwa started when I first visited the camp in the summer of 2015. From that moment, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I was always asking my parents about Tamakwa or reading the *South Tea Echo*. It fed my interest and desire to experience camp for myself.

When school started that September, I had less time to think about camp. But it remained on my mind, even if I wasn't always asking questions. At night, when I went to bed, all I thought about was camp.

Later in the school year, with the summer on the horizon, I could hardly

concentrate on my studies. The excitement kept building. I made a countdown until camp was to start and every day seemed to take forever.

Finally, the big day came. Each hour until I went to the buses felt like a year. When at last we got to the buses, I ran on and got a seat. Then, the hardest part came, the bus ride. As I ate my lunch, I wondered who my counselors would be. This was a strange time to think about that but I was trying to keep my mind off of the bus ride.

Fortunately, the trip in the pointer across the lake to camp didn't take nearly as long as the bus ride. Finally, I arrived at camp and found my counselors. Their names were Maddie, Kirsten, Rachel and Ellie. The next day, the first thing I thought about was camp. And every day since then, the first thing to come into my mind was camp. It gave me so much pleasure.

When Tamakwans Look Their Best

Tamakwa Shirt Day only comes around once a year but images from the annual initiative live on forever online. The results inspired ANDREA BASEN *to write a poem.*



Tamakwa Shirt Day... what can I say? Marking one month 'til summer, it's hip, hip hurray!

Tamakwa families far and wide Show their Tamakwa spirit with pride.

When the countdown to camp marks one month to go Tamakwans rise to the occasion to let others know.

For on Tamakwa Shirt Day there's really no doubt Tamakwans don the right clothing out and about.

But how do we know what everyone's wearing? Well, it's easy because Tamakwans like sharing. On Facebook, on Twitter, on Instagram and more Everyone was posting, posting, posting galore.

On Tamakwa Shirt Day

2016, Tamakwa photos flooded the scene. Around the globe, Tamakwans stood tall. Showing they cared, one and all.

Oh Tamakwa Shirt Day, it was so much fun We loved seeing posts from everyone. Can't wait to do it again on May 28, 2017 We expect it'll be the best we've ever seen.

DEALING WITH A TIMELESS CHALLENGE

CITs receive special training on how to help campers who are contending with homesickness BY JULIE HIRSCH



The announcement on the whiteboard at breakfast read: "CITs on practicum this week meet JT Julie at Cedar Bench Square at first period wearing exercise clothes and running shoes."

It didn't go unnoticed or unheeded. Indeed, CITs arrived prepared for an hour of Zumba, with little idea of what awaited them.

As I began the session, I told them, "I'm here to talk to you about homesickness."

It's as timeless a topic as summer camp, manifesting itself in various forms every year, affecting campers of every age and gender.

I began my discussion seeking personal feedback, asking how many of the CITs were homesick

as a camper. Some never experienced it as a camper while others admitted to only being homesick as younger campers. One CIT acknowledged his homesickness the first few days of camp every year, from Forester 1 through his Senior Boy summer.

I next discussed the times when homesickness presents itself at camp -- first thing in the morn-

ing, Rest Hour, bedtime, twilight, mealtimes, trip and changeover night, just to highlight a few. I asked the CITs who they would look to for help with homesick campers. Besides the obvious answers of Section Heads and co-counselors, I also reminded them about Activity Leaders, other Head Staff members, former counselors and siblings. We shared stories

about homesick campers from past years and ways to help them.

Lastly, I taught them my three-step formula for dealing with homesickness: 1. Acknowledge the homesickness. It's normal. Even if a child is having a great time at camp, they're not at home and may miss their parents. 2. Redirect. Take them to an activity, play a game, eat a meal, tell a story, engage them. 3. Follow up. This is the most important step. If a child trusts you, as his/her counselor, to share his/her personal feelings, if you don't follow up later and check in to see how the camper is doing, he/she may not open up to you in the future.

I then informed the CITs that we were going to Loon Lodge to do kickboxing. Surprise! Some were reluctant participants at first but by the end of the warm-up, everyone was fully engaged and having fun. We spent about 20 minutes working out. When I got to the cool-down, the CITs were laughing, having loved the workout. I then asked, "Tell me the times when campers get homesick? Who can you turn to for help with homesick campers? What are the three steps for dealing with homesickness?" They eagerly shouted out the answers.

When they were quiet, I explained I had just put them through the three

steps of dealing with homesickness. First, we talked. Next, I redirected them with the kickboxing. Lastly, I followed up with them at the end of the workout. As I had hoped, it made an impact on the CITs.

"The kickboxing was my favourite part because it made me forget all about what we were talking about in the session," Sammy Koolik told me. "I was completely distracted."

Spencer Robins thought it was cool to use the technique to teach the session. Jonah Stone felt the information was very helpful and noted that most of the CITs had to deal with homesickness in their cabins while on practicum.

Mikey Davidson, 2016 CIT Director, said the homesickness training was the most valuable 30 minutes of education, (followed by a fun activity), that the CITs learned during their practicum week. He felt its timing on the second day of practicum was important because it gave the CITs time to acclimate to their cabin groups. It also gave them the opportunity to use the training during their practicum week and all through the summer.

As always, homesickness was present on the sunny shores this year but the 2016 CITs were prepared and ready to deal with those few campers who needed help.

SKY'S THE LIMIT

It's amazing what can happen when you're looking up at the stars at Tamakwa to let your eyes and mind wander BY PETER LIPSON

Floating in a canoe at night, looking up at the northern Ontario sky, the Big Dipper hangs over the horizon, slowly turning around the North Star as the meteors streak across the sky toward the distant hills.

The Big Dipper is one of only a few constellations whose real name I actually know. The rest I've made up over the years. At Tamakwa, we get to see the sky as the ancients did: black, stars scattered randomly. So I give them my own

names.

Since I'm a silly person, many of them have silly names: The Clown Hat, The Big Boxy Thing. The stars don't change but the names do.

Camp is like that. There are new names every

year, kids with their own unique gift to give to camp, each one beautiful in his/her own way. I can't count the number of times I see a kid in the city, at a job or going off to college and remember the day they sat on the porch of the doctor's cabin homesick.

As I write this, my daughter Ali is at the Bat Mitzvah of a camp friend, a thousand miles from my kitchen table. Tamakwa is

like that. A kid may start out the summer sitting on the porch of the doctor's cabin with a tummy ache or a sad face, but before long they have created lifelong friendships with people who may live a continent away.

As a tripper, I loved the solitude of Algonquin Park. Sometimes you would paddle and portage for days without seeing another person other than the nine

souls sharing your trip. On quiet nights, I used to look up at the moon and think, "That's the same moon my friends at home are looking at right now." That would calm any lingering homesickness the isolation of the Park might have engendered. And then I would go back to the fire and sit and laugh with people who I would know for the rest of my life.

Doctors love to give advice. It's what we get paid to do. So I'm going to pour you some advice fresh from the pot warming on the campfire:

Wherever you are right now, step out and look up at the sky. Don't say a word, just look. Let the wind blow across your skin and let your mind wander to memories of your friends who are looking up at that same sky, that same sun, moon and stars. The friends you meet at camp are yours to keep for a lifetime. Think of their names, their hugs and their laughter and let the hope of summers yet to come fill your heart.

This is the gift you can give camp and camp can give back to you and as long as you look up at the stars, it's yours.



LEARNING FROM A WISE MAN

Words can have such enduring impact, especially when they're laden with wisdom and compassion. BY NATE ZAHN

Before becoming Tamakwa's Canoe Trip Director in 2011, I had been a tripper for six summers during which my relationship with Senior Camp Director Vic Norris was minimal. As a tripper, my interaction with him consisted of a handshake before leaving on trip at the trip docks, followed by some small talk about the trip after returning to camp. Despite limited contact, I sensed there was something special about Vic, even if I hadn't really experienced it.

Then, in 2006 he sent me a handwritten note in the spring when I decided to return to Tamakwa after a one-year absence. The words were few but they meant a lot to me. Vic wrote: "Really glad to have you back this summer, Nate." I kept the note without knowing it foreshadowed what was ahead in our relationship.

In the spring of 2011, I had a one-on-one conversation with Vic on the Lower Deck about my possible future at Tamakwa. I was soon hired to join Head Staff as the CIT director which I was excited about. But that spring Len Gibling, my mentor and longtime trip director, announced he wouldn't be returning to Tamakwa. This led Vic to drive up from Detroit to camp in May to propose to me that I switch from CIT Director to Canoe Trip Director. Over the previous two summers, I had been Assistant Canoe Trip Director and had dreamed of one day leading the program.

I accepted the offer but not without some fear and trepidation. Vic assured me of his trust and confidence in me. We talked for what seemed like hours including about the dynamics of working



at camp in the off-season. It proved the first of many future conversations with Vic during which he imparted his wisdom through anecdotal stories and life experience.

For my part, I ranted to him about things I didn't like at camp. I completely focused on the negative and nitpicked everything and everyone around me. Vic listened patiently, waiting for me to finish my tirade. He then shared something I've never forgotten. He told me to focus on people's positives and work to their strengths, not to focus on their weaknesses or defects.

At the time, I didn't really get what he meant but over the years that lesson has stuck with me. Today, it's something I use in my everyday life and career. I even tell my trippers now to concentrate on their staff's positives, not on their negatives, while on trip. Such an attitude is a great way to view life. It helped me see that every person (even one's worst enemies) has something positive to offer and if we

think that way, we can work with anyone on anything.

Over the years, my relationship with Vic developed as I continued as Trip Director. My respect for him grew and he became one of the people I'd go to when I was frustrated or felt lost or needed advice. I knew if I could have a one-on-one with him, he'd invariably say something to me that would make me feel better or help me find some resolve. This became more apparent in 2013.

That summer, I asked Vic if I could talk to him because I was in a big funk. I was about to turn 30, I was single, living again with my parents, wasn't using my degree in teaching and was generally depressed and angry. Not surprisingly, it was affecting my job at Tamakwa and my overall well-being. I told Vic I was questioning why I was at camp and what I was doing with my life. Again, Vic patiently listened to what I had to say. He then asked me to look at my surroundings which I did. He suggested

I focus on everything I was seeing, hearing and smelling around me.

We were sitting on top of the Slope with a great view of South Tea Lake and the three Islands. It was a magnificent sight. Remarkably, once I looked up and realized where I was, my worries and troubles didn't seem so bad. Vic told me to take time for myself and to gain perspective on where I was (in Algonquin Park) and enjoy my time there. He reminded me of how fortunate I was to have a job in such a magnificent setting and that I need to take advantage of my time while being there and that I do something for myself every day.

Vic shared with me that he didn't meet his wife until later in life and that time will come when it's meant to come. This lesson stuck with me the rest of that summer and into my later years at camp. I even inherited the adage 'Parke Diem' (seize the park – not a straight translation, of course) into my everyday life at camp and shared it with my trip staff and

campers. I was reminded of how fortunate I was to work in such a beautiful place. What was even more amazing was that shortly after that conversation I met the love of my life while at camp. If I hadn't been at Tamakwa and I had believed all the negative things I was telling myself, I never would've met Snaige. You could say Vic's words of wisdom helped lead me to meet my future wife.

Summer 2015 was an exciting time for me. Four days after camp ended, I married Snaige at -- where else? -- Tamakwa. As Vic has said to me many times 'I thrive off of certainty' and already that summer I was doubting if I could return the next year because of possibly starting a family with Snaige. I was also worried about waiting too long to have a child. I felt that at 32 I was running out of time. Vic reminded me to slow down and enjoy life and not rush and stress so much about what the future would hold. He shared with me how he only met Rhonda in his 40s and that I had many years ahead of me to worry about that stuff. As he told me in 2013, things will happen when the time is right. There's no need to stress about the future. It reminded me to stay present and in the moment.

This past summer proved difficult being away from my wife and future child (yes, crazy how everything just would work itself out as Vic had said years earlier). I was having a hard time enjoying my time in the Park. Vic reminded me again of the importance of perspective and communication with Snaige. He told me about the 'cushion' we need to give each other. He reminded me that my

pregnant wife was going through a lot right then and that I need to listen to her feelings. He told me I had to communicate that I love her and will be there for her even though I couldn't then be right beside her physically.

The term 'cushion' was something Vic taught me a lot about. He reminded me no one is perfect and that we as humans make mistakes all the time. He added that instead of reacting to and/or judging people's mistakes, I need to give them a 'cushion' of perspective. They most likely didn't make this mistake on purpose or didn't mean to be malicious, it just simply was an honest error.

Again, such valuable words of wisdom from Vic.

During another conversation, I was feeling really guilty I wasn't home supporting Snaige as she went through all these changes from being pregnant. He told me guilt is a useless emotion and has no constructive attribute to it. All it does is cause us to feel down. There's nothing to be learned from feeling guilty, so why feel it.

I could write much more about everything Vic has taught me over the past six years working beside him. I will forever be grateful for my conversations with him and the mentorship he has given me.

I grew up in a single-parent household with my father absent most of my life. Maybe that helps explain how Vic has filled that role as a father figure in recent years. Our talks can be sporadic and sometimes short but each time I gain something new to think about.

Just as Vic did with his brief note to me in 2006, I'd like to return the favour with this note to him: "I'm glad to have you as a friend, Vic. Thank you for your words of wisdom over the years."

PORTAGE OF THE SOUL

Reflections on the initial impressions of coming to Tamakwa for the first time. BY BRENDAN O'REILLY

Until this past summer, I had not been to Algonquin Park in more than a decade. Hoping to get in touch with my roots, I decided to see if I could find work there. To that end, I applied to Tamakwa and was overjoyed to be hired. I felt fortunate to have the opportunity to return to that area.

In 1893, when Algonquin became a provincial park, Alexander Kirkwood was the commissioner of Crown Lands. He played a vital role in establishing what would become Canada's first provincial

park, citing recreation and the protection of game as vital reasons for its preservation. I'm thankful he did. There are few regions of Canadian wilderness that can match the raw unspoiled beauty of Algonquin Park.

"There it is!" declared Josh Kaufman, a veteran Tamakwan. In late June, as our bus rounded a bend in the road just past marker number 9 on Highway 60, the people on the bus began to gesture at the windows on the left side, pointing toward camp, if only for a brief moment. Through the

trees I could see the waves falling upon Tamakwan shores, the iconic slope visible even from a distance.

What I came to realize during the course of the summer is that first impressions are much like the quicksilver surface of South Tea Lake, encompassing much without conveying a true sense of depth. Beneath the veneer, there's so much more -- a trail mix of calm and calamity; triumph and disaster; joys and sorrows shared by this community forged in and by nature.

Within its vortex of un-

bridled creativity, passion and spontaneity, I looked around and saw friendships that could weather even the mightiest of storms. I saw the teachers, doctors and leaders of tomorrow, and the most beautiful part is that I got to see them in such a wonderful time in their lives in such a majestic setting.

I saw tireless trippers, exhaustion etched in their expressions, preparing to venture forth over and over, their weariness outmatched only by their determination. They know, as all Tamakwans do, that



though each voyage finds its finish, our journey is endless. It's not my first impression but rather my last impression of Tamakwa that will accompany me until I find myself once more

on South Tea's shores. We are together on this portage of the soul, carrying our dreams in our minds, our hearts on our sleeves, and casting all doubts and fears into the fire.

MEANINGFUL AND MEMORABLE

Tamakwans rise to the occasion during intercamp, spurred on by a dynamic coaching squad. BY ELLEN MICHAELS

It's not just about that one day. It's about those who came before us and those who will follow. It's about the players as well as the coaches. It's the time when stars are born and legends are made. It's about the journey as much as it's about the destination.

Intercamp 2016 was no exception. Our brilliant coaching staff set the tone for an amazing summer of competition. Legendary Basketball Coach Mitchell Shecter returned to the sunny shores and brought with him some OG intensity, passion, and leadership. Josh Bender and Mitchell August

rounded out the coaching contingent and continued to grow under Shecter's leadership. These coaches provided Tamakwa's Men's and Women's Basketball teams the experience of a lifetime. Hours of practice each day and regular chalk talk prepared our men and women to compete at the highest level.

In July, Camp Manitou arrived on the sunny shores of South Tea replete with stars of their own. Our 16U girls battled to a 12-12 tie at the half. Inspired by the play of point guard Sylvie Pidto, the girls dominated the second half of play and cruised to a

24-12 victory. Surrounded by adoring Tamakwans, the girls exploded with joy as they shared the sweet taste of victory. Hours and hours of hard work had paid off and they shared a success they'll never forget. Nor will it be forgotten by the younger girls who know that one day they'll have the opportunity to compete on center stage and make themselves and their Tamakwa family proud.

In August, the 16U Men's Basketball team had the chance to leave their mark. Coaches Mitchell August and Josh Bender earned the right to lead the team in the Camp North-

land Basketball Tournament. In this ten team tournament, Tamakwa had something to prove. Taking what they had learned from Shecter and the hardnosed coaches that came before him, August and Bender strategized and schemed to lead the boys to victory. Perennial MVP Dean Hysni dominated the court and everyone contributed in five victories. They finished the Tournament 5-1, a performance they can all be proud of and one that will be talked about for years to come.

Basketball is just one

sport Tamakwans had the opportunity to compete in this summer. Over a hundred campers enjoyed great competition in softball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, flag football, swimming, archery and climbing. Many competed for the first time. Ten-year-old Ari Michaels was thrilled when he was chosen to compete on the 16U swim team. A first time intercamp athlete, Ari glowed for days from the experience of competing in a sport he loves for a camp he loves. And he got an intercamp T-shirt to boot!

The intercamp experience allows campers to build meaningful relationships with their teammates and their coaches in a supportive and safe environment. Having been both an intercamp athlete and an intercamp coach, I can say that both experiences have been fun, meaningful and memorable. I'll never forget the coaches that I learned from so many years ago nor the players that I have coached and encouraged over the years. I am grateful to be a part of Tamakwa's intercamp legacy.



CONDITIONING FOR SUCCESS

Challenging new Landsports program helps campers prepare for their fall sports season back in the city. BY ELLEN MICHAELS

There's nothing like well-focused preparation to get better results, especially when it comes to athletic pursuits. This summer, an exciting new program in Landsports perfectly illustrated the value in going the extra mile.

Landsports is unlike any other activity at Tamakwa. It takes place virtually everywhere there's terra firma. While the priority is usually on what's achieved during the two months of camp, this year a new program, Off Season Conditioning, helped campers to also look beyond the sunny shores of South Tea to give them a leg up for their fall sports season back home.

As part of this ini-

tiative, Dynamic Fitness Director Louise Paul and her talented staff worked tirelessly, creating training regimes for camper athletes who faced various sports challenges after camp and were keenly determined to succeed in their pursuits.

Dex Frank, Izzy Friedman and Brooke Gellman pushed themselves to be ready for soccer season. Jacob Coburn and Phoebe Fingold prepared themselves to compete effectively in tennis and Noah Kam gave it his all to bring it on the basketball court. Many more athletes signed up week after week to be part of the excitement.

As Landsports Director, I had the privilege of training alongside these

amazing athletes. We forged bonds through our blood, sweat, and tears. Certainly sweat abounded, if not blood and tears. Every third period, we met at the half-court bleachers. Then, it was out to the ballfield at a sprint before heading to Robbie's Point and back to the ballfield with our hearts bursting in our chests. After a sip of water, the leaders of the pack darted up the path to encourage the rest. Only when everyone was done would we move on to the next phase of the workout which was no less daunting.

Louise Fitness walked us through it. White board in hand, she took us step by step through our progressions. Core training,

improved footwork, agility and quickness were our goals. To achieve them, we endured a grueling series of ladder drills, four-corner cone drills, suicides and endless sit ups, planks and pushups. All of us felt incredibly motivated and gratified by our progress.

Even on the hottest days of the summer we

kept going. Warm-up run then to the Slope. Up and down the Slope 10 times, bench jumps, pushups, planks and lunges to the swim dock. Lest I forget lap time. Ten laps in the books followed by water polo. Our competitive fire burned in an epic game that demanded teamwork, strategic thinking and

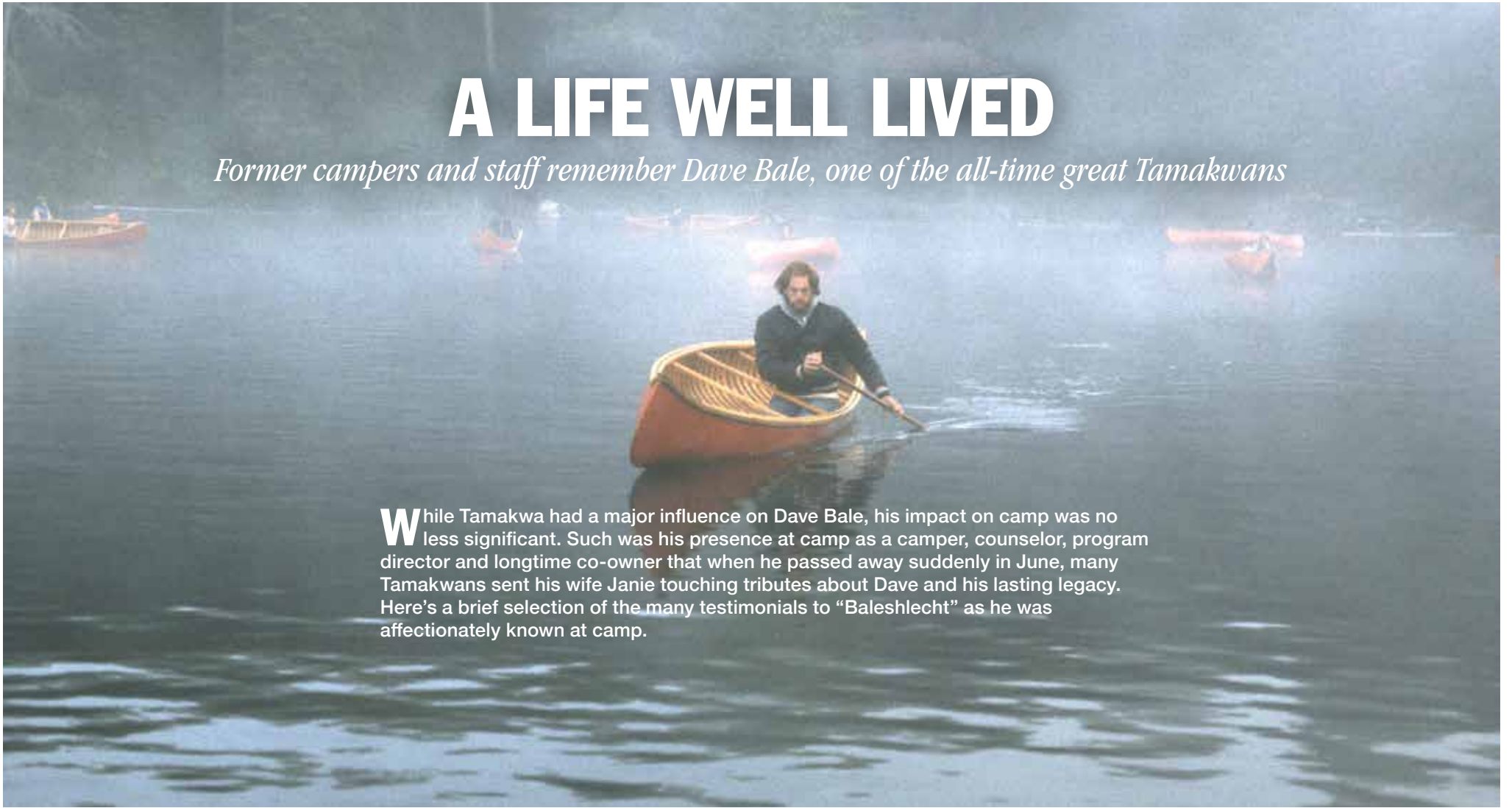
stamina.

After several weeks of conditioning alongside Tamakwa's committed athletes, I was in the best shape of my life. Likewise for many if not most of the other participants. Thanks to this program, it's fair to say that campers returned home ready to compete at the highest level.



A LIFE WELL LIVED

Former campers and staff remember Dave Bale, one of the all-time great Tamakwans



While Tamakwa had a major influence on Dave Bale, his impact on camp was no less significant. Such was his presence at camp as a camper, counselor, program director and longtime co-owner that when he passed away suddenly in June, many Tamakwans sent his wife Janie touching tributes about Dave and his lasting legacy. Here's a brief selection of the many testimonials to "Baleshlecht" as he was affectionately known at camp.

"Dave was my Unca Lou. I loved being around him every minute I was at Tamakwa."

"1984 marked the day that forever changed me -- the day I met Dave to be introduced to Tamakwa. What sold me was his smile and his enthusiasm. He was an instrumental part of my childhood and helped me through some pretty tough times."

"David had such a remarkable influence on us Tamakwa campers from the 1970s and 80s as we grew up under his caring eyes and gentle ways."

"Dave was such a key part of the magic that were our summers at Tamakwa. I'm sure the Senior Boys of '83 have only amazing memories of his playfulness, sense of humor, fairness (especially when we were being mischievous) and his caring for all of us and all things Tamakwa."

"Dave was the heart and soul of Tamakwa. The forever good cop. The truest Tamakwan."

"He was a true mensch and had a huge, positive influence on so many Tamakwans."

"I have such fond memories of David from Tamakwa. We played a lot of basketball together and shared a lot of

laughs. He had a real knack for making people feel special."

"David changed my life. He reignited my love of camp. I had the pleasure of working with him from 2001 - 2003. I learned so much from this wonderful and giving man. He was humble, inspirational, forever smiling and a true gentleman."

"I remember his genuine kindness and enormous heart. I was always welcomed back by his giant smile. We all looked forward to that time after Rest Hour when we'd hear Dave call out Tootsie Frooties! Everybody gets! He was an integral part of my years at Tamakwa."

"I remember Dave making me feel better about being the new kid at camp in 1983. I was having a hard time fitting in. Dave was there for me, to talk, to listen, to make me feel better about myself when I really needed it. He was a good man who did good to so many others. He was the menschiest of mensches."

"Dave was one of the best parts of Tamakwa when I was a camper. I have so many wonderful memories of him. He was the reason I had the opportunity to participate in Algonquin Park's 100th birthday celebration as a first-year camper."

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

One longtime Tamakwan cited the poem, What Is Success, written in 1904 by American writer Bessie Anderson Stanley, that he felt best defined Dave

He achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much;
 Who has enjoyed the trust and respect of intelligent women and men and the love of little children;
 Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;
 Who has never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty or failed to express it;
 Who has left the world better than he found it;
 Whether an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul;
 Who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had;
 Whose life was an inspiration;
 Whose memory a benediction.

