



The Clocktower Times

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the chimes of our time.

Fall 2014

Dear Camp Billings Alumni,

Camp is asleep after the epic summer of 2014. It was a great success for campers and staff, and the countdown is on to next summer. This issue of the Clocktower Times highlights some of the best moments of the summer. Check out the alumni updates pages to see all the alumni who proudly introduced their kids, family or young friends to our dear old camp.

Do you remember crossing the white gates for the first time? We want to know the story of your first day at camp. How did you hear about Billings? Who introduced you to camp and what was your first day like? Any pictures to share?

Please send us your First Day Of Camp story by email at: jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com or by mail.

Hoping to hear from you soon. Also, if you have not done so already, friend Camp Billings on Facebook!

All the best,
Jasmine St-Laurent
Alumni Committee Chairperson



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Billings Newsletter

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Greetings from the Board.....

by Michael Lemme, Board President

In the last issue of the Clocktower Times you read about our plans to rent out certain cabins and cottages with priority going to alumni during the off season. We heard back from many of you and we can tell that this is going to be a popular vacation for many alumni! Camp typically ends on the 3rd week of August, and rentals would go through to the end of October. This is nothing new for non-profit camps like ours, and many take advantage of this additional revenue stream. Already we have had many requests not just for Weownit, but for the entire camp for weddings and corporate retreats. Your Board of Directors is confident that this will ensure that Camp Billings will remain on solid financial ground and will allow us to better accomplish our core mission, one which will never change of providing a summer camping season for boys and girls ages 8-15, just as we have done for the past 108 years.

We got the ball rolling just after camp ended with a wedding at camp! Congratulations to Ryan Burhans and Lauren Carlson who tied the knot on August 23rd! The campus looked fantastic decorated for the occasion, and the wedding party chose the Guest House and all of Girls Sr. Row for their guests. The Bride

and Groom's "Wedding Suite" were the three rooms above the maintenance garages where there is a full bath and a beautiful deck overlooking the lake. We are still finalizing the logistics of operating off-season rentals but you can be sure that we will be offering this to everyone in 2015!

For a complete list of cabins, cottages and pricing please call our Rental Manager Jon Cone at 802-269-0076 or reach him by email at: campbillingsrentals@gmail.com.

Camp Billings puts out an excellent product that is in high demand! In order to remain competitive we are in the final planning stages of a total rebuild of all of camp's toilet and shower facilities. Your Board is carefully interviewing contractors who can provide these services and the cost will exceed \$500,000. We are hopeful that our future rental income coupled with Alumni donations will help defray this cost. Please consider donating this year to help us maintain our goal of operating one of the best and affordable camps in New England!

Cheers to the upcoming Happy Holidays !!!



Mike Lemme is surrounded by his 70s crew - here to celebrate Larrypalooza

The GREATEST SUMMER IN BILLINGS HISTORY!

(in one, long run-on sentence that you need to read really, really fast)

by Bob Green, Emperor

Lake Fairlee, Vermont. We arrived at camp in early June, burned a bunch of stuff, Mystery guests one and two arrived then we looked for Rodriguez and we got slightly sketchy staff t-shirts then Gaz and BK lost the keys to the van so they had to stick their heads in a vat of whipped cream but we really didn't lose the van keys and the Hunger Games started and kids hit each other with rolled up socks then we played Monopoly for the first time but no one knew how to play so it took the staff twenty minutes to figure it out but once they did it was the surprise evening program of the summer and on the 4th of July we had a huge fair and the best fireworks show we've ever had at Billings and for no apparent reason everyone started chanting "STEPHEN, STEPHEN" who turns out to be some guy who works at Cumberland Farms who wasn't invited to Anne and Sean's engagement party dance where all the single archers dot com hung out trying to meet girls as did Chase the Nurse because we had awesome NITs for the first month of the summer who gave us an entire medical team if anyone needed help but fortunately on the backpacking trips that went out almost every day of the summer including Tubapalooza on the Tweed River no one ever got injured then all of a sudden everyone started singing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" like it was the National Anthem which also got sung way too much this summer but that's ok because on International Night we ate Dim Sum at long tables with CIT waiters and waitresses who made the evening fantastic before we went into see Glee which was dominated by Clockapella who beat Pitch Please and Glee Spot to take the title but there has never been anything at Billings like Steve Coppola, Ace Hypnotist who made Robbie do Riverdance and Ella think that Justin Timberlake was in Dartt Hall though he might have come for All Camp Birthday Day if we had invited him to the dining room to hear "You can Dance, YOU CAN DIVE" or "do you want to build a snowman" - NO, which became the anthem of Frozen with sixty kids in the show including campers in the chorus who had voices good enough to be the lead in other years thanks to the hard work of Connor, Steph, Hope, Ella, Catherine and a crew of thousands who did a fantastic job and were very tired but not tired enough to ask "Hey Murray, what do you want to sing?", so we asked the song leaders except on Harry Potter Day where we sat at long tables (again), and did a lot of versions of Quidditch which was really fun but not nearly as much fun as the color dance except for the CITs who spent the better part of three days trying to power wash the color off the courts and who the heck was Karen anyway but we know she was no Therri Thait, USA, the Bachelorette who had to choose between Connor Wright and a polygamist marriage with Sean and Anne though on Christmas the lights were so beautiful off the rammed canoe and the flagpole that even I liked the Clocktower and kids took rides on a horse and carriage with Santa or was it really him and then there was a fire on the rock and the windows were blacked out in the dining room for dessert and the next morning a hot air balloon floated above Imaginationland and the Oompa Loompas did the greatest skit in the history of Country Fair and the Faeries did the fastest time in the history of the Marathon and everyone helped burn the rope for the FireCocks (really?) and after three days we looked like ghetto camp so we had a final campfire, cried a lot, gave out some awards, put the Triangle into the Lake while we played taps, cried some more and realized how lucky we are to have this magical place each summer and know that it's only 32 weeks until it starts all over again! Whew.....

SUMMER 2014

Top 7 Special Events

- 1- Larrypalooza
- 2- Ace Hypnotist
- 3- Halloween at the Post Mills Airport and Museum... "Flight of the Living Dead"
- 4- Color Dance
- 5- Harry Potter Day
- 6- Country Fair
- 7- Christmas



The Color Dance: Kids were given a colorful chalk-like powder to toss up in the air for some cool colorful special effects!



Playing Quidditch on Harry Potter Day

Top 3 Popular Songs

- "Classic" - MKTO
- "All about that Bass" - Meghan Trainor
- "Timber" - Ke\$ha

Top 3 Songs Sung in the Dining Hall (spontaneously, not in songbook)

- "Love is an open door" from Frozen
- "L.O.V.E" Nat King Cole
- The opening tune of "Seven Nation Army" by the White Stripes



Country Fair Kicked off with the flight of a Hot Air Balloon

HIGHLIGHTS

By Elise Bragard



Larrypalooza Square Dance

Essential Fashion Items

Girls: Spirit jerseys
Boys: Snapbacks
(...google it)

Top 3 Cheers

Waterskiing: "RIDE THAT BOAT! RIDE THAT BOAT!"

Archery: "Are you single? Do you like archery? Singlearchers.com!"

Tennis: "When the ball's on the court, you SMASH it like Nadal! SMASH it like Nadal!"



The Oompaloompas won the Imaginationland Country Fair 2014



Horse and wagon rides on Campus Right during Christmas



Ace Hypnotist controlling our staff's minds

Larry - Palooza

By Anne Hartman

On July 26, 2014 the Camp Billings gods smiled down from their posts atop the Clocktower or stretched as they sat up from their sleepy positions in the canoe fastened to the sides of the famous Fairlee landmark. They delighted in seeing yellow specks arriving on the lawn to form their imperfect circle for colors, and awaited the arrival of the flags. It was half an hour earlier than usual, as it was race day, but no groans or complaints could be heard, for it was Larrypalooza, or Larry Drew Celebration Day, and we were finally celebrating the man responsible for the Race Around the Lake, among countless other camp traditions and memories. After 46 years of complete loyalty and dedication, the time had come, to honor our living legend.

It was a surprise to our eighty-one year-old Maintenance Director when every camper, counselor, cook, office worker and infant donned a gold shirt saying, "Running for Larry" on the front. On the back was a list describing Larry's contributions since he arrived at camp in 1969, in eighteen points, including his positions as Athletics Director, Program Director, Assistant Camp Director, the creator of the Race around the Lake and most importantly his friendship and inspiration to all. In true Drew fashion he would not wear the shirt, his humbleness and modesty always winning out despite Willie Crocker's encouragement to put it on.

After camp duties were completed, the campers and staff made their way back to the Dining Hall to participate in a pep rally led by some of our more vocal staff. Cabin five girls and cabin fifteen boys alike were dancing on their chairs and tables chanting and cheering for Larry, and it wasn't even nine o' clock. Robbie Baranov, a first year counselor from Philadelphia, led the camp in the cheer, "Who you run that race for?" as the campers responded, "I run that race for Larry, Hoowah!" After several rounds of that cheer, the Billings crew exited the Dining Hall chanting "Larrypalooza" and stomping their way to the Upper Ball Field to join the dozens of alumni who had come out to support Larry on this special day.

When it was time for the race to begin every member of Camp Billings, whether they were on crutches, or wearing flip-flops and jeans, ran, at least for twenty yards, when the gun went off to show their love for Larry Drew.

The biggest surprise of all was when WCAX, Channel 3 News and journalists from the Valley News arrived to report on this extraordinary man we all know and love. Larry, of course, was unfazed, and delivered his interviews like the champion he is.

The rest of the day brought a celebratory cookout followed by the bi-monthly square dance. After Larry had gone home the previous night, the camp had met in secret in order to master the dance to "Honolulu Baby," Larry's favorite song and dance, for one final Larrypalooza surprise. Whether or not it was the most graceful and well executed of dances, the smile and surprise on Larry's face were well worth the effort. As female counselors fought over Larry to polka, and the campers twirled around in gingham and denim, the Camp Billings gods looked out from their canoe and smiled down once more. When taps blew that evening over the eight acre haven, it sang the praises and honored Camp Billings' finest treasure, Larry Drew.



The Clocktower

By Elyse Lindahl

From the stunning performances during Glee to the impressive production of "Frozen" during third session, the spirit of 2014 was exciting and transformative for both campers and staff alike. But the biggest transformation that took place at camp was an unexpected one.

For years, the Clocktower has been Camp Billings' declaration of history and dominance on the shores of Lake Fairlee. As campers gathered for Colours before breakfast on the second week of first session, they were welcomed to the Clocktower lawn with a new addition to the Clocktower. Over only one night, the painted canoe that had once occupied the canoe rack on the beach was bolted to the sides of our beloved Clocktower. Campers pointed, counselors shrugged in disbelief, and CITs stared in astonishment.

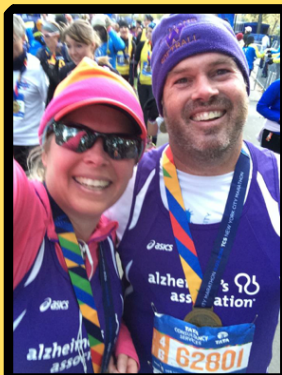
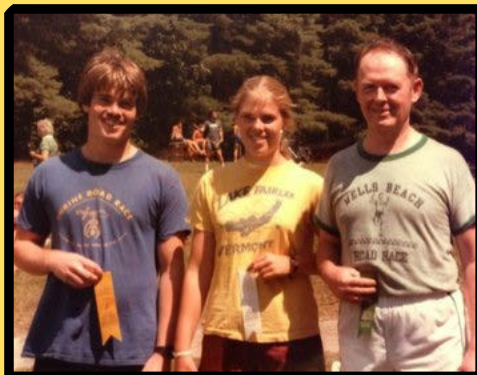
Rumors of the mysteriously placed canoe circulated camp. Cabin 15 assumed that Larry Drew had put it up himself at midnight; the junior girls guessed that it was a prank pulled by Lochearn. Either way, the Clocktower Canoe withstood rain storms, vicious winds, and wet funning towels draped over the sides.

In the spirit of excitement, fourth session brought colorful lights to the now familiar canoe that had become the token of the summer. With country fair right around the corner, the lights added to the anticipation and enthusiasm. Shining both day and night, the Clocktower was a sight to see as the sun went down and campers returned from the evening program.

As fourth session came to an end and campers waved goodbye, the canoe was a reminder of all the wonderful surprises from the previous eight weeks. The summer of the Clocktower Canoe is one to remember. From the lights reflecting off the still waters of Lake Fairlee to the triumphant smiles of Casey and Willie, Camp Billings remains magical, breathtaking, exciting, and most of all, fun.



Congratulations to **Ellen Smith Cron** and her brother **Tom** who ran the NYC marathon to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association in memory of their dad, **Everett J. Smith**, who was on the Camp Billings Board of Directors for many years dating back to the 1980s. He loved camp and wanted to do whatever he could to be of service to ensure the longevity of camp: its physical lot by planting and maintaining evergreens, its fiscal stability, and the spirit at its core, which we all know and love so well. Ellen was a camper, CIT, and counselor on the waterfront at camp from 1976-1987. She also worked on the Clocktower Times for two summers with **Cornelia Godfrey**. Ellen's brother Tom, worked as a CIT with **Bert Snow** and **John Lisak (Sak)** on the Alaska Caravan trip in 1983 and as a counselor at camp during the summers of 1984 and 1985. Ellen's daughter, **Madeleine**, and Tom's daughters, **Keiko** and **Amaya**, have attended camp during the last three summers. Henry, will attend camp this summer for the first time! Ellen's mother, **Sandra Freitas Smith**, has also had a lifetime of connection with and love of camp, where she spent summers there as a child with her father, **John A. Freitas**, as a counselor and then later



Ellen and family now encourage everyone to support CAMP BILLINGS this fall by making a donation in memory of Everett J. Smith.

as Director, and her mother **Zaela Freitas**, who worked as a baker at camp and later worked for many decades as Registrar. Sandra cheered on her two kids as they ran the marathon in memory of her husband.

Jon Cone writes that his three nephews attended camp this year from Hawaii during second session. Needless to say, they loved it! The youngest of the three...Matias is performing in Mary Poppins...He is playing Michael Banks in the performance. **Lee Reed (50s)** visited Billings and shared her impressions of her visit to camp... "It really did look very close to the same. The walk to Cabin 1 was different, less pine trees; looks great. I'm "old", from the "middie" blouse uniform era. Yes, the 'oars' on the Clocktower were different. I heard the same spirit coming from the campers at lunch !!! Loved it. The last time I had been there was with my husband in 96'. Bear with me, I have to include a poem I wrote under the pine trees near

the entrance when I was 11. I still remember it:
" I love it here at Billings, beneath the
glistening pine. I love it best of all the camps
along this lake's shoreline. The people on the
staff really can't be beat. The counselors and
our Dad Hurd are always such a treat. So, if
you come by our old camp, beside the lake so
blue, and if you stop and come inside, the best
will come to you." Lee Berg , 1953 (**Dottie Sullivan** was my counselor)." **Bill & Betty Ann Aldrich** also visited camp this summer and shared their day: "We enjoyed our visit Sunday. I left the 1921 picture of all girls except for Dad Hurd & two other gentlemen I didn't know. I found the 30's photo on eBay awhile ago! I also



Darif Krasnow and Sally Elliot got hitched this summer!

took the liberty of writing on a piece of paper in the 1940 photo book some names of ones I remember. My dad, **Maurice Aldrich** was in another photo I recognized. (*Editor's note: please visit the alumni room when you visit camp and follow Bill's example!!*) ... All the campers we saw looked enjoyably busy. The new building that was lost in the storm (Dartt Hall) looked wonderful! Camp Billings sure has grown in the past years...We enjoyed our visit and hope to visit again and introduce the grand kids!" **Nick Hadsel-Mares (90s & 00s)** is back living in Burlington and making bean-to-bar chocolate for Blue Bandana (which is part of Lake Champlain Chocolates). He had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala to see where cacao beans come from and it was truly a great experience! **Gaston Gros (00s)** graduated from the University of Florida and has recently moved to New Hampshire to begin his studies at the University of New Hampshire School of Law. He hopes to visit camp soon now that he is close by. **Laurence Johnson ('98-'03)** Currently living in NYC, is the manager of a small Italian restaurant called Johns in Manhattan (on 12th and 2nd). Laurence hopes to

visit camp one of these days and writes that his summers at Billings were the best summers of his life :) **Ryan Burhans (90's-00s)** married Lauren Carlson on August 23rd. The wedding was celebrated on beautiful Lake Fairlee at camp! The wedding party included **Jaye Macumber, Tyler Gardner, Brian Kaufman and Sarah Halton**. Many other camp alumni took part in the celebrations. The happy couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Greece.



John Flintosh and his wife Juliana with their son Caleb Bergman-Flintosh

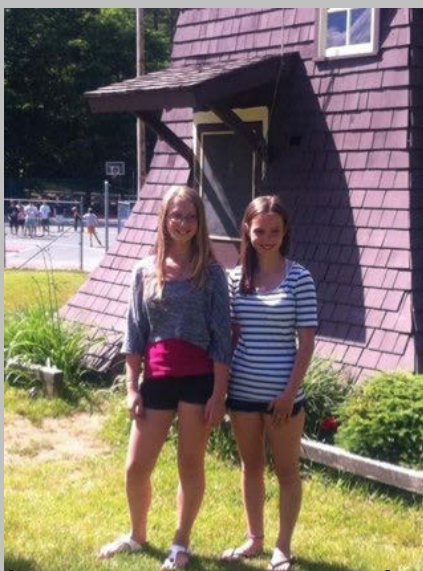
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or email us at:
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Chelsea Alsofrom ('95-'05) moved to Boulder, Colorado this summer after spending the last few years living in Washington, DC and working at The School for Ethics and Global Leadership. Last summer, she hiked over 700 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail in California between school-years. Chelsea writes that she met some of the most amazing people and is so excited to be living out west among the big mountains! **Rachel Bordin** ('01-'09) graduated from Carnegie Mellon University this past May with a double major in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering. She has recently moved outside of Philadelphia to work with General Electric in their Power and Water division. **Jen Parker Cypress** (90s-00s) married Dan Cypress at the gorgeous Grand Isle Lake House in VT



Andrea DiMella and John Freitas Jr with daughter Harley Freitas.

on September 6th. Brother **Tor Parker** walked the beautiful bride down the aisle and many other Billings alumni were present to help the couple celebrate by dancing the night away; **Gabriela Maj**, **Sarah Halton**, **Marianne St-Laurent**, **Casey Huling**, **Kate Freitas Rosenbaum**, **Kate Kellogg Hill**, **Tyler Gardner**, **Anne Hartman**, **Sean Collins** attended. **Caroline Burke** ('03-'09) graduated from Harvard last spring. She is currently living in NYC and working as an Associate Consultant at Bain & Co. Caroline ran a half marathon this year and is also studying for the MCAT and thinking about applying to



First time campers Mia Deraiche and Sienna Bridger

school next year. Caroline adds that a highlight from this past summer was living vicariously through her brother, **Will**, who was a counselor at Billings. **Jasmine St-Laurent** (90s) had a daughter in August named Clara to join her brother Colin. Her husband's family name is Brady so their initials are both CB!! **Ethan Kraus** and **Elsa Dankbaar** ('10 & '11) continue to live in Ottawa. **Laurel Cohen** is a junior at Northwestern University majoring in filmmaking. Her film "Jonah and the Crab" recently won honorable mention at the San Francisco International Film Festival. She LOVED her summers at Camp Billings.



Callum and Skye Clunie visited camp!



Jacob (Bettinger) Tallering and sister Eva on his first day of camp!

The editors of the Alumni CTT would like to thank our faithful informers and photographers:

Sean Collins, Sarah Halton, Paul Behar, Ella Flett, Elise Bragard, Willie Crocker and all of you who wrote to share alumni news. We want more updates from alumni who attended camp in the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 80s. Please contact us to share your news!

CAMP BILLINGS AND THE GLACIER

By Don Carmichael

The last glacier to blanket New England (30K - 15K B.C.) left its marks on Camp Billings by two processes - sculpting the bedrock as the glacier advanced to the south and depositing unusual types of soil as the glacier melted.

SCULPTED BEDROCK First, imagine a sheet of ice well over a mile thick advancing inexorably to the south grinding into the bedrock with immense force, weight and pressure. It ground down soft areas of bedrock to a greater extent but where it met harder patches of bedrock it rode up over them even as it ground them. It gradually planed them in a smooth inclined surface from north to south. Where it reached their southerly end, glacial ice was frozen to the bedrock even as it ground along it. The ice violently plucked off chunks of the hard bedrock.

There are four such formations at Camp Billings, the most prominent being "The Rock," west of the Dining Hall, which is a classic example of this glacial formation. The other such spines of rock are: (1) west of the shop and shower house, running north under Junior Row; (2) rising east of the single tennis court and shower house and running south to "The Point," where its south end is torn off 15' deep under the lake, forming the best fishing hole at Camp; and (3) surfacing under Cabin 14, then buried under Senior Boys Row, then rising high under Gately Lodge before being broken off to the south.

UNUSUAL TYPES OF SOIL Next, imagine the later, warmer period of weather when the glacier is stagnant. It is still well over a mile deep above Lake Fairlee's valley. A huge dam of glacial ice in Connecticut has impounded an immense lake up the river valley to what is now Canada. The lake reaches up to West Fairlee in our vicinity and has submerged all but the highest hills behind the Fairlee Club. As this lake and its impounded ice melt, for a while the meltwater flows to the east, over the notch at the east end of the valley, and down the short-lived Ely River. One theory is that the Lake Fairlee valley was created by an immense block of ice stranded there during this period. Gradually the meltwater began to flow west and left unusual soil deposits at Camp Billings.

During a stagnant period the glacial waters dropped fine sediments that formed a large deposit of high grade blue clay in the area west of Boys Senior Row. Dad Hurd said that in the 1920's they dug 1100 wagons of this clay and took it down to the west of the Clocktower to form a battery of 3 tennis courts in the area that's now the Freitas Athletic Field. The area of the clay deposit then became "the swamp" and is now filled in as a leach field behind the craft shop.

Finally, at the northwest corner of Camp, next to the highway, is a large deposit of sand, doubtless dropped there when a glacial river draining the Middle Brook area took a bend to the southwest and dropped its heavier sand load in the slack water on the inside of the bend. Not too remarkable, except that this sand deposit may be the genesis of our fine sand beach, in which case, thank you Glacier.



CITs on the Little Rock, 2010

Please Support Camp!

This past summer was Billings' 108th year of operation, and once again we successfully lived by our core belief that a camp experience should be both transformative and affordable. In order to remain true to this vision, we need your support especially as we embark on a project to replace our boys' and girls' showers and bathrooms. Gifts for this project as well as for general operating support will help us remain true to our vision of keeping camp affordable. We deeply appreciate the financial support that many of you have provided to us in the past, and we hope that even more of you will choose to support us this year. Please complete and mail back the enclosed envelope or go to camp's website (www.campbillings.org) to make an online donation. On behalf of our current and future campers, families and staff, thank you very much for your commitment to and support of camp.

CB Campstore

Check out the online camp store before the holiday season to get hold of the season's hottest items and fashions. Camp Billings T-shirts, sweatshirts, songbooks, water bottles, and lanyards are all available for purchase. Check it out today or e-mail Sean Collins at campbillingsstore@gmail.com for more information or sizing questions; or just to say hello."



Ceci Stashwick Fleming flipping burgers on Larrypalooza day!

THE ALUMNI COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO COLLECT EMAIL ADDRESSES TO SEND INVITATION EMAILS FOR ALUMNI REUNIONS BIG AND SMALL. PLEASE EMAIL ELISSA MALCOM WITH YOUR NAME, YEARS AND ROLES AT CAMP AS WELL AS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS SO THAT WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFO.
elissa.malcolm@gmail.com

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