



The TATTLER

Established 1893

Summer 2020

From the Director

As I sit at my desk looking out my window, I see green grass and a blooming azalea. Not quite the view I would prefer to have, though quite nice. It is not a view of the Keewaydin dining hall, its west porch and vibrant orange day lilies sprouting up. It is June 24, and yesterday afternoon, John Frazier and I were reflecting that today would have been the day Section A and Section 1 would have lit their first campfire of the summer. It would have been a day in which campers were still feeling a few jitters, sharing nervous laughs, and feeling the high anticipation for their long wonderful journey ahead. A journey that felt stolen by a world health crisis. I think we are all feeling the loss of our summer plans.

While driving back and forth from Massachusetts to Vermont, I received a message from Brian Back. He was reminding me that we would have been half through our week of staff training, deep into our preparations for campers arriving. Staff training, a valuable time for dusting off the rust, opening our minds to leadership, risk management, and the social and emotional needs of our campers. Instead, I've been dusting off a different rust. Remembering back to a time when I was not in Canada for the summer. What did I do? How did

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Beautiful land and water awaits our return in 2021

Bear and Moose and Bannock, Oh My!

By Annette Franklin

During this time of "Stay Home, Stay Safe", we at Keewaydin have been trying to honor some of our old traditions in a new way. Storytelling has always been a part of our history. At evening campfires, while paddling on a lake, or in front of a crowd of parents and fellow trippers at Endseason, we share stories about our adventures during the summer or even from our lives at home.

This year, we decided to create a virtual storytelling event (The Smoky Moth Story Hour) to share stories with campers, parents, alumni and

staff. Our first two episodes have been well attended and received, and quite entertaining. We have heard tales of a headless honey bear; a dying, trapped moose; Band-Aid bannock; an overturned and lost canoe; forest fires and redirected trips; three "saviors"; Beluga whales; and the Bay Trip experience from the viewpoint of a relatively new camper.

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From the Director *continued from page 1*

I occupy my time? Build a garden? Yes.
Take lots of walks? Yes. Cut the grass?
I guess so. Find a local swim spot?
Definitely.

I am struggling to pivot, not really wanting to make plans that do not involve in some way me and my family driving to Canada and Lake Temagami. With each passing day, the likeliness appears thinner and thinner. COVID-19 has given us all a run for our money. I wanted very much to be standing on the main dock, black flies swarming, the evening sun dipping lower, greeting staff as they arrived for early crew. I wanted to watch them train during Wilderness First Responder, and to prepare next for our week of staff training. I really wanted to circle up my team, dive into preparations, divvy up the tasks, all hands in, all hearts committed to provide the best possible camp experience for the kids who were eagerly and nervously counting down the days until their summer adventure began.

Each day I am reminded of what we would be doing if camp was open. Each day, I check the calendar and think, today we would be handing out the trip equipment to the guides, or digging into the cook book for meal ideas. And I think about the campers who would be preparing to spend a summer or part of their summer camping, canoeing, growing and expanding themselves into stronger individuals. At home, reviewing their packing list, trying on their trip Dickies, new batteries for the head lamp, and deciding on a good book or two for tent time.

Zoom used to be the word that represented the sound of an imaginary

car going fast in my house when my kids were young. Now, Zooming is a word that we use daily, asking or stating: Who'd you Zoom with today? Or do not forget, I have a Zoom later this afternoon.

Remote work used to mean in the context of Keewaydin, getting away, disconnecting from technology and gadgets, and instead connecting with the land and water and working together in an achingly beautiful wilderness setting. Now, remote work means sitting at a desk at home, on a laptop, virtually collaborating, zooming, document sharing, and attending webinars.

In this journey of distant virtual work, I've learned that I am doing it with a great team. I am very grateful for John Frazier, Annette Franklin and Tanya McCubbin, as we emailed, video chatted, texted our way through the spring, communicating, planning, and strategizing.

John and I were supposed to have our first summer working together, both in new roles, learning and leaning upon each other and the Headquarters team to provide the best possible summer for campers. Annette and I were planning and working on a new brochure and ways to simplify and streamline information. Tanya and I checking our way through the pre-season list, food orders, bacon orders, cabin work and hiring of new Keewaydin cooks. Now weekly we see each other on a screen. So we find ways to laugh, support each other and remain determined to focus our minds on 2021.

I am determined to work to have Keewaydin and Ojibway in a position

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to welcome kids, parents, and staff back in June of 2021. I am determined to connect with families and help them connect with a place that helps shape the lives of kids through immersive wilderness canoeing. With the immense amount of time we have had to spend indoors, on screens, having our patience and fortitude tested, we will need to grab ahold of the opportunities for kids to jump back into the outdoors. Kids will need more than ever to sign up for weeks of camp where campers get a chance to hit the RESET button.

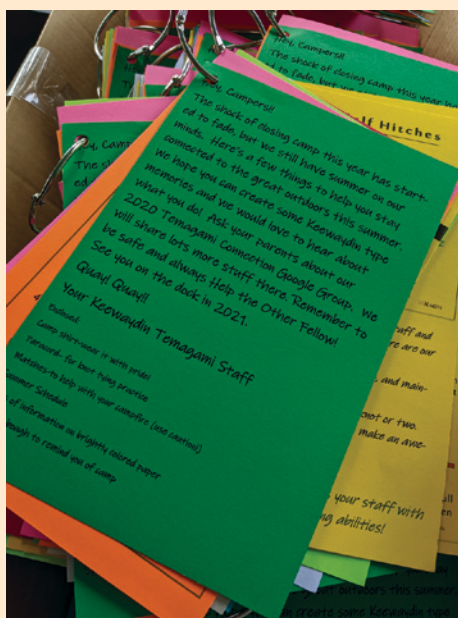
We will aim to again live simply in a small group. To work together, lean upon each other, and learn to slow down. Campers will again create a long list of inside jokes, stories of muskeg, waterfalls, rapids, and bake the sweetest desert bannocks, and relish in the whispering of night sounds as they fall asleep under the northern sky.



Emily Schoelzel with John Frazier and Annette Franklin packing up care packages for our 2020 campers



A spruce bow to make the box complete



Care package greeting. We miss you!



Bear and Moose continued from page 1

Thanks to our story tellers for sharing their Keewaydin experiences: **Harley Phleger '07, Scott Kirkpatrick '79, Bright Dickson '00, Katie Tanz '99, Bill Seeley '79, Tony Way '55, Jeff Tanz '94 and Abby Hazen '05.** If you joined us in March and June, you heard their full stories. If you missed it, it's not too late! We recorded the events and are eager to share them with you. Visit our Keewaydin website (www.keewaydin.org) to watch or listen to the full episodes. You will find them on the Temagami Summer 2020 page. And be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, August 13 at 8:00 pm for our final Smoky Moth Story Hour of the summer season. The storyteller line-up is top-notch! Email info@keewaydin.org for more information or to register.



Keewaydin's Smoky Moth



Keewaydin Summer Book Club

Looking for a book or two to help you dive into a grand adventure, or a suspenseful page turner? Here is a list of books our trip staff have suggested for you to check out. We are excited to turn the page!

The River by Peter Heller, Suggested by Sarah Robbins

Lure of the Labrador Wild, Suggested by Dylan Schoelzel

Wilderness Essays by John Muir, Suggested by Allegra Stewart



*A good book on trip is a wonderful thing.
Finding time to read it is even better.*

The Complete Wilderness Paddler
by John Ruggie and James Davidson,
Suggested by Bill Seeley

The Kitchen House by Kathleen
Grissom, Suggested by Tanya
McCubbin

Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey,
Suggested by Hudson McCubbin

Sleeping Island by PG Downes,
Suggested by Kera Zegar

Prisoners of the North by Pierre
Burton, Suggested by John Frazier

Shiner: A Novel by Amy Jo Burns,
Suggested by Roddy Pratt



Winter Travel

By Emily Schoelzel

Spending time on the road, flying and sharing Keewaydin with friends and families is absolutely the best. This past January and February, now more than 6 months ago, was spent traveling to Gretna, Louisiana (neighbors to New Orleans), Columbus, Ohio and Charlotte,



Emily Schoelzel and Tanya McCubbin attended the Ontario Camping Association Conference in February.

Vermont for Keewaydin gatherings. It was really wonderful to connect with the **Barr** family, the **Imseis** family, and the **Swayze** family and meet several great folks along the way. While traveling I saw many familiar Keewaydin faces including **Brian**

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Nicole Howe, Anna Morley, and Katie Tanz with son Leo, represents Keewaydin at a camp fair in Toronto

Robson '89, Jim '79 and Tapley '18 Saunders, the Winger family, Alice Cawley '05, Henry Hawkins '14, Monroe Cromis '16, Kat Bower '08, Kyra McClean '11, and Doug '84 and Mia '18 Mosle.

February took me to Toronto to attend the Ontario Camping Association conference with Tanya McCubbin and Dave Wilfong. It was also a time to actively plan for the future, with team meetings, and memorable dinners. The Toronto area is home to a wonderful bunch of Keewaydin alum, staff, and board members. Thanks to David Booz '78, Hudson

McCubbin '09, Lisa Pepall 'P16, Katie Tanz '99, Jeff Howe P'11, Alec Morley P'11, and Tim Nicholson '88 for making my visit to snowy Ontario worth every minute!

I would also like to thank Winsor Pepall, Jeff Howe, Nicole Howe '11, Anna Morely '11 and Katie Tanz '99 (with future camper, Leo, in tow) for their efforts to represent Keewaydin at the Applebee fair.



Stewards of the Land

by Emily Schoelzel

In preparing for the summer I had planned to invite staff to a summer challenge. Who can bring back to camp the most garbage found left on the land, campsites and shorelines of the Temagami region?

This idea is not new to Keewaydin, staff during pre-camp annually paddle

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Historian's Corner: Brian Back



With the coronavirus looming over the summer and its hit to enrollment, and the now historic closure of camp, I have been thinking back to other eras in which enrollment took a huge hit. One is neatly summarized in this full-camp photo. Another global catastrophe hit the camp. What was this event?

Email your answer to emily@keewaydin.org

*If you have a historic camp question you would love the answer to, let us know and we'll ask our Camp Historian, Brian Back.

Stewards

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out to campsites for a pre-camping clean up. And while on trip, staff and campers have continuously picked up and cleaned up as they paddled from lake to lake.

However, this practice has new legs, after I co-led a wonderful 5-day co-ed Adult trip last August. The section of 10 adults (most who were new to Keewaydin tripping) paddled away from Devil's Island, feeling nervous, excited, and inspired by the beauty of Lake Temagami. These feelings morphed and grew depending on the daily challenges and new views to absorb as we paddled around each bend.

The one irritating thread to our trip was not the horse flies nor mosquitos, but was the garbage! Almost every campsite we made into our temporary home for the night had bits and pieces of garbage and micro-trash strewn about the fireplace or edges of the woods. Each evening and morning with our extra bags, we would pack out what we could: unrecognizable plastic bits, broken cookware, candy wrappers, and bits of rope. Sadly, we could not take it all with us.

The adult trippers were quite stunned and dismayed. As parents of campers they wondered, "Is this what our kids see all the time when camping in the great north?! It cannot be like this everywhere, can it?" Fortunately, the answer is no, but it is true, in our "backyard" of the Temagami region we are seeing the results of carelessness human behavior in a few beautiful places.

Keewaydin believes in leaving our campsite better than we found it. Staff are careful to have a low impact and



Our beloved mosquito hunter!

teach their campers to do the same. Now we see that others who visit and travel the land of Temagami are all not doing their part. What can we do?

We can make it a mission to help. We can offer a summer challenge and provide the time and tools to help clean up the garbage. What's the prize? The opportunity to take care of place we all hold so dear.

We will have to wait until 2021 for this challenge, to be stewards of the land, but do not let that stop you this summer while at home. Can you create your own challenge and leave your campsite better than you found it?



Winter on Devil's Island

David Wilfong '15, Keewaydin's Director of Maintenance, and Mojag (his pup) sent a winter greeting to us all. It is hard to believe when Dave wrote this note that we'd been in any other place than on Devil's Island with them. Here is Dave's message from a winter on Lake Temagami:

This winter began November 22nd when the ice started to set in the Bays. Mojag and I, well mostly I, had to prepare for departure from Devil's Island to travel while the lake formed a safe layer of ice to be able to return. I had planned to travel to the West Coast of Canada during this time since it takes 5-6 weeks to have a safe enough thickness of ice (6 inches) for lake travel.

Our road trip during this time was as perfect as you could ever dream it to be, we even had the opportunity

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An icy waterfall along the shore



The main dock, wrapped in ice

to meet up with former staff **Dana Krementz '07** in Vancouver for a fun dinner of sushi. Nothing could be better than seeing a happy, familiar smile when you're 5,000kms (3,100 miles) from home. But I'll save the other stories for when we are on the porch or around the campfire.

We returned to Lake Temagami on New Year's Eve, just in time for Mojag and I sit out on the frozen lake and enjoy the starlit sky as 2020 arrived. We struggled to stay awake to ring in the New year since I had thought it would be fun to walk to the island across the frozen lake instead of using the snowmobile. Well, what seemed like a fun idea became an exhausting 4-hour journey.

The silence of winter is a feeling like no other, it's also a time when wildlife comes out to play. Otters go sliding by as they seek shoreline openings or docks to hide in, in the morning you will see the tracks from a fox that has been just outside your window as you were sleeping. Our greatest sight this winter was a wolf that we watched wander up the lake towards us as we were safely inside our winter fish shack. It paused just outside the window about 100' away and watched us as we admired her. Then with a slap on the shack wall, she ran off in the

direction of the camp. Although she was not seen again, her presence was felt by Mojag since he refused to go outside without me for 3 days.

With the less frequent snowfall it was an easier winter for maintaining the snow clearing of the roofs, but we had much more heavy winds than usual so there's been some downed trees, the biggest being the one at the entrance to the trail beside the baseball back fence.

The weather has made a drastic change now and everything is melting quickly, I will have to end my lake travel the first week of April since the



View from Keewaydin's office, looking west

ice will begin to weaken and Mojag and I will prepare for the wonderful time of breakup when the ice begins to shift and each day new birds and creatures return and the birch tree sap begins to flow.

Looking forward to hearing your winter stories and seeing your smiles soon.

Dave & Mojag



Alumni News

Abby Smith (Fontaine '99) married Steven Smith on June 6, 2020, surrounded by family and friends and their children in the pristine setting of the Adirondacks. Congratulations Abby and Steven!



Congratulations to the happy couple!

Wills Donaldson '11 is moving Colorado to work fulltime with Flylords- best of luck Wills!

A hearty Quay Quay! to all the Keewaydin trip staff and campers who graduated from high school or college this past spring.

Derek Pleasants '09 has moved to Chicago for his new position as Funds Manager at Standish Management.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Tom Taber '57 passed away October of 2019. Tom attended Keewaydin for 4 summers - '57, '58, '59, and '63.

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Alumni News

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Pete Morningstar '61 passed away in October of 2019. He was a guide with Dan Carpenter, Sr. for 10 years in the 1960s.



*Dan Carpenter (left),
Pete Morningstar (right)*

David B. (Chip) Kittredge, Jr '69 passed away March 13, 2020. While Dave's professional career brought him to various countries around the world, Dave's favorite place to be was Lake Temagami, Ontario, Canada where his family continues to enjoy family vacations as they have for more than 100 years. Continuing another family tradition that began with his grandfather and great uncle more than 100 years ago, Dave attended and worked for Keewaydin Temagami.



Dave Kittredge in his element.



*Dave Kittredge spent summer after
summer on Lake Temagami.*



*Kaia Perkins, daughter of Alex
'87 and Rachel Perkins, sporting
her new Keewaydin bucket hat*

BIRTHS

Jeff Tanz '94 and Jess DeLoache welcomed their daughter Abigail to the world April 26, 2020. Future camper? Songadeewin 2032!



*Only 119 more months until she can register
to be a camper!*

Davis Moore '01 and his wife welcomed Winslow Hathaway into the world in August; he will be a sturdy camper by the looks of things (his chubby arms for example).



A Keewaydin Crew at the wedding of **Ben Pomeroy '89** and Arie Mitchell on Block Island, Rhode Island last September. In the crew: **Bear Witherspoon '93, Sam Santarelli '86, Garrett Kephart '95, Booth Platt '90, Doug Mosle '84, Mike Ketchel '85, Elliott Ketchel (honorary member), John Lehrman '83, Matt McKean '92, Will Percy '83, Daniel Freed '93, Chad Nelson '93.**



An awesome bunch gathered for a great celebration

BEYOND THE BAY DOCUMENTARY UPDATE



Section 2, Eastmain River trip



Hannah Maia, the filmmaker

A quick check-in during these strange times and an overdue update on the documentary. I wanted to let you all know that film production is still underway and getting very close to completion. Most film festivals this spring/summer have been postponed, so a degree of urgency has been removed but we're still aiming for completion very soon. We're currently working on the sound mix which is going smoothly. There's also been a name change and the film is now called...drum roll please... 'Wood On Water'...it will make sense when you finally see it. We hope you will all have a chance to see the film this fall!

You can keep up to date with news on the film by visiting <https://maiamedia.co.uk/> or by searching Wood On Water on Facebook.

~ Completed Projects on Devils' Island ~

Pioneer Handcraft, Classic Canadian Furniture Came to Keewaydin's Rescue!

Keewaydin and Ojibway have the good fortune of beautiful hickory furniture to sit upon, and over the course of many years, some of the chairs have suffered damage. A broken leg or spindle, and broken cane had placed several chairs and benches out of commission. This past year, we connected with Pioneer Handcraft to bring these sturdy and historic pieces back to working order. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with an Ontario company and look forward to bringing the chairs back to Devil's Island, repaired and ready for another 100 years!



Hickory chairs repaired and ready for cane



Newly repaired chair detail



The finished product looks fantastic!

New Motor for the Big Rig

Keewaydin's Big Rig is back on the water and our workhorse of a motor boat that shuttles campers, parents, and staff up and down Lake Temagami, but also countless trips with food, building supplies, and garbage has a new lease on life. Our new 250 hp Mercury motor brings a new feature to our lake travel. We've been told it is so quiet that a normal conversation can be had – that will be a wonderful surprise next summer as we travel the lake in 2021!



Our Big Rig has a new motor, and we can't wait to bring campers up the lake next summer.



Adult Trippers Let's keep dreaming!



This summer Keewaydin had planned several adult trip opportunities. We'll have to hit the reset button for 2021, but our plans have not changed. What we can promise is you will not regret it! Wood canvas canoes, cooking over an open fire, fantastic fishing, new or renewed friendship, and a chance to take a break from your busy lives. There is no better vacation than the one that makes you feel alive.

We will aim to share our offerings this fall for July and August 2021.

We are looking to repeat our 5 day local Temagami trips, into classically beautiful waterways of Diamond, Bob, Spiford and Obabika Lakes. We are considering a more rigorous offering with a chance to fly north of the Trout Streams and return via the Lady Evelyn River and its glorious waterfalls. We are interested in offering the opportunity for a men's trip down the Dumoine River, returning Keewaydin to a classic and historic region of Quebec. And we'll put our heads together with trip leaders to look far north for a challenging expedition. So, let's keep dreaming!

~ MOLASSES COOKIES ~

A classic Keewaydin kitchen treat that begs for a nice cup of black tea to accompany it



Ingredients

2 cup white sugar	4 tsp baking soda
1/2 cup molasses	1 tsp cloves
2 eggs	1 tsp ginger
1 1/2 cups shortening	2 tsp cinnamon
4 cups flour	1 tsp salt

Directions

- Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees.
- In mixing bowl, mix white sugar, molasses and eggs together well.
- In a second bowl, sift flour, baking soda and spices together, cut in shortening.
- Combine the sugar mixture with the dry ingredients, mix well.
- Roll into 2" balls and dip in white sugar, press down.
- Bake cookies, on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, at 375 F for 8 – 10 minutes. These cookies freeze well.

❖ ROSE, BUD, THORN ❖

Earlier this spring, in a meeting with Keewaydin staff, a simple practice took place of acknowledging what was good, had potential, or was difficult. It is a practice that Keewaydin staff do with campers while on trip. It gives campers a chance to be proud of an accomplishment or share what they are looking forward to or to express a moment of frustration or disappointment. Here are some Rose, Bud, Thorn sharing from our spring meeting as many of us were in the middle of stay at home orders.

Erin Parker '07

Rose: Spending ALL the time with my family.

Bud: possibly winning Monopoly.

Bill Seeley '83

Rose: a chance to dig through the shoeboxes of old pics in the eaves and reflect on generations of Keewaydin!

Bud: time to prep the Prospector for time on the Kennebec and Merry Meeting Bay....and to reach the tops of a couple of 4000' peaks still on my list.



Mattawa, beginning to master new skills!

Peter Dutko '03

- Rose: Building familiarity with online platforms for Distance Learning. We're becoming more comfortable creating community with our students.
- Bud: Looking forward to exercising in the mornings as I cement my schedule for working from home. Much more realistic now that I am not commuting for over an hour each way!
- Thorn: Grading students work takes much longer! Also harder to stay motivated and diligent when there are many small projects to distract for a few minutes here and there. But working on it.

Ben Pomeroy '89

- Bud: The use of my outfitting experience to shop in the metro NYC area for a three-week isolation for my elderly parents.

Jasper Jarecki '05

- Rose: I am so proud to see how this staff handles moments like these. I don't know any other place where the whole team can rally and say "well this sucks, so how can we help?" Almost anyone can handle canoe tripping when things go right, but only the best can handle it when things go wrong.
- Bud: Next summer will be particularly glorious.
- Thorn: I was thrilled to see an awesome river with Jack Saxton and a bunch of kids I've worked with before. And I am sad to lose that chance.



John Chain '11

- Rose: Being in quarantine gives me a lot of good time to think to myself.
- Bud: My roommate and I are about to pursue a cool business idea, so I will have something productive to work on.
- Thorn: Online school

Nicole Howe '11

- Rose: Having the time do things you couldn't find time to do before.
- Bud: The possibility of still getting up to Temagami at some point this summer.
- Thorn: The big change to the summer no one was expecting not too long ago.



— THE KEEWAYDIN ANNUAL FUND —

Closing camp this summer due to COVID-19 has resulted in unprecedented financial losses.

We need the support of all Keewaydin alumni, families and friends
to help us stay strong to do what we do best:
provide life-changing camping experiences for kids!

Now more than ever we need you to "Help the Other Fellow!"



Please, be as generous as you can in supporting
the 2020* Annual Fund! Thank You.

Keewaydin.org/give

*fiscal year ending October 31, 2020

We'll Be Back! Spread the Word!



Our excitement about getting back to Keewaydin next summer could not be more palpable. We expect a full camp in 2021, but we need your help to get there. We count on you to “spread the word” about Keewaydin. Let your friends and family know what it is that you value so much about our camps. Because of your firsthand experience, there are no better advocates for us than you, the parents of our campers and the alumni.

With COVID-19 likely to curtail our normal fall recruiting events around the country, your assistance in recruiting new campers is more important than ever! Please email us names and contact information of any families you think would be interested in Keewaydin to emily@keewaydin.org.

