

# THE CLOCK TOWER TIMES

## Alumni Newsletter

*Echoes of the Chimes of our Times*

Fall 2008

### Camp Billings Board of Directors

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Dear Billings Alumni,

I am very lucky to have stayed in contact with friends from my years at Billings. I also work with many of them on the board of directors. It has always made a big difference in my life and continues to do so. This summer, after the board meeting, I had a chance to spend some time with alumni from past years. They were there on a labor of love, planting a tree by the infirmary for Elaine Connors. It was nice to spend some time with them and get to know them all better. On the Board I have met people from many generations and I appreciate what we all bring to the meetings. I also have enjoyed meeting some of the staff working hard at Billings now. They are a great group of young people with so much to offer. They have enthusiasm and many abilities to share with the new Billings campers. Many of them were campers at Billings themselves and the one thing they all have in common is a wonderful ability to work with young people and make a difference in their lives. Bob Green has done a fabulous job of bringing them all together each summer. This summer was especially challenging, as it was more like a rain forest than a summer in New England. It is always very rewarding for me to see that Billings is growing with a new generation of campers and staff.

This year has been a difficult one as we have lost some very dear members of the Billings family... Elaine Connors, Bert Snow, Doctor Martin and Earl Ward. If you didn't have the pleasure of knowing them, I hope you have enjoyed reading the many remembrances of them in our last newsletter. Others will face difficult times ahead. Billings is a family so these times affect us all.

Use of the new website has surpassed our expectations... Thanks Jay for all the work you have done and continue to do for us. It is an excellent way to stay in touch and find out what is happening at Billings. Many of you, especially college age are moving around a lot now and it is hard to keep up with you. I hope you will stay in touch via the website. It is also a way to find lost friends. We hope someday to have entered many of the pictures in our collection of camp photos... for you to look at, but also as a way to protect and preserve them.

Have a great Fall and let us know how you are doing! Thanks for your continued interest in camp.

Gratefully,

Carolyn Churchill

Co-Chairman Camp Billings Alumni Association

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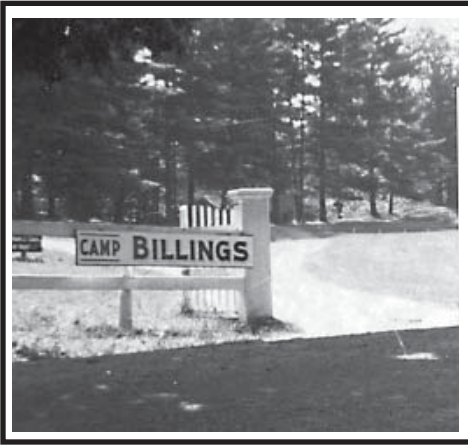
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## Greetings from the Board . . .

By Don Carmichael, Board President

### Billings Receives an Award

Hi there, all you Billings alums. Your board of directors is chugging towards our fall meeting after another hugely successful camp season - our 103rd, but who's counting? It turns out that one person is counting - the Vermont Secretary of State ("SOS"), Deb Markowitz. In late summer she told us we'd receive an award as one of the few Vermont non-profit corporations existing for 100 years. These "Non-Profit Centennial Awards" were given at a September ceremony in the state capitol in Montpelier, attended by the Governor, Secretary of State,

and representatives of the corporations being honored - primarily churches and cemetery corporations. We asked our board member Jeff Fehrs to attend for us, and to liven things up we asked Jeff to round up a couple of our junior campers to go along and accept our award on our behalf - a break from the staid adults we figured would otherwise pack the event.

Jeff lined up campers Jamie Benson, son of Bev Gilpin, and Riley Powell, son of Linda Gilpin, (both moms were campers and staff in the 1960's and '70's and live with their families in Waterbury, VT). Jamie and Riley wore shorts, CB t-shirts, and huge grins, and were clearly the big hit of the event. According to Jeff Fehrs, "Jamie and Riley didn't have to say anything but their big smiles, enthusiasm, presence, and of course CB attire 'spoke' multitudes." Before the awards event, Jeff Fehrs and Linda Gilpin spoke with SOS Deb Markowitz about their CB memories. At the event SOS Markowitz highlighted and focused extensively on Billings. Governor Jim Douglas reminisced fondly about attending the CB centennial celebration in 2006. So, our thanks to Jamie, Riley, Jeff and Linda for representing us so well. It's nice to get this award and also to display publicly that Billings is not so much about awards as it is about kids!

### Board Members' Specialized Activities

In addition to our usual roster of board responsibilities, various of us individually pursue interests relating to the camp. Carolyn Sylvester Churchill and Anne Wallstrom Freitas have put in countless hours upgrading the alumni room into a place that you'll find welcoming and fascinating to visit. You can track your years at Billings in detail, with pictures of you and your favorite cast of Billings characters arranged year-by-year, as the memories come flooding back to you. Our resident history buff, Mike Lemme, trolls the internet for Billings material and recently, unbelievably, came up with two original post cards showing Pinewold in different stages of construction, sent by the wife of the family that was building it in the early 1900's.

I've used my legal training to do a real estate title search on our CB property, with some surprising results. We didn't actually own any of the property until 1916, with earlier camp sessions conducted out of the "We-Own-It" building, built and owned by Dr. Cobb in the early 1900's. In 1916 we acquired two major tracts east of the road that make up most of our campus, but We-Own-It, Cabin 15, the Guest House and Sunnyside were all privately owned and we acquired them over time, most recently We-Own-It, subject to a life estate in the prior owner. The old Kozy Nook site, just to our north, was once known as the "sand pit," and was mined for the same sort of sand that forms the berm between our upper tennis courts/athletic field and the road. That sand bank and our exposed rock ledges are, in fact, textbook examples of glacial action that formed our campus, but that's a tale for another day.

We hope your year is going well, and we'll visit with you again in our next issue.



## Camp Billings 2008: “Not Just Another Song and Dance”

By Bob Green, Camp Director



Every summer seems to take on a unique personality. We’ve had “the year of the oldest campers”; “Lochearn: The Great Satan”; and who can forget “the summer of messy evening programs.” But this was a summer CB took an extra turn, one that shook us to our core - in a good way.

This was the summer that Camp Billings became “Billings Art Camp.”

Throughout the season, the predominant preferences expressed by our kids was singing, dancing, acting, making music, creating things in the craft shop, building, and spontaneous artistic expression. Maybe it was the weather (it never got warm all summer); maybe it was the amount of precipitation (it rained a lot); or maybe it was just a cyclical movement away from the land sports at Billings and towards appreciation of the arts (Ralph would be so proud). But whatever the reason might be, this was the summer that on a day six kids were playing a Yankees-Red Sox baseball game, there were 88 kids trying out for the Billings Idol singing competition. On another beautiful Saturday afternoon there were five kids happily congregating in Dartt Hall formulating their own orchestra: flute, cello, piano, violin and guitar. During fourth session, a drama class held on the clock tower lawn had the largest participation of any program area in camp, a scene that was not unusual during the course of the summer.

The great tradition of the Camp Billings musical, now reaching forty-one consecutive summers, achieved a new plateau this year with “High School Musical.” For the first time we had two outstanding, experienced, and qualified directors for our show. As a result, the injection of choreography real dance routines, set a new standard for our productions that will be tough to exceed in future years.

Finally, let me take you to the last meal at camp, Saturday, August 16. The meal ends about 12:45 , and we sing out final two songs of the summer, followed by the Billings cheer. Parents are patiently waiting outside, anxious to pick up their kids prior to an impending thunder storm and go home. But inside the dining hall, the kids want none of that. They refuse to leave. The singing goes on... the chanting, the cheering. It is now pouring rain outside and I have rung the bell a half dozen times. But the celebration of summer continues. They are standing on their chairs screaming, “Parents go home!” Finally, at 1:20 they meet their drenched families, having sung every song that characterized the summer of 2008. That was our season in a nutshell... that was “Billings Arts Camp!”



Bob Green “runs” the CB Marathon a mere day after discharge from the hospital after a 12 day stay for pneumonia.

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Visit the CB website! [www.campbillings.org](http://www.campbillings.org)



## Alumni News

Calling all alumni! Please send us your news. We also invite current campers and staff to send us updates.

Russell Booth - "I am living in an apartment in Norwood and working at Norwood High School where I am teaching math and coaching football, indoor and outdoor track. I recently finished my masters in Educational Leadership and am now a licensed principal in the state of Mass. I miss camp and intend on going back next year."

Andrew "Digger" Mann (S 91-92) "It is a dream of mine to bring my family over one year to visit Camp Billings or maybe even have my boy Cameron (10 months old) come to camp one year as a camper. The experience I had at camp was a positive one and one that I look back on with happy memories, something that I hope my son can also experience.

Since leaving camp in 1992 life has been full of changes. In a nut shell my partner of 8 years died of cancer in 2001. I closed my furniture making business and started repairing caravans (RV's). I am still in the same job. I got married in Feb 06 to Sandra and we now have a son. We have done a lot of travelling throughout Oz with our last big trip before Cameron was born having driven 6000 Kms in 3 weeks. Our travels and camping has slowed at present but we hope to get away for some small trips in the summer months. I learnt to fly full size gliders but have taken up Radio Controlled flying models as my hobby. I have about 17 models at present and the number keeps climbing. Some I build from scratch which gives me great enjoyment. Hopefully when my son gets older I can share my modelling with him.

I hope the rest of the summer goes well for you all and pass on my best wishes to all 91-92 staff that are still at camp."

Phil "Phil Pot" Mulligan (S 90's) is living in East Sussex, England with wife Diane and son. "Would love to send my son to Billings someday - I miss running that lake."

James Chisholm (S 94), wife Anita and two children, Lara (5) and Max (2) live in Melbourne, Australia. James works for Honeywell, an American company and gets to the US occasionally.

Eric St. Jacques (C-S 70's) has lived in Old Montreal for the last 16 years. He is Vice President of Global Futures Group for the Royal Bank of Canada. "I still have great memories of my years at Billings 28 years ago."

Sue Lemme (C-70's) lives in Albuquerque, NM after living in San Diego for 26 years. "I am doing home care for seniors and have almost completed a CD of children's songs entitled 'Love Is A River.'" Anyone interested contact Sue at starchildrenproductions@yahoo.com. "Singing songs everyday at camp had a great influence on me.

James D'Amico (C-S 70's) lives in Mendham, NJ with his family. Jim continues his great involvement in marathons and triathlons. He recently swam from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco and mainland.

Jere Klein (S 70's) lives with wife Linda in Greenville, NY where he is a math instructional specialist in a middle school. Linda is a school psychologist and a licensed psychologist in private practice. Daughter Alyssa is in advertising and oldest son Daniel is attending Northeastern Law School. Alexander is at Orange County Community College heading for medical school.

Diane Rich Ladd (S 60's) lives with husband Jeff in Umatilla, FL winters and in Barre, VT in the summer. She retired recently after 40 years of teaching French and Spanish. Jeff is retired from his work with Sprint. Their son Todd is married and an Air Force Major stationed in Seattle. Diane is Rev. Penny Rich Smith's sister and originally from North Bennington, VT.

Kate Willis (C-S 90's) from South Strafford, VT is pursuing a Master's in Preservation Studies at Tulane. Her brother, Ted Willis lives in Beirut, Lebanon and is a social studies teacher at the American Community School.

Carolyn Hatch Flood (C-60's S-90's Board of Directors 90's) lives in Concord, MA and informs us of the recent passing of her brother Jonathan (C 60's) with cancer. "My brother Myrick and I served as pall bearers and my sister Becky (all Billings alumni) read a remembrance of our early years together. We had everything an American childhood needed. You can be sure Camp Billings was mentioned. I am off on a Grand Canyon rafting trip."

Michael Klein (C-S 70's) lives in Silicon Valley, CA with wife Linda of 24 years and three strapping sons, ages 21, 19, and 14. His oldest son, Daniel, is playing catcher at UC Santa Barbara and Andrew, his middle son, plays football at Sacramento State. His youngest son, Zachary, is a high school freshman and has a love for ukulele, anything with computers and plays any sport he can find time for. "I've been running start up companies that have been medical technology related and tied to cancer. When not working I participate in an improvisational theater group - I can thank Billings for that interest. My wife and I also serve as spiritual care volunteers at Stanford University Hospital." Mike wants to hear from old friends at email mklein3376@aol.com or (650) 224-4660.

John Alexander (C-S 60's) I was a camper and then a Jr. Counselor in the early sixties. Fond memories. My parents retired to Post Mills and my cousin still has a lake side place on "Baltimore Row".

Nanette Van Vliet (S 80's-90's) says "Toni, Ben (4), Edo (2) and I are doing very well. We're still living in the Netherlands and have just bought a 'vacation' home in Brittany, France which we are really excited about where we can do 'campy things' like kayaking, hiking, camping, etc. Ben is riding a bike and starting school, Edo is on his way to, well, being two... Toni and I are both freelancers and are fortunate to be part of unique projects at Shell and ING at the moment. It is difficult to balance

## Alumni News, continued

everything 'perfectly', but we take it day by day and are having fun trying most of the time. The boys are growing fast and we can't wait for them to go to Camp Billings in a few years (we're already practicing the songs from the song book!). I wish everyone from the 80's and early 90's well and do think back on all of the wonderful times often."

Helen Bair (chef '92-'95) lives with husband Bud in Ormond Beach, FL close to the beach. Helen had a hip replacement this year. She teaches water aerobics at a hospital. "Camp Billings was such a great time in my life. I am grateful having been a part of a such a great place - Camp Billings."

Lisa Hicks (S 80's) enjoys her new home on the lake in Belchertown, MA, where she enjoys early morning swims and kayaking. "I work as a physical therapist in Early Intervention. I am blessed to work with families in their homes in the inner city whose children are at risk of any sort developmental delay. Where is Judith Therrien? (One of my campers from Quebec) Last I knew she was in med school in Montreal."

Chris Hubert (C-CIT 60's) lives with wife Teresa in Huntington Station on Long Island, where he is Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Christ graduated from NYIT. "The Old Man in the Mountain has fallen but Billings appears to have much of the character and tradition as I remember it 35 years ago."

Bunny Clifford Huntley (C-S 50's-60's) of Bethel, VT was recently viewed on Vermont WCAX Channel 3 television news program helping to demonstrate how to make moose mincemeat. Bunny certainly looked like she knew what she was doing. Bunny is a great outdoor activity person and hunting is a part of her life. She bagged a 777 lb. buck moose on October 18, 2008. Bunny also served on our Board of Directors in the 1970's-80's.

Ted Rossi (C-S 50's-60's, current Camp Billings Treasurer and board member) retired recently and with wife Nancy lives in VT summers and in Santa Barbara in winters. Ted is a hard working board person who devotes his considerable expertise, energies, and support for "our dear old camp." We are very appreciative of his strong assistance to and leadership at Billings.

Ceci Stashwick Fleming (C-S 90's) and her husband Paul, welcomed their son Connor Jeffrey Fleming in October, 2008. Both mom and baby are doing well as the family finishes work on their new home in MA.

Carl Levine (C-S 70's) writes, "Please forgive me, for I have been very remiss in not joining the wonderful family of past, present and future alumni that is the family of Camp Billings. I was a camper and junior staff member in the early 70s. My brothers Paul, Dan and myself spent many summers in Vermont enjoying the activities, friendships and life's experiences that came with a Camp Billings summer."

I have been fortunate to receive periodic updates from my brother

Paul who went on to spend more summers at Camp after I left, later becoming a board member for a period as many alumni we have known have also become. Paul has even introduced his family to Camp Billings. My mother receives the Clocktower Times and sends me copies. Yes, it's a family affair.

My wife Elena and I live in Fountain Valley, California, a small city in Southern California not too far from Huntington Beach (Surf City, USA). Our son Jerry and daughter Stephanie are grown and are "out of the house". We have been blessed with 3 grandkids, a girl and 2 boys ranging in age from 1 1/2 to 10 years old.

Please pass along my greetings to all too numerous to name here."

Larry Lanza (S 60's) of Latrobe, PA, where he is treasurer for a \$3 billion company where he make sure "we have the funds to operate." Larry travels internationally and is heading to India and Germany in November. He plays golf a lot. His daughter works as a corporate banker in Cleveland.

Vincent Chao (S '67 & '68) lives in San Francisco with wife Lorelei and son Max. Today he has progressed from teaching to become principal of his elementary school for several years. "Visitacion Valley School is an 'award winning inner city neighborhood school.'" Lorelei runs a counseling program at City College. Max is a sophomore at Lowell High School.

Louise Barreda of Tunbridge, VT and recently retired as a long-term high school English teacher is running for the VT House seat representing Royalton and Tunbridge. Louise directed several of the musicals put on by Billings campers during her years with us.

Todd Rowley (CIT '85) lives with wife Jill (married 13 years) and daughter Grace (10 yrs old) and son Nicholas (6 yrs old) and they love to hear of Dad's "wild camp days." "To this day I have great memories of running the Post Mill's hills with the Strodes, Larry Drew, and Sack." Todd runs his own tutoring business and Jill is a nurse. He recently visited Don Hertwick (CIT 85) and his wife and two children in Greensboro, NC.

Karen McDermott (S 80's) lives with husband in Monroe, WA, near Seattle. "I am really saddened to learn of Elaine Connor's passing. She was a valued friend."

Tom Jackman (C 80's) with wife and family live in Walpole, MA where he is in business for himself.

Anne Jackman (C 80's) lives in Holliston, MA.

Lari Jane Taylor Rumpp (S 80's) lives in Boise, Idaho with husband Steve and son Ian who is a freshman at DePauw University, daughter Isabel is a high school freshman, Lari visited Elizabeth Smock Garvey in Indianapolis (a Billings campmate) while seeing her son at college.

## Alumni News, continued

“Trip” Taylor (C-S 80’s) is a well-known book dealer in the north-west with a retail bookstore in Boise, Idaho.

Cassandra Terhune (S late 80’s) recently relocated her law office to a suburb of Kansas City, MO. She writes, “Camping still remains an important past of my life. I continue to organize a weekend camp for children with epilepsy and seizure disorders. This year marked my 9th year volunteering with Camp Shing. I have found the project to be very rewarding and unforgettable - the most memorable of which was catching the eye of a volunteer in 2006, who proposed to me at the closing campfire in 2007 and

married me in 2008. I have introduced CB songs at Camp Shing, and was delighted to see my 7 year old stepdaughter try so hard to memorize the songs before the session ended. (Morgan was our youngest volunteer this year).”

Bryce Greenwood (S 90’s) won his first race in Harness Racing.

Marianne St. Laurent (C-S 90’s & 00’s) and Casey Huling (C-S 80’s, 90’s, 00’s) were married this summer in a private ceremony at their home in Post Mills, VT. Casey teaches at Thetford Academy and Marianne is finishing up her degree.

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### Anton Malko writes in with an update and to share memories of Billings

Here in California, we’re doing well. Brother Justin lives in Santa Monica, where he is a freelance producer in the advertising industry, while my wife, Hilary, son, William (age 2 in January) and I live in San Francisco. Parents George and Biffy still reside in the apartment where we grew up in New York City, just blocks from your old stomping grounds at the Calhoun School, and they’re both well. The folks come out to visit a few times a year and we try to get back east, too. This February we’re expecting a second son to join the family, due right around Hilary’s birthday, and everyone’s excited.

I’ve been working since late 2005 in the athletics media relations office for the Golden Bears of the University of California. As I interact with the student-athletes and staff who make up our 27 sports, I’m often reminded of camp.

Looking back across the years of memories of camp’s directors of athletics over my 11 summers as camper and CIT/CA from 1977-87, I think of course of Larry Drew, followed by Tom Thompson and Joe Deffner. Larry was the rock with a sense of humor, Tom seemed like a friendly Incredible Hulk and Joe was a great mentor who was fun to mix it up with on the basketball court.

Aside from being a Round-the-Lake marathon legend, fending off great runners like Drew, Kyle Strode and Jodi Houle, John Lisak was the toughest referee I ever had. He just didn’t have any sympathy for my whining. I can hear Sak now: “Real mature!” -- and that was off the court.

Over on the tennis courts, we had great coaches like Mike Kuntz, Bradley Funnye and Mike Callahan. I loved playing doubles with Larry Miller and learned a few lessons getting schooled by the likes of Martin Bedard.

Funnye was a tremendous soccer coach, too. As my Cabin 10 counselor, he used to get up early with me to go on runs as I tried to get in shape. I’ll never forget the time we edged Camp Lanakila on its field, 1-0, and Brad made us promise not to give any hints of how we did when we returned to Billings. That night during announcements, Brad rose to give his recap in the dining hall. He said we played hard, we played fair, we had a good time – all the hallmarks of a loss – then he said, “And we won!” It was pandemonium and we were never more proud to represent Billings.

Never had much luck beating Camp Norway in anything as a camper, though, and it doesn’t feel much better knowing that Billings has endured when it has not, but I was always glad I could participate in the 1985 staff basketball game that ended in our favor.

When the courts were taken over by street hockey, you had to step back and admire the Drouin brothers. Claude was my CIT as a Cabin 7 camper and I’d get dizzy watching his stick-handling skills.

On the waterfront and in the waterski boat, John and Anne Freitas leap to mind, but I always remember Bred Gresham, too, maybe because of the time he allowed his Triumph TR5 to be backed halfway into the shallow area for our Cabin 8 photo.

Then there were the camps we played against: Norway, Passumpsic, Lanakila, Thoreau and the list goes on. Nobody who played basketball against Judgment Ridge will ever forget that experience. I think we finished with 20 points as a team, the same as Ridge’s point guard. Still, the ice cream on the way home took the edge off the loss – thanks, Joe.

There are so many other people who deserve mention. Chapter upon chapter. I still hope to ice-skate on the lake someday, and of course I plan to send William to camp along with his expected little brother for their summers. Thank you, Ralph!



# Uncle Ralph's

# Corner

## The Huberts Celebrate Their 50th Anniversary

Conrad and Clare Hubert (S 60s) of Babylon, NY recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations! Conrad was a camper, junior counselor, senior staff counselor and assistant waterfront head in the 50's and 60's. Clare was our camp nurse during the 60's and their three children, Chris, Paul, and Lori were campers during those years.

Clare and Conrad spend winters in Venice, FL. Elizabeth Venuti, Lori's daughter, has been a Billings camper. She graduated last May from Penn State and works for Price Waterhouse. Other Hubert grandchildren are Bryan and Samantha in school in Babylon and Emily, a junior nursing major at Scranton University (Emily was also a Billings camper). Clare says, "We could write a brag book bigger than a dictionary about their scholastic successes, their sporting honors and on and on, but we don't want to be boring grandparents."

"Life is busy or maybe we are just slower. Con golfs, swims, bikes, goes fishing, boating with our son Paul and sails with a friend in the Florida gulf. Clare loves biking, swimming, painting, Bible study, board games and of course, cribbage. We enjoy volunteering at church."



Clare and Conrad Hubert at their 50th anniversary celebration.

### Invasive Plants in Lake Fairlee Lake Fairlee Association Asks For Help

Milfoil, an invasive plant species, is plaguing Lake Fairlee. It is spread when pieces of the plant adhere to boat propellers and trailers and travel to a new location. The Lake Fairlee Association has been fighting the milfoil with bottom barriers since 2005, suction harvesting since 2002, and hand picking since 1993. They report that the milfoil population seems to have stabilized over the past few years but the fight continues. They are asking for donations to fund the milfoil removal efforts.

For more information visit [www.lakefairlee.org](http://www.lakefairlee.org) or write to:  
Lake Fairlee Association, Inc.  
PO Box 102, Fairlee, VT 05045





## In Memory...

**Mike St Peter** (worked with Larry Drew on Maintenance in '05 & '06)

On Sept. 2nd Camp Billings lost a dear friend and very hard worker... Mike St. Peter passed away after a battle with cancer. I met Mike in the summer of 2006 when Anne Freitas and I arrived at camp hoping to get it ready for our 100th reunion. Mike and Larry were there early along with us and were such a help. I had heard about Mike at the board meetings and was glad to know that Larry had an assistant. He was easy to work with and always willing to do just about anything we asked him. Over the course of two weeks we all worked very hard and became great friends. Mike was a great Yankee's fan and I gave him a hard time about it as I was a Red Sox fan....he always had a good sense of humor. He loved his family and spoke a lot about his daughter and wife.

When the reunion weekend finally arrived Mike was invaluable. He spent long hours dealing with trash and making sure the water stations were always full. I remember finally getting him to sit on Sat. and have some lunch. I honestly feel that we would have had a hard time making things run smoothly without him. Later in the summer I was lucky to meet Mike's wife, daughter and son-in-law. We didn't know then what they all had ahead of them... later that summer Mike became quite ill and was hospitalized for many months. Having made it through that I am sure they had all hoped for a better year to come. I know Mike was looking forward to returning to camp. Unfortunately it was not to be. Mike learned he had cancer. I received an email from him and he never gave up hoping he could return to Billings. Anne and I spoke with Mike this past Spring and I think he knew he was loosing the battle, but he still talked about coming back to mow the Clocktower lawn. Mike spent only two summers at Billings, but has left a lasting impression. (Submitted by Carolyn Sylvester Churchill)

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**Jack Wallstrom**, 60 of St Johnsbury, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, October 22 at his home surrounded by his family, wife Suzanne and sons John and Tim. Jack was brother to Anne (Freitas) and Peter and spent many years at Billings as a camper, and counselor in the fifties and sixties. He is also survived by his mother Helen Rockwood Wallstrom, long time Billings alumni.

Billings alum, Larry Lanza remembers Jack's love of life and infectious belly laugh. Many of us have wonderful memories of summers at Billings with Jack. I spent a very long evening holding on tight in the top of a white pine with Jack, during an evening Staff Hunt. He made me laugh so much I was sure we would get caught, and we did! It was so nice to see Jack at our big birthday reunion in 2006. The past years had been very hard on him health wise, but none of us were surprised at what a fighter he turned out to be, this time however the cancer was just too much. May he rest in peace. (Submitted by Martha Sylvester Warren)



Marcia Divoll and Jack at the reunion.



# From the Kitchen Window: Reflections of Our Camp Chef, Casey Huling

Casey's commentary was broadcast on Vermont Public Radio in August

As summer reaches its peak many Vermont towns play host to hundreds of young campers who descend upon their lakes and rivers for a few weeks of swimming, boating and waterskiing. And eating. Lots of eating. Whoever said that an army marches on its stomach probably went to a summer camp with good food. This is my second summer as head cook at Camp Billings on Lake Fairlee in Thetford. I'm charged with feeding 250 people three meals a day for eight weeks. Cooking at camp goes beyond just providing plenty of sustenance to fuel the hungry kids; it becomes an integral part of the campers' experience.

Part of the experience involves a sense of consistency and comfort. For many returning campers having macaroni and cheese on the first night of the session signals that they've returned to their home away from home and that some things never change. I actually use the same recipe my mom used whenever she left me and my sister with a babysitter. Granted for the campers I use 40 pounds of pasta, 25 pounds of Cabot extra sharp cheddar cheese and 10 pounds of bread crumbs on top.

As well as looking forward to specific meals food, mealtime itself is special for the campers and staff. Billings has over 100 years of traditions and many of them involve being in the dining hall. There are plenty of songs and cheers and banging on the tables. If the food is good and people look forward to coming together for a meal and its ensuing antics then the experience is heightened for everyone. For example, the first Wednesday night of every month is Barry Manilow night. Campers and staff get dressed up and enjoy the evening meal usually spaghetti with chunky vegetable sauce. Before dessert the director spins a yarn about how Barry Manilow used to go to Camp Billings As a tribute to our most famous imaginary camper everyone gets up and dances to "Mandy", "I write the songs", and "Copocabana." While the meal itself certainly plays second fiddle to Mr. Manilow's Greatest Hits, having everyone comfortable and happy before the music starts certainly adds to the enjoyment of the evening.



And what commentary on food wouldn't end with dessert. One camp favorite in particular has the power to not only whip the entire camp into a table pounding frenzy but also to render everyone virtually speechless. It's pizza cookie. Simple in execution and presentation it is nothing more than chocolate chip cookie dough spread into a 12 inch disk, baked, covered with whipped topping and sprinkles, and cut into 8 wedges. Placed on a table of rowdy 9-year olds it becomes something much more. As each group of kids comes to get theirs from the kitchen window the dining hall is deafening with cheers and chants: "PIZ-ZA COO-KIE, PIZ-ZA COO-KIE." Once all 31 trays are passed out and the window closes we sit in the kitchen waiting for the inevitable silence; 250 people

slowly, quietly enjoying their own small piece of quintessential camp. Within minutes the roar returns and if we're lucky they might even sing for us to come out and receive their thanks. Whether they do or not it's been another successful meal and, besides, there's plenty to do to get ready for breakfast; they'll be hungry before you know it.

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Coming soon... in the spring edition of the CTT there will be a feature on **Larry Drew** to honor his milestone **40th summer at Camp Billings!** If you have thoughts or stories about Larry you would like to share for this piece, please send them to [campbillings@gmail.com](mailto:campbillings@gmail.com). Thanks!



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If you're thinking, "Hey, is that VT Governor Jim Douglas and VT Secretary of State Deb Markowitz with those Billings campers?" you would be right! It is Jamie Benson and Riley Powell accepting the Non-Profit Centennial Award. Read inside about the award presented to Billings and accepted by these two campers!

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CAMP BILLINGS!**