



THE WABUN WAY

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ALUMNI! We want to hear from you!

Where has your Wabun experience taken you? Tell us your news & reconnect with Wabun! visit https://wabun.org/alumni-and-friends/ or scan here to share your news! >>>

WABUN FOUNDATION

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Wabun Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization.

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Executive Director's Letter

Greetings Wabun Family!

A theme you'll see throughout this edition of The Wabun Way is the connective power of singing and how songs sung collectively, officially (think song books at the Campfire) or unofficially (think songs learned and sung out on trip at the section level) across the decades can solidify the sense of belonging, of community fabric and connection among alumni throughout Wabun's history.

In my conversations with Alumni this past year, I've been asking the simple question - when you think about singing at Wabun, who brought the music, inspired the song, encouraged others to sing...and what songs were the backdrop, the playlist, the soundtrack of your Wabun summers? You'll see in these pages some of the responses I have received so far - wonderful tributes and recollections!

This winter marks the one-year anniversary of Wabun going non-profit! There is a song

from the Broadway musical Rent called Seasons of Love and it asks the question, how do you measure a year? - It goes on to suggest that you can measure a year in daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife...

I pose to you the Wabun version of the question - how do you measure a summer at Wabun? In paddle strokes, in tump jobs, in friendships, in muscles developed, in songs sung, in stories told, in challenges met... We all know the value of a summer at Wabun. But How do you measure a <u>Year</u> In the Life (of Wabun)? (Sing it if you know it!) In open houses, in volunteer hours, in dollars donated, in campers enrolling - in scholarships granted, in friends reconnecting, in alumni events...

I am so proud to be a part of this astonishing community of people who care so much about



this place. Thank you to all of you who have given your time, attended in-person events, shared your stories and who have donated critical funds to support Wabun in this nascent phase. We are so grateful to you all!!

With gratitude,

Phoese Knonles

Phoebe Knowles Executive Director, Wabun Foundation

Managing Director's Letter

Dear Wabun Family,

For more than ninety years, Wabun has centered on a simple purpose: inspiring young people to enjoy and explore the world within and around them. From one generation to the next, Wabun has nurtured independence, interdependence, courage, and compassion in the young people who are in our care each summer. Whether we are paddling through the familiar waters of Temagami or venturing into the northern wilds of Ontario, Quebec, and Labrador, each Wabun camper wanders their way to this wisdom: when we have fun doing hard stuff together we find belonging and become more fully ourselves.

With our 94th season fast approaching, sections are filling quickly! We are witnessing a remarkable enthusiasm among our campers and their families, an eagerness to embark on the transformative adventures that await them this summer. In a few short months canoes will set off to traverse miles of rugged beauty. Each trip, regardless of its length or difficulty, promises to reveal something profound to the young people on the journey: they will discover that they are stronger than they know, more capable than they believe, and more connected than ever. The calls of loons, the warmth of sunlight dappled through pines, and the swirl of an eddy pulling them in these will be the gifts of the wild, teaching them to listen, to be present in this world, and to feel their place in the circle of things.

Those of you who have paddled our red canoes yourselves, or have loved someone who grew through their experience at Wabun, know the quiet power this experience holds. I hope that you can take a moment today to remember the feel of the paddle in your hands pulling through water, the sharp scent of cedar kindling just as it catches, the echo of laughter against limestone cliffs, that first sight of your child returning home from trip - capability and confidence radiating. I hope that you will take a moment today to share



these recollections with someone new - someone who has not yet learned of our island far away. It is these memories and stories, shared across time and space, connecting those who know this place with those who have yet to find it, that are our most powerful means of calling the next generation to camp.

Assistant directors Sarah Flotten, Julie Hinchman, and I are grateful to guide the camp in preserving and honoring the trips, traditions, and teachings of those who have come before us while also expanding and evolving to ensure the camp's sustainability and success now and for generations to come. Thank you for your support enabling Wabun to continue nourishing lasting friendships, embracing shared challenges, and learning from the wisdom of wild places.

With gratitude and hope for what lies around the bend,

Jessica Lewis Managing Director, Camp Wabun

The Ursa Award

At the end of season campfire on August 7, 2024, Camp Wabun Directors, Jessica Lewis, Sarah Flotten and Julie Hinchman introduced the Ursa Award, a new award signifying lifetime commitment and contribution to Camp Wabun. The Ursa Award honors individuals whose selfless contributions and exemplary dedication have profoundly impacted the Wabun Family.

The physical award, pictured here, was designed by longtime camper and staff member John Hinchman, and incorporates the Ursa Major and Minor constellations, the Bear being a constant symbol at Wabun. The Ursa Minor constellation also contains the North Star, which evokes the symbolism of why the Ursa Award was created. This prestigious honor celebrates those who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the Wabun Family, ensuring its traditions, values, and community continue to thrive.

The inaugural 2024 Ursa Award was presented to four individuals whose lives and actions exemplify the very essence of the mission. Ann Hinchman, Walter (Nibby) Hinchman, Margaret Lewis, and Richard Lewis have each devoted more than five decades to nurturing and strengthening every aspect of Camp Wabun. Their steadfast leadership, passion, and love for Wabun have left an immeasurable impact, and we are forever grateful for their extraordinary contributions. It is with deep appreciation and admiration that we present them as the inaugural recipients of the Ursa Award.

If you were not on Garden Island at the end of the 2024 summer season, please read below the speech from the closing campfire, and celebrate with us all the ways these four recipients have impacted Wabun forever.



Julie and Sarah introduced section logs and we were transported by the stories we heard. Julie spoke of the power of stories. In front of us are four people whose power has grown from story to legend. For a cumulative 250 years, Dick Lewis, Nibby Hinchman, Marg Lewis and Ann Hinchman have been Wabun. As many of us know, time at Wabun can be a funny thing – minutes can drag like an untied stern line or dart like a diving loon depending on how stuck your feet are in the muskeg or how strongly the river pulls your paddle at the top of a "V."

Things like stern lines and paddle pulls may seem small. But isn't it all the small things that make up a journey? That make up a life? The unseen pieces that might not draw attention on their own but, when carefully pieced together, combine to more than the sum of their parts and create a meaningful mosaic of moments and memories that, when viewed from distance, takes our breath away. For 250 years, these four mosaicists have gathered grit and grace, cedar and canvas, love and labor, strength and struggle, patience and perspective, and pieced them all together to build the Wabun program. They are the spiritual ambroid that has held us all together. We are here, in this moment, to honor them. Each of us knows what Wabun looks like from different perspectives and appreciates the beauty of its whole picture – today we invite you to zoom in and appreciate the work these four have done in procuring and positioning the pieces. There are millions of them.

The parenting pieces: Ann, Marg, Nibby, and Dick have welcomed, fed, encouraged, nursed, parented, comforted, cheered on and sent off thousands of campers.

The visiting pieces: They have visited homes, schools, camp fairs, community centers, campsites, Walmart, Canadian Tire, hotel rooms,

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The Ursa Award

emergency rooms, and between them all, Tim Hortons.

The repairing pieces: They have patched up footwear, rainwear, tumps, knees, canoes, curtains, roofs, paint, doors, windows, spirits, and pants. They have repaired plumbing, gas, electrical, motors, engines, relationships, blenders, printers, and canoes.

The worrying pieces: They have sat up nights together worrying about campers, staff, roofs, food, storms, flights, and water levels.

The postal pieces: They have licked over 50,000 stamps and memorized nearly as many zip codes. They have received countless bills, checks, invoices and itemized receipts to be cataloged. They have mailed countless camper postcards, staff gifts, holiday cards, Open House fliers, birthday cards, graduation cards.



Julie Hinchman, Jess Lewis, and Sarah Flotten

The support pieces: They have written countless letters of recommendation and have proofread 1,000's of college entrance essays. Please raise your hand if your college application essay was about Wabun.



Julie Presenting the Award

The driving pieces: For hundreds of thousands of miles they have driven cars, boats, busses, tractors quads, vans, snowmobiles, barges, and freighters. They have transported canoes, campers, staff, visitors, sick and injured, food, snacks, wannigans, and dogs to airports, train stations, Open Houses, campsites, and countless remote logging road coordinates by map and compass and GPS with chainsaws, spare tires, and thermoses at the ready.

The town run pieces: They have purchased maps, food, gear, staff watches, shoes, Dickies, staff watches, shoe goo, Dickies, staff watches, crocs, socks, and more staff watches. And alldressed chips.

The attendance pieces: They have attended, Ontario Camp Association Meetings, Canadian Camp Association Meetings, AYCTL meetings,

and countless Sunday Morning off-season Zoom's. They have attended graduations, funerals, engagement parties, baby showers, bat-mitzvahs, bush-mitzvahs, and have attended and officiated weddings and commitment ceremonies.

The giving pieces: They have given help, handshakes, hugs, laughs, they have given up their weekend, their own salaries, time, holidays, family vacations, the shirts off their backs, the hats off their heads, the socks off their feet, their raincoats, their sleeping bags, their seats at the table.

The smiling pieces: They have cheered for us in the sun, the wind, the rain, the cold. They have smiled, and smiled, and smiled.

The changing pieces: They have ushered in women at Wabun, nylon, freeze dried foods, and have taken us from mimeograph to xerox to fax to email to airdrop. Not to mention the evolution of Wabun swag.

The other pieces: They have headed out in the dark and arrived in the dark. They always

remember to turn the lights off. The phones are answered because of them. The tables are set because of them. The forts are stocked because of them. They have volunteered their time, heart, love, caring, and wisdom. They have raised thousands of children alongside their own. They have woven an unseen web that is supportive enough to hold us all and strong enough to set us free. We rarely see them swim, but they always keep their cool. They are our heroes. And for them, we have created the Ursa award.

The Ursa award honors individuals whose selfless contributions and exemplary dedication have profoundly impacted the Wabun Family.

Guided by those who came before them, the four people sitting in front of you have taken strokes that have created ripples that will impact generations yet to be born. From now forward Camp Wabun Leadership will periodically give this award to those individuals who represent the strength of character, work ethic, and boundless love that those of us around you have been fortunate enough to know. Thank you. We love you.



The Ursa Award Winners: Ann Hinchman, Nibby Hinchman, Marg Lewis, and Dick Lewis

Part I : Songs Sung At Wabun

At two different recent Wabun Alumni events, one in Columbus and one in Seattle, the festivities reached a moment when people started singing "Hail to All the Wabun Campers." In both cases, I was fascinated to observe that not everyone knows this song; even alumni of the same vintage did not universally know it. I began to wonder about the history of singing at Wabun, the original song books, the culture and practice of closing campfire sing-alongs, the staff pre- and post-season singing, and the trends over the years in section-level singing.

As I began to research, I found a copy of the Wabun Song Book, first printed in 1950, which included "over 150 of the best group-singing songs." The first ten pages were songs adapted for Wabun, and the rest were wonderful, singable songs, but not related to Wabun.

The dedication of the book states: "To William Hunter Anderson, better known as 'Andy', whose fine leadership in song has imbued countless Wabunites with a love for group singing."

It made me wonder who else in Wabun's history has "imbued countless Wabunites with a love for singing"? And, back to the original question, which songs had become the threads in the Wabun fabric over the years – who knew them and how did they get passed along.

We began asking members of the Wabun community the following questions:

- 1. What were the songs that made up the soundtrack/playlist of your Wabun years?
- 2. When you think of singing at Wabun, who made the music, who taught the lyrics, who inspired others to sing?

We received some wonderful input on the subject – and while the culture and practice of singing around the Wabun opening and closing campfires with a song book feels like something from another time, I can report that singing at Wabun is alive and well, especially at the section level.

In the following pages we'll share some of the responses that we received to the questions above. Interestingly, it was revealed that there is no single song or singing practice that every Wabunite knows and that connects them to the shared experience.

Traditions and rituals help create common memories that bond a camp community together across generations. An alma mater song is like an official anthem which gives the community a way to celebrate and honor a place through song and group-singing. What if we elevate "Hail to All the Wabun Campers" as an official Wabun anthem? Let's learn it, know it, sing it, and teach it to Wabunites yet to come. Here are the lyrics and the audio file so you can practice this one on your own. (Note: the song's second verse was originally Hail to all the Staffmen too. It has been updated.)

HAIL TO ALL THE WABUN CAMPERS

Performed by Helen Lewis Moore

Hail to all the Wabun Campers Hail to all the Staff there too Hail the Guides that lead the way Dear old Wabun, Here's to you

May the Red and White in triumph Ever sail or Garden Isle So that we, in days before us, May return there with a smile (Repeat last four lines softly)





Part II : Alumni Responses

We asked: What were the songs that made up the soundtrack/playlist of your Wabun years? When you think of singing at Wabun, who made the music, who taught the lyrics, who inspired others to sing? Here are the responses.

Jane Esselstyn – "When you feel sad..." from Godspell

Tracy Jane Young – Ted Kilbridge teaching me "Lucille" by Kenny Rogers

Ian Watson - "Bad Bad Leroy Brown" and anything by John Prine

Steve Forbes - "The Wannigan Song"

Maddy Fremont-Smith and Angie Forbes – Jo Moore and Kate Fotos singing the "Wabun Woman Song," and Sierra Cole singing "The Cat Came Back"

Julie Hinchman – Hannah Sullivan knew all of the lyrics to all of the songs we sang. She also carried the tune. We sang "American Pie," "Country Roads," "Grandma's Feather Bed," "Sunshine on My Shoulder," "Joker and the Queen of Hearts," "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay," "Blowin' in the Wind," "The Circle Game..."

Hannah Sullivan – Jen Zeigler was the real choirmaster.

Chris Foster – I remember Hardin teaching us rugby songs and singing "Wild Rover" on the way into the beach. As a cree John Hinchman was one of my campers and in my bow. He not only sang well but also knew the lyrics to almost every Beatles song. The Cayugas were prolific singers. I remember Hannah Sullivan knew the lyrics to many Joni Mitchell songs. A favorite song was "One Tin Soldier." Also have fond memories of Jen Ziegler belting out "On a Jet Plane" by John Denver. Songs that remind me of Wabun: "Take Me to the River" by Talking Heads, "Fire and Rain" by James Taylor (lyrics inscribed on canvas tent), and "Proud Mary" by Tina Turner (sung while standing in a canoe playing air guitar with paddle).

Katie Stauffer – Allison Coffin and Jess Lewis generally brought the music to our camper sections in my memory. I specifically remember Allison belting out "You're So Vain" (Carly Simon), "Me and Bobby McGee" (Janis Joplin), and "I Will Survive" (Gloria Gaynor), and Jess singing the "Circle Game" and "Return to Pooh Corner" (Kenny Loggins). I can hear them as I type it, and it takes me back. We also sang "Jack and Diane" a lot and then on our Bay Trip we sang "The River" by Garth Brooks. I think that was Karen Gallagher's influence with the country music.

Ella Vertenten – Abby Golden singing "That's the Way the World Goes Round" by John Prime

Stephanie Sullivan – In my sections in the 80s, we sang all the time. But we did not yet know the "Old Mine Road" or the "Wabun Woman Song." Connie Sheetz Searby knew a lot of songs.

We sang "Oh Canada," "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," "Annie's Song," "Put Another Log on the Fire," "The Rose," "The Cruel War," "Today" by John Denver, "Yesterday" by the Beatles, and "Tomorrow" from *Annie*.

Jason Lewis – In my experience, singing on a trip is an unpredictable tradition—some years, it's constant and boisterous; other times, it's more subdued. The frequency, volume, and certainly the quality can vary wildly. Personally, I always kept my own singing reserved for portages, ensuring that no one was around to hear my less-than-perfect melodies! In my mind, however, "Sympathy for the Devil" and "American Pie" had never sounded so good.

Paul Birtwistle – Will Barney singing Amos Moses endlessly

Margot Moses – Disney was big. Emily McClure was the instigator for many years in my sections.

Singing At Wabun, A History

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Singing At Wabun, A History

Phoebe Knowles – During pre- and post-season while on the staff, Peter Manning would play the guitar and we had some great staff singalongs - The repertoire included "Southern Cross," "Brown Eyed Girl," and "Closer to Fine" – "I'm trying to tell you something 'bout my life maybe give me insight between black and white - and the best thing you ever done for me - is to help me take my life less seriously - it's only life after all, yeah..."

Jess Scriver – On Trip we sang "American Pie," "Red Red Wine," Suzanne Vega's "Soldier," Queen, and "Piano Man."

Sarah Flotten – Jess Scriver and I made up "Old Mine Road" the year we had the Wawatays (1996).

Helen Lewis Moore - When Wabun used to have mid-season events, my sister Karen and I would make up acts to perform, changing the lyrics of songs to Wabun parodies. (To the right is an example from a 1975 song sheet titled "Wabun Songs by Karen and Helen Lewis.")

Dick Lewis – One of Wabun's founders, Bill Anderson (from the song book's dedication), had the most beautiful singing voice. Anderson's granddaughters, Maggie Lynch and Kathy Legg, agree that he was known for his singing and that others in their family had inherited his love of song and his ability to carry a tune.

John Hinchman – At least in my memory, we never really sang out on trip. Tim and I spent a lot of summers together and neither of us could carry a tune which may have had something to do with it. If we did sing, it was often something short and comical to add some joy to a rainy day or a hard portage. The only time I remember singing through all my years was with Kutch and the Kilbridges in my Chippy years. Kutch loved to belt out the songs, but none of us really joined in. The Kilbridges were always singing John Prine which was a bit more approachable for us to sing along with, but it wasn't a daily event. And

because of mid-season skits, the expectation was that the Chippies would traditionally sing a few camp songs and the Canadian national anthem, which meant that we needed to learn them. As for the other years, songs were used to pass time - not to sing for singing sake, but to burn time on long paddles. I remember on the Rupert with Hardy and Pete we used "Tangled Up in Blue" by Bob Dylan. It was a long song with a lot of words, and as a group we worked to figure them all out. Another year we did the same with "The Day the Music Died," again a long song that required figuring out all the words. This process was like playing horse. We found that it took our minds off the achy joints, etc. But I don't remember any of us singing the songs all the way through as a group once we figured out the

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6 + + -	1" 11 WADUN JONG BY MAREN & HELON WEWS
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	COOKing my DANTICK, What A lovely WAY of SAYING
	A can much you law me. Chan C Putting my text up, what a levely way of saying what you're thinking of me,
	Putting my text up, what a lovely way of saying
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	what you're thinking of me
	But I CAN SEE it, by the lock you're showin' (A) That it's only enting primes that keeps you going
· .	Em2 Em2
	That it's only enting prunes that keeps you going
	AREN'T you happy knowing
	Aren't you happy knowing (3) Aren't you happy knowing
(1)	- AL "
(Tune of	I'm A Waman" sung bij Maria Muldave)
	I can wash out my pairs of socks + have 'en hangin'out
	a the line of
	the line, I can tie a tumpstamp, pitch a tent, before you can ount to nime,
	CAN TIC A TUMPSTRAP, PITCH A TENT, BEFORE YOU CAN
	ount to nine,
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	clone it mette in the AAN
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	CHOSE IN AT WHON, W-H-15-U-M, 1/1 SING
	+ again, I(FI) C
	yeh, I'm at Labure, W-A-B-U:N
Snak	Five more haves til we stop for lunch And I've mlacady eater my last Crispy Creunch bern Var "[Sammi John]
Jeen	Five more hours til we stop for lunch
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(tune of "C	hevy Van [Sammi Johna]
. 0	Tat CQ La March 10 1 1 1
	I met a guy who said he's form busbur, he was skepin'
	his red CANOL
	E got in to make conversation + I asked him what it
8	as he'd like to do
Chan	his red care, E get in to make conversation, + I asked him what it: as he'd like to do And like a nintrae he has a win these and in the
Chorus	and like a picture he was layin there, mountight
d	arcing off his have a
	He got up + took me by the hand he spilled it
	And like a picture he was layin there, mountight arcing off his have He got up + took me by the hand, he said he'd '
	ew me his new warnig an,
	Original 1975 "Wabun Song" Lyrics

The Wabun Woman Song

Some think this song was created leading up to Julie Hinchman and Pete Gwyn's wedding in 1990. Others think it came around later. Either way, it's a classic and has been sung at many Wabun women's weddings over the years. Allison Coffin is widely credited for authoring the lyrics. It is sung to the tune of If You Want To Be Happy For The Rest Of Your Life.

If you want to be happy for the rest of your life Never make a wimpy woman your wife, So from my personal point of view Get a Wabun woman to marry you.

Wimpy women do nothing themselves, Always make their husbands help Wabun women are smart and strong Take it from me they're never wrong.

If you want to be happy for the rest of your life Never make a wimpy woman your wife, So from my personal point of view Get a Wabun woman to marry you

Her face is tan, her skin is rough, Take it from me, she's really tough. Wabun women always seem to smile Even after portaging 45 miles.

If you want to be happy for the rest of your life Never make a wimpy woman your wife, So from my personal point of view Get a Wabun woman to marry you.

At your wedding all your friends will cheer When the "just married" canoe appears. When you paddle to the house that's been sold You'll be carried over the threshold.

If you want to be happy for the rest of your life Never make a wimpy woman your wife, So from my personal point of view Get a Wabun woman to marry you. words. I think we just moved on to another. Once we had "Tangled Up in Blue" down, we moved on to the "Lily," "Rosemary," and "The Jack of Hearts." My Wabun B year was kind of similar in that what we did was for consuming time. We all worked together to rewrite the words to "Take It Easy" by the Eagles so that it fit with our adventure. We changed the line "there's a girl my lord in a flatbed Ford slowing down to look at me" into "there's a girl my lord in a Merc outboard...."

Bruce Grant was a guitar player, but when he staffed with me, he never carried the guitar with him. But I know that during other summers when he was there he did bring it. This doesn't mean that music wasn't important. Outfitting was always completed listening to music, and there were always discussions about songs and groups during the summer.

Billy Green – I always think back that singing was a big part of the canoeing life, but it really depended on the section. In my early years as a camper, there was always organized singing around the campfire circle when festivities wound down, led by Dick Jr. and others, and that's where I must have picked up most of the classic Wabun songs: "The Wannigan Song;" "The Bug Song;" "Goodnight Chippies;" "Hail to All the Wabun Campers;" "The Chippie Song (Down the Lake We Paddle);" "Wabun Forever "(sung to the tune of the Notre Dame Fight Song, but not sure if that's the right song name?); and certainly some others. And then on staff, I would say the older sections were interested in singing, but that's probably because there were a few vocally-minded rabble rousers who loved to sing; Ames Stevens, Joe Kilbridge, and Ted Kilbridge come especially to mind. We would always work through the Wabun songs. But we would also come up with new lyrics to established tunes, and they would become summer-long projects. (One that still sticks in my head is the old Bumblebee Tuna ad slogan, which was used for many verses that recited our daily itinerary on the

Singing At Wabun, A History



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Old Mine Road

This was written by Sarah Flotten and Jessica Hatheway Scriver when staffing the Wawatays in 1996. It sung to the tune of Country Roads.

Almost Heaven, Garden Island Maple Mountain, Lady Evelyn River Life is old there, older than the trees Younger than the mountains, growin' like the breeze

CHORUS

Old Mine Road, take me home to the place I belong Garden Island, Lake Temagami Take me home, Old Mine Road

CHORUS

All my memories gather 'round there red canoes - no stranger to blue water Dark and dirty, pot black on my hands muskeg in my boots and duct tape on my pants

CHORUS

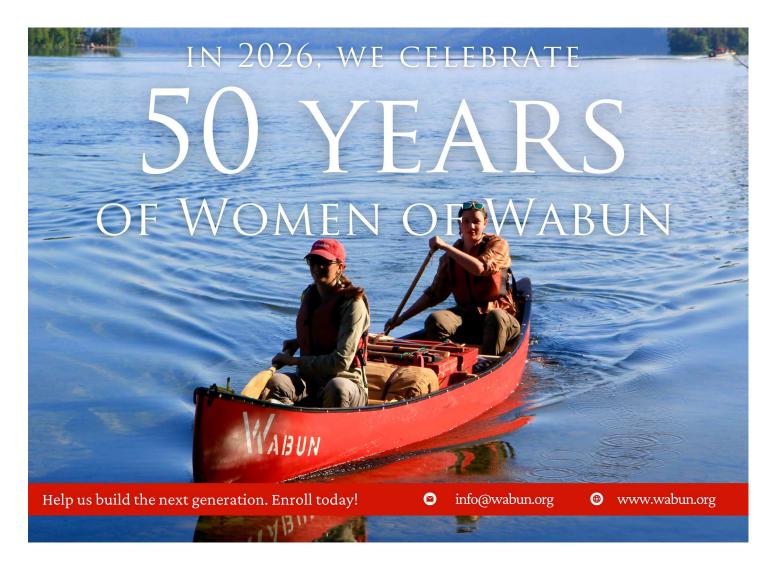
I hear her voice in the morning hour she calls me Rise and Roll she says as I wipe the sleep away Paddlin' down the lake I get a feeling that it should have been a rest day, a rest day

Dumoine Trip. You had to be there.) And we all know that Hardin is completely up-front about his singing skills, but that never stopped us from belting out songs on a regular basis! And I should add... It was Hardin who brought rugby songs to the North Woods, most notably "The Wild Rover," which sticks in my head to this day. On my soundtrack over those years: John Prine's "Sam Stone," "Hello in There, Angel" from Montgomery, and "Please Don't Bury Me" as well as Dylan's "Dear Abby" – whatever we could remember the words to! Not sure we ever finished one complete song. Others were Joni Mitchell (anything from *Court* and *Spark or Blue*), The Band ("Up on Cripple Creek," "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," "The Weight," "The Shape I'm In," and "Rag Mama Rag"), the Beatles (many!), and the Beach Boys. And there was also that famous Temptations tune, sung only on calm, clear days – "I Wish it Would Rain!"

Andy Hartzell – I don't recall too much from my earlier days as a camper other than preparation for the skits at mid-season, but I do recall reintroducing the "Section B Song" (First Day Rabbit, Second Day Fourbass, Rest DAYEE!!!) when I staffed Section B in 2005 and 2007. We practiced that song over and over and sang it as we paddled in on August 6. I miss that one and wonder how many even know it. I also was introduced to having a guitar out in the back country when Will Blackwell brought along a smaller-size trip guitar for the 2007 season. We would take turns around the campfire playing various songs. Last, I would be remiss if I didn't also mention the many years of gatherings we had at Sunset Island at the end of the season. Campers, staff, and parents would all gather round on the large porch there to sing songs we all generally knew - both Wabun oriented and otherwise. They were wonderful reunions which also perpetuated the importance of music among all of us.

Hardin Coleman – The boys camp in which I was raised sang all the time. Pre-season, mid-season, closing campfire, and we had the songbook in our K's. Mid-season skits brought evolving music to the island ("I can't get no - paddling action, but I pry..."). Of course, having the Lewis sisters sing was a highlight of any in-camp moment. If you want, I can share my Wabun lake paddling Spotify list. I remember disappointing Tom Woodman when I went from folk songs to Irish rugby songs. Then there were the songs we sang as we came in from the Bay and did again at lunch. Now ask Marge about her feelings when one starts singing "you picked a fine time to leave me Lucille." My joy in music is beyond my competence in music. I am forever thankful to DickJ for knowing that the joy is the thing.





IN 2026 WE WILL CELEBRATE THE 50TH SUMMER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE GIRLS PROGRAM AT WABUN!

To mark this exciting milestone, we are planning a number of events and tributes that will take place over the course of the year. While canoe tripping for girls at Wabun will be 50, we know that there are wonderful and influential Wabun Women through the camp's history who weren't campers or trip staff – including basecamp staff, parents, children, siblings, friends, and neighbors. In 2026, we will celebrate all Women of Wabun (WoW). Please update your contact information on the Wabun website so that you hear about what's planned!

Letter from Tom Woodman

The following is an open letter to coaches and parents from Wabun alumnus Tom Woodman.

Dear Coaches and Parents,

The decision to send your athletes to a summer camp can be a tough one. With the relentless pressure of year-round sports training, it's easy to believe that taking a break for six weeks might set them back. But I can tell you, with absolute certainty, that a summer at Camp Wabun can do the exact opposite. Six weeks in Temagami can return your athletes to you better, stronger, faster, and more capable leaders than they've ever been.

Let me share my story as an example.

I was a 13-year-old kid with a dream of attending Wabun. I had no money, but I was determined. After spending a summer working, and thanks to support from Wabun, I was able to attend for an incredible summer experience. What followed were five formative years at camp, which became the foundation for everything I achieved afterward — from competing at the World Rowing Championships to making the Olympic Rowing Team in 1980.

What makes Wabun so powerful is not just the canoeing or the wilderness. It's the combination of physical endurance, mental toughness, and deep teamwork that transforms every camper into a more resilient, focused, and capable athlete.

Here's what I gained those summers and what your athletes can too:

- Strength & Endurance: The physical demands of canoeing hauling a canoe by yourself or a load of heavy gear over challenging portages, and paddling for hours every day build strength, body awareness, agility, and cardiovascular endurance that will pay off in any sport.
- **Mental Toughness & Grit:** Pushing through discomfort and fatigue teaches athletes how



Tom Woodman, Clay Spalding, Billy Green and Hardin Coleman – 1975 Section A Staff (Two Bay Trips That Summer)

to persevere in the face of adversity. They'll face many challenges and learn to embrace them, not shy away from them, and come back stronger when they face tough moments in their training or competition.

- **Teamwork & Leadership:** At Wabun, teamwork is essential. Whether paddling a canoe or carrying gear through rugged terrain, campers learn to rely on each other and work as one cohesive unit. This kind of collaboration fosters leadership skills that carry over into every area of life — both on and off the field.
- Adaptability & Problem-Solving: The wilderness environment at Wabun constantly throws new challenges at campers. They learn to think on their feet, adapt quickly, and solve problems efficiently, skills that are invaluable in any sport and in life.
- Physical Recovery & Injury Prevention: In today's hyper-competitive sports world, athletes often overtrain and suffer from burnout or injuries. The variety of physical activity at Wabun provides a break from the repetitive motions of traditional sports, allowing young bodies to recover and build a well-rounded fitness base that can help prevent overuse injuries.

Letter from Tom Woodman



The Author, Fifth from the Left, and 1980 Olympics Team

As someone who has lived through the experience, I can tell you firsthand that my summers at Wabun played a crucial role in my athletic development. The physical training, mental fortitude, and life lessons I learned there helped me immensely in my success in rowing, eventually at the Olympic level.

For those of you who are considering a summer at Wabun for your athletes — it's not just a camp, it's a game-changer. Whether your child is a seasoned athlete or still developing their skills, six weeks at Wabun can equip them with the tools they need to succeed, not just in sport, but in life.

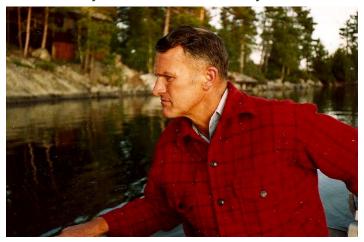
I strongly encourage you to consider the transformative power of this experience for your athletes. The results will speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

Tom Woodman Olympian, Rowing Team, 1980 Wabun Alumnus, 1971–1975



Alan Hyde By Jo Moore and Pam Hyde



Alan Litchfield Hyde, a third-generation islander on Lake Temagami, died on June 10, 2024. He was 95. Alan was the grandson of Paul W. Litchfield of Camp Pinto (Islands 709 and 710), and the son of Howard Hyde and Katharine Litchfield Hyde, who bought Island 1248 in Whitefish Bay in 1945. Alan first came to Lake Temagami in 1943 at age 14 as a camper at Camp Wabun, followed by a visit to Camp Pinto. Here, he joined his grandfather and a crew of young Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company executives (Paul Litchfield was then the CEO of Goodyear) for fishing and other Lake Temagami pastimes.

He spent several summers canoe tripping with Wabun, including a trip from Lake Temagami to Moosonee, on James Bay. Alan was a strong teenager and grew to six feet, three inches and nearly 200 pounds by age 13. He loved to tell stories - of completing the Diamond-Wakimika-Obabika loop in under 24 hours, or about when he was 16 and helped haul a load of 2 x 12s and a four-ton jack over the two-mile portage from Diamond Lake to Willow Island Lake on his way to Cabin Falls (upstream from Bridal Veil Falls) on the Lady Evelyn River - to rebuild the porch on the cabin overlooking the falls that was originally constructed by the Newcombs. A year later, Alan built his own cabin on Island 1248, which his parents had newly acquired.

Alan first brought his sweetheart, Polly Ross, to Island 1248 in 1953, with an eye toward determining whether or not she was "Temagami material". Polly met the test and passed with flying colors, as she took naturally to camp life and baked a perfect blueberry pie. The two were married in 1954 and made it to the island almost every year for the next 57 years. They had two daughters, Libby and Pam, who began coming to the island in 1969 and 1970, respectively, and taught them how to fish, canoe, care for the camp, and many other skills of island life. Libby's children Jo, Nina, and Willson Moore attended Camp Wabun, and Libby later helped found the Friends of Wabun – the precursor to the current Wabun Foundation.

Temagami became part of the family's DNA sometime shortly after Paul Litchfield's first trip by train up to the Lake in 1905, and the Temagami gene has been passed down through the generations. Alan's grown grandchildren, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews are now the fifth generation of the family to visit Lake Temagami and the third to be on Island 1248 in the summers. This brought Alan great joy.

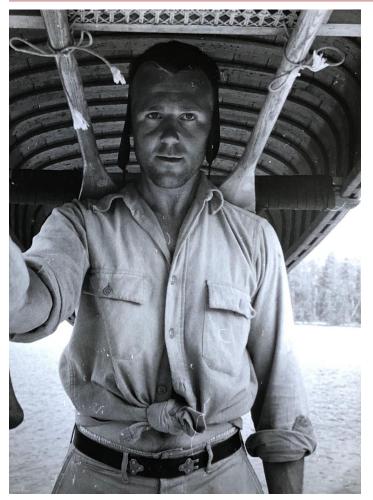
Chuck Longsworth

By Laura Longsworth and Lizzy Longsworth

Chuck Longsworth staffed at Wabun from 1948 to 1951. His Amherst College roommate, Jeff Hartzell, brought him to Camp and Chuck fell hard for wilderness canoeing. He returned to Temagami many times over the years, first for his honeymoon and later for canoe trips with friends and family. He and his brother Maury, also staff, introduced paddling to their children and grandchildren, many of whom followed the path to Wabun as campers and staff.

Chuck—Dad—also loved music, often whistling or singing as he went about his day. Late in life, as his memory declined from dementia, singing seemed to take on a special power. His mind

In Memoriam



couldn't hang onto what had happened the day before, and his ability to tell stories of his life adventures diminished, but he remembered his favorite songs. Some ("Sentimental Journey," "Red River Valley") were familiar enough that many around him could join in. But when he started to sing "W-A....," the lead-in to his old Camp Wabun favorite, people outside the family didn't know that one. This proved no obstacle to harmony! He happily taught visitors, nurses, health aides, cleaners—really, just about anyone—the "Wannigan Song."

Dad hadn't been to Temagami in 20 years, but his canoe trip adventures stayed with him always. And somehow this short, peppy song about a heavy wooden box of food is where he carried some of his greatest memories. So, we'd start, "W-A...." And we sang the Wannigan Song hundreds of times with him, evoking a time and place Dad deeply loved. It was his last song. Dad died January 8 at age 95.

W – A – double N – I – G – A – N spells Wannigan, Wannigan
That's the sort of thing you want to Mortgage, mortgage
When you're just about to cross a Portage, portage
First you lift it, then you shift it,
Then you flop it, then you drop it,
Then it's WANNIGAN on me!

> **Sue II Knowles** By Phoebe Knowles



Sue II Knowles had many touch points with Temagami and with canoe tripping over the course of her life. She was first a Keewaydin spouse (as newlyweds in 1970, she and her husband, Jimmy Knowles, spent their honeymoon in the area), then she became a regular Ojibway guest, bringing her family up each year, then a Keewaydin parent, a Wabun a parent, and a member of the Keewaydin Board of Directors. She made deep connections and wonderful friendships with the communities involved with both camps. She passed away on October 25, 2023.

THE WABUN WAY

Wabun Alumni and Friends Events















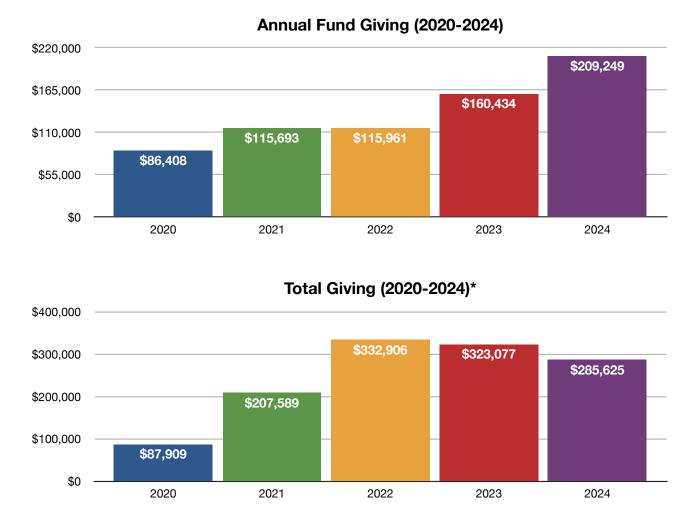




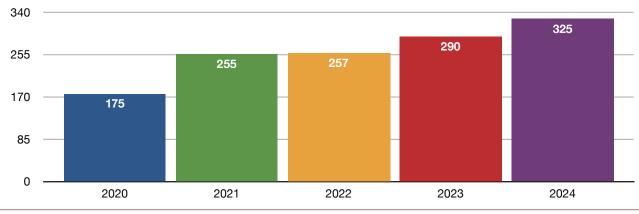
💥 THE WABUN WAY

Financial Report

Unlike previous Wabun Foundation annual reports, the financial data below is now based on the calendar year (which matches our fiscal year). Data from before 2024 has been recalculated to reflect this.



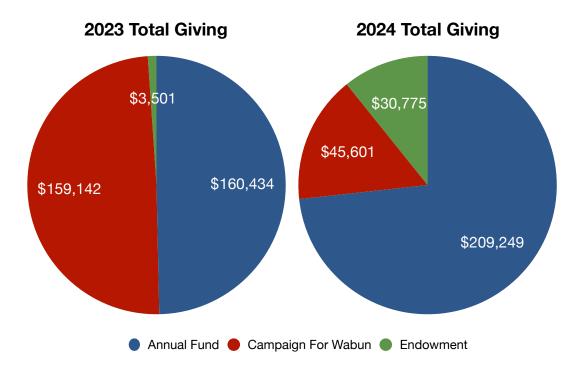
*Includes Annual Fund, Campaign for Wabun, and Endowment Gifts.



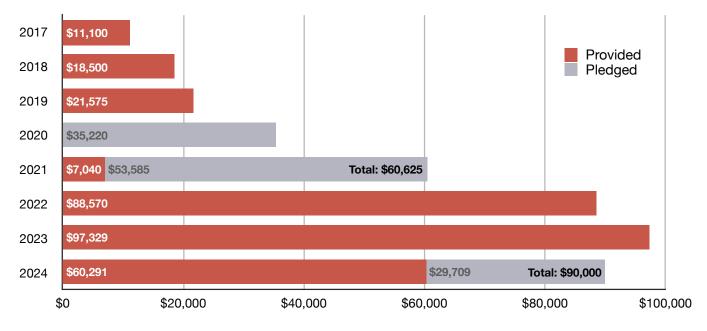
Number of Donations (2020-2024)

PAGE **17**





Scholarship Support Pledged and Provided (2017-2024)



💥 THE WABUN WAY

Donor Report 2024

We are so grateful to the Wabun Community for your generous support!

As part of the recent transition to non-profit, we have changed our reporting cycle from a fiscal year to a calendar year. Our last annual report included donations up to June 30, 2023. In this report we have included eighteen months of donor impact, divided into two distinct lists (Calendar Year 2024 and Q3 & Q4 of 2023), thus bringing us current to December 31, 2024.

The following list includes all gifts received between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. From now on our annual reporting will be on a calendar year basis.

Legacy Society (\$25,000-\$100,000)

Reid Parker

Voyagers Circle (\$5,000-\$24,999)

William Anderson John Austin Orchard Foundation Elizabeth de Lima Alan Hyde Jon A Lindseth Margaret Lynch Susannah Ross and Kevin Barney Joseph Sullivan Laura Sullivan-McKenna Stephanie Sullivan and Nick Laping Margaret and William Thickstun William Wellington



Trippers Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Hardin and Gail Coleman Virginia de Lima Richard Hollington Philip and Jane Mallinson William and Anne Porter Dan and Karen Sanders

Wilderness Club (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Douglas Addison Jonathan Berger Molly and William Brennan Andrew Buckman Select Equity Group Foundation Luke and Elizabeth Dann John Fiske Suzanne Flotten Casey Forbes Chris and Hilary Foster Anne Fowlks Mary Beth Gallagher David Golden William Green and Diane Whitney Caren Hibbitts Susanne and Sam Horner Pamela Hyde Jason Lewis Halley Moore



Josephine Lekometros Moore Willson Moore Robert Morse John and Louise Moses David and Kimberly Newell Samuel Richardson Philip Rockwood Jessica & Geoff Scriver **Ben Simmons** Hardwick Simmons **Bruce Simonds** Paul Sipp Katie and Scott Stauffer Amanda and Matthew Torgeson John and Angela Traynor Sarah True

X THE WABUN WAY



Maddy Vertenten Polly Vranderic Rose Wilcher Edna Wright

Campers Club (\$500-\$999)

Andy Albershardt Howard Barnebey Christopher Bartlett Andrew Buckman John Chester Michael Douvadjian John and Leslie Elder Stephen and Susan Forbes Andrew Hanson Anderson and Theresa Hartzell Tim Hildreth Walter and Ann Hinchman William Johnston and Rosita Moore Halley Keevil Carole Levin Jonathan Lichtman

Rebecca Lockwood Amy Longsworth Richard and Cate Meffert Alan and Kelly Moore Clifford Moskow Michael and Martha Parker Alison Gessner Rooney Joseph Rutter Garrett Schniewind Thomas Stiverson Sara Proman Strand and John Strand Tracy and Gordie Vap Leslie Forbes and David Worth

Friends of RCF (Up to \$499)

Jonathan Alden Daniel Arshack Kelly Bancroft Alexander Baquie William and Nancy Battey Paul Birtwistle Ellen Brancart

Donor Report 2024

Bright Funds Foundation Ian Cameron Karen Carter Michael Cheesequay Jonathan Chein Tammy Cole Zoe Collis Leslie Corcelli Roz Curran **Charles** Curtis Marc Daudon Elliot deBruyn Margaret DeGulis Robin Denninger Mark and Ann Dillenbeck Nathan Doty Thomas Downing James Draper Marshall and Virginia Eaton John Edmonds Susan and Matt Ennis Jane Esselstvn Steve Farrell Stephen and Mary Finnegan Sarah Flotten Andrew and Ellen Forbes William Forbes Evan Foster Jeffrey Foster Linda Foster **Robert Frazee** Holt Fuller Kris Gabel-Palen James and Elizabeth Gamble Kathleen George Jennifer and Joseph Giffune Angela Greene

Emma Gwyn Samuel Haines Julia Hinchman and Peter Gwyn Molly Hoffman/Mazzone Elizabeth Houle and David Pope Austin Hovey Keith Hrasky William Johnson Joseph Kilbridge Brian Kilgore Charles Lafave Kay Lahr Sarah Langfitt Nicholas Laping Madeleine Lehner Michael and Monica Lehner Jessica Lewis John and Laurie Lewis Margaret and Richard Lewis Graham Lincoln Peter Lindseth Robert and Jenifer Lippincott Elizabeth Longsworth Laura Longsworth



Peter and Christina Manning Andrew Matlack Daniel McCarthy Nicole McCarthy Gordon McCutchan Deborah Monroe Nina Moore Richard and Helen Moore Travis and Mia Moore **Flisa Morris** Katharine Moses Lou Moses Margot Moses Zac Moskow James Newell Karl and Julie Nocka William Nocka Elizabeth Paulson Roberta and Thomas Paulson Tom Paulson Jonathan Pereira **Rosemary Pierce** Elise Pope Trevor Rees Cameron Reilly **Robert Swift** Jessica Scriver Charles Shaw Seville Simonds **Robert Slattery** Caroline Sloat **Elisabeth Sloat** Eben Smith Edward Sortwell Jay Souder Cynthia Spencer William Tabor

Donor Report 2024

Kim Thompson Neil Thompson Elizabeth Turrell-Farrar **UBS Matching Gifts Program** Ted Waddell John Wagner Elizabeth Walker George Walker James Walker Bruno Walmsley and Katharine O'Callaghan **Cristine Watrous** William Weber Benjamin Wellington Anne White Janet Whitlock Alan Wood Whitney Wright

Gifts In Honor Of:

Donations were made in honor of the following: Harriet Berger by Jonathan Berger The Coleman Family by Mr. Rob & Jenifer Lippincott and Cynthia Spencer John Edmonds and Ted Nye by **Thomas Stiverson** Fischer Franke by Kim Thompson Reed & Hayward Herlihy by Rosmunde Curran Ann and Nibby Hinchman by Julie Hinchman Felix Knowles Born 2/22/24 by George Walker Richard P. Lewis III, Marg and Dick Lewis, The Lewis Family, HBD Marg! by Jane and Philip Mallinson, Joseph Kilbridge, Charles Shaw, Susanne Horner,

Paul Sipp, Kay Lahr, and Hardin & Gail Coleman

Maury Longsworth by Lizzy Longsworth & Tom Kreyche Joe McCarthy by Nikki McCarthy Margot Moses by Lou Moses Heidi Nocka by Jessica Lewis William Porter by Douglas Addison

> Ben Simmons by Hardwick Simmons

Gifts In Memory Of:

Donations were made in memory of the following:

Bo Foster, Bo and Mary Alice Foster by Karl Nocka, Linda Foster, William Nocka, Evan Foster, and Jeffrey Foster Dr. Michael Gallagher by Karen Carter

Doc Hartzell by Sarah Langfitt and Molly Hoffman/Mazzone

Shawn Hodgins by Emma Gwyn

Sue II Knowles by Elizabeth de Lima and Helen Moore

Libby Moore by Willson Moore, Caren Hibbitts, Nina Moore, Pamela Hyde, and Jay Souder

William H Olmsted by Polly Vranderic

Matthew Ridgeway by John Edmonds

Clay Spalding by Kathleen A George

The Red Canoe Society

Donor Report 2024

The Red Canoe Society was established in 2024 to recognize individuals who have decided to continue their support of Wabun through bequests, trusts, IRAs, or through other estate planning commitments.

> Russ and Lisa Tuckerman Stephanie Sullivan Chris Foster Ian Watson





Donor Report 2023 (Q3 & Q4)

The following list includes all gifts received between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023. For donations received in calendar year 2023 prior to June 30th, please see our FY23 Annual Report which can be accessed on our website by using the QR code to the right.

Wabun Sustaining Society (\$100,000 and up)

Stephen and Susan Forbes

Legacy Society (\$25,000-\$100,000)

Casey Forbes

Voyagers Circle (\$5,000-\$24,999)

Elizabeth de Lima Virginia de Lima Alan Hyde Jeff Schneider

Trippers Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

William Anderson Jonathan Berger Hardin and Gail Coleman

Wilderness Club (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Douglas Addison Andrew Buckman Todd Cavalier Luke and Elizabeth Dann Michael Douvadjian Chris and Hilary Foster David Golden David and Barbara Hillmeyer William Kelly Philip and Jane Mallinson Richard and Cate Meffert Garrett Moran Samuel Richardson Phillip Rockwood Hardwick Simmons Hannah Sullivan Margaret and William Thickstun Angela and John Traynor Maddy Vertenten Polly Vranderic Rose Wilcher

Campers Club (\$500-\$999)

Daniel Arshack Justin Boren Sarah Flotten Suzanne Flotten Leslie Forbes and David Worth Bill Green and Diane Whitney Andrew Hanson Pamela Hyde Katie Johnson Rita Lloyd Peter Ostlind Michael and Martha Parker Katie and Scott Stauffer Thomas Stiverson Sally Strand JD Sullivan Stephanie Sullivan and Nick Laping Laura Sullivan-McKenna Gordie and Tracy Vap Eliza Wicks-Arshack

Friends of RCF (Up to \$499)

Alexander Baquie Bruce Bishop Stephen Blackmer and Kelly Short Ian Cameron Karen Carter





Donor Report 2023 (Q3 & Q4)



Sandra Chivers Elizabeth Cleminshaw and Keith Erickson Elliot deBruyn Andrew Derrow Mark and Ann Dillenbeck Thomas Downing Marshall and Virginia Eaton Susan and Matt Ennis John Farrar Steve Farrell John Fiske Julia Forbes **Robert Forler** Keith and Laura Fortier **Robert Frazee** Kathleen George

Jennifer and Joseph Giffune Max Greenwood Emma Gwyn Jill Hancock **Thomas Higginson** Camden Holland William Johnson **Rosemary Keevil** James Kinnealey Phoebe Knowles lanthe Lekometros Moore Gavin Lentz John Lewis and Laurie Lewis Graham Lincoln Peter Lindseth Robert and Jenifer Lippincott

Laura Longsworth Kerry Mack and Cesar Avery Peter and Christina Manning **Robert Meffert** Nina Moore Richard and Barbara Moore John and Louise Moses Karl and Julie Nocka Janet Prince Trevor Rees Susannah Ross and Kevin Barney Beth Sayre-Scibona **Ned Simmons Robert Slattery** Stephen Smith Jay Souder Drew Spalding Cynthia Spencer Ames Stevens Sara Proman Strand and John Strand Sidney and Jerry Sundheimer William Tabor Alexander Tucker Deborah Tucker



Ella Vertenten John Wagner Benjamin Wellington Anne White Zeno Wicks Steve and Mimi Wrede Whitney Wright

Gifts In Honor Of:

Donations were made in honor of the following:

Andrew Buckman by Margaret Thickstun

The Coleman Family by Cynthia Spencer

John Edmonds and Ted Nye by Tom Stiverson

Chuck & Polly Longsworth by Laura Longsworth

Ben Simmons by Hardwick Simmons

Lucy Wicks – Sending her children and my son to Wabun became a major part of the foundation of their lives – by Zeno Wicks

Those who made Wabun Foundation possible! by Robert Frazee

Gifts In Memory Of:

Donations were made in memory of the following: Harriet Berger by Jonathan Berger

Dr. Charles A. Derrow by Andrew Derrow

Bo Foster by Karl Nocka, Emma Gwyn, and Christopher Foster

Dr. Michael W. Gallagher by Karen Carter Chris Getch by Stephen Smith

Sue II Knowles by Jeff Schneider, Kathleen Johnson, Beth Sayre-Scibona, Virginia de Lima, and Kerry Mack

Libby Moore by Jay Souder, Nina Moore, Jay Souder, and Pamela Hyde

William H Olmsted by Polly

Vranderic Clay Spalding by Kathleen George and Drew Spalding Stokey by Ben Wellington

Donor Report 2023 (Q3 & Q4)







Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please direct any questions or concerns to Phoebe Knowles, Executive Director, at phoebe.knowles@wabun.org.

Gifts for the Future: Endowment

With a gift of \$25,000 or more, a named endowment fund can be established. You can also donate to support our existing endowment funds. For information about establishing a fund or contributing to an existing fund, please contact Phoebe Knowles at phoebe.knowles@ wabun.org.

Wabun Foundation General Endowment Fund:

Income from these funds are used to meet the greatest needs of the Foundation.

Coleman Family Scholarship Fund: This

scholarship fund will support campers with a preference for candidates who live in Philadelphia, Boston, or other Gateway Cities in Massachusetts.

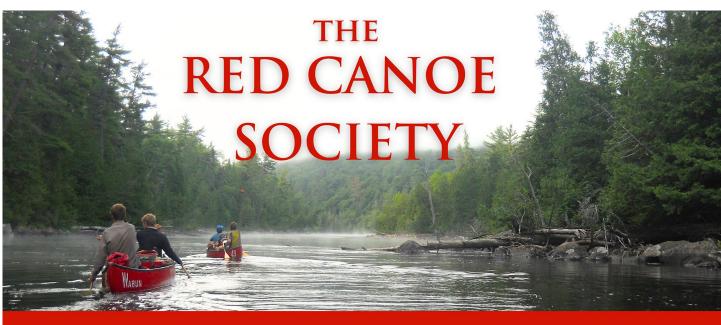
Bill Olmsted and Dave Thompson Scholarship Fund: Bill Olmsted and Dave Thompson started as trip staff for Camp Wabun in 1966 and 1968 respectively. They were life-long educators, dedicated to improving the world for others; thanks to the generosity of Philip Rockwood who provided the seed money for this fund, the primary

To make a gift or to learn about ways to donate, use the QR code or link below.



focus of this scholarship is to facilitate access to Wabun for Temagami First Nation/Teme-Augama Anishnabai members, First Nation, and other children of color.

Reid Parker Capital Improvement Fund: Reid T. Parker was a Wabun camper in 1983 & 1984. The goal of this fund is to support Wabun's enduring viability and future. Funds from this endowment will be utilized for Wabun's medium and long-term capital improvements.



The Red Canoe Society was established in 2024 to recognize individuals who have decided to continue their support of Wabun through bequests, trusts, IRAs or through other estate planning commitments.

Have you included Wabun in your will?

Contact Phoebe Knowles at phoebe.knowles@wabun.org or at 917-345-6784.

Supporting Wabun

X THE WABUN WAY

THANK YOU!

To our Wabun Family of generous donors, thank you for your donations to the Wabun Annual Fund.

Your donations ensure the Wabun experience continues for generations to come!





Camp Photo Summer 2024