



## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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### Winter, 2012 News

**Pathfinder in Winter:** Up here in New Hampshire we are experiencing a mild winter, with above-average temperatures, and snowfall well below average. I called Gord Baker at Algonquin Outfitters during the second week of January to get a report on the winter so far in the Algonquin Park region. Gord reports that winter was off to a slow start in Muskoka. They had a few storms early on, which all melted away. By Christmas week, there was some snow on the ground. January has brought more snow, and there may be a foot or so in the Park. The lakes are pretty well frozen over.

I thought you would enjoy this photo taken by Charlie Katrycz last winter on a trip to the island. He and a group of current and recent staff members from the northeastern United States and Canada spent a winter weekend on the island.



Photo Credit: Charlie Katrycz

**Algonquin Campership Fund:** The appeal for donations for the Campership Fund should have been delivered to you, by mail, in early December. If you did not get one, that is because we have a bad address for you. You can update all your contact information with Sladds at [redcanoes09@gmail.com](mailto:redcanoes09@gmail.com).

Scott Forsyth, chair of the steering committee for the fund, sent me some information about last year's effort. Scott reports that total donations for last year were \$70,373, a record for the Fund, which started in September, 2000. Each donor can choose whether their gift is to be credited to the endowment, for current year grants, or split between the two options. If you do not specify how to designate your gift, 50 percent is credited to the endowment, and 50 percent to current use. The market value of the endowment is \$282,975. The earnings from the endowment will support future grants.

Because of the generosity of donors, the fund made grants of \$33,629 for the 2011 camping season. In 2010 grants totaled \$28,164. If you have any questions about the fund, or would like to receive an annual appeal letter, please contact Scott at [sforsyth@frontiernet.net](mailto:sforsyth@frontiernet.net).

You can make your donation on line to the Rochester Area Community Foundation, who is the administrator of the funds, at: <http://www.racf.org/tabid/289/Default.aspx?fg=1007>. Make your donation on-line, by choosing the Algonquin Campership Fund – it is the first listed organization. Your employer may also match gifts.

## **Alumni Profile – Chris Brackley**

**Written by Michael Sladden**

Pathfinder -- The Professional Connection: Chris Brackley, Cartographer



**Photo Credit: Michael Sladden**

Many Pathfinder staff members write their college essays about experiences on the Pathfinder trip trail and the impact Camp life has made on them. Likewise, many Pathfinder alumni are in professions linked in some way to their Pathfinder experiences. Pathfinder has produced plenty of business managers, lawyers, doctors, financiers and engineers. I believe that, no matter the career, Pathfinder values play out in the outlooks, work ethics and judgment of our alumni. But Camp Pathfinder boasts a lot of former campers and staff in education, coaching, sciences, resource management, and outdoor recreation.

One alumnus with a unique connection between his Pathfinder years and his career path is Chris Brackley ('80s-'90s). What began at camp with map and compass earth hikes, and the well-known map of Pathfinder Island, has grown into a career as professional cartographer producing maps of all kinds for paying customers. Chris recently added Canadian Geographic Magazine to his full-time client list.

Brack is a Toronto native and lifelong Canoe Lake cottager. He started at Pathfinder as an Ottawa camper, and he moved through the ranks in Mac's and Lance's program in the '80s and '90s, becoming a Headman and CIT director. His love of Algonquin Park and of tripping blossomed at Pathfinder.

In addition to working in the regular summer program, Chris began working June Crew at age 17, alongside Trip Pierson and Alex Thomson when they rebuilt the Swim Dock in 1991. He became a pre- and post-season regular, working power crew and guiding school groups. As he worked with Erik Willers, Adam Mollenberg, Mike Floyd, Karl Doench, Mike Sladden and others, these long seasons on CPI spurred a fascination with the beauty and ecology of the island and the park. He developed an interest in ambitious outdoor teaching along with Pathfinder maintenance. We see the influence from this time period in our program and facilities today.

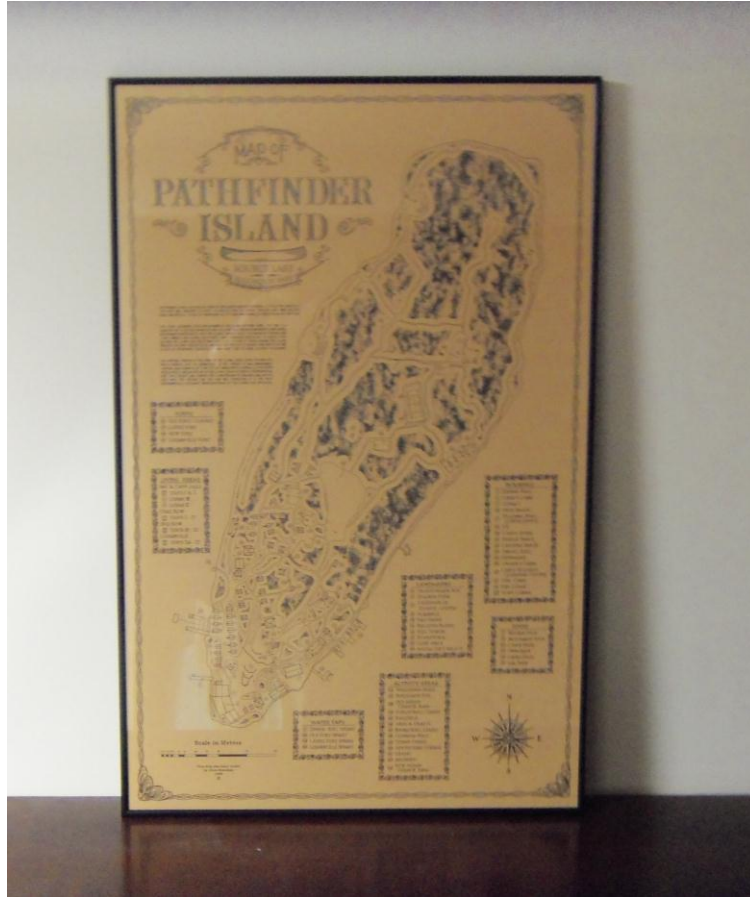
Chris graduated from McGill University in 1996 with a wildlife resources degree. He wrote a thesis on park management, logging, and environmental education. He became interested in the public policy behind Algonquin Park's Master Plan, a landmark political compromise over competing use interests, enacted in 1974. He and Erik Willers spent the spring after his graduation compass-hiking the off-trail Algonquin Park lands around Canoe and Source Lakes. He recalls thinking, "How could I have grown up on Canoe Lake and never walked more than 100 meters behind my cottage, and guided for Pathfinder and not walked off the established canoe routes?"

The naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton, founder of the Woodcraft Movement, was also an important inspiration to Brack. In fact, Pathfinder was originally identified as a Woodcraft Camp for Boys. We owe Noonway, the Omaha Tribal Prayer, the Council Fire format, etc. to Seton. Chris is actually a relation of Seton, who was his grandfather's great uncle. Seton's Woodcraft Movement inspired thousands of boys in the early twentieth century. Seton celebrated a personal connection to nature, inspired people to respect and emulate Indians, and advocated the merits of just being in the woods. At this time the bulk of the North American population was no longer living on rural lands but in urban spaces. Some outstanding summer camps were founded in response.

In the summer of 1996, Nature Lore was going to be off the program because Lance wasn't at camp. However, Chris introduced his own Earth Lore program, after reading Steve Van Matre's *Sunship Earth*. Earth Lore included camper activity periods spent on the exploring the backside woods of Pathfinder Island, and half-days spent bushwhacking the hills around Source Lake. Map and compass skills were central. So was a spirit of exploring. Brack's mission statement read, in part:

**"Through positive experiential Nature education, which focuses on finding personal connections to the Earth, Earth Lore strives to stimulate people to reassess the value they attribute to the rest of Nature, and in so doing, aims to promote self-understanding, and encourage people to consider Nature in their day to day and life decisions."**

Brack felt that he had traveled the Park, “asleep” to its natural wonders. Earth Lore could help campers and staff wake up to the complexity, connections and beauty of the Algonquin ecosystem. The home island was a prime location to help campers make a personal connection to the natural world. One of his projects was making an island map with the campers. Using a compass, aerial photos and a surveyor’s chain, they established the position of buildings and island landmarks. Brack then spent a winter hand-making the artful original map. As we know, prints of this map hang in homes all over North America, a talisman of our affinity for Pathfinder.



**Photo Credit: Jim “Gyro” Coakley**

The Pathfinder map led to a desire to see more detail in park maps. Brack persuaded staff to use topographical maps and include earth hikes on canoe trips. “Seeing the level of detail in 1:10,000 black and white topo maps unlocked a thrilling interest in how empowering they were,” he recalls. “You could go everywhere with real knowledge, understand the land form, the hidden logging features. And our map history was so impoverished, tied as it had been for so long to the Algonquin toy map...” which was great, but which only delineated the routes and left all else in the huge Park as ‘there be dragons’ blank space.

Eventually, Chris spent an entire winter hand-crafting an encyclopedic map. He did a mark-up of the 15 topo sheets in 1:50,000 that cover Algonquin Park, using historical content from Pathfinder’s collection of old park maps dating back many years. They had notes from past Headmen, showing everything from campsites and portages to the meandering height of land, ranger cabins, historic and nature zones. He then scanned the sheets and segmented them for output as 8 x 10-inch segments, perfect for lamination and use on our canoe trips. Headmen today still use his topos to augment their trip maps “There was a massive opportunity to reinvent aspects of the in-camp activities and influences on the Trip Staff. It was about how people thought while they were on the trail,” Chris told me. He credits Lance’s nature lore program, and Mac’s encouragement. “Mac himself wanted to get away from only point-A to point-B tripping,” despite himself being a product and practitioner of that historical ethic. Gradually, we all became more aware of something else happening behind that veil of trees along the canoe route.

Brack's Pathfinder maps led to more cartographic projects. He did a hand-made map of Canoe Lake and its history with author Gaye Clemson. Environmental work followed in Halifax, mapping protected lands there for the Ecology Action Centre. Then he enrolled at Sir Sanford Fleming College in cartography. He learned the digital world of GIS mapping, which was at that time a revolution based on orbiting satellite networks.

Today Chris Brackley is an independent business owner with his life partner Angi Goodkey. After working at University of Toronto on online maps as part of the Historical Atlas of Canada project, they founded "As the Crow Flies" for independent work. They have been selected by Canadian Geographic Magazine to do the publication's maps for monthly issues.

Though they make many kinds of maps, rooted in precision information, their signature style still has the personal hand-made flavor of his Pathfinder map. Brack says his new clients see it and want their maps to have a similar feel.

Brack has kept close to the Algonquin Park and Camp Pathfinder. He made an AA trip history map in 2011 (see it on the Camp web page) and returned to CPI in fall 2011 to take the measurements for an updated version of the island map that we'll produce in observance of the Camp's centennial.

*sladds*

## Temagami

As Pathfinder prepares for the 99th season, I thought that you might be interested in a little tripping history. For roughly the first half of the existence of the camp, the vast majority of trips were taken in Algonquin Park. We do have stories of trips to Lake of Bays, and down the South River to South River Village in the west, and trips that ended outside the Park on the east side toward the town of Petawawa. After approximately the first 50 years, the trips began to venture farther afield. In part, this became possible as the highways were improved. In 1960, Pat Hodgson led a trip from the Park to the city of North Bay. In 1963, Pathfinder took its first trip to Temagami. Geoff Briggs was on this trip, and he writes:

I have enjoyed the alumni news and thought I would send what information I have on what was suggested to be the first Pathfinder Temagami trip when it went out in 1963. Staff on that trip were Dave (Mother) Bonner- Headman, and two Second men, Geof Briggs and Sandy Gage. I have an old postcard that I sent home to my parents in Buffalo from the Bear Island HBC store that is postmarked Temagami and has a grainy b&w photo of the island and store. It was a great trip — big wind, big water, boat trip — many memories. Sandy told me of some campers he remembered being on the trip. I'm not sure of those mentioned but he will probably send his memories along to you or Mac Rand.

Also, Bill Swift, Jr. came upon a bag of old maps in his mother's cabin at Algonquin Outfitters last spring. Included was this trip write-up from Dave Bonner's trip to Temagami.

Pathfinder trip to Temagami Provincial Forest:

July 30-Aug 14th, 1963

Route: starting near Marten River, south of Temagami Provincial Forest at Loon Bay. Then Red Cedar, Temagami River, Surveyor Lake, Temagami River Cross Lake, Temagami Lake, Sharp Rock Inlet, Diamond Lake, Lady Evelyn Lk, Sugar Gut Lake, Willow Island Lake, North Lady Evelyn River (South Channel), Diamond Lake, Straight Lake, Wakimika Lake, Wakimika River, Obabika Lake, Obabika Inlet, Lake Temagami. Reoutfitting at Bear Island. Then Diamond, North Lady Evelyn River (South Channel), Divide or Katherine Lake, N. Lady Evelyn River, South Lady Evelyn R, Florence River, Florence Lake, Florence River, BlueSucker Lake, Yorston River, Mudchannel Lake, Yorston R, Seagram Lake, Yorston Lake, Sturgeon River, Obabika River, Wawiyama Lake (Round), Obabika Lake, Obabika Inlet, Lake Temagami

Stayed at: 1st: Temagami River (below 1st rapid)  
2nd: Lake Temagami (3 mile S. of Bear Is.)  
3rd: Diamond Lake  
4th: Lady Evelyn Lake (Top of Lake)  
5th: Wakimika Lake  
6th: Wakimika Lake  
7th: Lake Temagami (Bear Island)  
8th: Diamond Lake  
9th: North Lady Evelyn R (just above Divide or Katherine Lake)  
10th: Florence Lake  
11th: Florence Lake  
12th: Yorston Lake  
13th: Upper Goode Falls (Sturgeon River)  
14th: Round Lake (or Wawiyama Lake)  
15th: (train to Hville-)

General: Portages are short and good, but in most cases, rocky. For more detailed information on location of portages, Camp Keewaydin has maps (4" to the mile) and does much tripping throughout the area. The green L&F maps do not have portages marked, but are generally accurate as to the terrain and water formations. Some other maps are available in the area, but are not detailed enough for canoe tripping. Bear Island, Lake Temagami, has a post of the Hudson's Bay Co, with all necessary supplies including hard goods, a post office, telephone, and Chief Ranger station and tower. The manager of the store, Mr. Eric Leach (spelling uncertain), was good enough to cash a check for us.

Gripping areas: Generally, eastward and south of Lake Temagami is settled and populated with cottages and lodges with boats. North and east to the Montreal River from Temagami Lake is good for shorter trips, according to Keewaydin. The best areas are to the North-west and West, however.

Fishing: Smallmouth bass, Pickerel, Great Northern Pike, Lake Trout and Speckled Trout are the prominent fish in the area. We found Pickerel and Lake Trout in Temagami; Lake Trout in Yorston, and BlueSucker; parts of the Lady Evelyn River have Speckled, Lady Evelyn Lake has Pickerel, and Bass and Pike are in a great number of the lakes.

Train and Boat Service: Boats, one for each major arm of Lake Temagami, make one trip per day around the lake. The last boat leaves Bear Island for the town of Temagami at 5:30 ~~EST~~ Daylight ST. Cost for us on the boat was \$3.00 per person (robbery!) and \$2.00 per canoe. There is a snack bar on the boat. Train service to Huntsville cost \$4.40 per pers. and \$2.82 per canoe. Trains left Temagami at 7:40 and 11:08 pm EST. Trip takes about 4 hours.

Camps: following camps and people could be contacted for assistance, if needed: all are on Lake Temagami

Keewaydin: Howard Chivers (rhymes with shivers), owner  
Roy Waters

Temagami: Douglas Gardiner, owner

Metagami: Mrs. Dh Gardiner

Wigwasati: Homer Grafton, owner

White Bear: Roy Johnston, owner

other camps in the area might be able to render assistance also.

Temagami: The town has two hotels, many restaurants and shops but is not large. The train station is about 300 yards from the boat landing, and across the main road.

Future tripping: It is suggested that at least one trip be sent to Temag. each summer. It is a wonderful new adventure and a real challenge.

Suggested routes: It is suggested that a trip might start from Lake Temagami, at the town or further north. It is possible to start at Mowat Landing on the Montreal River. Using this approach, it would be possible to go north on the River and come down the Forest through Gowganda, Smoothwater and the Lady Evelyn Rivers. Or one could continue further west and connect with other rivers running South East, such as the Sturgeon or Wanapitel. There are many rivers which would make interesting trips. Another suggestion is to take Gray's River from the North Lady Evelyn River and proceed to Macobe Lake. Thence on the Bear River to the Montreal River and return south on the Montreal. The trip on the Montreal from Latchford to Timiskaming does not appear to be suitable for an enjoyable trip. Again, for more information, it is suggested that one contact or preferably write to the camps in the area for suggested routes. I am sure that Keewaydin would be more than happy to provide any information asked for.

The staff, Dave Bonner, Geoff, Briggs, and Sandy Gage, and the Campers: Bill Holland, John Blum, Pete Hurley, Larry Watson, Rick Robinson, and Tim Finley wish to thank the camp management for the opportunity to take this unusual and enjoyable trip.

*Copy J.P.*

H. David Bonner  
August 1963

**Do you know:** I tried some trip-type questions in the fall. Here they are again, along with some comments. Original questions are in italics.

- 1. If you look back at trips from the 1950s and before, you would find that some trips would take the train from the Source Lake Station to Eagle Lake Landing to begin their trip. What is the new name of Eagle Lake?* There was some disagreement about the answer to this question. Eagle Lake Landing was located on the South Shore of the lake now known as Rain Lake, formerly known as Rainy Lake. (Source: Jeffrey McMurtrie's Algonquin Park Map.) I know of no documentation that Rain Lake was ever called Eagle Lake. A better way to ask the question would have been "Where was Eagle Lake Landing." Remember that the Ottawa, Arnprior, and Parry Sound Railroad skirted the east shore of Source Lake — you lift over it on your way to Smoke Lake — and then up to Joe, along Potter Creek and Brule, and then cut over to Rain. Eagle Lake Landing was on the south shore of the wide part of the lake. Now, you access the lake by gravel road and the access point is about 3 km east.
- 2. These days, many trips get trucked to Rock Lake for their point of departure. For years, several trips a summer would leave Source Lake, travel to Cache Lake and then continue on down the Madawaska, to Lake of Two Rivers, and on to Rock through Pog and Whitefish. Why did we stop using that route?* This created much less controversy, and no one had the answer. The simple answer is that it is a long day from Source to Whitefish, which is the first place that you can camp at now. You used to be able to camp on Lake of Two Rivers, where East Beach is now located. In addition, a few of our trips made wrong turns on the Madawaska River, which added to the time. Both Pog and Whitefish have developed public campgrounds on the shores. Whitefish is a lake worth going to. In the 1950s there was a lodge at the north end of the lake. McCrea had a lumber mill on the eastern shore. For a brief period, Camp Douglas, a children's camp, was in operation on the western shore.
- 3. Although we suspect that a few trips went to Temagami in days of yore, it may be that there were none, or there hadn't been any trips to Temagami in a long time. Can you tell me what year we sent our first trip to Temagami (at least in the modern era) and who was the headman? (You can look this up in the trip archives. It's not as long ago as you might guess.)* When I went to check the trip archives, I see that this is one of our missing trips. The answer is 1963. See above for more information on this trip.