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Director's 2011 Season Note

Dear Wabun Parents,

Our 79th season at Wabun began smoothly: all campers arrived under a glorious sunset on June 26th - evening meal together, brief overview of our setting and guidelines, and off to bed. Following the storing of valuables in the office and a check-in at the infirmary on the morning of the 27th, our staff oversaw two days of review and basic instruction of all campers in our wilderness-canoeing techniques. Nine sections left the shores of Garden Island on the morning of June 28th.

The two Long-Trip sections spent the next two days traveling over a thousand miles out to the Root River and began their paddling to James Bay via the Otoskwin and Attawapiskat Rivers. The B Groups set off on their break-in trips readying for their 30-day jaunts down the Coulonge and Dumoine Rivers in Quebec, and the Missinaibi River in Northern Ontario. The younger sections (Cayuga K, Wabun D, Cree, and Wenonah) left on their first trips as well, the start of a season with progressively longer trips thereafter. Suddenly, on June 28th, all sections were off the island and very much into the heart of the Wabun enterprise – developing skills and attitudes that will allow them to travel safely and efficiently in a magnificent wilderness, while enjoying the comforts of their own making that instill senses of competence and confidence in what we as individuals and members of a section can do in providing for ourselves.

Early into the summer, we made some significant adjustments. An unusually large number of forest fires in Northwestern Ontario led us to extract our Bay Trip sections and relocate and re-route them in the Northeastern corner of the province. Instead of proceeding on our scheduled trips, we moved both Cayuga and Wabun A to a route down the Groundhog River to James Bay – a first-time trip for Wabun. The use of Spot Locators has allowed us to monitor their progress over the past weeks along this new route. All goes well and according to plan. The sections will end their trips in the more southern area of James Bay where they will meet up with the Wabun B-C group that is traveling the Missinaibi River. Together, the three sections will take the Ontario Northland Railroad's Polar Bear Express train from Moosonee to Cochrane on August 5th where they will be met by bus, Wabun van, and trailers for the trip back to Temagami.

The second three-week Chippewa section arrived at Wabun on July 18th. They were welcomed to the island by the Wabun D section, whose members took time from their two days in camp preparing for their last trip to provide some older camper to younger camper instruction in packing and rolling, tumping, tent pitching, etc. – please visit some photos of same on Wabun's Blog. Both sections headed out on trip the morning of July 20th. The Chippies returned from their first trip on July 23rd and enjoyed a couple of days at base camp with the Cree, Cayuga K, and Wenonahs. All sections enjoyed time together reading logs of their first trips of the season at a sunset campfire on July 24th, and headed

out on trip the next day. The Chippewas will return to the island on July 29th to re-outfit and ready for their final trip of the season, departing the morning of July 31st.

At this point in the summer all six-week sections are out on trip for the rest of the summer. We eagerly await the return of the Chippies on July 29th, and look forward to hearing of their adventures and equipping them for their last trip of the season.

The 79th season at Wabun goes much according to plan, following a time-tested and honored tradition of providing opportunities for exquisitely rewarding wilderness travel.

For additional information and specifics, I refer you to:

- Section alignment
- Trip Itineraries
- The 2011 Photo Gallery, and
- The schedule of events for August 6, 7, and 8th.

All may be found in links on this website.

Enthusiastically and Respectfully,

Dick Lewis