



The Clocktower Times

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the chimes of our time.

Fall 2018

Bye Bye Bob – Thank You.

The first time I heard of Bobby Green was in the mid 1990s while going through Uncle Ralph's old typewritten staff manual from the 1970s which were photocopied in purpleish ink. The manual was full of quotes from this legendary man, "Bobby Green," who seemed to be able to capture the spirit of Camp Billings like no other. I had not met him, but the way he wrote about Billings gave me goosebumps and I knew we were kindred spirits. Over the years, I watched him in awe from afar at alumni reunions or on race day as he came in for board meetings, or to drop off his daughter Carly. I was hopeful that he would know my name some day. When Bob became the director, I came to visit during the summer and was amazed that camp was even more fun for the campers with him as the helm. When I thanked him for this, Bob said he was just grateful to be the current steward of Camp Billings. Humble words for someone who has dedicated more than three quarters of his life to the place. Even as a crowned emperor, Bob has never acted entitled at camp. Up until his last day as camp director this summer, Bob never ceased to strive, to up the ante with special events, to repeat that WE are HOME at Billings, to ensure Billings remain the best place on earth - and he has more than succeeded. Bob has always made me feel at home at

Billings and this has been indescribably important to me and the same is true for thousands of others. We all owe Bob so much for keeping the fierce spirit of Billings alive, all while bringing Billings in the 21st century. Thanks Bob.

This issue is dedicated to you. Enjoy!

Jasmine St-Laurent

CTT Co-Editor / Board of Directors



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Greetings from the Board....

By Michael Lemme, Board President



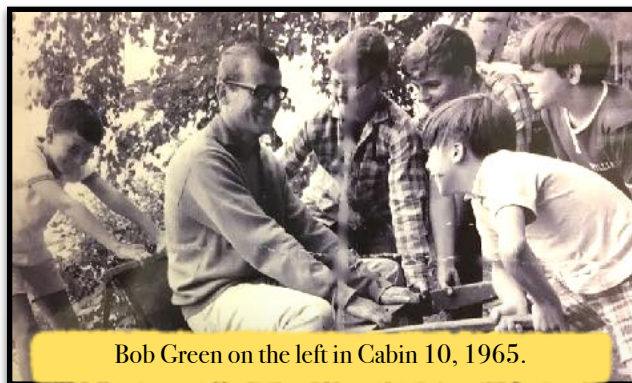
Bobby Green retires from Camp Billings. A History of the past 18 Great Years.....

Bobby was my counselor in Cabin 15 back in 1974 and when he became director 27 years later I wasn't all that surprised. His love and enthusiasm for camp back then, as it is now, hasn't changed. He was the perfect pick. He brought this love for camp coupled with his management and leadership skills developed from his years running a large company of radio stations and this combination has successfully put Camp Billings on top as one of the best camps in New England.

Bobby was a camper from 1966 - 1977. He was a member of the Board of Directors from 1984 - 1999, became the Director In Training in 2000, and has spent the last 18 years as Director from 2001 - 2018. Add all these years up and Bobby has spent a whopping 47 years at our Dear Ole Camp. Bobby has attributed much of his success to our ability to work TOGETHER, with the Board of Directors, and a tremendous continuity of Staff that he has been able to cultivate during his tenure. I would say the biggest part of what made Bobby a great Director was his philosophy of keeping camp FUN and making the overall environment where EVERYONE is accepted! This is why camp has remained full year after year. Here are some of the highlights over the last 18 years.

STAFF CONTINUITY

One of the most important success stories we have had is our ability for Staff Continuity. They love our Fine Dining Evening at Chez Larry, The Staff Softball game, making our Pre-Camp Video and the Tee Shirts unveiling. By the end of Pre-Camp, at least 20 of our Senior Counselors are Red Cross certified lifeguards and our entire staff is trained in First Aid and CPR. There has been no greater tool for recruiting our Sr Staff than our CIT Program and we have had only 2 CIT Directors over the past 16 years as well as only two Maintenance Directors, One Waterfront Director and our Nurse In Training Program (NIT) has solved the problem of the ever hard to fill Full Time Nurse position. We have also had the luxury of a decade of continuity in the Kitchen. In 2001 our menu consisted of mostly fried or pre-cooked foods: we had 2 cooks. Today we have 4 cooks and a menu that consists primarily of locally purchased fruits and vegetables, a salad bar, and nothing fried or pre-processed. Food at Camp Billings is now one of our greatest assets.



PROGRAM AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Beginning with our Craft Shop expansion and Pottery Studio, to our new Ropes Course, new Pontoon Boat and new Waterski Boat, an entire new fleet of Sailboats, new Rowboats, a dozen new stand up paddle boards and an expanded Fishing and Water Sports Program. We also schedule Daily Trips Out of Camp. We have Evening Program Specialists and Signature Special Events. Session 1: Hunger Games and 4th of July Celebration. Session 2: Billings Idol or Billings Glee and International Night. Session 3: The Musical. Session 4: Halloween and Country Fair. A major upgrade to our Lights and Sound Systems in Dartt Hall and the Dining Room which makes the signature Barry Manilow Night the best 1st Wednesday ever!

INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

We constructed 3 new cabins, Cabin 1A, AnnieX, and Lucky 13 which allowed for the elimination of the tents and brought back the lake view and Country Club Lawn for our Sr. Girls. We also spun Cabin 1 around and added a beautiful front porch. Annex Lodge is also back on campus again! We renovated Sunnyside, the Guest House and Weownit and have started renting these cottages out in the off season, the profits of which help fund all of these improvements to our Program Areas. We purchased Kozy Nook, and will renovate that as well as Pinewold. We have all new toilets and shower facilities for the entire camp and all new sewer and water lines. We have also made major improvements to our phone and internet, and our new Website provides us with an exceptional new marketing tool and reconnects our valued Billings Alumni community.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am very proud to work with such an amazing group of talented Board members we have here at Billings, some who have been here for over 25 years! It's important for a Board to communicate well with its Director, and to this point I want to thank Bobby for ALWAYS answering my emails and phone calls within 24 hours over the past 8 years while I've been President. We couldn't have had a better working relationship! Bobby is now passing the torch to our new Directors, Sean and Anne Collins and I know they will strive to become the type of Director that Bobby was which will ensure that Camp Billings will remain one of the BEST camps in New England for generations to come. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors Bobby, we salute you for your excellent 18 years of service as the "Emperor" of Camp Billings!



SOLID ALUMNI CORE

All of these improvements never could have happened without the generous support from our Alumni. From our 100th Anniversary and Dear John Campaign Fundraisers, coupled with your yearly contributions help keep camp affordable and allow us to price camp properly to remain viable, competitive and well positioned for the future, and we thank you!

Billings has Mad Love for Bob Green



Every time you write a post on your Facebook wall regarding Camp Billings, that takes me immediately back to the more than 10 consecutive summers attending camp both as camper and CIT! It takes me back, to all the wonderful friends I made from around the states and world, it takes me back to the fishing, hiking, canoeing trips organized by Billings, it takes me back to the tennis tournaments vs. other camps. It takes me back to the smell of Lake Fairlee in the morning. It takes me back to the salt and pepper game during meals, of course it also takes me back to Cabin Duties!! I could go on and on!! Thanks a million for your wonderful leadership and friendship! Without you and your staff, fun at camp wouldn't have been the same, and of course this red haired Colombian kid, along with all the fellow campers wouldn't have all those great memories, experiences, lessons learned, etc. I'm sure you will always be Camp Billings' Emperor Emeritus!!! I grant you an imperial vow of reverence and, of course, a fraternal hug, -Jaime Baena

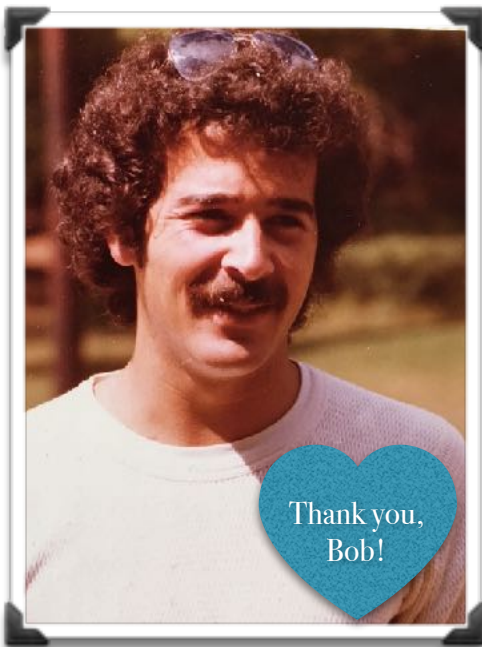
As my dad likes to tell the story, one summer day when he was a young boy, his parents drove past the white gates of Billings, tossed his bags out the window, and the rest was history. Bob has been hooked on Billings ever since. I grew up listening to treasured stories about camp and counting down the days until I was old enough to go myself. Sure enough, it exceeded my expectations, and just a few years into my Billings tenure, my dad became director -- err, Emperor -- Bob. While most kids come to Billings to spend a few weeks away from their parents, I spent the entire summer with my dad, and I wouldn't change it for the world. He's left an indelible mark on camp, and on all of the campers and staff he's presided over during his reign. Thank you for eighteen years of memories. I love you, Dad! -Carly Green

Under Bob, I had the opportunity to have the best job ever- CIT Director for 8 years. Bob was my boss, my summer dad and my friend. He was this to so many. He enabled each and every person's individual talent/creativity. Under Bob, there were no limits, only the possibility for bigger and better. Thank you for so much of your time! There truly are no words. Xoxoxo -Sarah Halton

Well, I can't believe that the era of Camp Billings being led by Bob Green has come to a close. It seems as though it was only a couple of years ago that he first stepped into the role of Camp Director. As with previous directors, Bob is leaving Camp Billings a profoundly better place than when he began. One that continues to foster growth and creativity in a way that only camp Billings can. According to Bob, No idea was a bad idea and this was the key to so many of the crazy camp adventures that differentiated our camp from others. "Ketchup slip and slide? Great! Let's do it!". "Staged all -camp food fight in the dining hall? I love it", Bob would say "It's gonna be awesome!" Bob led camp with openness and enthusiasm, traits we hope to teach our own future Billings kids. Bob, your camp Billings spirit will live on - thank you for all you have done for all of us for the past 18 years. - Jen Parker Cyprus (90-00s)

Bob, while stern and very fun in his own right, was also very fair, which meant a lot to 20 year olds at one of their first real jobs. -Michael Phillips





Bob was absolutely my partner-in-crime. He went along with every crazy idea I had, and proposed twice as many crazy ideas himself. If it was something that would make a truly magical and memorable experience for the campers, he was ready to go. He knew that's what really mattered. Snow in the dining hall and reindeer for Christmas, hypnotists, camp-wide Hunger Games, Halloween at the airport, bussing the whole camp to Tyler's house, hot air balloons and fire-breathing dragons for Country Fair Breaks..... the list goes on. When people questioned how difficult or time-consuming it would be, he encouraged everyone to put in the hours and make it happen. I learned so much about leadership, organization, humor, and creativity because of the way he mentored me. He was always on my side, guiding me through the challenges of management and sticking up for me when needed. In asking me to be Program Director, Bob certainly changed the course of my life. Years before that, he took a chance on me when I randomly emailed him as a 19 year old college student from England looking for a job at a summer camp. Sometimes it seems like fate that I ended up at Billings, but actually I think that Bob realized from our brief conversation that Billings and I were meant to be. Thanks for being the most inspirational boss, mentor, friend, and co-conspirator I could ask for. -Elise Bragard

Bob has been a great leader and mentor. I remember when I came to Camp Billings in 2007, I had no idea what to expect, not just at the camp but in my life at that time. Bob's leadership mixed with the amazing Billings community gave me new life and for that I am forever grateful for Bob! He has taught me how to be a leader, run a program, command attention and at the same time have fun. Thank you Bob for igniting my life into what it is today. We have had so many great times, love you buddy, "The greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return!" - Bob Green.

Sincerely, Brian Kaufman

I first joined the Billings family at the height of the John+Anne Freitas years. I was too young to understand what directors did, but likened them to the school principal. At that age and era it was unthinkable to foster a relationship with such an authority figure, and as I grew up and got to know the Freitases (Freitii?) I was so pleased to learn that they knew me and cared. When Bob and Jay took over, I'm not sure what changed in me, perhaps it was just age, but I felt a kindred spirit within the new directors. As I grew older and into my years as a counselor I learned countless lessons from Bob - I'm still shocked that he took a chance on me and sent me my CIT 1 letter. My first assignment was Cabin 7, and I was delighted to see that, while kids never change, they were able to forge their own miniature relationships with Bob. Just like kids grow up, I think that under Bob, Camp Billings grew up. When I hung up my clipboard and watched the next generation of kids that were once my 8 year olds take over, they were doing so at a new Camp Billings. Bob undoubtedly left the camp better than he found it, a goal I think should be central to any leader. Camp isn't an orthodoxy, it's alive just like we are, and subject to change. The profound and wonderful change that resonated around Lake Fairlee under Emperor Bob will live through future directors that knew his Reign, and that special corner of Vermont will be the better for it. Thanks Bob. -Jack Campbell ('98-'10)

Dear Bob, Thanks Bob for your years of service to CB – the place, the people, the spirit. You took an already wonderful place 18 years ago and brought to it your distinct energy, creativity, and humor. It's so clear from recent photos of camp that it continues to be a place that fills kids with utter joy and the perfect dose of weird. We are lucky to have you. Thanks for not burning down the Clocktower.

-Kate Hellman

Bob, Thank you for always inspiring us to achieve our dreams. Working with you the answer was always YES and HOW? You always gave us the tools and resources to make any dream a reality and to find the solution to any problem. This enabled us to make camp a truly special place that kids look forward to each summer. Learning to work under pressure and the project management skills I learned from you I use everyday. Thank You! -Justin Barrell

Cheers for picking me up from the White River Junction a day early. It had been a long day of delayed flights etc and I was nervous, but hearing you and Alice Henderson (Stills) tell tales of camp that first night made me feel right at home from the start. All the best for the future Bob. Love, -Ryan McArdle

Dear Emperor Bob -

What a legacy you leave at Camp Billings ! Thousands of campers attended camp during the many years of your directorship. For them Emperor Bob and Camp Billings will always be synonymous - one shared identity for all their treasured memories. That's what's magic about Billings - the happy memories of childhood summers there do indeed last permanently, for a lifetime, and are among our happiest memories. I know that's still true for me at age 82.

And none of those memories happen by accident. They are planned under the director's leadership along with the help of the staff. That's certainly how it worked with you. You used creativity, imagination and your marvelous sense of humor to plan wonderfully fun camp programs for the kids. As I often remarked to you when I was on the board of directors, you ran such a good program that the board never had to spend any time worrying about the program and could just manage the business affairs of the camp.

We all heard the story of the final lunch of the summer one year, during which parents began to arrive to pick up their kids and the kids in the dining hall began to chant "Parents go home! Parents go home!" That's a bunch of kids who are having a wonderful time, are well aware of it, and don't want it to end. And that's thanks to you, Emperor Bob.

We have been immensely fortunate to have had you as a director, Bob. And by "we", I mean Camp Billings as an institution and the thousands of kids who had delightful times as campers under your directorship.

So that's your legacy, Bob. Very few of us leave any sort of legacy. But you leave a hugely splendid one, affecting many lives. I hope it makes you proud. It makes the rest of us proud for you and grateful to you, Emperor Bob. We'll miss you and we wish you all the best of good fortune in the future.

Most cordially yours,
Don Carmichael,
Camper '49-'52, Staff '53-'61, Board of Directors '99-'10

I first met Bob when I was a CIT and his daughter, Carly, was a camper in my cabin. Carly was an adorably vivacious girl who was nothing but smiles and energy and enthusiasm. It was clear where she inherited these traits. Even before Bob became Director, everyone knew who he was; he has certainly always embodied the Billings spirit. Bob has been a wonderful steward of camp and has helped it evolve for a new generation. We are forever appreciative of all he has done and his imprint will remain on camp for decades to come.

-- Eliza Browning

Why we love you Emperor Bob

*For your magic Billings touch
For your unsurpassed "Billings entertainer of the century" Title
For your unique way of guiding and encouraging us on the Yellowstone
Brick Road and cross our personal boundaries*

*For your Strong Softness
For your fidelity to the Billings families and friends
For keeping your secret garden secret
For making Billings an "All included" International Resort
For taking care of others
For your eternal humanity
I LOVE you too my friend*

Gigi Duckett (1967.....



Letter from Sean and Anne:

While we are thrilled to take over as the new directors it, does not come without some pulling of the heartstrings, as we must say goodbye to our boss, mentor, and good friend Bobby Green. For the past 18 years we have seen him continue the legacy of a safe, fun, haven for young people to thrive and discover their best selves. It is truly the end of an empire, as Emperor Bob steps down as our beloved leader. We know we have some big shoes to fill. Whether they be sequined loafers for International Night, orange and green Nikes for tennis, or pink speckled sneakers for strolling around camp, Bob's literal and metaphorical shoes have left quite a trail of footprints for us to follow. Bob brought us special events, crazy spontaneity and humor, and even revolutionized the staff shirts, making the annual reveal a much anticipated event.

Bob prepared us well in our transition this past summer, allowing us to learn by doing and fully taking over the responsibilities of director. For those of you who don't know us, or at least don't know us well, we have been a part of the Camp Billings family since 1997. Between the two of us we have run almost every program area at camp, been in every cabin as staff or campers, and run the office and CIT program. We have 43 years of camp experience between us and look forward to many more. We are both extremely dedicated to improving the lives of young people and are educators in the greater Boston area. We live with our cat, Pan, who ventures up to Vermont every summer--she's keeping her paws crossed she'll be in cabin 5 this year. If you aren't sure what to call us, as we aren't Uncle Ralph, or Emperor Bob, Anne and Sean will suffice, until someone comes up with a nickname good enough to advertise. We could not be more excited to start our directorship at Billings and create new and exciting memories, while continuing our cherished traditions.



When What You Get Is So Much Greater Than What You Give

by Emperor Bob

I have always said that Camp Billings has never been about the lake, the ropes course, Dartt Hall or even the Dining Room for that matter. If we had the same people, who believed in the same shared values, and put them in a city park or the basement rec room of a community center we could still create Camp Billings without any hesitation, and evoking the same passion and fervor that we do each and every summer. Because it's never been about where we are, what we have, or even what we are doing. It's always been about WHO we are, what we stand for, and what we can accomplish together.

So as I proudly pass the torch on to the next generation of great leaders at camp, what I will take with me, what fills my heart, is not my aversion to swimming in a lake (that's why pools were created), or my disdain for the Clock Tower (it

Elise Bragard. Jack Bannister. Bella Beg. Baxter Bishop. Emma Brandeis. Sam Canavan. Ciaran Carson. Renee Cather. Jonas Cole. Anne Collins. Sean Collins. Liam Coppack. Izzy Couturier. Willie Crocker. Jordan Croft. Denise Daigle. Mariele deGuzman. Olivia Echegaray. Sara Fazli. Corby Ferlesch. Shane Freshour. Kathy Garone. Nora Greeley. Justin Hameline. Chase Hayden. Caitlin Hobbs. Casey Huling. Sasha Humphreys. Sadie Jones. Caroline Johnston. Myla Jordan. Stephanie Kocurek. Tori Lancaster. Anna Lance. Henry Lang. Michelle Mahikoa. Madison Mixer. Fernando Morales. Will Pasley. Mattia Polemeni. Callum Price. Dudley Rice. Crystal Rasmussen. Britt Rogers. Greta Roser. Josh Ryan. Becky Sarazin. Emma Schuszler. Dan Schwartz. Elliot Shoemaker. Sadie Smith. Marianne St-Laurent. Fernando Velasco. Bruce Westgate. Len Whitaker. Connor Wright. Hasan Yentur. Kitty Young. Dominika Kowalczyk. Mike Whitcomb. Quinn Francis. Orin Mahikoa. Mariclaire Gatter. Clemence Courteau. Frances Corridan. Jake Clarke. Jack Caswell. Pat Burke. Luke Boardman. Max Berg. Rob Baranov. Ozan Yildirim. Izzy Watson. Jakub Tyrlík. Alison Spasyk. Sarah Shelov. Jake Rosen. Mia Pasley. Mustecb Mutlu. Fernando Menses. Elyse Lindahl. Wendy Lance. Brian Kaufman. Marshall Hespe. Simone Hart. Brian Greeley. Sebastian Godniewicz. Brian Gatter. Tyler Gardner. Meghan Frederick. Nick Erly. Helen Dunlop. Dominique Duff. Parker Densmore. Lora Chatfield. Luke Wilder. Cullen Milliken. Adam Wruck. Stacey Wagner. Adele Tremblay. Rebecca Smith. Mustafa Secen. Chris Richards. Stephanie Zuidervliet. Jakub Vicherek. Therri Tait. Alpaslan Ozel. Matt Robertson. Michelle Pinter-Petrillo. Jane Manby. Brian Klaif. Lisa Kerchberger. Cynthia Downing. Ryan Burhans. Mia Halton. Robert Wozniak. Jodie Davis. Donna Clements. Kayla Castillo. Hank Brandeis. Evan Binney. Balazs Andrassy. Madison Heimert. Maraika Lumholdt. Maeve Honey. Liz Freeman. Aleks Fomichov. Danny Flower. Amie Cooper. Cameron Carlyle. Chris Cafiero. Annie Barker. Olivia Bankuti. Ana Ally. John Henry Bussey. Camille Duceppe. Eoin O'Hannigan. Michal Zagarowski. Justin Windsor. Kelly Sachs. Mac Knight. Larry Drew. Josie Whiteford. Maciej Zielke. Grzegorz Wegrzyn. Helene Schnelle. Aimee Richardson. Wayne Parks. Hannah Parker. Aidan MacColl. Adam Marciniak. Lucie Hladik. Caroline Goggins. Justin Evans. Josefine Ericsson. Patrice O'Carroll. Silas Nelson. Alexie Milliken. Maria Mignano. Roman Miculka. David Nunin. Hope Hart. Mark Hardy. Tom Grylls. Marie-Elizabeth Galarneau. Maddie Dunn. Mayen Colyer. Will Burke. Isaac Moran. Josie Hirsch. Maeve Greeley. Jacob Osborne. Marissa Hutton. Joy Hauser. Valeriy Babur. Lydia Batham. Julianne Besener. Zenaida Blanchard. Elsa Dankbaar. Jessica Duplin. Ella Flett. Jakub Klobut. Ethan Kraus. Jason Kubota. Sarah Payne. Amy Frost. Maddie Farnham. Jae Ellison. Dan Eb. Joe Coutermarsh. Laura Bussey. Deenie Bugge. Sergio Alvarez. Angel Aguilar. Jordan Richmond. Kit Plowman. Sarah Sherwood. AnnaClare Smith. Manon St-Pierre. Holly O'Grady. Ellis O'Connor. Simon Morrow. Zac Moran. Cameron Meyers. Natalie Langhorn. Alice Davis. Alexandra D'Amico. Ben Daly. Laura Conroy. Teddy Kupfer. Jacek Korobowicz. John Kearns. Timmy Johnston. Mary Jackman. Neal Hepworth. AJ Hart. Sarah French. Ariel Farias. Lara Bourgeois. Diana Colt. Jack Lance. Peter Gangi. Reeves Hart. Conner Shea. Stephanie Ellicott. Kate Ellicott. Monika Dunajska. Sam Woods. Mica vonTurkovich. Sherri Sytsma. Emily Smith. Hannah Robinson. Gene Robinson. Brianna Raymes. Anna Pond. Ellen Manby. Megan Lumnah. Roberto Lopez. Jade Ledgister. Emily Pierson. Aaron Bevan. Gina D'Amico. Jeff Colt. Larry Reed. Mary Kelley. Josh Weiss. Mike St. Peter. Tomasz Grusko. Robin Meyers. Bruce Burhans. Tony Bramer. Katy Bussey. Ali Freeman. Tom Garvey. Jackson Zuvic. Gabi vonTurkovich. Rachel Bordin. Brendan Thompson. Gaston Gros. Susan Adshead. Jordan Redell. Abi Wood. Rachel Wood. Caroline Burke. Kelsi Barry. Gabriel Bollmann. Sarah Halton. Jack Campbell. Meredith Cone. Rita D'Amico. Rob Elliott. Alexi Ernststoff. Molly Friedland. Sarah Gardner. Maude Galarneau. Trey Goggins. Nick Graham. Lizzie Graham. Sandy Golden-Dukes. Anna Golden-Dukes.

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Campers and Board Members Honor Bob's Retirement

The whole camp celebrated Bob's retirement this summer during session 3. All campers and staff surprised him with a whole-camp matching T-shirt reveal at lunch with the arrival of a real horse in the dining hall.

Bob spent the afternoon completing challenges at stations around camp animated by campers and staff, which ended with Bob setting a replica of the Clock Tower ablaze on Rain Shadow field and then jumping into the lake. For dinner, the whole dining hall was relocated to the

Clocktower Lawn so that everyone could enjoy Bob's favourite meal: Take Out Chinese food with lemon meringue pie for dessert. The Board of directors also celebrated Bob's achievements at the November board meeting with special gifts. He was then toasted with a melange of sweet and funny anecdotes about Bob's lifetime dedication to camp. He thanked the Board of Directors in return: *"I look back on the past two decades with a great deal of pride in what we accomplished together.... It has been a collective venture in every sense of the word; we have responded to the need for change and the evolving landscape of the industry together to make Billings a secure business and a relevant, happy experience for our staff, our children and their families. Thank you."*

Members of the Board

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In Memoriam...

Helen "Grammy" Louise Rockwood Wallstrom, age 101, died peacefully on Thursday, October 11, 2018 in her home of 72 years surrounded by loved ones. Helen was one of the oldest living alumni of Camp Billings in Fairlee, VT where she spent many summers as camper, counselor, board of director member, Board of Director President and Honorary Director. Camp Billings was always a big part of her life and brought love to her children, grandchildren, and currently her great-grandchildren.

Stay tuned for more details about a ceremony to honor Grammy next spring at Camp Billings.



Summer 2018 Highlights



3 busiest program areas

- Pontoon Program
- Pottery/ceramics
- Brokk Von Program (special Viking Day program, hammering nails into wood to make name plates)



Top 5 evening programs

- Ragnarok
- Voldemort's Wrath
- Rainbow Day
- Rock Drop
- Dances

Top Dining Hall Cheers

"Somebody play with me! I wanna make a three! Waaaah...hyuh hyuh!!!" (Athletics cheer)

"GAGA! TETHERBALL! GAGA! TETHERBALL!" (Junior boys row cheer)

"Oooh oooh let's go sailing! Oooh oooh sail with me!" (Sailing cheer)

Top 3 songs heard at the dances, battle of the bands or Billings Idol

- Lucid Dreams, Juice WRLD (at the dance, BOTB, in the dining hall, everywhere)
- Love Song, Sara Bareilles (sung by Audrey Andrus, winner of Billings Idol)
- The Middle, Zedd



Top 3 songs blasted in dining hall

- Mamma Mia
- Uptown Funk
- Love on top

Top 3 sayings

1. "Ooooooooo" in the style of Baxter Bishop
2. big facts
3. iconic

Top 3 Staff Characters in Announcements

- Meester donut
- Billy & Bonka
- Manitou Quick

Top 3 fashion items

Girls – Birkenstocks, Beaded chokers made in the Craftshop with names spelled out using alphabet beads! ("Alphabet bead chokers"?), Denim skirts/dresses

Boys – Socks & Slides, Flat brim caps, Cuffed shorts

Elise is also looking for anyone who would be willing to write a blog entry for our website. This would be a short text describing why you choose to stay involved with camp, how it influenced you, perhaps something related to our camp philosophy (e.g. fun, play, outdoors, no-technology, free-choice, big loving family, accessible), if you have kids/grandkids that go something related to their experience.

Contact Elise Bragard to get involved:
webmaster@campbillings.org

Need some new shwag? Visit the Camp Billings online store!
www.campbillings.org/store

Alumni Updates



Brooks Day (80S) says her daughter had another wonderful year at camp. She says, “I’m looking for a girl named Julie Young and Ari. Thank you!! My daughter is just loving CB! She can’t wait for next year and is hoping to apply to be a CIT after that!” If you remember Brooks Day, email alumni@campbillings.org and we can put you in touch. And Brooks, visit the alumni room next time you come to camp so that you can show old pictures to your daughter!

—**Jeanne Arbuckle** wrote in to say “it has been a long time since my days as a counselor and CIT director at Billings but I still have such wonderful memories of a magical place made special by the people. I can’t even remember the exact years, but I was there in the mid to late 80’s and those were some of the most memorable summers of my life. I made lifelong friends and still think of Billings as my summer home. I just wanted to send a little update to let you know that I’m retiring this summer after 31 years at Marietta College. I started as the volleyball and softball coach in the fall of ’87 and I’m now retiring as Associate Athletics Director and Softball Coach. It’s been a wonderful career but now it’s time for the next chapter. Part of my enthusiasm for retirement is that I hope to return to camp at some point to help out in some small way. I’m also looking forward to attending some reunions! Best to all!”—**Julie Gauvreau (80s)** “I am French Canadian and I was there to learn my English. I have now a daughter of 10 and I would like to know if it still possible to send a French person to Camp Billings. Nothing seems to have changed since more than 20 years. I have kept some really good memories of this two stays :)” —**John Buskey (1945-1950)** made a donation to support our Big Dig project - water and wastewater project. He says, “As treasurer of the Waynoka regional water & sewer district, I have a special interest in providing safe water and sewer systems for communities, and protecting the environment.” —**Diane Howells** loved Camp Billings! Can’t wait to send my kids! I was a camper for maybe 3 years and loved it. Great memories. Great program! —**James and Laura Nelson** says all four children — Caleb, Hope, Silas and Luke — spent many happy summers at Camp Billings. It has a special place in our family’s hearts.

James Goggins says: Let’s do more reunions! —**Jay Macumber** wrote in to say “It’s coming up 20 years since I first entered the amazing gates of Camp Billings. I was a nervous and excited 24 year old when after 4 flights and a couple of buses I met the wonderful John Freitas at White River Junction. The warmth from Anne & John that I received while jet-lagged.... made me feel “home” immediately. I still smile as I type away on my keyboard when I think of Anne’s warm smile.” My full-time job is managing an independent gated living community of 47 over 55’s. It’s a great place to work... and it’s back in my home-town of Horsham! My fiancée is a pole-fitness instructor and runs our home studio 4 nights per week. My daughter Eva is now 7 and is quite the character... she is already probing me about Camp Billings for when she turns 8 next year! So look-out cabin 5!

“Barbara R. Slack, 100 , of West Fairlee, Vermont, died on 14 November 2018 at Grafton County Nursing Home. Her interest and support extended for over 60 years to Camp Billings on Lake Fairlee where she much enjoyed and participated in their summer camping events.”

-Valley News



Your contributions go a long way

in supporting camp and keeping it sustainable for the future. The program areas, facilities, website, field trips are just a few of the areas that rely on the generous donations from our alumni, parents and friends. With help from our new directors, we put together a current wish list of some specific needs. Please consider donating now so that some of these needs are met for next summer. Please return the donation envelope inclosed in this newsletter or visit our website to donate online: www.campbillings.org Thank you!

Program Areas...

Life Jackets!

Although every camper out on a boat has proven their strong swimming capabilities by passing the boat test, life jackets are still required by camp rules (and the law)! While camp has nearly cycled through all the old fashion orange and white striped life jackets, we always need new ones. From canoeing to sailing, waterskiing to stand-up paddle boarding, life jackets are potentially the most utilized equipment on camp! Donations accepted as well – contact directors@campbillings.org

Instrumental needs

Music is a growing program area at camp and as such the need for instruments is growing. We're specifically in need of guitars (need 4-5), ukuleles (need 3-4) Percussion instruments of all sorts including a drum set, xylophone, bongos, congas, cymbals, etc. We're raising funds to purchase instruments and of course donations are always accepted! So if anyone has any instruments in their attic, garage, shed, or otherwise please contact directors@campbillings.org

How can something that bright be so hard to find?

According to the new the co-director, Anne Collins, (and she promises it's not just because she used to run tennis) tennis balls disappear at camp faster than oatmeal fudge bars off the plates of Cabin 7 campers. We need more tennis balls!

"Faster! Faster! Faster!"

A Cabin 6A camper yells, "Faster! Faster! Faster!" from the tube dragged behind our new and improved motorboat before being thrown into the air and splashing into the refreshing lake. Tubing is one of our most popular program areas and an absolute thrill for all ages. Camp needs new tubes so campers can continue to experience this excitement.

Dude, can you chip in money for gas?

It's often overlooked, but fuel is a necessity for camp and it costs more and more every summer (but you all know that ;). Powering the Ski-Boat, mowers, pontoon boat, camp vehicles for camping and canoe trips all costs money. Ensuring we have funds available means we don't have to charge campers (and their parents) for waterskiing and trips.



Visit www.campbillings.org to support Camp Billings and contribute to the regrow campaign or to the wish list.

Wish List, continued!



Camp Billings is an ever-changing tapestry. This coming summer you will notice that many trees will have been removed. Cutting down large beautiful trees is never an easy decision, but with the safety of our campers and staff in mind, we have made the difficult decision to cut down close to 60 trees.

We worked closely with multiple professionals to come up with a master plan for the trees at camp. We will harvest as much wood as possible for our future building projects and we will have a portable sawmill onsite to make this happen. We will plant a variety of trees that will be enjoyed by future generations attending Billings. We hope to add approximately 40 new trees to the Billings landscape

This is where we need your help! What better way to keep the Billings tradition alive than making a donation to this tree project. In the case of my family, a donation has been made and I look forward to showing my grandchildren the impact they have made.

Please think about donating to help keep our campus beautiful.



Floor Us!

Cabins 10, 11, and 12 all require new floors. Years of sandy boots, soccer cleats, beds being moved around, and whatever other unexplainable wear and tear Sr. Boys can do to a floor have created the need for this important update to these three original cabins.

Spoiled Sr. Rows!

Both Boys' and Girls' Sr. Rows have covered porches where the counselor on duty can keep dry while keeping a watchful eye on campers' intent on some sort of tomfoolery. However, on Boys' and Girl's Jr. Rows, no such protection exists. Camp would like to construct two gazebos or other shelter for this purpose, and to provide additional meeting spaces for our youngest campers to plot their assault on activities.

Office to Kitchen... Office to Kitchen... Come in Kitchen...

As Camp has gotten more and more sophisticated regarding activity areas, such as the ropes courses, updated ski-boat, and pontoon boat, the need for constant communication has become more and more important. With our policy limiting cellular devices in camp (and the fact that there's practically no service) we rely on old fashioned Walkie-Talkies. We're currently short on devices, and would like to ensure that each cabin, program, area, and division leader has a functioning, up-to-date, waterproof, Walkie-Talkie. Help us acquire the tools needed to ensure safe and efficient operations at camp. Over and out...

What's on the Second Floor of Dartt Hall?

Not too long ago, the main attraction of the staff lounge on the second floor of Dartt Hall was the bulky old PC with its dial-up internet. It is time for the staff lounge to get a reboot as well. Our counselors work hard all day making sure campers are having the time of their lives! Let's provide them with an updated and cozy space to recharge.

It's Getting Hot in Here

When at camp, you get to leave most real-world problems at home. Unfortunately, the ever-rising temperatures seem to have made their way to Lake Fairlee. While we have found ways to have nearly every activity in the water on the hottest days of the summer (from crafts in the pontoon boat to basketball in the shallow end), cabins need new fans to keep our tired-out campers cool as they sleep.

"Back when I was in Cabin 5..."

Were you in the cabin that took their cabin picture all squeezed into a single stall in the johns? How about the 1996 production of The Sound of Music? Remember when the Prima Ballerinas were the champions of the Country Fair in 2008? All of these memories and countless more have been preserved in the alumni room off of Dartt Hall porch. In order for them to remain available to browse for generations to come, we need to purchase new picture frames and protective casings for our cherished memories. Don't you want to show your granddaughter that picture of you winning the round the lake race in 1984?

Camp Billings, Inc.

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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 alumni@campbillings.org

or send us mail at :

**Camp Billings c/o Marianne St-Laurent
311 VT-RT 244 Fairlee
VT 05045**



**Buzz Lightyear and Woody
want YOU to donate today!**