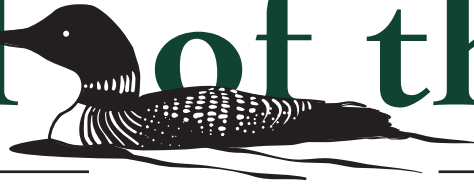


# NEWFOUND•OWATONNA Call of the loon

Reflection of perfection is our aim



FALL 2017



## Growing Together

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

Over many years working in education, I've learned the importance of teamwork, of collaboration, of everyone working and growing together; and I like the idea of leading Camp from this position. In order for us to fulfill our Vision and Mission for our Camp, we have to do it together. Our Vision is "For campers and staff to learn and demonstrate complete trust in God in a unique Christian Science community." 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." To accomplish this Vision and Mission requires a lot of daily prayer and day-to-day work year-round. I'm very grateful for our excellent Directors who commit

*Continued on page 2*

## Call of the loon

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

Camp Newfound *for girls*  
Camp Owatonna *for boys*  
Family Camp  
Creative Arts Week

www.newfound-owatonna.com

themselves all year to work for Camp. I'm also very grateful for the individuals who join us on staff each summer on the shores of Long Lake and help make Newfound-Owatonna the great camp it is. I'm grateful that our full-time and summer staff work very hard and work very well together to fulfill our Vision and Mission. The reason teamwork, collaboration, and everyone working and growing together is so important to our success is because we are doing something greater than ourselves, something greater than anything any one of us can do. We can only do it together.

It's notable that Newfound celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013 and that Owatonna/Ropioa will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. What is it that allows these Camps to stand the test of time and remain such viable programs? I would point to two things. One is the strong commitment to the idea of Camp and its Christian Science foundation expressed by campers, staff, alumni, families, friends, and trustees. The second is the people – the people who commit their prayers, time, and effort to fulfilling the idea of Camp.

A good example of the strong support for this idea of Camp was the recent completion of the Owatonna lodge project. When we realized that we would need to do a major renovation of the Owatonna lodge, which was built in the early 1900s, I felt the project first and foremost symbolized the very idea of Camp, what Camp represents and what it teaches. To successfully renovate the lodge, we would need to secure the foundation, improve the structure, enhance its usefulness, and demonstrate supply, so the lodge could continue to serve the next generation of campers. In order to succeed at our project, the very qualities that the camp family expressed and demonstrated in the renovation – generosity, gratitude, teamwork, and love for Camp – are also qualities Camp strives to instill in campers and staff every summer. The completion of the lodge project showed that these qualities stay with us for the rest of our lives. The camp family fully supported and funded the renovation of the lodge, and in addition many also generously contributed to the Campership, Endowment, and General Funds.

Summers at Camp are invaluable, and clearly the qualities being developed in campers and staff stand the test of time. Our unique, natural, tech-free setting helps campers and staff all work together and encourages the kind of healthy, lasting relationships so needed in our world today. The purpose and idea of Camp still grows today, as we help campers and staff focus their efforts on growing spiritually, developing independence, and excelling in activity areas. In our world of specialization, and considerable distractions, Camp provides a more balanced and uniquely wholesome experience, which is also challenging and fun, and where the development of character is the focus of camp life.

Like our new lodge, our Camp has a sure foundation. As we continue to work and grow together, we'll continue to support and demonstrate the spiritual idea of Camp and maintain its Vision and Mission for today's campers and staff to experience and for generations to come. We can do it together. ■





*The Alumni Corner is a new section of our newsletter, and a place where we can highlight alumni stories – both of their experiences at Newfound and Owatonna and how they have used these experiences in their lives after Camp.*

# Lessons from 30 Grains of Sand

BILL HEWITT

Sand permeates all aspects of camp life. No matter what the camp activity is, sand will be part of the fun. When I got back home from Family Camp this year and finally had a moment to unpack, I was left with 30 grains of sand in the bottom of my suitcase. In that moment I was transported back to 1977 when I was in Cabin 8, and our cabin was singularly dedicated to winning the inspection race. I was the towel guy. I was in charge of making sure that all towels in the cabin were folded and stored or hung uniformly. To this day I have a bit of an obsession with towels being folded correctly – just ask my kids, they can recite the lecture. We were neck and neck with Cabin 6 in the inspection competition all summer. We were down to the wire with the final Sunday inspection upon us. My gear was tight and we had just finished trip week, so I had not even opened my trunk three times that week. I helped all my cabin mates, quadruple checked the towels, got fingernails cleaned and cut, Sunday uniform on, and got locked at attention in front of our cabin. As the inspection started, my mind raced with all the details I might have forgotten. The inspection was thorough and intimidating. When they came to my trunk, the inspector looked long and hard and made a mark on the clipboard. My heart fell. After the inspectors left, I shoved my hand down into the spot in my trunk where the inspector had reached in. SAND. How could I have possibly gotten SAND in my trunk in the last week? I had two points deducted for SAND, and we lost the competition by one point.

As a kid growing up we moved constantly. I attended three different schools just in the first grade. When my mom and dad split, mom and I settled in Memphis. Memphis in the '70s was a racially charged crucible. As the busing program was instituted, I found myself thrust into a second grade classroom in the Orange Mound district of the city, which was a very high crime part of the city. The lessons came hard and fast, not in the classroom but on the playground. In the end I learned survival skills, communication skills, and deep respect and understanding of

the struggle of the racial rift.

When I reported to Camp Owatonna in 1976 for my first summer, you could have transported me to Mars and it would have seemed less strange. Why were these people so happy and helpful? It wasn't easy leaving my stuff unlocked or sleeping with so many people around with the door unlocked all night. ARE YOU GUYS CRAZY? It took me a bit, but I fell into camp routine and fell in love with camp life. I finally felt like I fit in and even belonged. I had attended Christian Science Sunday School, but Camp Owatonna was the first time I LIVED Christian Science. I learned many valuable lessons that I use today in my life.

Camp Owatonna is the one space that I call home. I have lived in many places, but I have never called them home. What makes Camp Owatonna so special? Is it the fact that Camp remains basically unchanged both physically and in spirit? Is it the fact that I drive up after 30 years and am accepted like long-lost family? These things certainly contribute, but it is much more than that. It is the unspoken binding values lovingly instilled in each one of us fortunate enough to spend some of our formative time at Camp. When I meet with camp friends I have not seen in three decades we each know the fabric of humility, grace, joy, selflessness, trust, and kindness in the other guy. It is a deep, cool breath of fresh Maine air that lifts the burdens of the world we live in and creates a space for us to rejuvenate.

Until I am able to feel the sand and the waters of Long Lake between my toes again, the 30 grains of sand in my suitcase will have to suffice. They will travel with me everywhere I go to remind me to express humility, gratitude, and joy in all areas of my life just like I was taught at Camp Owatonna many moons ago. Until we meet again... ■

*If you have a story you would like to share, please contact [info@newfound-owatonna.com](mailto:info@newfound-owatonna.com).*



# Living Unconditionally

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

It must have been around half past seven in the evening, in early August. The sun was turning the sky an apricot hue as it sank behind the silhouette of pine trees that stand proudly along the shoreline of Hairbrush Island. I was walking through the Newfound grove. A small camper, hardly up to my waist, wearing half uniform and half costume, rushed to my side. She looked up at me through her homemade cat whiskers and smiled as she took my hand in her hand, still sticky from her dessert. With one fuzzy pipe-cleaner ear still attached to her headband, she offered no words, just her enormous smile and tight grip as we plopped down in the grassy grove. She wiggled her way onto my lap. I felt loved.

This small but precious moment is a testament to the culture that is so prominent at Newfound: one of unconditional love. This is much more than simply loving someone no matter what. It is understanding that love is present at all times, everywhere. We have the right to experience love despite any conditions because love is not contingent upon a condition; it is

100 percent unconditional. This is profound and radical. Now imagine if we can help the world grasp this idea more deeply – and we can. By fostering a culture at Newfound that instills a deep understanding of unconditional love and how to share that love with others, we are contributing to the world in a way that is elevating and uplifting.

The moment in the grove with the little camper sitting in my lap is a clear example of unconditional love. One of the most earnest ways to be an expression of love is to think about how we make others feel. I love this quote by Maya Angelou and recite it often to the campers and staff: “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” It wasn’t the words that young camper offered me (she had said nothing) and it wasn’t necessarily the act of her taking my hand, but what impacted me was the overriding feeling of joy that radiated out of her like sunshine. How we choose to interact with the world as a whole is so important. Are we waiting for others to be kind to us first?

*Continued on page 10*

# The Great Race is Truly Great

REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

**M**orning Meeting has just ended. Duncan, the program director, stands with his right hand raised, ready to come down and slap the podium signaling that everyone in the Owatonna lodge can put their chairs away and head out for a great day. But before that hand comes down, he pauses and begins to whisper, “The Great Race is truly great! The Great Race is truly great!” Everyone joins in quietly, but quickly the chant grows louder and louder. Finally, his hand falls. You can hardly hear the smack over the chanting voices, but everyone sees it, and instantly the lodge jumps into action.

At Owatonna, all campers are divided into four teams: the Penobscot Blues, the Shawsheen Reds, the Pequawket Greens, and the Ogallala Golds. These are their teams for life, and many of the campers inherited them from their older brothers, fathers, cousins, and uncles, who were all on the same team during their summers at Owatonna. These four teams have been competing throughout the summer in preparation for the final plaque-turning ceremony that takes place this evening, the final Thursday of Camp. They have played each other in sports, worked together on team projects, and participated in Flag Trip. And today’s Great Race is one more chance to earn team points.

The Great Race truly is great. Begun by director Peter Martin back in the ‘90s, it is a relay race that fills the entire afternoon and covers almost every activity offered at Camp. Starting with a one mile run, it continues all over camp property as boys shoot arrows, baskets, and goals,

climb to the top of the rock wall, make a bed with inspection-worthy square corners, light a one-match fire, roast a s’more, eat it and whistle, swim, kayak, jump off the rope swing, and more.

The Great Race has such a high status as one of the best camp activities that you can’t even mention it without someone chiming in, “The Great Race is truly great!” I don’t think anybody knows who said that line first, but it has stuck. Part of it is because it’s catchy and fun, but I believe part of it is also because of how special this event truly is in the lives of these campers.

The genius of the Great Race is that every camper has an opportunity to contribute. While not everyone is great at soccer or ultimate Frisbee, within the Great Race each boy can find some spot where he can contribute, either because it is something he is good at, or it is zany enough that nobody is good at it so the playing field is level – like the canoe hand paddle around Cherry Island or sliding

down the Big Float slide.

Not only can each boy contribute, but because the whole team moves as one big cluster, it is a guaranteed moment in which that boy will be doing his activity with his entire team supporting him. It is this teamwork and brotherhood that make Owatonna the special place it is.

As the Great Race makes its way down the hill to the water and nearer to the finish, it isn’t always close. Sometimes one team has moved ahead or one team has fallen behind the group, but the last couple summers we have been treated to Great Races that have come down to the wire, and the inspiration for writing this article came from the final moments of the 2017 Great Race.

Now, let’s pick back up with the canoe hand paddle. Each team puts four boys in a canoe, and they have only their hands to use to get them the quarter-mile around Cherry Island and back to the Owatonna beach. As the canoes made their way back to the beach, it was clear

*Continued on page 11*





# 4 on the Fourth A Great Camp Tradition

**A**t 5:45 a.m. on July 4th, patriotic music blares from the dining rooms to awaken the campers for a day of running, cheering, and wearing red, white, and blue. Almost every Newfound and Owatonna camper and counselor runs or walks in this annual four mile road race hosted in a nearby town. Our camps are traditionally not only fast, but also spirited with face paint, costumes, and plenty of encouraging words for fellow runners. In 2016, Owatonna and Newfound both won the Camp Cup for the fastest girls' and boys' camp times and also had both the fastest girl and boy overall camper times. In 2017, Owatonna retained the boys' cup, and Newfound will look to win the girls' cup back in 2018! The 4th of July is a day full of fun and camp spirit! ■

## Race History

JIM COSSEY, Race Director

**B**ridgton's 4 on the Fourth Road Race is one of Maine's oldest running events and conducted its 41<sup>st</sup> annual race in 2017. Phoebe and Jerry Levine held the first 4 on the Fourth in 1977 with 28 runners; the 2,000 runner mark was exceeded in 2011.

From the outset, the race was intended to benefit the Bridgton Public Library. In Maine, more than 55 percent of all towns do not own their library. In Bridgton, the library's annual operating budget is about \$200,000 of which the town in 2017 provided less than half. The library's trustees are responsible for raising the remaining amount.

The Race Committee that organizes and puts on the race each year is made up entirely of volunteers, of which several are library trustees. All of the race's proceeds each year are donated to local charities with at least 90 percent of the proceeds going to the Bridgton Public Library. Over the last 11 years, those

contributions have totaled more than \$300,000.

Camps were invited to participate early in the race's history and have become a major component of the race. In 2017, a record number of 671 campers and counselors ran in the race. Of the 10-12 camps that participate in the race, Camps Newfound and Owatonna have consistently provided the largest number of runners. In 2017, 157 runners came from Newfound-Owatonna. Camp competition began in 2003 with the creation of the Camp Cup. The winner of the Cup is based on the combined time of the top five camper runners (ages 16 and under) from each camp. Camp Owatonna has won the Camp Cup every year since its inception! The Race Committee in 2015 initiated a Camp Cup for competition between the camps for girls, and Camp Newfound won the girls' cup in 2016. ■







# Part of the Family

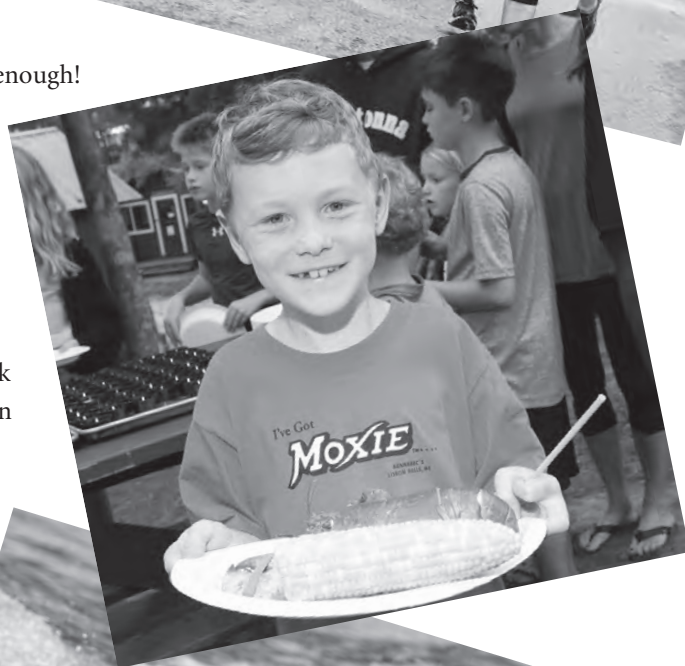
ABBY ABOUCHAR

Over 20 years ago, my husband and I attended Family Camp for our first time. We had been married less than one year and were eager to get back to the shores of Long Lake. We didn't have children nor did we know anyone who would be there. We did soon enough! There were singles, couples, families with kids, and large family groups; and right away we felt part of the extended family of Family Camp.

We still attend Family Camp almost every summer (this was our 18th summer!), and each summer we arrive with a multi-generational family group. My dad, Bart Jealous, first came to Owatonna in 1959, 58 years ago. A dyed-in-the-wool camper, he loves Camp and looks forward to it all year. Highlights of his week are the day trip mountain climbs to places like Mount Washington and Mount Chocorua. We added a new member to our group of parents, children, cousins, and adult siblings this summer, grandmother Rollie Gough. When I asked her her favorite part of Family Camp, she said, "I loved it all!"

Our family keeps coming back because it is the best way to get together our family that spans from Texas to Canada to New York City. Each family has its own cabin; everyone can do as much or as little as he or she would like; the activities are amazing; the counselors are enthusiastic, talented, and loving; the atmosphere is inclusive and supportive; child care is provided; AND the food is delicious! Family Camp is part of our family. While several branches of our own family love to gather here every summer, what makes it even more special is the extended sense of family that forms among all the Family Campers – from those who are there as singles to those who attend with extended families of their own. It is truly Family Camp.

We'll meet you on the shores of Long Lake in 2018! ■







## 3 Experiences – 1 Camp

Creative Arts Week is a spectrum of experiences – all from one source, God, and all leading to individual growth! Here's how it looks from the perspective of a long-time CAW camper, a teacher, and a first-time artist in residence.

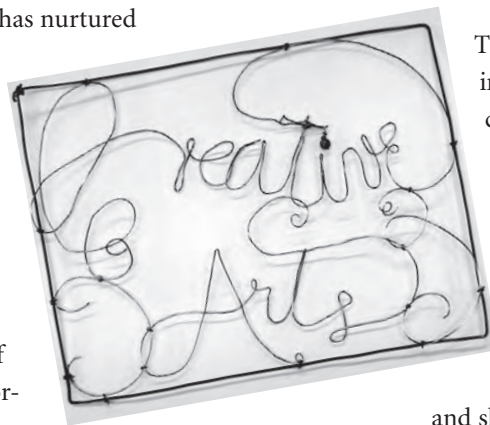
The renewing, joyful week of Creative Arts has nurtured my learning for years! During 17 sessions, my classes, ranging from found-object sculpture to tap dance, have fed my soul. Glimpsing the essence of an art and its process with an inspiring, encouraging teacher—and a band of fellow-camper cheerleaders—enriches and enlivens me. I also relish the free time each day to relax on a swing and enjoy the peaceful beauty of Long Lake or to swim or kayak. It's my favorite week of the year – really!

*Clare Turner, CAW camper*

A couple of years ago, I was encouraged to teach a course in wire sculpture at Creative Arts Week. I'm so glad I did it! I'd been somewhat nervous about the teaching experience, but all fear left me the moment I stepped into that loving and nurtur-

ing atmosphere at Camp. I had so much fun with my students and found I learned as much from them as they did from me. It was wonderful seeing how every person expressed their own infinite idea and how all these ideas came from one source. Once Camp was over, I returned to my studio brimming with new concepts!

*Bruce Campbell, CAW teacher*



The week began by expecting good, knowing that the environment for a remarkable creative week was prepared by a loving and thoughtful staff. New ideas were launched by the inspiration that came from the daily Morning Meetings reading the Bible Lesson together.

The result: new creative directions, new work, and investigating a different path of subject matter. Good food and sharing ideas with other artists added

to Camp's riches.

*Barbara Shapokas Taglier, Artist in Residence*

*Stay tuned early next year for the classes we'll be offering August 21–28, 2018! ■*

Are we waiting for something to bring us happiness? Or are we being a pillar of unconditional love, harmony, and joy standing tall for all to see and feel? There is something very authentic about having our motives be based on how we make others feel. It is a step beyond simply choosing to do and say kind things for the sake of being polite.

Back again to our moment in the Newfound grove. The reason we were sitting in the grove was because it was our last night of Camp, banquet night. The Newfound banquet always has a theme, and we often attend dressed in costumes. After dinner and all of the evening activities come to a close, it is tradition to head outside into the cool night air and form a giant circle. The circle is never precisely round, but it's perfect nonetheless because it is filled with the beautiful faces of so many remarkable young women who together understand and practice the power of unconditional love.

As we sat together in our perfectly imperfect circle, we began to share gratitude, highlights, and growth from the summer. To know the backstory to what each girl shared that night is an insight I appreciate enormously. When I heard a camper say that she learned "beauty is about expressing more soul and less about what she sees in the mirror," I knew that just weeks earlier she had been unwilling to be seen by others without wearing heavy makeup. As the summer progressed, she realized that her beauty is unconditionally intact by the fact that she is a complete idea of God, always in full bloom. She was in an environment that saw her as beautiful both inside and out. By the end of the first week of Camp, her makeup was gone.

When I heard a camper share, "I learned that I can rely on others and God for help in any situation. I am never alone," what came to mind was how that camper had been on a hiking trip days earlier and was struggling to feel happy. When a cabin mate asked how she could be helpful, the girl's reply was, "Don't talk to me." The cabin mate who offered the help paused and then responded, "Then I am going to hug you and not let go until you feel how much I love you." She hugged the stuff out of her friend, and her friend softened and embraced

her back. From that moment on, the trip was different. It was full of laughter and triumph. Whatever had been eating at that girl's thought melted away, and she welcomed the support of her friends the rest of the way. It was clear that the hug from her friend on the side of a mountain had been a transformative moment. She will bring that expanded sense of love into the world with her and bless others...maybe not by hugging the stuffing out of them, but she will make them feel unconditionally loved.

Listening to a counselor express gratitude for understanding the importance of not judging others, I knew that she was referring to an experience she had had a few weeks earlier while working with a group of Owatonna boy campers. The group

had a breakthrough moment in seeing a cabin mate with a need and stepping up to support him during a physically demanding challenge course led by this Newfound counselor. The boys rallied together to uplift this camper during a difficult time, and out of this moment was born much needed unity and compassion. The Newfound counselor was brought to tears as she watched the expression of brotherhood take priority over the instinct to compete with one another. This incident of unconditional love will be remembered by the Owatonna campers and the Newfound counselor forever.

I could go on and on about the inspiring insights shared in our circle of sisterhood that final night of Camp. I closed our sharing session as I always do, by reminding the girls that they cannot lose the inspirations that they have gained. They will forever be more loving, compassionate, joyful, strong, and confident because these qualities are unconditional. Regardless of the conditions surrounding them, each camper and staff member can choose to be a shining beacon of love for the world. A gesture as small as reaching out and holding someone's hand, literally or figuratively, can fill someone with joy; the proof is in my experience with that young camper who took my hand in hers while we watched the sun sink into the horizon. Never underestimate the influence for good that comes from cultivating an environment where love is unconditional. ■





*Owatonna continued from page 5*

that one team had a decent lead, but if the second-place team, could keep it close they would have a chance.

Once the canoes land back on shore, there are three events left. Someone has to do 50 push ups, then someone does 10 pull ups, and finally someone, usually the team captain, runs a half mile up the Beach Trail and then back down the Truck Trail. As the first runner takes off, his team goes and lines up where the Truck Trail meets the beach - the finish line. Throughout the whole run the team is cheering their captain on, despite the fact that he probably can't hear them for most of it.

Unfortunately for the second-place runner, this year the gap was too big, and soon the winning captain came trucking down the trail. In keeping with tradition, he crossed the finish line and kept on going, right into the water with his whole team in tow. The cheering and congratulating is a fun sight to see, but it is what happened next that makes the Great Race truly great.

After a few moments of congratulations, the winning captain led his team back up to the finish line and began to cheer on the next guy coming in. With each runner who came in, this pattern repeated itself. The team would rush into the water, congratulate each other, and then head back up to cheer the remaining teams on.



This is nothing new. This is how the Great Race ends every year, but as I stepped back and watched the whole scene, I was grateful for my sunglasses because I was moved to tears by what I was watching. In front of me were 87 boys who had spent the entire afternoon fighting to get a victory in this race. They had given their all and competed at the highest level they could, and yet here at the end, even though it was clear to many that they weren't this year's winners, there was not one ounce of animosity, anger, or frustration being shown. It was true Owatonna brotherhood on display. Every one of them had challenged each other to be the best they could be, and what mattered was not the result of the race but their love and support for each other.

I hope I have made it clear that the Great Race is not just a low-stakes, fun activity where everyone can feel good that they tried and had a good time. This is the Super Bowl of Camp, and there is a clear winner. Yet at Owatonna, it plays out so differently from all my experiences watching and participating in sports in

the rest of the world. The reason for this is that our boys spend their entire summer living the four Owatonna Pillars: Be the Best, Love One Another, Give Gratitude, and Have Fun. They daily practice challenging themselves and each other to be better, kinder, stronger, more selfless, and more secure in who they are as God's children. So, when they get to the end of the summer, the reflex is to express these qualities in victory or defeat.

That night, after our final banquet, I took a few moments to share my final thoughts for the summer. I asked them to reflect back on the day, and I told them that what they had experienced at the end of the Great Race might be one of the only times in their lives that they would be in a situation like that – fierce competition with the foundation of pure love. My parting thought was to tell them that what they have learned from Camp is what the world needs and to encourage them to take that spirit back with them and share it with their teammates, classmates, and friends back home. I trust that they are doing just that right now. ■

## FACILITIES MANAGER SEARCH

Camp Newfound-Owatonna is seeking a full-time Facilities Manager, who is responsible for maintaining all aspects of the camp facilities and property and provides year-round oversight. Please go to [www.newfound-owatonna.com](http://www.newfound-owatonna.com) to review the job description and for application details. If you have questions about the job, are interested, or know of somebody who would be interested, please contact our Executive Director, Seth Johnson, at [seth@newfound-owatonna.com](mailto:seth@newfound-owatonna.com) or 207-712-3778.

# Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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## Make a note of it

### Join us for Summer 2018

We have a program just for you  
on the shores of Long Lake!

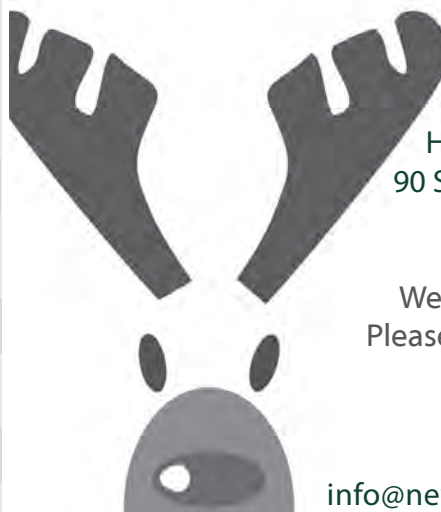
#### 2018 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

1st session	June 16 – July 7
Two-week session	June 16 – June 30
2nd session	July 8 – August 4
Full session	June 16 – August 4
CIT	June 16 – August 4
Family Camp Week 1	August 6 – 12
Family Camp Week 2	August 13 – 19
Creative Arts Week (8 days)	August 21 – 28

Campers, families, alumni, and friends  
are invited to the

### CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 2, 2017



Hunt Recreation Center  
90 Stow Street, Concord, MA  
6:00 – 9:00 pm

We will provide the pizza.  
Please bring a drink or dessert  
to share.

RSVP  
[info@newfound-owatonna.com](mailto:info@newfound-owatonna.com)

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Help to bring all the things you love about Newfound and  
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