



Nokomis Lodge

*By the shores of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis.
Dark behind it rose the forest,
Rose the black and gloomy pine-trees,
Rose the firs with cones upon them;
Bright before it beat the water,
Beat the clear and sunny water,
Beat the shining Big-Sea-Water.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, when he set out to tell the story of legendary Hiawatha, tells us first of his grandmother, Nokomis. In various legends she is a spirit of the earth or the daughter of the moon, or perhaps both. In Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha, she is a recurring figure whom the young leader returns to again and again, and always she gives him comfort, wise counsel, and sets his feet again on the path. It is in this spirit of stewardship and guidance, we have chosen to name this hall in her honor.