



THE CLOCK TOWER TIMES

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the Chimes of our Times

Fall 2010

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Dear Billings Alumni,

I was going through some old "Camp Billings Bulletins", the beginnings of "The Clock Tower Times" recently and found a paragraph entitled "Reminiscence". The bulletin was from August, 1955, when Billings was 56 years young. It read...

"Quiet again reigns at Billings, but it is a little lonely. There are no fisherman, no cheering or songs echoing from the dining hall, and no tennis matches or swim lessons. As in all walks of life, friends must part; new acquaintances, old friends and those who have found a real place in our hearts. Many seasons have come and gone, but there is always something pleasant to recall...the closeness that comes from living with many others, recalling things that you have learned and the fine people you have met."

In all these years, nothing has really changed about Billings and that is what makes it such a special place to us all. It is healthy, alive and thriving. Billings is always ready for that new group of campers and staff... thanks to the many people over the years who have loved it and kept it going.

Next year Billings will be "105"!!! I was a young camper at the 50th. We were a much smaller group, but everyone was so excited to be back. On June 17-19, Billings will once again host a reunion for our alumni to come back and spend a weekend doing the Billings things you remember and love. Best of all, you will have a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet their families. Some third generation children are attending Billings now and the fourth is not far behind.

Registration info is on line and in this newsletter... save the date and make plans to return now! I look forward to seeing you all.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Sylvester Churchill
Co-Chair Billings Alumni Committee

To send alumni updates:

Elissa Malcolm
24 Wheatley Street
Lebanon, NH 03766 USA

campbillings@gmail.com

Anne & John Freitas
57 Hawthorne Avenue
Auburndale, MA 02466

annejohnf@aol.com

To send address changes:

Marti Warren
5 Carriage Road
Amherst, NH 03031 USA

martiwarren@comcast.net

To send donations:

Ted Rossi
PO Box 3539
Stowe, VT 05672 USA

tedrossi@msn.com

Greetings from the Board . . .

By Michael Lemme, Board President



Only once have I witnessed peak fall in Vermont, which most locals will tell you lasts only a day or so. Some of my favorite drives are from camp to Thetford Hill and then across the covered bridge over to Strafford, or through Post Mills (with a stop at Baker's store of course) and head up through West Fairlee, Vershire and Chelsea. Throw in an Orford bridge crossing and a drive around Lake Morey before heading back home to Lake Fairlee and Camp Billings. It's so spectacular that every year I long to go back.

Our Annual Board meeting is once again the 1st Saturday in November. I'd like to change it to the 1st Saturday in October, so we can join the thousands of other leaf peepers heading to New England. A top item on our Agenda will be our Alumni Committee's plans for our 105th Anniversary reunion. There's an article inside this issue with all the details so mark your calendars now, and enjoy a fun filled weekend with your fellow cabin mates on the shores of Lake Fairlee. There's a lot of new improvements we know you'll want to see.

One of these improvements you might not notice right away, but next time you're enjoying the lake by either admiring its sheer beauty or partaking in some sort of water activity, take a look at how clean the water is. Lake Fairlee is listed as the 3rd cleanest lake in Vermont, due most in part that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the land was owned by camps like Billings and so we have fewer cottages and fewer motor boats as well. But our lake has come dangerously close to being taken over by a non-native, aggressively invasive plant species called Eurasian Milfoil. It has already spread to more than 25% of the waters near the shores, and left unchecked, it rapidly crowds out native plants, diminishes fish habitats and would eventually make the lake unusable for swimming and boating. A massive effort to eradicate this threat is being lead by the Lake Fairlee Association (LFA), of which Camp Billings is a supporting member. I attended the LFA's last meeting and learned about the five-year milfoil relief program approved by the

Vermont Department of Environmental Control. I am confident that these efforts will be successful. Check out the LFA's monthly blog at www.blog.lakefairlee.org and learn all about our efforts to keep Lake Fairlee a safe and healthy lake for our campers and all to enjoy.

You'll also have to take the "historical house tour" and check out the newly restored Guest House sporting its original cupola, and Pinewold with its restored wrap around 360 degree porch. Our brand new Ropes Challenge Course will be up and running over behind Rainshadow Field, and we are hoping to have the Craft Shop expansion completed in time, which will double its size, all thanks to Uncle Ralph who bequeathed the sale of his home in Bradford to camp.

All of these improvements to our infrastructure and program areas are all made possible by the generous contributions that come from you, our alumni and again we say a heartfelt thanks. Please start making your summer plans now, and come back home to camp to see the most important "improvement" of all, your best friends on earth, your camp friends.

From the Board we wish you all a colorful Fall and a happy, and healthy holiday season.

Mike Lemme
Board President
Mgl1001@aol.com
(973) 460-1055



We Are Billings!

By Bob Green, Director

I want to attempt to paint a picture for you. In the background is a bright blue summer sky, a crystal-clear lake that is now milfoil-free. As we move in closer there is a freshly-painted girls senior row, some docks that were easily transported into the water this summer because we smartly utilized a back hoe and a half an hour of labor rather than 20 people spending all day lifting and carrying objects that should neither be lifted nor carried. There's a tall, brown edifice that has a working clock on it that's been around way too long (but hey, the clock works!). And of course there are fields and courts and a lot of older brown buildings with a few tents thrown into the mix. It's a tranquil spot, but on its own, it's really nothing special.

Now to provide some texture to that picture, let's give it some history... say, 105 years or so. We'll begin with two men who spent a combined 88 years managing the place. Add to it a commitment to teach children how to swim and the dedication of some wonderful people who made that happen each and every summer. Throw in the traditions that have been passed along from generation to generation: a live bugler (we've never had a dead one), colors, singing grace at every meal (now dancing and singing), the trajectory of moving into cabins 1 and 15, camp duties, evening program and final campfire. Don't forget the legion of young people who begin as junior campers and complete their tenure at Billings as senior counselors, teaching others about the traditions of our camp family.

Flash forward to the summer of 2010. The background remains the same, and much of the history is intact and embedded into life on this small tract of land on a lake in Central Vermont. But there are new traditions that have been formed: a night to celebrate the music of former camper Barry Manilow (Huh?) twice a summer where everyone dances throughout the evening meal in the dining hall; an International Supper that is now a formal event, where the meal is served on fine china with glassware and sterling silver utensils; a camp musical that includes a choreographer and an expansive sound and lighting system; a six-night singing competition where groups of juniors, seniors, CITs and staff form to determine who are the champions of Billings Glee; and a fourth session all-camp competition that commences at 5am (in the morning) when The Ride of the Valkyries is blaring on an outdoor sound system, fireworks are going off from the top of the dining hall, chaos is taking place and our neighbors are threatening to call the State Troopers!

My point is quite simple. Camp Billings is not a piece of property, a Clocktower, some old cabins or a ball field. We were Camp Billings before we had much of that. We were Camp Billings when athletics meant just baseball; when evening program meant the Alphabet Game; when crafts meant gimp or ash trays. Traditions remain strong and new ones are created, but the one constant at Billings is us. From generation to generation, WE ARE BILLINGS! It is a concept that our kids learn early on in their experience at camp. It is our community that keeps us strong, it is our people that must be cherished and celebrated. The dynamic of camp is not buildings or programs, it is us, and all the generations of children and young adults that will follow us.

Once again we are called upon to gather on the shores of Lake Fairlee to honor our past, cherish our present, and look towards our future as we celebrate the 105th Anniversary of Camp Billings, June 17-19, 2011. I hope you will make plans to attend, despite the economy, the difficulty of travel, the hectic work and family schedule that might interfere because these opportunities are so fleeting, yet so valued. And for no other reason than WE ARE BILLINGS!

The Caller of Billings

By Elissa Malcolm (C & S '88-'97, '03)

Back in July, I went to visit 93 year old Everett Blake at his home in Orford, NH, which is about 6 miles from Camp Billings. He was never a camper, or on any staff mailing list, but his name may ring a bell to you. Everett, spent decades calling the square dances at Camp Billings. Chances are, he taught you the Virginia Reel, the Patty Cake Polka and how to do a mean do-si-do. If you are really lucky, you have had the chance to polka around the lower tennis courts to the 1982 Laura Branigan hit song, "Gloria" blaring from a Everett's record player. I asked Everett how he came up with the idea of adding "Gloria" to his set list. He credited his daughter, Lucile, with the idea. "She'd hear it going down the road and thought it'd be fun." I assured him that it was, indeed, fun.

Everett has been calling dances since the 1950's. He'd been square dancing for a while before that, but had not always been a fan. The first time he tried to square dance he hated it! He was a little boy at a Christmas Party and got dragged into participating (hmm, kind of like those Cabin 7 boys). Later, as an adult, some friends invited him to a local venue. "Well, I will just go watch," he said. "I was just going to look on, but the caller's wife got a hold of me and got me into a square." From that point on, he was hooked.

He transitioned from dancing to calling a few years later. "I liked it so much myself, I bought some records just to listen to and then the 4H club not too far from here called and wanted me to play records. At first I just played the ones with the calls on it, but I didn't like it so I started calling them myself." A star was born. Everett is known by his first name far beyond the white gates of Camp Billings.

He called for the Dartmouth Freshman Orientation Trips at the Moosilauke Lodge for decades. The Salty Dog Rag is legendary with Dartmouth students and alumni. Just as the square dances have been an integral part of the Camp Billings experience for years, Everett has created the same fun and nostalgia for those new college students. He has called for local 4-H clubs as well as groups in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine (or pretty close to it, as Everett recollects).

He doesn't remember exactly, but Everett believes he began calling dances at Billings in the 1960's. I wondered how he came about his set list. He said it was handed to him. "They'd take so darn long to get educated! Keep it simple and a few polkas for Larry (Drew)."

Even though the year he started calling dances at Billings might evade him, one memory about our dear old camp does not. "I met this young woman, Lucy Reed, who came to church with Flora (his wife) and me, and came up here afterward. We've kept in touch." He speaks very fondly of Lucy and her friendship.

At the end of our time talking together, I asked Everett if he had any final thoughts he wanted to share about calling square dances. His response: "Well, I had a lot of fun." I told him, unequivocally, that, "...the campers and staff of Camp Billings did as well."



Upload your camp photos...

We now have an online Camp Billings Alumni Room. Like our real alumni room located in Dartt Hall on our campus, this virtual room is home to the visual memories of our camp. Our goal is to collect as many pictures of camp life over our 100 plus years as we can. If you would like to contribute to the project, please contact our website administrator at: webmaster@campbillings.org. To see the photos that have already been posted, please visit the Camp Billings Alumni Room in the alumni section of the Camp Billings website.



Camp Billings 105th Alumni Reunion

Come join us, for a weekend of Billings fun!

Spend the weekend with old cabin mates and lifelong friends enjoying traditional camp activities: swimming, boating, fishing, tennis, basketball, canoeing and sailing, windsurfing and waterskiing and of course arts & crafts, including gimp! Don't miss the pontoon boat lake tours or the evening campfire. All activities and meals are included. Add accommodations for the fully authentic experience.

June 17 - 19, 2011

Lake Fairlee, Vermont

Contact us at dearoldcamp@gmail.com

Camp Billings 105th Reunion Information



Camp Billings is hosting a weekend of fun Billings-style on June 17, 18 and 19, 2011.

Registration is available on a first come – first served basis.*

Coordinate with old friends to decide if you would like to come for the entire weekend or for just the day on Saturday. We will offer a full schedule of camp activities and follow the traditional camp schedule. A complete schedule will be mailed out with your registration confirmation. You can stay in a cabin or off campus.

Fill out the registration form in this newsletter (or available on www.campbillings.org), include your deposit (payable in US funds only, please) and send to:

Laura Bussey
116 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

Feel free to contact Laura with any questions at dearoldcamp@gmail.com or 707-765-1962.



A few reminders

- Camp Billings is a smoke-free campus.
- We want everyone who attends the reunion to celebrate joyfully and safely. To this end, there is a strict no alcohol policy, with the exception of the Billings-sponsored cocktail party. Please be considerate of everyone's good time by making plans to indulge off campus. And please, no special recipe in your Nalgene bottle.
- Unfortunately, we must limit participation at the reunion to Billings alumni and their families. Families interested in visiting Billings may call the office during the summer season to arrange a visit.
- All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- The number of registrations we can accept is limited both by cabin and dining room space. Please plan early.
- A 50% deposit is requested to hold your reservation. Payment in US funds.

All proceeds in excess of costs will be donated to Camp Billings on behalf of the Alumni Association. If the rates to attend represent a problem for you, please do not hesitate to contact the reunion registrar to make special arrangements. All inquiries will be handled confidentially. We do not wish anyone to miss out due to expense.

Please be sure to let us know about any special arrangements you will require during the reunion including dietary restrictions, health concerns, etc. Be sure to indicate cabin mate requests.

Nearby Accommodations

The Lake House Inn, Route 244, Post Mills – 802-333-4025
Silver Maple Lodge & Cottages, Route 5, Fairlee – 802-333-4326
The Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee- 802-333-4311
The White Goose Inn, Route 10, Orford, NH – 603-353-4812
Dowd's Country Inn, Lyme, NH – 603-795-4712
Many others, including vacation home rentals in the area can be found on the internet.



At least one of these Billings alumni will be at the reunion...

Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome and needed! See the back page of the newsletter for information or indicate on the registration form that you would like to help out. Thanks!

ALUMNI NOTES

Sean Collins (C & S 90's- current) is now teaching Social Studies at Plainfield Elementary School in NH. He lives in Fairlee, VT.

Kacey Parkinson (C & S 90's) got married on June 5th to Tim Semchenko. They live in Scituate, MA.

Max Overstrom-Coleman (C & S 90's) married Amanda Jensen in September. They live in Fairlee, VT. Max is a graduate student at Dartmouth College.

John Wallstrom (C & S 80-90's) and partner Rose had a baby girl in July (Roselyn) to join older brother John Duke IV (LJ).

Jennifer (Terhune) Mullix (S'98 -'99) Writes to say, "I have moved... again. This time, back to Missouri. I am the Executive Director at a new Children's Museum in Southeast Missouri."

Mike Harley (C & S 80-90's) and wife Susie welcomed Bianca Isabel Harley to their family in July.

Adam Jenkins (S 90's) and wife, Kate, welcomed a daughter, Charlie Grace, in October.

There will be a wine tasting to raise money for the Andrew Ladd Scholarship in Chester, VT on 11/18. See <http://andrewladdscholarship.weebly.com/index.html> for details about the event. Andrew's children (Lily, Gabe, Abby, Georgia and Meg) all went to camp in '90-00's.

In Memoriam

Former CB Board Member Everett J. Smith, 80, passed away on September 8, 2010. He was a longtime resident of White River Junction, Vermont. Everett was a long time Billings Board member in the 1980's & 90's. Ted Rossi, a current Board Member, remembers Everett as a truly fantastic Board Member. According to Ted, "No one loved Camp Billings more than Everett. He spent many days of his own time working around camp, and he especially loved planting trees. All of those pine trees between Rainshadow Field and the road were planted single handedly by Everett." His obituary stated that "In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Camp Billings." To date we have received 21 donations in his name. Thank you to Everett for his years of service to camp, and to his friends and family for supporting camp in his honor.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Eric St. Jacques. His sister, Caroline, wrote to tell us that he passed away around Easter following an illness. He was at camp in the late 70's and early 80's.

Vermontasaurus

If you stopped by Camp Billings in 2010 and took a trip up to Baker's General Store for an ice cream during your visit, you might have seen the Vermontasaurus at the Post Mills Airport. The 25 x 122 ft structure was built by Brian Boland (owner of the airport) and many volunteers. The Vermontasaurus got a lot of press coverage, including a TV report with NECN, done by Anya Huneke, who was a counselor at Billings for a summer in the 1990's.



The Ol' Camp Billings Store - Online!

Visit the Camp Billings website and check out the newest way to add to your CB paraphernalia - Camp Store Online! We're starting with t-shirts and cozy sweatshirts in sizes 2T to XXL and plan to expand to include a broad selection of CB items. Payment can be made by check or Paypal. Email cbcampstore@gmail.com for more info. Jon Cone, who is on the Board of Directors, is managing the store.

Jasmine - We hear your challenge and we accept!

P.S. Have you heard from those New Yorkers yet?

By Laura Bussey, '67 - '78, '01 - ?

From all I've heard about Jasmine St. Laurent, she's a pretty inspiring gal. So it's not surprising that she was able to rally a group of Canadian alums to sponsor a child to attend Camp Billings. Well done. But what is less expected is that she inspired a group of older alumni to follow suit. Announcing : That 70's Campership! That's right, the most outstanding alumni in Camp Billings history are banding together to send another great kid to the greatest camp on Earth. Since so many of us straddled the 60's and 70's, we've decided to broaden our reach to include both decades. And not only do we accept your challenge, but we have our own French Canadians: the mythical Gigi Duckett is on our team! Woo hoo!

Want to join us? Donations of any amount are welcome and will help us reach our goal of sending a child to Camp Billings every summer.

Know a deserving camper? Here's what we're looking for: a child, niece, nephew, cousin or even granddaughter or godson of an alum from the 60's or 70's is eligible. Whether you worked or played (okay, they were a lot alike) at Camp Billings any of the years from 1960 - 1979, we invite you to nominate a child. We would like to send a child who would enjoy two weeks at camp and could not otherwise attend. Get in touch with Laura to let her know about the kid for whom camp could change everything. Remember, camp changes lives.

Please contact Laura Bussey to donate, or to nominate a camper at:
laurasaurus1@sbcglobal.net or by calling 707-765-1962

Many thanks to our founding campership committee who helped launch this effort: Raelyn Silva, Jane Funk, Laura Bussey, Chip Henderson, Paul & Jenny Levine, Mike Lemme, Patti Green-Lachance, Beth Gilpin and Gigi Duckett.

Meet our Founding Donor!

Greeting this challenge with the tireless enthusiasm, optimistic outlook, upbeat personality, and classic good looks that made her a fan favorite at Billings from 1969 through 1977 is loyal alumna and two-time honor camper recipient Raelyn Silva. Thanks for your support, and we love you, Raisin.



Washtub racing? Can anyone out there explain this picture? Was this a one time event? Part of Country Fair? Junior Program? A way to get to the sail boats if the row boats were all in use?

DONORS

The Camp Billings Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone who has donated to Camp Billings. Below is a list of those who have contributed to Camp Billings.

The Uncle Ralph Memorial Fund

Lucy Reed Foltyniak
Joan Mason
In memory of Win & Grace Mason
Marsha Schweitzer
Sherry Colson Thompson

Camperships

Connie Ward Anderson
In memory of Earl C. Ward
Gerry Smith Emerson
John Jr. and Jamie Freitas
Diana Levine
In memory of Daniel Levine

General Donations

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Priscilla Page
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Henrietta Sharp Smith
Lawrence B. Woolson

Registration Form
Camp Billings Alumni Reunion 2011
 June 17- 19, 2011

Primary Contact Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Rates:

Full weekend - Adult \$130, children 5 - 18 \$60, under 5 year are free. Friday after lunch through Sunday lunch. All activities, camp duties and meals included.

Saturday only- Adult \$55, children 5 - 18 \$25, under 5 years free. All meals and activities for Saturday only.

Accommodations -Lodging in our rustic cabins are **\$40 per person** ages 5 and up for the weekend, both Friday and Saturday nights. There is no charge for children under 5 years.

I'd like to help out. Please ask your volunteer coordinator to contact me.

Registrants

Name	Decade at camp	Adult	Child/Age	Reunion Fee	Accommodation Fee (\$40)

Subtotals _____

Grand Total _____

Please make checks payable to: Camp Billings Reunion 2011

Please send this form along with a deposit of 50% to:

Laura Bussey
 116 English Street
 Petaluma, CA 94952

Camp Billings, Inc.
1452 Route 244
Fairlee, Vermont 05045-9620

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR 105TH ANNIVERSARY

By Jasmine St-Laurent, Volunteer Chairman

All alumni are welcome to help with big and small jobs during the upcoming reunion! As members of the Camp Billings family, there are many ways you can get involved. We will be sure to leave camp the way we found it by doing our cabin and camp duties, and you are invited to sign up for special tasks.

How can you help? Would you like to... Run the camp store for an hour? Blow the bugle? Help with maintenance? Lead a program area for a period? Drive a boat? Help with cooking? Help with the registration desk at camp? Be a song leader for a meal? Participate in the reunion ceremony, the final campfire, the Sunday Chapel? Perhaps, you would like to volunteer with anything that needs to be done?

To become an official Camp Billings 105th anniversary volunteer contact Jasmine St-Laurent, the Volunteer Chairman: jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com or call her home anytime in Toronto at (416) 520-8390. If you would like to volunteer, but are unsure of how you can help, just sign up... there is something for everyone.



Mark your calendars:
Camp Billings 105th Reunion
June 17-19, 2011

