



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 2019



## WALL OF DISTINCTION

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#### A letter from the Chair of the Alumni Committee

In celebration of the camp's 100th anniversary the Camp Kitchikewana Alumni Advisory Committee decided it was an appropriate time to recognize key contributors to the camp's success over the first 100 years.

We chose to recognize 20 key contributors who met the following criteria:

- 1. Embodiment of YMCA values of caring, honesty, inclusiveness, respect and responsibility.
- 2. Those who have had a profound impact on the camp, which has benefitted a wide group.
- 3. Those who have had a significant impact on the culture of the camp and/or the physical camp site.

The Alumni committee sent out a request for nominations to the broader Kitchi community of alumni for individuals who best met the above criteria. This process took place through late 2018 and into early 2019.

In total, we received over fifty submissions for 40 unique candidates. The Alumni Advisory Committee reviewed each submission and had the very difficult task of selecting the 20 who best met the 3 stated criteria. We selected individuals from each of the five eras since the camp's inception: 1919-1939, 1940-1960, 1960-1980, 1980-2000, 2000-2019.

To commemorate the initial inductees we have published this special 100th Anniversary Wall of Distinction magazine and a permanent plaque for the dining hall. It is the Committee's hope that over the next 100 years more names will be added from past, current and future campers and staff who continue to exemplify the three criteria and help keep the Kitchi spirit and values strong.

On behalf of the Alumni Advisory Committee, I congratulate each recipient and sincerely thank you for your contributions to our camp.

Brad West

Brad West
Chair, YMCA Camp Kitchikewana Alumni Advisory Committee





#### 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund

To celebrate our 100th Anniversary, camp alumni in partnership with the Y and the Huronia Community Foundation have established an endowment fund to ensure the continuation of high quality Camp Kitchikewana experience for generations to come. A generous Kitchikewana alumnus, Paul Lawrence, has offered to match every donation up to \$1,000,000 towards the fund. To date, over \$800,000 has been committed - this is a tremendous commitment to the campers of tomorrow! We are encouraging every individual attending the 100th Anniversary to consider making a donation of \$100 to celebrate 100 years of "Camp Kitchikewana camping" or consider including the Endowment Fund in your will. To make a donation or if you would like to learn more about bequests to the Endowment Fund, please email susan.kulkarni@sm.ymca.ca.

Thank you to the following individuals who have made commitments of \$1,000 or more to the Endowment Fund as of July 29, 2019:

\$250,000+

Paul Lawrence

#### \$10,000-49,999

Marc Allard and Mary-Beth White, Derek & Melanie Blakely, Trevor Blakely, The Cook Family, Rob & Tara McClean, The Szolopiak Family, Andrew & Silvy Wright

#### \$5,000-9,999

Bill Bryant, Curtis Eastmure, Suzanne Diefenbaker, Mark & Linda Essak, Scotia Mcleod, Brad and Tracy West and an Anonymous Donor

#### \$1,000-4,999

Lois Adams, Bland Family, George Craig, Dynamic Funds, Mei-Fei Elrick, Fidelity Investments, Harbour West Marina, Joan Karout, The Jim McReady Memorial Fund, Leslie Middlebrook, Scotia Bank, Jill Sharland, Brian Shelley, Timbercreek Asset Management, Sean Weaser, Don West

#### **LEGACY GIFTS** (Beguests and Life Insurance Policies)

Ed Bridge, Brenda French, Katie Kirkpatrick, Matt and Lianne Ladner, Tina Middlebrook, Cam & Christine Norman, Ian Watson, Jim & Barb Wilgar











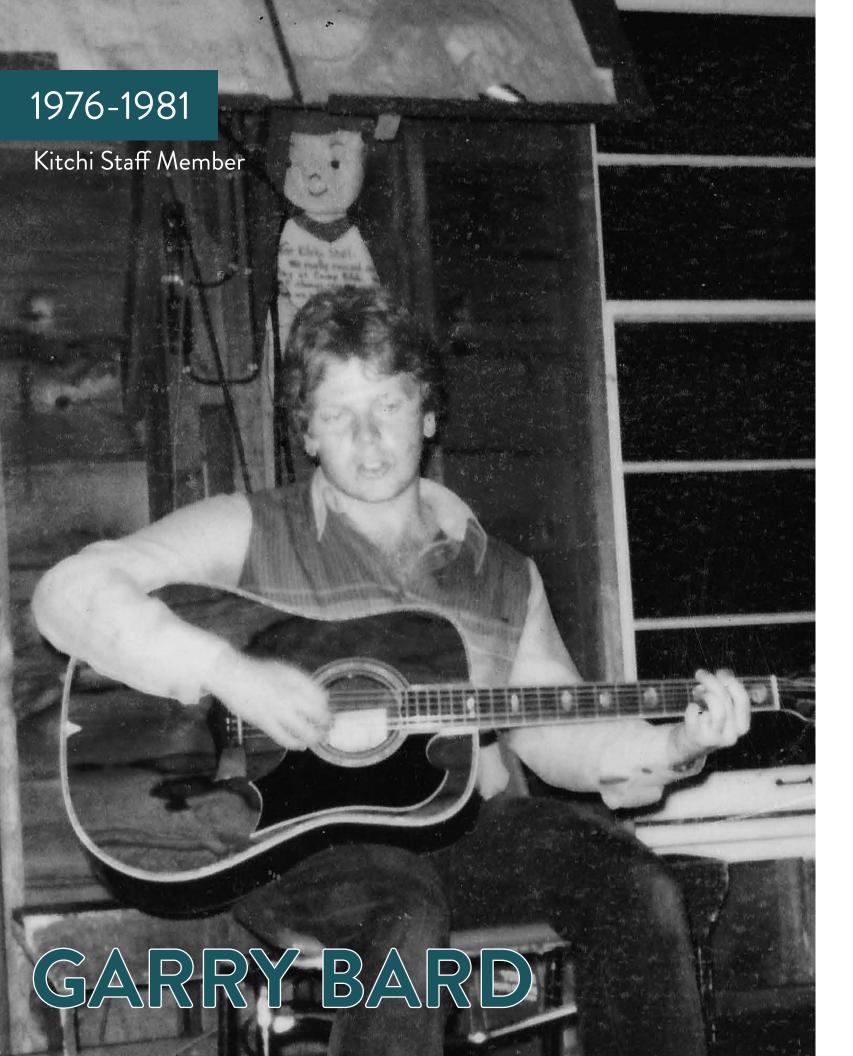


## GIVE BACK TO CAMP

#### How to get involved

I YMCA Camp Kitchikewana has a long tradition of exceptional alumni leadership. There are a variety of ways to get involved as a way to "pay it forward" for the campers of today and tomorrow:

- - Annual Donations Approximately 1 in every 10 campers at Kitchikewana attend through the Y's financial assistance program. By making a charitable donation to the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka's Annual Campaign, you can help send a child to camp whose family could not otherwise afford it. To make a donation contact susan.kulkarni@sm.ymca.ca
- Medical Volunteers The camp is always looking for doctors and nurses to "staff" the Wellness Centre. To learn more about this unique "give back" opportunity, contact julia.fulton@sm.ymca.ca
- Planned Gifts to 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund Did you know that you can leave money to YMCA Camp Kitchikewana's Endowment Fund in your will or through life insurance? By making a "planned gift" of this type, you can maximize your impact on the campers of tomorrow through a commitment today. To learn more about making a planned gift please contact susan.kulkarni@sm.ymca.ca
- Volunteer Work Weekends Each spring, dedicated volunteers head up to Beausoleil Island to assist camp staff with open-up for the season. To learn more about this weekend of hard work and fellowship, contact julia.fulton@sm.ymca.ca





No truer lyrics were ever written. Everyday people just don't understand. 77

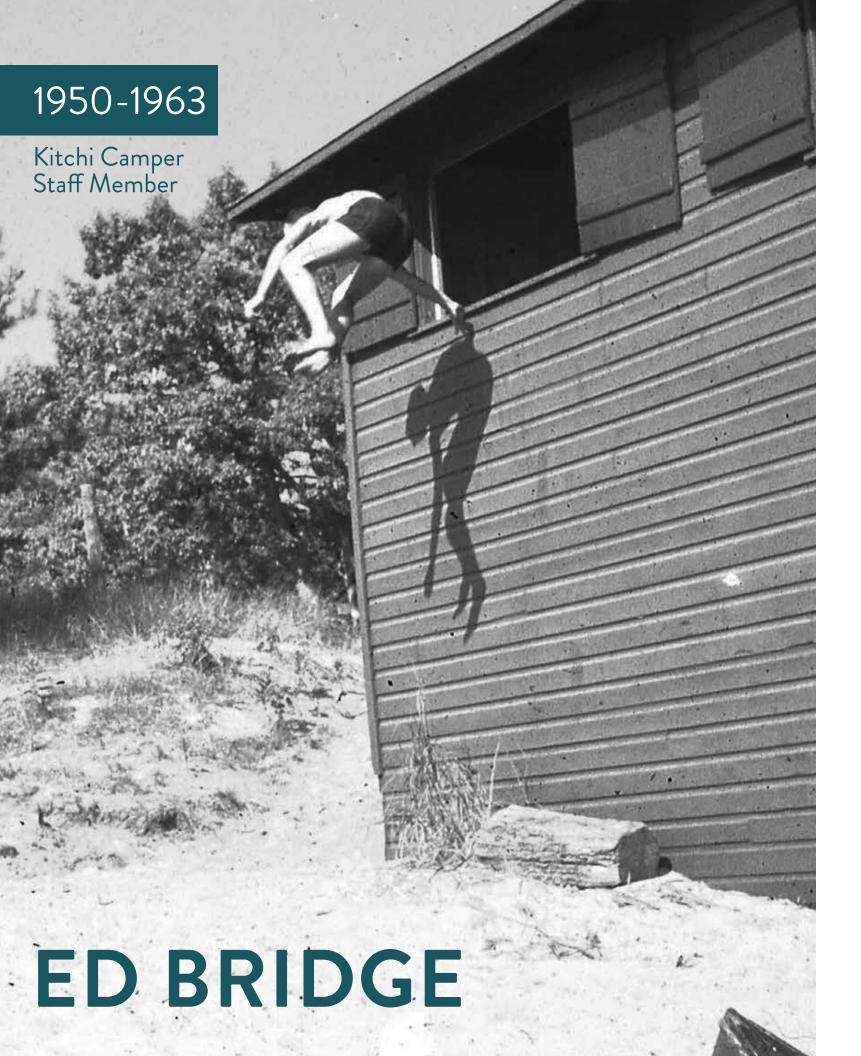
music man) of Camp Kitchikewana during his time at Kitchi. When looking through old photographs of camp during the 70s, 80s and 90s, there are many pictures of G-Bard and in almost every single one, he is holding a guitar. Everyone who loves camp knows that summer camp and campfire songs go hand in hand. Similarly, Kitchi campfires and G-Bard go hand in hand. While "Oh Beausoleil" is the official camp hymn, and "Kitchi Kitchi Kitchi Kitchi Kitchikewana" is the official camp song, it is "Everyday People" that is THE unofficial Kitchi camp song - more like an anthem or a ballad to describe the collective consciousness of Kitchi's impact. It is a necessity to hear it at the end of each session campfire, and it is the song that when we all hear it in our minds on a cold December day (when we are dreamin'), we are brought to tears.

Garry did not attend Kitchi as a camper – in fact, his first time at camp was when he attended as part of a band with his long-time friend John Switzer. Garry loved the experience so much that he applied for a job for the next summer and was hired by Austin Matthews as the Music Director. Garry embraced Kitchi wholeheartedly and saw the wonder of it as a child would. In fact, he even took lessons in sailing with the kids, just to learn! As Music Director, Garry took his job very seriously, and he revitalized and formalized Kitchi's music and drama program. Under Garry's leadership, the performance of

e was known as G-BARD (or just the the camp musical was re-introduced and campers could music man) of Camp Kitchikewana during select drama as a skill. In a sense, he solidified the arts as his time at Kitchi. When looking through a viable part of Kitchi's programming, the legacy of which old photographs of camp during the 70s, still exists to this day.

Garry has been described as one of the greatest musical gifts that Kitchi has ever seen - someone who "embodies the true spirit of the camp, bringing music and sharing it with the campers". He helped and encouraged many young musicians to develop their skills and expand their horizons. Described as "a very patient teacher, eminently qualified, Garry was always the epitome of patience and understanding". Garry's calm demeanor, his sly smile and his infectious spirit had a lasting impact on those he touched, and many campers who learned their first chords on the guitar from Garry Bard have since passed on their talents to other Kitchi campers.

Garry's time at Kitchi may have been short, but his impact on camp music and culture has been long lasting. Campers who don't even know who G-Bard is, actually DO know him through the music they sing at Kitchi, through the guitar lessons that they take for skills, and through the skits and drama productions they perform. The legacy of his music, and of course the legacy of THAT song, is one that will live on in Kitchi generations to come. No truer lyrics were ever written – "everyday people just don't understand".





Ed was my inspiration from the time I was a young camper. He was a leader in every role he took on at Kitchi. ??

d Bridge is a person who has singlehandedly kept the Kitchi history alive for generations to come with his compilation of Kitchi's past in the book "Kitchi, Our Common Story: Remembrances of YMCA Camp Kitchikewana". This beautiful coffee table book, chronicling Kitchi's history through the voices of campers and staff members, is a tribute to his love of the place and the passion he has for storytelling.

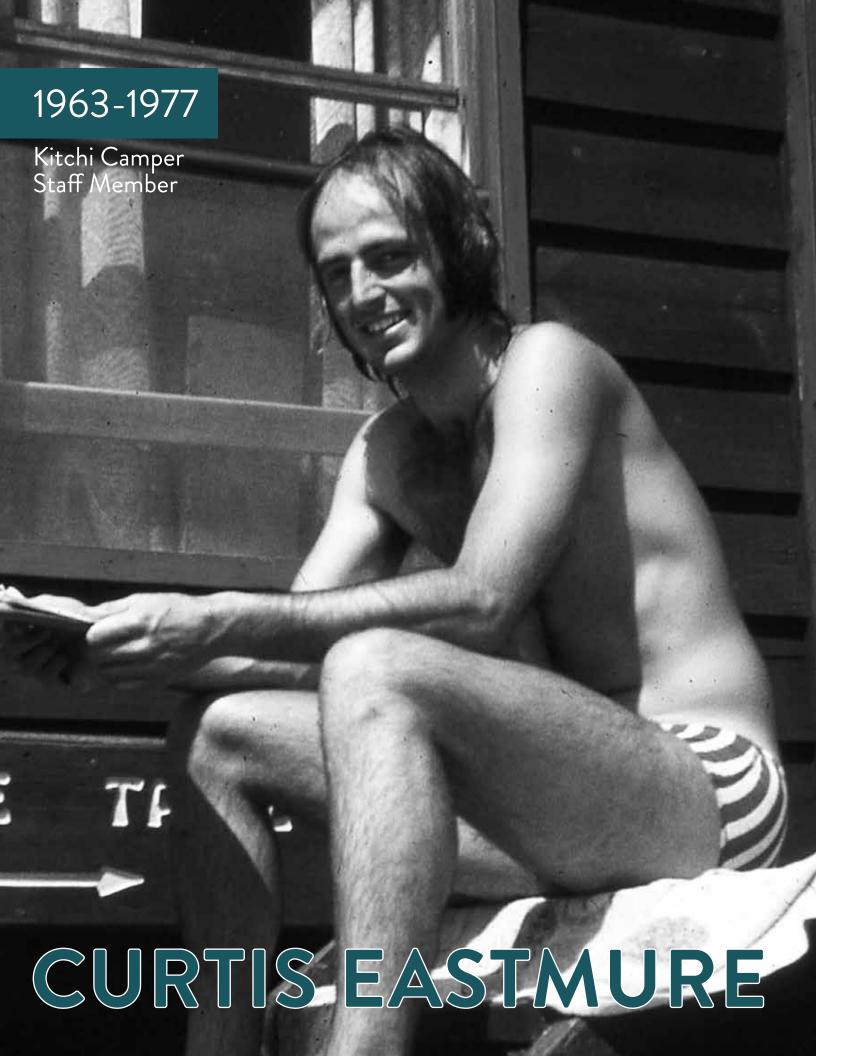
Ed's first year at Kitchi was as a camper in Junior Six. While Ed's camping career was long, it started out similar to many young campers. As Barry Conn Hughes wrote in an article about Kitchi in the Georgian Tourist In 1996, Ed heeded the call from Scott Sweatman to get paper in 1956, Ed as a young camper "cried bitterly one night because he was homesick. (Years later) he is the Waterfront Boating Instructor and idol of the current crop of juniors". In fact, Ed was hired as the Sailing Director when he was only 15 which is testament to his young leadership potential. It is the description of Ed Bridge as a camp "idol" that was reflected in the sentiments of those who nominated him for the Wall of Distinction.

One of Ed's friends summed it up by saying "Ed has done so much for Kitchi as a camper, staff member and for the past 30 years plus as an alumnus. I can't think of a person who has done more for the camp since he was a camper in the 1950's. Ed was my inspiration from the time I was a young camper, to a staff member (sailing and canoeing), to the times we worked before camp opened getting it ready for the campers, and now as an alumni member. Ed is well deserving of any honour Kitchi can give him."

Similarly, Ed was described as "a leader in every role he took on a Kitchi. He was well liked by both his fellow campers and staff members. He even managed to take the lead role in three of the camp's drama productions, which was a big deal back in those days!" As a staff member, his greatest joy was readying the fleet of ships to be waiting for the campers when they arrived at the beginning of the summer. It is no surprise that his favourite place to be at Kitchi was the boathouse where he lived some of his best summers with his camp

back involved in the camp that had given him so much. Over the next 10 years, Ed worked tirelessly with the alumni to ensure that Camp Kitchikewana continues as a wonderful place for young people to go to learn life skills and proper values.

Ed was instrumental in setting up the many Spring Alumni Work Weekends where significant improvements were made to the camp at minimal costs. It is this volunteer effort without any need for recognition or award that truly makes Ed such a special person. Ed Bridge is a true friend and supporter of Camp Kitchikewana in every way. His impact on the camp is a direct reflection of the YMCA values that he embodies, and he has made a significant impact on the camp site, the camp history and on the people's lives he





Beyond his passion for leadership as Kitchi staff, Curtis was an enthusiastic leader in the revitalization of the cabins in the 1990s. ??

s a young boy, Curtis Eastmure recalls not being very outgoing by nature, and attributes his Kitchi experience as being instrumental in making him a more outgoing boy, one who would take risks and seek out adventure. One of his fondest memories of being a camper was working towards the requirements for the CK Crest. Curtis was impacted profoundly by his camp experience as well as by the Kitchi Directors, Win and Marmie Smith and Austin Mathews for instilling in him the YMCA values that he lives by today.

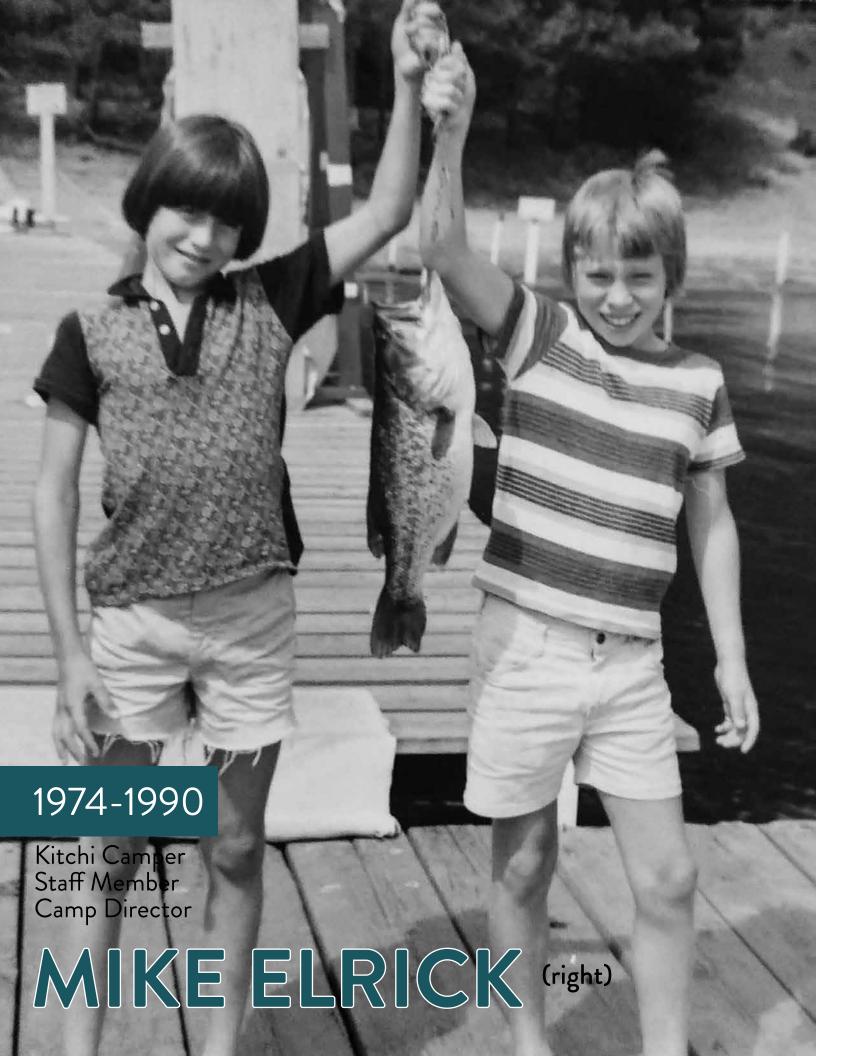
As a camper, Curtis loved to sing the "Kitchi Lullaby" and to participate in Lumberman & Voyageur Days. He fondly remembers the Kitchi Pop Festival as one of his favourite activities. Without a doubt, his favourite spot at Kitchi is Champlain's Point, and as a Kitchi alumnus, that is the place he heads to first when he arrives on the island. Curtis was blessed to meet his wife, Brenda Annis while at Kitchi, and to develop deep and lasting friendships such as the one forged between him and David Wismer in the Rubble Hilton.

Curtis also remembers the great joy he felt in teaching hundreds of young campers to paddle a canoe but his job as the Canoe Director was a bit happenstance. That summer, Curtis was supposed to be returning to Kitchi as a counsellor. When the Canoeing Director had to cancel

s a young boy, Curtis Eastmure recalls not being very outgoing by nature, and attributes his Kitchi experience as being instrumental in making him a more outgoing boy, one who would a tradition that he passed along to many Kitchi campers who learned their first J stroke from Curtis.

Curtis was aware of how lucky he was to have had summers at Kitchi and when the call came in the 1990s to be part of the revitalization of the camp, Curtis enthusiastically got involved. He was a key contributor to the replacement of the camp cabins through his endless hours of fundraising and developing contacts with former alumni members.

Bob Morton recalls that Curtis had an excellent memory for recalling funny events from the past and for remembering names of former alumni that could be contacted to help. He was key to connecting many former alumni and reminding them of the wonderful times spent together on Beausoleil Island and the importance of protecting that legacy.





66 Listen to the land. Respect the natural environment. Value traditions, old and new. Uphold each other like camp is your community. ??

Elrick without seeing him in bare feet; it seemed the man didn't own any shoes! As Camp Director, Mike would facilitate the camp counsellor interviews during the off season. During these interviews, Mike would sit down interviewee feel more comfortable. And that was the essence of Mike Elrick - he quite simply improved every space he inhabited and one felt valued in his presence.

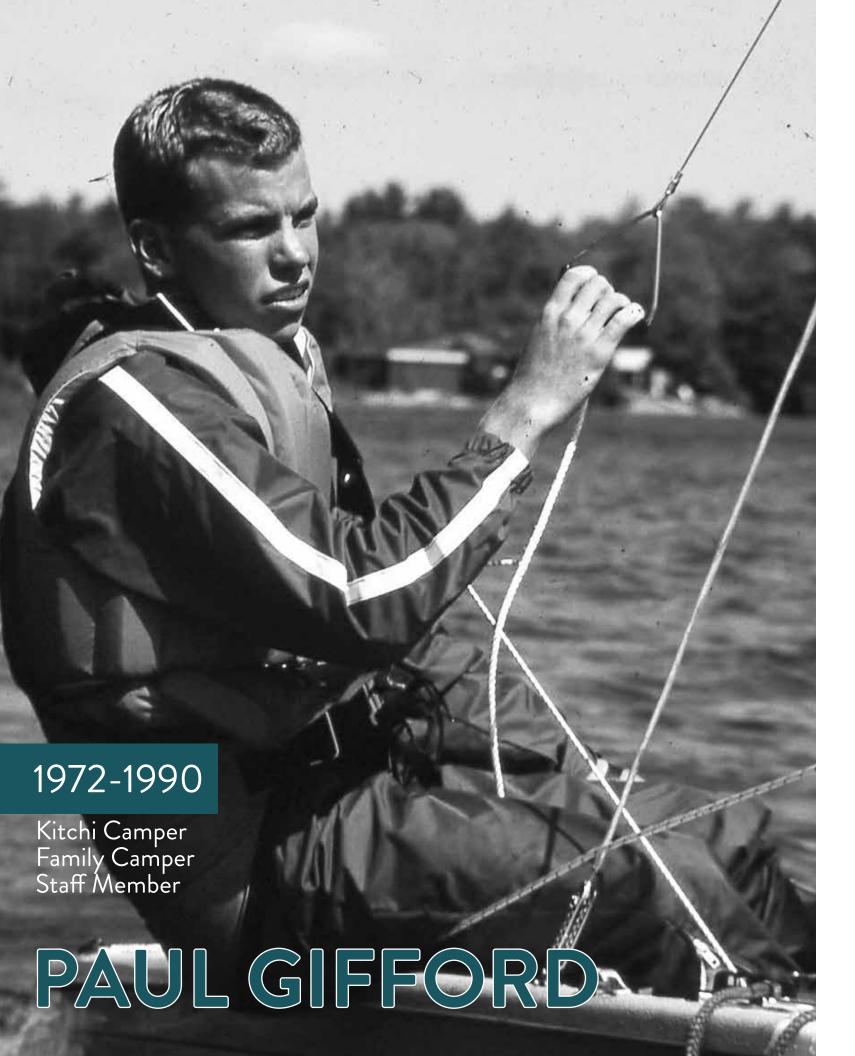
As a Kitchi camper, Mike fell in love with the camp site; the combination of the windswept trees, rock and sand felt like home to him. He also fell in love with sailing and canoeing but it was the basic kayaking skills he learned at camp that became his passion. He later went on to race for the Canadian National Whitewater Slalom Team, placing top 15 in the world at a world cup race in Canada. As Camp Director, Mike was referred to as a person of "great integrity and value who sought to bring out the best in his staff". Mike was instrumental in leading the change as Kitchi transitioned from boys and girls camp into co-ed residential camping. This was a significant change to Kitchi's camping model and no easy task, but Mike charted through these unknown waters with quiet confidence. He made the campers and staff feel that the co-ed transformation was an exciting opportunity. He understood the need to hold on to key aspects of boys and girl's camp traditions, while making way for new traditions and memories.

A lifelong environmental steward and outdoor enthusiast, Mike established the connection between

ne can't conjure up an image of Mike camp and the environment for his staff and campers. He explained the geography underlying the place-that it rested on a transition zone between the Canadian Shield and the Great Lake Lowlands, and so it combined the best of both. The island also was home to Canada's First Nation's peoples which for Mike added to on the floor, cross legged in his bare feet, to make the the history and spirit of the site. He was a perpetual teacher, guiding learners through his outdoor classroom of Kitchi.

> After he left Kitchi, Mike would go on to become one of Ontario's most respected outdoor educators. As his Kitchi friend Paul Gifford writes, "Two tenets stood out with Mike when he was director, and certainly in his life after. The first was Community. He felt he needed to know every camper, and he also turned the staff into a community, really getting us on the same page and working together. The second tenant was Nature. Mike felt that Kitchi was a singularly beautiful and powerful natural place, and that a lot of the good that happened there, happened because of the land and the water. And if you take those two tenets together-community and nature—that just about covers it. Community in nature could have been his motto. And his high school integrated program was called The Community and Environment Leadership Program for a reason. It's hard to imagine someone living out the camp's values more

> Quite simply, Kitchi is a better place thanks to Mike's passions, personality and guidance. His bare Kitchi feet will forever be embedded on Kitchi sands.





Paul's dedication to sharing his knowledge of the natural heritage of the island, campfire story telling skills and maintaining camp culture has been inspiring. ??

aul Gifford, or "Giff" as he was known by most who were at camp during his years, is a gifted story teller, an educator, a sailor, a mentor, and a completely positive influence on those whose lives he has touched at camp. Paul started at Kitchi as a family camper, then attending summer camp as a camper, counsellor, senior staff member and eventually as the Assistant Director. As a camper, his favourite memories were doing small group activities with just his close friends and counsellor. And of course, he loved games like capture the flag where he could really roam the land and be out on an adventure. He loved morning thought around the flagpole and watching the sun go down at Champlain's Point.

Paul's impact on both campers and staff members is significant. One alumnus summed it up when he recalled that "Paul was the most committed staff member I can recall at Camp Kitchikewana. As sailing director, I can vividly remember Paul dedicating countless additional hours of instruction to students hoping to achieve particular levels. Paul always stressed the importance of preparation and spent long hours preparing lesson plans, thoughtful words for staff meetings, and meaningful thoughts for chapel. I can't think of someone who consistently instilled the virtues of caring, respect, inclusiveness and responsibility more during my time at camp".

Paul attributes his leadership skills to those who mentored him during his time at Kitchi. Specifically,

Paul remembers people like sailing director Brian (Bee) Wilson who gave up his free time to teach young Paul the joys of sailing. Paul dedicated many years to Kitchi camping and his strong connection to nature was formed there. Camp Director, Mike Elrick who was a mentor to Paul, planted the seed that education might be a fitting career path for Paul. Paul went on to complete the Outdoor and Experiential Education program at Queens University which solidified his path forward as an educator. In this role, Paul won the Governor General's Award recognizing the top educators in all of Canada. He was then nominated for an original integrated experiential program called "The Wilderness Integrated Course" in which the students learn through authentic experiences in the Canadian outdoors.

Paul has continued to contribute to the culture of Camp Kitchikewana by participating in staff training week. Paul's dedication to sharing his knowledge of the natural heritage of the island, campfire story telling skills and camp culture has been inspiring.

Paul's ongoing commitment to authentic camp relationships, and imparting his knowledge as an outdoor education specialist has influenced many generations. He is now blessed with returning to Kitchi with his own children to connect with them and to the natural world that he holds so dear.





Perry's dedication to developing the Kitchi site and capturing Kitchi memories through photography epitomizes his commitment and passion. ??

e Old Houndog! Perry Grasic is a Kitchi alumnus who has made a mark on a number of different generation of Kitchi campers, whether they are aware of this or not. Each time a camper walks through the lodge, they are part of Perry Grasic's legacy of hard work. One look into the cabinets in the lodge and you are likely looking at Perry's photographs, scrapbooks or notes. Perry (or just plain "Houndog" as he has come to be known) has played Anyone who doesn't know Perry must find some time to such a significant role not only in developing and maintaining the Kitchi site, but in chronicling Kitchi memories through photographs and yearbooks. Perry epitomizes what it means to find your passion in life and commit to making a difference.

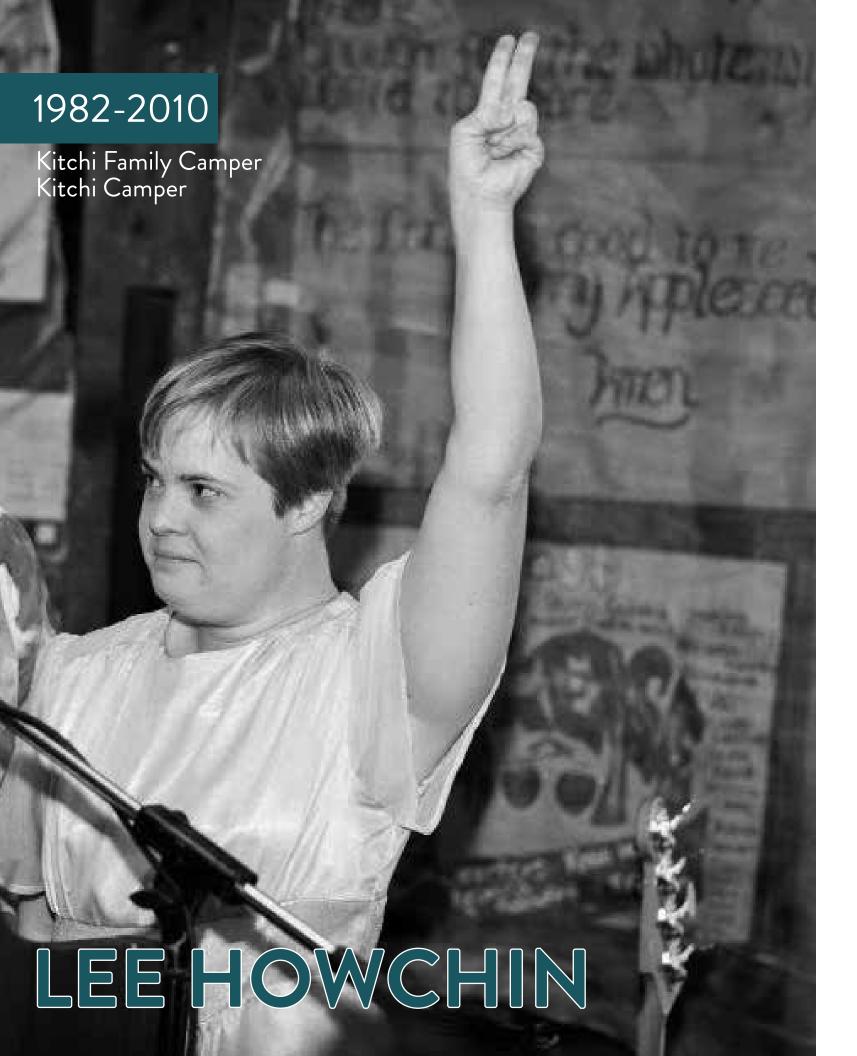
Perry lives the YMCA values in his hard work at the camp - he is the type of person who sees a job that needs to be done and just does it without taking any credit and even without being asked. At camp work weekends, Kitchi alumni describe heading to a jobsite only to find Perry already hard at work, almost finished before anyone else even gets started. Need a floor painted in the lodge? Done. Need windows repaired in the cabins? Done. Docks need to be moved and someone must dive deep in scuba gear? Done. One alumnus who nominated Perry for this award said "It is an essential element of the Kitchi culture that when you see a job to be done, you pitch in and do your part. Few embody this element more practically than Perry. Few have done more to improve the physical state of the campsite".

Perry embodies the YMCA core value of inclusivity - his memory books contain pictures of all campers, and Perry goes out of his way to welcome everyone with a hug and a smile. He never forgets your name and never forgets the years you were at camp. Somehow he is able to keep track of it all and remind each of us the importance of cherishing memories.

sit in the Wanaketa Lodge and go through the scrapbooks and photo albums that he has created and donated. He is a selfless person who puts the needs of others before self.

It is because of these traits that Perry Grasic has found himself on the Kitchi Wall of Distinction. Perry is one of those un-sung heroes, the people that work in the background doing the hard work without being noticed. Well, many people have noticed and appreciate each and every imprint that Perry has made on this place.

Cheers to you, Perry, and thank you on behalf of the Kitchi family.





It is Lee's dedication to inclusiveness that sets her apart from others. She lives the Camp Kitchi values every day of her life. ??

ee Howchin is an avid camper with a deep affection for Camp Kitchikewana. She started camping at Kitchi in 1982 as a family camper. Her first year as a camper was 1990 where she attended in a cabin of 8 other girls. While campers, it was significant for Lee who was born with Down Syndrome. Her attendance and involvement at camp played a significant role in paving the way for special needs camper's involvement at Kitchi.

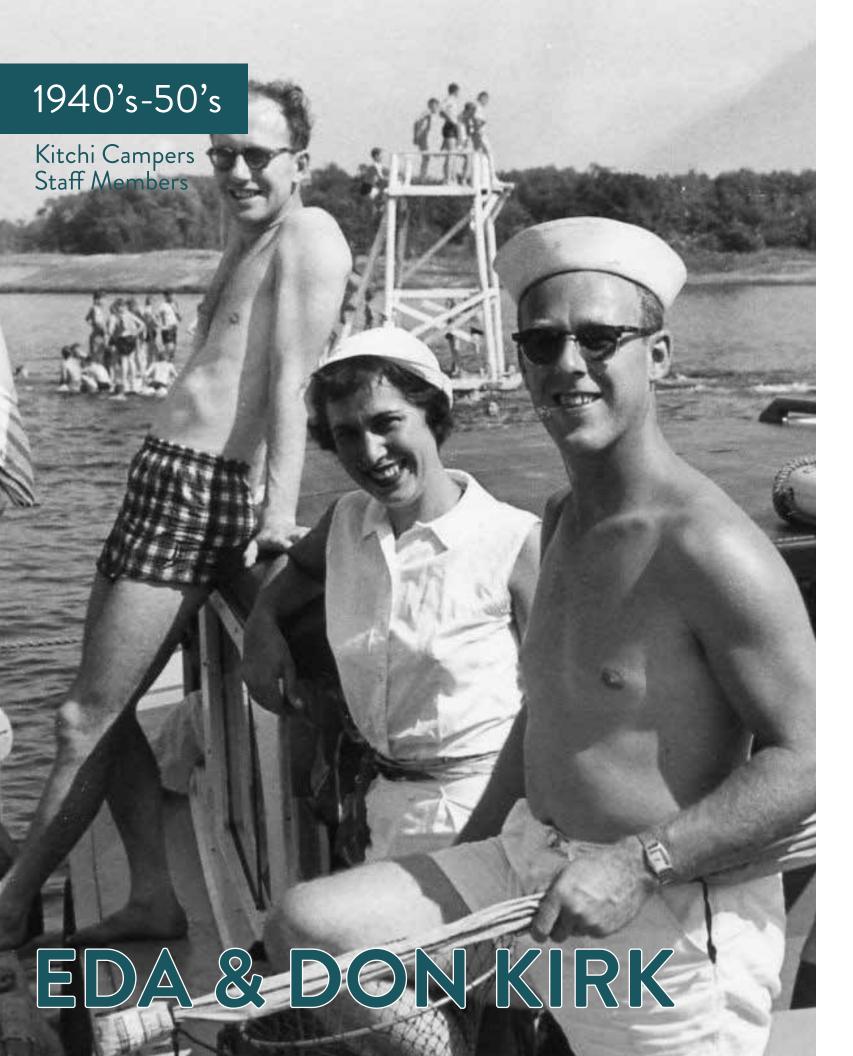
As a camper, Lee loved dining hall cheers and spending time in the Kitchi dress up closet. Campers and staff alike who were there during Lee's time will likely remember that during her month long stays at camp, Lee did cabin clean-up inspections and announcements daily, which was one of her favourite memories of camp.

Lee currently lives a full and active life in Milton, Ontario. She is heavily involved in the self- advocacy programs of Community Living North Halton, and serves on the advisory board. Lee has a full time job at Community Living as a receptionist, and also serves as a United Way Ambassador. In this role, Lee speaks publicly at events in the region where she shares her story to private companies looking to make donations. Her story has also been featured in publications and posters promoting the agency. In her free time, Lee loves to bowl, participates in Sunday Sing group and attends her Friday Night Friends program. She is also an enthusiastic camper at Bellwood's Lodge.

Lee lives the Camp Kitchikewana values everyday of her life. She is a caring person, demonstrated in her everlastthat may sound like a common start for most young ing friendships that she has forged over the years. While at Kitchi, Lee was known for giving honest feedback to staff and campers, and for always respecting the people and the natural environment.

> But it is Lee's dedication to inclusiveness that sets her apart from others. Lee's persistent enthusiasm and love of camp ensured that children with challenges and special circumstances would henceforth be included in camping programs at Kitchi.

> The impact that Lee has had on this camp is significant and for that, the camp is forever grateful.





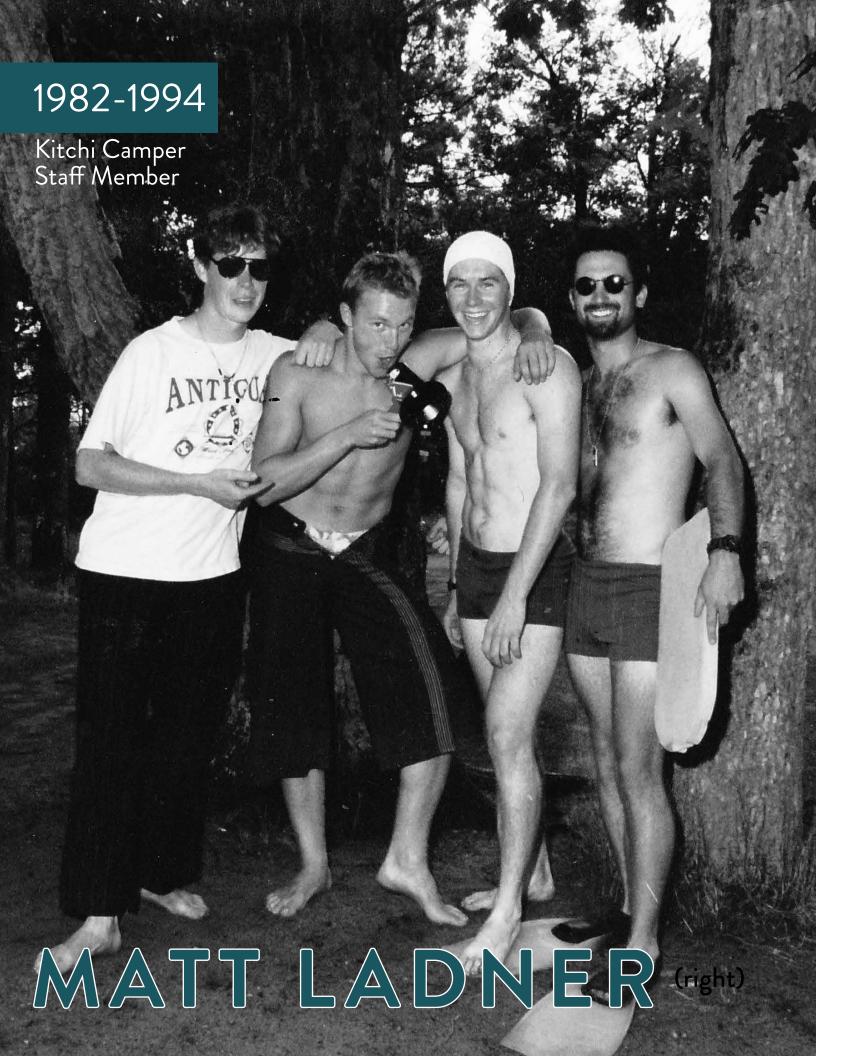
Eda was famous for her advice and encouragement. Don had a terrific comedic sense. Both of them modelled empathy and compassion to campers. ??

on and Eda Kirk were close friends of Marmie and Smitty and essentially served as assistants to the director. During their time at Kitchi, Eda and Don (often referred to as DK) became known as parent figures for many Kitchi campers, particularly the shy ones whom Eda and Don were able to nurture. They were both mainstays on the staff at Kitchi in the 1940s and 1950s, and their impact on their campers and fellow staff members was profound.

Eda was known as the go to person for counsellors who had questions about how to help their campers or for those who just needed advice and encouragement. She would visit junior cabins around bedtime of them needed empathy and compassion, or just a good each night to chat quietly with the campers about their day. Her calming nature had a comforting effect on these young children. Eda also played a key role in the camp office and could be seen doling out candy after dinner from the office window. Known fondly as the "Tuck Lady", Eda ensured the campers buying candy would stay within their budget! She was also famously known for her Sunday Chapel Services that were a special part of the camp experience. Eda would carefully prepare and then lead the campers in faith based services that were remembered by many as a time of wonderful quiet reflection. Former alumnus Rosemary Kennedy recalled about one of Eda's Sunday Services that "it was at Kitchi, looking out over the lake and being awed, that I developed a sense of wonder about what faith was all about. Eda was a loving and very special woman for us all."

Don was well known for his larger than life outgoing personality and in addition to helping Smitty with the day to day running of the camp, Don was also involved in many camp activities. He was a terrific song leader during lunch sing song, and together with his good friend and partner in crime, Harry Thornton, they wrote and produced many of the camp's musical productions. Don was known to have "an infectious smile and manor that enchants the senses as it did for summer after golden summer". He was the type of personality that was perfectly suited to camp energetic, positive, good natured, and very funny. Known for his terrific comedic sense, Don was always leading the charge and consistently good for a laugh. But Don also had the ability to read the campers and to know when one joke to lighten the mood.

Together, Don and Eda took care of their Kitchi campers. As one former camper recalls "They were both kindness and caring personified." A legendary camp couple, Don and Eda were positive role models for their campers and peers. Their marriage, which lasted for over 50 years and resulted in two beautiful children, was something to be admired. Both individually, and together, they embodied the YMCA values, and their commitment to fostering the well-being of others was recognized and valued by the people's lives they touched.





Kitchi has been a spiritual home base; a place to replenish and rejoice, and to celebrate being young at heart. ??

att Ladner, also fondly known as "Mud Puppy" or "Ladner" to his camp friends, started his Kitchi life in 1982 as a camper in Junior 3. Little did he know that this experience would lead to a four-decade long relationship with the people and the place of Camp Kitchikewana. In addition to being a camper, Matt was a Counsellor and a Senior Staff Member. On Senior Staff, Matt was given the important role of Counsellor in Training (CIT) Director which was a fitting job for Matt due to his inspirational guidance and leadership skills. The impact that Matt had on the young counselling staff was enormous; he modeled the YMCA core values on a daily basis, leading by example and becoming a role model for many. Matt has continued to model these values in a variety of roles he has taken on since leaving camp staff; he was the 100th Anniversary Coordinator, a member of the Kitchikewana Alumni Advisory Board (1999-2003 and 2009-Present) and the Co-Chair of the 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund (2014-Present). All of these efforts, and the multitude of ways that Matt has dedicated himself to promoting Kitchi, are a testament to the imprint that this place had on Matt as a child.

One of Matt's fondest memories of camp was how the entire camp would encourage a young camper in achieving their "Go for Green" swim test. This was a special moment because it demonstrated grit and determination on the part of that little camper who refused to give up. Matt's other fond memories of Kitchi include all-camp games of capture the flag and canoe out trips with his cabin mates. Matt's favourite spots at camp were the Kitchi Spirit Tree, as well as the

Rubble Hilton where he made some of his best Kitchi memories and friendships.

Matt's love of Kitchi and the beauty of the natural environment became an ideal location for his wedding to his beautiful wife, Lianne. Matt and Lianne have been lucky enough to watch their own children spread their wings on Kitchi sands through family camp and spring camp long weekends, and finally sending them on their own to Kitchi summer camp. For Matt, Kitchi has been a spiritual home base; a place to replenish and rejoice, and to celebrate being young at heart. His Kitchi experience taught him to be resilient, to embrace new friendships, to treasure old ones and to cherish the natural environment.

Matt's dedication to the YMCA core values were evident by those who nominated him for the Wall of Distinction. He has been called a "constant and passionate Kitchi advocate" who has played a significant role in reconnecting alumni. One Kitchi alumnus said that "It is truly because of Matt's commitment to his Kitchi friends and the camp, that so many of us have stayed such great friends over the years. We will never be able to thank Matt enough for that." Others have reflected on how Matt continues to be a role model for younger camp staff by volunteering during staff training each year, encouraging and offering support to camp directors as well as his Kitchi friends. Matt's caring nature, the respect and responsibility he demonstrates towards his family, community and environment are an indication that the YMCA's values truly do continue on in their campers.





The values and skills learned as a Kitchi staff member have resonated strongly over the years. 99

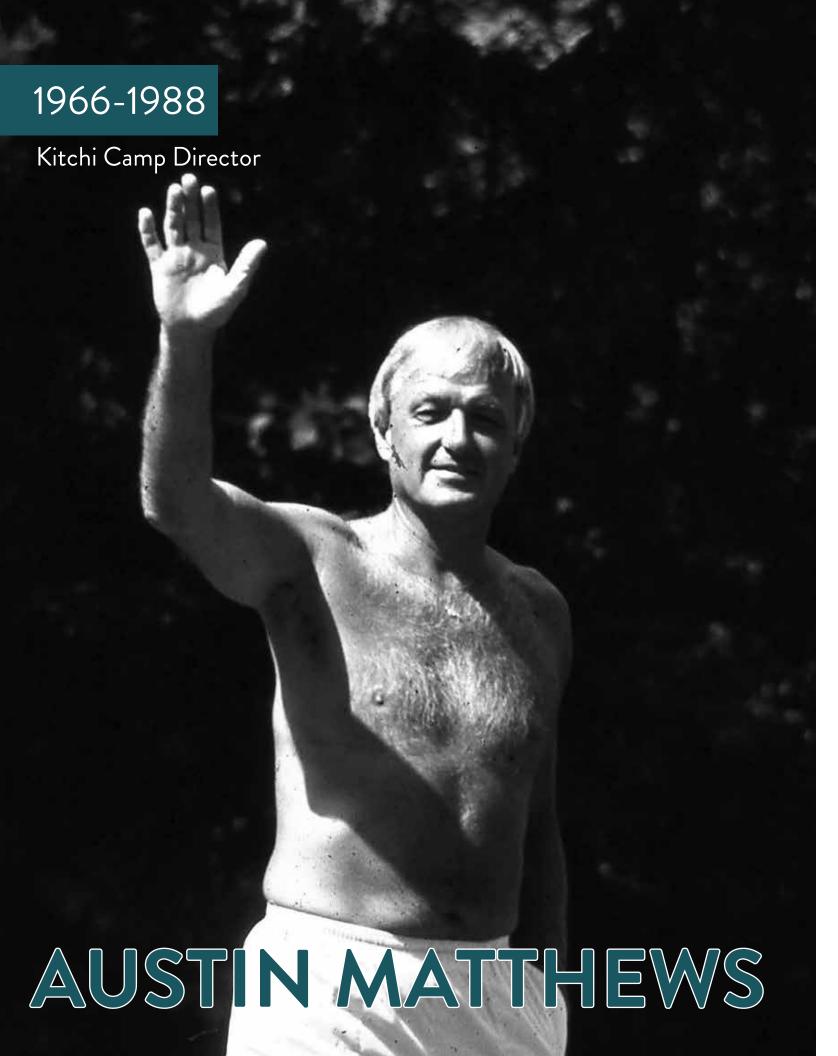
espite the fact that Paul Lawrence was not a Kitchi camper, and only worked as a staff member for a few years, the impact that the camp had on Paul has lasted a lifetime. In turn, his impact on the legacy of Kitchi is profound. It just goes to show that the length of the journey isn't what matters – it is the people and experiences along the way.

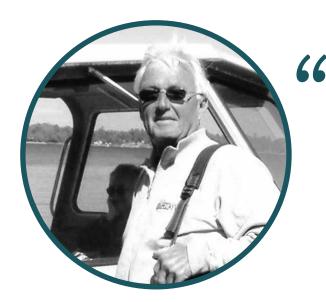
Paul credits Camp Director Win Smith for taking a chance on Paul by hiring him when he hadn't been a Kitchi camper. As a staff member, Paul taught sailing during the summer and helped during spring and fall camp with camp opening and closing. Paul recalls great joy in preparing the camp for the kid's arrival and the beauty and solitude of closing the camp at the end of the summer. But it was the fact that his job at Kitchi was his first real job, and the values that he learned during this experience that have resonated strongly with him over the years.

Working under and with Win Smith taught Paul many things about work and life. Paul learned from Smitty about managing large groups of people and the huge responsibility of organizing several hundred people of varying ages, positions, responsibilities and personalities. Paul remembers recognizing how challenging Smitty's role was, and as such, Paul watched carefully and learned a great deal about what it means to be a good leader. The skills Paul acquired from Smitty have served him well over the course of his life.

Paul embodies the YMCA values in his everyday life and has given back to the camp in significant ways. His involvement in the Kitchi rebuilding team in the latter part of the 1990s was profound. Paul and his wife Jessie spearheaded the Kitchi re-development fundraising drive that has led to the transformation of the camp. As friend Jim Wilgar points out, "Kitchi needed renewed leadership and funding to save it from being a magnificent memory! Paul provided not only critically needed financial leadership, but also his many engineering, design and construction talents...to initiate a new ramp, back dock, to reconfigure and rebuild the camper cabins, all under Paul's watchful eye." In addition, Paul was responsible for the funding to construct the new Director's cabin which was aptly named "Smitty's Cabin" in honour of Kitchi Director Win Smith.

Recently, Paul has offered to play a key role in the future of Kitchikewana on its 100th Anniversary. By providing the largest financial gift ever to the camp in the form of a matching sum of \$1,000,000.00, Paul has demonstrated with his actions, his love and commitment to the camp. Thanks to Paul and the Kitchi Endowment Fund, the future of Kitchi looks very bright indeed. By giving back to the place that meant so much to him, Paul demonstrates to us all the value of caring for the place we love and our responsibility to protect its legacy.





Serving as camp director for 20 years, Austin was integral to expanding Kitchi's presence in the community.

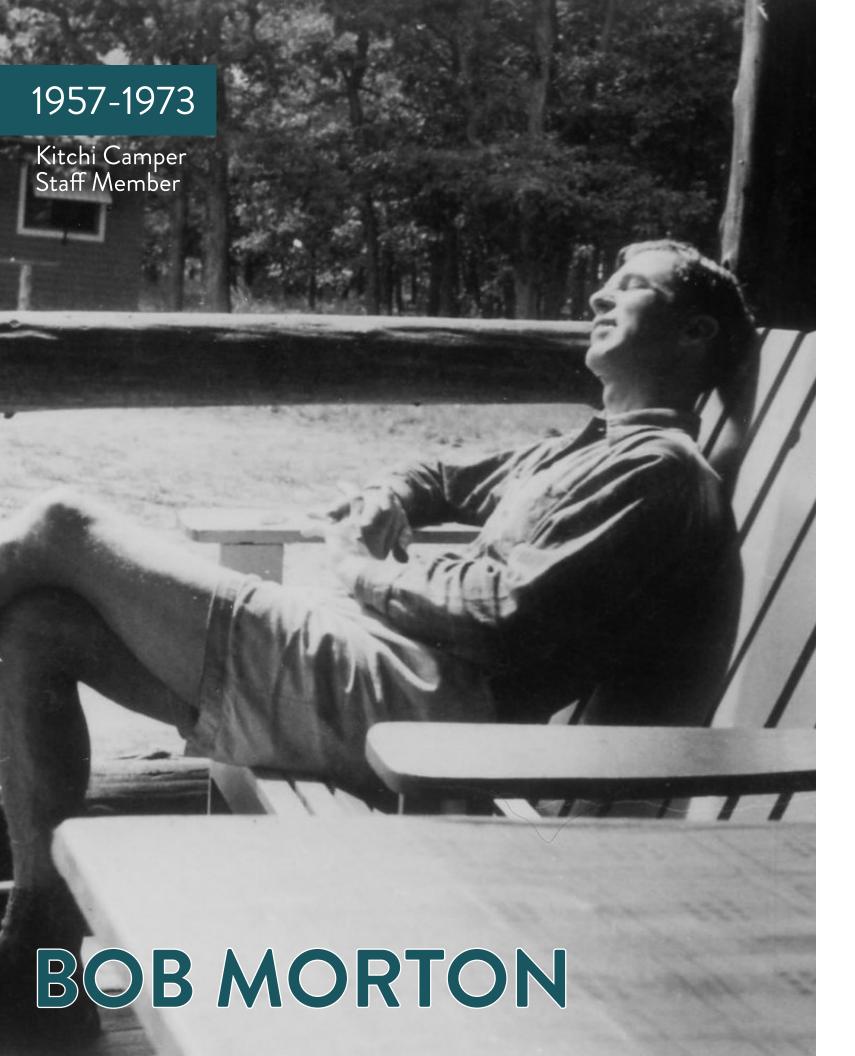
f you were a Kitchi camper in the 60s, 70s and seen in both Family Camp and School Camp. Austin is 80s, you likely have some similar memories of Kitchi - and of the Director - Austin Matthews. The way he could command the room at the end hall - campers all knew that Austin must have an important announcement to make. That announcement was usually the weather report, the program of the day, or most often, the score of the Blue Jays It had that effect on people and Austin knew that; he game. The campers would remember the way he would saunter down the ramp to check out how things were in the community. going during skills or to ensure the laughter was raucous during afternoon program. He was always present and available, and he made a significant impact on the camp.

Austin was the third Camp Director of Kitchikewana. He succeeded Win Smith which must have seemed like big shoes to fill. But Austin was young, and full of energy and enthusiasm for the job; he was up to the task. He knew enough not to make too many changes, and was liked and respected by the staff. One of Austin's key strengths was his ability to hire a staff that was responsible, effective, and most of all, fun. He would be the last of the long tenured Camp Directors, serving as Camp Director for over 20 years!

On top of the day to day tasks and responsibilities of running a summer camp, Austin's impact on Kitchi is

directly responsible for developing Kitchi Family Camp into the viable program it is to this day. In addition, he expanded programming during the shoulder season, of lunch hour as a hush would go across the dining providing the opportunity for school groups and organizations to experience the Kitchi magic. Many Grade 4 students in the Simcoe County area still recall their few days at this amazing place called Kitchikewana. saw the opportunity and he expanded Kitchi's presence

> To many kids, Kitchi wouldn't have been Kitchi without the silver haired guy in the athletic shorts with the sunglasses joking around by the flag pole. He might not remember all of his past camper's names, but those campers remember him and the continuity and comfort it provided them seeing him year after year, standing at the top of the ramp, welcoming them home.





The YMCA values were instilled at camp, and later in life Bob worked tirelessly as an advocate for the wellbeing of children, youth and families. ??

obert (Bob) Morton was sent to Kitchi in the same sense of happiness and joy. 1957, to follow in his father's Kitchi footsteps. He loved camp so much and cried because he didn't want to leave! As such, Bob was promised he could return the following summer for a whole month, and so began his Kitchi legacy. Some of his fondest memories were celebrating his birthdays at camp (and being tossed in the lake) and as an Intermediate camper when he completed his 'Sternsman' award (which included the solo-portage of a canoe from the beach, around the flagpole, and back). The YMCA values were instilled in Bob early on, which were reflected in him being chosen as the Newton Best Camper in his senior year.

As a senior staff member, Bob worked on the waterfront, as an Intermediate Section Head and as the CIT Trainer. His favourite spot at Kitchi was the top of the ramp. During that time, there were two big benches at the top of the ramp that were comfortable spots to watch the comings and goings of camp life and as Intermediate Section Head, it was at that spot that Bob would enthusiastically greet his new campers for the first time.

In 1971, Canada's National Council of the YMCA issued a call for volunteers to participate in an exchange program with The Soviet Union's Young Soviet League. The goals of the exchange were focused on international understanding, good will and fellowship. Bob was selected to be part of the four-member delegation and during that trip they visited a co-ed residential camp near Sochi, on the Black Sea. While the scale of the Soviet camp was much larger than Kitchi, Bob remembers that the campers all experienced

In 1972 Bob met Lynn McAllen Bell at Family Camp. Lynn had been a Kitchi camper in the 1950's and was a widowed mother of 3-year-old Jeff. A camp romance ensued and in 1976 during family camp, Lynn and Bob's son Greg made his first camp visit at the age of 8 months. Living in the Midland community gave Bob the opportunity to continue to advance the YMCA's values by becoming a member of the Midland Y's Board of Directors, and Chair of the Board in 1985-86. During this time, the Board was tasked with addressing the possibility that the camp's lease would not be renewed. Bob played a critical role in solidifying the camp's lease renewal with Park's Canada, allowing Camp Kitchikewana to continue to operate on National Park property.

Bob has also lived the YMCA core values in his professional career. While engaged as CEO at Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) Simcoe County, Bob's work connected him to other providers of care and services for vulnerable children. Bob has worked tirelessly as an advocate for the present and future wellbeing of children, youth and families. In addition, Bob has been a frequent presenter and promoter of the The YMCA Not-For-Profit Leadership Development Program, which has been designed to address these challenges by focusing on best practices and core elements of a successful not-for-profit organization. It is clear that Bob is an embodiment of the YMCA values that were instilled in him as a young child on the shores of Beausoleil Island.





Melva's compassion and care for campers was paramount to her approach and she was famous for her 'homesick pills' and was the best replacement mom at camp.

elva Murphy Luker experienced many different aspects of Kitchi over the years. From camper, to counsellor, section head to waterfront director, Melva was a fixture at Kitchi. But it was her role as Camp Nurse that left such a strong legacy and a deserving spot on Kitchi's Wall of Distinction.

Melva was a perfect camp nurse because she understood what it felt like to be a young camper, scared and worried about being away from home for the first time. Homesickness is somewhat of a rite of passage for campers but it can be a lonely feeling. Melva understood that. With Melva at the head of the infirmary, campers had a caring, warm and supportive mother figure to help them through the difficult times. The infirmary was the place where ultimately Melva felt most at home, and many campers lined up outside the door just to be greeted with her smile, advice and support.

Her compassion and care for the campers was paramount to her approach and she was famous for her "homesick pills". "Homesick pills were the best" said one Kitchi alumnus. "I am sure many faked being homesick just to pop by for some comfort. Melva was the best replacement mom to all at camp, a source of comfort, fun and loved by all." Another camper recalls the time she Melva. "Melva always treated these occasions with the sober seriousness that they deserved - listening carefully, administering appropriate medication: the little

red pills always helped immensely, making my friend feel strong and able to face camp again. To this day, the smell of cinnamon hearts provides comfort and inspires confidence to bear any heartache."

Despite her caring nature, Melva also had a mischievous streak and loved to play practical jokes on her camp friends. Knowing her friends Curtis Eastmure and Dave Wismer would be sleeping in the infirmary during family camp after Melva had left, she strategically placed large painted Kitchi rocks under their mattress, knowing they would have a laugh when they laid down for the night. She cared enough to plan her jokes even when she wasn't there to laugh along with her friends. Pranks were one of the cornerstones of her personality, and reflects the person whose goal was to make other people's lives a little brighter.

Melva's care and compassion reflect the values she gained as a YMCA Kitchi camper and the impact she had on campers was enormous. One former camper, when asked to name a person who had the biggest impact on her life, she chose Melva. "Melva made me happy when I was struggling and taught me perseverance. She made me want to be a nurse and especially the camp nurse. All of these things made me the person I am today." Melva's compassion and care will never be dragged her homesick friend to the infirmary to see forgotten and neither will those little cinnamon hearts.





There is no question that Jack believed in, lived by and helped thousands of others to live by the YMCA's core values. ??

reporter from the Toronto Star once philosophy and Tawingo's philosophy." referred to Jack Pearse as "Captain Summer Camp". In 1961, Jack became the owner, co-founder and Director of Camp Tawingo in Huntsville and went on to become a national leader in summer camping. He was the President of the Ontario, Canadian and American Camping Associations, author of a number of books on camping, and became an icon in terms of camp music. A gifted song leader, Pearse is probably best known (in the camping world) for his talents of engaging a crowd of campers in sing-song and his albums and song books are legendary.

So how does the Director of Huntsville's Camp Tawingo end up on the Camp Kitchikewana 100th Anniversary Wall of Distinction? Quite simply, Camp Kitchi was where it all began for Jack. Jack's father was a Kitchi camper as was his sister, Shirley, so it was no question that Jack would also attend. As both a camper, and a staff member, Jack was influenced heavily by Kitchi Director Win Smith and the YMCA values that were taught to him as a young boy. The impact that Kitchi had on young Jack Pearse would be the foundation for launching one of the most successful private camps in Ontario. As his son Mike stated "There is no question that Dad believed in, lived by, and helped thousands of others to live by the YMCA's core values. Such core values helped form the foundation of Dad's personal

Jack dedicated his life to promoting the values of the YMCA in all of his endeavors. His work in the camping world is legendary of course, but he was also known for many other amazing accomplishments. As a wellknown golf coach at the University of Waterloo, Pearse would lead his golf teams to countless provincial titles and one national championship. In addition, he was the founding faculty member of the University of Waterloo's Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, the impact of which has sent countless young, eager professionals into the world of camping and outdoor recreation.

Jack Pearse was a man admired by many, but no one admired him more than his own family. Married for 60 years to his wife Helen, they raised four children, Patsy, Judy, John and Mike. Mike, currently the Director at Camp Tawingo, has followed in his father's footsteps; the footsteps that found the love for camping on Kitchi shores.





Tina embodied camp values and earned everyone's respect with her fun but fierce style. She set the tone for everyone. ??

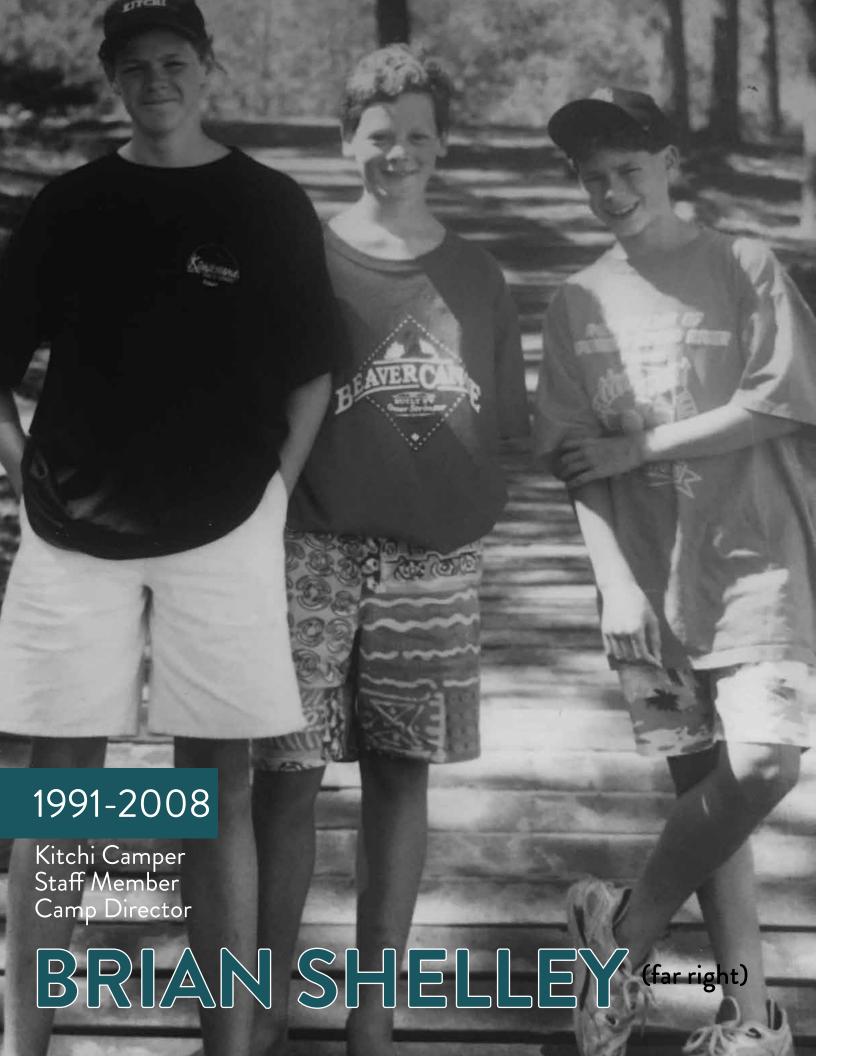
ina Rankin Middlebrook enthusiastically attended Kitchi from 1968-1983. In addition to her years as a camper, Tina had extensive staff experience at Kitchi, leading the camp in a number of areas from Waterfront Director to Section Head to Assistant Camp Director. Tina's two children, Rankin and Leslie, followed in their mom's footsteps by attending Kitchi as campers and working there for many years. Tina treasures dearly the Kitchi experience that she was able to share with her three sisters, Leslie, Lindsey and Bucky. Tina strives to keep the Kitchi magic alive and is known as the glue that keeps her Kitchi girlfriends connected. She unites with her Kitchi friends each summer at her cottage on Bear Lake. Her Kitchi Girls Weekend is a highlight of the year for Tina as she enjoys many laughs, drinks and memories with her longtime friends.

One of Tina's favourite memories, and one she looks forward to each time she returns to Kitchi is walking up the ramp. For Tina, the smell that accompanies that walk up the ramp is one she cherishes – the combination of the earth, the pines, the sun and the people. Tina had a significant impact on many of the people she met along the way. According to one alumnus who nominated Tina for this recognition, Tina WAS camp. She set the tone for everyone who attended - she was both tough and fair, fun and responsible. As a leader, she expected the best from the people who reported to her, which demonstrates her

commitment and embodiment of the YMCA values. "As a Section Head and Assistant Director, she set the tone for the culture amongst the staff and campers. She embodied camp values and earned everyone's respect with her fun but fierce style."

Tina was a born leader. As a leader, she had the complete respect of her campers. She always knew everyone's name and if she didn't, she gave the camper a nickname. She was purposefully inclusive in all of her dealings with the campers, finding ways to engage and relate to everyone. According to a fellow staff member, Tina had a positive and enthusiastic attitude that simply was infectious to those around her.

Tina continues to spread the core values of the YMCA in her professional life as an educator. She is currently a highly respected school Principal with the Peel District School Board. In this role, Tina guides both her students, staff and co workers to become strong leaders. The core values of caring, honesty, inclusiveness, respect and responsibility are character traits that she lives up to each day and are the values she uses daily in her profession – they act for Tina like a moral compass. She mentors many of her staff to become thoughtful and inspirational educators, and instills in them the values that she learned as a young camper and honed as a staff member at YMCA Camp Kitchikewana.





Brian extols the virtues of Camp Kitchi and acknowledges that no place has had a greater impact on who he is today.

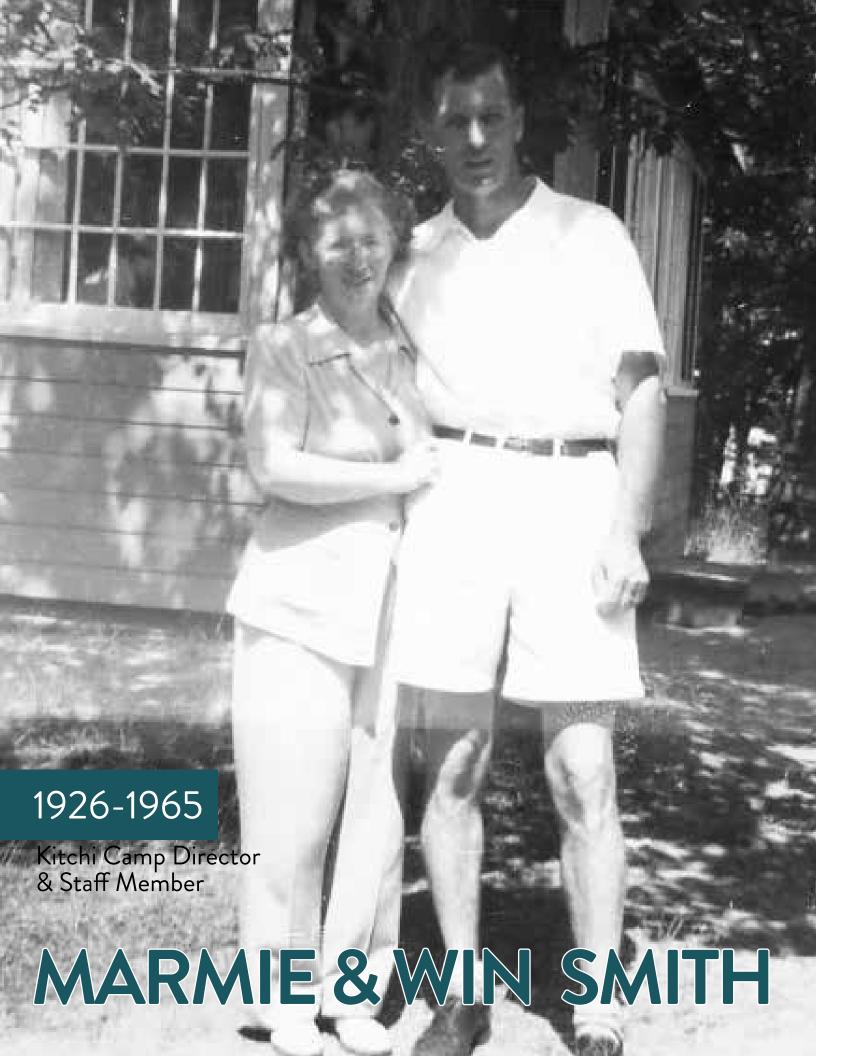
s a young camper, Brian Shelley knew he was the significant role that this camp summer days at Kitchi, Brian was like any other young boy - he loved getting dirty playing capture the flag and waited patiently at dinner to hear the score of the Blue Jays Games during announcements. He also enjoyed watching the Kitchi staff members on the staff stage during mealtime in the dining hall, as those mentors had a significant impact on who he would become. Little did he know that one day, he too would sit at the staff table, eventually as Camp Kitchi's Director which he describes as one of the greatest honours of his life.

One of Brian's favourite things about Kitchi was that it allowed him to be himself; it is a place where he felt he belonged in a way he didn't quite feel anywhere else. Not surprisingly, Brian's favourite Kitchi song was "My Kitchi Friend" which is fitting seeing as most of Brian's Kitchikewana and the YMCA and acknowledges that best friends are his Kitchi pals. It is at camp where Brian first developed his love of music, and playing the than Camp Kitchi. guitar is still one of Brian's favourite past times. The spot he treasures most at Kitchi is Chapel which holds The YMCA is blessed to have someone like Brian in a special place for Brian because it was here that he got married.

Brian's path to becoming the Camp Director was paved loved camp. What he didn't know then by many staff members who had a significant impact on him. Former camp directors Krystie Elsdon and would play in his entire life. During those Darryl McKenzie were two that Brian greatly admired and respected. These and the many Kitchi mentors that Brian looked up to over his formative years are credited with teaching and showing him how to live the YMCA core values in his day to day life.

> Brian has dedicated his professional life to the YMCA. In addition to his time as Director at Kitchi, Brian served as Director at Camp Queen Elizabeth and Assistant Director at RKY. He went on to become Vice President of Camping, Community Development and Leadership and currently serves as the Vice President of Marketing, Philanthropy and Asset Management for the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka. Brian is an advocate for the improvement of one's mind, body and spirit and is a very active member of his community. At every chance he gets, Brian extols the virtues of Camp no place has had a greater impact on who he is today

> a leadership role and as a passionate advocate for our





Win & Marmie led and inspired thousands of Kitchi campers and staff members for over three decades. 99

hile E.R. Thurlow is recorded as Kitchi's first Camp Director, it was under the stewardship of Hilda and Win Smith (who came to be lovingly known as "Marmie and Smitty"), that Kitchi really developed into the camp we know today. Ed Bridge in his book "Kitchi – Our Common Story" put it best when he said that "Winston's Smith's leadership gave Camp Kitchikewana its character". Both Marmie and Smitty were born and raised in PEI. Married in 1922, they eventually moved to Midland along with their two young children, Kay and Keith, when Smitty became Director of the Midland YMCA. In 1928, Win Smith became the Camp Director and he and his wife would go on to lead and inspire thousands of Kitchi campers and staff members for over three decades.

As expected, both Marmie and Smitty received a number of nominations for the Wall of Distinction. They were described as having a significant impact on both campers and staff, and were referred to as "our beloved camp directors". Their philosophy of "I'm Third" has left a profound legacy on the camp. They were reported to have treated all of the camp children as their own and they hired staff who reflected their values. They taught campers and staff how to treat each other with kindness and respect. They were both known as "fine examples of just how to be in the world".

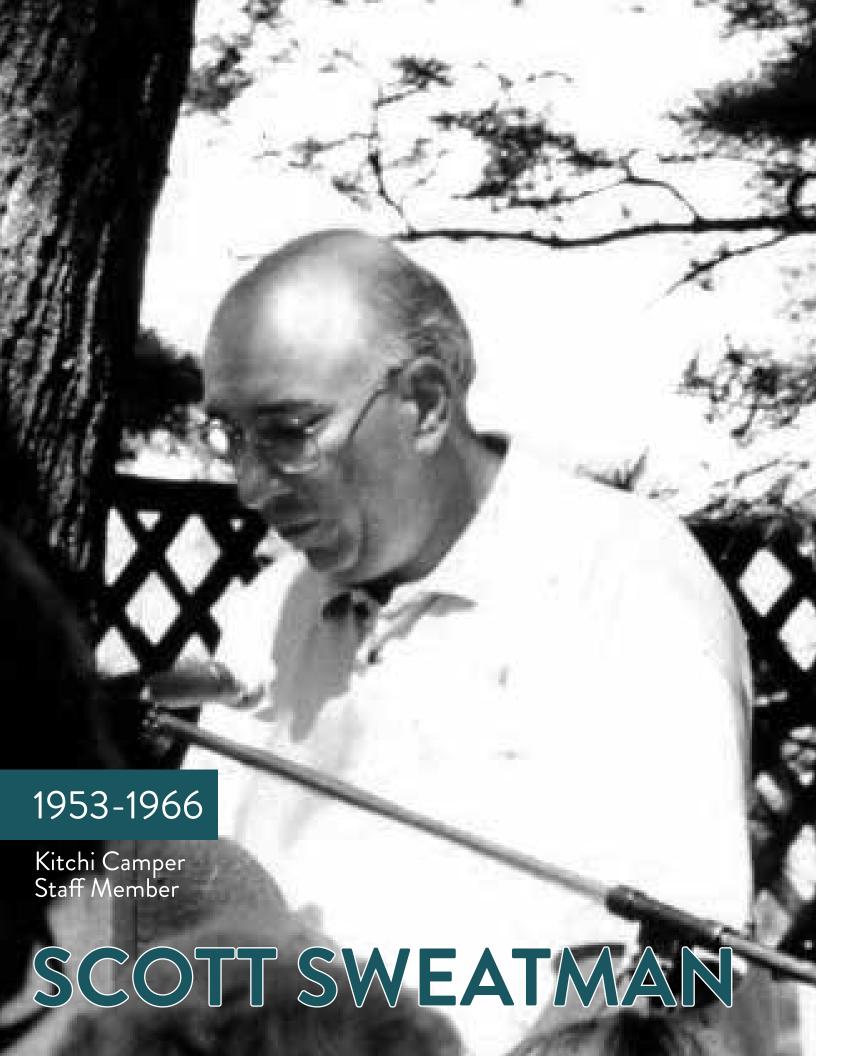
They had high standards for safety and for fun, encouraging campers to get actively involved. They facilitated sailing trips and canoe outings as part of the Kitchi program. Despite the many jobs they had to

hile E.R. Thurlow is recorded as Kitchi's do, they never lost touch with the campers and the first Camp Director, it was under the stewardship of Hilda and Win Smith (who came to be lovingly known as "Marmie and Smitty"), that Kitchi into the camp we know today. Ed k "Kitchi – Our Common Story" put aid that "Winston's Smith's leadership od, they never lost touch with the campers and the important role they played in the children's lives. One former camper reflected that "When it was Sunday Visitor's Day and you were small and a little sad without a visitor- you just wandered over to Marmie and Smitty's cabin for a special 'Orphan's Tea Party' and you found yourself with a warm cookie, a cup of Freshie, and an even warmer hug".

Marmie and Smitty's leadership impacted the campers in numerous ways, but they also played a large role in the various camp staff that worked under them over the years. The leadership provided for these young people was second to none. Alumnus, Dr. John Andersen describes Smitty as follows: "There was something really outstanding about Smitty. The best way to summarize him is that Smitty would never ask you to do something that he wouldn't do himself".

The impact that Marmie and Smitty had even extended beyond the shores of Beausoleil Island and their work, knowledge and experience played a role in the foundations of other summer camps in southern Ontario. Camps such as Wabanaki, Taylor Statten and Tawingo all have their roots in Marmie and Smitty's Camp Kitchi. Their combined experience and leadership was respected and legendary and many camps in Ontario still resemble Kitchi in both their values and programming. The foundation laid by both Marmie and Smitty are evident today and generations of Kitchi campers are forever indebted to them.

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Scott played a pivotal role in the creation of the Kitchi alumni movment and raising money for the camp's rejuvenation in the 90's. **??** 

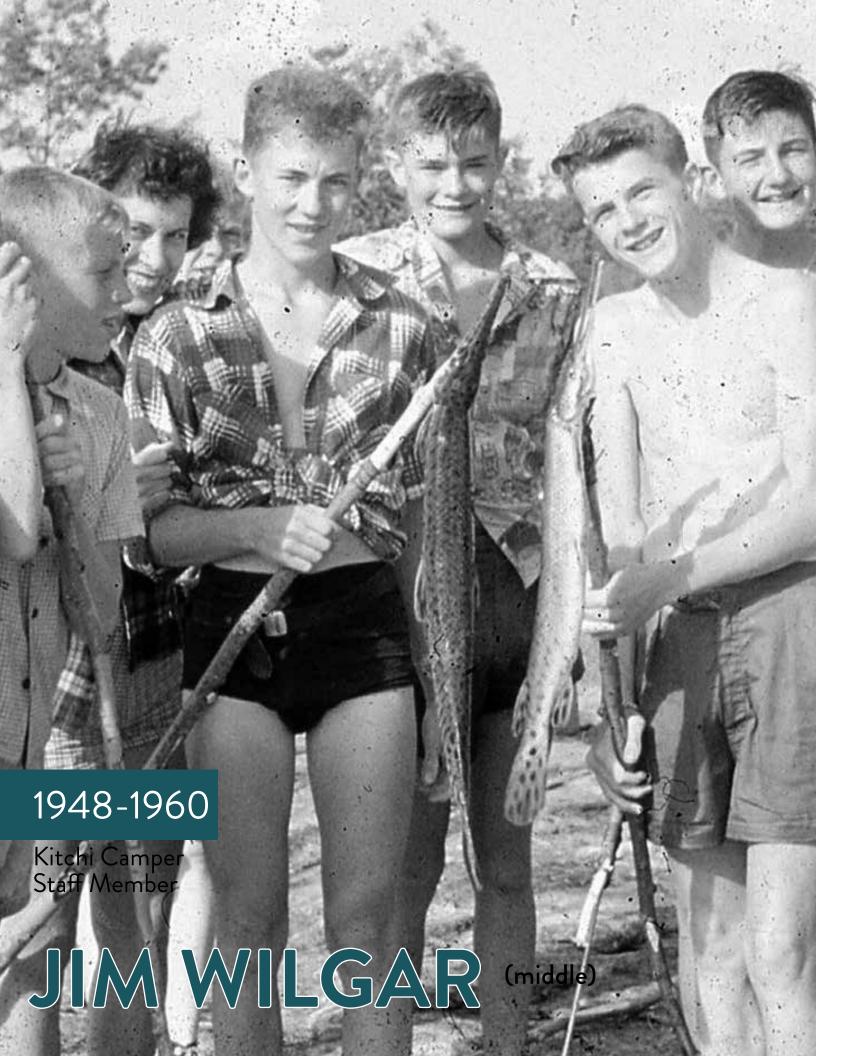
cott Sweatman was born into a camping family. His father had been active in the Hamilton YMCA, and his mother had been a camp nurse. When it came time for Scott to attend camp as a young boy, his parents sought out the best spot at the time - Camp Kitchi. Scott didn't take to camp his first summer. He was homesick and he couldn't swim which meant he also couldn't use the boats. But his parents had faith and sent him again the following summer.

With the help of his counsellor Dennis Webber, and his raising money for the camp's rejuvenation throughout swim teacher, Eda Kirk, Scott was able to pass his swim test which gave him access to all the boats for free time. The most memorable for him was being able to take canoeing and take part in the overnight trip. He enjoyed time spent at chapel point and singing camp songs such as his favourite, "I Love You Canada". Scott gladly returned to Kitchi every summer and eventually became a staff member; first as a counsellor and then as the Intermediate Section Head during Boys Camp, and the Canoeing Director for Boys and Girls Camp. His time at Kitchi spanned the directors of both Win Smith and Austin Matthews, and Scott was a key part of that transition. Scott's experience and hard work ethic made him indispensable to Austin, as the new director learned about the site and the staff.

Scott's daughter Mary was also a Kitchi camper and went on to follow in her dad's footsteps as the

Canoeing and Kayaking Director in the 1990s. During this time, Scott felt a need to give back to the camp that had such an impact on his family. As written in the book "Our Common Story", Scott played a pivotal role in the creation of the Kitchi alumni movement. "With a meeting in a church basement in 1996, Scott launched an Alumni movement that joined Midland service clubs and the broader Midland community in renewing the Camp facilities. That Alumni Group now has grown into a stout support for the Camp." In addition to launching the alumni movement, Scott played a large role in the 1990s. The improvements in the site during that time have a great deal to do with Scott's efforts and enthusiasm.

Scott worked his whole business career in the Steel Industry in Mississauga, and believes he gained his strong leadership skills from his time at camp. The YMCA core values are at the heart of everything he does. Since retirement, he and his wife, Susanne (also a Kitchi Camper and Staff Member) moved to Wolfville Nova Scotia, spending their summers at their cottage in Haliburton. Thanks to Scott's hard work and fundraising efforts, Kitchi is in fantastic shape for the next generation of Kitchi campers.





Jim's love of Kitchi is infectious. He recognizes the gifts that camp has given him and he has made it his mission to give back. ??

f his friends wanted to find Jim anywhere on the Kitchi paths, they would just shout out "Hey - Wilgar!" and he would appear. The same is true for his son who responded to the Wilgar calling during his own years at camp. Jim Wilgar's love of Kitchi is infectious - as is his glowing and warm personality. Jim first attended Kitchi as a seven-year-old, one-week camper. Thank heaven his parents allowed him to stay for the following three weeks of "boys" session and for the next twelve years. The fun and challenge of obtaining YMCA cards and crests as a camper was obsessive. Those achievements are what helped pave the way to becoming a CIT, Counsellor, Program Development Assistant, canoeing, tripping and eventually Sailing Director - Jim did almost everything! The way in which he speaks about the camp, promoting the values of the YMCA that were instilled in him, demonstrates the significant impact that Kitchi had on Jim's life. Jim recognizes the gifts that Kitchi has given him, and as such, he has made it his mission to give back; he has continued on as an active Alumni Advisory Committee Member, owns a small sailing charter business to share his love of sailing with others, and is a lifelong teacher of environmental awareness. Above all, Jim has become a role model of the YMCA values.

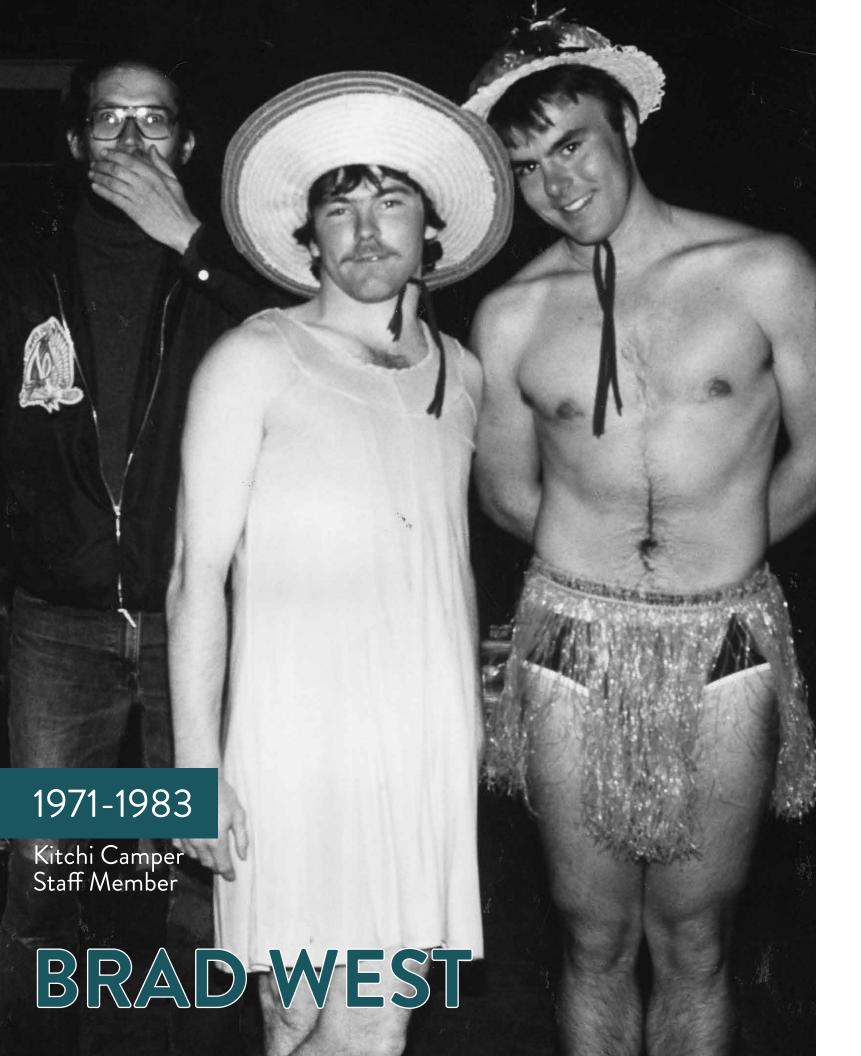
But at one point, Jim was just a small Kitchi kid who reveled in games of capture the flag, tent alley football, and canoe and sailing races. Jim's favourite Kitchi spots were Champlain Rock and Chapel Point, and these places bring back fond memories for Jim. Singing rounds of "Row Row Row Your Boat" at lunch time singsong, or "Abide with Me" around the Kitchi campfire left a lasting impression on Jim. Kitchi was a transformative place, helping Jim to develop leadership skills through an appreciation of those skills in others. Jim often refers to the Kitchi magic – that intangible quality that we all know

and understand, and Jim is the first to encourage alumni to rekindle that Kitchi magic by lending a hand, revisiting the site, and re-connecting with Kitchi friends.

Jim's dedication to the camp is evident in so many ways. As a teacher at Midland Secondary School, he encouraged and helped students to attend Kitchi, and as a member of the Midland Y and Y Men's Club he participated in Kitchi projects and work parties. Such commitment continued as he worked tirelessly to sustain and improve the Kitchi site during camp work weekends associated with the Kitchi rebuild. He became totally committed to fundraising for the Kitchi Capital Campaign and was a key organizer in recent camp reunions. His recruitment of volunteers and donors, and his overall love of the place has inspired and motivated others to lend a hand. Jim's caring nature and wisdom is unprecedented, and he serves as a strong role model for younger alumni with his work ethic and positive attitude. One gets a sense, being around Jim, that you can do more and do better. He instills a sense of purpose and action in those he meets.

Jim's dedication to the YMCA core values were evident by those who nominated him for the Wall of Distinction. One alumnus noted that "There are very few people on the planet I hold in higher regard than Mr. Wilgar". Another stated that Jim's "presence at Kitchi events is a welcoming touchstone to Kitchi's rich history, yet he thoroughly delights in the future opportunities that Kitchi will create for new campers - all the while nudging everyone to be the best that they can be." Jim embodies the message behind the Kitchi hymn "Oh Beausoleil" by showing the rest of us what it means to pledge ourselves to do and be our very best.

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Brad's strong leadership has been a blessing to younger alumni committee members who were given guidance, wisdom and support for over a decade. ??

rad West went by the nickname of "Ward" while at Kitchi (as in Ward Cleaver from the TV show "Leave it to Beaver") and the West family name is embedded in Kitchi history. Brad's father attended the camp in the 1930s and the fourth generation of the West strong leadership, organizational skills and mentorship family are currently Kitchi campers. Not only has Brad have been a blessing to younger alumni committee been a camper and a staff member, but Brad also holds a special place in his heart for Kitchi Family Camp. It is, after all, where me met and fell in love with his beloved wife, Tracy.

Brad's Kitchi resume is extensive - not only was he a camper and counsellor, but as a senior staff member, Brad took on many roles. He was the Assistant Sailing Director, Sailing Director, Maintenance Manager as well as the Assistant Camp Director - needless to say, there isn't a role that Brad didn't take on during his time at camp. But Brad's favourite memory from all of those years was from when he was a young camper, sailing around the island of Beausoleil on the so called "round the island sailing trips". His favourite spot on Kitchi sands was the Rubble Hilton.

Brad was impacted heavily by his Kitchi experience and his need to give back to the camp that had been such an important part of his youth was strong. Brad has played an integral role in the Kitchi Alumni Committee - and has headed that committee for almost a decade.

In this role, Brad has helped to ensure that Kitchi's future is bright and that the legacy of the past is not forgotten. Brad's hard work on the Alumni Committee was significant during the Strategic Plan and as the camp headed into its 100th celebration season. Brad's members who found guidance, wisdom and support from Brad.

Brad continues each day to live the YMCA core values that he learned as a young boy at camp. His love of road biking, combined with his commitment to helping others have seen him embark on a number of rides for charity, including the ride for Multiple Sclerosis and Ride Across American in support of the United Way. His passion for travel and exploration of the natural world was born on Kitchi sands. An avid skier, road biker, mountain biker and runner are ways in which Brad embodies and exemplifies the mind, body and spirit philosophy of the YMCA.

### IT TAKES A KITCHI VILLAGE

#### With appreciation and a million thanks to the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee

A weekend event of this magnitude takes years of planning. This committee had it's first meeting 5 years ago to start weighing the pros and cons of hosting the celebration on site or in the city. From there, logistics of finding former campers, building contact lists, engaging each decade with reunions and gathering photos from over 100 years of campers. The task was great, but each person gave their talents and gifts to contribute to the organization. From there, the ripple effect began as committee members reached out to other alumni to take on tasks and lend a hand. The names listed below highlight the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee, however the number of extraordinary volunteers who took on projects and pieces beyond the committee is great and wide and we acknowledge all of you out there who made your mark on this march toward the 100th. Thank you to each and every one of you!



Julia Fulton, Camp Director



Emma Langlois, Asst. Camp Director



Gord Dunlop, GM, Camping YMCA



Matt Ladner



Divinia Zacca

Dylan Lalande



Jamie Howchin

Anne Coleman



(Apsey)



Carole Stallworthy





Tina Middlebrook

(Rankin)



Cam Norman

Sue Diefenbaker (Auld)





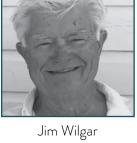
Jennie Meeker

#### Alumni Advisory Committee

The Alumni Advisory Committee's role is to help provide support and input for the camp director and assistant director. The committee meets 3-4 times per year and has been integral in the development of the strategic plan and acts as a sounding board for camp management on a variety of issues facing the camp. Each year the advisory board is responsible for considering and approving the dispersement of funds from the 100th Anniversary Alumni Fund, working closely with camp management. Their recent task of reviewing nominees for the 100th Anniversary Wall of Distinction was both a challenging and rewarding task. Our collective gratitude for the volunteer time and passion of this group!



Matt Ladner





**Brad West** 



Jake Ladner



Sean Weaser



Katie Kirkpatrick



Brenda French



Jennie Meeker



Sue Diefenbaker (Auld)

#### Compiler's Note:

he biographies for each of the nominees in this magazine are a compilation of information from a variety of sources. Each of the inductees were nominated by Kitchi alumni, and a great deal of the information that appears in these biographies have been taken directly from the nomination submissions (in some cases, entire paragraphs). Additional information was collected from friends, family members, colleagues, camp alumni, and the inductees themselves. I make no claim that these were my own words but more a compilation of the words and submissions of many different people. Where possible, I have cited and quoted from specific individuals directly. I have also relied heavily on Ed Bridge's book "Kitchi - Our Common Story".

Without the creative efforts of Lianne Carter Ladner, this magazine would be just a bunch of words. Lianne is entirely responsible for the stunning graphic design of the magazine; she discovered and compiled the many photos and graphics to give character to these biographies. Her creative talents can be seen on each and every page, and have helped to create a new cherished piece of Kitchi History. It is our hope that together, we have captured the essence of each of these individuals who have contributed so greatly to the camp we all love and cherish. The Kitchi Alumni Committee is proud to present Kitchi's 100th Anniversary Wall of Distinction Inductees in these pages and look forward to adding names to this wall in the years to come.

Katie Katie Kirkpatrick

Kitchi Camper & Staff Member (1980-1994)



