

CAMP WABUN



Dear Wabun Community:

Enjoying steaming mugs of cocoa, baking from scratch, sitting around the fire with friends; the simple joys of this season remind me of Wabun! Though my family and I scout sledding hills rather than rapid routes this time of year, the short days leave plenty of time for long cozy evenings spent reflecting on the past year, and looking forward to summer adventures.

Winter is a wonderful time for reflection; as the New Year approaches, I hope you are able to enjoy some time reminiscing. For us at Wabun, putting together this newsletter and also the presentation to share at Open Houses across the country offer great opportunities to cast our memories back to those long days of summer. We sort through photos, read trip reports, remember poignant or hilarious (or both!) trip logs, and compile a few pages we hope pay homage to the amazing young people who spent this past summer making Wabun's 83rd season such a success.

Enjoy the articles of and about the adventurous souls who follow hearts North each summer to spend the season of the sun out in the wind and water and woods. Whether you are a current camper, an alumnus/a, a former staff member, or are new to us and considering whether Wabun is right for you, I welcome you to reach out and get in touch - call, email, or come on up and visit. I would love to hear from you. I wish you the best in the coming year and look forward to crossing paths.

Warmly,

Jessica Lewis - Managing Director

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER:

POTTS FAMILY ON THE DUMOINE



FRIENDSHIPS FORGED

**Paddle to Piano
Wabun Open House
Schedule**

Happy Holidays!!!

A POST SEASON DUMOINE EXCURSION

Wabun's Head Chef, Robin Potts, headed into the bush with her children (Kylie and Brian) and niece (Maegan) at the end of last summer. Robin is an alumna of Wabun and all of the kids have tripped with the Camp as well. Their travels took them down the Dumoine River – a favorite trip of Wabun's B-sections.



What a great way to finish up the Summer of 2015! Kylie, Brian, Maegan and I did a Dumoine River trip, first time ever for me! To share a little, we departed from North Bay on a Friday morning with our gear and it took approximately 8 hours to reach our drop off destination which was the northern part of Lac Dix Milles – we unloaded at a bridge and headed towards the Riviere Du Nord (approximate 5 km river run), only to run into an unmarked dam which created a waterfall that was otherwise marked as a class 2 rapid on the map. We portaged into Riviere Du Nord finding the water level low at that time of year, maybe better to run in the spring, but still good enough to run! We covered approximately 90-kilometers of river over 5-tripping days.

Our menu was created by Kylie, Maegan, and Brian and was mostly composed of Wabun cook book recipes -- just to highlight a few items; pizza and bannocks for our floating lunches, bush coffee every morning and bush tea to end the days, oats, fresh caught fish, bacon, corned beef hash with potatoes and coffee cake to name a few.



Inspired by the trip, I wrote a short poem that I paired with this picture taken as we exited the Riviere Du Nord and entered the mouth of the Dumoine. A small reflection piece worth a share as the trip was great and it was an honour to have done it with such beautiful people, my children and my niece -- we all love the Wabun Way!!

Thank you Camp Wabun, for the opportunity to build memories that will last a lifetime!

THE RIVER

Where do you take me?
Where do you go?
I ask you,
You do not answer.
You do what you know.

Windy, winding, pebbles and stones
Ripples and rapids moving we go.
Wandering, can I find what I am looking for?
My eyes are wide,
My paddle deep,
I dig for the answers, for I feel weak.

River, flow through me
Take my tears
Take my fears
I ask from you, what do you know?

Mysterious and misty
Currents and calm
Show me more,
I want to see me in you
For you are beautiful
And I want to know that beauty too.

AN EXCITING ENDEAVOR

by Libby Moore – Wabun parent and
Vice Chair of the Friends of Wabun Board of Directors

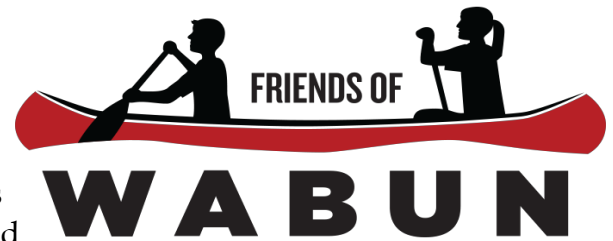
Wabun campers, staff, and alumni/ae carry a deep, resonant memory. They know that canoe tripping through the wild lakes and rivers of the boreal forest on ancient travel routes leaves few people unchanged. Over the years, many have asked how they can help make this kind of authentic wilderness experience financially accessible to more of today's youth. *Friends of Wabun* formed to do just that. We are committed to the confluence of youth and wilderness travel, and we base our commitment around three core values:

We believe

- *in the inherent virtue and value that is derived from time spent in the wilderness context;*
- *that it is our responsibility to cultivate future generations' respect and sense of stewardship for the world in which we live;*
- *in the profound self-discovery and individual growth that transpires through travel in the natural world.*

Through a grant process, *Friends of Wabun* supports both youth and the organizations that serve them. In addition to Camp Wabun, we may make grants to other organizations aligned with our mission statement and core beliefs. By making a donation to the Friends of Wabun, you help sustain the opportunities for today's youth to embark on a journey into a world of great beauty, challenge, and friendship that will ultimately strengthen them for their lives ahead.

For more information or to donate, please visit www.FriendsOfWabun.org or contact Jason Lewis at jason@friendsofwabun.org.



L to R: Jason Lewis (Executive Director), Phoebe Knowles (Board Chair), Libby Moore (Board Vice Chair), Bill Porter (Board Treasurer)



2015 Wabun Staff
100% Participation!!!
Thank You.

Forging Wabun Friendships – by Lily Turner (Roxbury, CT) and Olivia High (Chalfont, PA)

Setting: Toronto Airport Wabun Group Meeting

Date: June 26, 2014

Mood: Nervous

On the morning of June 26, 2014, Olivia and her older brother, Zach, had left the Philadelphia Airport. She was very excited to be a third generation Wabun camper, as well as being the first girl in her family to go to Wabun. Lily's dad and brother had just dropped her off at the Toronto airport. Lily had no idea that the next six weeks would be the first adventure of many.

Olivia's point of view: Once my brother and I navigated through the airport, I met up with a few girls who were the same age as me and who thought I might be in a section with them. The first person I met was India Espeset-Morrison, who almost immediately fell flat on her face on the way to the bathroom with me. She and I immediately became friends. It wasn't until we got on the bus I happened to look to my right and see a girl with really curly hair. I would have introduced myself, but then I realized she was sound asleep. Once we arrived at Garden Island, I thought about the cabin I would spend the next two days in. I was probably going to be in a bunk bed, so I asked her if she wanted to be "bunk buddies." Probably a very bold move in hindsight, but luckily she said sure. A start to a lifelong friendship had embarked.

Lily's point of view: Sitting alone all I could think of was how badly I wanted to be in the car with my dad and brother, on our way back home to Connecticut. Boy am I glad that wish didn't come true. A girl, who I later found out was named Kalina Harvey, waved me over to come sit with her and a few other girls. I immediately noticed a girl decked out in *The Fault in Our Stars* attire. Yikes. Little did I know that she would become my best friend. When the barge arrived at Garden Island my demeanor changed dramatically.. Excitement filled me rather than dread and I was engulfed in a friendly bearhug by my head staff Clare Churchhill-Sedar. It was time to go to the cabin and pick out my bunk.

L to R: LILY TURNER,
LAUREN GOLDBERG,
INDIA ESPESET-
MORRISON, KALINA
HARVEY, OLIVIA HIGH,
SAM ROSEN

LOCATION: MAPLE
MOUNTAIN

YEAR: MATTAWA



Forging Wabun Friendships continued ...

Setting: Computers and Facetime

Date: December 6, 2015

Location: Roxbury, CT and Chalfont, PA

As we FaceTime through our phones and try to fit all of our incredible memories into a short Google Document, we reflect on how Wabun has impacted our lives. Wabun has given each camper a plethora of opportunities to grow and develop into strong young adults. Portaging through hundreds of trails in the Canadian bush and paddling through rivers, creeks, and lakes, it is unavoidable that campers begin to depend on one another. This dependency and trust builds friendships unlike any other that are unique to the Wabun experience. We strongly believe that the section as a whole is a perfect example of this unbreakable bond. Helping each other through brief waves of homesickness, a rough portage or just enjoying each other's company around the fire, has led to relationships that we will cherish forever. Constantly updating each other on the happenings in each of our lives through Facebook and other forms of social media, friendships within this group of people expands from just two girls who were bunk buddies. Not only do you form remarkable bonds within your section, but also wonderful connections are created with boys and girls from all over the world through ping pong matches, 'nuke em' tournaments, and incredible trips.



L to R: LILY TURNER, INDIA ESPESET-MORRISON, WINNIE WORGAN, ANGIE FORBES, OLIVIA HIGH, SAM ROSEN, LAUREN GOLDBERG



YEAR: CAYUGA B
LOCATION: TURNING RIGHT ONTO THE DUMOINE RIVER



A Decade of Friendship . . .

From June 26th to August 7th of 2005 I spent my time in the woods adjusting to a completely different style of living outside the comforts of home, learning to try and love new foods, and most importantly, make friends that last a lifetime. Conor Finnegan was one of those friends, and coincidentally, the first person I met on the barge coming to Garden Island on Lake Temagami in 2005. Having been a returning camper he told me stories of delicious food, good friends and even the exciting event of “cliff jumping”, filling my curious head with all that would come in the next six weeks deep in the Canadian wilderness. While this would be the only summer that Conor and I tripped together as campers, it would not be the last that we spent in the bush together. In 2014 Conor and I staffed the second oldest boys section together and picked up right where we left off. Though our canoe tripping styles differed, we were able to learn from each other and grow as staffmates and as people. When I spend time in the bush with a group of people, I understand others better than any other situation I have experienced. Overall, Conor and I were able to communicate without speaking and were, time and time again, on the same page in the decisions we faced, no matter how easy or tough they were. The experience that Wabun offers provides a foundation for understanding yourself, other people, and your surroundings unlike anywhere else. I am truly grateful for the experiences and friendships made and shared over the years. – *Rob Meffert*



I have known Rob since our first summer at Wabun together as Crees in 2005. After 2005, I didn't trip with Rob until the summer of 2014 when we were both staff of Wabun B. I think what makes a Wabun friendship so strong is the dependence you have on one another for the safety of the section and each other. That level of dependency makes a very strong friendship between staff. When we are on trip together, we communicate without speaking, and whenever the inevitable problems come up, I know Rob will be on the exact same page as me without fail. That gives us a wonderful peace-of-mind during those times. I think that's what makes our friendship so strong. I have had the great fortune to staff with Rob for the past two summers; I could not ask for a better colleague or friend. Sometime during the year, I found the picture [above] of us when we were Crees. A decade later we took the picture again in front of the same cabin. – *Conor Finnegan*

Paddle and Piano?!?!

by Pete Gwyn

On a beautiful calm evening on Lake Temagami in the middle of June a large boat approached the dock from the North. I wondered who could this be arriving well after dinner on Garden Island. I soon discovered that a piano tuner, Robert, had arrived with his tool chest to take care of the Camp's piano.

I sort of laughed that this could be happening just as we were busy preparing the base camp for the campers' arrival. Then I remembered a phone call I had received earlier on the day from Skip up at Canadian Adventure Camp informing me that he had a piano tuner on the lake available to help us get our piano in playing shape. I must say when I got the call I thought that it was kind of strange seeing as we are a wilderness canoe camp, and this piano had sat in the corner of the lodge since I came here as a kid in the mid-1970s.

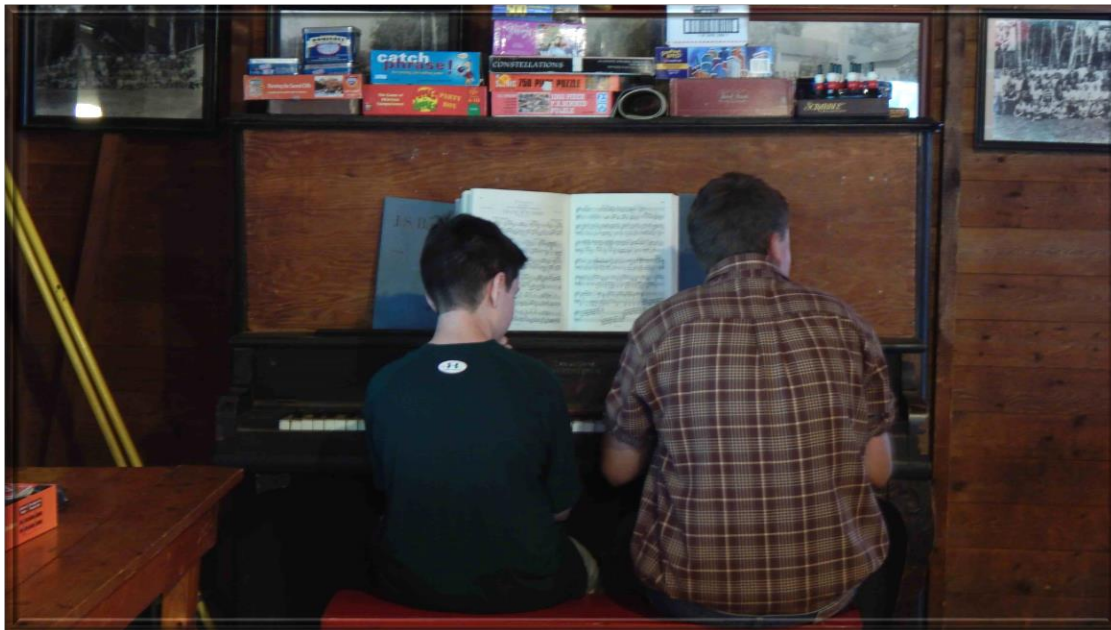
I was amazed to learn of this whole piano business! Robert is a master at working the magic back into old, well-built pianos. Similar to Hugh Stewart and Johnny K's artistry with canoes, Robert knows how to get an old Piano "serviceable". Watching Rob work on the 1912 Toronto-built piano was fascinating and beautiful; while we have some old canoes, none date to 20 years *before* the Camp was founded.

By the time breakfast was ready the next day, so was the piano. I am not sure if Rob worked all night on the old gem; I doubt it, he looked really fresh at the breakfast table. The results are that our piano now makes sounds that are out of this world.

The piano is once again the focal point of the Wabun lodge! When Sam Goldberg (Algonquin Head Staff) arrives at Wabun, his first stop is to the lodge to tickle the ivories. The sounds of Bach, Beethoven,

and Mozart drift through the birch and pine and add a most elegant atmosphere to an already magical place.

Let's hope that the old piano will be carrying its tune as long as the red canoes are carrying campers and staff around Ontario's waters.



2015-2016 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Wabun Open Houses bring together alums from many decades prompting shared reminiscences of times spent together, between the gunwales. These get-togethers are also the primary way that new families learn about what, how, and most importantly *why* we do what we do. I would love to see you at one of these upcoming events and encourage you to invite others you think would enjoy all that comes from a Wabun experience. As always, I appreciate your dedication and efforts in spreading the Wabun word. *Dick*

Saturday, December 5, 2015
2:00 pm

Columbus
OH 43221

Sunday, December 6, 2015
2:00 pm

Cleveland
OH 44118

Saturday, January 9, 2016
2:00 pm

New York
NY 10017

Saturday, January 23, 2016
4:00 pm

Minneapolis
MN 55419

Saturday, January 30, 2016
2:00 pm

Hamden
CT 06517

Saturday, January 30, 2016
2:00 pm

Greensboro
NC 27410

Sunday, January 31, 2016
2:00 pm

Drexel Hill
PA 19026

Saturday, February 6, 2016
2:00 pm

Columbia
MO 65203

Saturday, February 6, 2016
2:00 pm

Hopkinton
NH 03229

Sunday, February 14, 2016
2:00 pm

Bellevue
WA 98005

Saturday, February 20, 2016
2:00 pm

Lake Bluff
IL 60044

Sunday, February 21, 2016
4:00 pm

Oak Park
IL 60302

Sunday, February 28, 2016
2:30 pm

Boxborough
MA 01719

Saturday, March 12, 2016
4:00 pm

Wakefield
MA 01880

Sunday, March 13, 2016
3:00 pm

Freeport
ME 04032

Sunday, March 20, 2016
1:00 pm

Temagami
ON P0H 1C0





LOVE JOY PEACE



Happy Holidays



HAPPY NEW YEAR



thank you!



Friends & Family





CAMP WABUN



Getting Ready for 2015!!!

Jessica Lewis – Managing Director

Dear Wabun Community:

A flock of Canada geese landed in our backyard yesterday morning. Each year as the snow begins to melt I listen for their unmistakable honking; the sound is a signal that spring has truly arrived. The sight of a V of geese in flight, black bills forward, feet tucked, wings stroking the currents of wind, stirs in me the desire to follow them North. It's time to migrate.

As the days until my departure draw nearer I find myself tucking items away in my duffel to pack – extra batteries for my headlamp, a new pair of wool socks, the instructions to a game that might be fun to play one evening by firelight. Each week I put in a few more items, taking in the scent of sunscreen on my Wabun hat, feeling the smooth-worn texture of my tump strap, and reliving the memories of summers past these items spark; paddling with the sun on my shoulders, laughing with section-mates, making up words to songs not quite fully recollected. By the time the duffel is full, I've emptied my heart of memories making room for all the new ones that will grow this summer. I shift from remembering to anticipating.

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER:

2015 Bay Trips ANNOUNCED

What are YOU looking forward to
this summer?

Wabun Math

Amazing Alumni Experience

CELEBRATION IN NYC

There's Still Time

Spring thunderstorms swell streams, rivers, and lakes drawing campers, staff, and alumni to dust off their paddles and point their bows north towards Temagami. The geese and I are not alone in feeling the deep-seated pull of migration. Just over 6-weeks from now campers and staff will load up their wannigans and packs, and paddle off into adventure- a V-formation of red canoes flying through sky blue waters. In the following pages several current Wabun staff members will share what draws them north and what excites them about this summer. We will learn about two special routes to be traveled and enjoyed by Wabun's most senior campers. And, a family full of Wabun alumni will take us with them on a different kind of journey spanning generations and continents. So, find a sunny spot, take a moment to immerse yourself in words and stories shared by kindred souls, and listen for the geese overhead. If they call you to follow, we'll welcome you to Garden Island's shores! Enjoy spring.

Warmly,



Jessica K. Lewis
Managing Director

Announcing the 2015 Wabun Bay Trips - **WINISK RIVER**

This year, both the Wabun A and Cayuga A sections will traverse the lakes and rivers of Western Ontario to the breath-taking scenery of the Winisk River. The boys will begin at Windigo Lake, work their way to the Pipestone River and over to the Wunnummin Lake and then the Winisk. The girls will descend the Otoskowin River to Attawapiskat Lake where they will turn north following the traditional route to Webequie used for generations by the indigenous people, then on to Winisk Lake.

The Winisk River is the first of Ontario's mighty rivers to empty into Hudson Bay proper and easily spotted on maps for the peculiar 90° turn the river abruptly takes as it makes its final run to the Bay. The Winisk is an amazingly beautiful river that flows from the familiar rocky-pine forested land of the Canadian Shield through incredible limestone cliffs and majestically delivers paddlers into one of the southernmost extensions of arctic tundra in the world. The opportunities to see mink, otter, moose, caribou and eagle are enriched with the possibilities to see seals, arctic birds, and even beluga whales on the Bay. The adventures culminate as the sections the small Cree community of Peawanuck on the shores of salty Hudson Bay.



What are YOU looking forward to this summer?



ROB MEFFERT – Staff

- I look forward to once again being with the friends I have learned to call family.
- I'm excited to paddle through the early morning fog.
- I'm excited to have my biggest worry of the day be whether or not I'm going to get my feet wet.
- I look forward to the little things that come out of each summer; the inside jokes, the songs, etc.
- I look forward to seeing how a section comes together throughout the summer, how they handle things individually and as a team.

- I look forward to beating Bear Island in a good old fashion game of softball! (Started a team at my school, I think that 2015's the year)
- Most of all, I look forward to having the opportunity to show kids what makes the outdoors so great, and watch them learn to love what Wabun has to offer just as much as I do.

RACHEL HATHEWAY – Camper – Camp Wabun

and Lake Temagami have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and this will be my third summer as a camper at Wabun. I am so excited to come back this summer and jump into the cool water of Lake Temagami on June 26th! I can't wait to sit around the fire with my friends, eat s'mores bannock and drink cocoa. I'm looking forward to seeing the friends that I have talked to only through e-mails and texts for the past nine months. I can't wait to celebrate the beginning of the Wabun season with so many other campers who are also thrilled to be there. It's funny, when I think of going away from home for six weeks of the summer I don't think of it as leaving my family for that time, because it's like I'm coming "home" to another, even bigger, family. My parents both went to Wabun, I started coming as a camper a few years ago, and now this summer my sister Jayna will be a three-week camper. I am so excited for her to be doing the same things that I have done for three summers now, to paddle on a lake in the calm of the morning, and to feel the rush of joy when she sees the water at the end of the portage. I can't wait for this summer to begin so that I can see my camp friends again, share the Wabun experience with my sister, and take part in the best six weeks of 2015. *(Rachel in front with Jayna on her back)*



JOHN HUNGER - Staff - Wabun has been on my mind since the end of last summer. At this point, I can only imagine what the upcoming summer entails. I find that, for some reason, my reality at Wabun seems to surpass my expectations every summer time and time again. I am really looking forward to seeing the Cree section of 2014 back in action at Wabun this summer for another great experience and to share many more memories together. See you all June 26!



CHRIS CORTAZAR - Camper - I'm excited for Wabun this summer because it is a chance to get away from the business and the distractions of everyday life. Wabun for me was a great way to experience nature in a way that I never had before.

Some Wabun Math

No, there is not a tremendous amount of math done each summer on trip (except for measuring pannicans). This complex equation, however, was created by a camper a few years ago and pretty much sums up the Wabun experience.

Six weeks of challenges:

Long Paddles
Tough Portages +
Cooking & Cleaning
Camp Setup & Breakdown
Sleeping on the Ground

Six weeks of inspiration:

Stunning Surroundings
Teamwork =
Learning New Skills
Sharing & Bonding
Achieving Goals

Immeasurable Growth:

Maturity
Confidence +
Resolve
Strong Friendships
Leadership

Boundless Enthusiasm:

It is so beautiful here!
Yeah, we did it.
It' hard, but so great!
We all keep in touch.
I'll be back next year!





STAY CONNECTED



Do we have your email address???

Want to connect with other Wabun folks? Hear about exciting news? Know when Wabun is coming to your town? Please share your email address with us so that we can stay connected with you. Contact us at info@wabun.com and we hope to see you at an Open House this year.

Address Service Requested

Camp Wabun Ltd.
460 Jewett Road
Hopkinton, NH 03229



A Family's Trip to the Past

Alumni Profile – by Andy Hartzell

In late December of 1944, Frank Hartzell, brother of Jeff Hartzell, Sr., was assigned to B Company, 21st Infantry Battalion of the 11th Armored Division under General Patton, as they battled their way towards Bastogne to relieve the besieged American 101st Airborne Division which had been trapped there in the final German counter-offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge. The Company's heaviest fighting took place in and around a small village to the south of Bastogne. The Germans were ultimately defeated at the Bulge, but the Americans suffered heavy casualties (wounded or dead), including 47 of 50 soldiers in Frank's B Company.

This past August, a group of Hartzell family members, with over 50 years of Wabun experience returned to Bastogne with Frank to retrace his footsteps and share the war history together. Frank's entire family of 12 met up with Jeff, Sr., Andy and Colin Hartzell on the evening of Monday, August 11, at the square in the center of town for a welcome family dinner. The next morning, after visiting the remarkable Museum of the Battle of the Bulge, the group gathered at the square to meet with our tour guide, Roger Marquet, a local historian and author of two books on the Battle of the Bulge. Roger has maintained a long and warm friendship with Frank, mostly by letter or email, and knows every detail of B Company's wartime experiences around Bastogne.



Wabun alums include Melissa Wrede (front left), Jeff Hartzell (next to Melissa), Will Wrede (behind Jeff), Andy Hartzell (2nd row 3rd from left), Colin Hartzell (next to Andy), and Matthew Wrede (in front on the right).

The group's first stop was the main Compound just off the square where the 101st Airborne under General Anthony C. McAuliffe had been besieged. The Compound, which continues to be an active Belgian Army facility, was closed at the moment, but when Roger explained to the Belgian Commander that he had a Veteran of the Bulge with him, the Commander immediately opened the gates and welcomed everyone in. The Compound has a sizeable green surrounded by various barracks and other buildings. Several WWII armaments from the Battle of the Bulge mark the entry yard area, along with a remarkable photograph taken live from the Compound of the first airborne package-drop during the height of the siege. The group of seventeen gathered around the photograph as Roger, in warm but slightly halting English, began to explain details and timelines of the Battle. A few minutes into Roger's account, he saw the Belgian Commander motion to him and excused himself in French. Another smaller group of people had come into the Compound and indicated to the Commander that they, too, had a Veteran of the Bulge with them. The older member of their contingent came forward, and Frank went up to greet him. Frank proceeded to ask him which unit he had been with and where he had fought during the Battle. He looked slightly quizzical and didn't quite understand what Frank had said until a member of his own group asked him the same question, this time in German.

It turned out that the man was an infantryman in a German Panzer division that had battled the Allies on the east side of Bastogne and therefore was not likely to have directly engaged Frank's B Company. Nonetheless, the momentousness of this chance meeting was not lost on anyone, including the Belgian Commander who remarked that even he had not seen anything like it. The two veterans gathered together for a moment, and, when asked what each of them recollected from the experience, they both agreed that what permeated their memory most was the bitter, bitter cold; in fact, it was the coldest winter in Belgium in over a hundred years. After a few minutes, the smaller contingent bade their parting, and the group returned to its tour of the Compound saturated with the indelible impression that the encounter had left. When asked later if he had any ill-feeling towards the German soldier, Frank replied that he had none. The way he looked at it: they were both just eighteen year-old boys doing what they were told and trained to do. After visiting the underground barracks of General McAuliffe with the group, the Commanding Officer invited the entire family into the auditorium of the main office building. In formal uniform, the Officers of the Belgian Army conducted a brief ceremony honoring Frank for this service and presenting him with a plaque commemorating the Siege of Bastogne and Battle of the Bulge. They also took a photo of Frank, which was to be placed among other such photographs along a Wall of Honor in the underground barracks.



The group then left the Compound and drove to the small village outside of Bastogne where B Company had its heaviest engagement. With Roger's helpful assistance, Frank was able to describe the movements of B Company around and in the village. It was there that Frank had lost his best friend and foxhole mate, Bob Fordyce. The two of them were taking turns digging the night's foxhole, but when it was Frank's turn to dig, a shell came in and killed Bob as he sat right next to the foxhole. In a remarkable coincidence, about 8 years ago Roger found that the property where Fordyce had been killed was for sale. Roger bought the property and has built his retirement home there. The group parked outside of Roger's house and went around to the back yard where Roger had placed a stone tablet and planted a Blue Spruce tree on the spot where Fordyce had died. The group gathered around the spot to honor Fordyce, and when Frank started to observe that, but for a few moments of space and time, his entire progeny would not be there before him, emotions ran very high. It was a powerful moment for the entire family.

The group then finished its tour of the battle areas and returned to Bastogne for a grand celebratory dinner together. The following day, the group made the seven hour drive to Normandy and spent a couple of days touring the D-Day beaches and memorials before finally returning to Paris and home. It had been a most remarkable experience for everyone. In particular, it was extremely gratifying to Frank and Jeff that their grandchildren could now fully appreciate the stories and family history and, perhaps in future years, return to Bastogne with their own children and grandchildren to pass it along once again.

HOTEL
Roger
SMITH
New York



What a Celebration!!!

It was a great turnout at the Roger Smith Hotel in NYC in early March as campers, alums, staff and many, many friends gathered to celebrate Dick, Marg, Nibby and Ann. It was also an opportunity to welcome Wabun's new leadership team of Jessica Lewis, Sarah Flotten, and Julie Hinchman.

The weekend included: the connecting and reconnecting of section mates; a wonderful performance by Nashville, TN band the *Queen of Hearts*; and, the sharing of stories and laughs spanning decades. Many thanks go to Phoebe Knowles and all of our friends at the Roger Smith Hotel for hosting such a special event.





Looking for an amazing opportunity this summer? There is still time to apply to Wabun for the 2015 summer. Visit www.Wabun.com or email info@wabun.com for more information!

Want to keep up-to-date with Wabun happenings? Make [sure we have your email address.](#)



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CELEBRATION IN NYC

There's Still Time

Spring thunderstorms swell streams, rivers, and lakes drawing campers, staff, and alumni to dust off their paddles and point their bows north towards Temagami. The geese and I are not alone in feeling the deep-seated pull of migration. Just over 6-weeks from now campers and staff will load up their wannigans and packs, and paddle off into adventure- a V-formation of red canoes flying through sky blue waters. In the following pages several current Wabun staff members will share what draws them north and what excites them about this summer. We will learn about two special routes to be traveled and enjoyed by Wabun's most senior campers. And, a family full of Wabun alumni will take us with them on a different kind of journey spanning generations and continents. So, find a sunny spot, take a moment to immerse yourself in words and stories shared by kindred souls, and listen for the geese overhead. If they call you to follow, we'll welcome you to Garden Island's shores! Enjoy spring.

Warmly,



Jessica K. Lewis
Managing Director

Announcing the 2015 Wabun Bay Trips - **WINISK RIVER**

This year, both the Wabun A and Cayuga A sections will traverse the lakes and rivers of Western Ontario to the breath-taking scenery of the Winisk River. The boys will begin at Windigo Lake, work their way to the Pipestone River and over to the Wunnummin Lake and then the Winisk. The girls will descend the Otoskowin River to Attawapiskat Lake where they will turn north following the traditional route to Webequie used for generations by the indigenous people, then on to Winisk Lake.

The Winisk River is the first of Ontario's mighty rivers to empty into Hudson Bay proper and easily spotted on maps for the peculiar 90° turn the river abruptly takes as it makes its final run to the Bay. The Winisk is an amazingly beautiful river that flows from the familiar rocky-pine forested land of the Canadian Shield through incredible limestone cliffs and majestically delivers paddlers into one of the southernmost extensions of arctic tundra in the world. The opportunities to see mink, otter, moose, caribou and eagle are enriched with the possibilities to see seals, arctic birds, and even beluga whales on the Bay. The adventures culminate as the sections the small Cree community of Peawanuck on the shores of salty Hudson Bay.



What are YOU looking forward to this summer?



ROB MEFFERT – Staff

- I look forward to once again being with the friends I have learned to call family.
- I'm excited to paddle through the early morning fog.
- I'm excited to have my biggest worry of the day be whether or not I'm going to get my feet wet.
- I look forward to the little things that come out of each summer; the inside jokes, the songs, etc.
- I look forward to seeing how a section comes together throughout the summer, how they handle things individually and as a team.

- I look forward to beating Bear Island in a good old fashion game of softball! (Started a team at my school, I think that 2015's the year)
- Most of all, I look forward to having the opportunity to show kids what makes the outdoors so great, and watch them learn to love what Wabun has to offer just as much as I do.

RACHEL HATHEWAY – Camper – Camp Wabun

and Lake Temagami have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and this will be my third summer as a camper at Wabun. I am so excited to come back this summer and jump into the cool water of Lake Temagami on June 26th! I can't wait to sit around the fire with my friends, eat s'mores bannock and drink cocoa. I'm looking forward to seeing the friends that I have talked to only through e-mails and texts for the past nine months. I can't wait to celebrate the beginning of the Wabun season with so many other campers who are also thrilled to be there. It's funny, when I think of going away from home for six weeks of the summer I don't think of it as leaving my family for that time, because it's like I'm coming "home" to another, even bigger, family. My parents both went to Wabun, I started coming as a camper a few years ago, and now this summer my sister Jayna will be a three-week camper. I am so excited for her to be doing the same things that I have done for three summers now, to paddle on a lake in the calm of the morning, and to feel the rush of joy when she sees the water at the end of the portage. I can't wait for this summer to begin so that I can see my camp friends again, share the Wabun experience with my sister, and take part in the best six weeks of 2015. *(Rachel in front with Jayna on her back)*



JOHN HUNGER - Staff - Wabun has been on my mind since the end of last summer. At this point, I can only imagine what the upcoming summer entails. I find that, for some reason, my reality at Wabun seems to surpass my expectations every summer time and time again. I am really looking forward to seeing the Cree section of 2014 back in action at Wabun this summer for another great experience and to share many more memories together. See you all June 26!



CHRIS CORTAZAR - Camper - I'm excited for Wabun this summer because it is a chance to get away from the business and the distractions of everyday life. Wabun for me was a great way to experience nature in a way that I never had before.

Some Wabun Math

No, there is not a tremendous amount of math done each summer on trip (except for measuring pannicans). This complex equation, however, was created by a camper a few years ago and pretty much sums up the Wabun experience.

Six weeks of challenges:

Long Paddles
Tough Portages +
Cooking & Cleaning
Camp Setup & Breakdown
Sleeping on the Ground

Six weeks of inspiration:

Stunning Surroundings
Teamwork =
Learning New Skills
Sharing & Bonding
Achieving Goals

Immeasurable Growth:

Maturity
Confidence +
Resolve
Strong Friendships
Leadership

Boundless Enthusiasm:

It is so beautiful here!
Yeah, we did it.
It' hard, but so great!
We all keep in touch.
I'll be back next year!



A Family's Trip to the Past

Alumni Profile – by Andy Hartzell

In late December of 1944, Frank Hartzell, brother of Jeff Hartzell, Sr., was assigned to B Company, 21st Infantry Battalion of the 11th Armored Division under General Patton, as they battled their way towards Bastogne to relieve the besieged American 101st Airborne Division which had been trapped there in the final German counter-offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge. The Company's heaviest fighting took place in and around a small village to the south of Bastogne. The Germans were ultimately defeated at the Bulge, but the Americans suffered heavy casualties (wounded or dead), including 47 of 50 soldiers in Frank's B Company.

This past August, a group of Hartzell family members, with over 50 years of Wabun experience returned to Bastogne with Frank to retrace his footsteps and share the war history together. Frank's entire family of 12 met up with Jeff, Sr., Andy and Colin Hartzell on the evening of Monday, August 11, at the square in the center of town for a welcome family dinner. The next morning, after visiting the remarkable Museum of the Battle of the Bulge, the group gathered at the square to meet with our tour guide, Roger Marquet, a local historian and author of two books on the Battle of the Bulge. Roger has maintained a long and warm friendship with Frank, mostly by letter or email, and knows every detail of B Company's wartime experiences around Bastogne.



Wabun alums include Melissa Wrede (front left), Jeff Hartzell (next to Melissa), Will Wrede (behind Jeff), Andy Hartzell (2nd row 3rd from left), Colin Hartzell (next to Andy), and Matthew Wrede (in front on the right).

The group's first stop was the main Compound just off the square where the 101st Airborne under General Anthony C. McAuliffe had been besieged. The Compound, which continues to be an active Belgian Army facility, was closed at the moment, but when Roger explained to the Belgian Commander that he had a Veteran of the Bulge with him, the Commander immediately opened the gates and welcomed everyone in. The Compound has a sizeable green surrounded by various barracks and other buildings. Several WWII armaments from the Battle of the Bulge mark the entry yard area, along with a remarkable photograph taken live from the Compound of the first airborne package-drop during the height of the siege. The group of seventeen gathered around the photograph as Roger, in warm but slightly halting English, began to explain details and timelines of the Battle. A few minutes into Roger's account, he saw the Belgian Commander motion to him and excused himself in French. Another smaller group of people had come into the Compound and indicated to the Commander that they, too, had a Veteran of the Bulge with them. The older member of their contingent came forward, and Frank went up to greet him. Frank proceeded to ask him which unit he had been with and where he had fought during the Battle. He looked slightly quizzical and didn't quite understand what Frank had said until a member of his own group asked him the same question, this time in German.

It turned out that the man was an infantryman in a German Panzer division that had battled the Allies on the east side of Bastogne and therefore was not likely to have directly engaged Frank's B Company. Nonetheless, the momentousness of this chance meeting was not lost on anyone, including the Belgian Commander who remarked that even he had not seen anything like it. The two veterans gathered together for a moment, and, when asked what each of them recollected from the experience, they both agreed that what permeated their memory most was the bitter, bitter cold; in fact, it was the coldest winter in Belgium in over a hundred years. After a few minutes, the smaller contingent bade their parting, and the group returned to its tour of the Compound saturated with the indelible impression that the encounter had left. When



asked later if he had any ill-feeling towards the German soldier, Frank replied that he had none. The way he looked at it: they were both just eighteen year-old boys doing what they were told and trained to do. After visiting the underground barracks of General McAuliffe with the group, the Commanding Officer invited the entire family into the auditorium of the main office building. In formal uniform, the Officers of the Belgian Army conducted a brief ceremony honoring Frank for this service and presenting him with a plaque commemorating the Siege of Bastogne and Battle of the Bulge. They also took a photo of Frank, which was to be placed among other such photographs along a Wall of Honor in the underground barracks.

The group then left the Compound and drove to the small village outside of Bastogne where B Company had its heaviest engagement. With Roger's helpful assistance, Frank was able to describe the movements of B Company around and in the village. It was there that Frank had lost his best friend and foxhole mate, Bob Fordyce. The two of them were taking turns digging the night's foxhole, but when it was Frank's turn to dig, a shell came in and killed Bob as he sat right next to the foxhole. In a remarkable coincidence, about 8 years ago Roger found that the property where Fordyce had been killed was for sale. Roger bought the property and has built his retirement home there. The group parked outside of Roger's house and went around to the back yard where Roger had placed a stone tablet and planted a Blue Spruce tree on the spot where Fordyce had died. The group gathered around the spot to honor Fordyce, and when Frank started to observe that, but for a few moments of space and time, his entire progeny would not be there before him, emotions ran very high. It was a powerful moment for the entire family.

The group then finished its tour of the battle areas and returned to Bastogne for a grand celebratory dinner together. The following day, the group made the seven hour drive to Normandy and spent a couple of days touring the D-Day beaches and memorials before finally returning to Paris and home. It had been a most remarkable experience for everyone. In particular, it was extremely gratifying to Frank and Jeff that their grandchildren could now fully appreciate the stories and family history and, perhaps in future years, return to Bastogne with their own children and grandchildren to pass it along once again.

HOTEL
Roger
SMITH
New York



What a Celebration!!!

It was a great turnout at the Roger Smith Hotel in NYC in early March as campers, alums, staff and many, many friends gathered to celebrate Dick, Marg, Nibby and Ann. It was also an opportunity to welcome Wabun's new leadership team of Jessica Lewis, Sarah Flotten, and Julie Hinchman.

The weekend included: the connecting and reconnecting of section mates; a wonderful performance by Nashville, TN band the *Queen of Hearts*; and, the sharing of stories and laughs spanning decades. Many thanks go to Phoebe Knowles and all of our friends at the Roger Smith Hotel for hosting such a special event.





Looking for an amazing opportunity this summer? There is still time to apply to Wabun for the 2015 summer. Visit www.Wabun.com or email info@wabun.com for more information!

Want to keep up-to-date with Wabun happenings? Make [sure we have your email address](#).
