

Fall 2013



FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY
YMCA CAMP
CONISTON CHRONICLE



CONISTON CELEBRATES!

TWO MILESTONES IN 2014:
HALF A CENTURY ON THE LAKE ... AND A GENEROUS DONOR SENDS A YEAR'S WORTH OF KIDS TO CAMP!





Present



1994-1999



1970-1993



1969-1970



1964-1968



1936-1963



1911-1935

"When kids are put into the middle of things, they *expand* ... the kind of situation that opens up your understanding of the world in a very direct way."

Simon Jerome, Trip Leader,
Coniston Service Trip

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YMCA **CAMP CONISTON CHRONICLE**
 FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY

DONOR SENDS AN ENTIRE YEARS' WORTH OF CAMPERS TO CONISTON



One of the few images of Carl Witherell available anywhere, a 'representative portrait' at the CCBA Witherell Center in Lebanon NH

When people give a gift to Coniston, usually we know who they are ... a former Camper, a friend of Camp, a recognizable business. But, in 1984, when we were told Carl Witherell wanted to send local kids to Coniston, no-one at Camp had any idea who he was.

As it turns out, Mr. Witherell took great pains to remain in the background. The only visual representation we could find hangs at the recreation center bearing his name ... a portrait of an unassuming man who used his legacy to bring great benefit to his community.

A Local Visionary

Carl T. Witherell was the president of Twin State Cable TV in Lebanon NH, a pioneer in "Community Antenna Television" — what we now know as cable TV.



An original CATV receiver in 1948, the technology that Carl Witherell pioneered

Over 40 years Carl steadily built a business in the Upper Valley and, upon his death, used his legacy to establish a fund administered by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF).

YMCA CAMP CONISTON

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A YEARS' WORTH OF CAMPERS

CONT'D FROM PG 1

Carl's Gift to Camp

When NHCF contacted Camp to inform us of the gift in his estate, Mr. Witherell's bequest surprised everyone — he was completely unknown to both the fund managers and Coniston.

And yet Carl truly 'acted locally', helping area youth by providing them with meaningful life-changing experiences.

In 2014, the 30th anniversary of his gift to Coniston, the Witherell estate will have paid for *at least 30 kids per summer* to attend Camp from the local community.

For The Community Good

Mr. Witherell built a number of local charitable institutions, among them the CCBA Witherell Recreation Center, a fully-equipped fitness center in Lebanon NH; and the Witherell Scholarship, providing grants to graduates of local schools for studies in technology.

But, for us at Coniston, Carl's real achievement lies in *the clarity of his vision* — an understanding of the future value his legacy could bring. A gift like Carl's would be hugely significant to the camp community, literally bringing thousands more deserving kids to Camp ... truly changing lives.

Carl Witherell died in 1979, an intensely private man throughout his life. But his generosity and foresight inspires us all — he brought the Coniston Experience to a years' worth of fortunate kids, with more to come. ↪



Another enduring part of Carl's legacy, the CCBA Witherell Recreation Center in Lebanon NH

ONE OF THE REASONS

we at Coniston find the legacy of people like Carl Witherell so impactful, is because we're privileged to see the results of his generosity every day ... watching kids find a new species of ladybug, or participate in a phenomenal stage production.

From his gift to Camp comes an impact on our kids that will continue into the future. His legacy ensures that Coniston is for everyone.



This Spring we'll devote an issue of the Chronicle to how Coniston has changed lives over the past 50 years.

As we look toward documenting our 50th anniversary on this site, we realize that, without this legacy, thousands of kids would never have gained the Coniston experience.

People like Carl "thought globally and acted locally," decades before that was ever a slogan.

FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE HERE ON THE LAKE

DIRECTOR'S 2¢

Next year (almost on the heels of our 2011 Centennial Celebration) YMCA Camp Coniston will recognize two important milestones in Camp history.

HALF A CENTURY ON LAKE CONISTON!

This coming June marks fifty years when, during the summer of 1964, the work of a dedicated group of YMCA Camp supporters came to completion ... we found our permanent home, here in Croydon NH!

Doug Reed was Director in '64, when he and visionaries such as NH State Y Director Harry Wardell, and George Dorr, Chairman of Dorr Industries in Newport NH, completed the arrangements that made our relocation possible.

It was a massive effort involving a multi-year search for this location, and raising over \$250,000.

(Rumor was that

George stood in the doorway of the meeting room, and "collected" donations before the donors were allowed to leave!)

But it wasn't just a matter of hard work ... these people held within them *the vision of what Camp could become.*

From simple beginnings in 1911, Coniston has grown, developed and progressed because people who cared about Camp looked ahead and saw what they could offer ... not just to kids in their day, but to the children of the future as well.

THIRTY YEARS OF CHARITABLE SUPPORT

Carl Witherell was another of these visionaries and, as we look back, perhaps one of the quieter ones.

One day in 1984 the Camp office received a call — "the Carl Witherell Trust wants to send kids to Camp every summer ... beginning this year."

Once we got past the "exactly who is Carl Witherell?!" phase, we realized that Carl had somehow come to know the value of the Coniston experience, and he used his legacy to bring it to kids who need it most.

THE LITTLE THINGS ADD UP

When we totaled Carl's generosity over the years, we found he had sent over 1500 Campers to Coniston — *an entire summer's worth of kids* — through our Campership program.

We couldn't help but think ... what is the real value to our community, to society, to the world, that visionaries like Carl Witherell and George Dorr created when they gave to Camp?

How could you possibly account for the value of that?

One kid at a time, most likely ... that's the way these things tend to add up. →



BY 'COL' JOHN TILLEY
CAMP DIRECTOR



Camp Photos!





CAMP NEWS

Jess Meyer is now living in Colorado, and has combined her work in health care and the important role that Coniston's nurses played in her life. Jess has just been featured at [Colorado Health Story](#), talking about how Camp nurses' immersion in campers' and staff members' everyday activities help teach kids that health care professionals are "real people" too. Check out her interesting audio clip at [coloradohealthstory.org](#).

COLORADO HealthStory

Featured Stories – Jess

Listen
Jess - Denver, CO - 0:03

 Growing up going to a sleep-away camp, camp nurses played an important role in Jess's life. She talks about how their immersion in campers' and staff members' everyday activities helped teach kids that health care professionals are "real people" too.

"There's a lot of talk now about medical homes and integrated care... all of these buzz words. I think the camp nurse is the prime example of when this works best, because they're living with you!"

Afterschool News:

Maggie Sullivan from Coniston's New London Afterschool program is the first person in NH to earn the NH Afterschool Direct Service Level 6 credential. It's great to see Coniston staff setting such high standards in all programs.

Anna Adachi-Mejia, Ph.D., of Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine, is studying how families spend their time after school and on weekends. She is presently working with both of Coniston's Lebanon Afterschool Sites, at the Mount Lebanon and Hanover Street Elementary Schools.



Nick Newberry

MOMENTS AT CAMP:

puts Coniston insects on the map



Nick in the place he loves best ... guiding campers through Coniston's natural beauty.

After spending 10 years identifying birds, **Nick Newberry** decided it was time to put Coniston's insect population on the national map.

An incoming freshman at the College of William and Mary, Nick's fascination with nature led him to some unique identifications at Camp. "Sitting around the Boys College one night, we were able to photograph eight new species of moths in Sullivan County," which he submitted to the Butterflies and Moths of North America project.

Nick also paid attention to ladybugs, searching for unique native species. "I sent my photos to the Lost Ladybug Project at Cornell University, and a week later got an excited email ... out of 20,000 submissions, this was only the 7th of this species ever identified!"

The kids at Camp began to get excited about Nick's project too. John Tilley said, "I'd have kids come up to me saying, 'Hey where's Nick, I got a bug for him' ... that's how I found about this!" Nick also started

a "Flora and Fauna of Coniston" Facebook page, and encourages everyone to Like and contribute.

Nick intends to major in Conservation Biology, working to "preserve large areas" for everyone's future.





CAMP NEWS

Coniston Afterschool programs are working with **Better Out Of School Time, New Hampshire** to offer training to all Afterschool staff in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont. By assisting with the training of all afterschool programs, not just Coniston's, we help impact the lives of many more Upper Valley families.

This past September, Coniston hosted the **Croydon Community Day**. After the Fire Department's famous barbeque chicken was served at a banquet dinner for more than 250 residents, the "Flat" beat the "Village" in tug of war. Later that night, Camp staff treated the town to a fireworks display.

Whenever you see the **New England K-9 Search and Rescue** group save another life, or make another search for a missing person, you should know that YMCA Camp Coniston serves as their training ground several times per year. The group's important work is honed at Camp, as the rescuers



train their dogs by hiding in cabins and buildings, as well as doing "cross country" work on our facility. Our location is available to this group as a public service.

Coniston was happy to host the facilities class from **New England College** this fall for a tour and explanation of operations this September.



More than 40 employees of **Hypertherm, Lebanon, NH** volunteered to clean Camp and rebuild bridges around the Lake for a week in October. This is the fourth fall in a row that volunteers from the company have helped make Camp more beautiful for all! Thanks Hypertherm!



CONTINUED ON PG 7

MOMENTS AT CAMP:

Yano Windmiller

His Camp riflery skills took him to the Junior Olympics



Yano and a young camper, focusing on proper shooting safety and technique.

Yano Windmiller had never shot a rifle before coming to Coniston. "I always wanted to try shooting, and I took my first shot at Camp when I was 13. After that I always tried to take two periods of riflery per session."

Yano discovered a natural aptitude ... "I was never much of an athlete, and it was great to find a sport I could master" ... but his real strength was in trap shooting, a demanding and difficult shotgun sport.

When he went home Yano joined his local rod & gun club, and by sophomore year, his skills had increased to the point that his coaches entered him in the Massachusetts Junior Olympics, where he placed fourth in his division.

"If I hadn't learned to shoot at Camp, I know I'd never have achieved this. You think it's just fun at the time, but it turned into a valuable skill."

Geneva Heffernan

Archery almost made her miss her prom



Geneva Heffernan says her favorite activity at Camp was an archery sport called Flu-Flu, "the most fun thing for me, and that's where my love for archery began."

Geneva was an Archery CIT at Coniston this year, and this fall, she entered New Hampshire's first archery competition ... which, as it happened, was on the same night as her Junior Prom.

"I was just in it for the fun, but it turns out I shot better than anyone else! And after the competition I took off my shooting clothes, threw on a dress, and went off to the prom!" Geneva says, at Coniston, "it's all about learning through fun ... totally the best way to learn!"



CAMP NEWS

Colby-Sawyer College continued to work with Coniston this fall by hosting their RA and RD retreat at Camp, and through a visit of a Leadership Class!



Over 80 camp professionals came from across the United States to visit Coniston's beautiful camp in September. Administered

by the **ACA's of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania** and **New England**, this bus tour took professionals to sites where they could learn by being inspired. Thanks to **Rolf Gesen** for coming out and providing tours, along with JD, John Tilley and John McNair.

Link Up With Coniston's Finest on LinkedIn!



LinkedIn is a professional networking site. As an employer or job seeker, imagine being able to easily locate others who understand the value of the Coniston Experience with a simple search.

That is why Coniston is building a presence on LinkedIn for everyone in the Coniston Community.

By following YMCA Camp Coniston on LinkedIn, everyone in our community can start to network with each other, and find great employees as well as old friends. Join us at www.linkedin.com, and start linking up with Coniston talent!

YMCA Camp Coniston Annual Giving 2012-2013

Due to timing, we accidentally left some people off our Donor List in the Spring 2013 *Chronicle*. We apologize for our error.

We would like to belatedly thank the following for their generous 2012 donations:

2012 ¾ West Coast CITs

John Aaron
Brian Beale
Matt & Tracey Cairns
David & Anna Clark
Bill & Patty Dewhirst
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Jen & Dana Fletcher
Faye & John Gmeiner
Granite United Way Foundation
Linda Greer & Mike Tilchin
Larry Griffin
Elena & Joe Hanley
Patricia Hertz
Roger & Carolyn Keilig
Francis Lichtenberger
Jon & Sarah Marvin
Jessie & Dale Milne
Robert & Mary Helen Morris
Emily Morse
Joan Moyer
Darren & Susan Phipps
Randi & Steve Piaker
Diane & Chris Roberts
Stacey & Jeffrey Segil
Morton & Judith Stanfield
R. Bruce & Janet Taylor
The Boston Foundation
Alex Trowbridge

... and a special thank you to **Robert & Mary Helen Morris** for being a 5 year donor!

Camp Photos!





The Coniston Food Drive

Over One and a Half Tons of Food Collected!

We're so proud of you all — for our 2012 Food Drive, the Coniston community has really delivered!

1500 POUNDS OF FOOD TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Food Drive has quickly grown to become an important Camp tradition. We started in 2012 at a suggestion from Lorraine in the Camp office — why not give thanks for our good fortune by helping those less fortunate?

So we parked a trailer near the front gate, and collected food at each check-in and check-out.

How did we do? This year was the best so far — over a ton and a half of food delivered to local organizations such as the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee Food Pantry, and The Haven, serving Lebanon NH and the



East Coast CIT Directors Kyle Leahy and Emily Kerrigan dropping off 385 pounds of food from one of the check-in day food drives, at The Haven in White River Junction, VT.

Upper Valley. And due to your generosity, we were able to expand our giving to The Haven's location in White River Junction VT.

This is a phenomenal opportunity for parents to demonstrate giving and charity to their kids, and an incredible statement of community for Coniston.

John Tilley had this to say: "Coniston isn't just about archery and sailing. It's about teaching kids we can change the world around us. Imagine if, on opening days, every camp did this? What a wonderful example to teach our kids across the U.S.!"

Can Coniston beat our record next year? ↪



Coniston campers also participated this year in our first Service Trip, to Feeding America in West Virginia.

SEE THE STORY STARTING ON PAGE 11

LEAVE A LEGACY THAT CAN TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IN 2013, YMCA Camp Coniston invested almost **\$185,000 in financial assistance** to area kids.

It is your donations that gave these children the chance for an experience that will follow them through the rest of their lives.

We know the Coniston Experience can be enormously transformative in Campers' lives ... we hear it from parents and alumni every day.

Support from people like you — those who have experienced firsthand the great change Coniston brings to young people — makes this growth and transformation possible.

During the Centennial Celebration our Board of Directors established **The Centennial Endowment**, our fund for Camperships and capital development.

Board Chairman John Calcutt said, "One thing we can do, and are actively trying to do, is assure that **Camp remains affordable to everyone** — regardless of family means."

The Endowment also helps Camp deal with the costs of maintenance, improvements, programs — and our continual investment in training an exceptional staff.

Would you consider donating to the Centennial Fund, or including Coniston in your estate plans?

Your support will create a legacy of quality camping for every Coniston kid ... today, and for the century to come.





YMCA CAMP CONISTON
Service Trips

FOR CAMP - COMMUNITY - COUNTRY

SERVICE 2013

A DREAM FULFILLED

Coniston Kids Head Out to Help the Community, and the World


It was just an idea, but it felt so right to us — build a group of two-week trips, modeled after our Adventure Camp series, but this time combining the excitement of outdoor adventure with a commitment to service.

The time seemed right: the push for fulfilling service requirements in schools and organizations has really raised our consciousness

to this important need. And Coniston has always been about service — kids working together and giving back to the community is nothing new to us!

Could we make this work, could we get enough kids — would they even be interested? We found out at the first announcement, when we received a *standing ovation* from Campers and staff, and had immediate signups for both trips!

Our first Service Trips were so successful that we added a third trip for 2014 — and at this writing, all three trips have already been filled.

Once again, Coniston campers come through — for Camp, community, and the world. 



Conistonians dig in ... working to build a ramp with Habitat for Humanity

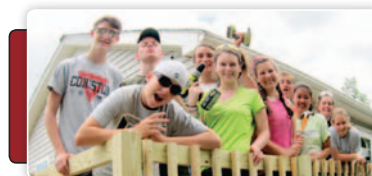


Two of this year's Service Trips will be out-of-state, but one will be local, and we intentionally can't release any details — we want the flexibility to choose the place where we can make the most difference. Participants will be notified of the location this coming Spring.

Camp Photos!



SERVICE 2013 ~ TRIP #1
**ALMOST HEAVEN
 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**
 FRANKLIN, WEST VIRGINIA



YMCA CAMP CONISTON
Service Trips
 FOR CAMP - COMMUNITY - COUNTRY

Habitat for Humanity's work has become well-known and highly respected — volunteers renovating and building housing to assist low-income residents.

Trip #1 landed in Franklin WV, to help Almost Heaven work on "Rose's House." Their goal: build a wheelchair-accessible ramp, to help Rose's terminally ill friend who was moving in with her.




Trip participant, **Stephanie Hilton**, is no stranger to community giving — she's participated in midnight runs from her home town to NYC for fundraising.

"But this is nothing like I've ever done before ... and it gave me a whole new appreciation and gratitude for what I have."

Stephanie and the Coniston crew were onsite each day from 9am to 3pm getting the job

done. "John Tilley said he had three main goals for the trips ... love, forgiveness and gratitude."

"And every day after work, it made me think back on how many people don't have as much as we do, and how privileged we are."

What lessons did Stephanie take away from the trip? "Seize every opportunity to be with the people you love ... learn to take nothing for granted ... and appreciate everybody you have in your life!" 



Camp Photos!

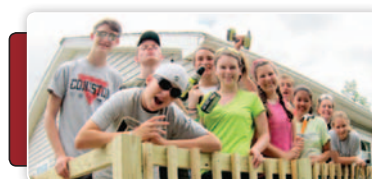


SERVICE 2013 ~ TRIP #2

FEEDING AMERICA

FOOD BANK

WEST VIRGINIA AND SOUTHERN VIRGINIA



YMCA CAMP CONISTON
Service Trips

FOR CAMP - COMMUNITY - COUNTRY



"James talked each morning about his struggle with addiction, and he'd say things like, 'Make sure you stay in college, and get your own job, so you won't be beholden to *anyone!*'"

Trip participant, **Caroline Glennon**, echoed Simon's feelings. "James was quite the character ... but when he'd tell us his history, it made me realize how he came from so little, but now he's helping so many.

"He'd get on the local radio station every morning and get so excited ... he even talked about Coniston on the air!"

It might be difficult to imagine a group of young people spending a southern summer working in a warehouse, and calling the experience "totally amazing!" But that's exactly how trip leader, **Simon Jerome**, described the Coniston crew's time at Feeding America in

Salem, VA. Along with **Katie Henoch**, Simon brought Conistonians on a memorable trip to the Southland.

"I saw this on the Coniston Facebook page", Simon explained, "and knew it would be great. But what I didn't expect was the totally transformative experience for the participants."

As soon as they entered Feeding America they encountered James, a volunteer preacher who Simon describes as "a commanding and constant presence through the warehouse."



Caroline came back "with a totally new perspective ... a reminder that Appalachia is not far from home." Simon agreed — "when kids are put into the middle of things, they *expand* ... the kind of situation that opens up your understanding of the world in a very direct way." —



Camp Photos!





CONISTONIANS AND CAMP NEWS ... FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

ALUMNI NEWS

Sue Haviland wrote to say she has just moved to Denver and would love to connect with Coniston folks in Colorado. She can be reached at suehaviland@gmail.com.



Chris Cross, legendary drama staff member, says he is getting married in June 2014. More details to follow in later issues of the *Chronicle*!

Emma Jane Deadman will be celebrating a civil partnership this coming May!

Tabatha Dube has moved to California and goes to the YMCA twice a week!

Loving life in Arizona is easy for **Ari Goldstein** (83-87.)

Jessie Lehrich and **Alex Grip** traveled from Chicago to St. Louis to see the Red Sox play in the World Series and were interviewed outside the stadium by Channel 5. Both of these former staff members are #trending.

Julia Pizzimenti Mehrmann was married in Portsmouth in September, where she lives and



works. She promised to visit Camp and see John soon!

Thomas Horton, Artist in Residence 2012, wrote to say: "Amy & I wanted to broadcast this exciting news:



We are expecting a little boy in early December! Amy is doing well, and starting to show. I think our puppy suspects something ..."

Coniston alumnae **Caitlin Buttor-Foerdel** was watching fellow alumna **Mike Clemens** play softball in Telluride, Colorado

when she spotted a familiar sweatshirt. Turns out Coniston camper **Bell Richard** and her mom, **Kim Richard** (70's alum) live in town!

Mike Clemens and his family moved back east to the Greater Boston area during the summer just in time to take in the Red Sox recent run at the World Series. Great timing Mike!

Matt Bagley returned to the United States with the English national lacrosse team this fall, as the Head Coach. Congratulations to Matt, and good luck England!

Alumna **Brad Ship** surprised his wife **Meghan** on their 5 year wedding anniversary, by asking her to hike Mt Washington as part of a larger celebration. Congratulations to you both!



ALUMNI NEWS



A group of Coniston LITs on their day off took a little time to pose with **Stephen Tyler of Aerosmith** in Sunapee Harbor. Who

do you think was more excited — Stephen Tyler, or the LITs?!

Alex Grip is currently residing in Chicago and after five years of living in the Midwest he “still cannot say I’ve grown used to the lack of topographical variation.” Regardless, he loves his experiences in this part of the country. “I’ve been working for MTV on the advertising side for close to a year and a half, and just accepted a job with Discovery Communications (Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, TLC, etc.) as a Sales Planner!”

Katie Arnold became a licensed clinical social worker and now supervises an intensive in-home family therapy program. She writes: “I’m also getting married on 7/12/14!!!”

Ben Mark writes that he is excited to become the Director of Career Pathways at KIPP Massachusetts. He runs a readiness and internship program for HS students, and provides counseling to college-aged students who don’t plan on going directly to college.

Evan Glynn, Grandson of former Camp Director Doug Reed and son of alumnae Patty Glynn, was married in Maine on October 20th.

Anjuli Hirundi Beckton is living in California and recently gave birth to a new son, Sawyer. Anjuli says she has already told Sawyer all about Camp, and how much he is going to love summers back East!





A "WINNING SPIRIT" AT CAMP CONISTON

Something special happens at Camp every fall, as a group of campers gather for a weekend of fellowship, ideas and sharing ... the kind of support they can get nowhere else.

Since 1996 YMCA Camp Coniston has hosted **Camp Winning Spirit**, for NH families who have experienced childhood cancer. Funded by your gifts to the Coniston Annual Fund, Winning Spirit is organized by The Childhood Cancer Lifeline, an all-volunteer organization providing direct assistance to families dealing with pediatric cancer.

CCL director Sylvia Pelletier says the most important value of Camp Winning Spirit is the ability for newly-



Yarr matey!
Coniston counselor Steve Dacey and Declan get into the pirate spirit, at Camp Winning Spirit



diagnosed families to interact with survivors. "Cancer is a journey for these families, and survivors understand the challenges. The emotional support, the exchange of knowledge, sharing information on what works ... that's the capstone of Camp Winning Spirit."

Sylvia said she understood completely when a young family member stood up at the Winning Spirit campfire and said, "This is the one place I feel like I belong ... now I know I'm not alone." ↪



High up in the trees, and yet accessible to all ... the Winning Spirit Treehouse at Coniston, a gift from the Childhood Cancer Lifeline

CCL Fundraiser at Pats Peak coming Feb. 2014

This past year, the Childhood Cancer Lifeline Weekend at Pats Peak raised over \$30,000 — and over the past 13 years, a total of nearly \$250,000, to fund CCL outreach and programs.

Please help to support CCL at this years' Pats Peak Weekend, coming up **FEB 22-23, 2014.**



SUMMER MEMORIES ~ LIFE LESSONS

JD RECAPS THE SUMMER OF 2013 ... WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER THIS YEAR?

WE ALL LOVE CAMP for its energy and for the many people who make us feel important. The face-to-face relationships we create each summer are more valuable than words. We care, we console — and we communicate.

Because of this atmosphere of sharing and talking, we gain life skills that

will help our futures. We'll

volunteer, we'll be great parents, we'll be desirable employees and fantastic supervisors who understand people ... we'll know how to work with others to reach common goals, and we'll know how to motivate ourselves and those around us.

Camp is intentional: intentional fun, intentional togetherness, intentional problem solving, intentional confidence building, and intentional group achievements. We're intentional about developing life skills.

WHAT DO YOU FIND AT CONISTON?

Authentic care and concern for people. You also find genuine challenges that help us grow and become more confident. These lessons let us discover exactly who we are ... and who we want to become. The combination of a "listening ear," and conversations with a different point of view, helps us to understand the word differently and grow.

But what do we do together to create these life skills? Coniston's planned activities and group work gives us stories that last forever ... and within those stories is how character is built.

On the next page is a sample of 2013 highlights. Remember, smile, and retell stories to your friends and family.

Have a great school year, and keep Camp with you!

JD



2013 Memories ... Tell YOUR Story!



The boating test on check in day
 Making a new friend
 Division Nights
 Kickball competitions
 Canada Day & 4th of July!
 Singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY in Hungarian to Karoly!
 Despicable Me
 The Flash Mob Dance during the Sunday Cookout
 Closing campfire, candle light, fireworks!

Nancy Tucker
 The Coniston (Kentucky) Derby!
 Monsters Inc.
 Our 1st Year Camper Ceremony
 The "Class A" Clap
 Capture the Flag in Main Camp
 Application Adventure!
 Color War... finding points!
 The Tennis Tournament
 Ice Cream Social



Sunday Chapel
 Sue Strebel's 25th celebration Cake during 4th session!
 Drama shows:
 Dr Seuss, Toy Story, Star Wars the Musical, Emperors New Groove
 Jazz music playing during Sunday Brunch
 S'mores on an overnight
 CITs running into the lake every session
 Dancing in the dining hall
 Triathalons



As Camp Coniston prepares to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our home here on Lake Coniston, and thirty years of support from the Witherell Foundation, here's the second installment in a four-part series ... the highlights of our last 50 years.

PART TWO:

Doug Reed

Camp Director 1960–1968

The issues facing Camp in 1960, when Doug Reed became Director, all centered around space.

Camp was founded in 1911 at Meriden NH, in concert with the United States' first bird sanctuary, and at the time 'development' simply wasn't an issue. New Hampshire was home to huge areas of undeveloped land, and privacy was easy to find.

But 53 years later, in 1964, the year of our move from Rand's Pond to Lake Coniston, 'development' was on everyone's mind at Camp.

Outside pressures

Camp supporters had long been concerned about the pace of development around Rand's Pond. The wife of the director before Doug,



Mrs. Van Gulden, said, "if we had stayed at Soangetaha we would have closed ... our property was simply too small." Coniston's own Board minutes read, "Large camps will survive in the future; small camps will close."

Visionaries in the western part of the state began to plan for the change. Harry Wardell, Chairman of the State Y, wanted to ensure our long-term survival, and George Dorr of Dorr Woolen Mills brought us community recognition and fundraising.



Camp traditions never die! Junior girls in a dining hall skit at Camp Soangetaha, circa 1962



Three Coniston Directors in one photo: Doug Reed, Nancy LaRue Bonell, and Bob Sanders



Six very important people in Coniston history: Camp Director Doug Reed, along with officials from the NH State YMCA, planning Coniston's future.

But there were many who considered Doug Reed as the driving force behind the move. "After all," said Patti Reed Glynn, "he had to deal with the development pressures, people walking through Camp, partying on the beach ... and because we didn't have the space, he was the one who had to turn Campers away."

A pilot himself, Doug and George Dorr spent hours doing flyovers, looking for the right spot, while efforts continued to raise \$250,000 to fund the move.

It all came together

Finally, the details came together and we made the move ... and immediately gained the benefits of our new privacy and space. In 1963, our last year at Rand's Pond, Camp had 226 campers. One year later when we opened at Coniston, enrollment had *more than doubled* to 512 campers. And in 1968, when Doug Reed moved on to become Director of the Maine State Y, we'd grown even further, to 621 campers.

Doug was a powerful driver in Coniston's success ... he set the stage for Camp to grow into the place we love so well today. —



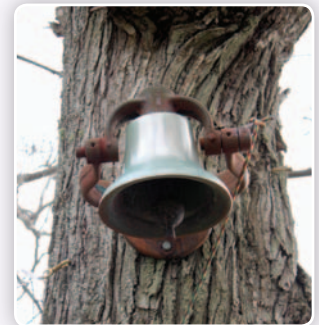
Patti's brother, Ben, at the entrance to Camp Soangetaha

Patti Reed Remembers

Doug Reed's daughter tells us about life on Rand's Pond

Patti Reed Glynn

was nine years old when she and her family made the move to Lake Coniston.



Coniston's bell, which moved along with the Reeds and our Campers, from Soangetaha in 1964

"We lived at Camp for the summer ... well, not the whole summer because, at that time, Camp was one month boys, then one month girls. My parents would send me home for 'boy season', then I'd come back for 'girl season!'"

Camp life was tough in those days. "The only building that had a shower was our cabin. Everybody else washed at a big trough ... or bathed in the lake!"

Patti remembers the issues with development around Rand's Pond.

"Camp was right next to the public beach, which was open at night. My dad had to call the local police so often about parties, they finally deputized him ... he had a badge and everything!"

When Patti and family came to Coniston, they were so impressed with the facilities. "When we saw the tennis courts, we felt like we had died and gone to heaven. And then, when we saw the stage, we thought, that's the best thing in the world ... what's better than a great place to put on a show?!"

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

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Present



1994-1999



1970-1993



1969-1970



1964-1968



1936-1963



1911-1935



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Over a Century of Camping Excellence

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