



## *Tohkomeupog 2021: Tradition & Transition*

This past year has witnessed a tremendous amount of transition for Purity Spring Resort and the Hoyt Family. COVID-19 has certainly been at the forefront, affecting all aspects of business, from how we staff to how we provide service to our customers. Facing this challenge required open-minds, thoughtful discussions... and a lot of creative initiative. Throughout the company, staff rose to the occasion. Because of their efforts, and despite all the modifications, limitations and difficult situations, Purity Spring Resort, Inc. rests on solid ground. It's remarkable, really, how much was accomplished!

King Pine was wrapping up the 2020 ski season just as COVID-19 became a cause for concern here in the valley. Fortunately, although we closed the ski area a few weeks early, the season had already proven hugely successful. Summer was certainly quieter at the resort, yet we were able to provide a variety of accommodations. Danforth Bay Camping & RV Resort was where a majority of the action was last summer. Within the guidelines issued by the State of NH, the campground was able to be as busy as we would ever hope to be. For that we were grateful.

From the Tohko perspective, last summer was especially unusual. Having a youth camp facility without campers was definitely not as much fun. Camp cabins did get some use, however, rented by camp alumni, as well as others looking for a brief respite from COVID-realities at home. Although it wasn't "camp" as we know it, it was nice that Tohkomeupog could offer people a comfortable "escape" during such a challenging time.

This summer we are excited to welcome campers back to Tohkomeupog! Based upon conversations with current camp families, the boys are just as excited to get back. COVID-19 is still a factor that we need to manage. Following State of NH guidelines, there will be a combination of testing and quarantine measures in place... as well as other strategies designed to keep everyone safe. All that in mind, our intent is to continue moving toward a more traditional version of normal at camp.

Enrollment for camp is going well. As always, we welcome your help. If you know any camp-age boys who may be interested, we would love to connect with them. We are also working on staffing and have many familiar faces returning. We are in search for a Panther Director. If you are reading this newsletter, have the summer free, and feel so inclined... don't hesitate to call. This could be your opportunity to spend another amazing summer with us at Tohkomeupog.

If you do find your way to the valley this summer, you may notice that the scenery has changed a bit. Millbrook Lodge, where the reservations office was located, was taken down last fall. This large, white building had long greeted visitors as they drove into the valley. Worn and weathered by the passing of time, it had simply progressed beyond the point of reasonable maintenance to sustain. The space where the building stood will now welcome guests with beautifully landscaped gardens and lawns.

A fun bit of history about Millbrook is that it was built in the early 1800s and was home to the Blaisdell Family, proprietors of the logging mill across the street (where the indoor pool & reservations office are now located.) It was a family connection with the Blaisdells that brought the first generation of Hoyt (Edward Hoyt, Sr.) to visit the valley... and inspire a series of dreams and decisions that would eventually impact all of our lives. The house would later become home to Milt & Fran Hoyt... and was, in fact, where the fourth generation of Hoyt children (Ted, Laura, Bob, Kathy & Susie) was raised.

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### **WOOLEGAN!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CIT CLASS OF 2021:  
DYLAN MCCONNELL, MIKE WIESEN, TEDDY RICHARDS, WILL RICHARDS,  
GRIFFIN STODDARD, LIAM CAPOZZA, MAX VAN DORN, ROBBIE CLEMENS



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Aside from dealing with COVID-19 and modifications to the physical landscape, the company is also going through a significant shift in leadership, largely due to the natural attrition of working members of the Hoyt Family. This began with Bob Hoyt's retirement almost 2 years ago. Susie Hoyt, the last of Milt & Fran's children to remain active in daily resort operations, recently retired at the end of 2020 (rumor has it she is enjoying every minute of it.) Tim Powers, COO of the company, will retire this spring.

A family torch has now been passed. In terms of leadership at the highest level, it is now fifth generation members of the Hoyt family, Steven Hoyt and Andrew Mahoney, who will carry the bulk of the load. Granted, they are not alone. We have a talented workforce throughout the company. Most everyone would agree, however, that this is a whole lot of company for two people to effectively manage and oversee.

Knowing this moment was coming, Purity Spring Resort's Board of Directors has been brainstorming options to best manage the future of the company. They met with a series of succession planners and business consultants... did a tremendous amount of soul-searching... and good news is: they came up with a plan that they believe will help ensure the company's continued health and viability.

Purity Spring Resort, Inc. has entered into an agreement with Highway West Vacations (HWV), a family-owned, California-based company that owns and operates specialized hospitality, glamping, and luxury RV resorts. The Hoyt Family has hired HWV to manage operations for Purity Spring Resort, Inc. The transition took place on March 1, 2021. You can check them out at: [www.highwaywestvacations.com](http://www.highwaywestvacations.com).

The Hoyt Family will continue to own this property and the business... and will continue to be involved with daily operations and decision-making. The connection with Highway West Vacations will allow this company to tap into their network of similar properties and take advantage of enhanced operating systems, negotiated agreements, and marketing strategies. All of this, of course, is with the intent to enhance business volume of the resort... and its divisions, including Tohkomeupog.

Throughout the winter and spring seasons, team members from HWV have remained on property, learning more about our company... helping create business plans and budgets... and assisting with preparations for the summer season. Admittedly, they do not have any experience with youth camps specifically... and so the prospect of working with Tohko is very exciting for them. Their focus this summer is on marketing and social media initiatives to help us boost enrollment.

Beginning this relationship with HWV was a very big decision for the Hoyt Family. They looked at many options... and with this option, they are sincerely excited. They view this as an incredibly positive development for the company. Purity Spring Resort was born out of a creative entrepreneurial spirit that has sustained it for many generations, ever since Edward Hoyt, Sr. first stepped on the property many moons ago and started to dream. They feel they are tapping into that spirit with this new step forward.

### **Stevo Harding**

Director of Tribal Relations

*Tohkomeupog – Camp for Boys*

## **WANT TO HELP LEAD CAMP THIS SUMMER?!**

THE MIGHTY PANTHER CLAN IS SEARCHING FOR A DIRECTOR FOR THIS SUMMER.  
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT STEVO HARDING AT  
[KALHOUZIT@ROADRUNNER.COM](mailto:KALHOUZIT@ROADRUNNER.COM)



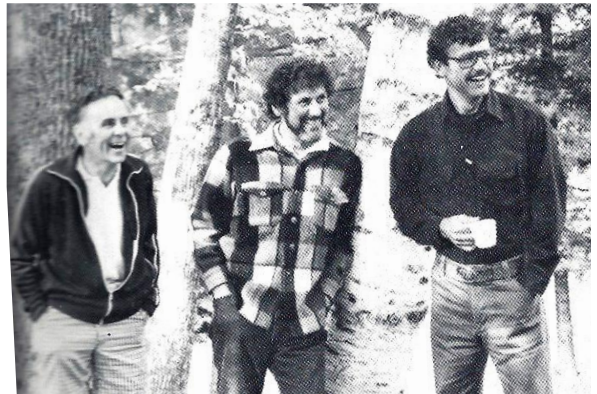
## *In Memory Of Bruce Bowers, 1943-2021*

This winter, my father passed away after a brief battle with bone cancer on January 17, 2021. I received many cards of condolences from Camp guys and wanted to extend my appreciation to you for them. They brought a smile to my face. It was great, too, reading Wayne Masters' writing on Dad's passing and the comments posted which were on Facebook. Many fond memories and stories to share around the camp fire. I appreciate Wayne for having shared his thoughts.

The friends he had made at camp; among them, Wayne Masters and Dan Ustick, were lifelong friends. Wayne remained a lifelong friend and frequent yearly visitor with his family, as we grew up. Dan was my namesake.

In the waning weeks of his life, once hospice took over and we were allowed in for visits in person because of COVID, one of the things that Dad said was how pleased he was that Ian, my son, and I have remained involved in Camp. He understood the value of Tohkomeupog and what the experiences and friendships made there can have on a person. Jeff said upon one of his last meetings with my father, on his way out of the room, Dad stuck his hand up and held it there in the air, reminding him of a chief salute in Counsel.

We were fortunate that Dad was a camper and staff person at camp. Tohkomeupog and the people who crossed his path there definitely left a positive impact in his life and we, his family members, are the better for it.



*Camp Tohkomeupog 1981, Left to Right: John Nute, Wayne Masters, Bruce Bowers*

I wanted to thank, again, everyone for the cards and condolences we received and anyone who reached out and contributed to the Alumni Scholarship fund in Dad's honor, we are grateful.

Thanks,  
**Digger, Dan Bowers**  
CIT, 1980

Beat the drum slowly. We have seen another of our Tohkomeupog chiefs leave our earthly campfire. Bruce Bowers – camper, CIT, counsellor, Bear Clan and Wolf Clan Director and Family Camp Staff has gone to sit in council with those from our tribe who have gone before him. Bruce brought to camp an unrivalled spontaneity and energy. Happy was the camper who arriving at camp was told he would be spending the summer in Bruce's cabin. It would be a summer filled with fun and laughter. And, happy as well, were the counsellors who were inspired by his leadership as Bear and Wolf Clan Director. Among his many contributions to camp were the introduction of the White Water Canoeing Program and the Tohkomeupog Trail Crew which participated in the AMC "Adopt a Trail" program. He is survived by his sons Jeff and Dan, his daughter Kim, and his former wife and life-long friend Carolyn.

Sincerely,  
**Wayne Masters**

### **KINKEEGWAN!**

#### *Donate to the Alumni Association*

PAYPAL: [HTTPS://WWW.PAYPAL.COM/DONATE?HOSTED\\_BUTTON\\_ID=SWG6WZCLN6F2Y&SOURCE=URL](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=SWG6WZCLN6F2Y&source=url)  
OR MAIL A CHECK (MADE OUT TO "TOHKOMEUPOG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION") TO:  
STEVO HARDING | 2151 E MADISON ROAD | EAST MADISON, NH 03849



# TOHKOMEUPOG

summer camp for boys

ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
SPRING '21

EST. 1932

## THE SEXTONS IN THE VALLEY!



The Sexton Tribe reunited atop Mt. Tohko, at the shelter built and dedicated to Bill Sexton, as a continuing tribute to his memory. This year, they replaced the shingled roof with a new metal roof.



## MEMORIES FROM SUMMERS PAST



Camp Photo 1971



Color Wars 1980

Following a summer without camp due to global pandemic, we thought it would be nice to share some photos from past summers in the valley to remember the long-rooted history of Tohkomeupog, as we look forward to a bright future of many more summers in the valley to come!

### KINKEEGWAN!

*Donate to the Alumni Association*

PAYPAL: [HTTPS://WWW.PAYPAL.COM/DONATE?HOSTED\\_BUTTON\\_ID=SWG6WZCLN6F2Y&SOURCE=URL](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=SWG6WZCLN6F2Y&source=url)  
OR MAIL A CHECK (MADE OUT TO "TOHKOMEUPOG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION") TO:  
STEVO HARDING | 2151 E MADISON ROAD | EAST MADISON, NH 03849

See [WWW.TOHKO.COM](http://WWW.TOHKO.COM) for information about Camp and the Alumni Association.



# TOHKOMEUPOG

summer camp for boys

ALUMNI  
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## CAMP NEWS & NOTES

### ENGAGEMENTS!

- KIERAN SEXTON GOT ENGAGED TO JULIA SULLIVAN ON APRIL 24TH, 2021!

### BIRTHS!

- ELI JOSEPH COMEAU WAS BORN TO STEPHEN AND GINA COMEAU ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2020!

- COLE WILDER RUGG WAS BORN TO ISAAC AND RACHEL RUGG ON SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2020!

- WILLAM GRAHAM HAYTHORN WAS BORN TO JACKIE AND KYLE HAYTHORN ON APRIL 16TH, 2021!



Summer 2020 Bear Clan members;  
Left: Eli Comeau, Right: William Haythorn

## IN MEMORY OF DAWSON FROCK

Dawson B. Frock, age 53, passed away on Monday October 26th, 2020. After graduating high school Dawson served as a cook from 1990-1994. He continued to follow his passion, graduating from Johnson & Wales University with a degree in Culinary Arts. He worked at many restaurants around New England, but spent the majority of his career as Executive Chef in private golf clubs. Dawson loved the valley, and attended Tohkomeupog as a camper with his brothers. He also worked in the camp kitchen during the summers of 1984 and 1985, sharing his culinary passion with the campers during those summers. He is survived by his life partner Susan Moore, and her two children Emily and Kate, as well as his brother Ethan Frock.



## SAVE THE DATE!

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2021

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 27th - SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH**

The long awaited return to the valley! Please join us for this Alumni Weekend, and say “hi” to all friends you’ve made during your time in the valley! It’ll be great to see everybody in the valley, especially after the events of the past year! Hope to see you there!

HALLOWEEN TOWN 2021

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD**

Come join the festivities in the valley, as Halloween Town, benefiting the Laura Foundation, takes on another year of spooky happenings in the cabins of Tohkomeupog! If you would like to donate and/or decorate a cabin, please contract Stevo Harding at [kalhouzit@roadrunner.com](mailto:kalhouzit@roadrunner.com)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? KNOW OF SOME TOHKO ALUMNI NEWS?

EMAIL THE ALUMNI BOARD: [TOHKOALUMNIBOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TOHKOALUMNIBOARD@GMAIL.COM)