



# The TATTLER

Established 1893

Spring 2024



*Doubles and tents, stack em' up!*

## From the Director

In a few weeks, Keewaydin begins again; let us dig into the details and see how we stack up. The months have flown, and the seasons passed here in the winter office rather quietly. Yet, we lined up the bulleted lists on the office's walls, strategized, coordinated, created, and collaborated. The trip staff, kitchen staff, and volunteers, all of whom have shown unwavering dedication, are in place. There is a wonderful mix of returning and new staff to round out our teams, each with unique skills. Our Headquarters team, solidly experienced and ready for the ebb and flow of a Keewaydin summer, is a testament to our community's strength. Having **John Frazier '96**,

*continued on page 2*

## Preparations Underway: Long Trips for 2024

Some details matter more than others when preparing for a summer-long canoe trip. One such detail is the packing list. It is a simple task to select each item you will bring along. You place spare layers, an extra hat, long underwear, and a bandana in your duffel. (You know you can handle what nature presents.) But will the bandana become a sunshade for the back of your neck on a long paddle? Or will it be your protection from horse flies biting through the back of your ball cap? Our long trip staff dig into their packing lists, food lists, gear lists, communication lists, and more; it's part of their "preparations underway," fine-tuned until the moment the section departs for Day 1 of 40 or 50.

This summer, Section 1 is in capable hands with the leadership of **Katie Paine '99** and **Kyra McClean '11**. It will be Section 1's 14th Hudson Bay trip since its first in 2004, a testament to the growth of the girls' program and the dedication of the staff. Katie and Kyra have planned a rugged and beautiful route, pushing up the Trans Tiaga Highway to their

put-in on Lac Des Ouefs. They'll navigate from the Kannaapscow River to the Little Whale to the Boutin River, finishing on the Hudson Bay coast. Section 1 is a group of experienced women ready to thrive in this challenging environment. We are confident in their abilities and look forward to their last summer as Keewaydin campers.

*continued on page 3*



*Kera takes a moment to relax*

## In This Issue

<b>Welcome Abbie</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Projects on the Horizon</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Alumni Updates</b>	<b>7</b>

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## From the Director

*continued from page 1*

**Dylan Schoelzel '88, Doc Bourdelais '69, Jay '85 and Erin '18 Parker, Matt Busenhardt '90, Sarah Robbins '16, Emily Schademan '21, Bill Seeley '79, and Jordan Miller '12** on board is fantastic. I'm pleased to welcome back into the fold **Ali Corkran '11** and **Ned Volkstorf '08**, who have been away for a few years, expanding their professional lives in graduate school and beyond.

We are thrilled to welcome 147 campers to Devil's Island this summer! As we steadily return to "normal" camper enrollment, we're particularly excited to see an increase in our basecamp campers from 74 in 2022 to 95 this coming summer. This growth is a direct result of our wonderful Keewaydin families and alumni spreading the word and sharing what summer in a canoe is all about! What's more, our retention is high, with 92 returning campers! Our retention is a testament to our trip staff's exceptional leading and teaching of their campers.

Spring arrived early on Lake Temagami, bringing consistent rain that raised the lake levels, crept up the island's edge, and submerged rocks and docks. With such little snow over the winter, the rain is a welcome sight, and we're hopeful that the bush will soak it up and keep forest fires at bay. This early arrival of spring is a promising sign for our upcoming canoe trips and opening up the island.

This June, we have a lot to pack in. We have 24 staff members taking their Wilderness First Responder course; a few will become certified as Swift Water Technicians, and all first-year staff will get the privilege of jumping into our "pool" and training in Wilderness Water Safety. If they are lucky, the "pool" will be a little warmer than last summer! Our week of staff training provides time to prepare for the summer and deep dives into working with campers and emergency management. We love testing ourselves and our knowledge and building a tight community before the campers arrive. This prep is critical to building our foundation for a fun, adventure-filled summer.

As all the campers prepare for their important summer, what load can we put down to make room for the load we'll carry? Keewaydin provides the space for staff, kids, and teenagers to put down their phones and power down their laptops or gaming systems. The tech in our lives and their lives is the load they carry. Hyper-connectivity to devices, apps, and information exists for them, yet when they come to Keewaydin, they unknowingly or knowingly exhale as their bodies relax and feel the wind across their faces. Putting down the load allows them to stack up new memories, moments, and feelings. Aren't we glad Keewaydin is so solid and relevant today? I know I am and cannot wait to greet this season's campers on the dock.



## Preparations Underway

*continued from page 1*

Section A welcomes the return of leaders **Peter Dutko '03** and **Hunter Craighill '11**. It will be their third summer as a team to lead the Hudson Bay trip. They are looking forward to executing a route planned for 2023, abandoned due to forest fires that closed road access to northern Quebec. Their trip begins in the usual Section A fashion, slow, bushy, boggy lakes, and river navigation, picking their way to Little Seal Lake and the “pretty stuff.” A downhill run to Lake Tasiujaq on the Clearwater River will not fail to impact the hearts and minds of these campers. This group of Section A campers is ready to dig in and excel in their final summer.

Section B campers will benefit from a great and fun leadership

combo, with **John Goodpasture '10** and **Quinlan Mulcahy '18** working together. Both leaders are passionate about Keewaydin and love Section B. The young men joining Section B explored western Ontario in 2023, enjoying the Outpost region and its offerings. Now, they are ready for this different terrain and the testing environment of northern Quebec. Travel on the eastern side of Hudson Bay will look very different. Mossy trails, rainy days, and upriver and downriver travel will expand this crew’s skill set and will be perfect preparation for their 2025 Hudson Bay trip! John and Quinlan’s enthusiasm, care, and eagerness to push this crew will make for an epic Section B summer!

Competent and experienced leader **Kera Zegar '07** is teaming up with guide **Lizzie Bourdelais '15** for our camp’s fourth long trip. They last

worked together in 2018 and are looking forward to the adventure with Section 3. This summer, their plans will bring an excellent crew of young women to the western edges of Ontario. The goal is to dabble in familiar Section 3 tripping territory and push toward Manitoba and the beautiful Pigeon River. They’ll relish drop pool waterfalls and opportunities to increase their river skills.

Keewaydin’s long trips are not just adventures but transformative experiences. Spending prolonged time in nature, learning to enjoy and savor the testing environment of the Canadian wilderness, is a journey that changes lives. We eagerly await to hear from these campers in August and see how these trips have transformed them.



# THE KEEWAYDIN ANNUAL FUND



Help us carry on the tradition of adventure.

Please make your gift today: [Keewaydin.org/Give](https://www.keewaydin.org/Give)



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## Ojibway Welcomes New Team Members!

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Ojibway Family Lodge will welcome new faces to its team, and we are eager to have them experience a fantastic summer. We are proud to introduce **Abbie Robinson '12**, Ojibway's new Assistant Manager, who will work alongside **Tanya McCubbin '95** this summer. Abbie's warm and can-do attitude will win over alumni, parents, and regular guests. Under the guidance of **Sheri Andrews '22**,

Ojibway's kitchen team will be gearing up to create hearty and imaginative meals for everyone. Keewaydin loves our partnership with Ojibway, and we eagerly anticipate another solid summer. There will be plenty of events to look forward to, such as the return of theme dinners, a square dance in the Ridgeway Lodge, and our Islander Potluck. We hope to connect with the local Lake Temagami community throughout July and August!

Watch Ojibway's Facebook or Instagram accounts to see what is happening this summer. Sign



*Abbie Robinson, welcome aboard!*

up for the *Loon's Call*, a quarterly newsletter to stay in the loop!

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## Winter at Devil's Island, Lake Temagami, Did It Ever Arrive?

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Unfortunately, winter did not turn out as expected. Last November, winter appeared to be on track; cold temperatures arrived, and we were hopeful for solid ice followed by lots of snow. While the lakes surrounding Temagami did manage to freeze, Lake Temagami struggled. It mostly remained a dry winter with very little precipitation. This led to no cabin roofs to shovel and minimal impact by the wind on the trees. The island sat, quietly waiting for spring. Finally, in the third week of April, the ice diminished, allowing motorboat travel once again. Hudson McCubbin, our



*Minimal snow on the ice and island*

island caretaker, kept himself busy with projects and had brief visits from local friends upon returning to the island. With spring now here, the opportunity to begin preparing

for staff arrivals is a gift to take advantage of. The birch and maple buds are expected to come early, and we hope the black flies will have peaked before early June.

## Projects on the Horizon

### Roof replacement for Ojibway guest cabins

Three Ojibway cabins will have new roofs this May, a project we are excited to embark on with the help of a local Lake Temagami roofer, Jody Becker. Your continued support and dedication to our uniquely charming and rustic cabins are crucial to our ability to maintain and improve our facilities.

### Temporary workspace created for Director of Maintenance

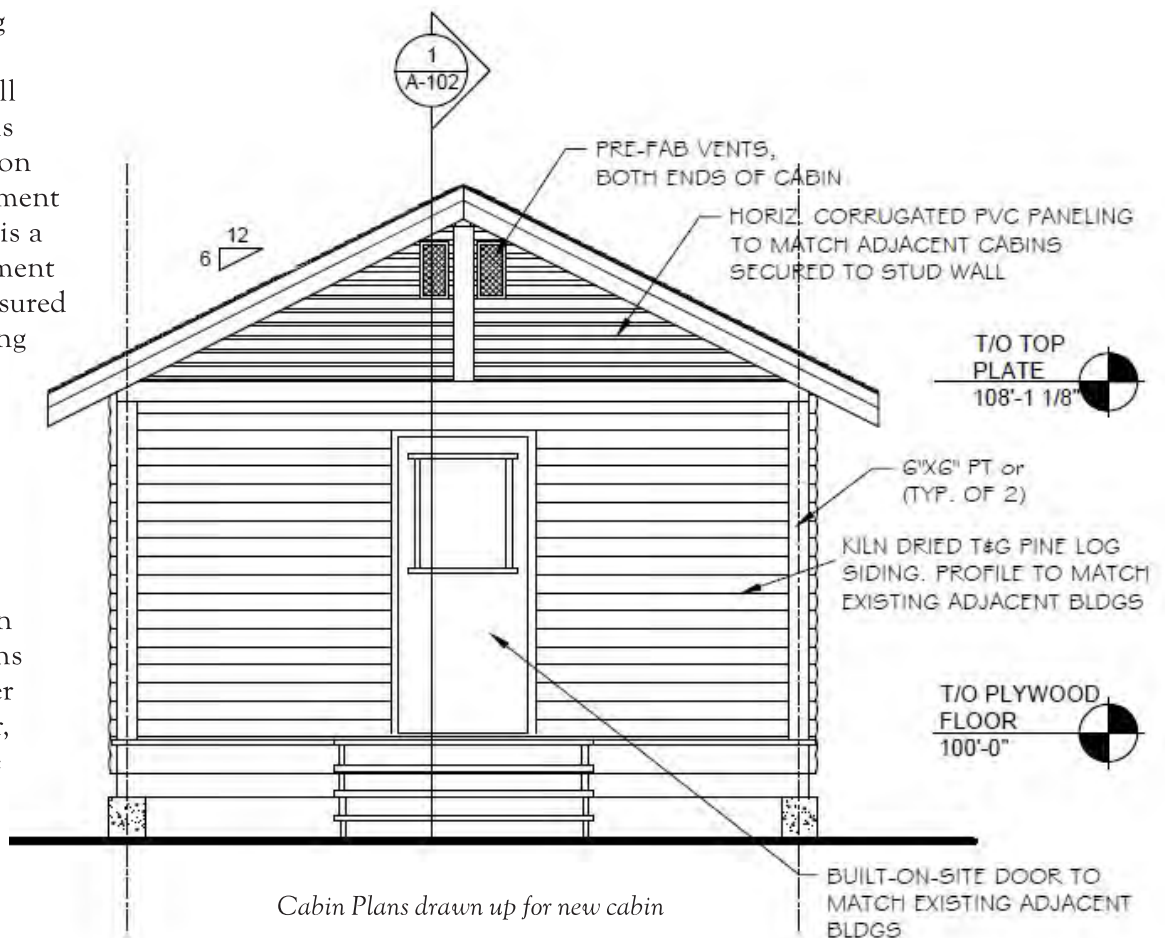
The shop at Keewaydin is entering its next planning phase. As part of this, Hudson McCubbin '09 will be temporarily shifting his workspace into the addition built onto the Trip Equipment Building. This transition is a testament to our commitment to preserve the camp's treasured history while also planning for its future.

### New girls' cabin!

The Songadeewin and Winisk wigwam continue to grow. This summer, we aim to build another cabin for the girls' program. Plans are shaping up. Our builder will be on site this summer, and we are eager to see the project come to life.



Temporary shop space shaping up



Cabin Plans drawn up for new cabin

## RECRUITING TRAVELS

Enrollment for the summer is in great shape, and much of that success comes from open houses, alumni helping spread the word, and friends talking to friends. Our super hosts from the West Coast to the Midwest and East Coast provided great venues, energy, and enthusiasm.

Thank you to the Keewaydin parents and families who hosted Keewaydin and helped us connect with many current campers, new families, and supportive alumni. A big shout out to **Yvonne and Wells Blaxter '83**, **Elizabeth and Craig Sparks**, **Schenley and Andy Walker** in San Francisco, California, the **Lieber Family** in Brooklyn, NY, **Steph and Tim Nicholson '85** in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, **Andrea and Jason Strle '89** in Bannockburn, Illinois, and **Carrie and Dave Freed '90** in Mamaroneck, New York.

We were delighted to witness the efforts of our Keewaydin alumni and current trip staff in bridging connections and reigniting the flame of meaningful camp memories. Your presence and active participation have been instrumental in making these reunions successful. Thank you for taking the time to join us and for your continued support. And it is fun, while traveling, to sneak in a bowling game with Section A's staff **Peter Dutko '03**! Take a look at some familiar faces in these photos.



*Solid crew from the San Francisco Open House! BR: Maren Prothro '21, Evelyn Schoelzel '19, Nora Prothro '18, Maren Walker '16, Page Sparks '18, Ella Pradhan '20, Henry Blaxter '18, Wyatt Sparks '21, Miles Deeds '23 FR: Hazel Slemmer '20, Nora Deeds '21, Trent Pradhan '21, William Sparks '21*



*Discussing past Temagami routes and swapping trip stories!*



*A small canoe fit right in our Grosse Point venue!*



*BR: Scott Springgate '77, Peter Dutko '03, Jason Strle '91, Wes Smedley '89, Nejd Alsikafi '19, Ameena Alsikafi '16, Sarah Robbins '16, Scott Kirkpatrick '79, Matt Robbins '18, Gus Buesser P'19 FR: Andrea Strle P'19, Lilly Strle '19, Ella Smedley '19, Lucy Buesser '19, Naomi Smedley '20, Nithya Gandhi '21, Louisa Smedley '23, Emily Schoelzel '99, Kavitha Gandhi P'15*

## ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

### BIRTHS

This January, **Kat Olivarius '02** and **Joe Geylin** welcomed future camper **Astrid** into the world. Congratulations!



*Astrid already dreaming about green canoes!*

The Salmon Falls Canoe shop staff shared a shot of a 17-foot Chicot in process. The northern white cedar ribs are bent around the hull and nailed to the inner gunwales, and the ash stems at the bow and stern. The wood canvas canoe tradition remains strong at Keewaydin, and **Dylan Schoelzel '88** is keen to see it continue.



*These ribs do not require bar-b-q sauce!*



An excellent gathering in Mamaroneck. BR: Cam Sterling '88 with Tate, Emily Schoelzel '19, Adler Freed '18, David Freed '91, Ben Pomeroy '89, Anna McClean '10, Tom Seeley '85, John Frazier FR: Aren Sterling '24, Carrie Freed P'18, and Enis Freed '22



Emily Schoelzel captured a shot with Booth Platt '90, host Tim Nicholson '85, Eric Dietrich '90, and Outpost Manager Matt Barnes '05



Bowling in the Midwest with Peter Dutko!

As we look ahead, we'll need hosts for future events. If you want to join our vibrant Keewaydin community and contribute to its growth by hosting an Open House, we encourage you to reach out to [info@keewaydin.org](mailto:info@keewaydin.org). Your support is invaluable to us.



All smiles when James shares a story or two

**James Donnelly '49** shares his handmade log cabin and his Ontario Guides pin while visiting the Keewaydin Foundation office. The pin represents the summer Keewaydin trip staff became guides, and a new era of tripping began on Temagami. Many stories of camp were shared and photos from the early '50s too.



Current board member, Katie Tanz, all smiles with John Frazier

The Young Alumni Gathering in NYC this past April brought forth some familiar faces! It was great to connect with



It's a blast to connect with our young alumni!

**John Bourdelais '09, Will Morley '10, Nicole Howe '11, Katie Tanz '99** and meet some wonderful alumni from Keewaydin Dunmore and Songadeewin.

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

### CAROL CHIVERS '50

The Keewaydin and Ojibway community mourns the loss of a member of our family. Carol Chivers, the daughter of Janie and Howard Chivers, spent her summers growing up on Devil's Island. Carol's sister, Sandy, shared Carol's obituary along with the eulogy she gave at Carol's funeral.

**Carol Chivers, 74**, of Orford, NH, passed away on October 2, 2023 at Grafton County Nursing Home in North Haverhill, NH.

Carol is the daughter of the late Howard and Jane (Gile) Chivers of Hanover, NH. She leaves behind her life partner of 37



Carol Chivers

years, James "Jim" Fields, with whom she shared a life, home and family. She is also survived by her stepdaughter Becky Fields Byrd & her husband Robert of Autryville, NC; her stepson John Fields and his wife Michelle of Orford, NH; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her sister Sandy Chivers, and niece Catherine of Hanover, NH; her brother Gile Chivers\* of Lebanon, NH, and many loved ones in the Fields, Chivers & Gile families.

Carol was born on June 9, 1949, in Hanover, NH, where she also attended school and graduated from Hanover High School in 1967. Carol continued her education by attending Cazenovia Junior College, where she studied business.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Carol's memory to:

**The Chief Chivers  
Scholarship Fund**  
c/o The Keewaydin Foundation  
500 Rustic Lane  
Salisbury, VT, 05769

\* His obituary to follow in the next *Tattler*.



From Sandy's eulogy:

Carol had many loves in her life, beginning with her love of Lake Temagami and Devil's Island. She spent the majority of her summers there with Sandy and Gile, growing up enjoying many fun times and continued to visit almost every summer until her health began to decline. In adulthood, Carol's main passion while on the island was something we call brushing. It's not brushing one's teeth or hair but cutting back scrub vegetation. Her passion for this became more fervent as she grew older, and anyone who worked or was a guest at Ojibway knew her for this. She'd leave after breakfast, loppers and small clippers in hand, and we wouldn't see her until lunchtime. She maintained cabin views and ensured the many island trails were well groomed. When I was manager of Ojibway, guests would ask me, "Do you pay her to do it? Nope, I don't even ask her to do it; she just loves it."



*Carol, Gile, and Sandy (L to R) on Temagami in the early 1960s*

A dear friend and longtime guest of Ojibway wrote the

following in a card to me following Carol's passing:

"I have such fond memories of watching and listening to the two of you attacking the brush along the Ojibway paths with a vengeance that was amazing... and even more amazing, enjoying it! Carol always reminded me of the 'Eveready Bunny' whenever she got a pair of clippers in her hands! We can all rest assured that the gardens in heaven will be well tended."

Playing pranks was always a part of Ojibway life. Carol was always "in" when any were being cooked up. Whether having someone stand at the edge of a dock to look at a giant fish, only to be pushed in the water, or watching northern lights through the sleeve of a raincoat (because there is a much better view that way), then water would be poured down the sleeve of the northern lights watcher, thus completing the infamous, "water trick." An unsuspecting guest might get a lap full of water sent to them by a partially rolled-up tablecloth; Carol played the water trick on many guests. They always got a good laugh, and her technique improved every time.

Skinny dipping before breakfast is a tradition we got from our mother – she went every morning for 25 summers. It became a passion of Carol's, too. She'd never miss a day. Many guests over the years can confirm as such, having

quickly averted their eyes when happening upon her morning ritual. I tried to convince her that it might be a good idea to don a bathing suit when Ojibway had a lot of guests, mentioning to her that I had been wearing one. I'll never forget the look she gave me and her comment, "But we've always done it this way." And she continued to do it that way!

I love you, dear Carol. Dementia took you way too soon. In summer 2024, when I step on the island, memories of you will be everywhere – I'll walk by your skinny dipping spots, raise a glass at the 5:00 pm Lodge happy hour, walk your favorite trails, sit on the rock below our childhood cabin looking out on beautiful Temagami and make sure to do the water trick many times. I'll do my very best to keep the views open and paths clear. But you set the clippers bar pretty high, and I'm not sure I can do it with the spirit and passion that was yours and yours alone. This isn't goodbye, Carol, this is just see you later. I will think of you daily, especially when I set foot on Devil's Island next summer.



*Carol and Sandy*



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## JOHN LILLARD '38

John Lillard '38 passed away peacefully on January 30, 2024, at age 93. He was a man of integrity, character, and humor, and always looked to help others; Keewaydin Temagami had something to do with that! John first came to Ontario from Ohio when he was six years old, and spent the summers swimming and canoeing in the McGregor Bay with his family for three weeks at a time. At age 12, he took the train from Cincinnati, Ohio to Temagami, where the boys were picked up in a boat and taken to Devil's Island. John arrived for that first summer in 1938 as a skinny little boy, (as

pictured in some of the camps' archive photographs). He came for three summers – in those days



John with his grandson Stanley Preschlack

it was for the entire summer—and returned at age 18 on staff. Later, his grandchildren, **Stanley '14** and **Lillard '14 Preschlack**, attended Temagami; John could

recall for them most of the river names, routes and songs from his own experiences so many years before. He acquired a love for nature, a lifelong taste for paddling through lakes, singing with others, physical activity, and helping other people, which lasted all of his life. Because of John's encouragement, many other families sent their own children to Keewaydin from Cincinnati and Chicago over the years. John leaves behind his wife of 70 years, Paula Polk Lillard, four daughters, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He considered his life, a "lucky life."



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# 2024 Schedule • Keewaydin Camp's 131<sup>th</sup> Season

- June 21** Section A and Section I arrive
- June 28** Regular Season commences at Keewaydin & Ojibway Family Lodge opens
- July 11-14** Alumni Family Weekend
- July 17** Midseason commences
- July 20** First three-weekers depart a.m.
- July 21** Second three-weekers arrive p.m., Keewaydin Club Outpost Men's trip
- July 31** Adult 5-day trip
- August 4** Islander Pot-Luck Dinner @ Ojibway
- August 10** Final Paddle-in day and Campfires
- August 11** Final Competitions and Campfires
- August 12** Campers depart
- August 18** Keewaydin closed for the season
- August 26** Ojibway closed for the season

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