



The TATTLER

Established 1893

Spring 2019

From the Director

"It is much easier for me to ask/coach someone to do something that is difficult than it is to make myself do something difficult." That is what I said to my 20-year-old daughter Amelia in April as we were climbing from 7,000 feet to 11,200 feet in the Sierra Mountains of California. We were chasing my sister (a ridiculously fit, zero body fat two-time Olympic skier) and her husband (a ridiculously fit zero body fat life-long climber and mountaineer). We had come up from sea level two days prior. It was hot. Watching them dance up the mountain in the crisp high-altitude sunshine, increased my despair. It is what happens to the last place finisher. We could easily stop here, and still have a lovely ski descent down to the car. But I kept telling myself I could get to the top and kept stepping up the hill. Keewaydin taught me to.

This adventure made me reflect on the relationship the staff have to the Keewaydin challenge. They have to be equal to the difficult and then able to coach hungry, bug-bothered, possibly homesick, campers through the difficult. Hard is what Keewaydin is all about. It makes growth. We are hopeful our campers can see to the other end of difficult to the reward: the end of the portage, the end of the

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John Frazier and Quinlan Mulcahy headed to Hudson Bay in 2018.

Long Trips 2019!

With four full Evans Outpost sections, five six- week trips and one seven week trip to Hudson Bay, the menu is full for those campers feasting on the delight of a long Keewaydin Canoe trip in 2019. Here are some details:

Section A, led by John Frazier and Al Tariot, is excited to head back to northern Quebec, combining some exploration at the beginning with a proven route to the Richmond Gulf, and Hudson Bay coast. They will start further east than ever before, putting in at Lac Chastelain and exploring the very uppermost reaches of the Great Whale River, which they will take through Lac Bienville, at which point they will meet up with

the Coats River and Guerin River route that Dave Chapin and Tim Nicholson opened with the 2004 Bay trip, and has since been traveled only a few times since then by Section 1. The route should be beautiful, with the awesome spectacle of Richmond Gulf at the end of the Guerin River. Rather than paddling up through Richmond Gulf, they plan to take

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From the Director *continued from page 1*

windy lake or the campfire at the end of a cold day. We hope that while they struggle, they understand the fight is what makes them stronger, both inside and out. Alas, it may be years before they realize the meaning of the struggle. But which is harder? Doing or coaching?

Amelia and I could see the reward of obtaining the summit of Crater Crescent (a descent of 4,000 feet of perfect spring snow) so we could see the value of the suffering and we were able to coach ourselves through it. As I chugged up the hill chasing the ridiculously fit, I knew I could and would make it to the top. I was sure of it. I am not sure all campers are as sure as they fight through the tangled northern forest. They certainly cannot clearly see the end or always be cognizant of the value of their suffering. As I thought about it more, I realized it is much harder to stand and watch someone struggle, and grow, than to grow yourself. There is a helplessness in the coaching and a

desire for it to end. The ability to be patient, and support and foster growth is perhaps one of the greatest strengths of a Keewaydin staff person. As perverse as it may sound, not carrying someone's wannigan for them might be the nicest thing you ever do for them.



Long Trips *continued from page 1*

the "Gullet," the narrow opening that connects the Gulf to Hudson Bay, and then paddle north along the coast to end the trip at Umiujaq, a small coastal Inuit community.

Section 2, led by Katie Paine and Katie Warner, will be heading to the Eastmain River in Quebec this summer. They will also be joined by Hannah Maia throughout the trip to capture/film these young women throughout this summer's journey (see details about *Beyond The Bay*, a film about women in the wilderness later in the *Tattler*). They are all curious



Amelia Ingersoll and Keewaydin Director Bruce Ingersoll celebrate at the summit of Crater Crescent.

and excited not only for the obvious challenge of a 40-day trip in Quebec, but to be a part of this whole project. It will be a summer of logistics, hard work, and fishing ... plenty of fishing.

For the summer of 2019, Section B, led by Will Parry and Malcolm McCubbin, has its sights set on the Labrador Plateau. They will put in at Lac Icebound, the quintessential Section B starting point in Quebec, and travel south and east, by way of the La Grande, Mouy, Chambeaux, and McPhayden Rivers to the Menihek Lakes. Fingers are crossed for sightings of wolves, trophy trout fishing, caribou sightings, and freshie snow cones.

The spirit of exploration is alive in the Sections D! Will Shepard and Jasper Jarecki are still considering options for this summer, but believe they are headed to Manitoba. They will put in at Berens Lake and ride down the Berens River before cutting northeast to the McInnes River via Barton Lake and Dolphin Creek. They will lift, carry, line, and run the McInnes until Deer Lake First Nation where the section will resupply. From there they will run up the Black Birch River to Namiwan Lake. Then they hope to do something new for Keewaydin, and run the Poplar River all the way to Poplar River First Nation on the remote northeast end of Lake Winnipeg. The river cuts through an enormous swath of boreal forest home to great grey owls and huge herds of caribou, and the settlement at its mouth has had substantial impact on modern Canadian conservation policy. Once at Poplar River FN they will take a ferry 120 km down the shores of Lake Winnipeg and take out at Berens River First Nation.

Section D, the other one, is being led by Roddy Pratt (who has been teaching English this year, as you will notice from his prose) and Paul Nicholas who have got the eye for the Pigeon River. Or perhaps it has the eye for them. Especially since a new road to the Berens River First Nation crosses the Pigeon before Lake Winnipeg. This 'car trail' (to name the Homeric epithet) would allow the section to bypass a crossing of Lake Winnipeg, a scourge of canoe trippers far and wide. As for everything in between, they would move down the Throat to the Throat-Berens confluence then to Family Lake, and travel via the Wagin River, Roderick Lake (this lake sounds very cool), and the Dogskin River (this river name belongs in a Steinbeck novel). Should be a fabulous trip – good fishing, river travel and the best companionship and cooking. "May the fish jump at every passing culicidae, may the muskeg be marshy, may the water be thoroughly saturated, may the black flies bite, and may our prospective campers prepare their hearts and minds for a really fun time."

This summer Red Bower and Amelia Ingersoll will be leading Section 3 through the lakes and rivers in Northwest Ontario, route details are pending. They are very excited to be leading this trip and looking forward to seeing these young women on their first season long trip experience, where it is about taking greater ownership over your Keewaydin experience. They are excited to see the section find confidence in reading whitewater, constructing campsites, and preparing five-star meals.

Section 3, the other one, led by Nathalie Ingersoll and Nicole Howe will follow Section D's 2017 itinerary

down the Albany River. Starting at Osnaburgh Lake, northwest of the Evans Outpost and travelling east down river reoutfitting at the Ojibwe First Nation Community of Fort Hope/Eabametoong and then again at Marten Falls First Nation. The final week of the trip will be travelling up the Kenogami River and Kabinakagami River. As it is the first long trip for this group of young women they are looking forward to fine-tuning whitewater skills, growing as a cohesive section, and finding surprise and delight appreciating the natural beauty of the wilderness.



The Highs and Lows of Keewaydin and the Superfluosness of Everyday Life

By Cecily Smith

I have spent the past three summers canoe tripping in the Canadian wilderness with Keewaydin Temagami, a 125-year old camp that uses the same routes and almost the same equipment as first nation people and European trappers for centuries. I wish more people understood how wonderful my summers are, instead of thinking of it as the worst way possible to spend a summer. After spending their vacations on beaches and islands, my friends feel almost sorry for me that I spend the summer suffering, but what they call suffering is the most important thing in my life.

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Highs and Lows

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Keewaydin is based on a remote island in Northern Ontario. Trips away from base camp last from five days to seven weeks, increasing as you get older. Last summer, my longest trip was 21 days, setting up a new campsite each night. Our only purpose while on trip is to get from point A to point B on the map, yet there's never a dull moment. We paddle down lakes and rivers, and portage the land in between.

We use 100 pound wood canvas canoes, the heaviest yet most rugged, that we carry on our heads. Rather than using convenient modern backpacks, we carry food and supplies in big wooden boxes weighing about 50 pounds called wannigans that hang off our heads with a leather tump strap that we learn to wrap and knot for this purpose. We carry these loads for up to four kilometers, bushwacking our way through the woods rain or shine, hot or freezing.

When we get to the campsite, our day is far from over. We have to set up camp, which means creating a covered kitchen area, setting up tents, gathering and cutting firewood, and dividing the work of preparing dinner from scratch. We prepare things such as curries and stews, bread made from sourdough starter we grow in a jar and bake using a reflector oven, and rolling "goo balls" for dessert with our filthy hands. As the sun sets, we scrub the dishes and pots in the edge of the river until it is finally time to get into our sleeping bags and rest peacefully under the Canadian stars.

When I talk about Keewaydin, I explain that there are extreme highs and extreme lows. A typical low is having a canoe on my head with a kilometer left to portage and already losing feeling in my shoulders. I am also knee deep in muskeg (a type of smelly subarctic mud) and biting flies are swarming. Or I talk about the time when I was in my warm dry

clothes before bed and dropped a fork in the lake and had to dive in and get it. Or, when the canoe flipped in a rapid and all of my possessions were soaked. I ask myself "why am I doing this for the next five weeks?" I feel like this for a brief time nearly each day, until someone makes me laugh, and the low feeling disappears. What makes all these lows so worth it, are the highs that come with the lows.

I talk about these highs extensively, like taking a detour to go cliff jumping, or a half day to explore a waterfall. Some of the highs seem simple like scrubbing burned greasy pots by the lake as the sun goes down, while laughing with my trip mates. The best highs are the highs that start as lows, like the time I thought I had lost my shoe in muskeg, but then my friend took her canoe off her head and dug it out for me. These moments don't only turn into funny memories, but moments that make me realize how lucky I am to have such loyal friends. Moments like these tie you to someone for a lifetime, and when they happen almost daily, it's hard to not consider these people your family.

The people I tell about Keewaydin can picture the intensity of the lows, but to them the highs are harder to understand. It makes sense that someone who has never felt the weight of a wood canvas canoe could never understand how good a sip of water straight out of the lake could taste after being so parched, or how hilarious a joke about muskeg could be to someone who has just lost a sock in it. What I wish people knew is that all the good times are worth our worst physical and mental pain.

The simplicity of canoe tripping is the opposite of the too rapid pace and the superfluosness of everyday



Cecily Smith in Algonquin Park in 2018

life. To see how much one can thrive in nature without things like roofs, toilets, and dry socks that people mistake as necessity is fascinating. We don't keep track of time with watches, yet we know we should wake up when we hear morning birds chirping, and we know we're up too late when we're talking over the sound of loons calling to each other across the lake.

When I get home from Canada, I see myself in the mirror for the first time in weeks. The dirt on my face doesn't pop out, nor my scabbed over bug bites, or my unrecognizable feet that are all rotted from the same wet socks I put on every morning. I see the huge muscles in my arms and legs, and in them lies the story of a girl who has just been on a journey with the only motivation being this feeling right now.

I wish more people knew this about me, so that they too could find their own Keewaydin, and learn what I now know.



Cecily and her shoes retrieved from the muskeg

2019 ADULT TRIPS

If you've never taken a trip from Devil's Island, or if you've paddled in from a dozen or more, there is always a reason to go out again! We are offering four adult trips this summer: three flatwater trips and a men's whitewater trip.



Attawapiskatt River Trip July 27-August 8

This is a river trip with whitewater paddling for men who are veteran paddlers and eager to travel this gem to the shores of James Bay. The trip begins and ends on Devil's Island and trippers who are eager to be on Devil's Island for paddle-in will be there as long as flights are on time. Cost is \$5750.



Flatwater Trips July 31-August 8

Flatwater trips include: a co-ed trip, a women's trip, and a men's trip. All three trips leave from Devil's Island on July 31, and return on August 8. The routes will take you in and around the lakes of the Temagami region. You will cook over an open fire, take in the beauty of the tall pines and clean water and connect with a group of folks willing to take

risks too. Learn about the Keewaydin Way and feel the support and guidance of our veteran Keewaydin staff as you learn new skills, form connections, unplug, grow stronger, face challenges, build resilience, adapt and learn. Trips are open to all abilities but will be strenuous at times. Cost is \$1200.

Participants should be able to lift 30 to 40 pounds and portage over challenging terrain. You will spend long periods of time on the water. Each itinerary will be set according to the group's abilities.

**To register please email Bruce Ingersoll at
bruce@keewaydin.org, or call 802-352-4709.**

~ 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS ~

The list for 2019 is long but filled with small very achievable tasks. Thanks to island caretaker, Dave Wilfong, in his first full season as caretaker after Jason Pigeau joined the Ontario Provincial Police last spring, we do not have to rebuild any buildings because of roof collapses. It was a big snow year on Lake Temagami and several of the other camps report collapsed buildings. But Dave spent his winter keeping our roofs clear of snow and we are grateful. Another plus from the winter is that the snow and ice conditions were so good in early March, that Dave was able to deliver materials to the island by truck for spring projects by driving over the ice. So, completing Mojac cabin on Paul's Island is top of the list for the spring and here is a list of what else is on the list: Ojibway septic work, a new roof for the Keewaydin kitchen, repaired hickory furniture for the Ridgway lodge, three new canoe trailers, two new platform tents for Ojibway, a portable saw mill and foundation work on the Keewaydin shop.



New vintage hickory rocker with freshly caned seat



Snow and the Bread Oven

News

David Collens '56 is the Director and Chief Curator of the Storm King Art Center in New Windsor, NY.

Tracy Hoeger '00 married Nick Georgiade in January 2018. On March 8, 2018 they welcomed their son, Everett Jackson Georgiade into their home in North Carolina where they are spending their non-canoeing months.

Owen Farris '98 now lives in New Orleans with his wife Diana Stephens (married April 1, 2017). They welcomed Bowie June Ferris on April 22, 2018.

Derek Pleasants '09 graduated from University of Washington- Michael G. Foster School of Business and is working at a capital management firm in Seattle, WA.

Gordon Parker McGill '97 died peacefully at home in Austin on Monday, October 15, 2018. Parker was a beloved son, brother and friend to many. He was born in Austin, Texas on September 11, 1982 to Charmaine



Parker Magill creek paddling in 2006

Denius McGill and J. Gordon McGill. Parker attended Saint Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin from first grade until he graduated from middle school in 1997 and then went on to graduate high school from the Cascade School in Redding, California in 2001.

Parker was Cascade's Outstanding Scholar his senior year. Parker attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Economics with Finance Applications in August 2009.

After graduation, Parker worked at UBS Financial Services in Chicago, Illinois where he was a financial consultant in wealth management. After three frigid Chicago winters, Parker said so long to "Da Bears," and returned home to Austin where he worked with family investments, the Cain Foundation, and resumed a lifetime of supporting his favorite team, the Texas Longhorns.

As a child, Parker loved camping and being outdoors. He attended Camp Longhorn in Burnet, Texas from 1992-1994 and Keewaydin Camp at Lake Temagami, Ontario, Canada as a camper from 1997-1999 and as a counselor in 2006. Parker was the only camper at age 16 to be asked to go on the 700 mile canoe trek to the Hudson Bay.

Parker was always filled with a loving spirit no matter what the occasion or the difficulty. He always greeted everyone with a smile and with the spirit of a happy child.

Edward B. Mosle '77 (Ted) of Cockeysville, MD passed away on March 26, 2019. Mr. Mosle, age 55, had worked as a teacher at Baltimore



Ted Mosle

City College and The Knox School in Saint James, New York. Students and administrators appreciated him as thoughtful and dedicated teacher in and out of the classroom. Ted was a Keewaydin camper from 1977-1980 and then served on staff in 1981, 1988, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Ted also served honorably as a Lieutenant combat veteran on the USS Midway in Desert Storm I.

Ted was passionate about U.S. history and current politics; volunteering for the local election board and knocking on doors in federal elections in Maryland and Pennsylvania. This past year, the election board leadership recognized his knowledge and diligence as an Election Day volunteer. He earned an M.A. in teaching from College of Notre Dame in MD, a B.A. in history from Yale University in CT and was valedictorian from Trinity-Pawling School in NY. He is survived by his mother Fay, brother William (Chip) and his wife Jenn, sister Anne and her husband Jim, nieces Samantha, Katelyn and Elliot, and nephew Jasper.



Beyond they Bay – The Woman's Way

In the spring of 2018, Max Christopher, mother of Cam '15 and Maddie '14, and alum of the 2016 Women's trip down the Missinaibi, called the Keewaydin winter office. Max was strongly affected by a film called *My Big White Thighs and Me* made by a British woman named Hannah Maia, about one woman's transformational experience in nature, prompted by her negative feelings about her body and body images issues. Hannah has done trips in Algonquin Park and spent time in a forest in Belize at age 18; she is rugged and loves wilderness.

Here is what Max proposed: a documentary film made about the girls' program at Temagami. Although we have just created a marketing short about the program, this proposed documentary would be a story, perhaps tracing the legends of Section 1, in the larger context of Title IX programs and the evolution of girls' athletic



and wilderness pursuits engendering empowerment.

In the summer of 2018, Hannah flew from England and joined the 20th Anniversary Women's trip, led by Katie Tanz '99 and Bright Dickson '00. She paddled, portaged and filmed and is eager to begin to tell this story. In 2019 Hannah will chronicle the experience of the Section 2 women as they travel the historic Eastmain river in northern Quebec. What follows is an interview with Hannah.

KEEWAYDIN'S Q & A WITH *BEYOND THE BAY'S* FILMMAKER, HANNAH MAIA

Q: In a nutshell what's the story you are trying to tell? What's the film about?

A: It's a coming of age documentary and like most coming of age stories, it's about whimsical chats and falling in love for the first time... but in this story we see what it is for young women to encounter and fall in love with their own strength and resilience, with their 'girl-tribe', and with the direct encounter of wild places. Or to say it even more concisely, it's a documentary about teenage exploration, finding a strong sisterhood and navigating a place in the world.

Q: Why tell this story?

A: Above all else, I get excited when I hear stories about average women doing extraordinary things and I really believe in the exceptional experience these teenagers (Section 2) will have



this summer, and know we can all share in what they gain.

Q: What interests you as a filmmaker in the story of young women canoe tripping?

A: My overarching belief that when women meet in the wilderness, and teenage girls in particular, get the chance to explore their physical surroundings - and their inner selves - free from mainstream society's expectations, precious moments of palpable, uninhibited joy and self-worth can be found.

Q: And why this story? Why now?

A: Well, to name just one thing, I'm keenly aware that in England anxiety leading to self harm among teenage girls has jumped by 68% in the last decade, and this trend exists in North America as well. Consider social media, which is ripe with pressure, ranging from self-worth created by likes and shares, and the continual flow of images portraying 'perfect' bodies or 'perfect' lives. I honestly feel quite lucky not to grow up at a time when having the whole world right there in your pocket every hour of every day is considered normal. So spending a summer away from this form of communication seems like it could be a particularly valuable experience today.

Q: Summarize if you can for me, what you are hoping to do through the film?

A: I believe that the stories we tell reflect who we are and the world we want to live in, so as a filmmaker, I want to tell a positive story and one which shines a light on the alternative options open to young women today. My approach is honest, upfront and



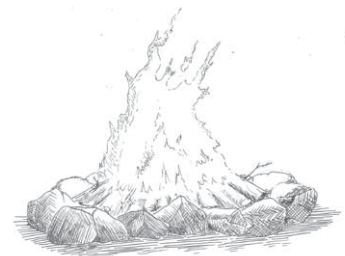
authentic with a hint of humor; so it's in this style that I'll consider how the things which don't come easy, or are perhaps strenuous and exhausting, are often the most rewarding. I'm also excited to discover more about the deep tradition of canoe tripping and how the values of a hundred and twenty-six years can stay relevant and beneficial to teenage girls of 2019.

Q: What are the next steps, and what's happened so far?

A: I was out on the women's alumni trip last summer for nine days as part of my research and since then I've been to New York to interview Alex, one of the teenagers on this year's Section 2 trip. I also made it to Salmon Falls Canoe to watch and film Emily and Dylan craft beautiful wood-canvas canoes. Myself and our producer, Max Christopher, are simultaneously in the process of raising the funds needed to make this film a reality. And finally, I am very excited to be heading out in June with the Section 2 trippers.

Q: How can we get involved or keep track of your progress?

A: Visit www.keewaydin.org/beyondthebay or our website beyondthebayfilm.com and sign up for email updates. Follow us at [facebook.com/beyondthebayfilm](https://www.facebook.com/beyondthebayfilm) or using the hashtag #tumpersandtrippers and @maiamedia on instagram. You could also email me directly at hannah@maiamedia.co.uk



KEEWAYDIN ANNUAL FUND



A gift to Keewaydin is an investment in the ideals of *Help The Other Fellow* and *Leave Your Campsite Better Than You Found It*. Campers at Keewaydin not only learn to canoe and appreciate the beauty of nature, they also develop the values that will make them the leaders of tomorrow.



Gifts to the annual fund ensure that we can keep our campus and equipment in tip-top shape, protect our beautiful lake, and provide camper scholarships for the next generation of trippers.

www.keewaydin.org/give

~ Keewaydin & Ojibway Schedule 2019 ~

June 19	Staff arrival
June 20	Section A and Section 1 arrive
June 21	Section A and Section 1 depart
June 27	Regular Season commences with camper arrival
	Ojibway opens
July 5-9	Alumni Family Weekend
July 16-19	Midseason
July 20	Second Session
July 31- August 8	Women's and Men's five day trips
August 3	Islander Pot-Luck Dinner @ Ojibway
August 9 & 10	Endseason
August 11	Campers depart
August 13	Staff depart
August 30	Ojibway closed for the season



Ojibway Family Lodge

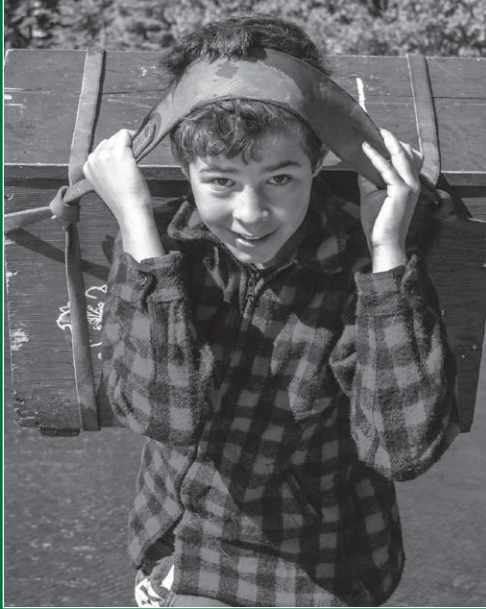
A Place Untouched. An Experience Apart.



Stay in a cabin, in a private room in the Lodge, or in a lakeside tent. Savor three delectable meals a day served family style in the dining room overlooking the lake. Settle in by the fire, hangout on the dock and socialize, take a dip, cast a fishing line, or explore the lake by canoe, kayak or paddleboard. Hike through the old growth forest. Or, simply relax on the porch with a good book.

To learn more about an Ojibway stay on Lake Temagami visit Ojibwayfamilylodge.com or e-mail tanya@keewaydin.org.

Psssst! Spread the Word!



Keewaydin's best recruiters are current campers, parents and alumni!

Please *spread the word* about how wonderful our camps are. If you have any families you would like to recommend, please send us their contact information! We will send them materials and invite them to one of our gatherings!

If you are interested in hosting a recruiting gathering at your home, contact bruce@keewaydin.org

Thank you!

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Temagami



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