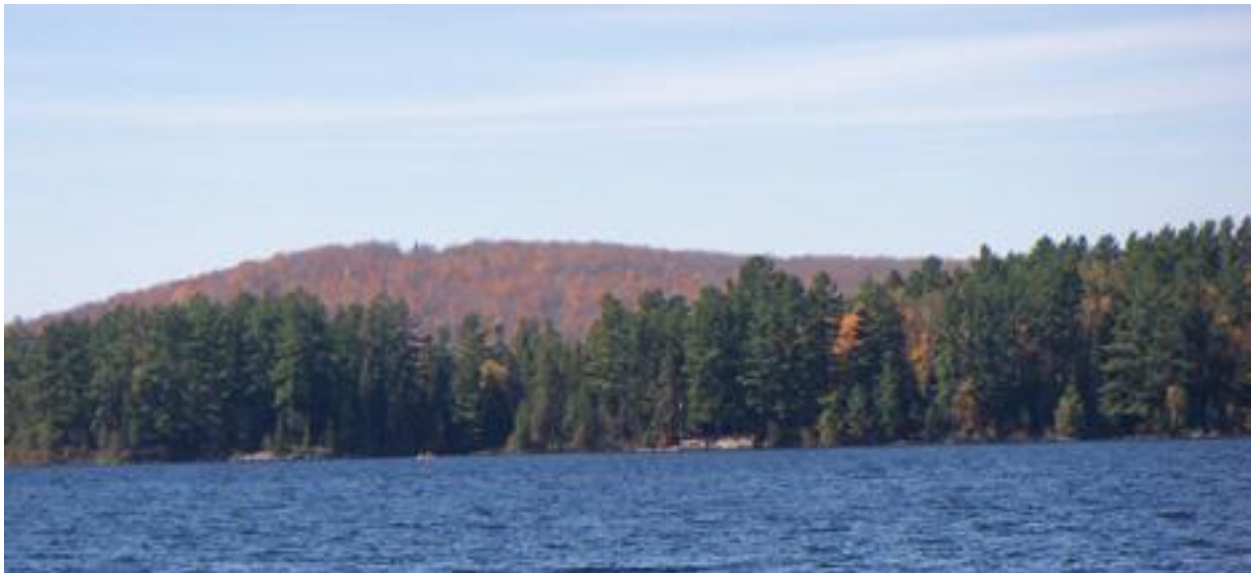




ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 8. Early Fall, 2011

Jim "Gyro" Coakley, Director of
Alumni Relations, Editor



Bear Mountain on Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend. Photo: J. Coakley

Fall, 2011 News

Fall Groups at CPI: This fall, Outdoor Education groups from Nichols School, Elmwood Franklin School and Allendale/Columbia spent time at CPI. A new group this year was from the Maritime Charter School. Wyatt Arthurs had become aware of this school through his participation in Leadership Buffalo. The Algonquin Campership Fund Steering Committee enthusiastically supported the awarding of funds to support the fees for this school group. Leadership Buffalo made a gift to ACF in support. Wyatt writes:

Maritime Charter School is an inner-city Buffalo public high school chartered in 2004. Maritime primarily serves at-risk students living in poverty in Buffalo. The school tailors its program to provide these young people with a broad range of experiences out of the traditional classroom setting, seeking to broaden their horizons and their perceptions of future possibilities. All of the students attending Maritime are also Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Cadets. NJROTC stresses leadership and citizenship and

instills the Navy Core Values - Honor, Courage and Commitment. Cadets wear Navy-provided NJROTC uniforms and earn rank demonstrating leadership ability and participating in advancement exams.

Maritime has selected a diverse group of 12 cadets (w/ 4 alternates) to attend a week of special instruction on Pathfinder Island. Sladds and Bruce Morrison, their faculty advisor, have designed a special curriculum centered around orienteering and tripping skills. The cadets will embark on a 3 day, 2 night canoe trip, in addition to the usual paddling, ropes and compass walks. Paul Romesser, who is a retired Marine Corps master sergeant, will be accompanying them.

Race News: George Liederhaus Memorial Race: The 12th annual George Liederhaus Memorial race weekend was October 7-9. This event is a fund raiser for the Algonquin Campership Fund. Each individual racer and spectator makes a donation to the Campership Fund. Meals are provided by Camp Pathfinder. This was a year of records: record attendance, at 58; record number of racers, at 32; and record breaking weather. Also, the time difference between the first place team and the second place team was 12 seconds. The race results: 1st place – Warren McDermott and Kiel Pfaff; 2nd place – Zach Arem and Max Brown; 3rd place – Andreas Nauleau and Dave Szymkowiak. The first two teams completed the race around the horn in less than 2 hours.



GLM Racers 2011. Photo: J. Coakley

Upcoming Alumni Events:

New York City Alumni Event:

This year's Pathfinder New York City gathering is being held this Friday, November 4, 2011, at 7 PM. Alumni and spouses/partners, current campers and families, and current staff are all invited. The location is the Princeton Club of NY, 15 West 43rd St., between 5th and 6th Avenues. Attire: Jacket/Tie The event is sponsored by Camp Pathfinder and Todd Marks' company, Mindgrub Technologies. Todd, one of many Pathfinder Marks's, was a camper and staff member in the 1990's.

We are expecting folks from New Jersey and Connecticut as well as New York. We'll enjoy cocktails, memories, old friends, new friends, photos and films of Pathfinder trips of the past decade, and vintage glimpses of Pathfinder from the '20s on. We will hear from Glenn and Sladds about plans for Pathfinder's 100th Anniversary and beyond. RSVP to Sladds at redcanoes09@gmail.com. We would love to see you, and the roster is already over 50 people!

Buffalo Autumn Reunion at Saturn Club: The 13th Autumn Reunion is Saturday, Nov. 26, 1:00 pm. Traditionally, campers, parents, current staff and alumni turn out in large numbers. All Pathfinder people are welcome. At 4:00 PM, following the All-Pathfinder event will be an alumni Cocktail Reception for those age 21 or over. Last year at our first alumni event in Buffalo, we had 50 people attend. Invitations are mailed and e-mailed, as well as posted on the web page and Facebook group. RSVP to Sladds at redcanoes09@gmail.com.

Paddles II: Mac Rand is gathering your stories, photos and memories for the 100th anniversary publication of Paddles Flashing in the Sun, volume II. Send them this fall to Mac at shadypoint@hotmail.com. (Word 2003, please.)

Algonquin Campership Fund: It's Annual Appeal Time. Unlike many not-for-profits, including most likely your alma mater(s), The Campership Fund only sends one written appeal each year. You should receive yours in the US Mail – if we have your address – during the second half of November. I hope that you will consider making a tax-deductible donation as part of your charitable giving plan for this year. Your employer may also match gifts.

Feature Article – Trip Communications:

A few of you have asked about how Camp keeps in touch with the trips while they are on the trail.

First, we look at what is available in Algonquin Park. Let's go back to the beginning. The Park was established in 1893; the railroad along Source Lake – the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound – was opened in 1896. Pathfinder was started in 1914. Highway 60 came along 20-plus years later, in 1936. The rail line went roughly from Whitney past Source Lake up to Rain Lake. Pathfinder used the rail line to move trips to and from points in the Park. It is logical to assume that if you had a trip in trouble and were within striking distance of the rail line, you could always move the trip to the railroad and catch a ride back to Source Lake. I have been told that Chief had a telephone installed as soon as it was available. I don't know when that was. Our number was Algonquin Park 23.

Also, as far as I know, the CN line went through the northern end of the Park from the early days. Certainly, by the 1960s the line was running, with several trains a day in each direction. There was a station master at Brent, and some of the time at Kiosk. You could send telegrams from either station. Chief encouraged the Headmen to send a telegram when they were in Brent or Kiosk to let him know that all was well. The hydro and telephone in Brent came from the railroad. When the CN closed the Algonquin Park line in 1995, there was no longer communication along the railroad line.

Down on Highway 60 there were about ten pay phones. The phones are still along the highway. You could always use them to call camp in an emergency situation. Interestingly, the phone at Opeongo, which is in a different area code, was a long distance call.

When the Park greatly expanded the number of access points on the east, west and north sides of the Park, there were Park permit offices at some of these access points, and they had communications. More recently, these Park offices have moved back to Highway 11 on the west side of the Park, and Highway 17 in the north, and there is no longer communication available near those access points. However, if you were to bring a trip in to an access point, there is a good chance that you might be able to catch a ride with someone back to the highway or to Sand Lake Gate on the east side of the park. All trip staff are familiar with the nearest access points along the route.

About the middle of the decade of the 2000s, cell service was installed along the Highway 60 corridor, There are a few holes – notably Cache Lake. Cell service only covers about 3km from the highway. However, I did make a call from the Joe Lake Dam one day, and we have taken calls from other lakes near the highway.

In summary, there was not much communication in the early years, and there isn't much today. However, if you need to be picked up from a trip, and you can get to a communication point, Park personnel can get to virtually anywhere in the park over the vast network of logging roads.

For the out-of-Park trips, it depends on where you are. Some of the areas that we travel in are at least partially settled, and have some communication. Much of the area in which we travel is wilderness, and there is no cell service in these remote areas. Camp assigns a satellite phone to the longest trips. Since these are battery powered, a schedule is set up, and the trip generally calls in every second or third day, usually around supper time.

Camp also sends some trips with the SPOT Personal Tracker. Here is what the manufacturer says:

The SPOT Personal Tracker raised the safety factor for millions who took to the outdoors each year. SPOT notifies friends, family or an international rescue coordination center with your GPS location and status based on situation and need - all with the push of a button.

Functions

SOS / 911: Use this function in the event of a life threatening or other critical emergency to notify emergency services of your GPS location and that you need assistance. The GEOS International Emergency Response Center alerts the appropriate agencies worldwide – for example contacting 9-1-1 responders in North America and 1-1-2 responders in Europe.

Help: In the event of a non-life threatening emergency, you can use this function to notify your personal contacts that you need assistance. Additional SPOT Assist services can be purchased and programmed to your Help button as well. When activated with SPOT Assist, the Help button will notify professional services either on the land or water. SPOT has partnered with national service providers to offer non-life threatening assistance.

Check-in / OK: This feature allows you to let your friends and family know that all is OK with a pre-programmed message along with your GPS location. With a push of a button a message is sent via email or SMS to up to 10 predetermined contacts and your waypoint is stored in your SPOT account for later reference. Your stored waypoints can be easily integrated into a SPOT Shared Page or SPOT Adventure account.

Track Progress: This feature allows you to send and save your location and allow contacts to track your progress in near real time using Google Maps. With your SPOT account you have the ability to set up a SPOT Shared Page which allows you to show your SPOT GPS locations to others on a Google Map.

At Pathfinder, we carefully map out the trip in advance and identify places where we can meet a trip, if necessary. If we receive a "Help" message, we dispatch to the nearest pre-arranged point.

Did you know?

Here are the questions and answers from the Late Summer, 2011 Newsletter. The answers are in italics.

1. Do you know what year was the last year that campers took the train and arrived at Source Lake? And the last year that they arrived by train (in Huntsville)? *The last year that the train arrived and departed from Source Lake was 1958. Campers came to camp and departed from camp by train from Huntsville until 1961. From 1962 on, it has been chartered bus, camp vans and parent drop-offs.*

2. When was the last year that the Province of Ontario issued new leases in the Park? How many leases are there currently? *Algonquin Park was created in 1893 and it appears that the first lease was in 1905. In 1954, it was stated that "In the future, there would be no new leases, licenses of occupation or land use permits granted for public, private or commercial purposes." Over the next 25 years, the Crown reacquired approximately 100 cottage leases and all leases of the commercial outfitting operations. The outfitter facilities were in turn put out to management bid and today are managed by private sector "concessionaires." In 1978, the 1954 leasing policy was amended to permit commercial leases, and those of the children's camps were extended to 2017. Subsequently, in 1986, private leases were also extended to 2017. (from the Algonquin Park Residents website.) There are currently 305 leases in the Park. The leases for the camps and lodges were extended in 2005 for a renewable tenure of up to 60 years.*

3. What year was Glen Donald Lodge built on the east shore of Source Lake? And what year did it stop operating? What caused it to close? *Glen Donald Lodge opened on Source Lake in 1949. It was acquired by the Crown in 1958 and the main lodge was struck by lightning in 1960 and destroyed. (Note: This is from the Algonquin Park Residents Website. Other information has slight variation in dates.)*

You can contact me at jcoakley@comcast.net. with any news for the next newsletter.



The Canoe Dock at Canadian Thanksgiving. Photo : J. Coakley