



THE CLOCK TOWER TIMES

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the Chimes of our Times

Spring 2012

Camp Billings Board of Directors

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Jasmine St. Laurent, Toronto, ON

Yutaka Tamura, New York, NY

Greetings from the Alumni Association...

Dear Billings Alumni,

When I first came on the Billings board of directors in the mid 90's Uncle Ralph asked if I would be the chairman of the alumni association. As a new member of the board it gave me a purpose and I was pleased about that. Aside from the reunions, which I have truly enjoyed, I think I got the most pleasure out of redoing the alumni room with Anne Freitas. Being involved with the alumni has been one of the things I cherish most in my life. I have met many alumni from different years at Billings, including the new campers and counselors each summer, as well as reconnecting with some very dear friends. I have found one very common thread that runs through us all and that is a love of everything Billings! Every summer it has given me a chance to leave my life as a wife, mother and Nana and return to camp for a short time.

Recently, we have lost some very dear friends of Billings. People that in one way or another have made Camp Billings a better place for us all. They will never be forgotten... Anne Wallstrom Freitas, Warren and Marjorie Cone and Everett Blake. Anne was a camper, counselor, water front director, camp director, board member and parent of campers. Warren was on our board of directors for many years and served us well as treasurer. He was also a parent and grandparent of many Billings campers and counselors. Everett was the square dance caller for Billings for many, many years. I believe he was there when I was a camper in the 50's and called for us at our 100th reunion. Square dancing has always been a highlight of every camping season and reunion. All of these people will be greatly missed. They all had two things in common a love of camping and kids. You will see more about each of them in this newsletter.

I am very pleased to announce that Jasmine St. Laurent will be a new member of our board and chairman of the alumni association. I am very excited to have her skills and enthusiasm. It is very contagious! I will be remaining on the board and my love for Billings and interest in everything Billings will go on forever. Please give Jasmine your support and connect her with your alumni info. She would love to have updates for the newsletter.

Thank you for all your support over the years.

Gratefully,

Carolyn Churchill

Co-Chairman of the Alumni Association

To send alumni updates:

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campbillings@gmail.com

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To send address changes:

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To send donations:

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Greetings from the Board...

By Michael Lemme, Board President

CAMP BILLINGS SURVIVES BACK-TO-BACK EARTHQUAKE & TROPICAL STORM IRENE

Last summer got off to a great start by celebrating camp's 105th reunion. Lucky for us, it ended just before Vermont was hit by two historic events. Not only did Camp Billings survive the August 20th earthquake, where tremors were felt through Vermont and all the way up to Quebec City, but also missed being damaged just 8 days later when Tropical Storm Irene hit.

This caused epic flooding not seen in the state since 1927, but passed us by with just a few token downed branches. Most folks across the Eastern US brushed off the Virginia M5.8 quake as a non event, but Tropical Storm Irene dumped over 8 inches of rain across the Green Mountains and turned many Vermont towns into islands overnight. Over 7,000 Vermonters have applied for aid through the Federal Emergency Management Authority since President Barack Obama declared Vermont a federal disaster area. Since Tropical Storm Irene, our Board of Directors meetings, normally held in White River Junction, have been moved to Quechee. This is partly to help support the town whose covered bridge is still hanging by a thread over the Ottauquechee River. Our hearts go out to any alumni who may have been affected by the storm.

Since the last edition of the Clock Tower Times, we've had two productive Board meetings. I'd like to report our work on several major projects, both for improving our infrastructure and program areas. In the upcoming year we plan to: spin Cabin 1 around to face the lake and add a (first-time ever) covered front porch, add two new cabins on Girl's Senior Row (and remove the tents on Girl's Senior Row), and expand the Craft Shop. We presented our building plans to the Town of Thetford's Development Review Board for approval. I am happy to announce all of our plans were approved on April 10th! We also have to pass the State of Vermont's Act 250, which regulates environmental and historic resources. We are anticipating positive results there as well at some point in May. Once Act 250 is complete, construction can begin as soon as camp ends, well in advance of Summer 2013. Many thanks to Board member Vicki Smith and our Project Manager, Joe Jones, who have been working on these projects.

As alumni, we should all be extremely proud of how we successfully raised \$500,000 for the Centennial Fundraising Campaign. Again, huge thanks to Jim Gately whose initial \$250,000 matching grant spearheaded us in the right direction! Being a 106 year old camp, our infrastructure is in need of restoration and we keep a fine balance on monies directed towards the physical plant and camper program improvements. Your Board seriously debates how to wisely spend your hard-earned contributions. We put together well written requests for proposal and obtain three bids from contractors before making our decisions. It's now been five years since we raised these funds. We have used some of the funds to restore three of camp's major buildings, all built over 100 years ago: Sunnyside, The Guest House (Cupola Cottage), and Pinewold. We greatly improved the staff living quarters above the maintenance and shower building, and we just constructed our Ropes Challenge Course (complete with campus-crossing zip lines and giant swings) which has quickly become camp's favorite program area! This fall, we will double the size of the Craft Shop. There will be two front porches and a covered outdoor area! Two new Girls Sr. Row cabins will replace the three tents. This will once again afford us the view of the lake AND bring back the open green space to this part of campus. These improvements will undoubtedly ensure an ever improving experience, most importantly for our campers, but for our staff and alumni as well!

Before signing off, a donation of historic proportions was just bestowed to Camp Billings. The Slack family has deeded their cottage, We-own-it, over to Camp Billings! For over 50 years Barbara and Al Slack have been part of our camp family. You can read all about the history of the Slack Family and We-own-it in this issue of the Clock Tower Times! For now, summer is fast approaching and your Board wishes everyone a happy spring and "Cheers", as Uncle Ralph Lawrence always said, to Summer of 2012. Let the fun begin!

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





Greetings from the Director...

The Evolution (not revolution) of Billings in our Second Century By Bob Green, Director

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a wonderful weekend in June as we celebrated the 105th Anniversary of Camp Billings with a couple hundred of our closest friends! It was great to see so many people who transcend the generations of campers and staff that have made our little corner of the lake such a magical place. Once again we assembled to play well, eat well and of course, drink pretty well too. What is so great about a Camp Billings reunion is not only the surprise of seeing familiar faces from long ago, but the immediate reconnection that takes place among our alumni, picking up where they may have left off three years, or three decades ago!

Much of what you may have experienced at camp during your tenure with us remains the same. The culture and traditions continue to be passed from generation to generation. We have colors, camp duties, swim lessons and evening program just as it may have happened over a century ago. We still play capture the flag, have a staff hunt, and suffer the forfeits of Jacks Alive. For forty one summers Larry Drew has lined everyone up along the road for the Annual Race Around the Lake. For forty five years the third session remains the home of the annual camp musical. And at the end of each season our camp family is in tears as the triangle slowly moves away from our shores, signifying the end of another great summer.

But while much remains the same, we continue to evolve to meet the changing needs and interests of our campers and their families. Where we once ate chipped beef on toast or frozen fish sticks we now serve chicken ceasar salad and fresh locally grown produce. Every decade or so the primary source of where our campers come from changes, too. When I was a camper it was Freeport, New York that was the pipeline. Later on it became Summit, New Jersey. And today we get more campers from Burlington, Vermont than anywhere else. What started with one family of French Canadians in 1967 has evolved into some sessions with as much as twenty percent of our kids coming down from Quebec to spend time at Billings.

Our program has changed a great deal as well. Each year we work towards trying to introduce something new, something fresh to keep our returning campers surprised and delighted. Over the past decade we have added photography, drama, film making, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, tae kwan do, painting, gardening and of course last summer our high ropes course and adventure challenge program to our menu of program choices. This coming season we will be starting a "dry" (no kilns) ceramics program as we inch towards the construction of our new craft shop in the fall. Traditions, rituals and values will always be a constant as Camp Billings moves through the twenty first century. New challenges and new opportunities await every generation of Camp Billings children and staff so that the 150th Anniversary can be as meaningful to them, as this past one was to all of us.

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.

In Memoriam

Anne Wallstrom Freitas (1943-2012)

This past January a very special Billings alum passed away, Anne Wallstrom Freitas. She was diagnosed with ALS, after two long years with undiagnosed symptoms. She fought a hard, courageous battle, and was supported by her loving family, Billings family and many life long friends and the organization Compassionate Care ALS. Anne died on January 15th, 2011. She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, friend and wore many caps at Billings over the years. Anne, was a valuable, active member of the Camp Billings board of directors for many years and her many talents will be greatly missed.

Anne met her husband John at Billings when they were only 6 years old. They were both there to drop off older siblings. Anne and John met again when they attended camp in 1951 together and continued their friendship. Anne was a camper and CIT and continued on as the senior counselor in cabin four for many years. She worked on the water front and later became water front director and with husband John, Directors of Billings after Ralph Lawrence retired.

Anne attended Wheelock College and graduated in 1964 with a degree in elementary education. She taught school for a few years in Vermont and Massachusetts. John and Anne married in 1967 and after moving back to Auburndale, Ma. (where she grew up) she started her own daycare program. Anne and John stayed close to camp. They were eventually asked to be the water front directors in 1973 and raised their three children at camp summers, Johnner 39, Beth 37, and Kate 33.

Anne was a second mother to many. For years she was the senior counselor in cabin 4 (now 5). Anne and John were waterfront directors from 1973 to 1990. Together they made Billings waterfront safe for many children through the years. Anne learned much of what she passed on from her very enthusiastic teachers, Conrad Hubert and Charles Crowley, as she worked on the waterfront with them from her CIT years through to being a member of the senior staff. She did so much to organize and direct the waterfront activities on a daily bases as well as organizing many boat tests to make sure that the Camp Billings swimmers passed the most difficult swim test of their young lives. She did this by helping them become confident swimmers and voicing support for them all along their swim. She taught children to be proud of their accomplishments and work hard to achieve them.

She and John became Camp Billings Directors from 1996 through 2000. Together they helped camp work through a very difficult time following the microburst in 1996, their first year as directors. Anne and John kept every child and staff member safe and kept camp open for the summer, even though there was considerable damage... an amazing feat. In a very short time, they had camp cleaned up and a large tent brought in to take the place of the rec building, Dartt Hall, which was demolished. As directors they continued to run camp as a safe and healthy place for young people to summer.

After finishing as camp directors they both became members of the board of directors. Every Spring Anne made herself available weekends to head up to Billings and clean out the many gardens and replant them with new flowers for the upcoming camping season. Whenever someone was needed at camp to check on things or meet with someone, John and Anne always made themselves available to help out. Anne worked with Bob Green to help make his transition as director a smooth one and continued to be a wonderful support to him. Anne was always working to improve Billings for the next generations. She never expected nor wanted any mention of all that she did, choosing to do everything behind the scenes.

Anne played a huge role in many reunions, but she was especially invaluable during the preparation for the 100th celebration and the 105th, and as a young camper she was there for the 50th! Her knowledge of camp and assistance in all areas of the reunion as well as the actual weekend were invaluable. She and John ran the daily programs for the weekend and Anne helped in the kitchen and at registration as well as being the treasurer. The last reunion must have been especially hard for her as she could no longer speak. Although unable to get around she still attended and greeted people at the 105th, she wrote answers to all kinds of questions, held the meetings at her home and helped out as treasurer. Her good humor and help never waned. John, her daughters, and mother helped her with this also. When Uncle Ralph died and we decided to have a memorial service at camp, she was there with her help once again.

On Saturday, June 16th, we will hold a memorial service for Anne. We are looking forward to this opportunity to show our gratitude and appreciation for all that Anne has contributed, over many years to the past, present and future of Camp Billings. We would love to have you join us.



Four generations on the green benches: Anne with her older daughter, Beth Freitas Crocker; her oldest grandson, CJ; and her mother, Helen Wallstrom.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE ANNE FREITAS



 ANNE W. FREITAS 
October 22, 1943- January 15, 2012

You are invited to Camp Billings, on beautiful
Lake Fairlee, to celebrate the life of a very
treasured woman, Anne Freitas.

June 16, 2012
1:30 Service
Finger Foods will be available



RSVP: by form or
efcrocker@gmail.com
k8ydid@gmail.com
60 Apple D'or Road Framingham, MA 01701

MEMORY BOOK: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Your Memories...

Our plan is to put together a book full of your memories of Anne, what she added to your camp experience, your knowledge of life, and any other funny/memorable/touching moments that shows who she was. We are all so lucky to have had Anne impact our lives in so many ways. Please write your thoughts down and send them along.

Your Photos...

If you have any photos of Anne at Billings, please share them either by donating the photo or scanning it in and emailing the digital version.

DEADLINE FOR MEMORY BOOK SUBMISSIONS:

September 1, 2012

We want everyone to have a chance to contribute their thoughts and stories. You will have a chance create these during this day at camp, but are more than welcome to send it in from home.

IF COMPLETED BEFORE OR AFTER THE EVENT

MAIL TO:

BETH CROCKER
60 Apple D'or Road
Framingham, MA 01701

EMAIL IT:

EFROCKER@GMAIL.COM

IN CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE...ANNE FREITAS

Saturday, June 16, 2012* Camp Billings* 1:30pm

Name: _____ Years at Camp: _____ #Attending: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Email: _____

RSVP: Beth Crocker, 60 Apple D'or Road, Framingham, MA 01701

efcrocker@gmail.com

Kate Rosenbaum k8ydid@gmail.com

Timely RSVP's will allow us to make adequate plans for the most meaningful celebration

In Celebration...

1:30pm

Share memories through the decades. Anne was a integral part of camp for 60 years; as a camper, staff member, Waterfront Director, Camp Director, Board of Directors member, and dedicated alumni. Sing camp songs and listen to memories of Anne.

3:00pm

Enjoy a variety of finger foods while you continue to share stories with one another. Walk around camp and visit the Alumni Room.

4:30pm

Plant a plant!

One of Anne's favorite things to do at home and at camp was to make it even more beautiful with flowers. Please join us in helping to keep Anne's spirit alive at camp and plant a flower in her honor.

5:30pm

Colors: Lower the flag and say good-byes



Reminder:

No one will be allowed to spend the night on campus, please do not ask. There are many hotels in the area. If groups want to get together in the evening, it is requested that they do it off campus. We hope you will respect these wishes as Director Bob Green and his staff need to get camp ready for the camping season to open the following week.

Thank you.



New Alumni Association Chair: Jasmine St. Laurent

by Carolyn Churchill

I would love to introduce you all to my successor, Jasmine St. Laurent. She is from Ontario, Canada, and joined the board of directors last November. We are all looking forward to having her join us on the board.

I first met Jasmine when I was up at camp doing work on earlier reunions. She always was so willing to help and so in 2006 I asked her if she would be my volunteer chairman for the 100th reunion. Not only did she do an outstanding job, but at the end of the weekend she took time to send me her thoughts on making it better the next time. When the 105th rolled around I went right back to Jasmine and was not disappointed.

I hope you will email her with your alumni updates and become acquainted with her so that you can fill her in on anything we might do to improve the alumni association for you all. Below Jasmine has answered some of my questions about her Billings experience and I know they will be of interest to you.

Carolyn: How did you learn about Billings?

Jasmine: My friend Chloé Deraiche in grade 9 could not stop talking about her past summer at Billings.

C: When did you first come to camp?

J: Ralph first hired me as a CIT in 1992. Before then, I was a camper at three other camps (a canoe and a horseback riding camp, both in Quebec) starting from the age of 8. I had applied to go to Billings because I was ready for leadership roles and my camp at the time did not have a similar CIT program. I had no idea my life was going to change so dramatically. The funny thing is that when I was 8 and 9 years old, I was very homesick and cried so much that my parents had to pick me up after I went on a hunger strike. Then, when I was 15 and through my twenties, I cried when I had to leave camp!

C: Were you a camper and counselor?

J: I was a CIT, then a second year CIT and CA and I was a first year counselor at 17. I was always a counselor in a tent on girls senior row and a waterfront staff. I was song leader and editor of the CTT for 3 summers.

C: What were your favorite things to do at camp?

J: Swim in Lake Fairlee (I swam across the length of the lake twice - in about 2 hours each), sing in the dining hall and at various campfires, talent shows, chapel etc., and lead evening program.

C: Was there anyone who had a great impact on your life there?

J: Ralph, as I explained when he died (it is still on the website if you want to see). I don't know who I would be if it were not for his confidence in me. All the international staff inspired me to travel - and now I have been to the seven continents!



C: How do you think camp helped shape your life?

J: Camp gave me so much self-confidence and allowed me to shape who I am as a dedicated and positive person. That's how my camp friends saw me in the summer when I was a teenager, and over time, I just stayed like that all year! I also learned leadership skills that are still important to me in my career as a teacher and educational tour planner. My family was not very religious, so camp chapel is where I shaped my spirituality! My friends had a big hand in that! Babbie Lester (McComb) and Beth Crocker (Freitas) got me reading and collecting little inspirational quotes in a notebook that Jen Holm gave me - and I still have it, and many more by now.

Camp is also a big part of my family! I invited my sister Marianne to come as a camper in 1994 and some fifteen years later or so she married Casey Huling. Lucca and Cecilia, their children, are growing up at camp just like the Freitas and Lance kids. This is so special for me.

C: What made you keep coming back?

J: The people. My Billings friends are still my truest friends. The traditions. I love tradition and going to camp in itself was THE tradition. Packing a trunk, bringing weird things to make the campers laugh and Christmas lights and glow in the dark stars to decorate the tent. Inventing

Jasmine St. Laurent with fellow board members Beth Freitas Crocker and Mike Lemme after running the Round the Lake Race.

new traditions. All the hugging and singing.

C: How important do you think the alumni are in keeping camp alive?

J: Well I love that camp is a non-profit organization, so alumni are in itself the stewards of the most wonderful place on earth! The Board is an important group of alumni who volunteer to bring their professional and life skills to the functioning of camp. I think that all the alumni, young and old, hold memories of camp in their hearts which preserve the traditions of camp. They are part of the spirit of camp that will never die. That's why I think the reunions every 5 years are so magic. The alumni infuse camp with their multi-generational camp spirit, and in turn, camp fuels the alumni with new energy to bring back to their other lives. I loved helping to plan the last two reunions, and I am looking forward to chairing the committee of the 2016, 110th!!!

Other tidbits from Jasmine:

I am a history geek so I am looking forward to sharing Camp's history with the alumni. Also, I just married Cameron Brady who went to another camp in Ontario that he loved very much, but I accepted his proposal only on the condition that our future children attend Billings!



ALUMNI NOTES

Jon Cone (BOD) sends an adorable photo with the following info: Addison Saur and Marianne Vollebregt Camp Billings Campers 2018. Addison is the daughter of Marjorie (Cone) Saur and Marianne is the daughter of Jessica (Cone) Vollebregt. The proud grandparents are Jon and Nancy Cone.



Emily McKay Graeper (Novis) and her husband, Chip, welcomed twins Augustus William (5.5lbs) and Bender McKay (6.2lbs) on 4/25/2011.

Jamie O'Halloran (Camper, CIT 80's) wrote:

"Just writing to get a copy of the Clock Tower Times fills me with memories and emotions. Here are some of the many memories flooding back as I look at the website.

I had a friend die back in Burlington while I was at Camp for the first time and I remember Ralph consoling me and even giving me a scholarship to come back when I told him I wasn't going to be able to come back after the funeral. He made such a strong impression on me and we exchanged a letter or two through my college years. As a camper I was in the production of Carousel, I was Jigger Craigen as I recall. (As luck would have it my high school ended up doing the musical and I was in the cast). Wow, I think I was even Honor Camper or runner-up that year. I do remember getting into a bunch of trouble but I can't remember what about. I guess that's just par for the course. There was also some counselor who was a great runner and had a hundred t-shirts in his cabin. I think I actually ran in that 5K around the lake too. I was best friends with a guy named Willy from NYC. I seem to remember ending up at the nurse's cabin quite a bit after various mishaps.

I remember the latrines and having to clean them. That was one of the most valuable lessons, not to be above any kind of work and not to be adverse to the unpleasantness in life.

The songs before dinner (or was it after) were also a high point for me. I still remember a bunch of them and have tried to teach them to my kids.

As a CIT I was assigned to Drama and Sailing and I remember placing first in a regatta or two on the lake as a camper. I think we raced Norwich and maybe some all girls camp? I remember getting crushes and 'dating.' I had forgotten how much growing up I really did at Camp Billings."

Meredith Cone (C & S 90's-00's) has been living in Portland, OR for a few years. She is now the director of a school.

Sarah Halton (C & S, CIT Director 90's-00's, BOD) and her husband, Steve, welcomed a daughter, Lia Halton-Kunitzky on September 10th, 2011 at 6:16 am, weighing in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

Erin (Boyd) Allen (C & S 90's) and her husband, Lee, welcomed a daughter, Margaret Kaye (Maggie) on August 15, 2011.

Marianne St. Laurent (C & S 90's-current) and Casey Huling (C & S 80's-current) welcomed a daughter, Cecilia Jane King Huling: Oct 4th 2011; 7:47am; 9lbs 1oz.

Jasmine St. Laurent (S 90's, BOD) married Cameron Brady on Dec. 30th. These alumni were present: Marianne St-Laurent (maid of Honour), Babbie Macomb Lester (Bridesmaid), Beth and Kate Freitas, Anne-Isabelle Gingras, Paule Dupuis, Josh and Annie Novis, Philippe Canac-Marquis, Yutaka Tamura and Paul Behar. Lucca John Bird was a ring bearer and Casey Huling made the most delicious wedding cake in history. My brother Jacob St-Laurent (camper 1993) played the guitar for the precessional song performed by Casey Huling.

The Ol' Camp Billings Store - Online!

Get all your Billings gear before the reunion! 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.

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 since the last newsletter was prepared.

The Uncle Ralph Memorial Fund

Carolyn Chapman Bishop

Joan M. Mason

In memory of Win & Grace Mason
Ernest Stevens

Camperships

Diane H. Levine

Sandra Freitas Smith

In memory of Everett Smith

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Paul Behar

Katie Bianchi

Kyle Bourke

Gerard & Concetta Boyce

Eliza Cooke Browning

Carolyn Churchill

continued...

CAMP BILLINGS 105th REUNION, June 2011

By Jasmine St-Laurent

Once again camp mates assembled at Billings for the 105th anniversary of our dear old camp. The reunion spanned from Friday, June 17th to Sunday, June 19th 2011 for the We are Billings! One hundred five years of camping fun celebration.

Alumni young and old took planes, trains and automobiles to meet at our home away from home on the shores of Lake Fairlee. Some alumni came solo, and reconnected with old friends, some came with their significant other who were experiencing Billings for a first reunion, and some came with their whole family. Bunk beds in the camp cabins were available for lodging while some participants rented cottages in the area. We feasted all weekend long thanks to Casey Huling, Master CB chef and his dutiful kitchen crew. All in all, the camp was alive with that old CB spirit.



On Friday, the courts and boats were open for alumni to play along as well as free swim and colors to bring back special memories. We had dinner in the dining hall followed by a cocktail party on the Clocktower lawn where alumni had the opportunity to catch up. There was also a family soccer game on Rainshadow Field across the street spearheaded by Willie Crocker.



After Reveille on Saturday morning, alumni and staff met for colors before enjoying breakfast and camp songs in the dining hall. Once camp duties were completed, alumni enjoyed program areas around camp, as well as Weird Games on the CT lawn, which included "A Ha," "Chuck the Chicken," "Caterpillar" and "Junkyard Races." (see pictures) Weird is fun.

In the afternoon, Yutaka Tamura organized a few friendly games of Ultimate Frisbee and Soccer on Rainshadow Field. There was also a hot dog and pie eating contest. Still the reigning champion after twenty years, Marc-André Lafleur finished his pie first. Runners up should speak to him to learn more about his trademark technique. Little kids (young and old) ran around camp with their faces painted thanks to Kate Freitas Rosenbaum and friends, while some alumni enjoyed a relaxing pontoon ride around the lake.

In mid-afternoon, we all joined under the big tent for the reunion ceremony hosted by our Benevolent Emperor Bob. We sang songs about disasters, drinking and oppression of minority groups from the Camp Billings songbooks before enjoying a State of the Camp Address by Mike Lemme, the President of the Board of Directors. Helen Wallstrom (a.k.a. Grammy for Johnner, Beth and Kate Freitas) and Arlene Sylvester (Marti Warren and Carolyn Churchill's mom and Hunter's Grandma (camper 90s), were awarded an Honorary Board Member Award for many years of service to camp. Both came to Billings as campers in the 1920s and were the first (and only for many years) women to serve on the Camp Billings Board of Directors. Next, Emperor Bob told his guests about what America could learn from Camp Billings, which really proved that if all places were like Billings, the world would be a better place. French-Canadian Guru Philippe Canac-Marquis spoke about the alumni scholarship project he has initiated to send a camper to best place on earth every year. The Lost Generation of that 70s show took up the challenge and have been working on a campership scholarship as well. Finally, we heard from our camp mom, Carolynn Churchill who thanked everyone for the part they played in making the 105th reunion a great success. The Musical Finale was impressive. Emperor Bob had arranged for the Cast of Glee to perform on the CT Lawn. Wow. What a camp.



The rest of the afternoon was enjoyed by all as alumni attended a cocktail followed by a cookout, square dance called by Larry Drew and talent show hosted by Brian Kauffman. On Sunday morning, alumni gathered for a non-denominational hug-in at the Camp Chapel and soon sad goodbyes on the Clocktower Lawn were exchanged as we all took our various routes home. Vermont State troopers reported a few accidents on the I-91 and I-89 involving CB alumni who experienced poor visibility due to their tears.



Giant thanks and hugs go to Carolyn Churchill, who as the Alumni chairperson, coordinated the 105th anniversary committee. Thank you to the Freitas family for their unrelenting work in planning this event, especially Anne who will be dearly missed in the preparation of future reunions. Big thanks go to Laura Bussey for managing the reunion registration for months leading up to the event, and thanks to Carol Miller-Reddekopp and Marie Bernatchez for helping with registration during the reunion. Many thanks to Jon Cone and family for providing a camp store full of CB souvenirs and clothing. Visit the online store at www.campbillings.org to place your order if you missed out.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to Bob Green, and the summer 2011 Camp Billings and Maintenance Staff for preparing camp for the reunion and for operating the program areas a week early, so that the alumni and future campers be able to play at camp. Thanks for all the extra help with parking, set up, participation in the talent show and everything else that should not go unnoticed. Most of all, thank for infusing camp with your passion and spirit for the magic eight weeks experienced by the CB campers. You are Billings!

SEE YOU IN JUNE 2016 for the 110th Reunion!!!!

In Memoriam

Warren M. Cone

Warren M. Cone, 88, a US Navy Rear Admiral whose 35 year military career included five sea commands, died December 7, 2011 in Hartland, Vermont. He was married to Marjorie Nutting Cone for 66 years before his death.

Upon his retirement, Warren Cone joined the board of directors at Camp Billings and served 30 years as the treasurer. Warren Cone was recruited by Dr. Hurd as a counselor and spent one summer at Camp Billings. He loved sharing the joys of Camp Billings with his family and over the years many family members have attended camp, thanks to Warren and Marge's dedication to Camp Billings.



Admiral Cone, a resident of Hartland since 1977, was born in Woodstock, VT. Besides his very decorated Naval Career, he was very active in the Windsor Rotary Club, serving as President 1984-5, and a Paul Harris Fellow. He also served as Vermont Commissioner of Public Safety, District Three Environmental Commission and Member of the State Environmental Board, Justice of the Peace and Chairman of the Board of Civil Authority in Hartland, member of the First Congressional Church, Incorporator and Trustee of Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Member of the Hartland Nature Club, and an avid golfer and cross county skier.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Stephen Cone and Dr. Theresa Cone of Clayton NJ, Jonathan Cone and Nancy Cone of Hartland VT. He was a proud grandfather of Amy Glidden, Lisa Gaudet, Tim Cone, Meredith Cone, Jessica Vollebregt, and Marjorie Saur. Warren Cone was also a great grandfather of Addison Emeline Saur (Billings Camper 2018), Marianne Louisa Vollebregt (Billings Camper 2018), and Mason Matthew Glidden (Billings Camper 2019).

We-Own-It... A Historic Event

By Carolyn Churchill

This past summer the Slack Family bestowed an historic and significant donation on Camp Billings. Barbara Slack, a friend of Billings for many years turned over the keys to her family cottage.

We-Own-It was built in 1904, by a student at Dartmouth College. It is one of the oldest buildings on Lake Fairlee and probably the oldest on the Billings property. It is a 1 1/2 story gable roof cottage with a wonderful porch that wraps around the front. The cottage sits directly on Lake Fairlee. One of the nicest parts of it are the double front doors that open directly onto the porch and lake. Barbara Slack's husband Al's family became involved in the cottage when his dad's sister married Will Jenkins, who had purchased the property right after it was built. Their first summer there was in 1905. Al's Uncle Will owned it and eventually gave it to his extended family for their use. Barbara remembered that all of the extended family had wonderful memories of vacations there, especially the fact that this was where they all learned to swim. The gentleman that built it became a successful Worcester, MA doctor and would show up every summer to visit the family. Barbara said that Al's Uncle lived in Post Mills and would come to the cottage in a horse and buggy for many years. He had a shed that housed the horse and the outhouse. This shed remains in some degree opposite the boys cabin 15.

Sometime in the 60's the cottage came down to the Slack's and they bought out the last family member to own it exclusively. They continued to share it always with their extended family and until a few years back was a welcomed summer retreat for many. The family eventually bought a place on Passumpsic Point and Barbara received company when they were in town. In 1969 Barbara and Al made the decision, after meeting with a Billings board member, to give Camp Billings a life lease on the property. Barbara and her family would continue to use it and camp would take care of it until such time as she no longer lived. We are so thankful that Barbara has chosen to give this to camp now so that she can see the positive changes made to keep We-Own-It for generations to come.



Barbara is in her 90's now, and although a frequent visitor to camp, decided to deed the property to Billings this past summer. Barbara remembers her first summer at We-Own-It was 1946, when her husband returned from the World War 2. Camp is extremely grateful to her for this very thoughtful gift. The Board of Directors are making plans to repair and use this building in the near future. We will let you know as plans are finalized. Over the years a new roof was added and a new foundation, as well as repairs to the porch, but there is still more to be done. If you visit camp this next summer, take time to walk down and see this beautiful spot on Lake Fairlee and if you are lucky enough to catch a glimpse of Barbara, please thank her for her gift.

A historic photo of We-Own-It, from the Billings Archives.

In Memoriam

Everett Blake (1917-2012)

Our beloved square dance caller passed away in January at his home in Orford, NH, a few days shy of his 95th birthday. Below is a re-print of an article in the Fall 2010 edition of the Clock Tower Times, written by Elissa Malcolm.



The Caller of Billings

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 (hmmm, 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."

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Camp Billings Wishlist

Thinking you'd like to donate money for something special to help out camp? Here are some items that would help build programs. For more information, contact campbillings@gmail.com.

- Sailboats (Sunfish)
- Canoes
- Stand Up Paddleboards
- Kite Surfing Equipment

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When Dogs Fly: The Dramatic Retelling of A Story from The 105th Reunion



Meet the adorable pup, Chiquitín. This little dog is owned by Steve “Sven” Connors, the middle of three sons who attended camp starting in 1968 until the late 70’s. Their mother was our dear and beloved camp nurse, Elaine Connors.

Chiquitín was spending some quality time on the office porch watching the reunion-goers splash about in the swimming area. There may have been a chipmunk or two running around. Certainly the hooting and hollering of future campers playing in the beach volleyball area was enough to keep any dog entertained. Here is where the story gets dramatic! Or rather, here’s where we speculate about events that led to the dramatic ending.

Chiquitín was not the only dog that attended the reunion. There were at least two others, Wheaties and Jemima. They were in the office with their respective owners, Bob Green and Laura Bussey. Here is a possible scenario: these ferocious (read: docile and happy) dogs barked at Chiquitín until the poor little dog was in all in a froth and needed to escape the office porch and the bullying. Another possible scenario: Chiquitín really had to pee and didn’t know how to get off the office porch. Yet another scenario: Chiquitín saw some super fun stuff happening on the waterfront and just couldn’t wait to join. Who knows?

Enter Kate Freitas Rosenbaum. She was on the waterfront, spending time with her friends and family. She looked up and saw Chiquitín walking on the edge of the office railing (the RAILING!!). She yelled at him to go back on the deck. With some quick thinking (a skill learned at Billings, no doubt), she grabbed a towel just in case. Chiquitín apparently saw this as his golden opportunity to escape and leapt into the towel in Kate’s arms. Kate went flying backwards and landed on her rear in the sand. She was a bit puzzled at this since the dog only weighs about 8 ounces. Kate got up, dusted herself off and the dog was saved.

Although we can speculate and debate the cause of Chiquitín’s jump, we were all glad that it ended well. The photo is of Kate, Sven, and Chiquitín, recounting their adventures later in the evening.