

# South Tea Echo



THE VOICE OF CAMP TAMAKWA • ALGONQUIN PARK

## SPECIAL 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ISSUE

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# THE BEST OF SUMMER 2010





## Testament to all Tamakwans

*A fitting commemoration for a special place, a glorious history and a remarkable community called Tamakwa. By Vic Norris*

In its October 14, 2010 issue, the *Detroit Jewish News* devoted its cover story to Tamakwa's 75th anniversary. In the article, masterfully written by Robert Sarnier, I was quoted as saying: "The milestone of Tamakwa's 75th anniversary is a testament to all those

who were ever a camper or staff member at camp."

More than a reunion, the two anniversary events in September and October were a celebration of the 75th birthday of camp – and its incredible 75-year history. A considerable milestone, particularly a summer camper with such a primitive beginning. How Unca Lou recruited campers all the way from Detroit to the distant and unfamiliar wilderness and waters of Algonquin Park remains a huge part of Tamakwa lore. I am sure Lou was in many of your homes with his manual feed 16-millimeter projector and movie screen seeking to be entrusted by your parents to come to such a far-away place.

If he were still alive, Lou would now be 100 years old. Although he left us early, in 1974, to this day, every camper and staff member who attends camp knows the story and history of Tamakwa and certainly of Unca Lou and Omer Stringer, as well as Esta and Mike Kraft.

To this day, everyone still knows of Lou's adages: "Golden and silver days – life is a package deal."

"There are no problems in life, only challenges." "Today is the first day of the rest of your life, take advantage." "Tamakwans leaves their campsite better than they found it."

And, I am sure you all agree that Unca Lou certainly left his campsite better than he found it. I also venture to say, as a result of each of our own Tamakwa experiences, we have all been driven to do just that – leaving our own campsite better than we found it. Lou's vision, Omer's skills, and their friendship created a legacy we have all enjoyed that has impacted lives of all Tamakwans in so many incredible ways.

Over the years, we commonly refer to Tamakwa as a "people camp." Every camp has activities, boats, playing fields and the like, but it's the people who have attended Tamakwa, the unique Tamakwa spirit we all share, all the personalities, the life-long friendships, even camp marriages, that have made Tamakwa uniquely different.

Tamakwa schticks, Tamakwa fun, Tamakwa laughter, Tamakwa schrecks, skills learned, canoe trips,

living simplistically in majestic Algonquin Park, the call of the loon, the mist on the lake, the crackle of the fire, the view of the islands, the life lessons learned, all contributed to why so many Tamakwans felt the desire, even the need, to gather at our recent reunions. As my friend Ron Sherman says, when it comes to Tamakwa, 'either you get it or you don't.' Obviously, everyone who attended, "gets it".

And, while 75 years is, yes, an incredible milestone, the most important thing is that Tamakwa is still flourishing. Kids still count the days and hours until they return to camp.

Each season, when I stand on the dock greeting campers as they return, or arrive at Tamakwa for the first time, or each summer as I traverse camp daily, in the Dining Hall, the Slope, playing fields, waterfront, cabins, Rec Hall, I don't just see the faces of those campers, I see generations of campers. I see faces from the '60s through all the decades since. I see the faces of many of the parents of the campers of today – I see each and every one of the 260 Tamakwans who united on the shores of South Tea Lake in late September for a magical reunion weekend, and all 500 who attended our anniversary banquet in Michigan in October and so many others as well. Whether you were campers or staff five, 10, 20, 30, 40 or so years ago, I still envision you at camp.

Tamakwa is seamless, it's

timeless, and each former camper or staff member remains an important part of Tamakwa, part of its history and those who attended our anniversary celebrations wouldn't have been there if Tamakwa wasn't still a part of them.

Everywhere I go, invariably when I run into Tamakwans, they tell me: "My Tamakwa days were the greatest or most special days of my life." Few endeavors could feel as rewarding as that.

While Lou, Omer, Esta and Mike started everything, I must acknowledge other Tamakwa icons to whom we are all indebted. Certainly there was Morrie Weiss, may he rest in peace, and my mentor, Kal Bandalene and Ada Bandalene. They were Lou's right and left arms.

The other Tamakwan icons and the infallible team for the last 30 years to whom we are all indebted are David Stringer, David Bale, Marilyn Mendelson, Ken Elder, Libby Sadick vonNeumann and Ric vonNeumann, and Len Giblin. There were others in my earlier years including Bob Simon and Reggie Sidell. Now still working along side Craig and I is Sue Binder.

For 40 years, I have had, and all Tamakwans have had, a dream team. They are the reason there still is a Tamakwa. And because of the commitment and passion of Craig Perlmutter, my partner and camp director, and his wife Margot, our

Assistant Director, camp is in good hands for generations to come.

In 1966, I was 16 years old when I went to the National Coal and Oil office in Detroit for a job interview with Lou (wearing his bow tie) and Kal (smoking his pipe). As soon as Lou learned I could play the bugle, I was hired. At the time, the likelihood that Tamakwa would continue to be such a vital part of my life for all these years as a result of that 10-minute interview was most improbable.

While Lou and Omer and the others I cited should certainly receive their due, we would all be remiss if we didn't acknowledge how it came to be that Tamakwa was resurrected and given a chance to flourish for 30 years since 1980. Quite simply, that happened because of the vision and commitment of Howard and Carol Perlmutter when they purchased Tamakwa in 1980. That was the game changer.

Howard and I shook hands one day in 1980 while in black and white Chestnut canoes on South Tea Lake – despite hardly knowing each other. The rest, as we say, is history.

In thinking about the 75th anniversary events at camp and in Michigan, there are just too many people to thank and too many people to acknowledge. The most important thing is we all reconnected and reunited to celebrate such a great milestone. Most, if not all, of us and thousands of others, would not know each other or have such incredibly longstanding relationships with so many but for Tamakwa. As I tell the staff in my concluding remarks every summer, we are all the better for Tamakwa being a chapter in our book of life.

I thank everyone who came out to share the glorious 75-year history of Tamakwa and supporting camp in the past and hopefully in the future.

I also want to acknowledge every member of the Handler and Kraft families whose presence at the Michigan celebration meant so much to all of us: Wally Handler, Marlene Handler, Stuart Handler, Cheryl Handler, Howard Handler, Rian Handler, Charlie Kraft, Jenna Kraft and Emily Kraft.

Finally, the biggest Hows go to the hardworking, talented co-chairs of the Michigan celebration, Sue Binder and Sheila Tyner. A special thanks to Michael and Diane Budman, Brian Hermelin and Michael Binder for all of their support and unique contributions. And of course, many thanks to my wife, Ronda, and our two wonderful children (and lifetime Tamakwans), Max and Jessica, for supporting my lifelong commitment and love affair with Tamakwa.

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# The summer at a glance

A selective listing of the major events and main highlights at camp in 2010

## JUNE

- Wed., June 16** Head staff arrive for Pre-Pre-Pre Camp
- Sat., June 19** Activity leaders arrive for Pre-Pre Camp
- Tues., June 22** Counselors, canoe trippers and specialists arrive for Pre-Camp
- Thurs., June 24** First Aid Day
- Fri., June 25** Staff night out at the Portage Store
- Sat., June 26** Trippers' trip departs
- Sun., June 27** July Session campers arrive; Cabin night
- Mon., June 28** White Caps; Beaver Council nominations; Noonway
- Tues., June 29** Beaver Council elections: (Pres.: Evan Ketai; VP: Gabi Stone; Sec.: Brad Kriegel; F: Asher Raduns-Silverstein; TB - Bailey Goldstein; R: Jake Schwartz; P: Maddie Fink; V: Harrison Slavner; 49er; Samantha Bronstine, Tess Relle); Section night
- Wed., June 30** Individual choice begins; First canoe trip departs; Choose Your Own Adventure Night: Roger Wilco in Space!

## JULY

- Thurs., July 1** Canada Day; Trailblazer canoe trip skills outing; Dragon Boat races
- Fri., July 2** Forester canoe trip skills outing; Services with Algonquin Park alumni; Hobby Hubs
- Sat., July 3** Pioneer BBQ; Broadway Night
- Sun., July 4** JT Triathlon; Section Night
- Mon., July 5** Cabin cookouts; camp-wide campfire
- Tues., July 6** Nate's New Toy all-day program - Slinky, Army Men, Lego, Mr. Potato Head
- Wed., July 7** Pioneer BBQ; Voyageur cookout; Ranger BBQ; Cabin night
- Thurs., July 8** Superhero Night
- Fri., July 9** Manitou at Tamakwa for Under-12 Intercamp; Services; Hobby Hubs
- Sat., July 10** How How Productions present *Anne of Green Gables*
- Sun., July 11** JT two-week campers depart; World Cup Final celebration; JT BBQ; Section night
- Mon., July 12** Cabin cookouts and camp-wide campfire
- Tues., July 13** Treasure Swim; CITs present Back-to-School Night
- Wed., July 14** Harvey Deutsch Camper Triathlon; Cabin night
- Thurs., July 15** Second Annual Tamakwa vs. Taylor Statten Camps Canoe Race
- Fri., July 16** All-day Surf and Sail; Camp Northland Basketball Tournament; Camp Bar Mitzvahs for Shelby Baum, Alexis Goldenberg, Leslie Holz, Samantha Winkler
- Sat., July 17** Voyageur cookout; Beaver Council presents Sadie Hawkins
- Sun., July 18** Manitou at Tamakwa for Under-16 Intercamp; Section night
- Mon., July 19** Cabin cookouts and camp-wide campfire
- Tues., July 20** JT Triathlon; Air Bands; 15-day trips return at midnight
- Wed., July 21** Colour War: Wakonda's Puzzle - Archaeologists, Cryptologists, Astronomers, Engineers
- Thurs., July 22** Colour War continues
- Fri., July 23** Pack-out Day; Mini-Banquet: A Mid-Summer Night's Dream; How How Productions presents *The Sound of Music*
- Sat., July 24** July Session campers depart; Visiting Day
- Sun., July 25** August Session campers arrive; Cabin night
- Mon., July 26** Block schedule begins; White Caps; Clue Night featuring cereal characters
- Tues., July 27** Staff Triathlon; A Night at the Races
- Wed., July 28** Voyageur cookout; Section night
- Thurs., July 29** Forester canoe trip skills outing; Pioneer BBQ; CITs present TV Land
- Fri., July 30** Trailblazer canoe trip skills outing; Bar/Bat Mitzvahs for Josh Forman, Tamara Grundland, Jeff Ran, Mike Ran, Jodie Schram
- Sat., July 31** JT Triathlon; Choose Your Own Adventure Night: The Time Bandits

## AUGUST

- Sat., Aug. 1** JT Triathlon; Talent Show
- Sun., Aug. 2** Pioneer BBQ; Section Night
- Mon., Aug. 3** Cabin cookouts; Camp-wide campfire
- Sun., Aug. 1** Tamakwa's Got Talent
- Mon., Aug. 2** Cabin cookouts and camp-wide campfire
- Tues., Aug. 3** Tamakwa at Manitou for Under-12 Intercamp
- Wed., Aug. 4** Campers Arrive from Adventure Valley Day Camp for four-day mini-session; Cabin night
- Thurs., Aug. 5** Voyageur cookout; Carnival Night
- Fri., Aug. 6** Services and Hobby Hubs
- Sat., Aug. 7** Voyageur BBQ; How How Productions presents *Annie*
- Sun., Aug. 8** JT two-week campers depart; JT BBQ; All-day program: Indian Summer 2/The Sequel - Horror, Western, Documentary, Kung Fu
- Mon., Aug. 9** Cabin cookouts and camp-wide campfire
- Tues., Aug. 10** Treasure Swim; Tamakwa's Court Night featuring Judge Jeff
- Wed., Aug. 11** Tamakwa at Manitou for Under-16 Intercamp; Ranger BBQ; Cabin night
- Thurs., Aug. 12** South Tea Survivor 8 - Winner: Pioneer 3 and 4
- Fri., Aug. 13** Tamakwa at Arowhon Intercamp; Services and Hobby Hubs
- Sat., Aug. 14** All-day Surf and Sail; 49er BBQ; Saturday Night Live
- Sun., Aug. 15** Harvey Deutsch Camper Triathlon; Section night
- Mon., Aug. 16** Cabin cookouts and camp-wide campfire
- Tues., Aug. 17** Highway Swim; How How productions present *Mamma Mia*
- Wed., Aug. 18** Colour War: Space Invaders - Terran, Zerg, Protoss
- Thurs., Aug. 19** Colour War continues
- Fri., Aug. 20** Pack-out Day; CIT banquet and services ("Tamakwa's 150th Anniversary")
- Sat., Aug. 21** Camp ends as Tamakwans leave for home
- Fri., Sep. 25** 75th Anniversary Alumni Weekend begins; Friday night services
- Sat., Sep. 26** Activities, Medley Marathon, BBQ, Talent Show
- Sun., Sep. 27** 75th Anniversary Alumni Weekend ends





## When green is more than a colour

Tamakwa takes steps to lessen its ecological footprint.

By PETER VOOYS

It can be challenging being green on the shores of South Tea Lake, even if that's the official colour of Tamakwa and the defining colour of the camp's cabins and other structures. Due to various factors, including the logistics of being a water-access only camp, and a tough recycling policy in Algonquin Park, certain environmental practices can be more complex at Tamakwa than elsewhere. However, this past year, the camp made progress, intro-

ducing two new green initiatives: cardboard recycling and a compost box.

Like with many projects, the idea was simple compared to its execution. In the case of the cardboard recycling program, the Transportation team (Jared Barnes, Peter Hope and Kris Verwolf) rose to the occasion. Each evening, in addition to hauling the camp's garbage off the Tamakwa peninsula, they also schlepped all discarded cardboard to a specially

designated bin. Once a week, when the bin was full, the Transpo team would load up a cargo van with the cardboard and drive it to the Portage Store on Canoe Lake. There, it was deposited into one of the few recycling centres in Algonquin Park.

Less logistic support was needed for Tamakwa's other green action this summer. The first step entailed installing a compost box between the tetherball area and tennis courts. The idea

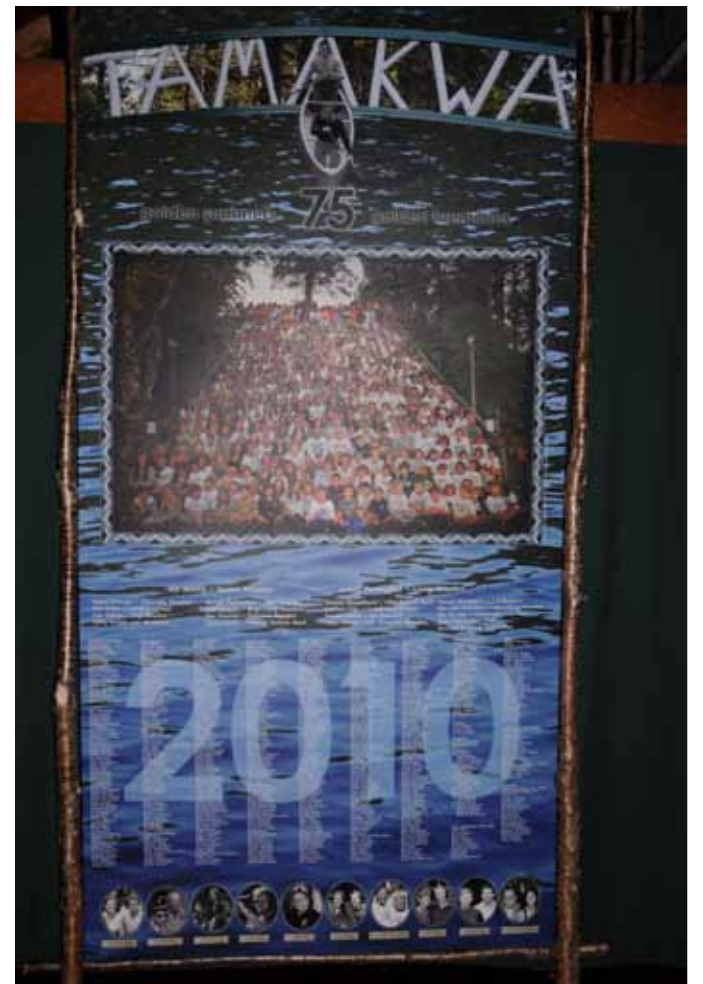
was twofold: to offer a closer alternative for organic debris and waste than the path to Drummer Lake, and to provide a controlled source of compost for use in future green initiatives. Chief Engineer Ken Elder, along with Barnes and Hope, constructed the composter with green eyes for the future.

"The more we can do to reduce our environmental footprint the better and if we can teach our campers and staff its importance too, then we'll be doing our part," says Camp Director Craig Perlmutter. "Even our new blue bins in the office created a bit of a buzz around camp that we were starting to recycle, but it also increased the snooping for trying to find out all-day program and colour war captain secrets as well."

There's now talk of creating a garden at Tamakwa that children could help tend to and grow vegetables for Chef Guy Tetreault. It would teach children about lifecycles, caring for and nurturing vegetables for the ultimate reward – eating the food that you grow yourself. The benefits would be indisputable. Every vegetable grown and harvested at home would be one less vegetable that Guy would need to be order from a large food distributor and transported across a long distance to reach camp. To that end, a compost box would come in handy, providing a natural soil base and fertilizer.

## One for the ages

A winning design for an historic summer as the 2010 plaque is unveiled to widespread delight. By PETER VOOYS



During the last week of camp, there's always great anticipation about the year-end plaque that, as part of an annual ritual, is unveiled at the final banquet. This summer, the speculation was more intense than usual. Little wonder given that it was Tamakwa's 75th year in existence, a point occasionally cited by Vic and Craig throughout the summer. In the lead-up to the banquet, Tamakwans debated what would be most appropriate to represent not only the summer of 2010, but also to evoke the historic anniversary?

Early predictions had a photo mosaic of special events from the summer. One insider assured this reporter that it would be the Tamakwa beaver logo aged 75 years – complete with floor length beard, hunched back with a cane. A popular guess among the staff was an image of Vic and Craig's faces, surrounded by the faces of directors past in a Brady Bunch-style grid. Kept under wraps until the final seconds of the banquet, the plaque was revealed to widespread cheering and applause. The general consensus was that it had exceeded expectations.

"There was something in Josh Forman's Bar Mitzvah speech that stuck out in our heads when we were searching for ideas," Vic said at the banquet. "He mentioned that for him, Tamakwa was a 'people camp.' This was reminiscent of something that had been a theme of camp for years that was brought back to the limelight and is still absolutely true. We are dedicated to the people who

come to camp each summer, and we are indebted to those who have dedicated their lives to Tamakwa."

To that end, the plaque's main body shows a large picture of campers and staff of both sessions sitting on the slope together. At the top, paddling in from the middle of the word Tamakwa, are co-founders Unca Lou Handler and Omer Stringer. Along the bottom are head shots of those, who like founding fathers, committed themselves to Tamakwa and became important links in the chain culminating in the 75th summer. From left to right, are Mike and Esta Kraft, Kal and Ada Bandalene, Charlie Kraft, David Stringer, Marilyn Mendelson, Vic Norris and David Bale, Howard and Carol Perlmutter, Ric vonNeumann and Libby Sadick vonNeumann, Ken Elder and Len Giblin, and Craig and Margot Perlmutter.

To pull off the project, an all-star team worked with Craig and Vic under utmost secrecy. Tamakwa alum and graphic designer Robin Spencer Arm was the instrumental piece of the puzzle turning an idea into reality. She worked with our talented photographer Libby Sadick vonNeumann to design, create, and produce Tamakwa's first-ever plaque using a Photoshopped photograph as the basic medium and then putting it to canvas.

The plaque image was also transformed into a colour poster that was given to all Tamakwans to take home at the end of the summer, and was printed on the chests of the 2010 staff long sleeve T-shirts.

## Lights, camera, action

In its fourth year, the TV/video program continues to grow in popularity. By JARED BARNES

During the summer, there was a new buzz in camp and it had nothing to do with lice. Thanks to Rukshan De Silva and his video prowess, great moments from the 2010 season will live on for years online.

As the camp's TV and Video Director, Rukshan made numerous clips that will figure prominently on Tamakwa's newly designed website, giving people a better understanding of life on the shores of South Tea, especially the activities and programs.

"The activity videos will allow parents to gain a better insight into the programs Tamakwa offers," says Rukshan. "They will also provide new campers an opportunity to see what activities they would be interested in ahead of arriving at camp."

Rukshan, who is studying urban planning at the University of Waterloo, is quite comfortable behind the camera and with editing. For

lize my skills and Tamakwa proved the perfect choice," says Rukshan, 19, from Oakville Ontario. "It was a great experience and I loved



the past three years, he has made promotional videos for Barrack Gold Corporation, a large Toronto-based international mining company.

"I was looking for an outdoor job for the summer which also allowed me to uti-

making videos about such a beautiful place."

This was the fourth straight year the camp offered a TV/video program and it's clearly growing in popularity. "We've been able to watch and enjoy so much

creativity from the campers who have already taken part in this activity," says Camp Director Craig Perlmutter. "It's, of course, an added bonus having someone at camp to capture on video many noteworthy moments of the summer." Although some may feel such an activity may seem incongruous at a summer camp for not being exactly 'outdoorsy,' Rukshan begs to differ.

"It's easy to forget that most of the filming takes place outdoors and helps campers learn to better appreciate the physical beauty of the Tamakwa setting," says Rukshan. "In my eyes, it doesn't take away from the outdoors experience, it offers an alternative."

Tamakwa will miss Rukshan next summer as his studies will be taking him abroad but he's confident that the camp TV/video program will continue to evolve and be a way to showcase a lot of the magic of Tamakwa for the world to see by way of the internet.

# Raising their voices

Pioneer campers demonstrate what can happen when they rally for a cause. By PETER VOOS



Social protest knows no barriers – not even at water access-only children’s summer camps. Just a few days before opening night of *Annie*, the first drama production of the August session, Tamakwa was the scene of a camper demonstration that bordered on a full-fledged riot.

The protest was led by enraged Pioneer campers and other members of the cast and crew of *Annie*. It was triggered by the decision by Drama Director Andrea Morgan and Musical Director Alex Diaz not to cast Sandy, the beloved dog of *Annie*. Taking matters into their own

hands, the protesters marched on the Dining Hall at the beginning of lunch, interrupting grace and delaying the meal. Waving pro-Sandy signs, dog ears and face paint, the activists formed a tight mob in the centre of the Dining Hall and started chanting loudly and repeatedly “Sandy, Sandy, Sandy!”

“I was scared,” recalls Program Director Jon Franchi. “I mean, there were a lot of them. You could feel their anger. They were barking and growling and chanting. Many of them had a crazed look in their eyes, like rabid dogs.”

They certainly got their message across. Within min-

utes of the uproar, Andrea and Alex capitulated to demands to include a Sandy in the play, thereby ending the fastest and most successful protest ever recorded in the western hemisphere.

Later that day, Andrea and Alex gave the part of Sandy to Lia Weiner, who proved outstanding as the lovable pup. In the end, *Annie* was acclaimed as a smashing success thanks to the efforts of the entire cast. One can’t help but wonder if a little unrest among the performers didn’t help to create a stronger sense of ownership and pride for the play, which was felt on stage.



# Posterity calls

The Tamakwa Museum does its part to preserve the things that matter from the summer of 2010

Given the 75th anniversary, it may have been an historic summer for camp but for the Tamakwa Museum it was pretty much business as usual. For the curators, it meant keeping to their time-honoured, annual tradition of procuring the objects, big and small, that helped define the summer and would have lasting value in the annals of Tamakwa history.

In recent months, the museum staff have worked overtime, first carefully cleaning each object and then installing the entire collection in a thematic way to do justice to its educational value. The new exhibition is now ready and this year’s curators, all members of the 2010 Head Staff in good standing, will be taking turns giving tours of the museum in its underground shelter on Adventure Island every day except Good Friday and Schlect Tuesday. This year’s display includes:

1. Matthew August costume from Annie
2. A “Fun Kid” Adventure Valley T-shirt
3. Loads of empty sunscreen bottles
4. No rain
5. Photo from the Tamakwa’s Got Talent dance-off
6. *Hiking shoes from the hike to the Dam*
7. The five of diamonds from the Great Baldini
8. Rodolfo’s one-time entry visa
9. Miss Hannigan’s lipstick and feather boa
10. One professionally missed louse
11. A shelf from the melted kiln
12. A 75th anniversary ringer T-shirt
13. An extra reader for the 23rd Psalm
14. A slushy from Carnival Night
15. A mini-doughnut from Carnival Night
16. A senior boy stink bomb
17. Owen Farber’s yo-yo
18. Pedro’s spandex short shorts
19. Ben Levite’s “Weekend at Bernie’s” mirror sun glasses
20. Some of Jacob Hanover’s curly locks of hair
21. The look on the Senior Campers’ faces when volun-told to do the Triathlon
22. Brandon Herman’s comments
23. Jarred Bratley’s worn out jogging shoes
24. A black 75th anniversary staff T-shirt with metallic silver/platinum screen on the front
25. Maddie Fink’s leftover food
26. Shelby and Allie’s Temagami letter
27. *A new “5th Year on Staff” Swiss Army knife*
28. An invitation to the 75th anniversary reunions
29. *A new blue recycling bin*
30. One of the 150 3,000-lb totes of beach volleyball sand
31. A mention that it’s the camp’s 75th anniversary
32. Judd’s umbrella and all others in camp, for the sun of course
33. One of the nine returning past program directors
34. One of each size of the visiting day “jumbo” kosher hot dogs
35. One of four broken wrist x-rays from first session
36. A “note to self” about getting the yearend plaque done very early
37. A strip of neon tape used on the trip canoes
38. An Equalizer 24 infiltrator
39. A 4th Colour War team
40. An extra day of July CW
41. Pain Sector sign on trip shack
42. Trips to the Portage Store
43. *Franchi’s bike*
44. A song from lunch music
45. The new unused non-HD video camera



# What did you just call me?

The definitive guide to Tamakwa nicknames, old and new  
By MAX “BOATHOUSE” LEVINE-POCH

Places like schools and summer camps are breeding grounds for nicknames. Put a group of young people together in the same place for long enough and interesting new monikers emerge. It’s a law of nature. At Tamakwa, it’s a storied tradition, dating back to the earliest days of camp.

It’s amazing how some nicknames stick, forever. In many cases, such is the power and appeal of a good, newly minted sobriquet that, forever after, it becomes difficult to refer to certain people by their real names.

This past summer, many new nicknames for campers and staff entered the Tamakwa vernacular. The origins and logic behind some of them are understandable, linked to an event, habit or personal trait. For others, it’s anybody’s guess. But ultimately, these names take on a life of their own and, in a strange way, help define the person.

In my case, being labeled Boathouse was rather random but now I can’t escape it, even if I wanted to. Tamakwans simply know me much better as Boathouse, almost as if that’s what written on my birth certificate.

There are of course many other winning examples, as seen in the list below. It’s by no means exhaustive. We know there are a lot more out there. So please email us other nicknames at echo@tamakwa.com so we can publish an expanded version in a future issue of the *South Tea Echo*.

### CURRENT TAMAKWANS

**Boathouse** – Max Levine-Poch  
**River/Notorious V.I.C** – Vic Norris  
**Shmutz** – Craig Perlmutter  
**The Franchise** – Jonathan Franchi  
**Silver** – Jeff Avigian  
**Libs** – Libby Sadick von Neumann  
**Brett Hull** – Scott Schlafer  
**G.O.** – George Orley  
**ARS/ERS/JRS** – Asher/Ethan/Jonah Raduns-Silverstein  
**Hypnen** – Josh Cohen-Arcamone  
**Lunchbox** – Jesse Rubin  
**Thorax** – Otto Thornton-Silver  
**Teletubby Hill** – Septic Tank  
**Howie** – Harry Sutton  
**Fiddeus** – John Fiddes  
**Grimace/DJ Scribbles** – Chad Schram  
**Frosty** – Bennett Magy  
**Doc** – Matthew Doctoroff  
**Shell** – Ryan Zucker/Justin Kelman  
**Baraggio** – Bradley Zucker  
**Byronomer** – Ryan Zucker  
**5Hector** – Mitchell Schechter  
**Wrinkles/25chotek** – Josh Schostak  
**JJ Perls** – Jake Perlmutter  
**Grundy** – Tamara Grundland

**Baby** – Jake Fine  
**Ram** – Matt Ran  
**Varnish** – Blake Orman  
**Billy** – Harrison Slavner  
**David Hasselhoff** – Mason Slavner  
**Glickdaddy** – Elliot Glickman  
**Rook** – Rukshan DeSilva  
**Shelly** – Andrew Shelberg-Miller  
**Ho-Daddy/Bryce** – Jacob Hoeflich  
**Buddah** – Mike Ran

### CAMP ALUMNI

**Schlecter** – David Bale  
**Titty** – Martin Tanenbaum  
**Peanut Butter** – Michael Perlmutter  
**CBS** – ‘Cool’ Bob Simon  
**Pony** – Jeff Ruby  
**The Wrench** – Aaron Cohen  
**The Juggler** – Daniel Lengyel/Asaf Bar Natan  
**Larry Glider** – Harry Snider  
**Hartsy** – Leslie Hartzman  
**Spoon** – Jeff/Haley/Kevin Greenspoon  
**Captain Crazy** – David MacBrien  
**Haus** – Aaron Rosenhaus

**J Mac** – Justin McCloskey  
**Brandoff** – Brandon Alexandroff  
**Big L** – Eric Lubanski  
**Mr. Jones** – Jonah Adelman  
**Shoggy** – Daniel Shogilev  
**Sudco** – Adam Sud  
**T** – Theresa Howard  
**Half-court Howie** – Howie Blitstein  
**Mookie** – Jamie Wilson  
**Roo** – Richard Markowitz  
**Tang** – David Wilson  
**Billy** – Harrison Slavner  
**JC** – Jonny Cooper  
**Deuce** – Max Smith  
**Smitty** – Josh/Max Smith  
**Hot Carl** – Carly Gallinger  
**Ulti-Vulture** – Matthew Weisberg  
**Falange** – Jack Folbe  
**Shoggy** – Daniel Shogilev  
**Archie** – Marc Crane  
**Jordo** – Jordan Baum  
**MO** – Matt Orenstein  
**JD** – Josh Diamond  
**Double D** – Dave Diamond  
**Jimmy John** – Daniel Jacobs  
**Snuffalufagus** – Jim Ginnarapis  
**Balls** – Alana Balbes  
**Grundy** – Michael Grundland





## In the limelight

Tamakwa honours nine young men and women on the occasion of their camp Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. By CASSIE BETH FRIEDMAN

As a Pioneer in 2001, Shelby Baum spoke at her brother Jordan's camp Bar Mitzvah and enjoyed seeing him recognized for his dedication to Tamakwa. This summer, it was finally her turn to be honoured for spending 13 years on the shores of South Tea.

"I always wanted to come back to camp long enough to have a Bat Mitzvah," says Shelby. "It represented an important milestone for me."

In July, Shelby was one of the nine 2010 Tamakwans to celebrate their camp Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Having her older brothers, Jordan and Zach, and her sister Alicia at camp for the ceremony made it even more significant.

"It reminded me of growing up and having them there with me," says Shelby. "To be together for such a positive occasion was really

special." With her brothers away at college when she was young, summers at camp gave the four siblings time to spend as a family.

In mid-July, in the first of two such Friday evening ceremonies on the slope, Shelby shared the spotlight with three of her closest friends and long-time cabin mates, Alexis Goldenberg, Leslie Holz and Samantha Winkler. The slope was filled with family and friends, some of who hadn't returned to Tamakwa in years.

"The idea that past friends can come back to show their support for you and camp is really powerful," said Josh Forman, who celebrated his camp Bar Mitzvah two weeks later with four other Bar Mitzvah honorees. "It makes for a more moving event."

True to the well-established Tamakwa Bar/Bat Mitzvah tradition, campers

and staff heard most amusing anecdotes and stories from the supporters and the honorees about their time at camp.

Before her days as a Trailblazer counselor, Alexis loved long trips. As a camper, Samantha, the 2010 co-swim director, hated the lake. Leslie's love for camp kept her begging to stay until the end each year, even if it meant missing the start of school. Shelby's long trip history is one for the record books.

Two weeks later at the second ceremony, there was a cool breeze in the air, but a crowded slope and evening of laughter kept Tamakwans feeling golden. The night belonged to Tamara Grundland, Jeff Ran, Michael Ran, Josh Forman and Jodie Schram.

"It was like a really nice birthday party, just like a Bar Mitzvah should be," Josh said sporting his new

## Can you place a face?

Maybe quite a few, for that matter

Nothing like vintage group shots to trigger fond memories of former Tamakwans, some better remembered than others. But who are they? Can you name any of them? Are you in any of them?

As in previous issues of the *South Tea Echo*, we're including a selection of photos spanning several decades. They were culled from camp's heavily guarded, temperature-controlled archival vault, which contains thousands of precious historical images dating back to the earliest days of Tamakwa. Lamentably, there's no indication of who's who in the photos. We want names.

Helps us identify the campers and staffers in these pictures for the next issue of the *Echo*. We'd especially like to hear from anyone who recognizes himself/herself in these photos. Please write to [echo@tamakwa.com](mailto:echo@tamakwa.com)



## Take a hike

That's exactly what a group of Senior Boys and Girls did in August, and they never looked back. By Jo HOLMAN

As early morning broke across the tranquil waters of South Tea Lake, camp was bustling with activity. Amid great anticipation, while several canoe trips prepared to leave camp, 41 brave Senior campers and staff boarded Marge the Barge to begin an epic overland journey through the Western Uplands of Algonquin Park.

Tamakwans, by tradition, are used to canoeing everywhere. After all, Algonquin is much better known for its breathtakingly beautiful canoe routes rather than hiking trails. But the Park is also home to spectacular remote scenery for those who want to travel only by foot with little interruption from the outside world.

Starting at opposite ends of the Western Uplands trail, 15 Senior boys were led fearlessly by David and

Peter Vooyo (their second expedition as brothers), Chad Schram, Jeff Ran and Josh Forman, while the 18 Senior girls were guided by Mark Soberano, Elana Folbe, Jodie Schram and Becky Perlmutar. They were making Tamakwa history, embarking on the camp's first-ever overnight hiking expedition of this magnitude.

The trail covered 37 kilometres over four days, and took in the beauty of Ramona, Maggie, Maple and Guskewau Lakes. It included a stop at Oak Lake for a co-ed BBQ lunch on the second day, which was one of the highlights of the trip. Along the way, Tamakwans spotted several moose and other wildlife.

Brandon Herman, Senior boy, was surprised at how much he enjoyed the experience. "It's the best

trip I've ever done at camp," says Brandon. "It wasn't necessarily easier than canoe tripping. You don't really get a break, it was hard, but it was one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. It was really cool seeing all the different landscapes rather than sitting in a canoe on the lake all day. It felt different walking up to each campsite rather than canoeing. I felt as if I accomplished so much more because it was such a unique experience. If they offered it as a long trip, I'd definitely do it again."

Peter Vooyo, Assistant Program Director and passionate hiker, was the driving force behind the expedition, and is now keen to make overnight hiking trips a regular activity at Tamakwa. "Such trips allow you to see Algonquin Park from a whole different perspective," says Peter. "Based on the incredible response to our first trip," says Peter, "I'd really like to see small groups of hikers leaving camp regularly during the summer to take advantage of what the park has to offer. How fantastic that would be."





## Going the distance

Tamakwans show their real colours as they triumph over Taylor Statten Camps in a major canoe race in mid-July.

By PETER VOOYS

On a bright, clear summer's morning, eight canoes cut through the water and bump into one another in the sheltered docks of Camp Wapomeo on Canoe Lake. The scene of onlookers and 16 paddlers trying to point their canoes in the right direction would normally not be out of the ordinary for Wapomeo, one of Canada's oldest camps dating back to 1924.

On closer inspection, however, instead of a group of girls and young women that typically populate Wapomeo Island, the crowd is a coed mix of different ages hailing from three camps: Wapomeo, Ahmek, (both flying under the Taylor Statten banner) and Tamakwa. As part of the perfectly paired competition testing the best paddlers on the waters of Canoe and Tea Lakes, there was a pattern to the aligned canoes: two male staff boats,

two female staff boats, two male camper boats, two female camper boats, two coed staff boats and two coed camper boats.

In mid-July, Tamakwa and the Taylor Statten Camps (TSC) renewed their recently invoked friendly rivalry. It was the second time in the summer that the camps competed against each other. Two weeks earlier, Tamakwa hosted a camp skills competition that ended in a draw, leaving neither camp satisfied. Hence, the heightened interest over the canoe race at Wapomeo.

Each camp is known for boasting to have the better paddling legacy: Tamakwa was founded by legendary Canadian canoeist Omer Stringer and has an excellent paddling program. For its part, TSC routinely sends 30 to 50-day canoe trips and holds an exclusive intercamp canoe race called the Stilson.

During the inaugural race in 2009, TSC put on a defiant performance, beating the brave Tamakwan squad. Heading into the event this year, Tamakwans recognized their underdog position but were intent to make good on the 2009 race. In mid-July, they wanted to erase the inconclusive result of the late-June event.



To that end, Tamakwa fielded an impressive roster: Anna Aronovitz and Devyn Olin for the female campers; Mason Slavner and Jarred Bratley for the male campers; Alex Sigel and Rachel Kaufman for the coed campers; Donna Farber and Natasha Koomen for the female staff; James Humpston and Peter Vooy for the male staff; JJ Bittker and Laura Grossman (who used Unca Lou's canoe) for the coed staff.

For 2010, the route was reversed and shortened from the previous summer. Held in two heats – staff and camper – the race blasted off from the canoe docks on Wapomeo Island for a 3-km aerobic battle south through Canoe Lake to Bonita Lake Channel to the fabled Bonita complex. There the athletes hoisted their canoes out of the water for a 1-km portage down the road to the Tamakwa landing. Then, the wearied participants dumped their canoes in the water and finished with a 1.6-km sprint to the finish line in front of the slope at Tamakwa.

As the first whistle sounded, the Ahmek staff

boat, the race favourites, got a slight lead on the Tamakwa male boat paddled by James Humpston and Peter Vooy. Ahmek was ahead by a canoe length. The competitors battled neck and neck until they passed Cook's Island (Wapomeo's Senior Island) and broke into the open waters of Canoe Lake. There the Tamakwans took a slight lead, which grew significantly by the time they reached the portage at Bonita. Humpston and Vooy were the first to cross the finish line in front of the slope with the Ahmek canoe nowhere to be seen as it hadn't yet rounded the bend at the Lone Pine.

Several minutes later, the Ahmek staff canoe came in followed by the Tamakwan female staff. Over a period of 15 minutes, the boats arrived one by one with their occupants looking exhausted. The strong headwind faced the entire way had taken its toll on participants.

Humpston, co-Swim Director, was exhausted but ecstatic. "For myself, today was a huge vindication," he said minutes after his triumph. "I raced these guys last year and got absolutely owned. This time, our hard work paid off big time. After the bend, we could see the finish line, but we didn't dare look behind us. We were sure the Ahmek team would catch up and beat us on our home turf, with everyone watching. But we managed to hold them off."

Though the competition was fierce, the atmosphere on the lakes was highly supportive. The race fosters a positive relationship between Tamakwa and its closest camp neighbour. Both had floating cheering sections of

campers on whatever watercraft was available. At the Bonita portage, competitors were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd. Along with several Canoe Lake denizens, Michael and Diane Budman each cheered enthusiastically for their respective alma maters (Michael was a Tamakwan and Diane a Wapomean). At the finish line, those not in a boat cheering sat on the slope watching the canoes cross the finish line. CIT Director Daniel Berman led the crowd in songs and chants that gave each canoe a huge Tamakwan welcome.

Humpston cited the crowd support as a key to victory. "We could hear the campers in the boats as we passed and it gave us the boost we needed to keep pushing," says James. "Without the support of the crowd, this event just wouldn't be the same."

When all was said and done, Tamakwans claimed sweet retribution for their defeat 12 months earlier and the inconclusive result of the pre-camp staff event in late June. Tamakwa had won in three of the four categories, male and female staff, and male and female campers. The coed teams put in tough competitive races but were ousted by their TSC opponents. Tamakwa's vastly improved performance put a kibosh on TSC's perceived paddling power.

It sets the stage for a heated rivalry in 2011 as TSC will inevitably be gunning for redemption. Tamakwa now knows what it must do to build on its victorious ways of this past summer and retain its crown of paddling prowess.

## Of perseverance and patience

No mystery behind why the winning attributes of those on the kayaking/fishing expedition made it such a memorable trip.

By JASON BRADY

In 2010, after a one-year hiatus, both the kayak and fishing trips were back, this time combined as one. On a late July morning, with excitement in the air, the expedition left Tamakwa eager to reach Potter Lake well before sundown in order to fish.

The first day was a challenging one. Many of the staff did portages three times, made more arduous due to the awkwardness of portaging kayaks. The paddle was no less demanding, clocking in at just over nine hours. Campers rotated paddling kayaks and canoes. During the long paddles, kayakers realized that when you stop paddling, the kayak stops, and time spent in a canoe becomes a break by comparison.

While completing the leg from Tea Lake through Canoe lake (with a strong head wind) up to the Joe Lake portage, Ranger camper George Kellie, 10, who weighs about 80 pounds in his wet bathing suit, became perplexed: "Jason, my arms hurt," he said to me. "What should I do?"

I answered: "Dig deep and keep going." It was a valuable lesson I'd learned from endurance competitions. Without protest, George responded, "OK" as he put his head down and proceeded to complete the leg with cabin mate Jonathan Silver. The effort and determination of both these young kayakers impressed me greatly. During the long paddle, we were entertained by Fishing Director Fraser

Duff and camper Nick Free who sang throughout the journey.

Just after 6 pm, with great satisfaction, the expedition arrived at its first campsite on Potter Lake. It didn't take long before the group, including camper Jordan Mayor, set up tents and unpacked bags, all to the sound of singing. But when tripper David Vooy finished preparing dinner, silence swept over the campsite. Everyone was busy satiating their appetite that had grown with every portage and paddle stroke earlier in the day. In the evening, campers fished but caught nothing. As the Voyageur campers went to bed, their Ranger counterparts, still having some energy left, enjoyed S'mores and had

fun poking sticks in the fire. By 10 p.m., lights were out for all.

Duffy and Tripper-in-Training Stefano Rossi rose at 7 a.m. for an early morning fish that concluded with two small mouth bass being caught. Along with breakfast, campers enjoyed what was probably the freshest fish they'd ever eaten. Less than an hour elapsed between Duffy's catch, fillet, and the soothing sizzling sound of fish cooking over the open fire.

After breakfast, more fishing was done, this time with better luck as nine fish were caught. The day was peaceful as campers and staff enjoyed fishing, reading, and napping. It was a pleasant escape from the bells and busy schedule of camp.

In the early evening, the dinner menu was Mac and Cheese and the caught fish. An odd combination perhaps, but the two were treated as separate meals. No mixing occurred.

Day three kicked off with another early start and another long paddle for the kayakers. It began with the trek, drag, and push down



Potter Creek. As we reached Canoe Lake, hoping for no head wind this time, the water was like a sheet of glass. Dream conditions for trips returning and paddlers. Still, the paddle that day took about five hours to complete. Ben Marks, 14, paddled the entire distance. Again, I was impressed.

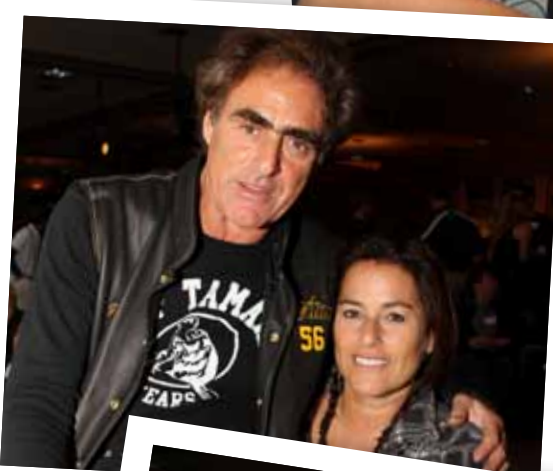
The whole trip was a mix of two activities and two distinct ages of campers (the oldest being 14 and youngest 10). On no other trip will campers experience what they did on this expedition. They learned the true meaning of perseverance,

discovering what it was to rely only on yourself to paddle for hours at a time. Younger campers looked up to – and learned from – the older ones; setting up the tent proved entertaining as the older campers explained how to the first-year Rangers, who asked lots of excellent questions. Everyone also came to appreciate the virtue of patience when casting a line in the water again and again.

It all added up to a memorable trip for all concerned and hopefully it helped create a new Tamakwa tradition.

# CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

*Tamakwans of every era come together at South Tea Lake and in Michigan to rejoice over camp's 75th birthday*



# More than a reunion

The special weekend at camp and the Michigan banquet a month later proved an apt tribute to a major Tamakwa milestone.

By CRAIG PERLMUTTER

The two main 75th anniversary celebrations that took place in September and October will live on forever in my heart and mind. For me, and many others, they will always be a major source of inspiration, friendship and confidence in the future. They left me in awe at just how incredible the Tamakwa community is.

These two events were nothing if not the result of a tremendous team effort, spearheaded largely by volunteers. A gigantic How How and thank you are in order to the many people who made the late September weekend at camp and the Saturday evening party in Michigan not only possible but sensational.

To Sue and Sheila, we would have been lost without your tireless efforts. To our crew up north of Ken, Len, Ric, Libby, Jared and Peter, who worked hard to set up and decorate the Michigan venue, to Herm and Binder for being the consummate camp characters that they are and whose love for Tamakwa is so evident, and to the hundreds of alumni around the world who responded to our 75th anniversary questionnaires that helped shape our overall reunion plan... and to the many Michigan and Toronto-area alumni who met about a year ago to brainstorm ideas, we will forever be grateful. Most of what you saw at the Michigan event resulted from those meetings and the fabulous ideas put forward to us by so many of you.

It all paid off. More than 650 different alumni came out to at least one of the main reunion events. The total number of people who attended and the passion for Tamakwa they demonstrated were something to behold. It made our work to celebrate this mighty milestone so worthwhile. To have campers and staff from each of Tamakwa's eight decades celebrating together is a testament to the lasting impact of Tamakwa and what it represents for those fortunate to have spent time at camp.

Seeing these two benchmark events unfold so smoothly in such a festive and fun manner was quite gratifying. They will be powerful memories and highpoints in my Tamakwa career. It's a bit crazy that along the way we've become camp wedding planners in the fall, and now reunion planners, who knew... But with the Michigan event now behind us, it's back to the basics, back to the business of ensuring that the summer of 2011 will be Tamakwa's finest of all time.

On behalf of myself and Margot, we want to say that the energy, excitement, devotion, and genuine love for Tamakwa that each and every alumni demonstrated in connection with these two incredible reunions has shown us that we made the right decision in 2002 to devote ourselves to Tamakwa. These two reunion events have only strengthened and reaffirmed our commitment to Tamakwa. It is a privilege to help carry on camp's traditions and values for all Tamakwans, past, present and future.





75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY · WEEKEND AT CAMP







# A special contingent

Collectively spanning the past four decades of Tamakwa, former Program Directors return to camp to take part in July Colour War.

By PETER VOOYS



The first surprise had already happened by this point in the mid-July night. Having been suddenly woken up, Tamakwans were brought to the slope, which led most to assume it was for a Colour War break. However, to their surprise, the canoes they saw return-

ing to camp in the middle of the night were not full of costumed characters as would be the case for a Colour War break. Instead, there was a group of best friends coming back from a 15-day trip a night early. The trip's early return enabled the second surprise: an early Colour

War break; a July Colour War that would be a full two days, instead of the usual one for the first month.

As the break unfolded, hooded figures stepped forward and revealed themselves for a third surprise. Standing before the campers was a coterie of Tamakwa

program directors from years past. The contingent included Jonathan Franchi (2008-10), Jeffrey Ruby (1995-2000), Craig Perlmutter (1993), Jason Hillman (1992), Michael Kaufman (1991), Gary August (1988-90), Lloyd Perlmutter

just that. Due to a rainy afternoon when the swim meet was supposed to take place, the program directors (PDs) were asked to lead a singsong competition. Each PD was asked to teach a song to the camp.

Few will forget an incredible Ronnie Weiss gleefully belting out the Tamakwa song at the top of his lungs. The second was a competitive round of the "Nursery Rhyme" song.

"It was awesome to the have support of so many talented people," said Franchi a few days later. "I mean, it could have been a disaster; schlect weather and special guests don't always mix well."

But the Old Guys bought into the two days hook, line and sinker. Seeing the collection of retirees, millionaires, and Tamakwan clingers lead their teams in games, organize creatives, delegate medley participants and coach water boiling brought a tear of nostalgia to even the hardest of cynics.

"It really shows that you can leave Tamakwa, but Tamakwa never leaves you," says Craig Perlmutter, current Camp Director. "I think that the camp spirit is eternal, no matter what you're doing after you leave Tamakwa."

One captain of the Green team had a different take. Senior girl Joelley Pulver was thrilled to be named a captain. "This has been a dream of mine since I started

coming to camp," says Joelley. "Then I found out that we would be getting these 'advisors.' These old Tamakwans were supposed to help out, but they completely took over the team. I think they thought it was their turn to be a Colour War captain."

Overshadowing the event were allegations of certain PDs trying to bribe the colour war judges.

"There were reports of money being offered to secure a first-place ranking," Huntsville Police Chief William Closs reported in an official statement. "The amounts ranged from \$20 to \$1,000. Large ticket items were also offered. We know of at least one program director offering rides in his private jet for a win during the sing-song competition."

The investigation is currently on going. If any PDs are found guilty of attempted bribe, it may alter the results of the July Colour War. The winning team could be stripped of its victory and all team captains would be disgraced.

Until the investigation is completed, the Tamakwa top brass are deeming the extra special event a resounding success. By all accounts, the PDs had a blast as well.

"This was an event in the true spirit of the 75th anniversary," says Craig. "It gave us a great feeling about having a whole camp full of Tamakwa alumni two months later for the anniversary event in the fall."

# The ties that bind

A former program director expounds on what it was like to return to Tamakwa to be part of the July Colour War. By LLOYD PERLMUTTER

You want me to do what?

I'm sure this question has been asked countless times by countless campers of all ages in every All-Day Program or Colour War since the inception of time (or, at least, since 1936 in Algonquin Park).

In July, this 50-year-old former program director joined that illustrious list of those who've popped the aforementioned question to their captains. That's how I responded when I was asked to participate in the swim meet to race other former program directors. Several had accepted an invitation to participate in a special 2-day July Colour War program.

Program to help mark Tamakwa's 75th anniversary. For my part, it was truly an honour to be invited.

Having never been a camper at Tamakwa, I had only been a staff member for several years. As a staffer, you never quite participate as fully as campers do in these types of programs. That changed when I was

enlisted in the 2-day Colour War in July. It proved an intense, emotional and exciting experience. And that was just during the break.

Standing out in the middle of the ballfield, in the middle of the night, with cloaks and hoods on, is not something that supposedly mature adults usually do. However, this is camp (or specifically Tamakwa) and the elder members of our program director fraternity, Norby Zuckerman and Ronnie Weiss, took to lying on the ground for most of what seemed to be an interminable wait, star gazing and resting their weary backs until around 1 AM, when duty called.

There were plenty of jokes and punch lines (mostly coming from Michael Curhan and Michael Kaufman) to go around before, during and after the rehearsal (during which David Stringer really took charge). The camaraderie was building since dinner at Bonita, Jason Hillman's and Jeff Ruby's skinny



dipping adventures and the pointer ride in total silence under the cover of darkness over to camp at around 10:30 PM (past most of our bedtimes).

Regardless of the theme (who really remembers it anyway – Stonehenge anyone?), the break was spectacular (well done Jon Franchi), except if you are awoken in the middle of the night for it and hardly remember being there as one young camper told me the next day.

The two days were awesome. The captains were intense and competitive and caring. Their "to-do" list

was long and it took exceptional time management and delegation skill sets to pull it off, but they all did with great success.

Each of us former PDs was assigned a team to "coach" and we all jumped in with both feet. Except for me, as I was able to pawn off the swim relay to Ronnie (otherwise known as a fish in his day). It was very rewarding to be that intimately involved in a camp activity again. You forget the purity and thrill of it all.

I did participate in a walk race (apparently running is too much of a risk for us elder citizens) during

the track meet against the likes of Jason Hillman, Gary August and Dave Bale. I think I won and I think our Yellow team won it all – although none of that really mattered.

What mattered most was the easy blending of the past and the present, which has always been the case at Tamakwa and what makes it so special and unique in the annals of children's camping history. Every PD from every era felt right at home and comfortable being back at camp and we were all welcomed with open arms by campers and staff alike. It also facilitated a stronger

connection between the current camp roster of campers and staff with the past in a more tangible way than plaques on the wall or speeches from the slope could ever accomplish.

We all share a special bond that is 75 years in the making. This 2-day adventure was certainly a perfect way to celebrate the ties that bind us together and the fact that I didn't have to go in the water (I was a former Landsports Director too, you know) provided even more compelling evidence that not much has changed over the years – which in my books is a very good thing.



## The man behind it all

For long-time Senior Director Vic Norris, Tamakwa's 75th anniversary was not the only milestone he celebrated in 2010.

By PETER VOOYS

There are milestones and then there are years when the stars align and everything seems to come together at once. Such was the case this summer for Victor M. Norris, Senior Director and co-owner of Camp Tamakwa. In addition to it being Tamakwa's 75th anniversary, 2010 also marked Vic's 60th birthday, his 40th summer at Tamakwa, his 30th summer as Director and his 20th wedding anniversary with his wife Ronda. Topping it off, Unca Lou Handler, a major source of inspiration for Vic, would have turned 100 years old in 2010. To call it a benchmark year for Vic would be an understatement.

"This was the summer when everything that could have gone wrong, went right," says Vic, speaking in late August, between the summer's end and his return to his law firm in Detroit. "We were determined to make the 75th season one of the most sensational summers in memory. It turned out to be everything we could have asked for."

We are sitting at the Baby

Bonita campfire at camp, enjoying the late afternoon light through the trees. Vic is wearing sunglasses and a yellow long sleeve Roots sweatshirt, his summer uniform. For every question posed, there is a quick, humorous response. Then, after a pause, Vic answers with the weight of experience. It's clear that Tamakwa means the world to him. He has dedicated his adult life to its continued development and perpetuating its almost magical impact on kids.

"For me, one of the most memorable moments of each summer, including the past summer, is the return of long trips at the end of second month," Vic explains. "It's just a really happy culmination of the summer. The campers on the trips coming back exude a sense of accomplishment, feeling strong, excited, smiling to meet their friends. Then there was the whole camp waiting on the dock to welcome the trips back, as excited to see their friends as the trips were excited to return to camp. It reflected the kind of summer that we

had and captured the spirit of the 75th."

Vic lives and breathes Tamakwa. How can he not? He has now been Director for two generations of Tamakwans and has seen many of today's campers and staff and their parents grow up. In his house, camp is an everyday year-round family discussion. He now has the pleasure of watching his own two children, Max, 11, and Jessica, 9, grow up at camp. His closet is stacked with a museum's worth of Tamakwa memorabilia.

Many view Tamakwa as a retreat from the rush of city life; a northern sanctuary far from crowds, traffic jams, deadlines, meetings, conference calls, and other pressures and demands of making a living. Vic is no exception – in fact he may well be the example. Being the owner and director of a summer camp in Algonquin Park and a managing partner of the law firm Hertz Schram P.C. in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, presents some logistical and time-management challenges. Vic admits that he is not always

sure how he juggles the dual roles. It's not easy but he has somehow mastered this delicate balancing act.

Vic says the success of his two endeavours relies upon a team approach. "It's something I really believe in," he explains. He is quick to give praise to those who he has surrounded himself with over the years, calling them his secret to success. "I have a great team at my law firm that supports my absences during the summer, and I've had an incredible team at camp over the years. And of course, having such a supportive wife like Ronda has been essential. It's not always an easy juggling act for sure."

When asked about how he came to Tamakwa in the first place, Vic cites two simple reasons. First, the five camps that he went to before Tamakwa closed the summer after he had attended (he tries not to take it personally), and second, that he could play the trumpet.

"I had my Tamakwa job interview at the National Coal and Oil office in Michigan with Unca Lou (who was wearing his proverbial suit and bow-tie) and Kal Bandalene (who had his proverbial pipe). After about 10 minutes, they found out I played the trumpet and that sealed the deal. I was hired on the spot." Ever since, Vic has retained the position of Chief Bugler for flag lowering.

In 1980, he was approached by Howard Perlmutter to be a partner in the purchasing and revitalization of camp. Vic was hesitant at first, having just starting to pursue a legal career at the time. After some deliberation, and adding friend Dave Bale into the partnership, he accepted.

Vic and Dave made a commitment early on to rebuild camp and revitalize the program. "When I first became director there were eight or nine activities, now there are 22," says Vic

with understandable pride.

"There's now a greater diversity of activities, with something for everybody here. Still, there's no question that today the challenge to keep the camp exciting and provide a better experience year after year is tougher than I first became director."

By the time Tamakwa came under Vic's leadership, its infrastructure needed a facelift. Having been built mostly between the 1930s and the 1950s, with little building done in the 60s and 70s, the physical state of camp was in great need of attention. Tamakwa as we see it today is a product of Vic's ongoing commitment to make good on Unca Lou's vision of a children's village in the woods.

"As Lou would often state, 'we started building in 1936, and we haven't stopped since,'" Vic says. In the same breath, he commends the hard work and efforts of the dedicated year round crews over the many years. "We now have a world class facility. We have built or rebuilt or refurbished every building in camp. And that's something we take a lot of pride in. We receive a lot of positive feedback from staff, parents and alumni about how great camp looks."

Vic is, as he puts it, the "elder statesman" around Tamakwa. This summer, he came out of a five-year hiatus to complete the Harvey Deutsch Triathlon. He had hoped it would inspire others to participate. Indeed, when news of Vic's intention to compete in the triathlon spread, several staff decided to participate too, based on his lead.

But the elder statesman carries with him years of experience beyond triathlons. He has a keen understanding of the intricacies that go into running camp and knows that a positive outlook is essential

to tackling any challenges that arise. Vic believes that Tamakwa is one of the few places left where the philosophy of living for the moment still applies. Having fun at camp is one of his priorities not only for campers and staff, but for himself as well.

"I think that camp has taught me that life is really about people," says Vic. "It has taught me to work with people and to listen to people. It has taught me to accomplish things in a team environment and that being or feeling youthful, regardless of one's age, is the essence of life. And to have that whole people experience, athletic experience, community experience, spiritual experience, all the while living in a simply elegant natural environment like Algonquin Park, has been a powerful influence in my life."

Vic is grateful for the position he finds himself in today. He was humbled by the moving tribute given to him by Howard and Craig Perlmutter during the first Friday Night Services of the summer. He delivered an emotional speech to the camp during banquet on the last night of the summer, in which he thanked the elder Perlmutter for taking a chance in 1980 on someone whom he barely knew.

Algonquin Park and Tamakwa have profoundly shaped Vic's family, friendships, community and philosophy. He speaks slowly and deliberately when trying to sum up his career.

"I've been able to enjoy the youthful exhilaration at Tamakwa for 40 years now," says Vic. "Even though it's a lot of work, certainly a lot more than I ever expected, it's always been fun. I don't regret it for a moment as Tamakwa is a transformative experience for all the kids, and for me as well."



Camp Director Craig Perlmutter speaks at tribute to Vic on his historic summer, along with Vic's wife Ronda and their children Max and Jessica.



## First time around

A rookie staffer shares his impressions of his inaugural summer at camp. By RUKSHAN DE SILVA

Not having attended camp as a child, this past summer at Tamakwa marked my first experience in such a place. Previous jobs, including working at a toy store and as a video editor, didn't allow me to enjoy the outdoors while at work. That was one of the main reasons I sought a camp job for the summer. Looking back now, I can see that it was thanks largely to luck and a stroke of good fortune that I stumbled upon Camp Tamakwa.

Steeped in tradition with a culture of its own, Tamakwa opened my eyes to what constitutes a genuine camp environment, as opposed to resorts that call themselves camps. It didn't take me long to recognize the great sense of heritage so evi-

dent in camp life and how important it is to Tamakwa's appeal.

Before arriving at camp, I had not expected that this aspect would be so strong and significant in the camp experience. The sharing of Tamakwa's history is something that allows new members – campers or staff – to feel like such a large part of the camp. The warm sense of community at Tamakwa creates a feeling of belonging among campers and staffers, from the moment they disembark on the north shore of South Tea where they are greeted with smiles and song.

As part of this welcoming atmosphere, there's a certain synergy that prevails at camp. In this remote community, not only do

you quickly become familiar with faces and names, but friendships are also formed in a short time. I liked nothing better than to listen to campers and staff as they shared highlights of their canoe trips, sports events, and other experiences. It was one of my most cherished parts of the summer.

Working with an unchanging staff each day provided the opportunity to make lasting personal connections. And as if it wasn't enough to simply meet people from across the globe, I got to build strong relationships with them that will hopefully continue to strengthen well beyond the summer.

As for the campers, the friendships that I formed with them were stronger

than I had imagined they would be. In late August, when it came to the day to say our goodbyes, although it was sorrowful, I was thankful that I had had the opportunity to befriend so many Tamakwans.

The incredible beauty of Algonquin Park of course greatly enhances the collective camp experience for all. Gazing out at South Tea Lake was an outlet to free my mind of anything and everything. It allowed me to enjoy the serenity of the setting of this wonderful camp – a camp that is just as special as the environment that surrounds it.

Over the two months I was at camp, Tamakwa gave me so much more than I had ever anticipated to gain from the experience. Living in Algonquin freed me of technology and media, which are such an overpowering force in the city. That alone permitted me to feel so disconnected from the rest of the world, in a positive way.

I'm thankful I chose to come to Tamakwa this past summer. The experience made me a better person. Thanks to Tamakwa's remote community, I had the opportunity to form deep and meaningful connections with others. No less important, I had the chance to interact extensively with children which strengthened my patience and ability to see the beauty of small moments. All this while living and working in a high-spirited, loving, and close-knit environment. It added up to an incredible summer, one for the books, an experience I will never forget.

take on a new appeal as an activity. Even the less athletically inclined, most apathetic staff members – we won't mention any names – were not immune and were seen sometimes partaking in the sport, despite themselves.

The court's new softer, more forgiving surface showed its value throughout the summer. In contrast to previous years, almost no one ended up at the clinic due to a mishap diving for a ball. The lone exception was Jonah Mirsky, who hyper-extended his elbow during a match and required some attention from the camp doctor.

Beach volleyball now seems one of the more popular sports at camp. It doesn't require special equipment and with its team-oriented, inclusive nature, it's no wonder staff and campers of all ages can't seem to get enough of the game. With all the activity now at the improved facility, it may simply mean less tranquility for Vic whenever he's in his cabin. But he proved himself a good sport and never complained. He seemed glad to see the dividends from upgrading a once-neglected site.



## Order on the court

It's amazing the impact some sand and a good net can have on a once neglected volleyball court. By MAX LEVINE-POCH

Over the years, Tamakwa has upgraded and expanded its facilities to adapt to the increase in camper population. It's a process that never stops. New cabins, pointers, docks and septic tanks, to cite only a few. Some require considerable labour and materials while others are far less costly but no less appreciated by campers. Such was the case with the vastly improved volleyball court inaugurated in 2010.

Volleyball is not new to Tamakwa. It's long been played in the shadow of Senior Director Vic Norris's cabin behind the back of the Rec Hall. But this year, the old, disheveled volleyball court was transformed into a far more inviting facility. It's amazing the difference a new net and lots of fresh sand can make.

The impact was immediate, as the user-friendlier volleyball court quickly became a magnet for campers and

staff. Rarely did a day go by without the Bostonian sounds of the ever-personable Jeffery Avigian bellowing, as only he can, "Like

seriously!" at a botched serve during a game of staff volleyball.

Due to the overhauled court, volleyball seemed to

## Fact and fiction

Separating truth and myth when it comes to the Temagami experience. By GRACE KELLIE



Amazing! Great! Super! Dull! Hard! Boring! Easy! Awesome! Such are the adjectives and exclamation points often used to describe Tamakwa's popular Temagami canoe trip. The 8-18-day expedition takes Tamakwans outside Algonquin Park north of North Bay into another of Ontario's impressive provincial parks: Temagami. Through the years, certain myths and misconceptions have developed in connection with the fabled Temagami journey. As someone who was fortunate to experience the trip this summer, I'd like to set the record straight, separating fact from fiction.

### Statement One: Temagami is all paddling.

False, to a degree. There is, in fact, lots of time when you're not paddling, but this includes many portages. One is 4 km long and while it may be mostly flat, the last kilometer is mostly mud. So, if you're not a portaging person, let alone a paddling person, you may want to re-think going on the Temagami trip.

### Statement Two: On the 4-km portage you will laugh and cry.

True. On the 4-km portage, there are a lot of hills and dark, gooey stuff. You'll find at times you are watching someone sink hip-deep into the mud, only to lose your own shoe somewhat amusingly in the same mud hole the next minute. There's also a challenging incline, a diagonal rock hill to climb that is sure to make you cry out from fatigue.

### Statement Three: The food on the trip is excellent

True and false. My tripper, Marissa Sieck, made our food with love. She genuinely cared that it tasted good. I'm happy to report it did, almost always. Inevitably, there was one meal that didn't – Pasta Alfredo. No matter how much love, care, and affection went into that meal, it always proved less than tasty. Each girl had to plug her nose. In short, the food depends on the tripper and what's on the menu, especially if it includes Alfredo.

### Statement Four: Temagami looks so much different from Algonquin.

This is for you to decide. People have told me that the two parks are incredibly different. Personally, I did not see such a huge difference. Temagami is rockier and less well-marked, while Algonquin has more canoe routes and is better maintained but they seem more similar than different.

### Statement Five: Chewy granola bars are the best part of the day.

True. Admittedly, this is a matter of personal opinion, but for me there's no doubt. After finishing an impossibly long portage, chowing down on a chewy is pure ecstasy. Second best, thanks to male counselor Justin Kelman, were the supplies of war-heads candy. Sometimes while waiting for our trippers to discuss our route, we would pass around the sour candy. We would all unwrap them together and then, one by one, pop them into our mouths screaming "sour face!"

### Statement Six: Temagami is the best camp experience you will ever have.

True. It is a once-in-a-lifetime trip. But to be able to really understand the truth in this, you have no choice but to go on it. You'll be grateful you did.

# All in good taste

*Gilberto Rivera adds some foreign flair and great new creations to the kitchen.*

By STEPHANIE JUDD

Feeding hundreds of Tamakwans meal after meal is nothing if not a great team effort in the kitchen. Under the direction of long-time Head Chef Guy Tetreault, each member of the 14-person crew is vital in his/her respective role in producing the tasty fare served at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

This summer, there was an added foreign flair in the kitchen thanks to a famous chef who came from distant shores to work his gastronomic magic for the benefit of campers and staff. Trained in France's top cooking schools in Paris and Lyon and at the Culinary Institute of America in New York State, Gilberto Rivera knows his stuff. He owns and operates a celebrated café and pastry shop in his native Mexico City where he also teaches culinary arts at the Cordon Bleu School at Anahuac University. With such credentials, coupled with his warm personality and great work ethic, Gilberto was well suited for his job as sous-chef in Tamakwa's kitchen, even if his first few days proved more challenging than he expected.

In late June, Gilberto

arrived at the Toronto International Airport with a group of Mexican campers and former staff member Alejandro Aguilar. Hockey director Trevor Erdie and I were at the airport to receive the Mexicans. Trevor drove the campers and Alejandro up to camp while Gilberto and I remained to meet other campers arriving on a later flight.

Without knowing it then, our time in the airport would help keep Gilberto at Tamakwa and lead ultimately to a friendship such as one can only experience at camp. While at the airport and during the drive north to camp, I told him how wonderful it is to spend a summer at Tamakwa.

Early that evening, upon arriving at the landing, Gilberto was awestruck by the beauty of Algonquin Park. The boat ride into camp proved equally exhilarating for him. But his mood changed after he was led to his new home for the summer, the cabin known as "Mr. Lawrence." Gilberto did a double take. While most Tamakwans would be thrilled to have their own cabin, Gilberto hadn't expected such a small, rustic dwelling devoid of a



washroom or running water. In the initial shock of the moment, he wondered if he had made the right decision in coming to Tamakwa. He later told me that he stood in his cabin in disbelief wishing he was back home. Then, he thought he should give his new adventure a chance, especially given what I had told him earlier in the day.

The next major surprise for Gilberto took place in the kitchen. He knew he was

to be the sous-chef but he hadn't fully digested what that meant. Over the years, he'd become accustomed to calling the shots where he worked. Now he had to adjust to taking orders from someone else, namely Guy. He had little control over the food that was available or the meals to prepare. When I saw him at dinner that first night, I tried to reassure him that things would work out once he adjusted to his new surroundings.

Gilberto missed his wife and his young son back in Mexico but the people at Tamakwa, especially his new colleagues in the kitchen, were warm and welcoming, making his transition easier.

Gilberto quickly proved himself a key player in the kitchen. He had previously worked in many kitchens, but never at a summer camp. In addition to specializing in pastries at Tamakwa, he also assisted in other food preparation, and never shied away from helping wash dishes, clean floors and perform other duties, even though in Mexico, he didn't have to do such things.

Despite his wealth of experience, he readily admits Tamakwa taught him many things. "I learned a lot from Guy," says the 30-something Gilberto. "He's the best boss I've ever had and is a fantastic human being. That's not to say he's always easy. Look, Guy is also a chef, and as chefs, our egos are sometimes too big and not always open to change a recipe or technique. But by the end of the summer, Guy and I had developed a great mutual understanding and respect for one another. Today, I consider him one of my best friends."

During the summer, Gilberto tried most of the camp activities whenever he had some downtime. He ultimately embraced Tamakwa and everything it had to offer. On most evenings, he

loved to take a kayak out and explore South Tea Lake.

"I've been to many places in Europe and North America," says Gilberto, "but my summer at Tamakwa and Algonquin Park was one of the best experiences I've ever had."

In August, the canoe staff decided to host a Starbucks night for the entire staff. I mentioned to them that we had a famous pastry chef at camp who could make us treats like those found at Starbucks. They loved the idea so I asked Gilberto if he'd be willing to do this.

He couldn't have been more cooperative and worked for three days preparing mouthwatering treats that the staff loved, along with Starbucks coffee and later a movie to top off the evening. Craig Perlmutter, who attended the event, said it was one of the best staff recs he'd experienced at Tamakwa. It was in no small part thanks to Gilberto and typical of the kind of person he is.

I'm thankful I had the opportunity to become Gilberto's friend. I'm glad he proved resilient and got through his initial setback at the beginning of camp. Like many other Tamakwans, I'm delighted that he's returning to camp next summer. It should prove even better for him, especially as his wife and son will be joining him for a few weeks in August. With Guy at the helm and Gilberto as his deputy, it's sure to be another tasty summer.

# For the kids

*Confessions of a camp doctor who reflects on what brings him back to Tamakwa.* By DR. PETER LIPSON



As I rounded the bend past the Lone Pine and the Lucky Log in August 1990, I thought it might be the last time I'd see Tamakwa from that vantage during camp. It was near the end of my 13th year at Tamakwa, and real life loomed ahead of me. The next year, I returned for just a day with my good friend Gary August on our way to a canoe trip but, as many old Tamakwans know, visiting is a very different from the "real" camp experience.

In 2008, nearly 20 years after my last day of camp, I

returned to Tamakwa, albeit in a much different capacity. The new infirmary and doctor's cabin awaited me just behind Main Camp as I walked up Transportation Hill packing my stethoscope and my cherry-wood canoe paddle. Looking back, I'm not entirely sure why I had come. Of course, I was there just to be there, but I knew there was more. It was pre-camp, and the black flies swarmed me every time I stepped outside my cabin, but I was happy.

Hours later, I watched the impossibly young staff

step off the pointer. I wondered if they knew what I knew: that in addition to rekindling old friendships, they were going to make new ones, which would last a lifetime. Pre-camp was about setting things up for the kids, and about coming together as a staff. It was great to take part in this, but was that why I was there?

Pre-camp doctor's work is pretty mundane – set up the clinic, organize the medication system, teach the new nurses how everything works. During pre-camp, staff try to adjust to life among the

spring insects, especially black flies. These little guys are annoying, but thankfully gone before the kids arrive in late June. Though painless, the bites of black flies sometimes cause the lymph nodes in the neck to swell, which is harmless, but I spent a lot of time reassuring the staff. As part of the insect education, I reminded staff that there's no reason to kill harmless bugs such as the white-spotted sawyer, a big, black flying beetle, which has a tendency to land on people and do them no harm (other than scaring the tuck right out of them).

The next year, I came up during first month. The nurses had a great system running, which was fortunate as we were pretty busy with a camp full of sniffles, fevers, splinters, and stubbed toes. I did my usual work of dispensing meds and TLC, sitting on the porch with homesick kids, and listening to the loons at night. I also listened to the secrets and worries of staff and campers, just as I would my own patients back home.

Whenever time and circumstances would permit, I would slip away for a quiet paddle on South Tea Lake. It was blissful. Seeing old friends, like Libby von Neumann and Sue Binder, helped remind me why people keep returning to Tamakwa year

after year. Was I here for old friends? For pulling out slivers? For a night paddle to look at the stars?

This past summer was my third year as camp doctor (and my 16th at Tamakwa). It coincided with some perfect August weather – warm, dry days, cool nights, and a northern breeze. The mist on the lake in the morning made it feel even more peaceful and quiet than I had remembered. The loons at night, and even the wake-up ravens at dawn, made it feel like home.

I watched as my daughter Ali and Nate Perlmutter, now a walking, talking person, played, seeing the surrounding paradise as normal, the way things should be. The clinic wasn't all that busy, just the usual coughs, colds and scrapes, allowing me to take some time to hang out at the canoe dock and go to evening activities. One of my first nights was Talent Night. Ali wanted to go, but I was not thrilled. The idea of sitting on the hard benches watching a bunch of kids trying to sing and dance... well, I had brought some good books with me, and they were wanting to be read.

But as soon as the show began, I found myself smiling, and not just some little turn of the corners of my mouth. I was grinning from

ear-to-ear as I watched kids from JTs to Senior campers show off their talents. The kids were so proud of what they could do, whether it was singing like a chipmunk or doing a dance routine or a yo-yo trick. Their joy was infectious. The campers and staff watching were enthusiastic, and so was I. I found myself shouting "How How" after each act, and patting the kids on the back, thanking them for their great performances. Something different was going on here, something unexpected.

Later in the week, when the Adventure Valley campers were visiting for a few nights, I watched as they discovered what Tamakwans already know: this place is different, this place is special. I watched them at their activities and showed them where to pick the best raspberries. The AV kids were amazed that they could eat berries they found themselves, and that they tasted better than anything in a store. They were laughing as they completed a ropes course task they thought was impossible. They were growing and they were full of joy because of it.

I realized of course that I wasn't at camp for the paddling, or for the nights on the slope, or for my old friends. It was, as Mike Kraft always said, for the kids.



# What it's all about

When asked what they've learned from being at Tamakwa, campers cite lessons that will stay with them their whole life.

Interviews by ROBERT SARNER

**RACHEL BRICKMAN, 14, Detroit, MI, Senior Girl, 8th year at camp**

"One of the biggest things I've learned at Tamakwa is to respect the environment, such as not putting garbage in the lake or doing anything that would be unhealthy for the wilderness.

"I've also learned many things about people. I've seen how our cabin learned how to all come together so that we're now nice to each other and we're all good friends and unified whereas we used to be two different groups.

"I've learned to encourage people, such as when you're on a portage with other kids in your cabin and some of them can't do it. I saw how important it is to encourage them the whole way and to push them to do the best they can. I appreciate now the value of always trying to motivate others.

"I've also tried to learn new skills and work toward them and never give up on those. These things take on a bigger role at camp than at home."

**BEN LEVITE, 11, London, Ontario, Ranger, 1st year**

"I've learned that when you're feeling down and homesick that you have to fight through it and be there for yourself and know that you can do it. If I get homesick, I just think how my parents want me to have fun at camp and just get through that myself. I have learned more about my strength and being independent. I've noticed how other campers and staff can be so supportive and helpful. This summer, I went on my fist canoe

trip and we really bonded more than at camp. You learn how to go with the flow and do whatever it takes to get along with others."

**GABI STONE, 15, Detroit, MI, Senior Girl, 8th year**

"Tamakwa has definitely helped me become a better person. It has shaped my personality because it's brought me experiences that I wouldn't have had at home, like the activities, the nature, the friends. I've learned that a positive attitude is important and always better. If you come to camp, expecting a down summer, then of course you're not going to have a good time. But if you come with a great attitude and a positive outlook, then you're going to have the best summer of your life. Tamakwa has brought out the attitude of looking for the golden days.

"Certainly living with 29 other girls is not your normal reality back in the city but here being in such a close community for a long time just bonds you and changes how you see everything."

**SASHA ROSENBERG, 10, Chicago, IL, Pioneer, 2nd year**

"In a cabin situation where you live with other people, I've learned you have to share and clean up because it's everybody's thing.

"At camp, having people from all over, I've learned that everyone is different which is really cool. It has taught me to be more accepting and not to judge people too much.

"Being in a play has

shown me how to work within a group and to be encouraging of each other and to cheer others on as you prepare something together, like a play. I honestly think Tamakwa has made me a better person, especially how



to live and get along with other people and to be nicer and more considerate of others and just accept them for who they are."

**BENNETT MAGY, 16, Birmingham, MI, CIT, 7th year**

"I've learned to be more confident in myself. You really need to trust in yourself if you want to perform your best. I know a lot of kids who depend on others to teach them the right way but knowing the right thing to do comes much more from within yourself. You need to find for yourself your own goals, your own way of life. You need to utilize the tools around you, not necessarily the people around you. You

need to be confident in yourself and learn to trust yourself in order to be the best person possible.

"Tamakwa is an experience unlike anything else you get in the city. Just to be forced to be close to your peers for two months as opposed to during the year when school work keeps you from your friends. At Tamakwa, you're constantly developing social bonds and social skills and building on friendships.

"Apart from the people, Tamakwa has definitely

taught me to appreciate nature more. While a lot of the world becomes more industrialized and forests and jungles are torn down for more urban settings, Tamakwa still pretty much stays the same and keeps the natural scenery around you."

**JACE GITTLEMAN, 15, Bloomfield Hills, MI, Senior Boy, 8th year**

"I've learned that when living in a cabin with other people, you must remember to clean up your stuff and organize yourself out of respect for others. You must also help the whole community around camp in order for everyone to work well together and not be mad.

"I've also learned a greater sense of independence and how to be on my own more without having to ask my parents about everything. You really learn how to do your own thing, choose what activities you want to do, to hang out with whom you want.

"Going on a long canoe trip was initially a toughie for me to overcome. Eventually, I went on a 15-day last summer and you had to really push yourself. I saw that it was mostly mental, really mind over matter. By the end, you feel very accomplished for what you overcame and completed."

**DAVID KAPLAN, 12, Long Island, NY, Ranger, 5th year**

"You learn to cherish what you have at camp because you're not always going to be here and you kind of have to live in the moment and not think of what may happen next. You enjoy and appreciate what you have because some day you may not have it. It's important that you realize that we're lucky to come to Tamakwa and be a happy family.

"I've also learned that you have to try to get as much done as possible and try each activity to see if you like it instead of not doing it because it just doesn't sound good. I've become more open minded and now give more things a try. I think I'm a better person here because in the city you already know that you have as much as you want and the whole world is served to you on a silver platter while at camp you

is a people's camp and it's a children's village and that the main goal is for us to have fun and that it's such a privilege that I've been able to come here for the past seven summers. I've learned to appreciate it more and take it less for granted."

**ASHER RADUNS-SILVERSTEIN, 9, Bronx, NY, Forester, 3rd year**

"I've learned how to make friends and how to be a better person. Just to learn the great things of life such as embracing how good it is to live and appreciate everything around you more, especially nature and how to respect it. Tamakwa has helped me to appreciate that nature keeps us alive and how important it is to learn to help it live. The experience of going on a canoe trip really helps you learn how amazing nature is and just boosts you up. I pushed myself to the limit with the backpack and it's great afterwards when you feel you've achieved something. I've learned a lot at camp."

**ALANAH BRATLEY, 14, Bloomfield Hills, MI, JSG, 6th year**

"Because you don't have your parents at camp and they can't do things for you, you learn how to be more independent and do things for yourself. You also learn how to better get along with other people. Because of Tamakwa, I've had new experiences that I probably would never have in the city. Like being on a canoe trip where I learned you have to work together and you can't do it all on your own, and that you shouldn't doubt yourself in what you can do. I've also learned to respect the environment and to leave everything cleaner than you found it."

**TAYLOR ARONOW, 15, Malibu, CA, Senior Girl, 4th year**

"I've learned how to live with and get along with people who I wouldn't necessarily be friends with back home and do things outside of my comfort zone with them while getting close with them. I think it helps in the outside world because it teaches you how to get along with people better. You see how everyone is different but most people have something in common with you in some way. That's helped me understand people better, to be more tolerant and to listen to others when they're trying to explain or tell you something.

"Doing new things also teaches you a lot. This summer, we went on a hiking trip. We did about 32 km [20 miles] in four days. It was really challenging but it brought our cabin closer together. We bonded a lot over it and we were all very supportive of each other. None of us would have done such a hike at home. We discovered that we were all a lot stronger than we thought we were. But when we thought

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we couldn't do it anymore, we just kept going and telling ourselves we could finish the trip."

**BRIAN COLTON, 12, Detroit, MI, Ranger, 5th year**

"When you're on a canoe trip and have to sleep in tents with others, you really get to know them. If you had grievances with them before, you learn to work it out and it helps you discover new life skills. Not everyone gets along. You just have to make the best out of it. If you don't, things are not going to be as great as they could've been. You just have to reach out and find something that's common with the people around you and relate to it.

"Through good and bad experiences, Tamakwa has taught me to adopt a better attitude to life. For example, I've learned to become more patient and understanding. Two years ago, we were having problems with two kids, and they were annoying everyone in the cabin but we just kind of let them do their thing and in the end it all worked out.

"With the food, I've tried a lot of new things, like the fish sticks and Sheppard's pie, and I kind of like them now. It showed me to try to be more open to different things."

**SHAYNI SHECTER, 13, Farmington Hills, MI, Senior Girls, 6th year**

"Being at Tamakwa, you meet so many people and learn so many new things that it just makes you a better person. Sometimes you'll get into a fight with a friend but you'll actually learn from the experience. You certainly learn how to live with people.

"Let's say there's someone you don't particularly like initially but eventually you usually end up liking them and get excited about seeing them the next year. Even if you think someone may not necessarily seem like a camp person, you see how they behave on a canoe trip and it can surprise you in a very positive way. Thanks especially to canoe trips, I've learned to be more environmentally friendly because you see how beautiful nature is and you just want to keep it that way.

"I've come to appreciate the traditions at Tamakwa and their value and importance. Without tradition, what is there? I definitely learned to push myself and do good, like going on long trips and carrying food packs and going for high awards and doing new things. I think because of camp I'm more open-minded. In the city, you just think of something and you say no way but at camp you give it a second thought and you try to do it.

"I like being away from my parents for a while because it helps me learn more about responsibility, and I know they also like to have a break from me."



## On the wild side

*Tamakwa obviously wouldn't be the same if it weren't for the wildlife in Algonquin Park. Campers expound on their favourites.*

Interviews by **ROBERT SARNER**

**GEORGE KELLIE, 10, Wingham, ON, Ranger, 4th year**

"My favourite animal would probably be chipmunks because they're small and not scary. I've never seen any moose but I've heard them. They make lots of noise when they walk through the bushes. I once saw a beaver on my canoe trip, but only its head. The loons can be annoying at night, especially when I'm trying to fall asleep. It would be better if they only talked during the day. I like fish. They're pretty cool. I like them because they fall for fake bait. I've only caught one so far, a perch, on my fishing trip. I've also seen snakes twice, once on a canoe trip and once at camp on Boys Hill. They were creepy but I wasn't really afraid."

**ANDREW MOSS, 14, West Bloomfield, MI, Senior Boy, 7th year**

"My best moment involving wildlife happened last year on a canoe trip. We were on one of the smaller lakes and paddling to our campsite when we saw a moose and two little moose with it. They were walking along and stopped and we looked at them for a while. They are massive, beautiful creatures. Later that night, we saw the same big moose walking behind our campsite. It was really cool. It made me feel that Algonquin Park is one of the few places in the world where nature and wildlife still exist. I've also seen a lot of beavers and loons there, and this year even a few flying squirrels on our canoe trip.

"What fascinates me about the beavers is that they can change the Park so much

with the dams they create. Even changing routes on a canoe trip because of their dams. Usually after a portage, there are little creeks backing into the bigger lakes. Many times, there are two or three beaver dams blocking off part of the creeks. It's crazy how they can take such a big area and change it into one narrow route. It's amazing that one little animal can do that.

"At camp, I also remember one year we had some bears. There was even one that poked its head through a window of our cabin and I happened to see it. It was really cool. If all these animals were not around us, Tamakwa would not be nearly as special as is."

**LARA PERLMUTTER, 9, JT, Toronto, ON, 1st year**

"I like chipmunks because they're so cute, especially when they walk around with their cheeks all puffed up. I also like the idea of bears although I'm not sure if I would actually like them to visit camp. The coolest things are the loons because when you see them in the lake, it means that the water is clean. I love the call of the loons. It's so cool. I'm still hoping to see a moose one day."

**DOROTHY GOLDSTEIN-STAHL, 12, San Francisco, CA, Pioneer, 5th year**

"It's nice to be at a camp where you can see animals that you can't find in many other places. In the city, you don't really see moose in their natural environment. But on our 10-day canoe trip, we saw a mother moose and her baby. It was so cool because we were so close we saw how they interacted in their natural environment.

They were eating grass in a little cove. That was the first time I saw a moose.

"I also like beavers and the loons because they're so much part of Algonquin Park. When I hear the sound of the loons, it makes me feel more peaceful, unless it's on Monday morning when I don't want to be woken up. It always makes me think of camp, because back in the city when I go on Tamakwa's website, I love hearing the call of the loon. What I don't like are the mosquitoes, or the mice that live in our cabin because they're scary. I also don't like the chipmunks because they eat our imaginary food in our cabin."

**JORDYN BERNSTEIN, 15, Chicago, IL, Senior Girl, 8th year**

"This summer, I saw a



moose on our canoe trip, on the Otter Slides. We saw an adult moose and then a baby one walking in a marsh area. We were very quiet because we didn't want to startle them and cause them to run away. When I was younger, I also saw a moose. I've also seen some beavers floating in the water, which I liked because they're the symbol of Tamakwa. I love chipmunks and when I was in TB1, we had a chipmunk that often visited our cabin. We named it Sparkles

because we put a sparkle on it. The next year, we found it again and knew it was the same chipmunk because of the sparkle on it. Raccoons are different. Sometimes when I'm walking to my cabin at night, I see their eyes and it can be really scary. If you're wearing a headlamp, their eyes reflect it.

"I often see frogs in the swamp. One time, when I was in Pioneer 2, I saw a frog on a path although it may have been a toad. It was hurt so my friend and I picked it up and took it to the swamp. There are a lot of insects at camp but I don't like them. One time, a spider laid eggs in my bed and it was horrifying. I wasn't bitten but they were everywhere. I like dragonflies because they help get rid of mosquitoes, which I'm not a fan of. Also, they don't bite."

**KYLE RECHTER, 11, Franklin, MI, Ranger, 4th year**

"My favourites are mice and chipmunks. I like that they're small but run really fast. I usually see them either in the

Algonquin Park that don't exist in Mexico. Moose, loons, beavers and others. There are actually chipmunks in Mexico although you don't see them there like you do at camp. So far, I've only seen one moose, last year on a canoe trip. I've also only once seen a bear. We were coming back from a canoe trip and we were near the Lone Pine when a bear appeared from the bushes as we paddled by.

"I like the loons, especially the way they go under the water but I find their call kind of scary at night. Last year, I was afraid of spiders but now I don't care that much. I like frogs but I find toads disgusting because they're bigger than frogs. I like fish, and I actually got my highest award last year in fishing. It was kind of cool when there was a dog at camp but no more than one at a time. I wish there were cats at camp because they're nicer than dogs. Animals add to the Tamakwa experience and are part of it's attraction."

**MCKENNA O'DONNELL, 9, Pembroke, Bermuda, JT, Trailblazer, 1st year**

"This is my first time in Algonquin Park and although I haven't been at camp very long, I've seen so far lots of birds and squirrels but no chipmunks. I've heard loons many times but not yet seen any. I like their sound. It's so peaceful. It would be kind of cool to see some moose because they're so big. We haven't had any mice yet in our cabin but that's probably because we put our candy from tuck in a good place."

**NICOLAS FREE, 14, Dallas, TX, Voyager, 5th year**

"My favourite animal is the loon because of how they look and sound. They are very majestic and beautiful. On my fishing trip, I saw a mother loon feed its daughter.

"One of the highlights for me in a previous summer

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was when I saw a moose. It was on a cookout and I had never seen one before. I also like beavers because they adapt to their own environment. For example, they help themselves by making dams to raise the water so they can get more fish and food, and they build their own shelter, which is amazing. I also like the mice. They're different. In our cabin, we have a couple but they don't bother anyone. Last year, I fed a chipmunk at camp. They would come up to you when you had some food and you could give it to them.

"The most annoying part of wildlife in Algonquin Park are the mosquitoes. You can be on a portage or sleeping and all of a sudden, you have a mosquito buzzing in your ear and trying to bite you. I also think dragonflies are really cool because there are many kinds. I like their look and the fact that they won't bite you."

**NICOLE DOCTOROFF, 12, Detroit, MI, Pioneer, 5th year.** "When I think of wildlife in Algonquin Park, I think of turtles, fish and a lot of birds. I like the sound of loons. It just shows me how pretty nature can be and that people should really enjoy it. I find the turtles really cool, especially their shell and the way they walk. Once I saw some raccoons in the trashcan of Happy Isle. I was kind of afraid.

"We've also had some mice in our cabin, which at first we found cute but then we thought they might tear up the cabin. Insects like caterpillars, spiders and worms used to gross me out but I've gotten used to them. What I like about the wildlife is that it makes Tamakwa special, more campish. I'd still like to see a moose one time."

**ELI HANDLER, 16, Irvington, NY, CIT, 9th year** "Being around wildlife has definitely added to my Tamakwa experience. Last year on our 15-day canoe trip, we were paddling through a creek and we saw a mother moose with her two baby moose. They were in the water drinking. Our tripper, Scott Graham, knew that it was potentially a bad situation if the mother felt we were intimidating her children. So he told us to paddle really fast or else we could be in danger because the mother might become quite aggressive if she felt her children were threatened.

"Once, while on our trip to Temagami, I saw a bear. We were in the bus coming home when a black bear came out of the woods and crossed the road so we were not in any danger. On our 10-day, when I was a Ranger, I saw a beaver in the water near our campsite.

"I know many people love loons but they don't

really do much for me. I don't have a problem with the many chipmunks around camp but mice are another matter. They usually become quite comfortable in our cabin, which is a bit disturbing because they always go through our shelves looking for food. On canoe trips going through creeks, I've seen lots of frogs and toads. At camp at the windsurf dock, beaver dock and girls dock, I've seen turtles, some of them big snapping turtles, which can be a bit intimidating if it's when we're showering in the lake."

**MAX NORRIS, 11, West Bloomfield, MI, Ranger, 4th year**

"I like chipmunks because they're cool to watch. Once on a canoe trip, someone had some sunflower seeds and he had a chipmunk eat them out of his hand. So far, they've never come into our cabin. I don't like insects, such as spiders and horseflies, and certainly not bees because I got stung by one. Over the two past summers, I've seen a moose, bear and raccoon. At camp, I like seeing dogs and petting them. It would be great if they're were more of them here."

**RACHEL MANSON, 15, Toronto, ON, Senior Girl, 7th year** "There's nothing like seeing a moose. On my 13-day canoe trip last year, I saw nine different moose and every time it was so unbelievable. One time, we were maybe 10 steps from a mother and a baby and it was dead silent. Everything just froze. It's amazing to see something you never see anywhere else. This year, I went on a 15-day, but I only saw one moose and some deer.

"At camp, we had a huge mouse encounter in our cabin. There were several of us in the bathroom including one of my friends who's deadly scared of mice. One of the plastic bags started moving and we said, 'Keep her calm, move her to the other room, there's a mouse inside the bag and we better get it outside immediately.' So we take the bag and bolt out the door and put it on the ground, figuring it was gone. Afterwards, we discovered the mouse and 10 baby mice had made their home in our friend's washcloths. In the middle of the night I had to help the mother mouse get her little babies out. It was hilarious.

"A few years ago, I remember when there were two raccoons living in the rafters in the Dining Hall and everyone just stopped eating their meals and watched them. There was also a huge, monstrous, dinosaur-sized turtle living under the fishing docks. I don't know if it's still alive but it was really cool to see."



## Readers write

A selection of letters to the editor in response to the previous issue of the *South Tea Echo*

### WORTH SAVING

HowHow! for the amazing job done on the *South Tea Echo*. I loved all of the articles and pictures in Issue 7. It's a treasure for all. We save every issue.

I also recognized my cabin picture from 1972. I almost had a heart attack. How could the years have passed so quickly? It brought back lots of great memories.

To those involved in the *Echo*, thank you for taking the time and energy to make it happen and continuing this awesome project and wonderful Tamakwa tradition.

Sherri (Kay) Ketai  
Franklin, MI

### IN THE SWING OF THINGS

I just finished reading the *South Tea Echo*. It was a great issue. I particularly enjoyed the article on the installation of the new swing set, which brought back some wonderful (though painful) memories from the mid-1960s.

At that time, I was at the swing set (then down by the waitresses cabin, near the trip shack) doing a 9 or 10-year-old's best impression of flirting with Monnie Jacobs. We were standing on the wooden swing seats, trying to see who could swing the highest when my feet slid off the seat at the height of a back swing, and I landed on my hands and knees, snapping both wrists.

Not wanting to admit that anything was wrong, I brushed myself off and basked in the sympathy of dearest Monnie, when she looked at my wrists and gasped in horror. Look-

ing down, I noticed that my wrists had a few 90-degree angles that had not been there a few minutes earlier and I completely lost it (romance be damned, at this point).

While I walked up the hill toward the office, Monnie sprinted ahead, as was her usual practice, and had already alerted Mike Kraft. Mike came down the hill to meet me and rushed me to the boathouse for a quick trip to the boat landing and a car trip to Huntsville Hospital.

I spent the rest of the summer in two casts up to the elbow, unable to swim, sail, canoe, or participate in any other water activities. I was relegated to mostly making duffel bags full of useless crap at the Arts and Crafts building. But it was worth it, because Monnie visited me in the infirmary when I returned from Huntsville Hospital and signed both of my casts.

Yeah, I know, that's pretty pathetic, but it makes me smile. Best wishes to all Tamakwans. Enjoy your summer and those great memories will last a lifetime.

Robert Gard  
Chicago, IL

### LOOKING GOOD

Loved the latest *South Tea Echo*. It was a great issue. What a wonderfully looking, energetic group of campers and staff that come alive in the pages of the *Echo*.

Hard to believe it is the 75th year already. I can still remember the 50th anniversary celebrations at the Hermlin's for which the plaques were brought down from camp. Truly memorable, but sad in remembering the late ambassador is no longer with us, especially given all he did for Tamakwa including at camp.

Congratulations to the camp staff and all Tamakwans on such an historic anniversary.

Eric Winkelman  
Detroit, MI

### YOU WANT NAMES?

In your previous issue, you published several vintage shots of cabin groups and asked for readers to write in if they could identify any faces. Well, I've got names. Lots of them. I quickly spotted my own face in one of the pictures because I have that shot at home. With all the names on the back, if you can believe it.

So, in the photo on the top right corner of the page, second from the right, (photo partially hidden), here's who's in it: Back row: Shelly Baldes (Section Head), Sheila Dunn (Senior Counselor), Aviva Schacter, Robyn Lederman (Junior Counselor), Leslie Levine. Front row: Angie Silver, Lesley Wolfe, Sharon Gryfe (me) and Shelly Milin.

The photo is from the summer of 1977. I've got three more photos with names as well. Now I'm all pumped. I'm going to scan them and sending them to the Tamakwa for the archives.

Thanks for the *Echo* and the trip down memory lane.

Sharon Gryfe  
Toronto, ON

*The South Tea Echo welcomes letters from Tamakwans. Please send them to echo@tamakwa.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity.*

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# Rising to the occasion

*With great aplomb, Tamakwans show their mettle in sports competitions against other camps during the summer*

By DARREN PHILLIPS

The 2010 summer was not only golden in the sky but golden on the ground – Tamakwa’s campers and staff should be very proud of what they accomplished on the field, court and pitch in four intercamp and one basketball tournament.

In July, 12-and-under and 16-and-under campers were hosted on the shores of South Tea Lake while August saw Tamakwa compete at Camp Manitou. In addition to the two intercamps in July at Tamakwa, our highly skilled 16-and-under boys basketball team headed to Camp Northland for an annual 10-team tournament. The Tuff Beavers participated in everything from basketball, baseball, soccer and hockey to archery, tennis, sail, swim and volleyball.

In July, first up was the 12-and-under intercamp at Tamakwa for which there was lots of participation in the tryouts. Campers as young as 8-years-old came out to show coaches that they had the skills and desire to be a beaver. After a week of hitting baseballs, shooting baskets and firing hockey balls, the teams were complete and ready to welcome Manitou.

The visiting team arrived wearing purple T-shirts, big smiles and prepared for intense competition. Opening the day was baseball. Tamakwans, coached by Landsports Director Darren Phillips, were in high spirits ready to play. The game began a little rocky with the beavers giving up four runs in the first inning. The second, third and fourth innings were tight with good defense on both sides and some great grabs from Tamakwa catcher Ben Jerris and third baseman Stephen Luckoff. The home team closed the gap in the fifth but lost a close one 6-4.

Meanwhile, at the archery range and half-court tennis, Tamakwa was serving aces

and shooting bull’s-eyes. The Green Machine led the way, winning every tennis game and archery competition. At sailing, it was the same story as Tamakwa steered its way to victory around the buoys and back to the finish line. On the soccer pitch, Tamakwa boys and girls proved ready to play. Under a burning sun and on a dusty field, the game was tough. In the end, Tamakwa triumphed 5-2 with goals scored by both North American and international stars.

After lunch, it was time for the two most anticipated sports – basketball and hockey. First up was basketball and the 12-and-under team, coached by Mitchell Shecter, was up for the game. Things started well for both sides and was close through the 10-minute mark. Tamakwa had depth and energy off the bench and began to dominate Manitou. In the second half, led by big man Joey Rubin, Steven Luckoff and Sam Rosenfeld, Tamakwa pulled away, winning by 11 points.

On the hockey rink, the boys knew they had their work cut out for them. Coached by Inline Director Trevor Erdie, the 12-and-under team started out with a couple of quick goals and led by two. With strong goaltending by David Niddam-Dent, and great skating and stick handling by twins Jason and Matthew Ernst, Tamakwa and Manitou were tied at three goals apiece when the first half ended. In the final minute of the game, down by a goal, Tamakwa put the pressure on but could not put one by the Manitou goalie and after the horn went, Tamakwa skated off holding their head high from a great game of hockey.

In late July, the 16-and-under teams faced Manitou on South Tea Lake. After a successful 12-and-under intercamp, the older campers were hoping to do the same. The day began with softball,

swim, sail and archery. Camp was electric with spirit and the morning went well with wins in the “pool,” at the archery range and on the lake while the softball team took a tough loss up at the ball field. With the sun high and every player full from a great lunch, the teams resumed competition in the afternoon. Soccer and girls basketball were first up. Soccer was close right from the start and the half ended with Manitou ahead by one. In the second half, the play went back and forth with Tamakwa pouring on the pressure and hitting the goal post twice, and ultimately going down 1-0. Meanwhile, in girls basketball, there was a dramatic climax as Tamakwa’s Jenna Felsenthal made a last second shot to win the game by two points.

Boys basketball and hockey were the big games to finish the day. In the former, Tamakwa was strong right from the tipoff and never looked back. Led by power forward Andrew Forbes with 22 points, the beavers ran away with the game winning by 17 points.

Manitou then pinned its hopes on hockey. During the warm-up, the boys eyed each other, both teams knowing it was going to be a fast paced, hard skating game. Tamakwa and Manitou were well matched and the first half was full of action with a few goals from both teams. The second half was no different. Led by CITs Josh Florence, Brad Zucker and Eli Handler, Tamakwa scored in the final minutes to tie the game and send it into overtime. It proved a nail biter until Handler scored to win it for the Green Machine.

Also in July, there was a 16-and-under boys basketball tournament at Northland. This year, as a two time defending champion of this event, Tamakwa was looking to “three-peat.” After an early breakfast and a long



drive, the beavers arrived at Northland eager to play the first round robin game. The games were rigorous and demanding. Tamakwa played three games and despite facing tough competition, walked away undefeated. Going into the playoffs, Tamakwa was ranked 2nd and faced rivals Tamarack for a semi-final position. The game was a low scoring affair and amid some dubious refereeing, Tamakwa lost by three points.

In August, the arrival of new campers meant new tryouts for both 12-and-under and 16-and-under teams. Like the month before, the 12-and-under

teams were first up and traveled to Manitou to compete basketball, hockey, baseball, swimming, soccer and archery. Manitou was a great host and the day was sensational. Although the scoreboard didn’t show it, Tamakwans performed well, fighting hard and showing great sportsmanship.

About a week later, Tamakwa returned to Manitou with the 16-and-under teams. Like the previous visit, the weather was spectacular and all the teams were excited to play. The morning consisted of softball, swimming and tennis. With Tamakwa winning two of three (swim and tennis).

During lunch, the boys and girls played separate games of basketball for all of camp to watch. Tamakwa’s girls, led by Jenna Felsenthal, and the boys by Mitchell August and Brad Zucker, won both games. After lunch was soccer and hockey. Tamakwa put up some really good numbers in both sports and Manitou had to dig deep to beat the Tuff Beavers.

To sum up the summer, Tamakwa walked away on top of the podium. Both boys and girls, under-12 and under-16 teams, had reason to hold their heads high and be proud of the hard work they put in the various competitions.