

# Up North

PEOPLE NATURE ARTS NOSTALGIA BUZZ WISDOM CURIOSITIES



GO-TO GUY

## Gabe Schneider, Aide de Camp

**G**abe Schneider became Senator Carl Levin's new top man in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula in late August after serving six years under long-time aide Harold Chase, who moved to D.C. Our sources at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore told us Schneider is known to snowboard the forested dunes, cast a fly rod, mountain bike, be out there rocking the landscape. Sounds like our kind of senate aide. We thought we'd better find out if it's true.

**Verify the rumors—do you board the dunes?**


I like to put on snowshoes, strap my board over my back and hike to the top of hills in the park. Then I put my snowshoes on my back and snowboard down. Two of the places I enjoy the most are Pyramid Point—not the face, that's dangerous with the mix of shifting snow and shifting sand you have to be cautious—but a bowl to the northeast a bit. And I like boarding the dune climb. When the conditions are right, on fresh snow, it's not too sandy and the boarding can be great there. In Traverse City, I like up behind Building 50 and the hill at Rogers Observatory.

**Where did the interest in the outdoors come from?**


I grew up in the country outside of Bath, Michigan. We had 40 acres. Not a working farm, more a hobby farm with some goats, chickens and geese. I had two brothers, ▶

TODD ZAWISTOWSKI

**DISTINCTIVE  
VINTAGE AND  
CONTEMPORARY  
CUSTOM  
DESIGNED  
JEWELRY**



Peach, Green,  
Rose &  
White Gold



**OLD WAY  
HEIRLOOM DESIGN**  
515 West 14th St.  
Traverse City, MI  
OldWayDesign.com  
231-421-5300

# TOAD HALL



reisenthal



UGLYDOLL



Melissa & Doug



LAKEGIRL

**Complimentary Gift Wrapping!  
Many holiday orders ship free!**

**Downtown Petoskey  
tollfree: 877-492-1020**



## Up North

Go-To Guy, CONT'D.

and when you have three boys in the country, you are basically outdoors all the time. I went to Michigan State, James Madison College, and studied international relations with a specialization in environmental economics. I've just always been interested in the natural world.

### What about when the snow is gone?

I had never fly fished before coming here, but there are so many streams with high quality water, that has got me out exploring. Just like with snowboarding, fly fishing just gives me an excuse to explore what's out there. My father-in-law has always fly fished and he gave me some basics. That's been great. I've gotten involved with the local Trout Unlimited chapter, doing stream bank restoration, organizing stream events and that sort of thing.

### Give us a flyover of the new job—what do you actually do?

Well, my title is regional representative. We have seven offices in the state, and each office has two staff. I head the office here. Our office covers 18 counties, from Traverse City to Alpena and north to the bridge. We have to know about so many different policy areas, transportation, environmental, forest service, national park, Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary ... You never know what will come in over the transom. Our job, though, is generally monitoring controversial issues rather than trying to influence them. People come to us expecting us to tell the agencies what to do, but that is not our role, nor do we have the legal authority to do that. The agencies need to be fair, hear the public. You need the process. That's more our job, making sure the process is fair and open and people are allowed to comment.

### How does the love of the outdoors influence your work?

It helps in my being aware of those issues as they come up, and it's a joy to work on them, but we don't have the time to give one issue more attention than others just because we have an interest in it.—J.S.

TODD ZAWISTOWSKI

GET DRESSED UP  
 FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
 AT NEST.



**NEST**  
 OF GRAND TRAVERSE

INTERIOR DESIGN  
 CUSTOM FURNITURE  
 HOME DECOR

231.946.0232  
 Shop Online  
 www.nestofgrandtraverse.com  
 Downtown Traverse City



departments



- 9 Editor's Note**
- 13 Up North**  
 Our favorite French hair-dresser advises on a holiday coiffure; Gabe Schneider, the snowboarding senate aide; Patty Cantrell tells D.C. what's what with local foods; Northern Bookshelf gift ideas.
- 17 December Events**  
 Dozens of ways to make holiday memories.

- 23 Travel**  
 Escape Up North for a weekend of shopping and small-town warmth.
- 25 Up in Michigan**  
 I'll give you a goat if you make my website ... bartering in the North Country.
- 49 Dining**  
 Sublime small plates for lighter dining during the season of feasts.

- 61 In Season**  
 Olives with orange and fennel
- 63 Wine**  
 Fizzy wines for your festivities and a q&a with Larry Mawby, the North's sparkling-wine savant.
- 64 Into the North**  
 Wind & Sea

**ON THE COVER:**  
 BIG AIR ON THE SLOPES