



HEMLOCK HAPPENINGS

Berwick Camp 142

Pre-Camp Edition

June 2013

*Berwick Camp, by the grace of God, seeks to be a haven of spiritual renewal by providing an environment where all can nurture and be nurtured by:
God's love... among God's people... in God's place....*

President's Report

Can you believe it?

We are on the countdown clock! Everyday there is a new posting in our Camp Facebook page counting down the days until camp. Thank you, Cynthia! Great job! We are less than two months away. Can you believe it?

As is normal for life, we have had joy and sadness in our Berwick family over the past year. We have had the passing of several long time campers; serious illnesses in some of our families and economic challenges that continue to plague many. However, we have also had births, marriages, graduations, promotions and any number of wonderful accomplishments. Regardless of the negative situations that arise we all have one constant positive, Berwick Camp. I have felt that personally over the 40 years I have been coming to camp, one positive thing I can count on in my life is Berwick Camp

This year's camp promises to be one of the best ever. Our program team has a wonderful line up for this year. The leadership team will be one that everyone will want to experience. VBS will be most exciting for our young folks and the youth program will build on the strengths of last year. There will be new programs, changes to old programs and many will continue as before. That is camp! New, old and familiar.....

One thing you will see is many improvements to the campgrounds and buildings. You will be thrilled to experience excitement from new, comfort from the familiar and pleasure from the old. I am not sure if this will be published before work weekend. Just in case it is, I will not spoil the surprises for those who attend. I expect Facebook will explode with pictures afterward. It goes without saying pictures never do Berwick Camp justice, however, they will give a glimpse of exciting changes and improvements.

One thing that will happen during this camp is a financial visitation. Your executive has done its best to keep you informed of what our needs and financial situation is. During the rebuild we wanted you to always know what was happening and how it was being managed and paid for.

We now find ourselves fully involved with Rejuvenation. Rebuild is finished except for \$25,000 of costs we have yet to fund. If you have been following our rebuilding costs and revenues, we have paid this \$25,000 from donations other than those designated for rebuild. We want to complete this Rebuild project with 100% funded by insurance and donations.

Rejuvenation is the next step. You will see what we have done so far. The upper campground has been very expensive to date with more funds required to finish it. This is an example of the reality that much remains to be done. Our major camp buildings require significant maintenance and many cottages require extensive repair.

The association owns in the vicinity of 100 cottages. A high percentage of these have wood sills and floors that are buried in our good Berwick soil. It is wonderful to walk on, however, poison to wood. Eric

has some pictures of what is involved when they have to replace the sills and floor of a cottage. The cost is in the thousands of dollars.

We will be sharing with campers during camp, a study we have done on our dining hall and kitchen. This is to inform and gain feedback from our campers. No specific recommendations will be forth coming to this AGM for approval but will be in the not too distant future. This building retrofit could potentially be many hundreds of thousands of dollars. Food prep is a matter that the government takes very seriously with many laws and numerous inspectors to enforce those laws.

It may be your first impression of "rejuvenation" is the executive wants to spend a lot of money on things that are "nice" to have. Careful analysis shows we are seeking funding for projects which we have no choice. We all see the open pavilion falling down before our very eyes. Because of today's building codes, a repair is no longer simple. The building code does not say that buildings that are used 10 days a year do not have to conform. It simply says, if people use it, this is the standard to which it MUST be constructed. In reality some government inspector could possibly condemn the kitchen, the open pavilion or a cottage.

You will hear more about rejuvenation during the visitation but really as we walk around camp we all see what has to be done. I encourage you to talk with your family prior to camp and consider to what extent you will help financially. My understanding is one-time donations and yearly commitments will be how you will be asked to help.

Mary Lynn and I are on PAR (pre authorized remittance) in which we make a donation to Berwick Camp each month. This works very well for us as it is budgeted monthly and it fits. Our plan is to make a commitment to significantly increase it for the next five years. Remember all donations go into the capital improvements for the camp, not the operations. The operations are funded from the fees we pay to attend. 100 cents of every dollar you give as a donation goes right back into the camp facility. Every year I look around and can see where my donation has been spent. In addition, I see where it needs to be spent.

Mary Lynn and I believe Berwick camp is a very special place for us personally and for our family. The cottage that Eric built for us allowed our family experience to improve by more than we ever could have imagined. We now have our children, their spouses, our granddaughter, our grand niece Cassie from Ottawa, and potentially Andrew and Courtney's two new duck tollers, all under one-roof enjoying each other's company and participating in the camp activities. Where else but Berwick would this happen every year and all look forward to it?

This is my last camp as president. On Thursday at the end of the AGM we have a move up ceremony. Tim O'Neil will be your new president. For the past 6 years he has chaired the finance committee and then the long range planning. This experience through our disaster, rebuild and rejuvenation along with the fact he is a fine Christian person, gives me a great deal of confidence to know that the camp will be blessed with his leadership for the next 3 years.

I move up to chair the nominations committee. My goal is to continue the fine job Peter Woods and his committee have done. Chrissie Crooks will chair long range planning and be responsible for the capital expenditures for the next 3 years. The backbone of our executive is our treasurer and secretary: Jack Spencer, (secretary for life? :-)) and Dawn Wood (treasurer for life? :-)) have agreed to continue in their roles and I could not be happier for two reasons. They both do an extremely good job and as upcoming chair of nominations, I do not want to find a replacement.

This article has ended up being a lot longer than I first intended, but there is so much to say about Berwick Camp. This is my last article as President for the spring edition of the Hemlock Happenings. Please forgive me for being so long winded.

Take care everyone and see you in less than 2 months.

~Gordon Cameron

Musings from the Worship Superintendent

If you don't play an instrument for a while it goes out of tune. Strings slacken, and go flat. Metal might expand in the heat, and go sharp. Before any musician can pick up an instrument to play beautiful music they must put it back in tune! Your worship team is getting back into tune already! Every year we create a brand new team, with a new Evangelist, and often with a new Music Director - and sometimes a new Worship Superintendent! That takes a little tuning! Rest assured that your worship leaders work through the spring so that when we all arrive at camp we are in tune and ready to play.

This year we will welcome as evangelist Dr. Anna Carter Florence - a new camper, so make her welcome! We will welcome back Mark Ruhnke as Music Director - a second-timer, who brings amazing musical gifts, especially for the choir. We will also hear from the president of Maritime Conference, Meggin King, on the first Sunday evening, and a Berwick camp preacher on the first Saturday, when we hold our traditional service covenanting the leadership, and remembering campers who have passed since the last encampment. Worship on the first Friday is still in the planning stages!

Of course, worship wouldn't be the same without you! Please take a moment to sign the volunteer form that comes with your registration package. I particularly encourage first-time campers to "jump right in" and offer to read scripture or lead in prayer. Don't wait for me to tap you on the shoulder ... if you think you might like to try it out, but you aren't really sure, just get in touch with me (by e-mail, or at camp) and I will gladly teach you the ropes.

Camp is best when you find a way to offer your gifts to strengthen the whole community.

Grace and peace to all!

~ Kate Crawford, Worship Superintendent



VBS Theme 2013: Sherwood Forest

Please join the VBS students in 2013 as they learn about The Bible through an exploration of themes and ideas drawing from the stories of Robin Hood and his merry gang.

All campers are encouraged to start thinking about appropriate cottage decorations and costumes: Little John, Alan A'Dale, Friar Tuck, The Sheriff of Nottingham, Maid Marian, Prince John, Castles and Knights as examples. This year's block party will invite all campers to enter into Sherwood Forest for a fun-filled medieval celebration.

The VBS team is looking for 10 enthusiastic volunteers to be part of Robin's merry band. We will be using a rotational model for activities, and we will be looking for people to run stations such as Games, Science, Songs, Snacks, Bible Activity, Drama, and to help each grade move through these areas. Please email Beth Vickery, and let her know where you are able to help out: hellobethany@yahoo.ca

We are also looking for talented volunteers who are willing to help with pre-camp preparations. Specifically, we are looking for someone who is competent with a sewing machine and willing to make 100 felt Robin Hood hats. We are also looking for someone with wood cutting skills to pre-cut pieces of catapults. If you feel that you are able to help with either of these projects, please email Beth and she will send you the simple patterns/instructions.

Berwick Book Club

Berwick Book Club will do two book selections this year. On Monday morning, we will discuss "*Still Alice*" by Lisa Genova and on Wednesday, "*The Five People You Meet In Heaven*" by Mitch Albom. Friday morning we will integrate the stories. Consideration is being given to a second, afternoon,

meeting to discuss "Still Alice". If this is of interest to campers, please advise the Book Club facilitator, Krista Lake Settle by dropping by Cottage #1 on the first weekend of camp or by email to: kristalakeca@yahoo.ca.

"Still Alice" is a bestselling novel told from the perspective of a woman who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It is an unforgettable story. "The Five People You Meet In Heaven" is an interpretation of heaven; the after-life story of a man whose life is explained to him by five people he knew during his life.

Youth Programming 2013

A warm welcome to Bronwyn Corlett and Moses Kang - our youth leadership team for Berwick 2013. It's going to be an awesome year! Here's what they have to say ...

Get excited, Berwick Youth Programs are coming!

Things for you to know:

- **Registration** will be held Sunday afternoon and Monday morning (don't forget, you have to be registered to attend the Wednesday afternoon trip to Upper Clements Park).
- There will be **two program groups**: middle school and high school.
- Both groups will parallel the worship theme: "**Meet the Adams Family: Faith and Dysfunction in the Families of Scripture**" and will help present scripture and/or themes at each service.

Bronwyn and Moses are very excited to be leading these programs this year and hope you're getting excited too!

Youth Program Volunteers needed!

What's involved?

Orientation meeting on Sunday, July 28
Leadership at the youth programs Mon-Fri - 9:15-11:45 am

What you need? Enthusiasm!

We have a great line up of programs, music, drama, reflections, and games but we need your help! Whether you are able to lead a small group all week long or just help out one morning, please let us know!

Already committed to helping out? Aren't sure if you can help out but have ideas for games, programs, crafts, etc? Please email Bronwyn @ bronwynacorlett@gmail.com.

Moses and Bronwyn thank you in advance for committing your time and energy to the youth program!



Another year is upon us and we are very excited about this new year. Thanks again for all your support and suggestions over the last year; it was quite helpful in deciding what we are going to do this year. If any of you have any new suggestions we would welcome your ideas for future activities. Please email me ian.curlett@rbc.com

All sign up sheets for the tournaments throughout the week will be posted on the Main Notice Board on the first weekend.

As we mentioned last year we are always looking for new equipment. I plan to have the shuffle board painted and cleaned up at camp, if you have any equipment or know where would could find any please

let me know. ***If you know anything about shuffle board and can help me, it would greatly be appreciated.***

Let's have a great week!

Sunday

2nd annual Berwick Scavenger Hunt- All Ages

- Please meet at the Volleyball court at 1 pm.

Monday

Youth Washer Toss Tournament (15 and under)

- This game is a popular pastime all around the campground over the last few years now it's time for all of you to try.
- Starting 1 pm at the Volley ball court

Beach Volleyball (all ages)

- No sign up just show up all welcome, starts at 3 pm at the court



Tuesday

Youth Horseshoes (13-17)

- 1 pm at the Pits

Soccer All ages game

- Meet at the volleyball court at 3pm, will play game on the field across the street, and bring your own water.

Wednesday

Upper Clements's Park Trip



- Must be enrolled AND participating in the youth program to go.
- Must pre-register as there is limited seating on the buses. Bus leaves promptly a 1:30 so arrive by 1:15 at the latest. We will return to the camp at supper time. Cost \$35. Cash or Cheque made out to Berwick Camp must be submitted with completed Permission form by 6pm Tuesday at Cottage #94.
- Please bring a towel, food, drinks (or money for food and drinks) and sunscreen.
- We will be looking for chaperones as well.
- Youth must be registered (and attending) in the Youth Program to participate.

Thursday

3 on 3 Basketball Tournaments

- Matching uniforms and friendly trash talk welcomed!
- Junior 12-15
- Senior 16+
- 1pm at the courts

Friday

Junior Horseshoes (8-12)

- 1pm at the pits



Senior Washer Toss (16-oldtimer)

- 1pm at the volley ball court

All-Camp Visitation – “Can we talk about money?”

Even with all of the wonderful work that has been done to re-build and re-vitalize the camp property following the storm damage, there is still much more that needs to be done. A “wish list” of proposed improvements in response to the many good ideas and suggestions of campers has reached the one million dollar mark. It is not hard to see how these improvements and projects will enhance the Camp experience for years to come and ensure that Berwick Camp continues to offer vibrant and vital programs. The Berwick Camp Executive has approved an All-Camp Visitation to invite special (tax

deductable) donations and pledges in support of this effort – at some point during the 2013 encampment, every site, cabin, room and apartment will be visited with the simple request, “can you help?”

The Camp Executive will lead in this effort by making individual donations and/or pledges prior to camp, and by forming the core of the visitation team. Additional visitors are required, and you can indicate your interest by contacting Diana Ginn, Chair of Fundraising (d.ginn@dal.ca) or David Hewitt, Visitation Coordinator (ucdhewitt@hotmail.com).

More information about the proposed capital projects will be available in future issues of the Hemlock Happenings.

Penny Campaign



As we are all aware, pennies are still around, but very slowly disappearing. I am aware that many of you have pennies that you have been collecting since last year’s camp. Bring them along to camp with you this year and we add them to our existing total. They can be dropped off at Cottage 64.

~Les Wood

Property and Grounds Update



On April 22, 2013, Eric received the following good news from RRFB Nova Scotia Sponsorship Funding “We are pleased to tell you that your application for Community Sponsorship Funding to support the purchase of organics collection containers for the United Church Camp has been approved for up to \$500.00” **Thank you RRFB Nova Scotia!**



Open Pavilion Improvements – Phase One – 2013

We want to let everyone know what will greet you when you come to worship at camp this summer. Phase 1 of the open Pavilion Improvements and Retrofitting is being completed. As you will recall, we have spent two years planning for this. A team has developed, through extensive consultation with knowledgeable people, a plan. Last year the design committee presented their plan to us for approval. We gave them our approval.

Just as a reminder, the key items on which they focused were: accessibility, flexibility and to retain the traditional appearance. The end result will achieve these goals.

Appearance: Nothing in the traditional look of the Open Pavilion has been touched. The front and side facades are exactly as you will remember. The color and the size have not been altered at all.

Accessibility: The first dramatic improvement for accessibility you will see is the platform of the open pavilion has been lowered by about 2 feet. This has improved the accessibility to the stage by everyone. The second item you will see is an eight foot extension in the shape of a bow has been added. The design team wanted this to allow the leadership to be able to “enter” the space of the congregation. As well, the platform is completely flat. The lack of barriers, posts or walls will greatly improve sight lines.

Flexibility: You will see an extension of 12 feet has been added to the platform. It does not make the stage bigger because the rearmost 12 feet (back half) will be turned into storage. In reality we did not use the back 12 feet of the platform other than to put the last row of the choir. This significantly

improves the flexibility of the platform, as these posts will not be seen. As well the lowering of the stage will take advantage of the natural amphitheater effect of the location.

Ultimately the congregation will be sitting higher than the platform. In the past the congregation has had to look up to the leadership, which meant sightlines have been obscured. Now we will all be able to look down and see everything when phase 2 is completed

Phase 2

This will include the building of the wall at the back for storage. In addition the skirting will be added around the perimeter of the structure. The painting and all other cosmetic improvements will be finished.

Phase 1 has built the underpinnings of the stage to be able to last the next 140 years. This fall the roofing and rear exterior walls will be finished. As Eric said you retrofit from the base up. They will use our own wood and it will be the board and batten exterior look we have used on all our retrofits.

The final aspect will be decisions on technology. Lighting, screens and sound will be part of the final phase.

All in all, the camp's design team, the build team and Eric are to be congratulated for the job they have completed so far and what is yet to be completed. Remember this year is phase 1 for the open pavilion and it is still a work on progress. Any questions you have should be addressed when Phase 2 is finished next year.

I am really looking forward to the worship experience we will have this camp. I am also excited about the opportunities available for us to make better use of this space.

Work Weekend

The June work weekend gives us an opportunity to help out too while spending some time under our favourite trees. The dates are **Friday June 7th to Monday June 10th**.

As other years, there will be a need for brush clearing/raking, sewing, cleaning, and possibly painting depending on the weather. This is always made easier when campers bring the necessary rakes, rags, sewing machines, brushes etc. if possible.

To help us plan for meals, please let us know if you can help out and which days you plan to be there. This information can be sent to kimyoung23@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!!

Prayer Shawl Knitters



If you already knit Prayer Shawls and want to join a group of Knitters three afternoons at camp bring your wool and needles and join me on the doorstep of Cottage 41. If you have never done one and would like to learn how, bring a pair of 6mm needles and 4 skeins of Lions Brand Homespun wool and I will provide you with a very simple pattern. Knitting experience necessary. Come have a cup of tea, a cookie and some Berwick Friendship while we create some shawls to donate.

*~Susan Robinson
Cottage 41*



Berwick Camp's Live and Silent Auctions 2013

Here is a list of donations made to our wonderful event already:

Shining Waters Family Fun Park * Sandspit Cavendish Beach

Avonlea Village of Anne of Green Gables

Magnetic Hill Zoo * Magic Mountain Water Park

Fu-Wah Restaurant * Digby Pines Golf Resort and Spa

Bowlarama * Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises * Canada Games
Centre

Tom's Family Restaurant * Kedy's Inlet Restaurant

Upper Clements Theme Park * Oaklawn Farm Zoo

The Mooseheads Hockey Club * TD Canada Trust

This year we are also looking for donations for the new

Craft and Bake Sale Tables

We do realize that there are some baked goods that have become a tradition in the Auctions and would still love to have them there!

We have also learned that people can become very creative while at camp and would love to have them share their creativity with homemade crafts and baked goods.

If you have any small boy or girl items, that are clean and unbroken, that you want to get rid of, we are making

\$1 Grab Bags for the kids.

Thank you to Mr. Peter Murray for his donation in getting this started!

We are still looking for more wonderful items to add to these events. We will be accepting donations during camp, Saturday thru Monday from 2pm to 5pm at the former seniors' apartments next to Cabin 14.

Volunteers are going to make these events a huge success. We are going to need help with the craft and bake sale tables as well as with many other jobs for the auctions.

For more information, please, contact me: carolannaugler@yahoo.ca or (902)220-3045.

Come Join Us at the Dining Hall!



New Menu Items – The rejuvenation of our dining hall menu will continue this summer. Our new spaghetti and meatballs will be back by popular demand. Quiche Lorraine will now appear on the menu. Alternative side dishes will replace salads at some meals. Enjoy fresh rolls and fresh fruit more often.

Better Value – Prices for individual adult meal tickets for dinner and supper have been reduced to \$11 and \$9, respectively. As well, if you have cleaned up your plate and feel the need for a bit more, just ask; we don't want you to go away hungry.

Special Diets – If you have special dietary needs, please let us know in advance – we would like to help. (In this regard, we will be preparing a pan of gluten-free lasagna this year as part of our lasagna dinner.)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!



Other Notes...

Our **Hemlock Happenings** team would love to hear from you! Please email any submissions to Nancy Creighton at bncreighton1@ns.sympatico.ca or Lynn Gillis at lynn.gillis@justice.gc.ca. Deadline for our first camp issue (Saturday, July 27th) will be July 20th. We want to spread the word on any fun happening 'round camp! Keep us posted on any program activities, birthday or anniversary wishes. Provide us with some trivia, submit something that inspires you, or tell us of a special Berwick experience that you would like to share. Don't forget to include your name, and where you are staying during camp. We look forward to hearing from you!



Stepping back in time....

Let's step back in time... say 'bout 60 years to 1953! How many familiar faces do you see? If you recognize anyone (including yourself!), forward that info along to Nancy bncreighton1@ns.sympatico.ca. We'll try to put as many names to faces as we can ☺



Hemlock Humour

