

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon

Reflection of perfection is our aim

FALL 2021



Celebrating 100 Years of Camp

BY SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

I love thinking about the idea that Newfound and Owatonna both celebrated their 100th anniversaries in recent years, both with very successful reunions. We celebrated Newfound's 100th anniversary in 2013 and Owatonna's 100th this past September, with Owatonna originally founded as Ropioa in 1922. Both of those events reminded me of how the past, present, and future of both camps are so rich and enduring.

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Call of the loon

4 Camp Newfound Road
Harrison, Maine 04040-9987
info@newfound-owatonna.com
www.newfound-owatonna.com
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PROGRAMS

Camp Newfound *for girls*
Camp Owatonna *for boys*
Family Camp *for everyone*
Creative Arts *for adults*

www.newfound-owatonna.com

Our alumni and friends' love for Newfound and Owatonna is born out of the clear vision and mission the Camps have been guided by and motivated to fulfil for over a century. Newfound and Owatonna's long term success is firmly established in always going back to its goal: to offer young people an excellent summer experience in a thriving Christian Science community. Campers can see others – campers and counselors alike – living and loving Christian Science daily and naturally at Camp. This gives Camp its enduring strength of purpose which has been demonstrated year after year, decade after decade.

Those who have had the opportunity to attend or work at Newfound and Owatonna know the impact these camps have had on them when they were there and continue to have on them wherever their journey has taken them in their years after Camp. The Camps encourage everyone, from the youngest camper to the most senior staff member, to develop their character to the fullest and let their best self shine at a place where developing our understanding of God, growing spiritually, and loving one another unconditionally are the focus of camp life each and every day.

Camp is a place that has blessed all of us in so many ways and whose blessing will continue to stay with us. It's also important to remember that each of us blesses Camp as well by continuing to treasure and nurture camp memories, lessons, and friendships. Many alumni came to the recent Newfound and Owatonna/Ropia reunions who had not been back to Camp for many years – some not since they were last campers 10, 20, or more years before. The deep camp friendships and the appreciation for lessons learned at Camp still endure. This deep connection to place, people, and memories is made all the more significant because of the shared value of love for God and love for one another.

The same vision and mission of Newfound-Owatonna that existed at its origins are still very much alive now. Our vision is “for campers and staff to learn and demonstrate complete trust in God in a unique Christian Science community” and our mission is to “serve campers in a place where Christian Science is lived and loved, through overcoming limitations, nurturing spiritual growth, promoting spiritual discovery and having fun.”

We can't be grateful enough to those who have committed themselves to keep the vision and mission of Camp alive and well for over 100 years – campers, counselors, directors, families, friends, trustees, and donors. And none of it would be possible without the campers and staff who come back to Camp each summer from across the world to spend the summer on the shores of Long Lake.

We hope you'll continue to stay connected to Camp. We love hearing from our alumni and friends from near and far to learn about where your life's journey has taken you, and we hope you'll visit Camp when you're in the area. We also hope you'll send your children and grandchildren to Newfound and Owatonna, bring your family to Family Camp, attend Creative Arts for adults, and support Camp financially.

All the good that continues to happen at Camp, our Home Away From Home, is because of all our love for Camp and what it is doing to support each of us and today's campers and counselors. We look forward to continuing to foster our memories, lessons, and friendships from the past 100 years of Camp and look forward to many more being made by today's and tomorrow's campers on the shores of Long Lake.



A Reunion to Remember

BY TERRY COOLIDGE, Reunion Coordinator

In case you're wondering, the Owatonna reunion was amazing! We had people up at 6:00 each morning swimming to Cherry Island, meeting at the Newfound ski beach for waterskiing, or hiking up nearby Hawk Mountain. Those hardy souls were then joined by even more early-rising, enthusiastic "campers" who were willing to come up to the top of the Owatonna grove at 7:30 am for callies (calisthenics) following reveille on Saturday and Monday. During the day, we had everything going, and people were doing everything! It was fantastic. Just like a full day of regular summer camp. Zip line, climbing wall, high ropes course, tennis, pickleball, disc golf, and volleyball. Swimming, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, and more waterskiing (plus tubing) down at Newfound. Team competitions up at Owatonna in ultimate frisbee, softball, and soccer. We were even able to pull off a modified version of The Great Race! We dined on traditional spaghetti for lunch and Congo Bars for dessert on Saturday. We chanted "Hap! Hap! Hap! Hap!..." before bringing out a giant Centennial cake and singing "Happy Birthday" to Owatonna at evening flagpole on Saturday. It was at this point where we took group photos of our whole reunion group. We had a social on the Newfound tennis courts for Evening Activity one night with people actually dancing! That fun was followed by s'mores and singing around a fire on the beach outside Newfound's Lower Lodge. We enjoyed customary "pits" (burgers and hot dogs on the outdoor grill) for dinner on Sunday. And, even though Chic thought I was a little overly ambitious when I suggested it, we got people to spend time in Arts & Crafts building model rockets that were ordered specifically for the reunion. We had over a half-dozen (mostly) successful rocket launches! The weekend

was tremendous.

I had a unique vantage point from which to watch the reunion unfold, and it was a great privilege. Of our nearly 300 guests, I think I was able to personally interact with all but a small handful. I would have loved to have had more time to have more substantial visits with all of those folks, but even having only brief conversations with so many who attended the reunion was a true joy. The spirit of love and camaraderie found in "camping friendships, strong and deep" (which we spoke and sang about at our concluding evening activity on Sunday under the tents) was alive and well in everyone I saw. I'm not sure I can put into words what it was like to drive back and forth between Owatonna and Newfound shuttling guests in one of our four rented golf carts all weekend seeing every corner of the camp property being utilized by alumni of all ages and everyone having such a wonderful time. After a year of thinking about the reunion and planning for it, I can't imagine a greater payoff than to run around all over both Camps and see Camp in action from dawn until dusk. Smiles, hugs, and laughter were everywhere. It was beautiful!

The staff we were able to assemble was evidence of harmony at work. During the final two weeks before the reunion we had some workers who were unable to attend, but we had other eager individuals initiate contact to express their interest in helping, and we ended up with just the right number of staff. I appreciated the staff's flexibility and readiness to be truly helpful. Duncan Wilder, who served tirelessly as our Program Director, deserves special mention for his extraordinary work, as well as Lizzie Loomis who cooked for us and did a fabulous job of directing our incomparable kitchen crew who kept all of

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A Summer of Courage

BY MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

As I stood on the platform about 15 feet above the wavy water, my heart pounded as I grabbed the rope swing and stepped off into the unknown. Would I flop? Would I fly? Would I impress the crowd with a flip? I heard a resounding, "Let go!" and flailing shamelessly, I flew through the air before splashing into Long Lake. I did it!!! I went off the rope swing! Admittedly, I tend to get a bit nervous every time I so much as walk past the rope swing, but on that sunny, windy day this past summer, I was encouraged to go for it and I did...because I was so encouraged and supported by others, and I felt safe to find the courage.

This summer at Newfound was all about being courageous. My moment at the rope swing only touches the surface. The

courage I saw at Camp runs so much deeper than a fear of heights. I'm talking about a courage that doesn't require putting on armor, but instead empowers us to take off our armor. I love this quote by Brene Brown: "Courage starts with showing up and letting ourselves be seen." Given the status of the world today, it would seem that many of us have layers of armor that we are clinging to on a daily basis. Campers and staff came to Camp yearning for a sense of belonging and authenticity. What Camp did this summer was create a space where everyone could take off the overwhelming weight of their "armor," breathe deeply and open themselves up to truly being seen. Leadership expert Monty Moran says, "Everyone in the world wants the same thing, and that's to be seen, valued, loved and understood." I believe that to do this, we have to be courageous all around! It takes courage to listen and create space for others, and it also takes courage to fully be oneself.

Our metaphysical theme this summer beautifully laid the groundwork for being brave and courageous: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Campers and staff expressed divine power, love, and a sound mind as they listened to each other, loved each other, were vulnerable with each other, uplifted each other, and prayed with each other.

Here are some of the things campers said about their summer at Newfound that illustrate how they chose to let go of their so-called armor, be courageous, and rely on God:

"I really want to bring the confidence I've gained back home with me...not so I can think I look good a certain way, but so I can remember that I am already perfect, just as I am."

"I want to live unconditionally...I want to not have any external conditions affect my joy or how I treat others."



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Owatonna Directors from front to back: Reid Charlston, Dave Pelton, Forrest Bless, Brandon Frank, Travis Brantingham, Jamie Bollinger, Seth Johnson, Burt Cady, Bonnie Bower for John Bower

Looking Down the Line

BY REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

As many of our camp friends know, in early September we had a reunion at Camp Owatonna to celebrate 100 years since Camp first opened on the shores of Long Lake as Camp Ropioa. It was a special weekend, with 300 people attending the festivities which included playing in team competitions, singing songs, sharing stories around the campfire, eating delicious food, staying up way too late, and even a modified version of the Great Race. I enjoyed getting to see friends from my camper and counselor days, and especially getting to meet some of the people whose names I have looked at on the plaques in the lodge for so many years. It was a weekend highlighting the Four

Pillars of Camp Owatonna – Be the Best, Love One Another, Give Gratitude, and Have Fun – and I hope that we won't have to wait 100 years to do something like it again (spoiler alert, there is already talk of doing more regular reunions in the future).

The most special moment for me, though, came on Saturday evening at flagpole. With everyone gathered up at the rock before dinner on a quickly cooling evening, all the former directors in attendance were invited to come up front to be recognized. Dave Pelton, Forrest Bless, Brandon Frank, Travis Brantingham, Jamie Bollinger, Seth Johnson, Burt Cady, and Bonnie Bower (representing her late husband, John)

came up and formed a line. As the current director, I was at the end of the line as we posed for a memorable picture.

As everyone was getting set up for the picture, I took a moment and looked down the line to my right. There, standing next to me, was a representation of what I have come to realize as one of the most special privileges of being the director at Owatonna. Each of these men (and Bonnie) had given so much to ensure the continued success of Camp during their time as director, but Owatonna's success wasn't personal to them. It wasn't a reflection of their personal greatness or unique skill sets. Each one of us, for our part, have been merely stewards of an amazing, God-given idea.

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*On a beautiful September weekend, Blues, Golds, Greens, Reds,
alumni and friends return to Owatonna
to celebrate 100 years of Camp.*

Coming Home to Camp

*"It meant the world to me to be
able to reconnect with so many
of my Owatonna brothers,
many of whom I had not seen
in five decades!"*





"It was wonderful seeing people who I expected to see, but then also so many that I hadn't! And I also met so many people who I had never met before. "

Use the QR code to see a short video.



The Best Vacation Your Family Has Ever Had

This past summer at Family Camp we welcomed a family with two sisters who hadn't been back to Camp in 40 years (they also brought along 2 adult children and their mother to enjoy the fun). We had four families who had never stepped foot on Camp property before this summer. We had a family who gathered at Camp for a reunion of four branches of their family. We had single adult campers. We had large families and small families. Each individual and family group decides to attend Family Camp for different reasons, but everybody has "the best vacation your family has ever had," as our literature proclaims. What is so special about Family Camp that makes us confident making this statement? Let us walk you through a day at Family Camp...

You wake up by the glistening lake to the gentle sound of water lapping against the shore behind your cabin and the call of distant loons looking for breakfast. You decide if you should join the group swimming to Cherry Island or stroll up to the dining hall to grab a hot drink before breakfast. Soon, you join your family and new friends for a hot, homemade breakfast on the dining room porch overlooking the lake. At Morning

Meeting, you have time for prayerful reflection and learn about all the fun activities that will be offered that day.

You are tempted to try the high ropes course this morning, but decide to do that later in the week because the lake water is perfectly smooth – just right to learn to get up on waterskis, so you head to the ski beach. You get up on skis!!!!



While zipping around the lake, happy about your new accomplishment, you see family campers out in kayaks, going off the rope swing, and learning to rig sailboats. After your ski, you ride in the boat and watch as some new friends learn to ski as well, then you decide that for the rest of the morning, you will read your new novel in a quiet swing. You glance up and, shiver me timbers!, your children are floating by in a pirate flotilla of canoes with several swashbuckling coun-

selors. You smile, wave, snap a photo, then dive back into reading. A delicious lunch is followed by a rest hour for all.

In the afternoon, you shoot some arrows on the archery range, play a rousing game of pickleball on the tennis courts, then cool off with a few jumps into Long Lake off the Big Float. Dinner (and dessert!) are delicious! After evening activity, you take photos of the amazing sunset from the canoe beach, stop by the ski beach to toast a s'more and join in singing a few camp songs, and then head back to your cabin where you share your stories of your day's adventures with your family. As you drift off to sleep, you think about what you will do tomorrow...the zip line? ride a paddleboard out to Cherry Island? gather your family for a walk on the nature trail? participate in the camp triathlon? paint a landscape on the arts and crafts shop deck? Whatever you choose,

you can't wait to start another day at Family Camp tomorrow.

At Family Camp there are always lots of activities, food, and friends for everybody. Come alone, come with your family, come with your friends, come after 40 years away, come for your first time ever, or come many years in a row. However you end up at Family Camp at Newfound and Owatonna, it will be the best vacation you and your family have ever had. We can't wait to have you join us.

Welcome Aboard Deb!

Join us in welcoming the new Creative Arts Director, Deb Hensley

BY DEB HENSLEY, Creative Arts Director

The magic of Creative Arts Camp landed on my shoulder when Danis called several years ago to ask me about teaching vocal improvisation. “Wow,” I said, “what a lovely opportunity. Sure – I’d love to.”

After arriving at Camp that first summer, however, I quickly realized this was not just another teaching opportunity, but a truly unique place. Folks were not only flexing new, creative muscles but living Christian Science in the process. Indeed, because the practice of Christian Science is the heart and soul of Creative Arts at Camp, I knew it was something I wanted to be part of.

Professionally speaking, I’m an education consultant, arts advocate, and community organizer committed to building empathy and connection through creative and restorative practices. I wrote a comprehensive training curriculum for the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast and co-facilitated foundational trainings. I directed early education literacy programs and trained teachers for both private and public education entities. I developed programs and conference events for the Transformative Language Arts Network and most recently, The Belfast Creative Coalition.

As an artist, I performed and presented workshops for over 10 years with Improvox, a vocal improvisation ensemble I co-founded, sang with Brio, a trio that morphed out of Improvox and before that, played out in various duos. Songwriting has been woven throughout, starting in the late 90s when I wanted to start singing again after a long dry spell. I didn’t know any songs, though – so I started making up my own, and I’ve been at



it ever since. I’ve lately been captivated with writing and recording rounds. More recently I’ve led singing vigils and community street singing.

I have two sons and between them, they’ve been blessed to attend three Christian Science camps – Crystal Lake, Leelanau, and Owatonna. I now have three grandkids and a husband, Jonathan, who built a sailboat and an airplane in which he’s zoomed me away on many a wild adventure. My favorite things to do are hike, sing, play outside, ride bikes, read, write, and paint. We live in the middle of the woods in Freedom, Maine, with the beavers, bobcats, birds, and bears and our cat, Beautiful.

My wish is to learn to listen more deeply, protest more conscientiously, and affirm Truth more purely. In this context, and in gratitude for all who have made it so, I look forward to growing this joyful Creative Arts program with you all.

Reach Deb at deb@newfound-owatonna.com.



Every Donation Makes a Difference

Help to bring all the things you love about Newfound and Owatonna to a new generation of campers.

Support Camp by giving to our Unrestricted, Campership, Capital, or Endowment Funds or consider Camp in your current and future Planned Giving.

To donate: www.newfound-owatonna.com or use envelope

"I want to bring home my reliance on God and my camp family. I want to bring home the freedom that I feel at Camp."

"I was so nervous and afraid about swimming the Harrison swim, but I ended up finishing and it felt amazing!"

"I thought the zipline would be scary, but it was liberating. I loved it."

"I realized that if I push myself and feel the love of my friends and God's love, I can accomplish anything."

"I learned that I am mentally stronger than I thought. I have the power to change my thinking and change the outcomes in my life."

"I learned that even a small thing can change someone's life and really make a difference."

"I want to express joy and love to everyone around me all the time; I think that is really, really important."

"I learned how important it is to take time to let others know that you love them and to also take time to love yourself."

Loving is a critical part of courage. Love cannot be separated from courage. When we choose to be courageous, this choice stems from loving oneself enough to show up and from feeling loved enough to feel safe and supported. One of our youngest campers this summer was already struggling with self love at such a young age. Some of the older campers recognized the

self-deprecating comments she would make, and they started leaving her small supportive notes on her bed and in her cubie. One of her counselors suggested that she repeat daily to herself that she was beautiful inside and out. Her confidence noticeably improved over the course of seven weeks, and we were seeing a whole different child by the end of the summer, one full of light. Not only was she courageous enough to love herself, but she began to express more love and warmth toward others. She grew profoundly in her understanding of who she is as a beautiful idea of God.

Throughout the summer, there were so many big and small moments of Newfound women being brave and courageous as they shed the false labels they clung to as armor during the pandemic and instead chose to let their lights shine! The best part is that everyone did this together as a community. We stood together and listened to each other, challenged each other, supported each other, laughed with each other, and grew together. If you have ever wondered why we call ourselves "sisters" at Newfound, this is why! I am a firm believer that helping others become the best version of themselves is what leadership is all about. The women at Newfound are leaders, and I can't wait to see how each one of them brings this new-found courage to the world – a courage based on understanding that God's love for them is greater than anything else the world might try to throw at them.

I invite you all to metaphorically jump off the rope swing. Find the things that perhaps you have been clinging to as armor, let go, and confidently move forward, courageously love yourself, love others, and feel God's love. Just as I did when I let go of the rope swing and just as the girls did this summer at Camp...when we finally let go of what isn't serving us, we fly!



Owatonna continued from page 5

To me, this has been one of the greatest blessings of taking this job. It would be tempting to think that Camp will succeed or fail because of me – trust me, that temptation has come to thought on many occasions – but in reality, Owatonna is a complete idea. I certainly have a role to play in its unfoldment, but what I saw from each of the people on my right was a legacy of humility and service to supporting a divinely authorized cause.

In my recruiting work, I have found that understanding this allows me to speak confidently about how wonderful Owatonna is without any sense of ego. This isn't my camp. It is God's camp, and Owatonna is a manifestation of God's care and love for His children. It is one of the many avenues (a very special one) God has given to support our growth from boyhood to manhood, and I know that there are hundreds more than the 300 able to attend the reunion who would gladly attest to the impact that



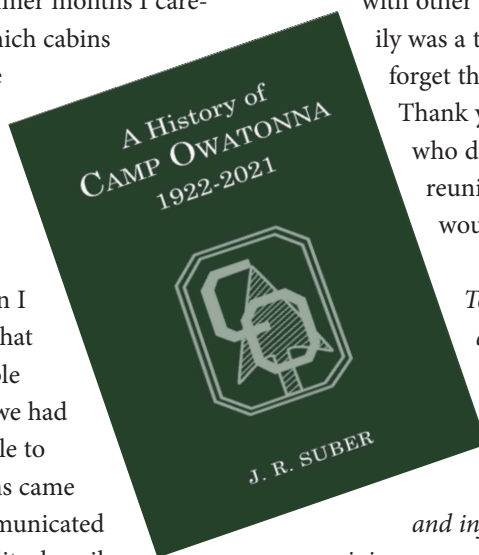
the Owatonna experience has had on their lives.

I am grateful for the time I have had to help steward this idea so far, and I am looking forward to continuing in this work for the foreseeable future. Each year presents challenges to overcome and lessons to be learned, but it is all part of the unfoldment of the Owatonna idea. My hope and prayer is that every boy who is able to get to have this experience – to be blessed and to bless others in the continuation of the Ropioa/Owatonna tradition for the next 100 years.

Reunion continued from page 3

us very well fed.

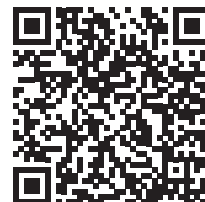
A final example of how beautifully everything came together can be seen in our on-site cabin accommodations that were provided for overnight guests. Over the summer months I carefully managed a spreadsheet that showed which cabins would be occupied and which were yet to be assigned as requests came in along with additional registrations. The reunion started on Friday evening with only one cabin remaining empty, and we found out on Saturday that one more family wanted to come, so we gave them that final space. Then I heard from two different guests on Sunday that they were wondering if anything was available for them that final night. It turned out that we had two cabins vacated by guests who weren't able to stay until Monday. These graceful resolutions came after weeks and weeks of gratitude as I communicated with registered guests and witnessed flexibility, humility, and honesty as placements were determined and adjustments were made right up until the week of the reunion. All of these pieces sliding elegantly into place were simply evidence of more fruitage resulting from the high-quality meta-physical support that we were receiving all along the way.



I felt like I was given a gift to be able to think about, talk about, and celebrate the camp I so dearly love for nearly a full year. To then be able to come together for the actual event with other camp-loving people who feel like family was a treat beyond measure. I'm not likely to forget the 2021 Owatonna reunion anytime soon. Thank you to all who participated, and to those who didn't, I encourage you to come to the next reunion. I can think of about 300 people who would agree with me that you won't regret it.

To learn more about Owatonna's history and traditions, order A History of Camp Owatonna, 1922-2021. Commissioned for the reunion and written by Owatonna alum James Suber, it walks through each decade since 1922. It draws anecdotes and information from camp publications, letters, reminiscences, and interviews.

To order use the QR code below or visit <https://www.newfound-owatonna.com/info/100-year-reunion>



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We have a program just for you
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2022 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

1st session	June 18 – July 9
Two-week session <i>for new campers</i>	June 18 – July 3
2nd session	July 10 – August 6
Full session	June 18 – August 6
CIT	June 18 – August 6
Family Camp Week 1	August 8 – 14
Family Camp Week 2 <i>(50% off for new families)</i>	August 15 – 21
Creative Arts	August 23 – 30

*Experience the best vacation
your family will ever take*

JOIN US FOR FAMILY CAMP!

Read about a day at Family Camp on page 8.
First-time family campers receive a 50% discount
off Week 2. For more information contact us
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