



The Clocktower Times

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the chimes of our time.

Fall 2017

Dear Camp Billings Alum,

Another wonderful summer at Camp Billings is in the books! We had a fire-breathing dragon roll in for the commencement of Country Fair. We had a Luau, complete with a pig roast and tropical juices, followed by dinner in our desert-themed dining "tent". We had our first-in-many-years three-day trip to Acadia, which turned out to be one of the best Backpacking trips ever. We hiked to the top of Mt Washington. We had multiple games and competitions against Lochearn in a renewed competitive friendship! Our camp musical was Legally Blonde; Omigawd! It was a total hit!

Each and every day was filled with boisterous cheers and happy voices ringing across the lake, reminding everyone around us that we are the happiest place on earth. But nothing was more exciting than the moment when our new camp directors were finally announced. Sean and Anne Collins were welcomed in style atop Bob Green's convertible. The entire camp cheered and applauded as they rolled through the gates after the official vote. We then gathered on the Clocktower Lawn to have a ginger-ale toast and lots of hugs and kisses! It was a magical moment and an awesome indication of all the happiness that is to come!

A season of change is upon Camp Billings. I am so honored and excited to be part of this new era, and I cannot wait to discover what Sean and Anne have in store for our dear old camp. In this issue, we recap momentous events of the summer. Enjoy!

Yours,
Marianne St-Laurent
Alumni Committee and Registrar

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Ben Cheney, Montpelier, VT

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Greetings from the Board....

By Michael Lemme, Board President

WELCOME SEAN & ANNE COLLINS: CAMP BILLINGS' NEW DIRECTORS!

Camp Billings has been providing young men and women a great camping experience for the past 111 years, and in all of that time we have only had 5 Directorships. We are excited to announce that Sean and Anne Collins will be our new "D.I.T.'s"—Directors In Training —this summer 2018. They will be working with Bobby Green, and this will be his last year as camp's Emperor!

Now that we have our new Directors, I'd like to make this President's Message about Your Board of Directors and to let you know that we meet 3 times a year. Our annual meeting and election of officers takes place every November, then we meet again the first Saturday in April, and then the 3rd Saturday in July for our summer meeting at camp. Thanks to Board Member Jon Cone, we have been having our November and April, meetings at The Quechee Club in Quechee VT where he is a member. For a while now we have had a total of 17 board members, many of whom have been on the Board over 20 years! We keep a running list of alumni who've expressed interest to join the Board and when a member retires we fill that vacancy right away.

Recently we have had 2 board members retire and I want to acknowledge and thank them for their time on the Board. Yutaka Tamura was our Fundraising Chair and during his tenure here he ran an incredibly successful "Dear John" campaign to help raise funds towards replacing all of our restroom and shower facilities. Yutaka met our goal of raising \$250,000 which was 1/2 the cost

of the entire project. Yutaka recently moved from Boston all the way across the country to Seattle and we wish him well!

We also want to thank Peter Halprin from New York City. It is always important for us to have a local attorney on our Board and Peter was a perfect fit. We wish you well Peter and congratulations on your upcoming twins ! It was great seeing you at our NYC "Mini Reunion" and if you ever find the time to re-join the Board, please let us know!

And now we get to announce our 2 newest Board members! Jonah Rowen from Brooklyn, NY and Ben Cheney from Montpelier VT. Both Jonah and Ben have extensive backgrounds in architecture and we look forward to their expertise as we continue to upgrade camp's infrastructure and program areas.

If any of you out there in the CB Alumni world have an interest in joining our Board of Directors please email or call me anytime and I'll forward your name over to our Nominating Committee Chair, Paul Behar. Stay tuned for our "2nd Annual" mini reunionthis time in Boston!

I hope everyone has had a colorful fall and enjoy the upcoming holidays!!!

Your President and Fellow Alumni,

Mike Lemme



The Torch Is Passed to the Next Generation....Anne and Sean Collins Selected as Next Billings Directors.

by Bob Green

The crowd waited anxiously on the Clocktower Lawn that Saturday afternoon. There was a noticeable buzz, a stirring of emotions, as everyone knew something monumental was about to happen. There had been rumors; change was definitely in the air. At a place where time literally stands still, where tradition and continuity reign supreme, it came like a thunderclap or volcanic eruption.

Three puffs of white smoke emerged from the chimney atop the Ralph Lawrence Dining Hall, as if to signal the great old man's approval of the announcement to follow. The crowd below erupted, because they knew that the deliberating body had reached a decision. After many hours, weeks and months of investigation, introspection and debate, the Conclave Board had chosen new leadership to take Camp Billings into a bright future in the decades ahead.

And so the masses lined the roadway, from the white gates to the great lawn to the Clocktower. Each of the faithful held a single flower. Signs adorned the route the new leaders would travel. And with each passing minute, the excitement reached a fever pitch. Suddenly, from around the bend of Camp Horizons came the procession. Traveling on the back of a white carriage (Maserati), driven by the one to pass the torch (the Emperor, yours truly), they slowly approached the entry to the magical land and the awesome legacy for which they would soon be responsible.

Anne and Sean Collins became the chosen, our next Directors. As they drove through the processional, the faithful tossed their single flowers towards them, covering their chariot in a bouquet of color. While the children cheered with delight, the adults among the throng wept with joy. They approached the great lawn, got out and said a few words of gratitude and hope to all those who were fortunate enough to be there on this glorious occasion. They accepted the crown, knowing that the 55 weeks ahead of training and preparation would ready them for their inauguration at the end of the 2018 season. Music and dancing ensued thereafter, and the Feast of Celebration lasted long into the night.

How fortunate we all are to have had a cornucopia of outstanding choices to lead Camp Billings into the future. Any of them would have provided great leadership. The choice of Anne and Sean Collins was inspired, and inspiring. They have the Billings experience to understand our history and tradition. They are young and energetic, attributes that will serve them well in relating to and earning the respect from, a young and talented staff. And they are completely dedicated to a bright future, one that continues to embrace growth and change while maintaining the essence of what has made Billings unique and special for 111 years.

Congratulations Anne and Sean. Welcome to the best job you will ever have.



Congratulations to the future camp directors:

Sean and Anne Collins!

Teachers, world travelers, these two have grown up at Camp Billings and are dedicated to leading our dear old camp into its next century.

*King and Queen Collins
To our Beloved Billings.
Pure power couple.*

a haiku by Elyse Lindahl

As I sit here trying to write something down about Anne and Sean, it's difficult to choose from the memories as they resurface in my mind. I could write about what Anne's friendship has meant to me over the years and how her strength and sense of humor have always helped me keep my head up. I could write about how I wouldn't have come back to camp if Sean hadn't been my CIT director and recognized the leader in me when I couldn't even see it myself. But all these stories are about me and that's not the point. The point is that Anne and Sean bring out the best in everybody that is lucky enough to come into their lives. For me, that's what Billings is about: finding the bright spots in the toughest camper and expanding them until that camper is leading the entire cabin in a ridiculous Battle of the Bands performance. Billings brought out the bright spots in me and I am forever grateful for the role Anne and Sean played in that. They inspire people to be better and they make camp better. Anne and Sean mean the world to me, but more importantly, they mean the world to the entire Billings family and Billings means the world to them.

-AJ Hart





Congratulations Mr and Mrs Collins! Sean's caring and responsible nature combined with Anne's great enthusiasm for all things camp will no doubt ensure that Billings remains a wonderful place for the summers to come!

-The McArdles



Meet the Future Directors

Anne Collins

Anne was a camper for 8 years before becoming a counselor in various programs from 2005 to 2012. She has been an office manager ever since. She holds a BA from UVM and is a Masters of Education Candidate from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA.

Sean Collins

Sean started as a camper in 1997 and continued as staff from 2000 to 2009 when he became CIT director. Over the years, as cabin counselor, he was head of boating, archery, athletics, canoeing and evening program. Sean holds a BA in History and Education from Marist College and a MA in History from UVM, Burlington. He is fluent in Spanish and dabbles in 3 more languages.

From being that annoying little Cabin Seven kid who used to steal Sean's Yankees hat and say "Yankees stink" to stopping by your place when I'm on break from college to catch up and talk about summers past, it has been an unforgettable ride. I couldn't be happier that such an amazing duo will be taking the reigns of camp for many summers to come, as myself, along with the rest of the camp community, know that both of you will be nothing short of incredible. You have had a tremendous impact in making me the person I am today and it makes me happy that you will have a similar effect on future generations. They're in good hands. Thanks for the memories, and I look forward to seeing both of you as directors in the coming years. Long live House Collins.

-Brian Greeley



MORE SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS!

Top 3 songs blasted in dining hall

- The Baby Seal Song
- Hallelujah (aka Chalula)
- How Far I'll Go from Moana

Top 3 sayings

- "Spin. That. Wheel!"
- "Send it!"
- "Pranked!"

3 busiest program areas

- Archery (with our new compound bows)
- Fishing (with the new and improved fishing dock)
- Crafts -with awesome new activities such as fidget spinners and dragon eggs.

Top 3 fashion items

Girls

- Birkenstocks
- Cut-off jeans
- Floaty tops

Boys

- Mid-calf socks
- Tank tops
- Lax Pinnies



Top 3 songs heard at the dances

- Despacito by Luis Fonsi
- Cold Shoulder by Adele
- C.R.E.A.M by Wu-Tang Clan

Top 5 evening programs for 2017

- Nature's Wrath (a new EP we found from a camp out in CA, kind of like a live action video game, the campers went wild for it!)
- Ace Hypnotist
- Program at night (sunset sailing anyone?)
- Rock Drop
- Biffers & Medics



Camp Needs Your Financial Support!

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 go to camp's website (www.campbillings.org) to make an online donation.

Thank you for your support!



ALUMNI UPDATES

Patrice O'Carroll ('01-'14) is finishing a masters in Business Analytics at HEC Montreal in December. He will then move on to work at MNUBO, a Montreal based tech startup. Since he last left camp, he is a regular at official and unofficial Billings reunions. His sister **Camille** ('01-'07) works at La Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec as a Lawyer since 2014. **Elise O'Carroll** ('01-'08) got married in 2014 and now works as a General Practitioner in her mom's clinic near Montreal. She recently traveled to California and took the opportunity to meet up with **Kelsi Barry** (00's). **Brianna Raymes** ('00s-'10s) graduated from Elon University with a degree in Public Health Management, and moved to Colorado with her family. She will be attending the University of Colorado to get her Master's of Public Health with a concentration in in Global Health Epidemiology. She plans to be an epidemiologist. **Michelle Pinter-Petrillo** ('99-'12) has taken her passion for sustainable, healthy eating out west and now teaches Food Education at a public school in Oakland, CA. Follow her on Instagram at @thatvegetablelady! **Francois Canac-Marquis** (C & S 1990-99) has returned home to Quebec City after a few years working in Dubai. He has three young daughters. Francois currently develops technological solutions for the performing arts and archtainment industries. "It all began in the rafters of Dartt Hall!" **Anton Malko** (C 1977-84, S 1985-87) moved to San Francisco in 2005 and lives there with his wife Hilary and two sons, Theo (8) and William (10). He works in communications for intercollegiate athletics at the University of California. Back when he and his brother **Justin** (C 1980-86) came to camp they would catch the bus from Manhattan's Port Authority and wind up at Billings via White River Junction about eight hours later. What with Anton's two kids and Justin's Lucas (4) and Amelia (1), there should hopefully be some Malko kids at camp soon! **Timmy Johnston** (C 2006-10, S 2011-15) writes "Since my last summer at Billings I graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida and moved to Manhattan where I am working for a Digital Advertising agency based in Mougins, France. I travel frequently with my team all over the U.S. working with other agencies to create more efficient and effective digital campaigns for their clientele. My Billings Family (**Stephanie Ellicott**, **Ellen Manby**, **Reeves Hart**, **Connor Wright**, and **Theodore Kupfer**) still get together at least three times a year whether it is in DC, NYC, or the shores of Lake Fairlee; we somehow always manage to find a way to get together! **Mike Flintosh** (C & S 1983-92) is still rooting for Notre Dame and sends along an important message: Go Irish! **Jeff, aka Krusty, Cantin** (C 1988-91, S 1983-92) sends greetings from Quebec City where he works in beverage sales. **Michael 'Mick' Clancy** (S 1997) was recently on a business trip near Uluru in Australia. He posted some fabulous pictures of this iconic landmark. Mick regularly sees campmates **Phil 'The Cat' Tarrant** and **Greg 'The General' Cassar**. They are planning a Christmas reunion this year. Mick, his wife, and four daughters hope to make it to the US soon! **Wade Payson-Denney** (C 2003-06, S 2007-09) checked in from the craziness that is Washington, DC where works as a producer for CNN's Political Unit. During the RNC last year in Cleveland he bumped into none other than **Carly Green**! Wade's last trip to camp was the 110th reunion where he had a great time with **Bradley Korman**, **Ben Richmond**, and **Jeff Colt**. A return trip is hopefully in his future. **Ethan Kraus** (C 2000-02, S 2010-11) sends his best from Ottawa. He is still living with **Elsa Dankbaar** (2010-11) and they are getting married in Australia in March. Congratulations Ethan and Elsa!

Send us your updates! We want to hear from you. Let us know where you're living, what you do for fun or for work and anything else you want to share! e-mail us at

jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com

or send a letter to :

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*The Alumni Clocktower Times is
brought to you by Jasmine and
Marianne St-Laurent*

Thank you to Rob Gilpin for his generosity in hosting the
Camp Billings website and helping with our IT needs.

Thank you!!

To all of our contributors: Elise Bragard,
Elyse Lindahl, Brian Klaiß, Casey
Huling, Elissa Malcolm, Sean Collins.

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for all his work and dedication
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and to Wendy Lance for all
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