



The Clocktower Times

Alumni Newsletter

*Echoes of the chimes of our time.
Fall 2022*

Many of you reading this edition of the CTT were fortunate to have attended this summer's 115th'ish Reunion. And if you were unable to make it, you've likely already heard about some of the many stories and memories made that weekend on Lake Fairlee. We've included some pictures and articles to help recap the event, and we hope those that couldn't make it this time will find their way 'home' in 2026.

This edition's theme is Camp pranks. The longstanding tradition of good hearted summer camp pranks may not be unique to Camp Billings, but we would argue that our dear old camp has pulled off some of the very best! From water bombing your rival cabin's dining room table to counselors moving another counselor's bed to the high dive, these stories stand the test of time.

We hope you enjoy some new camp prank memories shared in this edition as much as we did. And we hope they inspire some creativity for returning campers and counselors ahead of next summer, too!

With love,

Amy Cone Glidden & Meredith Cone



2022 Reunion

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Greetings from the Board...

By Andy Schneider, Board President

I certainly have my list of Billings pranks I consider to be in contention for the title of “best prank ever.” There was Meg Sharkey who stayed up until 4am water-bombing every cup in the dining room in 1999. There was Dave Peskin who, in 2000, successfully took every left shoe in camp and placed them on the clocktower lawn so that every camper and counselor walked to colors with one shoe missing. There was Cabin 15’s brilliantly executed “yard sale” of Cabin 1’s personal belongings in 2001. Of course there was Ben Cheney and Shane Freshour waking counselors up in the middle of the night in 2002 telling them they had a phone call at the clocktower and subsequently placing a 250 lb rock in the counselor’s bed. On the list surely is Tyler Gardner and Brian Kaufman’s successful role-play in 2009 to convince our new international staff of our camp’s deeply religious roots. And perhaps the greatest mystery, which remains unsolved to this day, was the lone wolf who painted Harold’s House orange in the middle of the night and was never apprehended.

I don’t think I really appreciated prank culture when I was at Camp Billings. Only as an adult have I realized how uncommon it is to find the rare blend of creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment required to pull off a great prank, and I haven’t seen any place perfect it as well as Camp Billings has. But what probably makes Billings unique in its prank culture is how a Billings prank can bring the community together, especially when welcoming new members into the camp family. For that reason, my all-time favorite Billings prank is the beautifully simple “matchstick race.”

If you’re rusty, the matchstick race typically takes place at the first campfire of the year and will feature two new senior staff members racing to blow a matchstick across a baking sheet with water filled to the brim. The confederate who sets up the “race” will spend 3-4 minutes getting both sides hyped up, having campers pick who they think will win, and cheering loudly to support their unsuspecting counselor (nobody played this role better than Casey Huling, who spent many years perfecting “the build up”). As the race is set to begin, counting down from 3 to 2 to 1, the counselors lower their face to baking sheet level. “Go!” is yelled, and the counselors begin blowing their respective matchstick only to be immediately drenched as the confederate splashes all of the water out of the sheet. To the best of my knowledge, this prank has a 100% success rate; it has worked every single time since 1906.

More important than the matchstick race’s efficacy is the immediate aftermath. Once the new counselors realize the joke is on them, the sopping wet counselors always laugh, hug, and (usually) try to dump water on the nearest person who has wronged them. But the matchstick race signals something important to its victims - *we picked you because we knew you could handle it, and now you’re one of us. Welcome to the family.*

Nearly all of us have been on both the giving and receiving end of a great Billings prank; it is a tie that binds us together, across sessions, summers, decades, and generations. Next time you’re with your Billings family, share some of your own favorite memories of Billings pranks. It will surely put a smile on your face and remind you of the many reasons we all consider Billings to be family.

Your friend and fellow alumni,
Andy



A Note from CB's Directors, Anne and Sean Collins!

Last summer was one of the most challenging summers of Camp's 116-year-old existence! While most of us had an unbelievable time, we know many of us also had to be sent home due to illness. We want to thank all our families for your flexibility, communication, and dedication to keeping camp healthy and safe. It was devastating to send so many campers home, and we all felt your frustration. Fingers crossed this will be the end of Covid Camp. Thank you all again for your understanding. This was our daughter Teddy's first summer at camp, and it was one to remember. She loved all the singing and being surrounded by the camp community. It made her transition to daycare much smoother than anticipated. Teddy can't wait for her second summer at Camp, where she will most likely be walking and talking!

Some highlights of the summer:

We had an awesome **4th of July** celebration, with fabulous weather. We still have the best fireworks show on the lake, and possibly the Upper Valley.

International Night's theme was Caribbean/Haitian. Michelle and her crew made the most incredible meal. The plátanos were addicting, and that was just the appetizer! We were all stuffed by the time dessert came out. The energy was amazing and we enjoyed a three-hour meal under our new Clocktower Lawn tent!

The Voice: Second Session has the tradition of having some kind of talent-themed competition. Bob began with Billings Idol, followed by So You Think You Can Dance, then Glee, and this year we did The Voice. It included four teams with four celebrity team leaders, including Frank Sinatra and Harry Styles. 24 campers participated. We used the Craft Shop Lawn for the audience and the Craft Shop porch as the stage, complete with red curtains. It felt like a music festival with all the kids sprawled out on the lawn.

Musical: The Musical, Mama Mia, had an outstanding cast of over 100 campers. They made ABBA proud and put on an amazing performance!

We ended the summer with many camper's favorite event: **Country Fair**. The theme was Camp Duties and we got this place looking spotless! The teams consisted of Bail Boats, Dinner Dishroom, Boys' John, Set for Breakfast, Water Flowers, Foreign Flags, Office Clean, and Compost. Owen Kahn led his team, Water Flowers, to victory!

We have already begun hiring an incredible staff for next summer, and can't wait to see you all again on the shores of Lake Fairlee.



Reunion Chair Recap

This summer marked the 115th (technically 116th) Camp Billings Alumni reunion. How amazing is that to think that Camp Billings has been a foundation for kids and adults for over 115 years! Through the years there have been ups and downs, different activities, changes in landscape but through it all, we all still have an undying love for our dear ole camp.

What comes to mind when I think about the 115th-ish Alumni Reunion?!? Silent Auction, cold, Dunking booth, cold, Country Fair, cold, amazing meals, cold.... But despite the cold and windy weather there was plenty of fun, laughs and memories made.

The Reunion had a Country Fair theme and included the crowd favorite tug of war (think Canadians vs Americans, camper's vs adults, alumni vs staff), balloon toss, sack race, horse shoes and the dunking tank. For those who got dunked, you are very welcome for accidentally filling the tank with hot water instead of cold! 😊

The meals served by Casey Huling, Ben Bettinger, Max Overstrom-Coleman, Tor Parker, Michelle Pinter-Petrillo, along with many many assistants were superb! They all out did themselves and made sure that everyone was served delicious bountiful breakfasts, lunches, and dinners.

This year we had our first ever silent auction thanks to Amy Cone Glidden and her husband Ryan. They organized the outreach to companies and alumni for donations, collected donations, created the 'baskets', built the auction site, and kept the auction site eye catching to bring in more and more bids. To finish it all off, we had a competitive and exciting last hour at camp making those final bids after which Amy and Ryan awarded the winning alumni with their items ranging from a week rental at camp, Adirondack chairs made from camp trees to old CB post cards. It was a wonderful way to have a little fun and also raise money for the camp that we all love.

The reunions are no small feat to pull together but, in the end, it's worth all the hours, weeks, months, years of preparation to see everyone having so much fun, catching up with friends from long ago and everyone pulling together (staff, alumni, alumni's family) to make sure the weekend is smooth and enjoyable. (continued)



Reunion Chair Recap (cont.)



This reunion could not have happened without the help from SO many. To make things even harder, I got sick (not Covid) on the Friday of the reunion but my reunion committee jumped in and managed the weekend basically without me 😊 THANK YOU to the reunion committee for their hours of preparation and for the weekend work – Amy Cone Glidden, Perrin Cothran Chick, Jen Ciarmoli, Jenn Bradley, Kate Freitas, Ceci Stashwick Fleming, Cheryl Mote Chafos, Elissa Malcolm, Nina Bettinger and Meredith Cone. Precamp and the weekend of the reunion isn't a vacation for the Directors and staff. The staff all put in a lot of time to ensure the alumni has the best reunion weekend – so THANK YOU to Sean and Anne Collins, Willie Crocker, Henry Lang, Sadie Jones, Shane Freshour, Renee Cather, Zach Greenwald, Logan Plummer, Megan Riley, Alexa Norton, Audrey Andrus, Anna Kusiak, Gabrielle Ellicott, Morgan Gaffney, Aidan Maccoll, Xavier Paquette, Brian Klaif, Sarah Fazli, and all the 2022 summer staff. Last but not least, THANK YOU to the alumni volunteers, the reunion couldn't run as smoothly without you all!!

The 120th reunion will be here before we know it – keep mid June 2026 marked on your calendar!! If you would like to help with the preparation, silent auction, weekend of the reunion and more – please email me at alumni@campbillings.org. See you all in 4 years!

– Beth Freitas Crocker, Board of Directors Alumni Committee Chair

Camp Tyler

The Single-Most, Spectacular, Unprecedented, Incomprehensible, Mind-Blowing, Sophisticated and Complex Prank (IMHO) in the History of Camp Billings..... **Camp Tyler!**

Written by Emperor Bob Green

It was the middle of third session in 2013. A day just like any other day at Billings. The sun was shining and the activities around camp were busy and joyful. But what makes Camp Billings unique is it is very much like the circus. There's always lots of activity going on, and if one program doesn't interest you, there is surely something else that will. If you look to your left you might see the elephants walking around the circle. If you look to your right, there's a car full of clowns who keep pouring out of this tiny vehicle. Down the middle the acrobats are walking doing flips and tumbling to keep your attention. It's all good family fun; a shared experience and a great way to spend an afternoon. Just like a typical day at Camp Billings. And then all of a sudden you turn your direction skyward, and **SOMEONE IS GETTING SHOT OUT OF A CANNON!** The circus is no longer just fun, it's something you will remember for the rest of your life! That's what happened in the middle of the third session back in 2013. There was a prank that was the equivalent of shooting someone out of a cannon took place, and no one who was there will ever forget it.

Tyler Gardner, for many years a staff member, Co-Waterfront Director, in charge of Special Projects, and part-time signer of International Health Forms, had bought a house in West Fairlee and recently moved in.

Very few of us on staff had been there; Tyler was extremely protective of his new home and it's contents. The last thing he would have wanted would be for his personal oasis to be disrupted by a few staff members rummaging around in his new home. So naturally, it only made sense that if no one could see Tyler's house, then **EVERYONE** needed to experience Tyler's house. And thus was borne the plot to create Camp Tyler. That beautiful afternoon in the middle of third session, 2013 the plan came to fruition.

Yes, even his mother was in on it! We arranged for Tyler's mom, Judith to take him to lunch that day so there was sufficient time for Billings to be re-built at Camp Tyler. The premise was that I was having "personnel issues" with some of our key staff members, and I really needed Tyler's advice and counsel on how to navigate the rest of the summer. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that plays into Tyler's ego more than being needed to provide advice, so of course he agreed to meet me outside of camp so I could share my concerns with him. We would meet at Crossroad Farm after his lunch with his mother in Hanover, and go up to his house in West Fairlee where we could talk privately. Everything was falling in to place perfectly!

(continued)



“EVEN HIS MOM WAS IN ON IT!”

-Random Camper



Camp Tyler (cont.)

Of course Tyler's mom had left us a key to his house, so while they were dining we were transporting ALL of Camp Billings to Camp Tyler! There was truckloads of equipment from program areas: archery targets, paddle boards, fishing poles, guitars, athletic gear; there were vans filled with the staples of Billings life like the program area signs, Harold's House and the green benches; there was a mini-flagpole and kiddie pools to serve as the Waterfront; and of course there were six busloads of campers and staff, from the youngest juniors to Casey, Willie and the kitchen boys. All in all, 248 people made the transition from Camp Billings to Camp Tyler.

Once everyone settled in, the afternoon program started with announcements in front of Harold's House and the Camp Tyler flagpole. There was fishing in Tyler's master bathtub (we brought real fish); water sports in the three kiddie pools set up in his backyard; junior rest hour on Tyler's king sized bed; parachute in his loft; guitar on the front porch; crafts in the living room; archery in his driveway; paddle boarding on dry land in his front yard; and of course, since it was third session, there was musical rehearsal in Tyler's garage for the upcoming production of "Wicked."

Finally, the guest of honor arrived. To say he was a bit stunned would be an understatement. He never had a clue as everyone, including his mother, had done their part and kept it under wraps. As he toured the new and improved Camp Tyler, he could only look around and wonder, "how can I ever top this?"

And that's the essence of Camp Billings: we are always looking for new ways to create unforgettable moments, from the Black and White lunch of 2001, to "Yes We Can"; from the canoe crashing through the Clock Tower and hung with Christmas lights (which should have never come down) to Jesus Camp, you never know what might happen tomorrow. So please, send your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors to Billings next summer and in the years ahead. The best is yet to come!





The Prank To End All Pranks

Recollections by Brendan Feeney

(With an assist from Paul Behar)

This was way back during the third session of 2001, when the spirited rivalry between Cabins 1 and 15 seemed to reach its zenith. I can't quite remember how it started. Did we, the young ne'er-do-wells of 15, fire the opening salvo? Probably. That answer has been lost to Father Time. What I do remember for certain is that at some point, as retribution, the ladies decided to bombard our cabin and plunder a few choice goods. A worthy offensive, no doubt—until you consider that some of the spoils belonged to our counselor, Paul Behar.

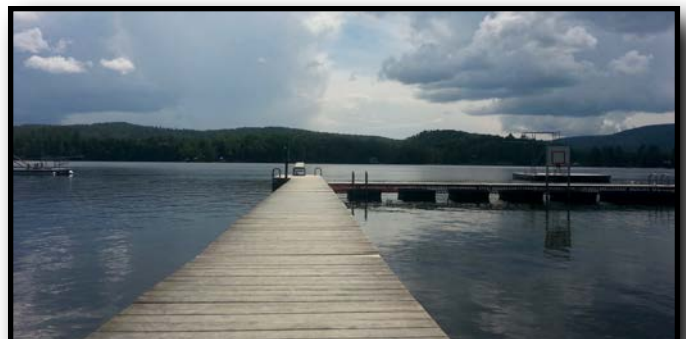
According to him, a seasoned veteran of these shenanigans, counselor and CIT belongings were off limits. It's no surprise, then, that he took this harmless prank as a personal attack. It was time to go nuclear. We weren't going to take just some of their stuff. We were going to take ALL OF IT—trunks, toiletries, everything that wasn't nailed to the ground. They would rue the day they crossed the likes of us. A meticulous plan was laid to end the tit-for-tat once and for all. Behar and 'Bloody' Bryce Greenwood took care of... well, practically everything. As campers, our only responsibility was to go to lunch and act natural—a Herculean feat for a group of fifteen-year-old boys who were in on the secret.

We went to the dining hall together so as not to arouse suspicion. As we ate, Behar and Bryce slipped out through the dish room undetected. They drove the waterski boat from its dock over to Cabin 1, collected every single physical possession in sight, and unloaded them all on the high dive float—arranging everything to look like it was staged in a retail space. They slipped back into the dining hall just as announcements were getting underway. We waited patiently until that last lingering

moment before dismissal. It was then that Behar gave me the signal, and I stood up to inform the whole camp that Cabin 1 would graciously be hosting a yard sale of their own belongings out on the high dive.

Chaos ensued. The ladies shot out of their seats and quickly filed through the front door. They stepped out into the daylight to find everything they'd brought with them out in the middle of the lake—trunks opened, shirts and towels draped over the bars of the diving board... we may have even made a sign. To make matters worse (for them, at least), all the canoes had been mysteriously locked up—to retrieve their things, they had to run around to the sailing dock and use the row boats to make the long and perilous journey out to the high dive. Meanwhile, we Cabin 15ers—being the budding young gentlemen that we were—swam out to the float to soak their clothing as thoroughly as we could. When they appeared in their row boats, we made every attempt to capsize them. Again, like true gentlemen. With all these obstacles in place, the cleanup took hours.

And the best part? The cherry on top of this delicious sundae? Everyone assumed that we—the campers of Cabin 15, present and accounted for at lunch—were the ones who pulled this caper off. That we somehow divined their trunks out to the high dive through some kind of sorcery. Even Cabin 1 was under this impression, which we accepted with great relish. But that was the whole point, I suppose. That was part of the brilliance of Paul Behar. He kept his good name out of the fray and allowed his campers to bask in the bright light of what was, undoubtedly, the prank to end all pranks.



Summer 2022

Top 5 songs in cabins: As It Was (Harry Styles), Break My Soul (Beyonce), About Damn Time (Lizzo), Love Story (Taylor Swift), Dancing Queen (ABBA)

Top 5 songs in Dining Hall (Revised songbook 2022): Puff the Magic Dragon, Mamma Mia, Unwritten, Waterloo, Everytime We Touch

Top 5 attended Program Areas: Ropes Course, Waterskiing, Athletics (new courts!), Crafts, Archery

Top 5 phrases: "Where did I leave my water bottle?" / "How long is junior rest hour?" / "OOH! A glider!" / "When's camp store?" / "I don't want to go home!"

Top 5 Evening Programs: Ragnarok, Capture the Flag, Stranger Things (previously Hunger Games), The 2022 CB Musical: Mamma Mia!, Casino Night

— Henry Lang



Camp's Holiday Wish List

As the holiday season (or close of tax year) approaches, please keep dear old camp on your 'Nice' list! There are a number of wants and needs heading into next season. Please wander your eyes down our list and see if one, or more, have a special place in your heart this holiday season...

Program Areas:

Kayaking - Yolo Yaks

Billings Yolo Yaks have embraced the true meaning of YOLO. Their lives have come to an end. This very popular program area is needing some help and replacing Camp's flotilla of Yolo Yaks is rather urgent. Please make a ship to shore call to our fundraising committee to help.

Sailing

To round out the needs of our waterfront, we have a sailboat missing a sail. Over the years this vessel has performed well in Fairlee Regattas and has taught many campers how to use the rudder and avoid the boom when tacking or turning to head for home. I don't have the details on which sailboat it is, but if you loved this program area, and if you still sail today and want to help ensure campers have access to the same experience you had as a camper, please consider mentioning in your donation that this is where you want the funds to go, or contact Billings to discuss how you can help us get the rigging back up on this temporarily beached sailboat.



Impact Vests

Everyone knows that the coolest program area is (and may always will be) waterskiing. The excitement that sweeps across a cabin when hearing your cabin can sign up for a spin around the lake that afternoon is always electric! Like the lifeguarding equipment, we're needing to replenish our waterski life vests. These special vests which fit tighter, have better coverage, and are also padded to protect from hitting the water hard, are required. We need to increase the size offerings of vests and ensure that they are in perfect order to ensure a safe and fun summer of being dragged behind a very powerful boat.

Paddleboarding

Like the Yolo Yaks, the Paddleboards are also in need of some love. This is another program area that is popular with everyone at camp. We'd like to replace the paddleboards with some newer, larger, more stable, and longer lasting ones to continue to offer this popular experience.

Rowing

Another waterfront necessity for a popular program area will be new oars for the rowboats. Some of the boats currently have mis-matched pairs. How will campers be rowed out to take the notorious boat test if our rowboats don't have oars? With your help we can ensure that all the rowboats can be used this summer.

Canoeing

When I was a Sr. Camper my paddling partner (who was steering) managed to T-Bone a large rock in the middle of the Androscoggin River. The aluminum canoe split down the seam and we each spent the remaining two days of the canoe trip sitting on the floor of another canoe, without paddles, watching our fellow campers negotiate the rest of the river. Well, it now seems that most of the aluminum canoes at Billings have either suffered similar fates or are otherwise showing their age and have been deemed unreliable for the future. Please help us replace our canoes with your generous donations.



Camp's Holiday Wish List

Program Areas (continued):

Lifeguard Equipment

The ACA requires that our waterfront and lifeguard equipment be in perfect working order. We're currently in need of inner tubes, whistles, and underwater diving goggles. Please let us know if you can help by donating towards these essential tools. "Buddy Check!"



Tennis Balls

Anyone who has worked at camp in the past couple decades knows how easily these get lost. We seem to start every summer with buckets of tennis balls and end each summer with very few. These are a hot commodity and are used across many different games in Athletics and Tennis (of course) so please help us keep the tennis ball stock up to date by donating now!

Athletic Equipment

After Funning, I think the program area that gets the most overall traffic must be Athletics. Help us continue to grow our Athletics program with some new fun games, new equipment like balls (basketballs, soccer balls and playground balls) and general sports gear like cones, frisbees, bats, hockey sticks, Cornhole sets, and more. We're even looking to add additional coolers for ice-water, and an EZ-up tent to provide shade on the lower courts. Anything we can get our hands on will get used...A LOT!



Archery Equipment

With all our new arrows, and new archery shed, we're also going to need new bows and targets! All the arrows that did hit the targets have left them pretty beat up. We're looking for some generous donations to help us with new targets, and hopefully some upgraded bows to help the campers who spend time at this program area continue to improve their skills.

Archery Shed

Archery has been a popular program area for years and as such, the shed we use to store the bows, arrows, target covers, (and probably a significantly equipped first aid kit) is falling down. If anyone has extremely fond memories of this activity or has a fondness for the sport and wants to help us replace this small storage shed please let us know.

Arrows

Like tennis balls, arrows at archery have a habit of disappearing. Well, actually, we're pretty sure they are all over the swamp behind the chapel and hopefully the bullfrogs are all ok. Please help us replenish our stock of arrows and our archery instructors will continue to try to teach the campers to hit the targets.

Musical

In recent years, the musical (which is held every summer in 3rd session) is a great attraction for campers. However, those campers in 1st, 2nd, and 4th sessions are left to explore musical talents and interests with our new music program area. This has grown each year and we're now in need of some specific instruments to help build out this program to its potential. We're specifically looking for a quality electric keyboard with a stand, BeatLab software for mixing, and a small drum kit. If anyone has these in an attic or basement and is looking to donate them, or is looking to help us procure these please let us know.

Craft Shop - Pottery is a HUGE hit!

With the beautiful new craft shop at Camp, and the additional space that offered, the introduction of pottery has been a huge hit with campers. We're in need of new and additional pottery wheels, and we'll need a new and larger kiln to accommodate the number of pieces. If you're a pottery fan, and want to help camp continue to grow this offering from crafts please don't hesitate to donate, or contact us to discuss this need.

Camp's Holiday Wish List

General Camp Asks:

Beds

Were you a top bunk or bottom bunker? After spending one summer up top, I settled into bottom bunks for the rest of my time as a camper. The beds at Billings have been in use since I was a camper in the 90s, and I suspect that they were even slept on for years before that. Needless to say, we'd like to replace all the camper and staff beds a couple cabins at a time. We'd love as much help on this project as we can get so if you'd like to specify that your donation goes towards helping campers get better sleep at night, please identify that on your donation. Or, even better, get a gang of friends together and help us outfit an entire cabin!



Mattresses

Perhaps even more important than replacing the beds, are the mattresses. One year as a counselor, I remember using a mattress that was about a foot too long for my bed frame, nevertheless, I slept like an elderly cat in a ray of sunshine on the back of the sofa. Oh, to have my 18-year-old body back again. Anyway, we do need new mattresses.

Proper Tool Cabinet for Maintenance

Having worked in maintenance with Larry for several summers, I can empathize with Camp's need for a real tool cabinet for the maintenance area. Currently, tools are often piled and haphazardly strewn throughout the garage and it's never fun having to sort through the melee, or worse, to go from cabin to cabin to see who "borrowed" the staple gun, or hammer, right as you're settling into replacing Cabin 8's screen door because an errant elbow or foot has gone through it again. Please help us help camp by helping organize our tool storage.

Water Bottle Filling Stations

Almost every camper carries a water bottle now at camp. In fact, I think there may even be a bit of a fashion element to what type of bottle and what stickers may be on it. Ensuring bottles are full and campers are hydrated is super important, but we can't have campers in the kitchen, or the infirmary, and the bathrooms may sometimes be a little far away. Therefore, we would like to add filtered and chilled water with water bottle filling stations at the dining hall and outside the infirmary. These need to be purchased and installed by a plumber.

Songbooks

The alumni committee is currently reviewing, revising, and re-typing the famous Billings Songbooks. We're going to need to reprint a couple hundred and have them bound. Whether we loved singing time after meals or not, we should all agree that the Camp Billings Songbook is iconic, and a core memory for every camper. If you'd like your donation to go towards the re-printing of Songbooks, please indicate that and we'll respect your wishes. Oh, and let us know what your favorite song is/was. I always got excited for Green Grow the Rushes and Toviska. The first because it's so fun with the whole camp banging on tables and adding their riffs. And the latter because it's just such a strange song, which is why when I was the Sr. Counselor in Cabin 15, we made this song our own, and would break out with it at any time, at any meal. Because if it weren't for castles in Toviska, I'd never be a soldier.

Cleaning Kits

Each cabin needs its own cleaning kit. This means there are a lot of cleaning supplies to purchase. From Lysol spray, wipes, gloves, hand sanitizer, paper towel, and more. For those who have been to camp, they know that these products have traditionally been stored in the maintenance shed and are shared across all cabins. To replicate these kits for each cabin for the entire summer is a significant add to our costs so if we can alleviate this with donations it will be greatly appreciated.

Lost and Found

Lost and found organization is needed. This way we create a space for lost items that campers can easily look through to find their favorite lost item. Traditionally, everything is thrown in a box, and a couple times per session it is scattered across the green benches in the hopes that kids will recognize stuff. If we can sort by different items, like towels, hats, t-shirts, water bottles and so on, it will be much easier for campers to find what they are looking for, without sorting through everything.



Alumni Updates

Rita Damico (camper, CIT and counselor) shared "My husband Joey and I lived in San Francisco for several years while I completed my pediatric oncology training and spent lots of time in Lake Tahoe with my brother and his wife. We were blessed to welcome our son, Luca, in February 2021 and recently moved back east to be closer to family. We were so sad to miss the reunion this summer (and a hug from Auntie Meredith Cone), but recently made our first (of many) trips to camp this fall. Luca loved his first splash in Lake Fairlee and can't wait to be in Cabin 7 some day!"



Trey Goggins shared "our family spent Halloween weekend at Billings, enjoying views of misty sunrises, fires in the fireplace and generally having camp to ourselves when we rented the WeOwnIt cabin at the end of October. We loved being there later in the season when the fireplace provided much appreciated work (though the heaters in the cabin do a great job and we were comfortable even when it got to the upper 20's at night). Enjoy some pics of us on the Clocktower lawn, a Billings pumpkin that I carved over the weekend, and the rediscovery of a cabin that a fellow alumn, **Rob Elliott**, laid the foundation for way back on CIT hill, behind Rainshadow.



Board members Ben Cheney (L) and Ted Rossi (R) preparing to install Ben's Clothespin sculpture at Ted's house, November, 2022.



Running the Reunion: Reflection & Appreciation

We didn't want this edition to go by without taking some time to reflect on how this memorable event came to be. Though she dislikes the spotlight, we wanted to acknowledge Beth Crocker for being chief-in-charge of said amazing memory-making that weekend!

Beth Freitas Crocker, among many other things and titles, was our 115th-ish Camp Billings Reunion Chairperson. There are not many people equally suited, and Camp-credentialed, to take on this task, especially coming out of a pandemic! Camp is so lucky to have Beth because her perspective and experience touches so many Camp generations - from her parent's years of commitment to Camp, to her own camper years. From her time as a counselor, to her most recent years as a board member AND camper mom to two boys. And then Beth's natural organizational skills (thanks to her other life as an IS professional!) were just the bonus, keeping everything straight, recruiting a supporting cast, maintaining our monthly meetings, leading communications, her amazing spreadsheets, traveling up to Camp to plant flowers and clean-up Camp, organizing the Alumni Room, and coordinating with summer staff to support the Reunion. The countless hours she volunteered from her already busy schedule, for TWO YEARS, were not often visible to most. And then there was the added layer of complexity with Covid - the starting, pausing of the Reunion planning, then the testing and COVID plan for the Reunion itself. It was a full load. And she never wavered. She never does.



Beth's commitment to this Reunion only further demonstrated how much she loves Camp. And Camp loves her right back!

As you can imagine, putting on an event like this requires lots of volunteer support. Let's give Beth a huge round of applause as she did an amazing job of recruiting and managing volunteers. We all love Camp, right? The next time you see a call for volunteers, think of who is asking, and why they are asking, and what it means if you don't raise your hand to help. It's always more fun with your support! Being able to work with some of your best friends, old and current, isn't a chore. Rather, it's a constant reminder of what

Camp has given us...friends and memories (old and new) for life! We can attest to that, as Beth called on us for help, and we loved every moment working with her.

Thank you to Beth, the entire Reunion Planning Committee, Camp Staff, Counselors and ALL volunteers that donated their time, brainpower, and muscle to make this Reunion the success that it was! It won't be long until the next call for Reunion Committee volunteers...hint hint.

Love,
The 115th-ish Reunion Planning Committee



Some Final Reunion Moments...



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