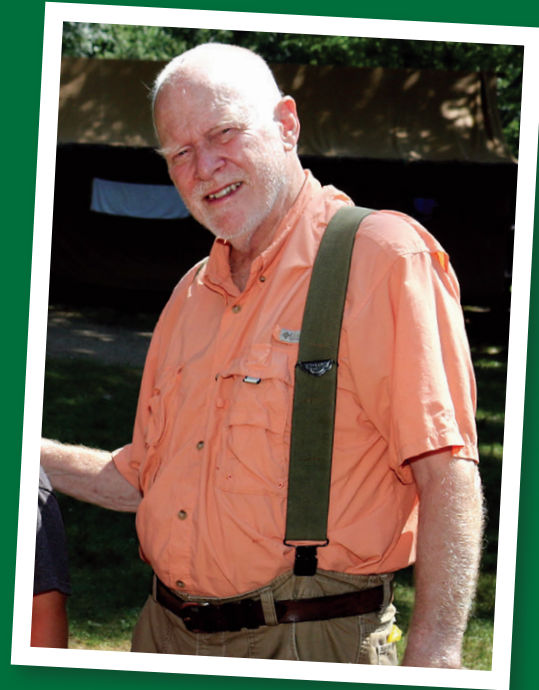


# *The* Northwest Wind

NEWS FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF KEEWAYDIN • SPRING 2022



## *Our Senior Staff:*

THE ENDURING STEWARDS OF  
THE KEEWAYDIN WAY

# Thank You

..... TO THE .....

# 1137

ALUMNI, PARENTS, STAFF,  
CAMPERS, AND FRIENDS

..... WHOSE .....

GENEROUS SUPPORT

# IN 2021

helped us cover 2021 operational costs,  
maintain our fleet and facilities, build our  
endowment, and ensure that we can offer

***unforgettable adventures***

..... FOR .....

# OUR CAMPERS

in 2022.

We are grateful to each and every one of you, and would like to welcome the 296 new donors to the Keewaydin donor community. To see your gift acknowledged, please see page 32 of this magazine.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- 2** Executive Director's Perspective:  
*A letter from Pete Hare*



- 3** News & Updates



- 16** Scenes from Summer

- 14** Our Senior Staff:  
*The Enduring Stewards of  
The Keewaydin Way*



- 29** Stronger Because of You:  
*A Letter from Mary Welz*

- 30** 2021 Giving Report

- 32** Donor Listing



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Peter Hare, *Executive Director*

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KEEWAYDIN FOUNDATION PROGRAMS  
Keewaydin Temagami (Est. 1893)  
Emily Schoelzel, *Director*  
Keewaydin Dunmore (Est. 1910)  
Peter Hare, *Director*  
Ojibway Family Lodge (Est. 1923)  
Tanya McCubbin, *Manager*  
Keewaydin Environmental  
Education Center (Est. 1973)  
Tim Tadlock, *Director*  
Songadeewin of Keewaydin (Est. 1999)  
Ellen Flight, *Director*

# Executive Director's Perspective

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Dear Keewaydin Community,

If you are reading this now, it probably means that Keewaydin holds a special place in your heart. Whether you are a current or former camper, staff or parent, from Dunmore, Songadeewin or Temagami, the mere thought of camp makes you feel good and brings a smile to your face. The communities we build each summer are exceptional—full of common purpose, full of friendship and full of life. There is one quality of our camp communities that plays a particularly unique role: the intergenerational nature of camp. At Keewaydin's camps, on our relatively small campuses on Lake Temagami and the shores of Lake Dunmore, we typically have every decade of age represented from eight-year-olds to octogenarians. The interaction of these different ages isn't passing or sporadic—it is a

regular part of everyday life at camp. When most people think of summer camps they envision staff between the ages of, roughly, 18 and 22. And while I would contend that our college-aged staff are the envy of the camping world, I would also say that “our secret sauce” is our senior staff—those in their 40s through their 80s. In this issue of the Northwest Wind we put a spotlight on four veteran staff whose mentoring makes us wiser and whose role-modeling keeps us youthful.

Together, Dave “Doc” Bourdelais (Temagami), Doug “Red” Dows (Dunmore and KEEC), Tanya McCubbin (Temagami and Ojibway), and Sally Thomas (Dunmore and Songadeewin) have logged over 100 years on staff. I think that qualifies them in the category of senior staff. Though these four stand out for reasons that you will read about, they are not anomalies. This summer we expect 30 staff with ten or more years on staff at Dunmore, 14 at Songadeewin, and 13 at Temagami. Having such experience is good for obvious reasons: They bring deep knowledge, perspective, and wisdom. But just as importantly, they model youthfulness as something that doesn't have to fade away once you start to get gray hair. Youth is an attitude that knows no bounds of age. As Mark Twain was alleged to have said, “Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.” These four, as well as the other senior staff at our camps, are a true gift to our campers and our young staff. And, of course, the young folks are a gift to them too. There are very few scenarios where 10-year-olds, 20-year-olds, and 60-year-olds get to hang out together all summer. It is a magical thing—one of the most special parts of Keewaydin.

It is a good thing we have had a lot of perspective and wisdom, along with youthful energy, these past two years among our staff to help us cope with this pandemic. Covid is still keeping us on our toes, but we remain optimistic about camp this spring and summer. KEEC plans to open in April for Vermont school groups for the first time since the pandemic began. With the Canadian border open, Temagami will welcome back campers to once again explore the wilderness of Canada, as well as guests to enjoy the Northwoods at Ojibway. Dunmore and Songadeewin, open in 2021, also look forward to another joyful summer. It is hard to know at this point exactly what special protocols will be needed by June, but we have already announced that staff and campers need to be vaccinated before camp. Whatever we are faced with, we will be ready.

Finally, a thanks to all current parents and staff, as well as former campers and staff, for your support throughout the year, be it hosting an open house, volunteering at a work weekend, or making a donation. Your commitment to Keewaydin provides the kind of inspiration that keep us young at heart as well!

Keewaydinly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete".

Pete Hare



### BOARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

#### FAREWELL!

Keewaydin Foundation staff and board members bid farewell to five trustees at its October, 2021 board meeting. They are:

A forty-year relationship with Keewaydin amply prepared **Tom Gluck '80** for his six years of service on the Keewaydin Foundation Board of Trustees. Tom's experiences as a Keewaydin Dunmore alumnus and parent to campers at both Keewaydin Dunmore and Songadeewin lent themselves to a keen understanding of the camps and their programs. A casual conversation with Pete Hare one mid-season weekend about the placement of soon-to-be-planted trees on the Annwi campus led to his joining the board in 2015. As chair of the Dunmore and Songadeewin Site Committee, his architecture and design background has helped transform our campuses through some of our biggest projects—The Patch Lodge, the Moos cabins, “The Barn,” “The Lolly,” and the Temagami Master Plan. Tom has clearly left his mark on our camps!



Tom Gluck

**Garrett Kephart '95** attended Keewaydin Temagami as a camper from 1995 to 1998, and served on trip staff for 19 years. He joined the board in 2014, and during his seven years, he served as chair of the Temagami Site Committee (now the Temagami and Ojibway Site Committee), was a member of Development Committee and the ad hoc Diversity Committee, and he also served on the most recent Temagami Director Search Committee. The combination of Garrett's acute business acumen, ability to think strategically, and his deep reverence for Keewaydin's traditions and the beauty and simplicity of its programs were invaluable to his service and accomplishments as a board member.



Garrett Kephart

Keewaydin Dunmore alumnus and former staff **Daniel Kunkle '71** completed his 10-year tenure as a member of the Keewaydin Foundation Board of Trustees in October, 2021. Dan previously served on the board from 2001 to 2008. During his most recent tenure with the board, Dan served as chair of the Nominating Committee, as well as on the Temagami and Ojibway Site Committees. In 2014, he was elected to the position of vice president of the board, and in 2018 was elected president, a position he held through October, 2020. Bringing perspective, wisdom, and levity with his understated sense of humor, Dan has been an indispensable leader to the Keewaydin Foundation during his tenure on the board.



Daniel Kunkle

**Louise Lampton P'08** served on the board from November, 2015 through October, 2021. Louise is the spouse of former Keewaydin Temagami staffman, Dr. Luke Lampton, and parent of Keewaydin Temagami alumni, Garland '09 and Crawford '08. Both sons have served on trip staff and Crawford will return for the summer of 2022. Throughout her tenure on the board, Louise served on the Temagami and Ojibway Site Committee, including two years as chair. She also served on the ad hoc Devil's Island Site Committee which created a multi-year facilities Master Plan prioritizing the upgrade and upkeep of Devil's Island's physical assets over the next 10 years. Louise's advocacy for Keewaydin comes from a very deep personal connection: her family has been a part of Keewaydin and Ojibway for five generations, ranging from her great grandmother's residency at Ojibway to her own children's time as campers and staff.



Louise Lampton

**Tori Robertson P'00** wrapped up seven years of service as a trustee, effective October, 2021. A skilled fundraiser, communicator, and strategic thinker, Tori's relationship with Keewaydin began when her oldest son, Graham, first attended Keewaydin Dunmore in 2000. Son Ian '02 also

attended Keewaydin Dunmore, and daughters Sarah '01 and Elizabeth '04 attended Songadeewin. Three of her children went on to serve as camp staff, and all have served as volunteers for Keewaydin. Tori served on the Development Committee during her entire time on the board, including as chair of the committee from 2018 to 2021. Tori was a guide and mentor to two directors of development, and was the driving force in board-related fundraising activities. She was hugely instrumental in leading the board's fundraising effort to eliminate the Covid-related debt which resulted from the closure of all camps during summer 2020. She also served as chair of the Nominating Committee. The Keewaydin Foundation is stronger for her service and we give our heartfelt thanks.



*Tori Robertson*

## WELCOME!

The Keewaydin Foundation welcomed three new board members at its October, 2021 board meeting. They are:

**Bright Dickson '00** first attended the fledgling girls' program at Keewaydin Temagami when she was 17 years old. It didn't take long for her to fall in love with tripping: the rhythm of the day, the silliness, the difficulty overcome only by teamwork and willpower. About three weeks in, she says, "something in me cracked and I became fully dedicated to the Keewaydin experience and ethos." She returned to Keewaydin the next summer as an assistant, and for ten years served as a staff member where she led "pretty much every section available, including four long trips into Manitoba, Quebec, and Nunavik." Bright holds a BA from Columbia, and a MA in Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her work experience includes six years with the University of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army to train officers and NCOs in the skills of psychological resilience. In 2015, she shifted into the financial world to work with business leaders at the BB&T Leadership Institute. Today she is a consultant for Truist Financial, leading the development of a new culture rooted in Truist's purpose to inspire and build better lives and communities.



*Bright Dickson*

**Christopher Seeley P'17** was first introduced to Keewaydin Dunmore as a parent in 2017, when his son, Crawford, enrolled as a Wiantinaug camper. A native New Yorker, Chris attended the Groton School and Bowdoin College. Upon graduating from Bowdoin in 1994, he worked for over a decade in a variety of roles on the faculty at Groton, culminating his time there in the position of dean of faculty. After earning a master's degree in private school leadership from Teachers College, Klingenstein Institute in 2007, he remained in New York at Trevor Day School until 2013, holding a number of leadership positions, including assistant head of school of the School for Strategic Initiatives. Chris moved to Pennsylvania for several years to be the assistant head of school and director of academics at Church Farm School, but returned to New York again when he was recently appointed head of school at Saint Thomas Choir School. Knowledgeable and well-regarded in independent school networks nationally, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Boarding Schools, a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference Steering Committee of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, and a recipient of the NAIS Aspiring Heads Fellowship. Chris and his wife Staci have two kids in college and reside in New York City. His daughter Camille is a senior at Pomona, and his son, Crawford, is a senior at St. Thomas Choir School.



*Christopher Seeley*

**Jim Sperber '77** attended Keewaydin Dunmore from 1977 to 1982, a six year run as a camper, culminating in being honored with the Sid Negus award during his 2nd year of Wiantinaug. Jim says, "The Sid Negus meant more to me than any other award I'd ever received. Being recognized for friendship and helping the other fellow altered the way I thought about myself and my place in the world." Jim graduated from Colgate University and holds an MFA in film/video from the California Institute of the Arts. Currently, Jim is a working artist and art specialist at the Barrow Street Nursery School where he's developed the art curriculum for the past ten years. "I'm frequently inspired by the whimsy and creativity of my students," he says. Jim lives and works in New York City with his wife, Corey, and their three Keewaydin Dunmore camper/artists, Leo '16, Sammy '17, and Oscar '21.



*Jim Sperber*

## KEEC UPDATE

by Tim Tadlock '97



As many of you know, due to the pandemic we were unable to run the KEEC program for a second year at our campus on Lake Dunmore. Despite our residential programs being temporarily halted, KEEC staff were able to engage with schools across Vermont. During the spring of 2021, a few dedicated KEEC staff were enlisted to travel to some of the schools which ordinarily attend the program on our campus, to do outreach at each of the schools' respective properties.

While most of the KEEC curriculum is "place-based" and is designed to focus on the unique habitats and rich history that exist around Lake Dunmore, we were able to implement many of our KEEC investigations (lessons) at each of the individual school campuses we visited. Many of these schools already have unique outdoor classrooms and forested areas for which we were able to quickly adapt our investigations to fit their respective locations and differing habitats and landscapes.



*Dara Aber-Ferri '13, former KEEC Assistant Director, who served on staff at KEEC for over 10 seasons, shown teaching an investigation in 2018*

Over the course of five weeks, we visited eight different schools and were successful at presenting KEEC-style investigations in which we studied forested landscapes, tested the health of local wetland habitats, and identified bird species and adaptations, as well as a series of investigations that focused on unique aspects of Vermont's native inhabitants and early settlers to the region.

While it was not quite the same for the students as having the opportunity to come and visit the campus on Lake Dunmore for a whole week, we were successfully able to deliver a small slice of the KEEC experience for the students we visited. It was a unique opportunity for many of us to take our message on the road and visit the campuses of the schools that typically come to stay with us. My KEEC staff and I had a chance to connect with students on a different level and to learn about their "homes." We were able to see what their communities are like, and we had the opportunity to make a connection with the students in a new way. And for me and my staff, that experience was equally as valuable as having the kids come to KEEC!

This coming spring we have many schools that are scheduled and eager to participate in KEEC on Lake Dunmore. As we anticipate the arrival of students back on our campus, we know there will be some challenges. As we all learn to manage a safe environment for the students, teachers, and staff, we are prepared to adapt to meet any challenges that arise. If ongoing safety concerns become unmanageable and we are unable to have students come and join the KEEC community on our turf, then we will make every effort to reach out and again engage with them on theirs!





Ojibway Family Lodge  
*Devil's Island, Lake Temagami, Ontario*

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## OJIBWAY UPDATE

by Tanya McCubbin '95



Summer is right around the corner. I know this from the number of messages and phone calls I have received in the past few months about bookings at Ojibway Family Lodge, and from the increase in the communications I exchange with Emily Schoelzel. These conversations signal the shift from thinking abstractly about 2022 to much more concrete activities like ordering food and supplies and hiring staff. This year feels different from 2021, and I am very optimistic about the summer. We plan to open all accommodations at Ojibway Family Lodge and run at 100% capacity.

Due to the Canada/US border closure, Keewaydin could not operate in the summer of 2021—for the second year in a row. We missed seeing our camper families and hosting Midseason and Endseason. Likewise, we missed our Ojibway regulars from “the States,” who have come for many years—and in some cases for many generations—but were unable to cross the border last summer. We were pleased to see interest and enthusiasm from newcomers, and we welcomed mostly “new” guests, the majority of whom are residents of Ontario. It was encouraging to see first-time visitors appreciate the place we all love, and we were glad to be able to have a full summer with guests—despite Covid!

We were fortunate to have Emily Schoelzel, with her husband, Dylan, and their family, along with John Frazier and his partner Emily Schademan, join us for two months to help move some critical projects forward. At the top of the list was installing new septic systems for several Ojibway cabins. Dave Wilfong, maintenance director, managed the digging with the help of a mini-excavator, while Dylan and John ran what felt like miles of hose from many Ojibway cabins to the Ecoflo septic field. Much painting, cutting of firewood, burning of brush, and many tasks critical to getting Ojibway ready for guests were accomplished in June and throughout the summer! Kay Chornook resumed her position as head cook in the Ojibway kitchen, where she was joined by Jeff Robinson, who had spent many years working in the Keewaydin kitchen.

We implemented some changes in 2021 that will become part of our standard operating procedures. The electronic device charging station moved from the dining room to the lodge, where it will remain. There are some new fire rings to enjoy outdoor campfires near the cabins, and guests can ask Lisa in the store for s'mores kits to enjoy around their campfires. There will be a few more regularly scheduled activities this summer as well, such as some fishing derbies, campfires in front of the lodge, and movie nights with popcorn. The dining room had some significant changes last summer—tables were cut in half and the benches were replaced with chairs. We will keep the smaller tables with chairs which should mean that we are able to increase the seating capacity this summer. I am hopeful that Louise and I will be able to join our guests for meals again this summer, but if Covid restrictions and case numbers don't allow it, we will again help with serving in the dining room. We anticipate some of the current public health requirements will remain for the foreseeable future, including the need for all of our guests to be fully vaccinated.

The Ojibway kitchen delivered an endless stream of beautiful and delicious meals last summer, and we anticipate fantastic culinary offerings this summer as well. Much of our produce and eggs came from a farm in New Liskeard. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Brubacher's again. This summer, Kay, our veteran head cook of many years, will be back in the kitchen. Her talent, combined with the local and fresh ingredients we are now able to get to the island, will surely make mealtimes even more of a highlight of our guests' time on the lake.

We are eager to host the Alumni Family Reunion again this summer, from July 7 to July 11. We missed celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dan Carpenter's first trip to Hudson Bay for the last two years, but we will do so this summer. We especially welcome the 1970, 1971, and 1972 Bay trippers for a weekend full of reminiscing, camaraderie, and reconnecting with section mates and Lake Temagami. I am confident we will have room to welcome more alumni as well, so please be in touch if you would like to attend, regardless of when you last paddled a green canoe.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our favorite people again this summer, as well as meeting new camper families and guests. We know that many of our regular guests are as eager to return to Lake Temagami as we are to see them, and we are excited to welcome our new Canadian guests back again as well. We can't wait to greet you all on the dock!



*A guest at the Devil's Mountain lookout near Ojibway Family Lodge*



The ongoing maintenance of our camp facilities is an unrelenting task requiring persistence, attention, intelligence, and ingenuity. There are 96 buildings on the combined campuses of Keewaydin Dunmore and Songadeewin, and nearly 90 on Devil's Island between Keewaydin Temagami and Ojibway Family Lodge. And this doesn't include woodsheds, washstands, tent platforms, canoe racks, lean-tos, etc. The facilities include everything ranging from historic buildings—the oldest building on Devil's Island was built in 1906—to state-of-the-art, modern solar arrays and water filtration systems, to year-round offices. There is never a lull in the ongoing stewardship of our facilities and the maintenance required to keep them ready for campers each summer. If you would like to learn more about how you can help us cover the cost of improvements to our facilities, please let us know!

### KEEWAYDIN DUNMORE AND SONGADEEWIN

At the VT camps, the maintenance crew—called “York House” and led by the brilliant, experienced, and resourceful Director of Facilities Lee Randlett—is a multi-talented group of workers, some seasonal, with skills that run the gamut from design to carpentry and from welding to plumbing. They paint, plow the snow, plant the grass, and then they mow it. They can replace a roof or a rotting floor. They are problem solvers, they are physically strong, and they are flexible in spirit and in body. During the dark days of winter, Lee often flies “solo,” working behind the scenes, pencil tucked behind one ear, constantly assessing the condition of the buildings and grounds, planning for the return of “my guys.” When the days grow longer and the ground thaws, the full crew returns to the York House; they give each other an affectionate slap on the back, swap a few stories...and then, they get to work.



*Lee Randlett (center) and the 2021 York House Crew*

The most significant project at **Keewaydin Dunmore** this off-season has been the construction of a new Storage Cabin for winter tent storage and summer camper luggage storage. The previous cabin used for this purpose—known as the “Chef’s Cabin”—was undersized, rodent damaged, and not ideally designed for the camp’s needs. Pete Hare, Lee Randlett and Red Dows, and Victoria Gutfreund designed the new building, which will be a great improvement. Additionally, at the McPhee Health Center, a new concrete basement floor was poured and part of the floor on the main floor was replaced after dampness dry-rotted portions of the floor joists. All the wood is now entombed in spray foam insulation, and a wider entrance to the basement will allow for the storage of bulkier items like sail boats. Smaller projects included replacing some roofs on several smaller structures, painting, and various repairs to buildings.

Looking ahead, this year on the Keewaydin campus, the oil burner on the “Big Fort” will be replaced with a propane heater, completing the transition from oil to propane. Also, the Multi-House shingles will be replaced (costing a whopping \$45,000). Many other projects are being planned as well.

At **Songadeewin**, the work focused below ground—phase one of a project that will extend for several years. Near the girls’ cabins on the east side, aging “Orangeburg” pipes (constructed out of wood fiber and tar) were replaced with PVC pipe, and grey water holding

areas were dug up and replaced with sewage tanks. Additionally, a portion of the kitchen floor in the Fraser Dining Hall was replaced after water leaked from the sinks caused floor damage.

Songadeewin is grappling with an ever-increasing need for housing for employees with small children. (This is particularly true as staff members who were campers in the first 10 years of camp are now returning as summer employees, accompanied by their families.) At the same time eight cabin roofs need to be replaced. In addition, with the 2019 acquisition of the East Cottage and land on the eastern border of our property, site work (planting, parking, and fencing) needs to be completed to integrate the new property into the campus.

## KEEWAYDIN TEMAGAMI AND OJIBWAY FAMILY LODGE

At **Temagami**, the director of maintenance has historically been a year-round caretaker, who lives on the island to watch over the grounds during the winter—shoveling snow off roofs and check on buildings. In the summers, this jack-of-all-trades maintenance person is the go-to problem solver during the bustle of the summer at both ends of the island. The job is enormous, from testing the drinking water, to emptying septic tanks, to building cabins, to changing the oil on the outboard motors, etc. At any given moment, the director of maintenance is pulled in 10 different directions on a 50-acre island. The remoteness of the facilities on Devil's Island poses its own challenges and makes getting materials especially difficult. It takes a special person to lead the charge. The current director of maintenance is Dave Wilfong, who, after seven years with Keewaydin, will be leaving the position at the end of the spring of 2022 to pursue his next chapter. He will be missed, but his contributions to the camp will endure for generations!



*Dave Wilfong timber framing the Mojag cabin bedroom*

Last year, maintenance items included the replacement of very old septic holding tanks at five Ojibway cabins, lots of painting, repair of damaged screens and broken windows, repair to the tree-damaged Keewaydin shower house roof, the removal of many downed trees, improvements to the Keewaydin kitchen staff housing, structural reinforcement of the Keewaydin lodge porch, and cabin foundation repair. In addition, a punch-list of myriad small items was tackled last summer around the island, with the intention of being one step closer to welcoming campers back to the island again in 2022.

Looking forward, we endeavor to preserve the buildings on the island and, where appropriate, construct new buildings which will serve the current program and be in keeping with the camp's aesthetic. Upcoming projects include adding new camper cabins to the girls' wigwam, updating shower house facilities, and building new staff housing. Much of what needs to be done is preservation of the buildings we currently have, such as the restoration of several historic buildings, including the Keewaydin office and shop—two iconic structures that would be recognizable to any Keewaydin tripper since 1916. The upkeep and maintenance of the facilities at Keewaydin Temagami—and indeed at all of our camps—is the stewardship of our history.







# GIVE THE GIFT OF A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE!



Now you can give a child the gift of Keewaydin or Songadeewin!

Establish a Term Scholarship, an annual award to fund one full scholarship or partial scholarships for two campers.

See your gift at work. Keewaydin will send you a personalized report so you can see exactly how your Term Scholarship “helps the other fellow.”



To learn more about how to establish your Term Scholarship, please contact Mary Welz at [mary@keewaydin.org](mailto:mary@keewaydin.org) or 802-352-4247.



Here are some of our favorite scenes from 2019 and 2021  
**Bring on summer 2022!**



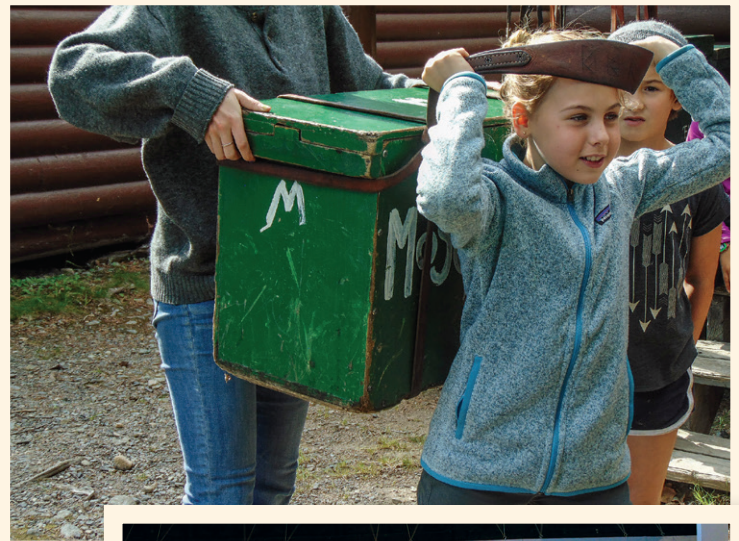
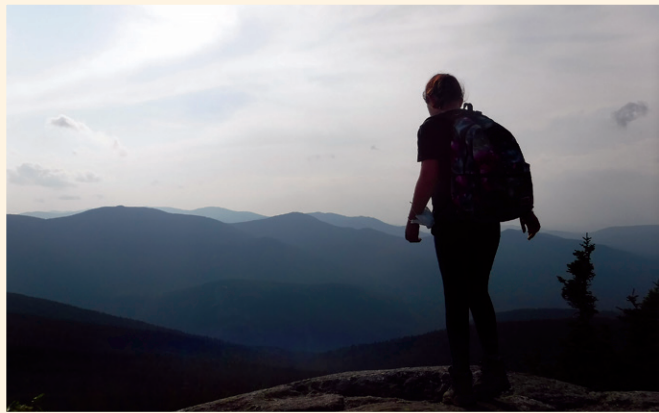















# Our Senior Staff

THE ENDURING STEWARDS OF  
**THE KEEWAYDIN WAY**







**K**eewaydin's camps each have their share of characters who loom large on the pages of the camp histories and in the stories still told around campfires, and on long paddles and hikes. Many of these staff, whose names are often repeated, were integral to the formation, success, and longevity of the camps; in many cases their commitment spanned multiple decades. Over the years the camps have greatly benefited from these figures, whose enduring presence, among other things, has lent wisdom, continuity, experience, and an intergenerational aspect to the programs. There are many senior staff currently at our camps, whose presence is similarly invaluable today. In this issue of the Northwest Wind, we feature four of these current senior staff: "Red" Dows from Dunmore and KEEC, Sally Thomas from Dunmore and Songadeewin, Tanya McCubbin from Temagami and Ojibway, and "Doc" Bourdelais from Temagami.

These four people, referred to here as "senior staff" because of their many years of ongoing service to our camps, have secured a place in the hearts and memories of the people, young and old, whose lives have been positively impacted by their actions. From these senior staff members, young boys and girls, women and men, have learned what it means to be loyal, responsible, caring, to fully understand the link between hard work and success, and to trust in the "Help The Other Fellow" and "Strong of Heart" ethos of our camps.

One could easily write a book about each of these four senior staff respectively. The text of each would be a rich tapestry, woven of countless stories from their time at camp, the contributions they have made over their careers, the innumerable campers and younger staff whose experiences they shaped, and the qualities they possess that make them such invaluable assets. While the scant space here to write about each is far from commensurate with the value they bring to camp, we hope to cast a spotlight—ever so briefly—on each of these staff members, to honor them and the other current senior staff.

One central theme throughout each of these articles is this: Songadeewin, Dunmore, Temagami, Ojibway, and KEEC are richer for the dedication of those staff who not only believe deeply in the place and the people, but who return year after year to be the enduring stewards of the "Keewaydin Way." Our gratitude for all they have done, and continue to do for Keewaydin knows no bounds.



# Red Dows

## Keewaydin Dunmore and KEEC

*by Mary Welz '19*

J. Douglas “Red” Dows is a complex man. And like many complex people, he questions everything, is naturally curious, flexible, and not dependent on social constructs to dictate how he should live his life. He is confident, but not overconfident, creative, intelligent, and a bit of a maverick. He can come off as curmudgeon...but his laugh (frequently described as “a cackle”) reveals his lighter side and underlying playfulness. He loves to tell stories, and he laughs as hard as his attentive audience at the punch lines. He listens to little kids with an intensity that is startling and respectful, and he listens to “big kids” with an openness and sensitivity that is grounded in high regard to the frailty of the human experience.

He is a jokester: his “Spit-Spitter” character has captured the imaginations and funny-bones of “kids” aged 8 to 88. His famous “frog hat” that he dons for frog exploration day is the envy of his peers and inspiration for the youth who eagerly await his instructions, their breath held in anticipation of a Red-driven adventure. He is “the doctor of nature,” inspiring scores of budding naturalists from Vermont to Manhattan, and all over the world. He is patient yet firm as he teaches eight year-olds how to safely carve simple figurines with sharp knives. He has led wigwam after wigwam on deep crawls through the muck of dark secretive swamps, teaching them the wonders of the natural world. He is relentless in his pursuit of doing things better and more efficiently, particularly in the setting up and dismantling of camp. He is frugal, and he is generous: He buys gloves for camp staff, scours TSA-confiscated-items sales for quality knives to pass onto staffmen for use on their trips, and acquires used outdoor clothing which he trades “up” at the local Outdoor Gear Exchange to pass onto kids and staff whose budget won’t allow the purchase of high-end, high-performance outdoor gear.

He is a renaissance man, the kind of staff member that it would take five employees to replace. He loves Keewaydin and reveres its traditions. He loves dogs and he loves people—especially kids.

From the time he was four until he graduated from high school, Red lived in Paoli, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia. As a student with undiagnosed dyslexia and its associated symptoms, Red struggled in school and lived in the shadow of his eldest, beloved brother, David, whom Red describes as a genius: “he made his own computers in the early 70s!” When he attended Lockhaven University, Red flourished; he was given the responsibility of dorm counselor in his sophomore year, was elected treasurer of the student body in his junior year, and in his senior year was elected to the prestigious role of president of the student body. After graduating from college, he organized a student union that, by the time he left one year later, had 10,000 members, and he worked as a lobbyist for students in the Pennsylvania legislature. He then enrolled at the University of Vermont where he obtained a MA in organizational development and human resources.

Red’s uncle, Arthur Justin Dows, served as an assistant to Waboos Hare in the 1930s, and it is through this connection that Red approached Waboos for a position at Keewaydin Dunmore. Beginning in 1971, in addition to teaching swimming, he served as a staffman in Annwi, and later moved into Waramaug and eventually Wiantinaug. He also worked at KEEC for several years where his passion for teaching kids about nature was sparked. He did a three-year stint as a farm laborer at McBride Farm in Panton, Vermont, and taught PE at Vergennes High School for six years before moving to the Vermont Department of Education, where he served in multiple positions over 22 years, including, in his final years, as the director of Safe and Healthy Schools.

***“Red never stops being creative, inventive, or finding new ways of doing things.”***

In 2010, Red approached Pete Hare and asked to rejoin the staff at Keewaydin. Red’s vision of his future with the camp? “I had two goals: to be a tent staffman and take kids on a trip.” Pete, however, had other ideas; the exploration program was in need of a new leader and an infusion of fresh energy. Pete knew that Red was the best person to lead the exploration program, even though Red had never formally taught environmental education beyond his tenure at KEEC almost 30 years before. But it took some convincing. Red says that he eventually took the position because, “it was a challenge...and out of my respect for Pete and Waboos.”

What Red managed to do with the exploration program will go down in the pages of Keewaydin Dunmore’s history



*Red in his frog hat, at the lagoon, sharing his passion for frog exploration day*

as miraculous. He approached the task of revitalizing the program with fresh eyes, intense concentration, and a deep understanding of the Keewaydin ethos. It was a huge undertaking for Red that required hundreds of hours of self-study and research, and the development of a curriculum that fit into the rhythms of camp life. His pursuit of new and interesting learning activities is never-ending. According to Pete Hare, “Red never stops being creative, inventive, or finding new ways of doing things. He uses the lagoon as a staple, and when he comes to the activity circle with his frog hat, you just know that everyone in the wigwam will join in the adventure that he has planned for them that day. He shows the kids where snakes like to live, how to identify animal tracks, and make cord out of plants. One year, he got campers involved in an archeological dig for a building project on the Keewaydin campus. He dovetailed his curriculum with the development of Keewaydin’s Forest Management Plan, explaining timber harvesting, and taking campers to the mill where the lumber would be processed. One year he did a knife-making activity, helping the kids forge blades at camp. He is always thinking of new things to do to enliven his exploration program.”

Keewaydin alumnus Tom Vorenberg ’71, who originally worked with Red at KEEC and later at Keewaydin, describes Red’s approach to learning as “once he gets his mental hooks into something, he doesn’t let go.” His hard work paid off and the exploration program flourished under his leadership. Tom’s wife, Amy, notes, “people may think of camp as a place to come and play, but not necessarily a place to get smarter. Red does an extraordinary job of helping kids to become experts on what it means to live in nature, and he does it in such a playful way that the kids fall in love with the material and wisdom he shares. That’s a gift that he has.” Keewaydin former staff member and Dunmore parent Rob Alberts ’80 describes Red as consummate

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teacher. “I think it’s important for him to pass on and share his knowledge and passion for things—it’s what he has done his whole life.”

The trip to the swamp is a yearly pilgrimage that campers eagerly await, the tales of previous years’ pursuits are the fodder of late night tent conversations. The swamp, simply put by all who venture into its murky depths, is “just plain scary.” (Red, too, echoes this sentiment.) It’s dark, it’s buggy, and you find yourself encountering all sorts of new, alien creatures and plant life. It’s a pivotal experience for the campers, too. According to staffman Stephen Hildreth ’80, “the kids return from the swamp with a new confidence, covered to their earlobes in mud, and grinning from ear to ear.” Steve believes that it’s experiences like those that prompt alumni to say, “I attended the best camp—ever.”

It’s not just the kids whose lives have been profoundly influenced by Red Dows. Staff consider him a mentor and a teacher, a skilled colleague who models commitment to all things Keewaydin and who approaches his work creatively and enthusiastically, with high standards, and yes, a sense of humor. They watch how he engages kids in the exploration program, and observe how he meets the kids on their own level. Staff consider him to be an intentional, wise,



*Red on staff at Dunmore 1975*

and caring colleague, who is devoted to provide the best experience possible for the campers.

Red’s many skills and talents are put to good use, especially on the pre-season and post-season work crews, considered to be “coveted positions” by staff. With engineer-like precision, Red will teach the staff how to set up the canvas tents that will house campers and staff for the summer. He will teach crew members how to secure flies and equipment with such finesse that, by the end of pre-season preparations, their knot-tying skills will be at a craftsman level, to then be eagerly passed onto other staff and campers in the following weeks. Under Red’s watchful eyes, they will learn to become stewards of the “stuff” that is part of the everyday life of camp, checking for wear and tear, and assuring that everything is in tip-top working order. At the end of the summer, they will repeat the process in reverse, with a reverence and respect in their actions, consistent with the “leave your campsite better than you found it” motto of Keewaydin.

Angus Barstow ’11, a 10-year veteran of the Keewaydin staff, describes Red as a fearless leader, more so than ever as he leads the work crew. “This is manual labor that is hard, and it has to be done in pounding heat and in the pouring rain. A number of us have done it for many years in a row and have worked with Red closely. Things can go wrong, and the work can be frustrating. But Red has a way of keeping morale up and keeping everyone laughing, including at their own foibles. He studies what we are doing, and each year improves the quality and efficiency of our work.”

Red says that it’s the relationships with the staff and kids that keep him coming back year after year. When asked what he hopes that people say about him as a senior staffman, Red stops for a moment to think. “I hope they say that they felt valued in my presence. I hope they say that I am fair, and open-minded and a good listener.”

From the perspective of those who know Red, he left something important out...he is, and will always be, remembered as the consummate teacher. Like the great staff members who have gone before him, his life-long curiosity, deep passion for learning, unquenchable desire to explore new ways to engage his “students,” young and old alike, yield the stories and knowledge that have become part of Keewaydin lore.

Now, if he would only tell us where we can get our own frog hat.







# Sally Thomas

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## Dunmore and Songadeewin

*by Mary Welz '19*

When parents send their kids to camp, they want to feel confident that the people to whom they are entrusting their child will keep them safe, and affirm, encourage, and interact with them using sensitivity and compassion. They want to see staff who are role models—the types of people they’d want their kids to grow up to become. And they want someone they know they can count on to put their child first. Sally Thomas is a shining example of that.

In everything she does, Sally Thomas shows that she “always, always put the kids first.” Campers and staff respect and admire her willingness to go above and beyond to support the Songa campers as they obtain their “coups.” According to Songadeewin Director Ellen Flight, “Sally understands that the coup system is how we teach the kids that they have choices, and to use the daily choices they are given to achieve their personal goals. She will bend over backwards to keep kids on track to obtain their coup. At the same time, she is totally up front with the kids that they ultimately own whether or not they will be successful. In the end, the sense of pride and accomplishment that campers experience upon achieving a coup is felt by Sally.”

Songadeewin camper Tyler Mannelly '15 says that Sally is “always there” for any girl wishing to obtain her coup. “This summer, I went for two expert coups in sailing and riflery, and my ‘S.’ Without Sally’s help, I wouldn’t have been able to achieve these coups.” Noting that Sally monitors the progress of 100+ girls who are all trying to achieve one or more coups at the same time, alumna Meredith Blanchard '12 wrote, “It takes a ton of coordination and effort to get enough activity periods for four experts organized, but Sally is always on top of it.”

Sally first attended Songadeewin in 1970 when it was on Lake Willoughby, VT—Songa’s location from 1921-1975. Sally attended Songadeewin on Willoughby for five years, where she crossed paths with Ellen Flight who was also attending Songa at the time. In August 1979, during the summer between her sophomore and

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junior year at Duke University, Sally travelled to Keewaydin Dunmore to pick up her brother Jim Margolin '66, who was leading long trips as a staffman. Jim had given Abby Fenn a heads up that Sally was coming to campus and mentioned that she would make a “great bookkeeper” for Keewaydin. The following summer, Sally took on the seasonal role, a position which she held for two years. She and Ellen Flight, who was running the Keewaydin Wangan Room at that time, became good friends during those two summers—the origins of a friendship that has only deepened over the past 40 years.

Intelligent and competent, after graduating from college, Sally went on to George Washington University and obtained her MBA in 1981. She then went to work in a marketing position for AT&T, and rose through the ranks before taking a position with a financial services organization. She served on the Keewaydin Foundation Board of Trustees from 1997-2001, concluding her services shortly before the birth of her daughter Hannah Thomas '09.

Ellen and Sally stayed in close contact, and when Hannah reached the age of seven and could attend camp, Ellen called her old friend to ask her to come work as “camp mom.” In that role she brought campers to doctor’s appointments, watched out for and supported younger campers during their early days of learning the rhythm of camp life, made sure there was extra bathroom tissue on the shelves, and lent an ear to a staff person struggling with a camper or a personal challenge. She held that position for a summer and a half before becoming the longhouse leader of Wabasso, which she continued through 2015. In 2016, she stepped into the important role of head of

program, previously filled by Sally Stoll, who also attended Songadeewin on Lake Willoughby in the 1960s, and who served as head of program for Songa from 2007-2015. Observing Sally Thomas’s work right out the gate as the new program director, Sally Stoll told us, “It was amazing to see what she accomplished in such a short time during her first year as head of program. She brought a good balance to decision-making and is a big picture person. Her experiences and organizational skills prepared her for the position, but it was her care for the campers and staff—and her desire to make their time at camp as productive and interesting and fun as possible—that was at the heart of all she said and did.”

Sally has served as a mentor to campers and staff alike. Songadeewin staff member and Songa Leadership Team member Kempley Bryant '08—whose daughters Bethany and Helena both attended Songadeewin starting in '08, and whose son Ben '10 attended Keewaydin Dunmore—has worked at Songadeewin for last 14 years and holds Sally in the highest regard. “Sally is someone I can go to during the most intense times, and especially when I just need someone to talk to; she will drop whatever she is working on and turn her full attention on me. Like all good leaders, she is great at listening, offering advice and feedback, when I ask for it.”

Current campers, alumni, and staff all talked about “Sally’s laugh,” which is heard regularly around the Songadeewin campus throughout each summer. That laugh points to a person who can see the humor in just about everything, and can lend a grounded perspective to any situation. Longhouse leader and Songa Leadership Team member Jenn Hare '99 told us that “as a staff member, and especially on the leadership team, we deal with serious issues. Sally is great at softening the tension in the room with humor. Sometimes, you just need that.”

While she can diffuse even the tensest situation with ease, Sally takes her leadership role seriously. Jenn told us, “Sally is serious when needed, and is really thoughtful when it comes time for us to make decisions. She sticks to her beliefs when she feels strongly about something, which exemplifies the strength of her character and her willingness to stay true to her values.”



*Sally working in the Dunmore office in 1981*

Sometimes it's the simplest things that can have the greatest impact on a camper. During her 14 years at Songadeewin, Sally has been perennially re-certified as a Red Cross lifeguard, which allows her to fill in on the waterfront as needed. It's not something that is part of her job description but she does it year after year. Observant and caring, she spends extra time with young girls who come to camp never having gone swimming. Just like those young girls, she understands that passing the swim test is the key to being allowed on a canoe trip. She'll go out of the way to spend extra time helping that girl improve her swimming skills.

Kempley Bryant noted that Sally "puts her heart into everything she does at Songadeewin, and willingly so. She is a professional, doesn't cut corners, and makes it her mission to be sure that the kids and staff are happy. Camp is where you go with the flow, you have to be flexible and mindful of everything going on around you. In the morning, she'll hand staff a schedule for the day, and then it will start to rain, and she has to re-do everything. It can be a grind and is a thankless job. Songadeewin staff value her and her devotion to keep us and the campers doing a mix of fun, engaging activities."

One of the activities that Sally is famous for is "Bananagrams," a word game consisting of small tiles with letters on them. The goal is to use all of your letters to build a word grid in a race to the finish. The first player to use all of their tiles is crowned "Top Banana." Meredith Blanchard wrote to us to share how that simple game, with Sally's support, was a turning point for her. "I recall one week in particular where I was assigned to Sally's table. She is known for her affinity for the game Bananagrams, so naturally at the end of the first meal she brought out a bag of letter tiles so that we could play. I was nervous about the game because the other girls at the table were older and I didn't think I could keep up. Sally did not let me wallow in my lack of confidence and offered to play the first few rounds together. She gave me tips and advice at first, but eventually I was making all of the words myself without even realizing. Sally helped me feel confident and capable enough to play this game with even the oldest girls at camp—this was thanks to Sally's confidence in my abilities and willingness to support me in leaving my comfort zone."

Sally cherishes her roles as head of program and a member of the Songadeewin Leadership Team. She cherishes the friendships she has made along the way, and is so grateful



*Sally's laugh, a mainstay of a Songa summer*

for her summers with Songadeewin campers. "I genuinely love walking around the campus and seeing the kids have such a great time. I love talking to them. The little ones especially crack me up. It is such a treat to see them grow and mature over the years. Last summer was especially sweet as I watched the girls I had known since they were eight prepare for their big trip. The night before they left, I wrote

them each a personal letter, sharing my pride in them and their accomplishments, and offering words of encouragement for the long trip ahead. I was unprepared for how moving it would be to think about the growth of these young women over the years. I

feel proud and honored to have been part of their path to maturity."

It is staff members like Sally who instill the confidence that parents feel towards Keewaydin's camps. They understand that it is special people, like Sally, who will teach their daughters some of the greatest lessons they will ever learn. Some of these campers will return to Songadeewin as adults, ready to take on a new roll, this time as a member of staff. There they will pay forward the lesson that they learned, first hand, from Sally Thomas: "always, always put the kids first."







# Tanya McCubbin

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## Keewaydin Temagami and Ojibway Family Lodge

*by John Frazier '96*

Like others who have spent considerable time at Keewaydin, Tanya McCubbin has had many different roles during her 20 years, and as she says, “has had her fingers in lots of different pies,” which, for her, has been both figuratively and very much literally the case. Her career on Devil’s Island has spanned both ends of the island, from second cook in the Keewaydin kitchen, to head cook, summer accountant, kitchen staff hiring manager, camper parent, staff parent, and ultimately, for the past ten summers, manager of the Ojibway Family Lodge.

In 1995, while attending culinary school, Tanya applied for the position of second cook at Keewaydin Temagami after hearing about the opening from an instructor. When she took her first tour of the island later that spring, her first thought was, “what have I gotten myself into!” The lake was beautiful, and the canoe camp seemed interesting, but she couldn’t have known at that point how far beyond just a summer cooking in the dark, rustic kitchen her experience would go. “What she had gotten herself into” would go much deeper, and ultimately encompass a complete love for and dedication to Keewaydin that would span decades.

After that first summer in 1995 as second cook, and the following summer when she filled in for the cook at Ojibway, Tanya took a seven-year hiatus from Temagami, to return in 2004 as head cook at Keewaydin for the next five years. She became deeply imbedded in the operations at basecamp, overseeing substantial updates to the kitchen, as well as ordering food for both the kitchen and trip outfitting. Her two sons were raised on the island during the summers, became campers, and then staff. She got to know the trip staff and the campers and their families. Tanya became someone whom staff would come to for help. She would go out of her way to help people: she ordered specialty items for trip staff; her house in North Bay became a stopping point for Keewaydin staff or late arrival campers (she installed a pin-code door lock) or for deliveries of various supplies; and she would make sure there was plenty of coffee in the urn at all hours of the day. One trip staff remembers when Tanya asked him at pre-season if he had ever read any Joseph Boyden. Weeks later, as he was on the dock about to leave for his summer-long trip, she handed him a copy

of her favorite Boyden novel. She was always going out of her way to help others, and made it her concern to get people what they needed.

During her time largely spent behind the swinging Keewaydin kitchen doors, Tanya built successful teams of kitchen staff, updated the kitchen with more modern appliances and stainless steel (she was sure not to replace the beloved Melmac dishes), implemented systems for running the kitchen, and added to the repertoire of camp recipes. It was clear that she was invested in Keewaydin and its people far beyond just getting food on the table as a cook. This commitment would prepare her for the next role that she would take on for Keewaydin—this time on the opposite end of Devil’s Island, at Ojibway Lodge.

Ojibway’s history dates back to Keewaydin’s earliest years on Lake Temagami, when the move from Maine to Ontario piqued the interest of adults. To provide opportunities for camping, canoeing, hunting, and fishing for adults, “The Keewaydin Club” was started in 1903. In 1923 it was renamed “Ojibway Lodge,” and over the years, accommodations changed from canvas tents to cabins (though canvas tents remain an option to this day), and in the post-World War II boom, new docks, cabins, dining hall, a store and other facilities were added as occupancy flourished. In 1984, Sandy Chivers, whose mother had run Ojibway during its heyday between 1948-1974 while Sandy’s father, Howard, was Director of Keewaydin, stepped in to manage Ojibway Lodge. Sandy’s connection to the place where she had grown up, which her mother had lovingly managed, fostered a deep emotional investment in Keewaydin and Ojibway. By the end of her nearly 30 years running Ojibway Lodge, Sandy was a fixture of the institution, with vast personal connections to the families who came to stay for year after year, to the Keewaydin staff, camper families, and Temagami islanders for whom Ojibway’s dockside general store was a hub for mail, groceries, and social encounters. When Sandy retired in 2012, it was clear that her successor would have big shoes to fill.

Those who worked with Tanya at Keewaydin knew that she would be a perfect fit for the Ojibway manager role: she had personal relationships with the staff, campers, parents, and alumni, she was highly organized with an attention to detail and work ethic that would be needed to run the lodge. She had a background in the culinary world and experience working with Canadian vendors, she understood what it was like to be a parent of campers at Keewaydin and had already been involved in its operations for a decade, she was



*Tanya with Ojibway Family Lodge Assistant Manager Louise Pigeau*

***“Tanya is completely dedicated to the camp—365 days a year it’s in her heart and on her mind.”***

a creative thinker and problem solver, and as a Canadian she could potentially help attract new clientele. When the position was offered to her, she accepted.

In 2013 Tanya started her new role as Ojibway manager. A new strategic plan was created, and one of the primary goals was to boost the number of guests. The high occupancy rates from Keewaydin families at Midseason and Endseason were not enough without guests who stay for multi-week vacations as they did decades before, and as the new manager, Tanya would have to attract more guests outside of these busy times. She knew that Canadians from Ottawa

and Toronto—just a few hours away—could more easily come for a weekend getaway than Americans could, so attracting Canadians was a focus. The Keewaydin Board of Trustees had allocated funds to make improvements that would dovetail with her new marketing

initiatives to attract, and hopefully retain, new guests who would fill vacancies when Keewaydin families and longtime Ojibway guests weren’t on the island. But therein lay one of the many balancing acts Tanya would face—how do you make changes to the Lodge to attract and appeal to new guests without alienating the long-time Ojibway guests?

Ojibway Lodge has vast roots and a culture of its own. Some of the families who return every year have deep, multi-generational connections going back to the early years. For example, Fay Reimers, who was a guest starting in 1925, contributed to the construction of “Dixie” cabin, and returned until 1970. Her grandchildren, some of whom are now regular guests at Ojibway, still request “Dixie” each summer. Just as it is at Keewaydin, the sense of place is

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very important, and to those who cherish the timelessness of Ojibway, the very idea of change is disconcerting. So when Tanya stepped on the island as manager, she had lots of eyes on her. Not only did she have to preserve the aspects of Ojibway that make it unique and appealing to the core group of long-time guests, she had to make updates and improvements and market to new people to boost profitability at the same time.

Tanya was adept at the balancing act required to navigate the first few years at her role as manager. She and the associate manager, Louise Pigeau '03, spent a lot of time observing and listening, instead of immediately implementing new ideas. They asked the older crowd how they felt about ideas, involving them in the process of updating the lodge. Even simple decisions had implications for everyone who was emotionally invested in the place. Objectively, new duvet covers for the beds would be a luxurious upgrade from scratchy 75-year-old wool blankets, for example, yet for many, those wool blankets were one of the many enduring constants that anchored Ojibway and contributed to the cherished sense of timelessness. She implemented changes that honored the past, with an eye to the future.

Tanya is a detail-oriented planner and also an extremely hard worker, and as a boss she sets an example to her staff of what it looks like to be hardworking and successful, while being fun and kind at the same time. Her employees are often young teens, and in many cases Tanya is their first boss. Modelling the behavior that she expects from her staff, Tanya will jump in to do whatever needs to be done, whether that is bussing tables, washing dishes, mopping floors, taking out the trash, even while she has much higher-order considerations on her mind. Kay Chornook '97, the Ojibway head cook of many years observed that Tanya “sets a great example that no job is beneath you—we work together as a team to get it done.” While modelling work ethic, Tanya also shows her respect and care for those around her. Louise said, “She puts her heart into everything she does for people; she puts a lot of time into encouraging people to be the best version of themselves.” Lilah Murray '14, a longtime Ojibway staff, would agree. During one of her first years working for Tanya, when Lilah was a teenager, Tanya asked her to make that night’s dinner dessert, despite the fact that this was well beyond the scope of her position, which normally included things like prepping, dishwashing, and serving. Not only that, but Tanya wanted her to make Crème Brûlée, a challenging dish. This moment was transformative for Lilah, who remembers what it felt like to be encouraged and supported, while being asked to do something far outside her comfort zone. The Crème Brûlée turned out perfectly and was served that night, and Lilah

realized in that moment that she wanted to go to culinary school.

Tanya’s love for helping people, which she demonstrated while working at Keewaydin, is a perfect fit for her current role. She says, “The people.... You couldn’t do the job if you don’t absolutely love the people—it’s a short season, but it’s intense.” She loves working with people who are similarly hardworking, creative, and adaptable. Tanya believes wholeheartedly in the mission of Keewaydin and Ojibway, and enjoys sharing it with others. She says, “I love how people’s eyes get wide when we tell them what we do and where we are.” Tanya is very good at making everyone feel welcome and special, regardless of who they are, from the moment they step on the dock.

In the summer 2021, Keewaydin’s operations were shut down, but Ojibway was able to operate. With the Canada/US border closed, Tanya was unable to rely on camper families nor US guests who typically comprised the vast majority of the clientele. Years of hard work during the off-seasons attending conferences and expos, designing logos and promotional material, and advertising through myriad new digital platforms lay the groundwork for success in 2021. Her work paid off. For the first time, she had validation that completely new, unaffiliated guests would come to Ojibway without any connection to the camp. The marketing efforts brought new guests to the island, and the experience Tanya and her team provided not only had these first-time guests booking for the next summer, but literally had some guests crying on the dock when it came time to leave. The summer of 2021 was a testament to the endless work, constant dedication to the mission, assemblage of committed staff, and successful balancing of reverence for tradition with a vision for the future.

During Tanya’s 20 years with Keewaydin, she has gained the perspective and insight to be able to walk the line between honoring the past and planning for the future; she has poured her soul into the work, and she has embraced and epitomized Keewaydin values whether in the kitchen at Keewaydin or managing and hosting at Ojibway. Her time on Devil’s Island has been spent deeply committed to the experience of the people there—camper, guest, employee, trip staff, alum, or islander. As Louise says, “She is completely dedicated to the camp—365 days a year it’s in her heart and on her mind.”







# Doc Bourdelaais

## Keewaydin Temagami

*by John Frazier '96*

If you ask someone, “What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Doc?” the answer might likely begin with, “Denim Dave!” There is obviously far more to Dave “Doc” Bourdelais than just his sartorial proclivities, but actually this response is more telling than it might first appear. There is something about his choice of canoe tripping apparel that speaks to who Doc is. He moves through the world unapologetically in his own, distinct way. Despite the trend of the last 25 years that nearly everyone at Keewaydin Temagami trips in Dickies work pants—cheap, ubiquitous, sturdy, and made from a blend of cotton and synthetic materials—and despite the often parroted wisdom “cotton kills,” which seasoned, nylon-clad outdoors enthusiasts like to caution the uninitiated, Doc proudly wears his blue jeans. In his (considerable) experience, they work fine. Besides back in the 1970s everyone wore jeans on trip. He says, “I like denim, it’s soft, I’m just a cotton kinda guy. I just don’t care because...that’s just the way it is.” Doc is secure in his choice of trip pants, he has the experience to know what works for him, and he has been around long enough to have perspective on what is essential to the Keewaydin experience, and what is peripheral. Dickies, he would say, are peripheral. Doc would chuckle at the whole debate, probably casually say something very witty, dry, and hilarious, and then put on his matching denim jacket and go about his business.

Doc spent four years as a Keewaydin Temagami camper, starting in 1969, and then joined the trip staff. He initially led trips from 1973-1977. For the first few years he was the “clubby guide” on call during the summers to take Ojibway guests and other groups out on trips, or fill in for a staff person on one of the basecamp-area Keewaydin trips, as needed. He enjoyed the variety, and actually got in more tripping days than some of his colleagues. One year he recalls doing three fly-in trips down the “Trout Streams,” among other routes. In 1976 he was put in charge of Section C, along with Brian Back (now the camp historian) as the guide. That was Brian’s first introduction to Keewaydin, and he recalls, “I couldn’t have been luckier... to have him my first year at Keewaydin...we just hit it off.” He describes Doc as “a cross between Einstein,

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DaVinci, and Socrates. He loved having philosophical discussions—but he wasn't 100% nerd, he was fun-loving and level headed." Doc returned for the summer of 1977, but then got involved with other life pursuits, outside of Keewaydin, which kept him from returning.

He always thought about Keewaydin—every summer—and always wanted to go back. He pursued his interests like aviation and professional radio, he married, went back to school for a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology, had three children, and taught college courses in meteorology for pilots. But in the summer of 2001, Doc was again able to return to Keewaydin, then in his mid-40s, and at last get back out on trip. The only person he knew on Devil's Island at that point was Sandy Chivers, who was the manager of Ojibway Lodge on the north end of the island, but he was eager to get back out in a green canoe regardless. Doc has been back every summer since 2001 and continued to lead trips through 2015, well into his late 50s.

There were some changes here and there—he wasn't particularly sad to see that the canvas tents had been replaced by nylon A-frames—but mostly it was the same, in most essential ways, as it had been in the '70s. Doc became situated as the staffman of Waubeno X. It was clear that there was a huge benefit to having someone on the basecamp trip staff who not only had several years of trip leading experience, but also had life experience, had a professional life outside of camp, and had a family and children of his own. Jay Parker '85, another seasoned staff member, remembers his first impressions of Doc were as a parent, not a fellow staffman. Jay's son was in Doc's section two years in a row. Jay recalls, "It was clear as a parent that Doc was great with kids, but still did cool trips—legitimate trips with heavy wannigans and long portages—I was impressed as a canoe tripper and a parent." If not fully able to comprehend Doc's tripping credibility, any parent could certainly appreciate being able to have an adult-to-adult conversation about their son, and would be reassured to see some older staff mixed amongst those of college age. As Jay says, "Having guys like Doc around lends credibility to the camp; realistically most summer camps are run by teenagers."

Aside from reassuring campers' parents, having Doc back on the staff in the early 2000s provided guidance and perspective for the younger staff. In the 15 years leading trips after his return in 2001, Doc worked with many young guides and assistants, mostly those in their first or

second year on staff. Despite the age difference, younger staff relished the opportunity to work with him and learn from his experience. Despite a huge gap in experience and wisdom, Doc was never boastful or stifling with his knowledge. Sam Morris '06, who would later go on to guide Section A for five years, tripped with Doc as a first year camper, and twice as a young trip staff. As an energetic, young, 18-year-old guide, eager to prove himself, Sam concocted a 21-day trip with no holds barred. Doc, 55 at the time, was totally game to give it a go. The trip,

which explored some wild territory in the Temagami region was strenuous—but great. Doc, in his gentle way, reminded Sam about the real beauty of a Keewaydin trip: the pleasure of living comfortably in the

woods. Instead of insisting that the young guide learn this lesson by finding a more leisurely route, Doc relayed the lesson subtly while on the more difficult trip Sam had so eagerly planned. As Sam says, "Doc is 'both/and.' He knows how to work hard, and how to have fun." After all, it is far more valuable to learn how to find ease in something that is inherently difficult, than to simply pursue something that is easy. Doc bestowed his considerable knowledge to young campers and staff alike—not as an authoritarian, but as a colleague and fellow tripper.

After the summer of 2015, the second of two torn rotator cuffs finally put an end to Doc's long and storied trip-leading career. But Doc was not done with Keewaydin and continued to be an asset around basecamp when he returned the next summer. In this next phase of his contributions to the camp he would be photographer, archivist, emergency consultant, boat driver, and whatever else was needed. Doc joined the small team of people behind the scenes at basecamp, after all the trips go out, whose work in support of the mission goes largely unnoticed, yet who are indispensable to operations. While he had no official job title, Doc returned in 2016 to do whatever needed to be done in service of the camp. The logistics associated with 25 or 30 canoe trips—ranging from 5 days to 7 weeks long, on the water simultaneously—are staggering. Meanwhile the basecamp which supports these trips is itself in a remote location, only accessible by boat. Between maintaining the physical plant at basecamp and managing support for the trips, there is a lot to do, and Doc saw that he could help.

Doc recognized projects that needed to be completed around basecamp, like archiving pieces of camp history,

***"Perhaps Doc's greatest gift to camp is his ingenuity in perpetually reinventing the ways in which he can continue to be part of the fabric of camp."***



documented in a hundred years' worth of trip notes, on hand-burned yearly attendance plaques, in old scrapbooks and in photo albums. These resources hold Keewaydin's history going back to the early 1900s. Doc recognized the advantages of digitizing these items, which he says is "stuff that people should have. If there are copies stored on multiple hard drives, we won't lose them, it makes them immortal." He knew that no one else around camp had the time to do it, and so he systematically began to take digital photographs and scans of everything he could find.

Another form of archiving came out of the intersection of Doc's love for photography and his interest in preserving camp history. Doc got his first digital camera in 2003, and not only did he take great pictures on his trips and around basecamp, but he realized that someone needed to be collecting all this new digital media from others as well! Over the years, Doc would carefully collect memory cards from campers and staff when they returned from trips and copied the files onto his computer. Each summer he estimates he collects between 30,000 and 50,000 images, and he goes through each one, categorizes them and stores them on hard drives. The highest quality photos are designated for promotional purposes and the yearbook, which Doc has graciously put together for many years. Since campers are only in basecamp for a small fraction of the summer, almost all photos come from trip.

You couldn't possibly hire a professional photographer to go out on every trip, yet Doc would agree that over the years there have been some fantastic photographers among the campers and staff. Doc notes, "You never know who is going to be a great photographer, it could be an 11-year-old Manitou camper who just has a great eye." Doc reminds people that memory is cheap, so take lots of photo. Luckily he has taken on the job of sorting through it all and curating the images. His collection and curation of camp photos over the past 20 years will be a tangible legacy to the camp history.

Doc's availability around basecamp is an asset to the camp leadership because of the volume of tasks that arise during a summer. With the duties of the director pulling in a thousand directions, Doc is available to handle whatever task is required. This could be anything from running an errand into town to strategizing an evacuation. In any given summer, he is pressed into service for countless boat runs down the lake—to pick up supplies, evacuate injured trippers, deliver re-outfits, and more. Sometimes the task might require as much as a week off the island to



*Doc and his camera, with John Hadden '74, at Birch Point campsite in 1976*

drive 1000 kilometers on remote roads and accompany a camper on a floatplane in northern Quebec, or a road trip to western Ontario to deliver a section to their put-in. From his background in aviation, Doc brings a style of communication to emergency situations that is circular, clear, calm, and complete.

Perhaps Doc's greatest gift to camp is his ingenuity in perpetually reinventing the ways in which he can continue to be part of the fabric of camp. The value of having Doc and other senior staff around goes far beyond the tangible.

***"It was clear as a parent that Doc was great with kids, but still did cool trips—legitimate trips with heavy wannigans and long portages—I was impressed as a canoe tripper and a parent."***

They are resources of insight and perspective—because of their considerable time at camp, they understand the way things were and the way things are. Everyone—whether they have been to camp for 5 years or 15 years—has

their own "the way it used to be," but Doc and others can help contextualize each of these shorter snapshots of Keewaydin. Senior staff understand Keewaydin, and can help bind the traditions that really matter which should be preserved, and help loosen the grip of those that don't serve the camp and should evolve. These staff provide the stability of continuity, while lending credibility to an organization whose very retention of them shows newcomers what a special place it must be. Doc, like old denim, just gets better with age—or perhaps better put—as Brian Back said of his old friend, "Like an old tumpine, he goes on lasting forever and ever, and keeps on helping you every step of the way."

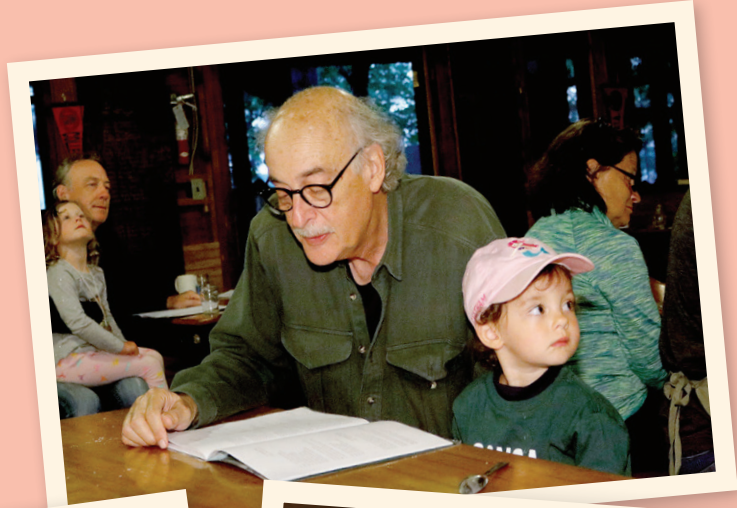


# RETURN TO LAKE DUNMORE FOR ALUMNI FAMILY REUNION!

~ August 25-28, 2022 ~

We missed seeing everyone for the last two years, and can't wait to see you again! This year's reunion will offer the activities that you know and love including the Friday Frolics, Sunday Circle, canoeing, swimming, and hiking. Family members welcomed!

Special activities include the formal dedication (at last!) of Songadeewin's "new" trip planning building in honor of Lolly McPhee Burton, and a celebration of the life of Dan Patch.



For more information and to register go to  
[www.keewaydin.org/dunmore-reunion](http://www.keewaydin.org/dunmore-reunion)

Get 10% off the cost of the weekend  
by registering before May 31!

Questions? Contact Keewaydin at 802.352.4247 or [mary@keewaydin.org](mailto:mary@keewaydin.org).



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## STRONGER BECAUSE OF YOU!

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As I take stock of the impact of your gifts over the past year, and look toward what I know will be a great season for all three camps and KEEC, I feel incredibly optimistic—because of you. Over the past two years, you have stood by Keewaydin as we navigated the financial challenges posed by Covid. In 2021 you supported us generously as we grappled with the continued financial challenges imposed by another year without camp operations at Temagami, reduced enrollment at Songadeewin and Dunmore, and extra Covid-related expenses. Your gifts, along with the moral support and encouragement you offered on so many levels, have sustained us financially and emotionally. My colleagues and I, once again, are humbled by your generosity and the caring of this extraordinary community.

In 2021, because of you and your generous gifts—especially to the Annual Fund and our “Bridge the Gap” appeal—we were able to pay off our Covid-related debt and cover the costs of keeping our kids safe over the summer. And, while tuition covers most of the operational costs of camp, your gifts make possible camper scholarships, facility improvements, the repair and purchase of new canoes, staff training...and so much more. Philanthropic support touches every nook and corner of our operations. We are stronger because of you!

When our Dunmore and Songadeewin campers arrived last June, it was an affirmation of the value of your gifts. The campers might have been wearing masks some of the time, but it was as if the floodgates to “being a kid” were suddenly re-opened. It’s hard to describe the transformation we observed in the first 24 hours of camp, but you could see it in the kids’ posture, their escalating laughter and goofiness, and by the unfettered elation written on their faces. I wish you could have been here to see the joy on the faces of the first campers to leap off the docks and into the still-chilly waters of Lake Dunmore! And every day just got better and better!

This year, we can’t wait to see our Temagami campers reunited after two summers away, to have students back at KEEC and to see all three of our camps once again bustling with youthful energy. The Donor Impact Report that follows is framed by the faces of just a few of our campers—clear-eyed, gloriously vibrant and energetic kids who love, love their time at camp. These kids likely don’t know, yet, that their amazing summer experiences are supported by over 1,100 alumni, parents, staff, and friends whose names appear in the Donor Listing, and who generously and consistently support Keewaydin, year after year. Over time, as these campers enter adulthood, they and their families will become the next generation of stewards of the camps. They will model your generosity, and join the ranks of this extraordinary community who proudly support Keewaydin for the following generations of campers. In this way, your generous support has enduring positive impacts well beyond this year or the next.

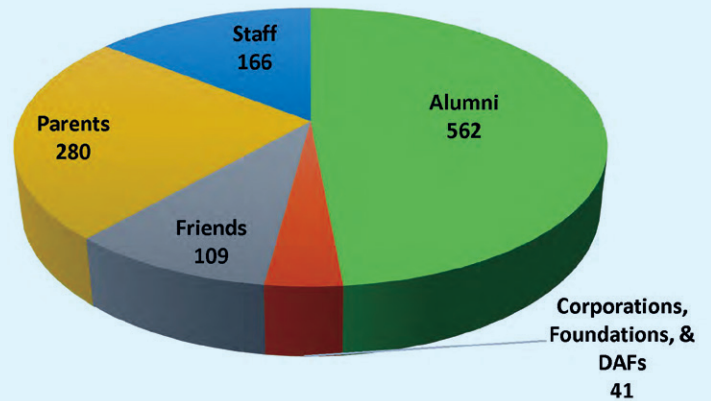
Thank you for all you do for Keewaydin’s camps, for our current campers, and for future generations!



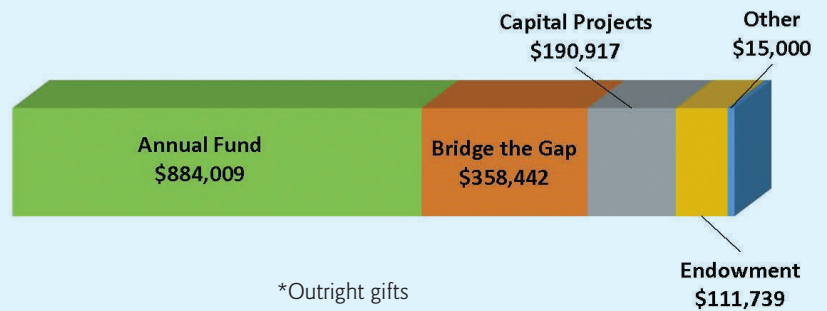
Mary Welz  
Director of Development  
[mary@keewaydin.org](mailto:mary@keewaydin.org)



*In Fiscal Year 2021 our donors were:*



*You gave: \$1,560,108! \**



*Your gifts and pledges in 2021 helped us to:*

- Pay down our Covid-related debt and implement Covid-prevention safety measures on our campuses
- Maintain and repair facilities on all of our campuses
- Cover our standard operating costs in 2021 and through the spring of 2022
- Provide scholarships to 88 campers at Songadeewin and Keewaydin Dunmore

*Your gifts helped us with much-needed capital projects:*

- Replacement of back deck on the multi-house
- Waramaug director's cabin completion
- Camper cabin roof replacements
- Tent platform construction
- Staff housing improvements
- Septic upgrades





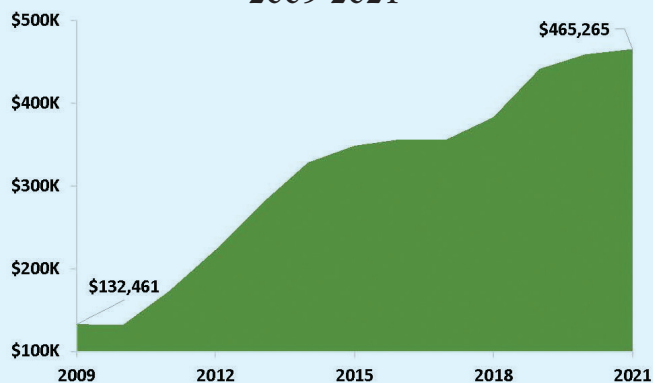
## *Your gifts create a sustainable future!*

### GROWTH IN ENDOWMENT: 2009-2021



(over 96% of Keewaydin's endowment is restricted to scholarships)

### GROWTH IN SCHOLARSHIP DISTRIBUTIONS 2009-2021



## *You can help in 2022!*

### IMMEDIATE FUNDING PRIORITIES

Annual Fund Goal: \$575,000

- Roy Waters Scholarship Fund
- General Breed Scholarship Fund
- Facilities and Programs
- Where the need is greatest

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

Three-Year Special Initiatives Capital Needs

- Dunmore - \$734,500
- Songadeewin & KEEC - \$480,000
- Temagami & Ojibway - \$525,000

# THANK YOU!





The Donor Listing has been removed from the digital edition of *The Northwest Wind* to protect the privacy of our donors.

If you would like a print copy of *The Northwest Wind*, which includes the Donor Listing, please email John at [john@keewaydin.org](mailto:john@keewaydin.org).

We are so grateful for the generosity and support of our alumni, friends, and families.

Thank You!



## RETURN TO LAKE TEMAGAMI

*2022 Alumni Family Reunion ~ July 7-11*

*With Special Guest Dan Carpenter, Jr. '61*



**How long has it been since the last time you were on Lake Temagami?**

Join us on Devil's Island to reconnect with Keewaydin friends, introduce your family to the place you love, and enjoy Ojibway Family Lodge's excellent accommodations.



Learn more at [www.ojibwayfamilylodge.com](http://www.ojibwayfamilylodge.com)  
or contact Tanya McCubbin at [tanya@keewaydin.org](mailto:tanya@keewaydin.org).



## Stay Connected!

**Do we have your email address?**

We don't send many emails, but we do rely on email to keep you up to date with important news and alumni events throughout the year.

**Do we still send your mail to your parents' house?**

You're missing out on having your own copy of the *Northwest Wind* and the camp newsletter. Please send us your new address!

Update your info today at [www.keewaydin.org/stay-connected](http://www.keewaydin.org/stay-connected).

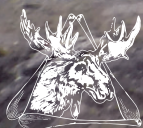


# THESE ARE THE TIMES THEY WILL REMEMBER....

The wonder of a shooting star on moonless night, the smell of wood smoke as it meets a misty morning, clear streams and wiggling fish, laughing so hard that your insides hurt, the thrill that comes when you master something new, friendships that last a lifetime... and that's just for starters.

You help provide memories of a lifetime.

Thank you.



Please make a gift today at [keewaydin.org/give](https://keewaydin.org/give)





It's time to  
catch your  
breath.



Book your stay at  
[www.ojibwayfamilylodge.com](http://www.ojibwayfamilylodge.com)

## Steadfast and enduring, faithful and true *The Green Canoe Society*



Behind every Keewaydin camper is a community of people who helped make the camp experience possible. The Green Canoe Society honors those loyal donors whose ongoing contributions support our campers and our programs. To join, simply make a gift of any amount to the Annual Fund for three consecutive years or more.

[www.keewaydin.org/give](http://www.keewaydin.org/give)





# THE KEEWAYDIN CLUB

## Camping, Canoeing, and Fishing in the Canadian Woods for Adults

The Adult Trips program will be back in 2022. Whether you are an alum who is ready to get back on the water, a parent or family member inspired by your camper's stories, or just someone interested in paddling a wood-canvas canoe through the Canadian wilderness—there is an adventure waiting.

Get out on an Adult Trip in 2022.

The view from a green canoe will be a welcome change of scenery!



### **Women's Temagami Region Flatwater Trip, Ontario: July 30 - August 7**

Three nights in camp and five days exploring the beauty of Lake Temagami and surrounding lakes. For experienced or "new to canoe" trippers. Cost: US\$1200

### **Men's Temagami Region Flatwater Trip, Ontario: July 30 - August 7**

Three nights in camp and five days exploring the beauty of Lake Temagami and surrounding lakes. For experienced or "new to canoe" trippers. Cost: US\$1200

### **Men's Marten River/Rupert River Trip, Quebec: July 25 - August 8**

Lake and river travel (and fishing) on the Marten and Rupert Rivers, starting at Lac Mistassini. For experienced trippers. Cost: US\$3500



Contact [emily@keewaydin.org](mailto:emily@keewaydin.org) with interest or questions.





“It makes me smile to think of the campers who have enjoyed the Keewaydin/Songadeewin experience through scholarships over the years, and that the endowment will continue to expand the opportunity for children to discover the magic of Keewaydin’s camps.

Supporting the endowment means sharing the joy of Keewaydin/Songadeewin, and further sending the spirit of ‘helping the other fellow’ out into the world.”

*~ Julie Stauffer P’84*

**Have you included Keewaydin in your will?  
Let us know!**



**THE SILVER PADDLE SOCIETY**

Go online to [www.keewaydin.org/spsociety](http://www.keewaydin.org/spsociety) or contact Mary Welz at [mary@keewaydin.org](mailto:mary@keewaydin.org) or (802)352-4247.

The Silver Paddle Society recognizes alumni, parents, and friends who ensure that Keewaydin camps and programs will thrive for generations to come by providing for Keewaydin through bequests, trusts, IRAs, or through other long term financial plans.



THANK YOU

To all our alums, families, and friends, thank you for spreading the word about what makes our camps so special. When you share Keewaydin's camps with others, you change the lives of the next generation of campers!

*Introduce a family to Keewaydin's camps at  
[www.keewaydin.org/refer](http://www.keewaydin.org/refer)*