



HEMLOCK HAPPENINGS

Pre-Camp Edition May 2011

Greetings From the President

What A Spring This Has Been!

I think it would be an understatement to say, "Berwick Camp has never had a winter and spring like this year!"

I want to start this latest update to all our campers by recognizing four groups of campers. Our incredible Rebuild Committee has exceeded all my expectations. The spell checker in my word processing program does not contain enough superlatives to describe my feeling towards this group of campers. If we were doing a movie, John Wayne would play Wayne Fiander and Clint Eastwood would play Eric Schuman. For those of you who are reading this and are younger than 50, please ask your parents who these actors are. You need to have been raised on westerns to appreciate the strong silent type who comes from out of nowhere and rescues the town from disaster. All of the members of this group deserve the utmost gratitude of everyone. I think the rest of Ocean 11 would play everyone else in the team: Tim O'Brien; Bruce Tupper; Ken Moors would be played by Brad Pitt; George Clooney; and Matt Damon. When you first come to camp, imagine the destruction; consider the hours of planning and appreciate the rebuilding that has been accomplished in virtually 7 months. Then you will truly understand the enormous task facing this group.

Your table officers and the subject matter experts who volunteered their time and expertise to deal with our situation will ultimately become part of the folklore of Berwick years from now. By then we may have camp holidays named after them: Peter Woods- Saturday, Tim O'Neil- Tuesday; Chrissie Crooks- Friday, Terri McCulloch- Monday and Jack Spencer- Thursday. All of the table officers plus Terri leapt into action during those first days and weeks trying to make sense of what had happened but more importantly making sense of what we had to do. None planned to spend Christmas 2010 on Berwick Camp business but that is exactly what happened. We "wrapped Christmas presents; sent emails; went to Christmas Eve services; sent more emails; opened Christmas presents; made Berwick calls; ate turkey dinner, answered more emails." What a time we had!

Then the executive came to the rescue just like in the movies. From out in the distance, behind the hills we could see the dust cloud of the cavalry coming to the rescue. There came the reserves with Les and Dawn Wood on white horses with all the rest spread out beside them: Sandy; Mary Lynn; Brian; Krista; Susan; Andrea; Anne and others with phones, emails, lists; and notes a blazing.

Last but definitely not least are the hundreds of volunteers who have pitched in at workdays; made phone calls; raised funds; provided communication and kept the Berwick spirit alive. You truly are the unsung heroes in this story. Thank you from all of us to all of you.

Poetic license, you bet. The truth, most definitely!

I have been kept up to date by Wayne and the Rebuild committee as to what they have been doing and what the immediate plan is. I want to summarize some rebuild items and then move on to camp this year.

Some rebuilding will be done, but not everything. Repairs will be done but not all. Destroyed cottages may be replaced but not everyone. New cottages will be built but not all will be done in time for camp. I think the pictures have prepared you somewhat for your first view of buildings that have been damaged or destroyed. What you will not be prepared for is what has happened to our beloved Hemlock Trees. This is what devastates most campers. When they view the upper campground from the polka dot cottage and can see the South Mountain that is a shock!

What I do want everyone to know is that we will have room for you at camp this year. Our new registrars, Brian and Krista Reitzel, are truly having a baptism by fire. They are juggling everything they can and being kept up to date when cottages are back in livable condition.

We want all our campers to come to camp this summer. Please do not stop coming because you are afraid of space. We will accommodate you! The rebuild committee is pulling out all the stops to have the maximum spaces available for this year. It will be a juggling year and will not affect your status for cottages in the future. Consider it a blip in the process. Next year it goes back to normal. If you feel you want to arrive a day or so early to help your neighbors or get your place established please do. The dining room will not open until its usual time, so come prepared.

Our program each year is always special but this year more special than usual. The exciting news is our moderator, Mardi Tindal, will be joining us for the first two days. She will be arriving the first Friday night and leaving after supper on Saturday. She will be part of our camp as a former camper as well as provide leadership in some events. Please plan to join us for the first weekend.

Our music, morning program, and preaching is being led by a group of United Church people called the "The Common Cup". We welcome them to our camp. You already know one member of the troop, Lloyd MacLean who along with Bruce Harding has provided music leadership in the past. The program committee will keep you informed of more details. We will also be having various faith and information events dealing with the tragedy that has befallen us.

Susan MacAlpine-Gillis and Tim Crooks as co-chairs of the Rejuvenation 2015 team will lead us as we go forward from rebuild to renew. The fundraising team led by Tim O'Neil and Chrissie Crooks will be hard at work as we strive to achieve our \$1,000,000 goal.

I, on the other hand plan a very leisurely encampment. I can be found on the front step of cottage 63 drinking tea; reading books; napping; and talking to campers. When I am not there, find me at one of the programs, the dining hall or at Church. Camp will be back to normal. My belief is when you have such a capable group of individuals providing leadership and management the best thing I can do is get out of their way.....and let them lead!

I look forward to seeing all of you at Berwick 140!
Gordon Cameron, President

Berwick Rebuild

Rebuild Committee Report

The Rebuild Committee work continues but with a lot of rain. Essentially, the last three weeks have seen little progress as wet conditions and at times pouring rain have slowed our forward progress.

We have had four "volunteer days" and all were well attended (about 20-25 each time).

A portable mill is on site to saw logs into 1x6, 1x8 boards for wall and roof enclosure or for posts of various lengths. Tree stumps, more wood debris etc is being piled up for a drum chipper once again to reduce them to usable wood chips.

The electrical rebuild began the week of April 5th. Many of the existing poles, lines and some equipment can be reused as secondary poles and lines to cottages from the poles. Power lines are up from the Lower Campground to the walkway to Holywood. The lines were energized on Friday May 6, 2011 and we have begun reconnecting water lines.

To date, 25 building permits have been applied for, six for demolition, eight are for new cottages as replacements for the seniors apartments - these will have plumbing and several will be "barrier free". Cottages 110, 60, 51, 49, 46, 18 are in for major repairs and we will do everything we can to have them available by the time camp opens. We also hope to build six new cottages off Holywood, they will be without water or sewer, but weather will now mean this part of the rebuild may be after camp.

The pace of repair and construction from now until mid-June will enter an intense phase as soon as the rain stops. We will try to get as much done before the first camp on June 23rd. Several professional work crews are on site, weather permitting and will be there to get as much done as possible. We also will rebuild the fence, repair water and sewer lines and conduct minor repairs. Also, most of the cottages and buildings have to be reconnected to the electrical system.

We continue to remove damaged trees, 14 so far. At one point, two weeks ago during a severe wind storm, 10 trees had to be taken down, four of which were large enough to engage an arbor specialist with a crane. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Fiander
Rebuild Committee Chair,
Berwick United Church Camp



Be Part of This Year's Work Week!



Work week this year is actually a long weekend June 10-13. Meals will be provided starting with breakfast on Friday and ending with supper on Monday. You are more than welcome to come Thursday evening to get set up. The lower washrooms are working. Accomodation is available in the dorms and Fireside, but your own bedding/sleeping bags will be needed. There are many jobs including brush clearing, cleaning of cottages, gutting the Seniors Apartment building, sewing and small carpentry projects (shutters, picnic tables). This year we need to limit numbers to 50 at any given time. Many have indicated their interest but confirmation of arrival and departure times is requested so that more than 50 can attend by being there on different dates. If interested, please contact Chrissie Crooks at chris.crooks@eastlink.ca.

Program Preview 2011

Morningside

We are thrilled to welcome Sally Shaw as our Morningside leader.....



Rev. Sally Shaw is originally from Sarnia, Ontario, and since 2008 has been the Director of the Formation Program for United Church students at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. She has served with congregations in 4 Conferences since her ordination in 1992, including rural, town, and urban/suburban settings. Sally is married to Rob Fennell and they have two sons, Dexter and Noah. Camping and outdoor ministries hold a special place in Sally's heart; she is delighted to be coordinating the Morningside program at Berwick this summer.

Please join Sally each morning, Monday to Friday, at 7:30 in the Closed Pavilion. You will be glad you did!!

Worship

Communion under the Hemlocks... strange as it may sound, Berwick Camp does not have its own communion ware - after all these years! If there is any church with an abundance of communion ware we would be honoured to receive some as a donation. It would be wonderful to have 3 or 4 complete sets (chalice and plate) for when there are a lot of people taking communion. Perhaps you have gone through an amalgamation and have extras? Or a new set has been donated and you don't know what to do with the old one? Bring them to camp this year. The Worship Superintendent, Kate Crawford, will be delighted to receive them on behalf of us all. ALSO, we are looking for an ordained minister to lead us in communion on our second Sunday gathering - the last of the encampment. Please let Kate know if you are interested (katecrawf@hotmail.com).

Remember, there is only **one** service now with communion on Sunday mornings - at **10:00 am**. We've always done it this way!

Berwick Books at the Labyrinth



We will tackle two great reads this summer. On Monday and Wednesday we'll discuss The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. On Tuesday and Thursday we'll discuss Hugh MacLennan's Barometer Rising. We hope you will be interested to discover the similarities and differences between these two books which each tackle an experience of survival during war-torn times. "The Guernsey" focuses on how people in Guernsey cope during German occupation while "Barometer" will reveal to us the details leading up to and going through the incredible Halifax explosion.

"The Guernsey" has received wide acclaim, for example from The Guardian (UK), "The characters step from the past radiant with eccentricity and kindly humour. The writing, with its delicately offbeat, self-deprecating stylishness, is exquisitely turned." As for Barometer Rising, it has been said, "This book is a masterpiece, worthy to be called a classic. MacLennan's writing is smooth and descriptive...Not only does MacLennan do an exemplary job of writing, the story is taut and compelling." (From "A Reader's Journal" blog by a retired biology teacher in Utah).

As in the past, we will save Friday for a general discussion about books we have read since last year and turn our thoughts to planning the session for 2012.

Jennifer Johnson jw.johnson@ns.sympatico.ca;
Susan Reid susanreid@eastlink.ca;
Terry Milne terrymilne@hotmail.com
Catherine Bradshaw catherinebradshaw@live.ca

Book Sale

The Berwick Book Club will host a used book sale during camp to raise money for the campground. Book donations can be brought to camp. We'd appreciate gently used novels, literature and children's books ONLY. Please, no magazines, periodicals, text books, cookbooks or self-help books.

New Life New Growth

A shoot shall come out of the stump: celebrating the next 140 years of Berwick camp!

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." John 12:24

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots."
Isaiah 11:1

Let us join together on Saturday July 30 afternoon as we contemplate and celebrate the gift of life and creation which is Berwick Camp. Through ritual, song and prayer we'll connect with our grief and our hope as we envision what new life our Camp holds after the devastation of December.

"Welcome to newcomers!"

Please join us for a Meet and Greet Saturday, July 30 at 4 pm in the covered pavilion. We look forward to introducing you to Berwick Camp; answering your questions; and spending time with our president, Gordon Cameron, who will join us.

Hope to see you there.

Joan Fraser and Shelley Hallman, cabin 7



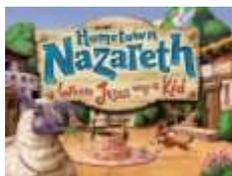
Sunday Afternoon Concert and Ice Cream Social

All campers are invited to our Sunday afternoon concert at 2 pm, featuring ... **The Common Cup!** Immediately following the concert will be our "**Sunday Afternoon Ice Cream Social**", hosted by The Youth Group. It will be a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and greet old ones. See you there!!!

Children's Programming

The spirit of Berwick is in us, the people! Plans for an exciting summer camp are well underway. It has been hard not to focus on all the things that will be different this summer but now it is time to focus on what will be the same... or even better than before! There is lots of great programming for youth and children.

Youth leadership will again be conducted by Andy and Jenny O'Neil with a program that will be challenging, interesting and fun filled time together.



Vacation Bible School has some talented, dedicated teachers ready to have fun with children from preschool to Grade 5 this year. Come with us on a trip back in time to Nazareth, when Jesus was a boy. Hear Mary tell stories about her son, learn what life was like when Jesus was little, have snacks, make crafts and sing great songs!

Enjoy Veggie Tale movies during the evening worship each evening!



Do fun craft projects in the afternoons! In my house we are already starting to do a count down! Please consider sharing your talents by volunteering your leadership skills for the children programs. There are still several positions that need to be filled so that we can have the best time yet:

- Coordinator for the Veggie Tale movies that are shown during worship.
- Coordinator for the afternoon craft program as well as volunteers to run crafts for the children.
- VBS teachers (particularly for the higher class ages)

Before the end of camp last year I collected the names of several people interested in filling these positions but that notebook was left in my cabin and may or may not have survived the water damage so PLEASE contact me if you are interested (EVEN if I spoke with you last year).

Thanks,

Shannon MacLean Cabin #57 shannonmaclean@msn.com (902)464-6253

Final Night Extravaganza!!!!

For the last two years I have collected photos from the camp and displayed them in the Open Pavilion on the last night of camp. We have had a variety of entertainment and a few tables set up with some snacks. We also had Karaoke!!!! Most people seemed to enjoy this large gathering for the last night of camp. Please contact me with ANY new ideas to make the event even more fun or to volunteer to help out ☺ We need:

- Someone to run a sing-a-long or Karaoke!
- Musical groups to perform during the last night extravaganza.

The night ends with the big BBQ roast! ☺

Shannon MacLean Cabin #57 shannonmaclean@msn.com (902)464-6253



Drama Fun!

Come join in the fun on Monday, August 1st. Youth ages 8-12 are invited to have some laughs playing interactive drama and improve games. Stay tuned for more details... 'cause we'd love to see you there!

Hollywood Party

Once again, the residents of Hollywood Blvd, will be hosting the spectacular Hollywood Party! And, this year the theme is..... BERWICK.... Past or present... camp or town! There are sure to be lots of great costume ideas for this one!

Board Game Extravaganza!

A Board Game Extravaganza will be taking place this year on Sunday, July 31st at 2:30 pm for kids and youth ages 8 and up. There will be games for all ages and skill levels. Come and share a laugh over Cranium Cadoo, Guesstures or Apples to Apples. Join a group to play Monopoly or Clue, or engage yourself in a game of strategy, like Carcassonne. A great chance to have some fun with old friends and meet new ones. An activity that will be fun for kids and teens and should not be missed by new campers.



Casting Call...

Step aside J. Lo! Make way, Tao Cruz! The Berwick Youth will be making two music videos this summer! We need singers and actors from the ages of 7 to 14 to participate. Practices and videotaping will take place from Sunday through Thursday, with the final edited songs to be shown at the youth service on the evening of Saturday, August 6th. The songs are... ***Today I'm Going to Try and Change the World*** (by Johnny Reid) and ***Don't Laugh at Me*** (by Mark Wills).

That's not all! We want to have an awesome service, so we are looking for some soloists to sing a couple of great songs as well. If you are in VBS, Junior or Senior Youth, and would like to sing a solo, please contact me. I can give you the music to practice ahead of time, so that it won't take up too much time at camp. Note that all volunteer soloists must be at camp on the evening of August 6th.

If you are interested in being involved in the music videos or singing a solo, please contact Sue Cuthbertson at cccuthbertson@hotmail.com

Berwick Auction



It is never too early to think of items for our auction. Get those knitting needles going; make a few extra jars of your favourite preserves; do a wood working project; paint a picture:.....all good ideas for this very popular event. This year on Tuesday afternoon we will be having both a silent and a live auction. Please bring your contributions to camp and stay tuned as to where and when to drop them off.

Janet Sollows and Lynn Waller

Technical Tidbits

New Radio Station Airs at Berwick....

That's right folks.... Berwick camp now has its' own radio station. Call it good news or bad, but with the hemlocks coming down in December we lost almost all of the wiring for the campground speaker system that we all loved (or hated). As a result of this we will be broadcasting the programs by FM radio to your cabin or portable radio. Please remember to bring an FM radio with you to Berwick this year to receive the announcements and programs from the camp. Another benefit of this system for those with hearing loss is that you can bring a small portable radio and ear bud to the services and use it as an assistive hearing device, improving the clarity and volume of the sound. If you do not have one of these small portable radios, they are available for as little as \$1.00 at some of the dollar stores, batteries and ear buds included!



Calling all techies!

Help with sound system required, no previous experience necessary. Volunteers required for most activities at Camp, help out as little or as much as you like. Please contact Program (sandyanneporter@gmail.com).

Dining Hall News

To update campers on a couple of items that will be changes in this year's operation, the Sunday Barbeque supper which has for several years been provided is cancelled and will be replaced by a standard supper meal. The Kids Meal which was provided last year will not be offered this year. We provide good nutritious meals, we are not a restaurant, and a fast food menu is available at the Deli each noon time.

We are looking for **volunteers in the kitchen** to help with meal preparation. You can volunteer for one meal, or several. Volunteering in the kitchen is a fun and social way to contribute to Berwick Camp – and it helps save the Camp money, since we don't need to hire so many kitchen staff. Please consider helping out in this way!



For more information, or to volunteer, please contact:

Diana Ginn d.ginn@dal.ca or Verona Singer vesinger@eastlink.ca

Other Announcements

Our Berwick Apple Tree



Hello **BERWICK KIDS!!!!**

We have a beautiful big **APPLE TREE** painted on the **BIG DINING HALL WALL!** It's waiting for the new crop of apples to get on to it's branches... and add the color of **RED!**

YOU CAN HELP!!! We know all our **BERWICK KIDS** want to help to rebuild our camp... just like the "big kids"... and adults are doing! So Gil (that wonderful guy who's a fabulous artist) painted this tree... for you to put an apple on it's branches (with **YOUR** name on it!) When you get to camp... we will tell you... when and where... to bring your donations! There you will be able to put your name... on your very own apple... and then have it nailed to the apple tree... for **EVERYONE TO SEE** for years and years!

We hope that **YOU** will earn those donations... by doing good deeds at home... having a lemonade stand... yard sale... dog walking etc... (but always with family... or... good family friends!) **AND!!!** If it's someone that doesn't know about Berwick Camp... please tell them all about it and **INVITE THEM TO COME...** even just for a visit!

**** Parents...** we hope that this will be a great way to encourage/or introduce your kids... to the concept of tithing (Berwick being a very important part of all of our "Church family" experiences!) and also a lesson in how... even one child... donating to worthy cause.. that they feel strongly about... makes a difference!

The apples... will be made from downed Hemlock branches!!! We will talk to the kids about that... when they come to donate and make their very own apple!

For more information... contact: Cheryl Hartlen, C32 or... 860-2485/ cherylgbc@ns.sympatico.ca



Hemlock Happenings!

Our first printed "Hemlock Happenings" will be on Saturday, July 30. Please email any submissions for this first issue to Nancy Creighton at bncreighton1@ns.sympatico.ca by Sunday July 24th so that info can be sure to make it into our first issue!

How 'Bout a Smile?

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."