



# HEMLOCK HAPPENINGS

## Pre-Camp Special Issue May 1, 2009

Greetings campers! Welcome to the inaugural off-season issue of the Hemlock Happenings. We thought it might be helpful to share some pre-camp information by email. We'll be happy to have your feedback on the idea (either by email or in person at this year's encampment). Hopefully, you're like many of us and think that the rest of the year 'needs more Berwick'. [Terri McCulloch](#), Editor (P.S. our distribution list may be a bit scant for this first e-issue so please feel free to forward this email or print and distribute - we will look to rectify this summer).

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To start things off: a poem, from one of our most prolific summer issue contributors: Brian King.

*Spring has arrived and our thoughts once again begin to focus on how  
We will soon gather at our beloved Berwick Camp  
To reflect and pray for this beautiful  
World you have given us  
Our one and only home*

*The trees of Berwick  
Limbs, still, and always outstretched  
As if to welcome us home, Again and again  
Hope in the form of faith holding out its hand.*

*We'll come from far and wide  
To once again, or for the first time  
Seek renewal In the hemlock forest  
Which beacons our arrival*

*Whether we are long time  
Or first time campers  
We feel the same  
Call of home*

*The laughter of children playing*

*Favourite songs sung over and over  
Quiet conversations long and short  
Late night footsteps passing by your door*

*Home is where your heart is  
Home can be wherever you hang your hat  
Home is where your memories reside  
Home, temporarily, under the hemlocks*

*Trees ever standing  
Trees under standing  
Trees ever ready  
To accept us in love*

*All too soon we will once again disperse  
And find our own way...*

## Hello from the President!

138 and Counting!!!!

Wow, it hardly seems possible that another year has almost passed since our last encampment. Only around 90 days until camp begins and already, the buzz is growing and as spring brings plant life to new beginnings, we look forward to recharging our life's batteries through our individual Berwick experiences.

A lot has taken place over the past several months. There are many new and exciting things planned for this year's encampment in terms of both program as well as physical items. An unfortunate falling of one of our prized Hemlocks over the winter destroyed one of our cottages, which means it will have to be replaced. On the positive side, the falling of the tree quickened our awareness of some of the potential safety issues concerning the fragility of our tree stand. Accordingly, your Executive has executed a series of steps to ensure that maximum safety is realized for all users of our facilities.

As I noted, some exiting things are in store for all campers at Berwick 138. The production of this edition of Hemlock Happenings is just one example of positive ideas that have emerged and are being acted on by your Executive. I look forward to seeing each of you at camp this year and wish you God speed until we meet this summer. Peter Woods, President

## Registrar's 2009 Update

By the time you see this newsletter you should have already have received your registration kit for the '09 encampment by mail or email. The deadlines for registering for camp are: May 24 (to insure your same accommodation) and July 10 (for final full registration payment). I am attempting to streamline the job of Registrar (thereby making it infinitely more attractive to my successor!) by restricting Berwick business to the weekend. So please don't panic if you don't receive a reply to your email until the weekend. Also this year we will be working from a one-contact-one-chance policy for registrations (i.e. I won't keep badgering you to see if you are planning to attend camp), so please pay close attention to the registration kit, dates and required actions to secure your spot at camp this summer. Margaret

## 2009 Program Preview

**Gooooo team! ... introducing Peter & Joan**



We're thrilled to welcome the Rev. Joan Wyatt as our camp evangelist and Peter Wyatt as our guide for Theology for Today & Bible Study.

## Jenny & Andy for youth!



Long-time Berwick camp enthusiasts, Andy & Jenny O'Neill are delighted to be leading the youth program for the next few years.

## Wake up happy with Shawn & Morningside



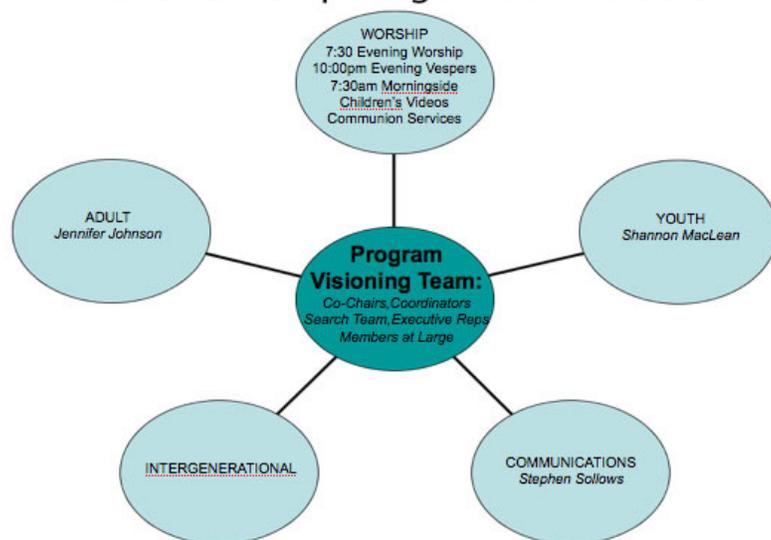
Shawn Redden is 'back by popular request' as the camp's cheerful and insightful Morningside prayer, song & story leader.

## Bring on the tunes, Bruce & Lloyd!

The ever-popular duo of Bruce Harding & Lloyd MacLean will be back under the Hemlocks as our music directors this year. Singers, drummers & other musicians welcome to join in the camp music entourage.

**Program committee re-organization** - As part of the visioning exercise continuing for Berwick Camp, the programming function of camp has been re-organized. We thought you might be interested in taking a look! Any questions, email Sandy Porter or Bethe Cameron, Program co-chairs. Questions about programs? Email [Sandy Porter](#) or [Bethe Cameron](#).

## Berwick Camp Program Committee



### Berwick Welcoming BBQ

Join us following the Sunday afternoon concert for a BBQ - our annual kick-off to Berwick! This is a time to reconnect with your Berwick friends, meet new friends, register children and youth for programming and engage in music, balloons, facepainting and fun! Oh... and of course a BBQ! Food, folks and fun~ the perfect Berwick experience!

### New for 2009!

**Berwick's own book club: Lawn Chairs by the Labyrinth** - Come analyze, scrutinize and simply enjoy some time together discussing two fun and interesting reads under the hemlocks. Each weekday at 9:30am meet us at the labyrinth with your lawn chair. We'll break when the Bible Study group breaks so we can all meet at the Cookie Cottage.

Monday: **"Eat, Pray, Love"** by Elizabeth Gilbert (we'll cover the first section, "Eat")

Tuesday: **"The Shack"** by William P. Young

Wednesday: **"Eat, Pray, Love"** (section two, "Pray")

Thursday: **"The Shack"**

Friday: **"Eat, Pray, Love"** (section three, "Love")

We're sending this message out early so those of you who wish to have these two books read before arriving at Berwick will have the chance to do so. Both of these books are in paperback and should be available at libraries and bookstores around the Maritimes. **Lawn Chairs by the Labyrinth** is brought to you by Susan Reid, Jennifer Johnson, Terry Milne and Jocelyn Tingley. Happy reading everyone! Questions? Contact [Jennifer Johnson](mailto:jenniferjohnson@berwickcamp.com).

**Yoga Under the Hemlocks** - Yoga has returned to Berwick Camp for a full week this year! Jenny Kierstead and Kim Curlett will be leading all-levels practice each day at 2:00pm somewhere under the Hemlocks. Stay tuned for more information on the locations each day.

Jenny is the owner of the award winning Breathing Space Yoga Studio franchise and operator of the Bedford studio. Kim is the owner/operator of the Dartmouth studio opening after Berwick this year. Both Jenny & Kim are long-time Berwick campers and are delighted to be able to offer the gift of yoga to their beloved Berwick community. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one but come anyway if you don't as there are a few extra. All are welcome from the experienced yoga to the beginner. <http://www.breathingspaceyogastudio.ca/>

**LGDG- Lost Generation Discussion Group** - Hey Guys! This year at Berwick we are starting a new group called the Lost Generation Discussion Group (or LGDG). The group is for the post-high school age bracket and we will gather Sunday to Thursday nights in the Youth Centre from 10-12 o'clock. We want this to

be a place where we can discuss issues that effect us and that we want to talk about. This is an informal group and I would love your input on topics. So if you have any ideas please email me, [Heather Hartlen](#) . Thanks guys and remember this is YOUR group, lets make it relevant and interesting.

## Passages

It is with warm hearts that we remember the following members of our camp family who have passed away since last year: Karen King, Jean Murray, Malcolm Forsythe, Moi Fraser, Bill Whiteway, Gordon Maybee, John Myers, Hope Dunbar and Shirley Hatcher.

## Help Wanted

Many hands make light work! see how your interests and talents match up with camp needs: sign up using our handy online form at [Berwick Camp Volunteer Sign Up Form](#) ...Thanks! Questions? email [Kim Curlett](#)

Looking for a kids video program coordinator, to organize volunteers to supervise our young campers in Fireside Room while they watch Veggie Tales during the worship services. Interested? email [Sandy Porter](#).

## Annual Camp Work Week - June 5-13

Come join in the fun and watch the transformation! We are looking forward to welcome new workers along with the regular crew for Berwick Camp's Annual Work Week: June 5-13, 2009.

For those who haven't yet participated in this experience here's the scoop: all meals & accommodations are included during work week. Just note that bedding is no longer available; otherwise, you take care of camp and camp takes care of you! There is no charge for you to stay at camp, you are just asked to exchange a week of time and effort for genuine camp hospitality. (imagine what the following list of "to do's" would cost camp if we had to hire folks to do it... it just couldn't happen!)

Some of the projects on the 2009 "to do list" this year are:

- Build a Duplex
- Build a Cottage
- Reconstruct Cottage #4 (which was leveled by a tree this past winter!)
- Paint 40 cottages
- Repair decks on 40 cottages
- Build an extension on the Kitchen to house new freezer storage
- and numerous other small but necessary things that need doing!

There is quite literally something that each of us can do! From the young and strapping to mature with health concerns, we can find something that you can do! We have folks who:

- come to make drapes for the new cottages and repair old ones (bring along any curtains you no longer need please!)
- folks to cook and feed the work crews
- people cutting/hammering and constructing so many buildings/repairs
- painters of all manner of things, some on ladders, some at eye level (last year a 4yr old helped paint a cottage during work week!!! BTW her technique was beautiful - thanks again Mercy... and her parents!)
- others help care for our baby Hemlocks and plant the garden in front of the Dining Hall
- another who uses work week time to deliver bulletin inserts about Camp Meeting in the the surrounding area churches

This is also a great way for parents with youth to give their hard working teens (male and female!) some work experience to use on a resume in years to come! (Please note, all teens and children must be on grounds and under the supervision of a responsible adult)

If you can't come for the full week, that's fine too: we'll welcome you for however much time you can spare. Please email [Les Wood](#) to let him know when and how many of you are coming so there will be lot's of food for all. Les might not respond to your email till after mid May (he's in recovery mode at the moment... Praise God!!!) but he will be keeping track and making plans!

This is a perfect opportunity for all campers, young and old, to join together in an effort to make this place we treasure shine and stay in good repair!

## New Fence Project

In addition to all the wonderful projects listed above for Work Week, there is also a team undertaking a rebuild of the white picket fence that greets us each July as we "come home" to our hemlock paradise. It has been in need of repair for some time now. Preparation work will begin on a couple of weekends later in May. If anyone has a few hours to give on a Saturday, and wouldn't mind driving to Berwick from where you are, your time and energy would be welcome! Please call [email Chrissie Crooks](mailto:email.Chrissie.Crooks) or call (902) 681-1399 if interested and available. Pledges of financial support are also welcome:)

We are replacing about 350 feet of picket fence. We are accepting sponsorships of fencing based on 10 ft. sections: pledges range from \$25 for a quarter section, \$50 for a half section, to \$100/section. There is no limit on either end of the donation scale, so all offers are very appreciated. One camper has already suggested a memorial donation could be directed to a project such as this. (Chrissie will be making some phonecalls over the next few weeks to start the project rolling). You may be hearing from her or please feel free to contact her as above.

## Joanne's Recreation Corner

**Equipment to donate?** Do you have new or slightly used sports equipment that you are no longer using? Berwick Camp could probably use what you have. We are looking for basketballs, volleyballs, footballs, frisbees, beachballs, badminton gear, washer toss, ring toss, softballs and gloves... the list goes on. Recreation is more than just sports. Board games also welcome. Please drop off to Joanne MacGillivray, cottage #6, on Saturday evening.

## Other Announcements

**Annual talents & treasures auction** - Once again this summer all campers are invited to participate in our annual auction. Bring your crafts, fine foods, objects of art, or those valuables that you have salted away in your attics. Any item of reasonable value will be fine. Questions or for more information contact Stephen Sollows [sasollows@eastlink.ca](mailto:sasollows@eastlink.ca) Phone 902 742 6252.

**Camp babysitting sign-up sheet** - At camp there are some single parents or cases where just one parent comes for the week. These folks could occasionally use some babysitting assistance to enable them to attend camp events (even someone to just sit on their deck while the children sleep in the afternoons or evenings). This year we're starting a babysitting sign-up sheet. It will be posted outside the Registrar's office. You will be able to post your babysitting need (date, duration, age of kids, awake or asleep) and others, who would like to share a little childcare time with our young campers, will sign up for the times they are available. If you already know that you are able to help with babysitting, please email [Jocelyn Tingley](mailto:Jocelyn.Tingley), who is coordinating the initiative.

**Berwick boutique open once again** opens on the first Saturday of Camp. Wonderful camp Merchandise for sale again this year: T-shirts, PJ pants, Hoodies, Zipper Fleece, water bottles, Berwick history book, Pewter ornaments. Also looking for happy smiling, friendly people to work at the Berwick Boutique. Please use Kim Curlett's volunteer sign up sheet to indicate if you can assist!

**Welcome new sound guy** - The program committee is pleased to welcome Stephen Sollows as the Camp's new Communications coordinator. He will be looking after all technology needs for camp - an ever-increasing and vital task to support all program activities at camp. If you have specific equipment needs for Camp 09, please contact him. He has a summary of equipment acquired from individual programs last year but needs to be update if something new is required.

*We hope you enjoyed this first issue of the Hemlock Happenings e-news. See you at camp this summer! Terri McCulloch, Ed.*

