



(by Georgie Edelman)

BEAVER CUTTINGS

TAMAKWA 2014

Swim 2014

By Leslie Cain

This summer at swim was tough with the amount of rain that seemed to hit the sunny shores of South Tea Regularly. Silver days definitely outweighed the golden ones but that did not stop the campers to make the best out of the situation. I saw fewer tears than ever and more and more smiles as the days went along. This being my third summer here at Camp Tamakwa, I was overjoyed with the welcome backs from not just returning staff but campers too. Having a brand new addition of a rebuilt tower was also a brightener to our silver days. No matter the weather, campers still loved jumping off that tower day after day. At swim, it was also the summer of a new check in chair. The old one unfortunately fell to its death and a new one was made in its place. Although I will not be leaving the swim docks with much of a tan, let alone a sandal tan, I will be leaving with a full heart, a tear in my eye and a summer full of memories that will last a lifetime. Camp time is the fastest time, so enjoy it while it lasts because you never know when the next day will be your last.

Windsurf

By Etye/Etai Sarner

As beams of Algonquin sun warm you, the pristine South Tea Lake water cools you, and the only thing you care about is 'this exact moment'. That's how it feels to windsurf on a golden day at Camp Tamakwa. After 12 summers, I can safely say that I still feel that exact rush when I'm out on South Tea Lake.

My name is Etye Sarner, and I had the great pleasure of being the Windsurf Director for the 2014 summer. While it was definitely challenging summer weather wise, that did not stop the fun down at the docks. Over the summer there were campers who tried windsurfing for the first time and also others who were practicing their skills towards their high awards. It was gratifying to see how much enjoyment campers derived from overcoming their anxiety over trying the closest thing Tamakwa has to an extreme sports.

This summer we had two campers who received their high level awards. Daniel Grossinger who showed great dedication and skill level proved that he is worthy of the second highest award, the Force 4+. There was one camper who showed total mastery and devotion; Jake Schwartz earned his highest-level award, the Force 5. As campers rose to the occasion, we also had one staff member who earned his Force 5, Andrew Colton who performed a water start in front of a lucky few who got to witness it. For those of you who don't

know, a 'water start' is a maneuver where the surfer is lying in the water and tries to catch the wind with sail in order to lift him out and allow him to begin surfing. This tactic needs to be attempted on the windiest day with the biggest sail in order to generate enough power to lift him or her out of the water.

Although it's easy to take for granted Tamakwa's physical setting, we should never forget how privileged we are to have the magnificent beauty of Algonquin Park as the backdrop for our summers.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all my staff members who helped so many campers achieve their awards and have so much fun at the docks. I also want to thank all the dedicated campers who gave windsurfing their best shot and are ready to keep improving every summer. May the great windsurfer among good windsurfers be with us till we surf again!

Clay

By Hunter Joseph

As a second year Tamakwan, I had some nerves and fears approaching the shores for the second time. Instead of worrying of meeting friends and missing home, I feared that the second summer wouldn't compare to the first. Fortunately, I was wrong. This past summer proved to be one of the best of my life, although very different from my first experience at Tamakwa. The kids taught me more this summer than I had anticipated. As most college students think, what else can you learn that isn't in lecture or an internship? After working in the city with a very different population of kids, I wasn't sure how much more I could learn at Tamakwa. This attitude was completely shattered this summer. I encourage all college students, new graduates and staff to consider every summer at Tamakwa as an additional course, or just amazing learning experience. I was proved wrong daily at Tamakwa. Knowledge I thought I had about kids and their interactions with each other was changed. Thankfully, changed for the better. I had the privilege of working with children who's minds are perhaps even more open than mine, even being a decade or more younger. I was able to have real, interesting conversations with these children, in which I became the student instead of the teacher. These kids had so much talent, personality and mostly just love and tolerance for one another, something I have yet to see in my career. It may have taken a few weeks back in the city to fully realize the impact Tamakwa and campers has had on me this summer, and as I'm sure I'll continue to learn more, Tamakwa gives one of a kind lessons after a one of a kind summer.

Byron the Bass By Stacey "Fish" Kinder

This is the story of Byron the Bass. A huge creature of the deep who has been quietly living among Tamakwans for decades. Unca Lou himself has noted sightings of Byron in his personal journals. Although the name would leave you to believe he is a bass, he is definitely more than a simple bass. He is impossibly too large to fit within any bass size record, or any other indigenous fish family that could be found in Algonquin. My first encounter with Byron occurred early this summer. On this day, the shores of south tea were sunny and golden, which warmed the shallow surface of the lake. It was early in the summer, so the deeps were still cold and dark. These are perfect fishing conditions. My highly trained team of fish finders and anglers set out on a very important investigation to test my most recently developed theory;

$$\text{Happiness} = \left[\frac{\text{Fish}}{\text{Time}} \right] + \left[\frac{\text{Horsepower}}{\text{Goober Level}} \right]^2$$

We cast our lines in the deepest spot of the lake, right in front of Adventure Island, and let our weighted spinners do the work from there. Three casts was all it took for my fish expert Jonas Goldman to have a "fish on". This wasn't just any fish. Jonas's rod bent down at a 100' angle indicating something large was under us, and we were in for a fight.

He looked at me with a look of excitement and panic. He shouted, "snapping turtle?" I shook my head no, and calmly took the rod. I knew it was something bigger and better. As I fought the fish (or whatever it was) the line moved violently under the water. Slowly, I reeled the line closer, flashes of scales thrashed at the surface, splashing and spraying the boat. Kids ran frantically screaming with excitement to get a glance of the giant.

A huge black body, at least 8 feet long wiggled across the surface, seeding white-capped waves under the barge that shook us all off our feet. I clamored to my feet, still holding the rod. Re-gaining control was tricky because the rod was coated in a slimy goober that clogged the gears in the reel and made the line slip and slide with each vicious tug from Byron. I yelled over to Jonas, who was still sprawled on the deck.

"Dude, your goober levels have taken an extreme increase! You got slime all over the rod!"

Jonas shrugged "I can't help it" he grabbed the net and ran towards me. I had at this point tired out the best enough to pull it close. The barge leaned deep into the water as all the passengers cranked their bodies over the railing to see the second contender in this exhausting fight.

Foresters screamed at the sight of the huge jaw and razor sharp fangs that emerged from the surface like a puppet. A dark, black eye glared right into my soul as the giant hung in the water. Exhausted or curious, maybe both, the fight was over. Or so I thought.

Every person was silenced by awe. Jaws dropped upon seeing such a magnificently horrifying creature. Marv Canvasser, my bait and work expert let out a chilling whisper: "It's Byron"

As if hearing his name and snapping out of a deep sleep, the monster gave me one last thrash. Using all remaining energy and 10 feet of muscle, he ripped the line and dove straight down into the foaming water. A huge wave, a metaphor of disappointment surged over the barge washing everyone off his or her feet once again.

Upon our return to the slope, our excitement and disappointment could not be contained. Everyone scattered through camp, telling everyone and anyone about the 11-foot monster that we came so close to taming. From that day on, Byron's secret life was no mystery. I fish every day, waiting to catch him again, because there is no fish bigger than the one who "almost" got caught.

Ropes

By Steve Mitchell, Scotland

Summer 2014 on Ropes has been a great one. Working alongside two other Brits, Laure and Hannah on many golden days. The campers this summer were very eager to try new things and I had many sign ups every week. The kids loved the zip line when we got it up and running. Also a big How-How to the campers who signed up every week and achieved their Mount Everest, Lola Pitman, Ryan Altman, Georgie Edelman, Bobby Wein, and Josh Koolik. The atmosphere at Ropes this summer was awesome, every camper that came left with a smile on their face knowing they had achieved something. A huge well done to the speedy wall climbers, Eli Offman, Sammy Koolik, Jason Ernst & Andy Hoffman who scaled the wall in less than 20 seconds! Overall Ropes was a fun place to be this summer and I hope everyone had a great time!

Drama

By Rachel Wolin

This being my second summer on the sunny shores, I thought I had an idea of what to expect as the Dram Director; needless to say, this summer was made so much more special by my Music Director and college friend, Vinnie Ester. As a pair, we watched so many campers grow as performers. We watched 110 campers perform and crew Beauty and the Beast, which was a magical success. The acting styles were well displayed by Livvy Gordon, Joey Moroff and Matthew August. Our most popular musical production this summer undoubtedly was CATS , wherein we showcased singing talents Alex Acker, Adam Singer, Matthew Doctoroff, Maya Wolberg and many more. The crowd was also amazed by Jordan Dopp and Lillian Beavers acrobatic stunts. Wizard of Oz was the last production of the summer. This show was a combination of 49ers, Voyageurs and staff. Wizard of Oz traveled around camp, taking the audience to different locations hence exposing them to a back ground and beautiful stage that only Algonquin Park could provide. I am very proud of all of the camp productions and everyone that was involved should give themselves a round of applause.

Rachel Wolin

Sailing

By Bennett Magy

A Beaver Cuttings article...yet another thing on my list of things to do before summer's end. Alongside packing out, cleaning waterfront, cleaning the sail shed, beachers, and sail docks, disassembling sailboats, making an activity plaque for high award recipients, writing a South Tea Echo article, and doing color war creatives like a video, I have to write a beaver cuttings article. I guess I'll write about the sheer quantity of things that I've been doing at summer's end. This summer more than any, I've been more active in camp as part of being an activity leader. I've had more than a few opportunities to really participate and engage in tasks such as planning an all-day sail, a sailing regatta, evening programs, getting involved in an all-day break, a color war break, or even getting covered head to toe in clay. I thrive on getting involved and active when it means making the difference in campers' summers. If even one camper smiles or laughs as a result of the effort I put into these activities, I consider it a job well done. This summer more than any I've realized what a positive impact I can have on so many people's lives just in the 8 weeks I spend here. I'm here for the kids and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Fitness

By Tayler Colson-Cassidy

F un for everyone
I nfinite amounts of energy
T ayler Fitness 2014
N on-stop excitement!
E ndless activities!
S quats everyday!
S o many memories!

Archery

By Kalen Gabriel

This summer has been one of challenges and success, failures and triumphs. It has been my pleasure to work with the kids of Tamakwa in trying to better themselves (at least in archery.) Archery is not the point and shoot activity that Hollywood would have you believe. Only through practice and diligence can we become the Katniss or Legolas they set out to emulate. I'm very proud of those kids who stuck with archery, even when it proved tedious and trying and managed to pull through to become great archers. I am even more proud of those who did not meet their goals, but kept their spirits high and have already begun to plan their own archery ranges or how they'll get their awards next year! It's these kids who don't let the weather or the difficulties of camp get them down that truly exemplify the Tamakwa spirit.

Canoe

By Stephanie Judd

Wow! Another very successful summer at the canoe docks. 1 Voyageur: Jake Godfrey, 4 Coureur de Bois: Emma Jacobson, Eli Offman, Zach Kam, Asa Levite and 3 "A" canoeists, Rose Jacobs, Jordy Godrey, Alanah Bratley. Big How!How! to Ruby Kolender who took the test and to Molly Shapiro & Rachel Hirsch who took the pre test. Everyone really improved this summer.

Looking forward to the class of 2015 we will have some new members; Maddie Borman, Lily Creed, Alex Wexler, Emily Gelgoot, Ethan Wilder and Jake Seel. I am so pleased to see so many girls joining the ranks. On that note, I would like to give a shout out to all the 49ers who signed up every individual choice to improve their skill level and get into a canoe with friends and of course all of the JSB's who did the same.

What would canoeing be without the fabulous staff? Anna Aronovitz, Evan Ketai and Hershel Dorman Voyageur canoeists! Natalie Jacobson, and Alanah Bratley & Andrew Colton, "A" Canoeists; Sasha Stahl, Brad Kriegel and Jamie Steuer "B" canoeists and finally Ben Canvasser, "C" canoeist. Thank you for being the best canoe staff ever! Without them we could not have been open every twilight, gone on weekly cookouts and a canoeing all day!! Canoe Staff, you rock!

This summer we were also blessed with amazing CITs: David Kaplan "Voyageur", Jenna Jacobson "A", Winona Kellie "B", Poppy Richler, TJ Robins and Nico Katzman, all Beaver canoeists. I know you taught many paddlers and had fun with many too!

This summer's honorary staff member goes to Spencer Robins – Voyageur canoeist. Thank you Spencer for getting into a canoe at least once a day and teaching so many the fine art of canoeing.

The canoeing all day was a huge success! We landed at the falls, hiked up the river to discover that thanks to the handy work of a beaver, Hope Lake is back! We also hiked to the quartz wall. After an amazing lunch we practiced some synchronized paddling. How!How! to everyone who attended; Roan Wilder, Evan Foltyn, Chaz Frank, Rose Jacobs, Rachel Hirsch, Jake Godfrey, Winona Kellie, Andrew Colton, Nurse Alex and guest tour guide, David Stringer.

All Good things must come to an end. So despite the wind, rain, hail and cold weather, many new canoeists were created. Thank you to everyone who got into a canoe this summer – Beaver and trip canoe. Thank you to everyone who dumped and made us laugh – Rose Jacobs, Zach Kam and Javier de la Llama! Who gunwhaled and had fun; Izzy Freedman, Brooke Gellman, Lucy Zate, Catherine Bean, Ester Levite and Jordy Godfrey! And who came to twilight to just enjoy the place; Andrea Basen, Maya Saltzman, Joey Storm and Zack Kam. I can't wait to see what my 12th summer as canoe director has in store for me!

The Unexpected Pets of Arts & Crafts **By Sarah Bowie**

3 Tiny Mice

On a warm July day, three of the smallest mice ever seen crawled out of the wool box on the Art-deck-o. They were promptly surrounded as all the campers at art that day wanted first pick for our new pets! They were also given long names (which were impossible to remember) and eventually

scattered as the excited kids got louder and louder! Sadly, I have to report that they have not been seen since.

2 Fat Chipmunks

Although seldom seen during activity periods, during some of my quiet prep mornings, two huge chipmunks are often observed raiding the garbage bin and climbing on the tables in the art room! One is likely the largest of its kind I have ever seen and the other is distinctive due to his lack of a tail. Has Pekoe had a go! If so, that is one lucky rodent!

Many, many click beetles

The high pitched screams of terrified campers on the art-deck-o are often the tell tale sign of the presence of yet another click beetle descending! So far the death count exceeds 20 over the summer, but over 50 have been seen! Suggestions for repelling them are welcome at any time!

Inline Hockey

By Nicholas Jones

My time at Tamakwa was a rewarding and memorable part of my summer & my year. When I arrived on the sunny shores I was informed of the challenges that lay ahead of me, with low turn out to inline in recent years as well as a hockey shed that was in a seemingly constant state of "schlect." On the other side of it all now, I feel like it was a challenging and fun experience to try and change that reality. It was that drive that led me to one of the main joys of the summer for me, the high turn out of female campers eager to learn how to skate at the power skating periods in the morning. It was a moving experience to see so many campers overcome this belief of what they can & can't do, by strapping on some skates. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm on their faces as they made remarkable strides in their skills. It was on visiting day that I understood that not only was I proud of them but more importantly that they were proud of themselves. This was clear as they were dragging their parents over to me exclaiming about their time on the rink and what they had learned. (as well as getting me to convince their parents to buy them new skates for home) Tamakwa continued to make me proud with the class and sportsmanship that was displayed in trying circumstances during Intercamp when we hosted Manitou. It would have been easy to descend into childish bickering along with their opponents, but the boys held their heads through a rough game. There are few teams who have the character to handle a game like that with class & I am very proud of them.

Piano/Music Vinnie Ester

When I spy back on my first summer here at Tamakwa, I am overwhelmed by the amount of talent possessed by our campers. My very good friend and colleague, Rachel Wolin (AKA Rachel Drama) set the bar high for the campers in the Drama program. Our most challenging show in all aspects was the well-received "CATS," which was given many "meow-meows." Not only is the score difficult to sing, but our fantastic felines handled the material with smiles on their faces. I would like to give a special How!How! to Jordan Dopp, Jillian Lesson, Lillian Beavers, and Kaitlyn Luckoff for taking on difficult choreography and performing it with ease in "CATS."

Tamakwa talents are not just featured in the Rec Hall; they can also be found in the Dining Hall. It was my pleasure to host several guest meditationists at the piano over the last eight weeks. From "Moonlight Sonata" to "Seven Nations Army," Tamakwans were treated to almost every song styling imaginable for their morning meditation. I am elated to see kids with so much passion for music and performing utilizing their talents. A big How!How! goes to Rachel Drama for hooking me up this this wonderful gig and without whom I wouldn't have grown as a musician and artist this summer. Finally, I would like to thank the incomparable David Stringer for providing me a musical inspiration. It has been an honor sharing a piano bench with you, Stringer.

Until we meet again, I will always be your cousin Vinnie Piano!

The Sounds of Tamakwa Music Recording By Sheldon de Souza

From "how how" to "caw caw caw." Words cannot describe the sounds you hear at Camp Tamakwa. To describe sounds with words is like judging a food/chef competition without using your taste buds. The many layers of sound are a culmination of ingredients, which produce an environment not replicable anywhere else... Algonquin Park houses birds, trees, chipmunks, water, boats, wind, frogs and so much more. In unison and in harmony, they are music to the attentive listener. Loon calls and nature's orchestration creates a soundscape.

To the same degree, being a city resident has allowed me to become used to the sounds of car horns, tires on the road, pedestrians, construction, talking, engines, and more. Everyday what one listens to is absolutely amazing if one were tuned into the sounds, but the real magic and appreciation occurs

when you remove yourself from the normal sounds and place yourself in a completely new soundscape.

One of the benefits of having a camp in the wilderness is there is a blend of human interactions and kids playing, mixed with a music recording director's music library, mixed with the sounds of Algonquin's environment. Collectively we create a symphonic nature masterpiece. Shh...listen to what's around you right now. Take a minute. The only sounds that should interrupt your sound clips may be the little voice in your head – aka, your conscience. If you can quiet that voice too, you may be in a trance or have reached your meditative peak. Congrats. Either way...listen...you will notice so many sounds that you may not think were surrounding you.

One of the great traditions at Tamakwa is the one where all campers sit on the slope of Camp Tamakwa's property and all the kids yell and create echoes in the sky. As all campers quietly listen, they are able to count and listen back to the amazing acoustics and nature's vibrations as the sounds of their voices is projected and coupled/doubled by bouncing off the hills and trees. A great experience.

Landsports

AD Ellen Katzman Michaels

Tuff Beavers on 3!! Landsports 2014 was killer once again!

Thank you to everyone who helped kick off our amazing Intercamp season with a pep rally in Loon Lodge that brought down the house! From the smoke explosion to the riotous "kick their butts" chant, we all had an epic time raising the energy for an awesome day.

First, Camp Manitou...12U teams came to the sunny shores and the Tuff Beavers rolled, winning all major events. 12U Inline dominated. Soccer went to a shoot out and Tamakwa prevailed with great heart!

We went on to compete against Manitou 3 more times and won a majority of the competitions. Thanks to great coaching, a positive mental attitude and tremendous enthusiasm and sportsmanship, it was an awesome summer of Intercamp.

Shout out to the 12U Softball teams who played physical and smart. It was an honor coaching you guys! Thank you!

We had so many exciting things happening at Landsports all summer.

How!How! to all who came out and improved their skills. Volleyball was insane. Tetherball always rocking, the Plat-form was home to the great Ranger 3 on 3 tournament. How!How! Syracuse for winning the tournament with amazing play by Brad Zousmer, Seth Hysni, Max Bronstine and Graham Smtih. You made Coach Jake Moss proud!

½ Court was always full this summer. How!How! to ½ Court Specialist Brandon Herman for running the ½ court program. How!How! to Voyageur champ Max Norris and Ranger champ Ethan Purther. Also, a shout out to Teper, Bean and Hermelin for coming down every day and working so hard on awards.

The field of Dreams saw a lot of action this summer. We had great flag football games with the Senior Boys and lots of softball, baseball, soccer and kickball.

3 amazing track meets filled the stands. We had an exciting new event this summer at landsports. First annual JT Intra Camp!! Foresters and Trailblazers competed hard in Basketball, Baseball, and Soccer and flag football. We had a great competition and great fun!

Thanks to all the Landsports staff for making this an amazing summer.

See you out there!
AD Ellen

Camp TV Mike Klassen

My name is Mike Klassen and this is my fourth summer as the Camp TV Director at Camp Tamakwa. This summer was an extremely exciting time for Camp TV! We had the most videos edited by campers in camp history, which is amazing! In first session some great Music Videos were done, including "Problem" and " A Sky Full Of Stars." Sophie Samuel received the "Sam Raimi Award" (the high award at Camp TV) at the first session banquet for her work on and off screen. In 2nd session, last years high award winner Sophie Harris headed up a project that took the shores by storm. The word "Makwata" is now a popular word thrown around camp, because of her frightening vision that came to the screen to scare campers and staff alike. The high award winner for second session went to Sammy Weiss for his film called "A Day In The Life Of A Pylon" which had the honour of being screened

at this year's Saturday Night Live. A huge HOW!HOW! to all the campers who came out to Camp TV!

This years crop of videos were at an all time high of quality, originality and creativity and I can't wait to see what the campers have in store for next summer!

FROM OUR AMAZING CAMPERS...

Tamakwa, our Second Home by Sophie Harris and Meaghan Arviv

Tamakwa is a place where every kid feels like they belong. Every camper experiences traditions, friendships and learns so much. We all have some amazing memories on the shores of South Tea that we will never forget. Some of the memories I have made are jumping off the tower, being in a cabin next to my sister, and living with 20 many amazing people for a month! I love waking up to the bell, listening to the fire crackle and singing taps at night with the most amazing people ever. Some memories were bad at the moment or hard to get used to but we always end up smiling in the end. Some examples: 10 day, catching frogs in the swamp, paint wars, color war, cookouts, stargazing and so much more. Tamakwa has become our second home throughout our many years here. It will always be a place we keep close to our hearts and we will hopefully carry on these traditions forever.

New Friends by Spencer Robins

At the beginning of the first month this year I went on a 5-day canoe trip. Before we departed on the trip we had a meeting to learn our route and meet our tripper. My trip consisted of 5 other boys whom I liked but none of which I was very good friends with and a tripper who I'd never met. I knew the trip would be fun but I didn't know if I'd enjoy it as much as past trips. After the first day, in which it rained all day, I realized I was really enjoying trip! As each day passed I continued to have an amazing time. This years canoe trip proved to be not only a great experience but also was a perfect opportunity to bond with my cabin mates, my counselor, a new tripper (who is now one of my favorite trippers) and two C.I.T.'s.

Tamakwa's Super Spirit **by Jenna Zucker and Lindsey Zousmer**

Greetings from the sunny shores of South Tea, our names are Jenna Zucker and Lindsey Zousmer! We are both in Pioneer One and we would like to share with you how much we love this camp and its spirit. In fact we think that the Tamakwa spirit is quite super. Combined we have 4 years on the shores and we have cherished the spirit each year. One of the best parts about camp is waking up in the morning and knowing that we will have a chance to show Tamakwa's super spirit whether it is wearing certain clothing or cheering in the dining hall. A couple spirited events that Tamakwans look forward to each year are Color War and Survivor. Tamakwa is known for its spirit and that's what brings our family closer!

Where I'm From **by Maya Wolberg**

When people ask me where I'm from, whether it's on a family trip or at a day camp, I always say, "I'm from the sunny shores of South Tea." They respond with, "Where is that?" and my answer is, "In my heart."

Tamakwa is a huge part of my life. Even though it's only my 4th year at Tamakwa, Tamakwa is still considered my home away from home.

Now as I said before this is my 4th summer on the sunny shores of South Tea. I was basically born into Tamakwa. But you know what? That's fine by me because in my opinion Tamakwa is one of the best summer camps in the world, so when people ask me, "Where are you from?" I say the sunny shores of South Tea. When people ask where you are from, what do you say?

I Am Home **by Eden Rose**

I am home. The water of the warm lake hits my feet. The sun warms the cool sand. I know where I am. I know where I want to be. I pinch myself. It doesn't work; I am not in a dream. I am with my family, my Tamakwan family.

Canoe Trip by Lily Foltyn

At the beginning of the trip I was very nervous and didn't believe that I could do it. I was struggling at the start and couldn't paddle. I heard before that there was something called a 'portage' and I had no clue what that was, so when we finally got to the first portage I was exhausted. Luckily I got over it because I realized it was more mental strength than physical strength. At least that is what my tripper said. They were very helpful when I was assigned to carry the food pack. The good thing about carrying the food pack was it got lighter and lighter as the days passed. The longest portage was the 670 meter, but it felt like a 2140 meter portage.

The food by the way was so amazing and tasted great. My favorite meal was by far the mac 'n cheese.

At the end of the trip I was so much stronger than I was at the beginning of the trip. Trip made me feel and think more outside of the box and made me more of a wilderness person. It is my first year at the beautiful shores of Algonquin Park and I would have to say this is one of my favorite camp experiences so far. I can't wait for next summer to arrive back at Tamakwa.

My First Trip by Abby Foltyn

People have different opinions on different subjects, for example; some people despise trips, while others can't wait for the option of long trip. It is my first year at Tamakwa and I am new to the canoe trips. When I first turned the bend some girls were complaining about having to go on the portages, while other girls were smiling, laughing and sharing fun memories about portages. As I boarded the trip canoes I was nervous, scared and excited all at the same time. After a long 3-hour paddle and a tough portage we finally got to our campsite on Burnt Lake. I have never slept in a tent before so I was up all night afraid that a bear or moose was going to run into our tent! I know that it seemed miserable first day on trip, but it wasn't. I made 8 new friends, overcame many of my fears and survived through the tough portage. I can't wait to have the option to go on 10-day next year. Trips gave me the chance to be independent and to do something I have never done before.

Waiting for Camp

by Macie Edelman, Mia Haddad and Jane Rosett

We were so excited for that spectacular day that we would get on the bus and go to our favorite place, Camp Tamakwa. You know that feeling when you have been waiting for something forever and thinking, "It finally came!" Well for us that day was arrival day. Counting down the days until camp feels like ages, but at the same time thinking back to when we got here feels like yesterday. The time flew by fast. We can't believe we're going home tomorrow. The first time we came to Tamakwa we were nervous and excited but by the end of the time we were staying at camp we felt accomplished, proud and sad that our first camp experiences were over.

In-Line Hockey

by Kate Potocsky and Thea Jacobs

This month we decided to try something new that we never would have done if it wasn't for Camp Tamakwa. In the beginning it was extremely hard. It involved bumps, bruises, magic ice (don't ask) and putting on stinky equipment we never imagined touching. For the first few days we literally rollerbladed around until the rain came. When it rained the rink was too slippery for rollerblades. This gave us the opportunity to learn how to play hockey. We both signed up for hockey the next week again because we had so much fun. Next year we'll be ready for the girl's hockey team!

No Pain, No Gain

by Jake Lefkovsky

This summer at Camp Tamakwa was very fun and exciting. I created many new memories. My favourite memory was probably finishing a 2.3k portage. This 2.3k portage was very difficult. Most parts of the portage were very muddy due to the rain the previous day. The portage was difficult physically because I was carrying a heavy pack that day. The weight of the pack became very painful and started to hurt my back and shoulders. However I pushed through it. The mental exhaustion was also kicking in and I told myself to keep going. When I finally reached the end I knew I would become stronger and that I would have a really good memory from trip.

Tamakwa Wildlife **by Britney Wasserman and Charlotte Brown**

This is our 4th year at Camp Tamakwa and our first year as pioneers. We have experienced and admired the wildlife. It is all over camp, including outside of our cabin. Outside, the tall trees give us fresh oxygen and the cool South Tea Lake gives us a nice swim and refreshing shower. Inside the cabin mice run along the floor at night. Without the wildlife at camp, it wouldn't be called a camp. Also it would not be the same. Wildlife is a huge part of camp.

Secret Sisters **by Thea Hecht and Emily Gluckman**

Hi. I am Thea Hecht and this is my third summer at Tamakwa. I am Emily Gluckman and this is also my third year at Tamakwa. We have been in a cabin for two of those three years. We have made a bond stronger than ever. No matter what, that bond can't be torn apart. At Tamakwa you can make friends, memories or even jokes that will last a lifetime. We got on that bus for the first time being the scared little eight year olds that we were. We did not feel comfortable at all until the warm Tamakwan family welcomed us. We stepped onto that dock and we felt like that would be our home. The trees swayed like a balloon. The scene was very beautiful. Every night when we stand up for taps, we always know how lucky all of us are to be here. To be holding each others' hands while we sing. When we are at home we sometimes can't fall asleep. We always can fall asleep when we think of Tamakwa. The wind brushing through our campfire-smelling hair. Tamakwa is our home away from home. We love Tamakwa because of our friends and family. We hope everyone will come here and get to experience what we have. We are so close we feel like sisters. We feel so much like sisters, that we call ourselves secret sisters. We tell jokes and make each other laugh all the time. We are kind and generous to each other. There are times when we fight but we always make up and become friends again. We love Tamakwa and everything there. We will miss this place a lot when we leave.

Best Canoe Trip Experience at Camp! **by Becca Logan**

"Na na na na, na na na na, hey, hey, hey, goodbye!" screamed Tamakwa. I was going on a 4-day canoe trip. I went in a canoe with one of my counselors and Violet Green. It was sad paddling away from camp. After about ten minutes all I could see was a little green triangle. In about two hours we were at the first portage. Luckily it was only a 160m. I found out I

was also on a trip with Ally Siskind and Emily Sigel, also two girls from Pioneer 2. When we were done the portage we couldn't find a campsite. We decided that roughing it was the best idea, it turned out it was an awesome campsite. That night, we all sat by the campfire and told each other about ourselves. The next day there were about four portages. Then we got a super-site with another trip. On the last day/night it rained and Violet and I couldn't set up the tent. All six of us had to sleep in a tent together. Ally went to another tent with one other person from P2. The next day we went to the portage store. I got a burger, it was great! Other people told me they loved their meals. I also got a bag of jelly beans, but I finished it before we got to camp. When the bell rang for tootsie-footsie I paddled so hard because when the bell rings you paddle as fast as you can from Lone Pine to Tamakwa. So as I was saying I paddled so hard and I heard, "We welcome, we welcome you..." and when I got out of the canoe I dashed to see all my friends and hugged them. It was the best feeling ever. That was an awesome canoe trip!

Counselor to the Rescue! **by Ally Siskind**

It all started when my friend Jordan was carrying her laundry bag to the cabin and all of a sudden she dropped her laundry bag into the lake. My other friend Izzy came running in the cabin and said, "Jordan just dropped her laundry bag in the lake." We all ran to find Jordan staring down at the lake with her laundry bag in it. She was tearing up a little bit but I would be doing the same thing if I was her. When my counselor Daryn arrived she looked down and asked to borrow a pair of flip flops because she was going into the lake to get the laundry bag. We were all laughing our heads off watching Daryn throw the clothes back up the shore. I think this was a great camp experience because it shows that counselors will always be there for their campers. Even if they have to get a little bit wet. That is why this moment is my favourite camp experience.

If You Believe, You Can Do Anything **by Max Morganroth**

My greatest Tamakwa experience was on trip. I was struggling on trip to take the huge heavy packs across the portages. It really hurt after the portage, and even still the next day but as I kept working hard and trying my hardest I actually started to succeed a lot faster. I went from the light pack, to the medium sized pack, and soon to the heaviest packs. On trip I learned that as you work and believe in yourself you can actually do it; you just have

to be confident in yourself. If you are not confident and don't think you can do it then you will not succeed. You have to tell yourself that you are great at this and you can do it. If you are not confident it is a lot harder. You just need to try your best and that is what I did and I succeeded. I could go through huge portages easily. I went through the 2.1k easy when in the beginning I thought I was going to die because it took me a while even on a 400m. But I worked hard and was confident so I could do it.