

Fall 2015



Bright sunshine and
Fall colors reflect the
beauty of Lake Coniston.

FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY

YMCA
CAMP
CONISTON
CHRONICLE

Nelson McLean Retires pg4

In Memorium:

**Catherine Malatesta
and Lee Fitch Price** pg20-21

The New Boys College pg2





Present



1994-1999



1970-1993



1969-1970



1964-1968



1936-1963



1911-1935

As our children have grown and developed at Coniston, we've seen that the experience of Camp has been life-changing ... not just in setting aside the technology, but in connecting with the outdoors, developing a sense of community, learning new skills."

John Calcutt
Coniston Board Chair

READ THE ARTICLE ON **PAGE 3**

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Director's 2¢ pg 1

Building the New Boys College pgs 2-3

Nelson McLean Retires from Coniston pg 4-5

Alumni News pgs 6-7-9

Carl Vernlund:

Capturing the Essence of Camp pgs 10-11

The Summer 2015:

JD Reviews our "sweet summer memories" pgs 12-14

Camp from Two Hundred Feet Up:

Capturing a Drones-Eye View pg 15

Camp News pgs 16-17-18

In Memoriam:

Lee Fitch Price pg 20

Catharine Malatesta pg 21

Camp & Alumni News pg 23

Camp Photos pgs 8-19-22-24

YMCA CAMP CONISTON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Calcutt, Chairman
Fairfield, CT

Rolf Gesen, Vice Chair
Hopkinton, NH

Richard Altman
Grantham, NH

Chris Eldredge
Newport, NH

Katie Gardner
Wolfeboro, NH

Gen Izutsu
Charlottesville, VA

Catherine Johnson
Hanover, NH

Jon Marvin
Bow, NH

Mary Helen Morris
Riverside, CT

Clark Smidt
Andover, MA

Stefan Timbrell
New London, NH

Nancy Walters
Grantham, NH

Michael J. Work
New London, NH

John Zimmerman
Hopkinton, NH

Brian Grip, lifetime member
Bow, NH

Tom Simon, lifetime member
Grantham, NH

STAFF

John Tilley
Executive Director

Jennifer Deasy
Assistant Director

Lorraine Newcomb
Registrar

Nicole Berthiaume
Afterschool Director

John McNair
Senior Program Director

Emily Judkins
Administrative Assistant

Aaron Turner
Maintenance Director

Dave Savio

James Newcomb
Maintenance



FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE HERE ON THE LAKE

If you were to ask staff and campers what improvements were made to Camp last year, almost every person would say boy's camp was improved with six new cabins.

But as is always the case, some things happened that weren't so obvious. I think that is a good thing, because last year we built a new boy's septic system.

Nobody really wants to talk about these things (and that is understandable!) Yet, constructing infrastructure is an important part of Coniston's long-term future.

That is why we are building a new boy's college as this year's major project. When Board Chair John Calcutt and his wife Ann made a pledge which would help us construct projects like these, I knew they had incredible insight into the importance of Camp.

Very few would call this gift glamorous. But their generosity leaves Coniston

in a position to focus on the growth and success of campers into the next century, instead of worrying about aging facilities.

In reality, I call this gift Vision. The Calcutts are that rare couple who know that, in order for campers to receive life-changing experiences, a lot must happen in the background.

As you explore Camp and new friendships next summer, I hope you will take time to think about the many people and things that make our experiences wonderful.

I think we simply can't thank them enough. —



BY JOHN TILLEY
CAMP DIRECTOR




Building the New Boys College!

Calcutt Family makes a valuable contribution to Camp's future



The footings are in! Our new Boys College begins to take shape.

When we look back at the history of Camp Coniston, there have always been people committed to keeping Camp successful far into the future.

John and Ann Calcutt are two of those people, and this year they designated a most generous gift — a \$100,000 contribution to rebuild the Boys College.

Simple, but so important

John and Ann's family is deeply involved with Coniston. John is our current board chair, and his family has been coming to Camp for twenty summers. "Our oldest son is 30, but he began at Coniston when he was 10 years old, and now we're seeing our nieces and nephews come to Camp. When

something becomes so much a part of the fabric of your family, you want to do something out of gratitude."

"I guess there are projects that have more cachet, but a contribution like this makes an impact far into the future. It's like the campaign to buy the land a few years ago — if we hadn't done that, it would have changed the character of Camp forever."

Some real improvements

The new Boys College will be laid out in a similar fashion to the Girl's College, which was constructed in 2005.

We learned a lot rebuilding the Girls College, and we'll have more showers, improved ventilation and

Why Do We Call Them "Colleges" ?!!

At first hearing, it seems a bit odd — yes, we're off to the College! Conistonians have always called the bathhouses The Colleges ... but why?

When John Tilley visited the site of Camp Soangetaha, Coniston's original home near Mount Sunapee, the property owner who ran a campground at the site said "Our bathhouse was here during the time of Soangetaha. Would you like to see it? For some odd reason, we call it the College!" That was when we realized the name had been around a long time.

But why 'College'? The most common, and tongue-in-cheek idea, comes from the time-honored tradition of "a place where one gets their best thinking done." Some even claim they get their best ideas in such prestigious locations!

But the other idea, and most likely, has to do with the era when Camp was founded. At the time, the word college was used in the same manner as "collegial" — to come together. People have always come together to brush their teeth at the beginning and end of the day, wash up before meals and meet outside this traditional gathering spot.

So okay, Conistonians — to the Colleges we shall go! ↪



CONT'D ON PG 3

The New Boys College

CONT'D FROM PG 2

better services overall for Boy's Camp.

There will be areas for different age groups on either side, and this also allows us to use the College for coed groups that visit Camp.

Crucial to Camp's success

John Tilley talks often about how important behind-the-scenes work is to Camp — things like water,

septic, bathhouses and equipment. "When these things run smoothly — very few people mention them. If they are in bad repair — it is the first thing we hear about!"

"We have thousands of kids, counselors and staff living here each summer, and everyone has to be clothed, fed and kept happy in order for each participant to have a meaningful, positive experience." ↪



A red-white-and-blue moment ... Camp maintenance director Aaron Turner supervises the first concrete pour for the floor.

"Part of the fabric of our family."

John Calcutt discusses his family's deep connections with Coniston



Calcutts at Camp! Martha, Maggie, Brian, Ann, John, Jack, Andrew, and in the front, Sarah.

Our family lives in Fairfield CT, and we can see that our kids are growing up in a very busy time and place in the world.

Camping in America originally started in the 1900s as a way to get kids away from an increasingly industrialized world — funny to think we're in the same place today!

As our children have grown and developed at Coniston, we've seen that the experience of Camp has been life-changing ... not just in setting aside the technology, but in connecting with the outdoors, developing a sense of community, learning new skills.

Camp is particularly good at creating that kind of environment. It's all about *building healthy relationships* — and for our kids, we've seen it follow through their entire lives. ↪

Nelson McLean Retires



Board of Directors honor 32 years of service to Camp Coniston and New Hampshire YMCAs with endowed campership

— and Nelson’s service illustrates just how important every job is to an organization. By stewarding the Camp’s finances, he impacted every camper and staff member who has ever walked through our gates.

His “personal mission”

Nelson described the growth and development of children as “his personal mission in life,” and a quick look at his long career of service confirms this. Nelson was the headmaster of a private boy’s school near Rochester, New Hampshire, when he joined the State YMCA Executive Council in 1983. In just a short time, Nelson became the Executive Director of the State YMCA, of which Coniston was a part.

In this role, Nelson administered the bookkeeping for the entire organization. After stepping down from the Executive Director position in 1995, he assumed the role of Coniston’s bookkeeper — a position which he held until last year.

Nelson’s long service to the YMCA is the reason the Board of Directors decided to honor his contribution through a permanently endowed Campership (*see right.*)

Nelson’s life story is one of giving back. He spent his entire career working with youth through schools, church, and the YMCA. His life’s work is a testament to his generosity and compassion, and the legacy to his mission of “helping young people become worthy adults.” —

YMCA Camp Coniston is a community that is built around working together, seeing each other, and making face-to-face connections on a daily basis. So you may be surprised to hear that the longest-tenured employee in Coniston’s history, and one of the most devoted, didn’t physically work at Camp.

After 32 years of working with Coniston, **Nelson McLean** has retired.

Camp’s “right hand man”

Each day, office staff would call Nelson to process finances, write checks, pay bills, or answer a historical question. Even though he didn’t work on site, Nelson could tell you exactly when the Camp built the climbing tower, purchased a new tractor, or even built a new building.

Because of his time and dedication, his work was invaluable to us all.

When young people are choosing careers, they often envision a job that impacts other people



The Nelson McLean Campership

In honor of his long service to Camp, the Coniston board of directors endowed a Campership in Nelson McLean's honor.

The \$35,000 gift is a recognition of his commitment, and will serve to fund this Campership in perpetuity ... "so that a child will always come to Coniston in Nelson's name." 

Every year, a child at Coniston will receive one of the cards below, in Nelson's memory.

YMCA Camp Coniston  The Centennial Endowment



ENSURING THE FUTURE OF CAMP

The YMCA Camp Coniston Board of Directors made a commitment to Camp's future in 2012, by establishing the **Centennial Endowment**.

The stated intention was to fund Coniston Camperships in perpetuity. But our board has now chosen to expand Coniston's endowment efforts under the central name of **The Coniston Fund**.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN GENEROUS AND VARIED, ranging from endowments to send kids to Camp every year, to needed construction projects.

But as John Tilley has said,

"EVERY DOLLAR OF SUPPORT WE GET FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FREES UP A DOLLAR WE CAN USE TO SEND A KID TO CAMP."

It all comes back to providing kids with life-changing experiences, and with your help, we'll be able to keep doing just that, into the next century.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CONISTON FUND.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
Coniston Camper**



You have been awarded the Nelson McLean Campership to attend YMCA Camp Coniston. As the Nelson McLean Camper, the costs of camp will be paid in full so that you may make new friends and participate in the camp program that Mr. McLean believed in for over 30 years.

Nelson was the longest employee in the history of Coniston and has always supported the Campership campaign. He began his work in 1983 and retired as the camp's bookkeeper in 2015. His 32 years of service to our YMCA were witness to many changes including Coniston becoming known as one of the finest camps in the United States.

Nelson's life story is one of giving back. He spent his entire career working with youth through schools, his church and the YMCA. This campership is a testament to his generosity, compassion and a legacy to his life's mission of helping "young people become worthy adults."







Coniston has more than a few potential Olympians!



James Reed reports: Here's a photo of the 4-man crew I am a part of this year in Park City, doing some sled testing a couple of weeks ago.

I am entering my second year with USA Bobsled for the '15-'16 season ... one of 8 brakemen selected to compete on the World Cup tour this year. I live and train at the the Olympic training center, and the other week I ran into a Coniston alum **Katherine Bishop** who is sliding for USA Luge right now! Pretty small world.

Michelle "Moosefish" Parsons Rauch is happily living in

Stowe VT with her husband, Bradley and 6 year old daughter, Isabella ... trying to wait (impatiently) for Isabella to be old enough to go to Camp!!! Michelle works as the office manager for Bradley's chiropractic office and is building up her apiary — yup, she's a beekeeper too :)

Matt Tolbert lives in downtown Pittsburgh, and is still doing outdoor engineering. He spends his free time taking his two children, Alex and Abby, on frequent rock climbing and mountaineering adventures, most recently in California's

Sierra Nevada mountain range!

ALUMNI NEWS

Andy Wethern says, Good things are happening! My office became a part of Shepherd Kaplan LLC on November 1, and as the firm is based in Boston, I will be spending much more time up there. I look forward to meeting up with other Alumni after work or even on weekends.

From **Emily (McCarthy) Muller** & **Robby Muller**: I just wanted to reach out with a bit of news ... Robby and I were married this past April, 18th in Newport Rhode Island!

We had a magical day and got to celebrate with some of our favorite Coniston pals, **Kelly (Muller) Condon**, **Gen Izutsu**, **Catie Borbs**, and **Sammy Rosen**. Here's a picture of us repping our camp love!



Emily (McCarthy) Muller, Robby Muller and Conistonians showing Camp love at their wedding.



ALUMNI NEWS

Joey and Melanie Whelan send us big news: We just had ourselves a nice Coniston get-together in Philadelphia this past weekend for our wedding!

It was a great turnout:

Ben Mark, Gen Isutzu, Rightor and Jesse Lehrich were groomsmen, **Zach Rowe** and **Brendan Olson** were also there

too. Ben was the best man of course. Here's a couple of pictures from the weekend you might enjoy.

Other than that, life is 'normal', as usual. Melanie and I moved to Birmingham, Alabama back in November to begin working at the ABC affiliate, Mel as a reporter and I'm a sports anchor.

Of course we're hoping that the next move will be to a Boston/Philly/New York type market, which is a real possibility thanks to our positions here.



Not a day goes by that I don't think about Coniston or talk with someone from Camp. It's pretty telling that, all these years later, the majority of friends I invited to my wedding were from the Coniston family!

CONT'D ON PG 9

Coniston's worldwide impact

At Camp, we often hear about people in need, and we do our best to help whenever possible ... that's how many kids come to Camp every summer. So when camp nurse **Stuart Gesen** began to speak of students in her school in Concord, NH who came from the other side of the world and who needed our help, we decided to pitch in.

Her husband and former Board Chair Rolf Gesen brought the first of hopefully many new friends to Camp last summer. **Odeyi Kizungu** is one of numerous young people who came to the US from the east African country of Tanzania, and who are now living in New Hampshire.

While he was at Camp, we hung a new flag from his former home in the Dining Hall, as the entire camp chanted to welcome him to his new home.

Fortunately, we were able to invite Odeyi to spend two glorious weeks with us this past summer, the first of what hopefully will be many ... he got a real taste of Coniston, and what traditional American camping is all about! ↪



Odeyi and Rolf on check-in day

Camp Photos!





ALUMNI NEWS

CONT'D FROM PG 7

This in from **Brian Doucet**: HEY TILLEY! We're having a baby! Come April we will make this terrible twosome a terrific trio with a little boy or girl.

Other than that its been working on the house and getting ready for sleep deprivation (!)

In fake news, I was asked to be the newest member of One Direction and Beth was asked to be this years Olympic gymnastics coach but turned it down to follow her dreams of being a Real World cast member."

From **Nicole Reiss**: Hi everyone, just a quick note ... I'm now a member of the ABAA (Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America)!

Kelly Muller Condon and husband Tim have new house, new baby, and new jobs news!

Both were happily practicing Attorneys in NY until Kelly and a handful of '97-'99 girls (**Bridget O'Connor Parker**, **Jenna McRee Bisset**, **Kim Sanders Marcum**, **Lindsay Torres Banks**, **Chelsea Quann**, **Katie Kavanagh**, **Catie Borbotsina**, and **Jill Albee**) got together for a long weekend at her family lake house, and Kelly felt called back to NH.

They razed the aging cottage many Conistonians knew and built a year-round home fit for their growing family which they moved into late last fall after welcoming Blake Killian, their third son in as many years.

Tim is a Business Attorney at Cook, Little, Rosenblatt and Manson in Manchester and Kelly an Agent at Sotheby's in New London, working alongside fellow Coniston alum, **Carter Bascom**.

The new New Londoners look forward to reconnecting with old friends, like good ol' **Ben** and **Maureen Kadish Adams** who live just around the corner!

Bell Richard sent this wonderful picture (below) of she and **Stephanie Brogdon** at Machu Picchu in Peru. ↪



CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF CAMP

Coniston parent and photographer **Carl Vernlund** documents a summer at Coniston

When Carl Vernlund considers his children's experience at Coniston, he says their most important memories centered around "the friendships".

"It was the personal relationships that stayed with them, and that's what I wanted to get — the feeling of joy, of friendship, that sense of trust and inclusion.

"John Tilley asked me to 'capture the essence of Camp' and to me it's that image of two kids, walking arm in arm, completely un-selfconscious ... it's truly heartwarming."

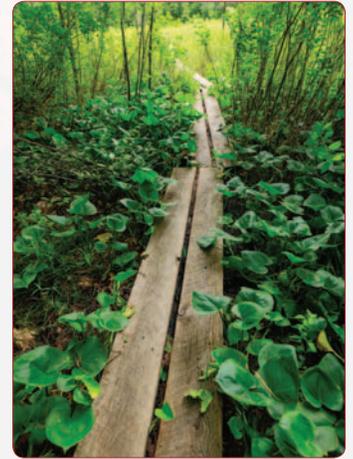
It helped being Lauren's dad!

Carl first photographed Coniston in 2008 ("being in NH, in an election year, I left a political rally and came straight here!") and he said being **Lauren Vernlund's** father really helped. "Kids can be a bit self-conscious, but once they knew, "Oh you're *Lauren's* dad!" it was all okay!"

All three of Carl's kids, **Shannon, Lauren** and **Ryan**, went to Coniston. "Lauren went through the entire program, camper to CIT to Asst. Waterfront Director, and they all came out of Camp with a self-confidence and and a discipline, a structure to their lives."

When Carl finished this summer, "I stood up in the dining hall to say thanks. Everyone started cheering and clapping — and they kept it going as I walked out! ... This is a very unique place." —





THE Summer!



JD reviews "sweet summer memories" of 2015!

What happened at Coniston this summer?

- ▲ We smiled and looked people in the eye.
- We introduced ourselves often.
- We said hello — and we hugged!
- ◆ We congratulated our friends on success.
- ♦ We supported our friends in challenges.
- ★ We encouraged people to try again.
- ▲ We talked kindly to each other.
- We felt pride!
- We had people of all ages become good friends.
- ◆ We learned how to speak for ourselves.
- ♦ We made our own choices and decisions!
- ★ We practiced common sense, and respected rules.
- ▲ We appreciated nature.
- We developed our imagination.
- We respected others.
- ◆ We asked questions for ourselves.
- ♦ We felt confident!
- ★ We lived in the moment.
- ▲ We practiced self-control.
- We learned to talk about feelings.
- We found 'being your genuine self' is what's cool.
- ◆ We felt trusted and independent.
- ♦ We learned about who we want to be!



What about the details?

So many great things happened at Camp this summer!

We were immersed in the activities that gave us shared stories and laughter. Cabin Nights, Overnights, Flashlight Time, Free Time ... we created relationships which taught us things that will live long into adulthood.



The amazing evening programs from **Jen** and **Asie** and our **Division Leaders** gave us jokes and memories to retell ... programs like **First Night Atlantis**, **Scooby Doo**, **Talent Shows**, **Where's Waldo?**, **Lilo & Stitch**, **Spy Kids**, **Capture the Flag**, **First Night Outer Space**, **Storybook**, **Bananagrams**, **Coniston Field Day**, **The Incredibles**, **Ice Age**, **Battle of the Bands**, and **Nancy Tucker!**



The Drama Productions were amazing, thanks to **Georgi**, **Liz**, **Molly** and **Emma!** So many great campers acting, and on stage & tech crew, for **Snow White**, **Tangled**, **Frozen** and **Matilda!**



Our Campfire Coordinators **Austin** and **Emily** helped organize amazing laughter and sentimental tears. Each session the campfires started us off with a bang, and ended our time together with love.



Tell the stories from summer 2015 to your family! Did your team win the **color war**? Did you have fun at the **Ice Cream Social**? Did you or a friend do the **triathlon**, **kickball competition**, the **tennis ladder** or the **highland games**? Did you participate in **chapel** or the **talent show**? Did you have a great conversation with **Abbie**, or **Dylan**, or **John**, or **JD**, or **McNair**? What was special about your **cabin mates** this year? There are so many ways to be a part of Coniston ... and **you** made this summer special!

Did it rain this summer ... yes, maybe a little! Did we laugh? **YES, MORE THAN WE COULD COUNT!** Thanks for the memories, Conistonians! Be happy and continue to be "your true self" while you're back home and at school.

Live, Laugh, Loon!

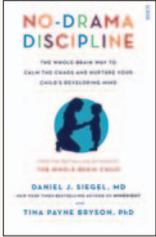
JD



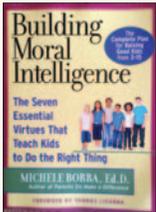
THE Summer!

Recommended Reading for Parents

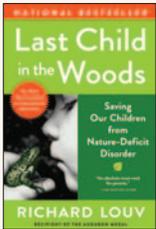
Here are some great books we have learned from and wanted to share with you!



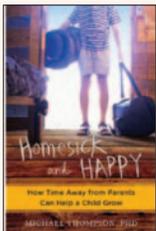
No Drama Discipline
by Daniel J. Siegel M.D.
& Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D.



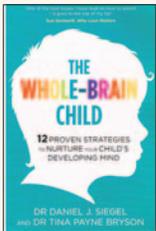
Building Moral Intelligence
by Michele Borba, Ed.D.



Last Child in the Woods
by Richard Louv



Homesick and Happy
by Michael Thompson, Ph.D.



The Whole-Brain Child
by Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D.



CAMP FROM TWO HUNDRED FEET UP!

Does that Lake look familiar?
It should! Shane Denherder
gives us a drones-eye video
view of Coniston



When **Stefan Timbrell** approached Coniston with idea of giving us an "eye-in-the-sky" view of Camp, we jumped at the chance.

Stefan's friend, videographer **Shane Denherder** knows 'rotary wing' aircraft very well. "I was a helicopter pilot for many years, so the transition to flying drones was natural for me." In fact, Shane flew Blackhawk helicopters in Iraq, so he had lots of experience.

"A few years ago, one of my friends started getting into drone videography, and believe me, they were tricky to fly! Now they're much more stable ... on closing night I flew *above* the fireworks and got some amazing shots."

Shane shot some incredible videos at Coniston. including the closing fireworks at Camp, and some beautiful "moving panoramas" over the Lake and Camp. We'll post them to our website (and to Coniston's new YouTube channel!) as soon as they're ready. ↪

Shane shot all of these amazing aerial videos of Camp from his drone, including spectacular shots of the fireworks exploding up from below!



Watch the Videos!



Scan this QR (Quick Response) Code from your smartphone to jump to our website and see Shane's new Camp videos!





CAMP NEWS

YMCA Camp Coniston is now an official landing site for **DHART (Dartmouth Hitchcock Advanced Response Team)** for Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. In case of medical emergency either at Camp or locally, DHART will utilize Camp's A-Field as an official landing zone.

Personnel from DHART, including Coniston alumnus **Tom Perron**, visited Camp in June to set GPS coordinates and check the site for potential landing hazards and obstructions.

The DHART team provides ground and air medical transportation services to the medical communities of Northern New England, and will transport to the closest Trauma Center in the region's five states.

A Note from Lorraine:

Camp registrar **Lorraine Newcomb** reminds us of a policy change: **to attend Camp, campers must be eight years old by June 24th**, but they can apply when they're seven.

CITs must be 16 by June 24th, to participate in the Coniston CIT program.



One of Dartmouth Medical Center's DHART helicopters ... cleared to land at Coniston.

Thanks to the **Croydon Fire Department** for visiting Camp each fall to give participants in **Camp Winning Spirit** an opportunity to use a real fire hose, climb on the truck and ring the bell. It is a wonderful outreach for both the fire department and Coniston.

Camp Winning Spirit is held annually at camp for families who have children with a pediatric cancer diagnosis. The program, offered free to any NH resident, is funded through gifts to the Camp's Annual Fund in collaboration with the Childhood Cancer Lifeline of NH.



Thanks to Croydon FD for the educational fun.

Coniston Afterschool Returns to Lebanon!

We're thrilled to announce that the YMCA Camp Coniston Afterschool Program is back in the Lebanon School District for the 2015-2016 school year!

With Afterschool returning to Hanover Street and Mount Lebanon schools, we again offer quality programs to working families at five schools in New Hampshire's Upper Valley.

Families who need care for children from Kindergarten through 5th grade can apply to the Camp office.

We're excited to be back! ↪



Carol and **Clyde Marsh** were honored as this year's Citizens of the Year for the town of Croydon, NH at this year's town picnic. The town picnic is held at Camp and serves as an opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate community spirit, take in the beauty of Camp and enjoy each other's company.

Camp Alumnae **Katie Marsh** returned from college for the weekend to present the award to her parents in front of the entire town!

Not only does the Marsh family impact the town of Croydon as volunteers in the fire department, they volunteer at a variety of town events through the year. The Marsh Family has also been instrumental in Hypertherm's annual volunteer weeks at Camp for the past five years. This is a well deserved honor!



Carol, Katie and Clyde Marsh at the Croydon Day picnic at Camp ... and the Marsh Family at the annual tug-of-war between the Flat and the Village!



NNE Canine Search and Rescue at work.

Coniston helps NEK9!

Camp has served as the training site for the **Northern New England K9 Search and Rescue** for many years.



Part of their use of the facility involves training the dogs in our lake — and that training was credited by NEK9 vice president **Donna Larson** as being instrumental to a rescue they did in early November.

"NEK9 uses Camp Coniston at least twice a year to train our search dogs on water rescue techniques.

"We want to thank you and express our appreciation for being allowed to use your facility ... without a doubt, this had a direct impact on our ability to find our subject!"

Online Registration

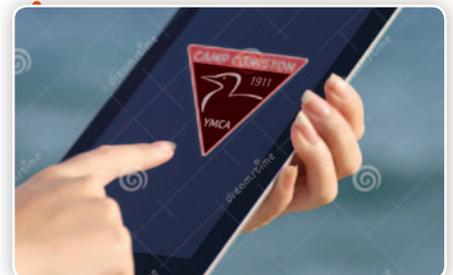
It's been working great ... and now we accept payments online!



Lorraine says thanks to everyone ... Camp's online registration system, now in year two, is working great.

We've had lots of positive feedback from parents, and we've added some improvements:

- You can now pay for Camp online as a part of the application process
- Our system now captures both your contact information and your camper records — we'll be able to list which cabin you were in, years in the future!
- Coming next, we're hoping to add a section for Alumni registrations and information.





YMCA CAMP CONISTON

Service Trips

FOR CAMP - COMMUNITY - COUNTRY

CAMP NEWS

SERVICE TRIPS 2015: Conistonians in Service

Once again this summer, Conistonians traveled afar and close to home, to work, serve and have an amazing time during our two week Service Trips.

Our campers journeyed to West Virginia to spend a week with **Habitat for Humanity** building a house in the local community; to **Feeding America** in Virginia to work at their regional food bank; and to the **Boston Rescue Mission** in Bunker Hill, where our kids did everything from loading the warehouse to

tilling the crops in the local community vegetable garden.

It's so satisfying to know we had a real opportunity to serve our community and country. And of course, there's that second week of outdoor fun — an exciting reward for all the hard work.

Registration for next year's trips is on our website ... remember, they fill up fast! ↪



ADVENTURE CAMP 2016:

Summer Adventures!

Here's a quick preview of our 2016 Adventure Camp trips:

- **Northern New England Explorer:** hiking, rafting and ziplining through some of the region's most spectacular country.
- **Green Mountain Explorer:** for anyone seeking adventure in the beautiful mountain terrain of Vermont.
- **Acadian Odyssey:** exploring the Maine seacoast at Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor.
- **Quebec Quest:** traveling north to Quebec for a week of water adventure and discovery.

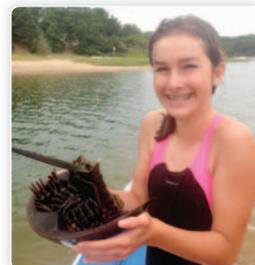


Adventure Camp

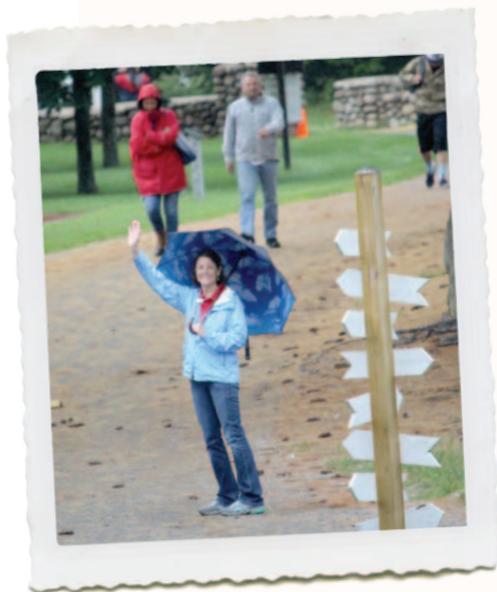
YMCA CAMP CONISTON'S SUMMER ADVENTURE SERIES

- **Maine Voyager:** where we hike Mt Blue, canoe on the Kennebec and brave the rapids whitewater rafting.
- **Coastal Navigator:** exploring Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard by foot, bicycle, wind and paddle.

Sign up today, and join us for the Adventure of a Lifetime! ↪



Camp Photos!



Lee Fitch Price

Coniston Staff and Parent

Lee Fitch Price passed away September 29, 2014, following several years of declining health.

Lee was secretary in the YMCA office in downtown Claremont for 10 years, working the first three years for Doug Reed and the last seven years for Bob Sanders.

In 1970, Bob asked Lee to work in the Camp Office during the summer season, and for the next seven years the Fitch family happily spent their summers at Coniston.

Lee's children, **Karen**, **Steve** and **Kevin**, rose through the ranks from campers to staff between 1967 and 1977. Lee's

husband Stan, though not on the Camp staff, volunteered in a variety of capacities every summer. Stan passed away in 1985.

The family remembers those summers fondly. Karen's one regret: "I wish I'd written to the Camp office last year, so that these two office ladies, Erma Sanders and my mom, could have been featured together in memoriam in the Spring 2015 *Chronicle*."

Coincidentally, the two women, who worked together for seven summers, died within four months of each other.

Lee's children, now all back in Claremont, NH, where they grew up, often reflect on their many happy memories of Camp Coniston and are thankful for the YMCA camp experience.

As a tribute to their mother and those happy memories, they have scattered some of Lee's ashes in various places on the Camp property.

During their visit, in a statement he had heard before, they told John Tilley that Camp Coniston had always been their family's "heaven on earth."

Karen and her brothers welcome correspondence from anyone with whom they enjoyed the camp experience during the same years.

Karen will be happy to share emails with Steve and Kevin sent to her at karenparker0@comcast.net. 



Lee Fitch Price and her family from the years they were at Coniston.



I N M E M O R I A M :

Catherine Malatesta

Coniston Camper



**“CONISTON
WAS HER
‘HEAVEN ON
EARTH’”**

from Catherine’s
funeral



The Coniston community was deeply saddened by the news of **Catherine Malatesta’s** passing this summer at the age of 16.

Catherine was scheduled to be a West Coast CIT this summer. At her service Coniston was said to be her “Heaven on Earth.” An honor student who dreamed of becoming an attorney, Catherine was a senior at Arlington High School where she served as Student Council president.

Three days after she was diagnosed, Catherine auditioned for her high school musical, and in March Catherine performed in Shrek. “To see her was dazzling, magical,” her mother said. “She taught so many what courage is, how to fight, how to persevere.”

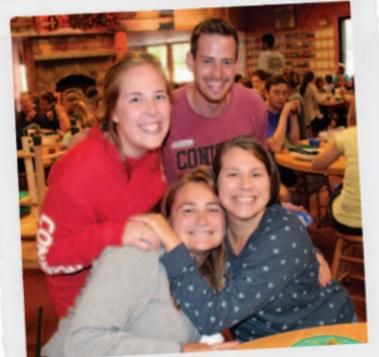
John Tilley said, “When kids face an early passing, it’s so upsetting to both young and old. Somehow we feel it’s not the natural order... kids aren’t supposed to lose their friends... and it’s difficult for us. We will remember to honor Catherine, in our thoughts, and in our hearts.”

We express our sincere thanks to everyone who honored Catherine’s spirit by giving to kids through Coniston. Look for a full article in the spring edition of the Coniston Chronicle. 

.....

Catherine’s family requests that, in lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to YMCA Camp Coniston in her memory. Please contact the Office for information.

Camp Photos!





CAMP & ALUMNI NOTES

Byrne Foundation Donation Makes Paddleboarding Possible at Camp



Coniston paddleboarders "sail away", thanks to a generous donation.

Last year, YMCA Camp Coniston received a generous donation of \$30,000 from the **Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation**, to help us reconfigure the activities on our Lake.

We put the money to work this summer by purchasing 18 shiny paddleboards for our new activity area.

Almost 500 Coniston kids has the chance to learn about paddle sports this

year, and experience the feeling of freedom and accomplishment of gliding across the Lake.

We're also looking at adding new activities in the upcoming summers, so Coniston will have the best waterfront programs anywhere.

Gifts like these help Camp to impact every kid ... and help us keep our prices down too! Our thanks to the Byrne Foundation for their generosity! 

1st Session West Coast CITs Meet Nancy Chang in the Canyon!

You never know who you'll meet on the trail! That's what Coniston 1st Session West Coast CITs said as they hiked through the beauty of the Grand Canyon this past summer.

At Havasu Falls they met a fellow hiker who turned out to be **Nancy Chang**, director of Reel Grrls, the first media arts center in the US focused on training girls to use digital media.

Nancy was very impressed with our CITs, and spent much of the day hiking with them, and discussing her work training girls to use new media to create positive social change.

Check out all the videos on Reel Grrls! 



Scan this QR (Quick Response) Code from your smartphone to jump to the Reel Grrls website

Nancy Chang, director of Reel Grrls



The beauty of Havasu Falls in the Grand Canyon

Camp Photos!



Camp Coniston Mission Statement

As a nonprofit service organization with a focus on youth, YMCA Camp Coniston creates experiences that build spirit, mind and body for all.

YMCA Camp Coniston

PO Box 185
Grantham, NH 03753
(603) 863-1160

email: info@coniston.org
web: www.coniston.org



Present



1994-1999



1970-1993



1969-1970



1964-1968



1936-1963



1911-1935



YMCA Camp Coniston

Over a Century of Camping Excellence

PO Box 185 • Grantham NH 03753
(603) 863-1160 • info@coniston.org
www.coniston.org

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U S POSTAGE
P A I D
WARNER, NH
PERMIT NO. 4

Recognized in  "10 Summer Camps Worth the Money"

 "Top 5 Summer Camps in the US"

 "50 Amazing Summer Camps in the US"