

MASSAWEPIE SCOUT RESERVATION

Timeline of Key Events

- 1.03 billion years ago The distinctive pink Lyon Mountain granite was intruded into the area from Piercefield to Childwold. This granite presumably underlies the "mountain" in upper Pioneer and along the Mountaineer Road. It is associated with magnetite iron ores, which helps explain the magnetic deviations in parts of northern Massawepie.
- 12,000 yrs. ago Wisconsin Period glaciers retreated from the area, forming the famous Massawepie Esker (along Massawepie Road) and glacial ponds (such as Round Pond, a kettle).
- From 9000 BC Native American people, most recently the Mohawks, inhabited the lands around Massawepie at least seasonally.
- 1878 Addison Child from Boston purchases the land around Massawepie Lake. He begins developing the hamlet of Childwold, where a post office opened in 1884.
- 1890-1909 Childwold Park House resort hotel operated on Massawepie Lake in the field between what later became Camps Pioneer and Voyageur. The hotel capacity was 250-300 guests, plus additional room in the numerous cottages around the lake front. Guests arrived over the "Carriage Road" from the Childwold Railroad Station near Conifer.
- 1912 Massawepie property sold to Emporium Forestry Company of Conifer, NY, whose owners (the Sykes family) primarily used Massawepie as a private family resort.
- 1920's The area around what later became Camp Pioneer was leased to the private St. John's School of Manlius for use as a private summer camp, Camp Massawepie.
- 1948 An Otetiana Council (serving Boy Scouts from Rochester and Monroe County, NY) camp search committee, which was considering over 200 sites, first visited the Massawepie area. The hotel had been torn down in 1946, but outbuildings remain.
- 1951 In September, Otetiana Council purchased almost 2850 acres of land, the key parcel at Massawepie, for \$105,000. The Council Executive was Frederic Wellington (as in "Wellington Lodge" at Massawepie), and the Director of Camping was Bob Parkinson.
- 1952 By January 1, over \$542,000 had been raised by the Camp Expansion Campaign, for Massawepie and for improvements to the original Camp Cutler in Webster. Harley Burgdorf, former administrator of Selkirk Shores State Park, was hired as the first Superintendent of Massawepie. Camp Pioneer opened with 1375 boys in attendance.
- 1953 Beaver Weekend held at Massawepie in June. Camp Mountaineer opened. Almost 2000 Scouts attended Massawepie. A Counselor-in-Training program began.
- 1954 The former Camp Eagle Island in Sodus Bay was sold, but the name was preserved by applying it to the island at the south end of Massawepie Lake. Two Beaver Weekends were held at Massawepie. Over 2000 Scouts attended Massawepie.

- 1955 A ninth week was added to the Massawepie season, designated exclusively for Explorer units and featuring canoe and mountain trips. Beaver Weekend reverted to just one weekend in June. A VFW post donated a steel flagpole for Mountaineer.
- 1956 Camp Voyageur opened with an initial capacity of 125 boys. A Director's Cabin near the new Roy Warren Administration Building was funded by the Davenport-Hatch Foundation as the first in a series of family cabins. An additional 11.5 acres of land on Catamount Pond near the Route 3 entrance was purchased for \$6000.
- 1957 Camp Voyageur began operating at its full capacity of 250 Scouts. Almost 3000 Scouts and leaders attended Massawepie, and Explorer Week attendance was up as well.
- 1958 A joint Boy Scout/Girl Scout capital campaign in Rochester raised over \$1,260,000, which helped pay for completion of Camp Voyageur and restoration of the Pitkin House on East Avenue as the Otetiana Council Servicer, along with purchasing Girl Scout Camp Pinewood near Dansville and renovating Camp Beechwood near Sodus.
- 1959 New buildings included the Voyageur camp office and trading post, and the central health lodge. 3002 Scouts, Explorers, leaders, and staff members attended camp.
- 1960 705 additional acres were purchased from Niagara Mohawk for \$4000. Explorer Week included an Air Force survival training course, with Senior Girl Scouts also invited. The Pioneer Dining Hall was renamed "Fay Lodge" when Sumner Fay (who served on the 1948 camp search committee) donated \$190,000 to help support Massawepie.
- 1962 Scouts from 155 troops camped a total of 5020 boy weeks at Massawepie.
- 1965 44 more acres near Catamount Pond and across Route 3 are purchased for \$30,000.
- 1969 Camp Forester opened as Massawepie's first patrol cooking camp, with 6 troop sites and a new commissary building. The CIT program was restored. An agreement with the NYS Conservation Dept. provided fish stocking, and allowed public hunting/fishing.
- 1970 Camp Forester neared full-scale operation, but the peak Baby Boom camp attendance is ending. Camp Pioneer closed at the end of its reduced 6-week summer season.
- 1976-1979 In 1976, "Camp Voyageur" operated mostly out of the Camp Pioneer facilities. In 1977, Pioneer is reopened and Voyageur closed. For 1978, Pioneer closed again, while Camps Mountaineer and Forester remain open. In 1979, the former Voyageur dining hall was converted into Gannett Lodge, offering year-around group rental housing.
- 1990 Adirondack Scout Reservation (ASR), a partnership of the Otetiana and Hiawatha Councils to jointly operate Camps Massawepie and Sabattis, opened.
- 1994 Camp Forester closed at the end of the summer season.
- 1998 New York State bought a conservation/recreation easement on the Massawepie property for \$1.76 million, which was allocated to fund ongoing camp capital needs.

- 1999- ASR dissolved; starting in 1999 Otetiana Council again operated Massawepie
2000 independently. A \$1.8 million renovation of Camp Pioneer began in 1999, funded by a capital campaign. The new Camp Pioneer (including some of former Camp Voyageur) opened in 2000, and the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association was formed.
- 2002 Massawepie Scout Camps celebrates its 50th anniversary!
- 2005 The BarkEater camper recognition program began. The new Ray& Addy Meyering Rifle Range opened.
- 2020 Summer camps don't operate due to COVID-19 pandemic. Online Camp Racdeever operates, and family camping is available.
- 2021 Camp Pioneer and Massawepie Adirondack Treks are operating again.

The information on this page was gathered as part of a Massawepie History. Any corrections or additional tidbits of Massawepie History are welcome. Send them to Peter Collinge, 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534 or collinge@localnet.com. For more information, see MassStaffAlumni.org .

11/2022