

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon

Reflection of perfection is our aim

FALL 2018



MADISON OUELLETTE

Celebrating the Good

BY SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

WE are very happy to celebrate the good that is being expressed and demonstrated at Newfound and Owatonna. The summer of 2018 was one of the best ever. The fruition of the dedication to Camp and its campers by its alumni, family, friends, and staff came in so many forms:

Continued on page 2

Call of the loon

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PROGRAMS

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

www.newfound-owatonna.com

- camper enrollment was at its highest level in many years
- campers hailed from 26 states and six countries
- many brand-new campers to Newfound and Owatonna
- other campers who had not been back to Camp in several years returned and had very positive experiences
- staff came from over 20 different colleges and universities
- over 50 trips were taken out to nearby mountains, lakes, rivers, and the Atlantic Ocean
- specialty clinics were offered in waterskiing, soccer, strength and conditioning, tennis, dance, jewelry-making, painting/drawing, and pottery
- campers experienced a tech-free environment, where the focus is on building relationships, outdoor adventure, and spiritual growth

Most important, God's goodness was seen in the bounty of healings and proofs of spiritual growth shared every day at Camp and at our daily morning meetings and weekly Wednesday evening testimony meetings. It is heartening to see the tangible proofs of God's care, as campers and staff shared many healings of both mental and physical challenges.

We count on our camp alumni, families, and friends to continue their commitment to Newfound and Owatonna. Because half of our annual budget comes from donations, and tuition covers only half of what it actually costs to put a camper through Camp, it is critical to our financial stability that alumni and friends donate annually. Campership donations ensure that every camper who wants to be at Camp can be there. Capital donations keep our over 200 acres, 100 buildings, and 1.5 miles of waterfront in excellent condition for all our programs; Endowment donations secure a strong future for the next generation; and Unrestricted donations provide funds where they are most needed. Our Sustaining Friends program allows you to donate monthly, if that is your preference. We want to continue to increase the number of alumni and friends who contribute annually. If you're donating, thank you; if not, we hope you'll join in. Every gift, large and small, is very important, and we are very grateful for your contributions.

Your support of Camp is helping us fulfill our purpose – to provide a great camp experience where Christian Science is lived and loved – and we're grateful to see that every day each summer. We know Camp has had a lasting impact on all of us, and we hope you'll stay connected to Camp and feel welcome to come back and visit. We love to welcome alumni and friends to stop by both in the summer and in the off-season, so let us know when you're in the area.

And in order for us to continue to spread our wings, if you know families and children who could benefit from Newfound and Owatonna, please put them in touch with us. We are looking forward to our beloved Camp continuing to progress and grow.

Thank you again for joining with us in celebrating the good. We are already preparing for and looking forward to the children returning for another great summer in 2019.

With love and gratitude,
Seth "Chic" Johnson, Executive Director

100th Anniversary of Owatonna/Ropioa in 2021



Come Back to Camp! Your Home Away from Home

WE WILL be celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Ropioa/Owatonna's founding in the late summer or early fall of 2021 (date TBD). We hope that all alumni, family, and friends of Ropioa, Owatonna, and Newfound, too, will Come Back to Camp to help celebrate the first 100 years of Ropioa/Owatonna.

In 1922, Colonel Charles Stanley purchased the property where Owatonna now stands and started a Christian Science camp for boys. He named it Ropioa, which stands for Reflection Of Perfection Is Our Aim. His vision of a challenging and inspiring summer camp for boys is still carried on today. Colonel Stanley directed Ropioa until the early 1940s when it was purchased by John LaMarsh, who ran Ropioa as a non-religiously affiliated camp until 1955. In 1955, Ropioa was repurchased by a group of Christian Science Ropioa alumni, who

renamed it Owatonna, the Sioux word for Straight as an Arrow.

Camp has had a lasting effect on all of us, and regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we hope you will return to the shores of Long Lake to attend the celebration, enjoy Camp, and connect with friends, old and new. We'll be sharing more detailed information about the 100-year anniversary in the coming year. One thing we do plan to do is ignite the never-too-latent competition in all of us between the Pequawket Greens, Ogalala Golds, Shawsheen Reds, and Penobscot Blues!

So practice your broom balance, get ready to swim to Cherry Island, warm up your voice to sing "By the Blazing..." make sure your square corners are sharp, and stay tuned... 'til we meet again. Watahataho!



Being Your Best Self: reflections from the summer

BY MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

WHEN I was a camper at Newfound, I developed a habit of signing up for the most intense camping trips being offered. I loved the challenges that came with trips, whether it was backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, or hiking. For me, trips were never easy. In fact, most often they were full of some really tough moments. But those moments always resulted in spiritual growth. While on camp trips, I learned that the outcome of trials and hard work was progress and confidence. I began to love conquering anything that seemed like a limitation, not because of personal glory, but because of the growing experience. I realized that when I am growing, I am being my best self.

Something we value greatly here at Newfound is to “be the best,” and Camp is a place designed to help us do just that. This does not mean to be the best compared to others, but to be the best version of yourself. In an article entitled “Be the Best,” the author, Eric Bole writes, “Being the best means being Godlike. It means being one’s true self, what God has already created one to be as His perfect emanation.” Being one’s best self happens

when we are expressing God’s infinite attributes like kindness, compassion, strength, integrity, persistence, honesty, and poise.

My love of trials and triumphs during trips as a camper is just one example of the endless ways that Camp propels us forward in our journey to “be the best,” to reflect God’s goodness and perfection. During challenging moments, I felt called upon to focus more deeply on expressing the Godlike qualities that are innately mine (and all of ours).

This summer was full of moments when campers and staff expressed their pure spiritual selfhood and were shining examples of how to “be the best.” Here are a few examples of some of my favorites:

THE BIG FLOAT TEST

We had a young 7-week camper who had been working on passing her Big Float test all summer. She was persistent and tried weekly, maybe even several times a week, to pass, but couldn’t quite do it. On the last day of camp, we had an all-Newfound swim at the H-dock. As I sat on the dock talking

Continued on page 10



A Summer of Healing

BY REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

IF YOU have spent a summer at Owatonna, then the lodge holds a special place in your memories. With all the fun activities we do at Camp – skiing, swimming, fishing, sailing, canoeing and kayaking on the lake, team sports against other camps, camping out on trips, shooting arrows, climbing the rock wall, starting one-match fires, playing capture the flag, and much more – the lodge is the central core around which all of Camp revolves.

When I close my eyes I can vividly recall so many different special moments in the lodge over my 14 years at Camp. I remember opening nights watching the staff introduce themselves to the campers, staff meetings on cool early June evenings during pre-camp, everyone

standing for the Star Spangled Banner at breakfast before the 4 on the Fourth road race, the whole dining room banging on the table for how highs, quiet moments of silent prayer during morning meetings, the stomping of feet as we sing Onward Christian Soldiers during hymn sing, and definitely the cheers erupting as the plaques are turned at the end of the summer showing which team won. Each of these moments holds a special place in my heart. In some of these memories, I can still see the faces of the guys who were on my team, in my cabin, or on staff with me. In others, the faces are faded but the sense of brotherhood and unity is still vividly clear. Some of the memories have been repeated many times and others happened just once.

Regardless, they are all special to me.

This summer I got to add a new one to my memory bank – one that is very significant because of what it says about the work we are doing at Owatonna with the boys who get to come to Camp.

On the final Thursday night of each session, as we are wrapping up all of the banquet festivities, I have a few moments where I get to sit and address the entire group. It's a bittersweet time as I sit in front of the fireplace and look around at all the faces that I've gotten to know throughout the summer. There are so many moments of triumph and growth that I have been able to witness or hear about, so many memories and friendships made that I am reminded of as I look at all of the boys in front of me, but

Continued on page 11



Giving Back to Our Community

PART of being a camper or counselor at Newfound and Owatonna has always involved helping others. Giving back – both within Newfound and Owatonna and in the larger community – is an expression of selflessness that we encourage daily at Camp. During the summer of 2018, Camp continued to promote giving back to others both at and away from Camp. During the Newfound and Owatonna session, a group of camper and staff musicians played at a local venue. Soon after, a group of 12-13 year old boys ventured out onto the Maine Island Trail to help maintain the beauty of Maine’s coast. And during Creative Arts, camp artists helped to revitalize the Harrison Library with a mural project. Such expressions of kindness, love, and selflessness very much represent qualities we encourage at Camp. Read on to hear more details about these community outreach activities!

Maine Island Trail Association by Reid Charlston

One of the greatest natural features that we have near us at Camp is the Maine coastline. Stretching the entire length of the Maine coast is a network of small islands cared for by the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). Over the years Newfound and Owatonna campers have visited and spent nights on a number of these islands, and this summer we had a chance to give back. On a bluebird summer day, a group of our middle school-aged boys hopped onto a MITA skiff and the boat of Pete Whitchurch, the former facilities manager at Newfound-Owatonna. We headed out to Stockman Island and spent a few hours walking and climbing the rocks around it and picking up the flotsam and jetsam that had washed up on the island throughout the winter.

After filling a few large black trash bags, we jumped back in the boats and headed to Jewel Island. Jewel is the farthest island out of Portland Harbor, and it has two spotting towers that were put up during World Wars I and II. The boys climbed to the top of them and got a great view of the islands around Portland. They also got to explore the tunnels under which the big anti-ship guns were stationed. After the quick run around of Jewel, we hopped back in the boats and headed back to the boat ramp in Portland. Ultimately it was a great chance to give back to a great organization that has benefitted Camp over the years and to give the boys a chance to be out on the Atlantic Ocean exploring two beautiful and unique islands.

Deertrees Theater by Rick Lipsey

In July 2017, Newfound and Owatonna brought 30 campers

to a chamber music concert at Deertrees Theater in Harrison. After the concert, the director of the Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival, which hosted the concert, approached me and asked if our camp would be interested in sending camper musicians to play the pre-concert for one of the festival’s chamber music concerts the following summer. The setting is gorgeous, something like Tanglewood in your backyard. Aiden Snorek-Yates, an Owatonna counselor and a cellist at the Boston Youth Symphony, agreed to be the music director of the group we’d send to perform, and we began recruiting camper musicians last winter. The group practiced together at Camp, and five campers and two staff members (four cellos, one viola, one saxophone, and one clarinet) played for 40 minutes on the lawn at Deertrees while concertgoers ate their picnic dinners and enjoyed the music. The musicians played both in small groups and as soloists. The event was a wonderful way of engaging and sharing our camp’s joy, talents, and love with the Harrison community. The campers played with great musicianship and wide smiles. After the concert, the festival’s director said the audience for our campers was bigger than the audience for any pre-concert show in the festival’s history. The campers were very positively impacted by the experience and felt proud to represent Newfound and Owatonna in the community.

Harrison Library Mural by Alex Cook

This summer I led a group of adult students from the Creative Arts program in painting a mural at the Harrison Public Library. I was excited about the project because it was a great way to let some of the creative energy and ideas of Camp out

Continued on page 11



Clockwise from top:

Owatonna campers enjoying their trip to Maine Island Trail.

Creative Arts teacher, Alex Cook, works on Harrison Library mural.

Newfound-Owatonna campers entertaining guests at the Deertrees Theater.

Creative Arts camper paints amidst the stacks at the Harrison Library.



3 Generations Loving Family Camp

BY COLLINS, GUELICH/BROOKS, MOREY/BROWN FAMILIES

IT HAS been over 20 years since many of us have stepped foot on the shores of Long Lake. Three generations of our extended family – 14 members ranging from age 8 to 75 – stayed in three cabins at Family Camp this summer for non-stop activity and fun. Three of us attended Camp in the 50s and 60s; two of us in the 80s and 90s; and one of us is a current camper. For many decades Camp has been our summer home away from home. For the grandchildren, this was their very first time at Camp.

Though many of us live just miles apart at home, due to work, school, and activity schedules, the times we see each other are few and far between. So a week at Family Camp seemed like a great place for us to gather!

For those of us returning to Camp after many years, we loved that the lake-

front beauty, the sounds of the loons, and the traditional activities and Family Camp favorites such as the bun run, the talent show, council fire, and morning meeting have not changed a bit.

We all enjoyed every minute of Family Camp from the wakeup bell, to the yummy meals, to evening activities... every day was a new experience to learn, grow, and have fun. With 90 degree temperatures at the beginning of the week, lots of time was spent on the Big Float, waterskiing, tubing, paddle boarding, flying off the rope swing, and enjoying late-night swims before bed. As the weather cooled mid-week, we spent time zip lining, playing pickle ball, trying our skills at archery, climbing the rock wall, and mastering the high ropes course. We also enjoyed a soccer game and nightly activities including line dancing, water

games, a talent show, council fire, and Wednesday evening testimony meeting.

The staff was so helpful, caring, and encouraging, especially when the grandchildren tried waterskiing for the first time. Watching them overcome various challenges and seeing the joy and enthusiasm on their smiling faces were the highlights of the week!

Camp is a place where children run freely, electronics do not consume the day, and lasting friendships are made – friendships that can be strengthened and renewed annually at Family Camp.

Family Camp exceeded our expectations and was a summer vacation full of lifetime memories! We have so much gratitude for our very special week together in a very special place – Family Camp!

Saying “Yes, And!” to a Divine Nudge

*“Let us lay aside every weight...and run with patience
the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12).*

BY JOAN LAZARUS

CREATIVE ARTS (CA) offers expansive and inspiring experiences that erase limitations throughout each day. The 2018 Creative Art’s theme of “Progress takes off human shackles” (*Science and Health*, 256) was realized in arts classes and informal gatherings, mealtime chats, metaphysical meetings, and the sharing of work by faculty and students.

When I read about the faculty that had been assembled, I felt a “divine nudge” to enroll for the first time. A range of questions and concerns arose – would I be able to participate fully in each class? Would I be able to let go and be genuinely open to the experience? Would I feel challenged? Would I have time to reflect about what I was learning? Where would I sleep? Every fearful thought (human shackles) faded away before and during CA, as it became clear I could trust that God was with me, guiding and holding me. I grew more certain before I arrived, and definitely during the week, that CA was the place for me.

I took the Improv—Learning to “Yes, And!” and Public Mural-making classes and loved the interactive and collaborative nature of each class. With the skillful guidance of the teaching artists, I discovered so much more about how I work as an artist. I was able to be “in the moment,” learning, growing, and being delighted by the creative expression of fellow artists. It was a gift to approach each day with an open mind and heart, and I was richly rewarded artistically, intellectually, and spiritually.

From the first warm greeting from the drawing teacher who helped carry my luggage to my perfect cabin; to the

classes where I was embraced and challenged as a performing and visual artist; to the inspiring presentations and interactions with faculty, students, and staff; to the spectacular environment and final sweet goodbyes; all doubt that Creative Arts camp was not where I belonged had evaporated. I am left with the lingering glow of being blessed by the whole experience. A classmate now calls CA, “Healing Arts Camp.” I completely agree!

Joan is an Emeritus Professor of Theatre with the University of Texas at Austin. She has been a staff member at both Newfound-Owatonna and Creative Arts. Creative Arts 2018 was her first time as a “camper.”



POLLY CASTOR

with the Head Counselor, we suddenly heard everyone chanting a name. I looked up and was moved to see the entire camp in the water swimming the Big Float test with this sweet little 6-year-old. She passed the test that day, and she didn't do it alone...she did it with over 100 sisters by her side supporting her. Everyone took so much joy in her success. And guess what? She even got to try water skiing the next day as the parents were arriving – something she'd been hoping to try all summer. She, and her fellow campers, were "being the best" through their expressions of sisterhood, love, and perseverance.

THE GROWTH OF A CIT

One of our Counselors in Training this summer was a young lady who has been at Newfound all of my nine summers as Director. When she first started at Camp, it seemed that there were some labels one could place on her regarding social skills, communication, and learning abilities. To see her thrive this summer as a CIT was one of my greatest moments at Camp. Thinking back over the years, her cabin mates never, ever saw her as limited. They were her biggest cheerleaders these past nine years...not just at Camp, but throughout the school year as well. She has a network of lifelong friends who know that she is beautiful, smart, and capable; and this outlook has impacted all of their lives. This camper did not give up, nor did she simply "get by"; she became a leader. I once witnessed her speaking to younger campers about how to talk about one another with love rather than gossip. And it was a joy to watch her progress from having to turn back and return to Camp early during her first hiking trip as a camper, to successfully completing her five-day CIT challenge trip this past summer. These young women (all of the CITs) were beautiful examples this summer of "being the best" through their examples of womanhood, compassion, and leadership.

QUICK HEALING

While playing sock attack one evening, a camper injured her finger and was given a splint. She was leaving on an overnight

hike the next morning and called a practitioner before heading to bed. She left on the trip with the expectation of progress and had written down some quotes to keep with her while on the hike. On the second day of the trip, it occurred to her that although she was expecting progress, she was starting from the basis that there was a problem that needed fixing. She then realized that her identity was, in fact, spiritual and decided to start her prayers from that spiritual and perfect foundation rather than that of a finger needing fixing. Hours before, she could not move her finger, but once she had this clear understanding of her spiritual self, she quickly felt physical freedom and removed the splint. There was no trace of injury from that moment on; she was healed and her thought transformed. When she

later shared her testimony at our Wednesday evening meeting, she was most grateful for the revelation that had taken place in her thought rather than the functionality of her finger. This camper was "being the best" by her desire to see herself as God sees her.

Camp brings out the best in all of us, and I genuinely believe that it is because of the value and emphasis we place on our relationship with God. As we focus on living each day as God's beautiful reflection, we can't help but "be the best." We can't help but be inspired to go about our day being God-like and expressing our true self – our best self. It is a wonderful feeling that I have seen countless times that brings immeasurable good to

campers and counselors at Newfound, where we are all challenged daily to "be the best" – to be our best selves.



Owatonna continued from page 5

we all know it is coming to an end in the next 48 hours. Tomorrow parents will arrive, and this is the last time this special group of boys and men will be together in the lodge. I'm always slow to speak in these moments, as if the pauses between my thoughts helps to draw out our time together just a little bit longer.

Regardless of what I say or how the boys respond, I love this time; but this year, after our final banquet, it was extra special because of one question I asked and the answer I received. Earlier that afternoon, I spent some time praying about what I wanted to say. I was looking for guidance on how to summarize this special summer in hopes of helping the boys see the blessing they were given by being able to be at Camp and to send everyone home with a desire to share in their communities something of what makes Owatonna such a special place. The answer came as a series of questions for me to ask that would highlight the impact summer 2018 had on us all.

I started by asking them to raise their hands if they had made a new friend this summer. All the hands went up. I then asked them if they had tried something for the first time. Almost all the hands went up. I followed that by asking if they had worked at and overcome a challenge.

Almost all the hands went up. And then I asked them to raise their hands if they had a healing this summer.

To be honest, I wasn't sure what the response would be to this question. I certainly was aware of some wonderful healings that had happened at Camp, but I also knew that I was taking a risk because if only a small handful of hands went up it might communicate that healing was a small part of Camp, or worse, that healing was only something a few people get to experience. But as I looked around the room, I wasn't able to see anyone without his hand up.

I had to pause. This overwhelmingly positive response was so moving, and I wanted to make sure I acknowledged it in the right way. What came to me was to tell the boys to look around. Every single hand that was raised meant that boy had, at some point during the summer, prayed to God, listened for and received an answer, and had seen the power of Christian Science in a tangible way in his life. I also added that if there were boys

without their hands raised then they almost undoubtedly were witnesses, and likely supports, to these healings.

In a world that is often trying to say that God isn't real, that spiritual healing can't happen, and that prayer alone isn't enough, I had the privilege of sitting in front of over 130 boys and men as they declared that an understanding of God learned and practiced through the teachings of Christian Science was, indeed, powerful.

For all the great moments of fun and character unfoldment throughout the summer, moments where campers challenged themselves to try new things, got to know new people, overcame fears, or took the focus off of themselves in order to help someone else, these moments of healing stand above the rest. Owatonna's purpose is to help boys learn about God's love for them through Christian Science. Sitting in the lodge as the summer came to a close, I got to see for a brief moment that we are fulfilling that purpose. It's a memory I won't soon forget.



Giving Back continued from page 6

into the public. The library staff was delighted at the idea of having a mural in their space.

On our first day of class, the students and I met with the library director. Students asked questions about what the director hoped the mural would convey and how it could best support the work they do at the library. There was much discussion about the library as a community center, bringing Harrison residents together for activities, culture, and education. We also spoke a lot about the poetry in the landscape of Harrison. With all those ideas rolling around in our thoughts, we created our design collaboratively, joining our ideas into a single design. Over the next few days we spent our class time painting in the

library, bringing our vision to life. The image reflects the natural and human elements of Harrison.

As with all the classes at Creative Arts, students reveled in creativity and pushed against their perceived limitations. By the end, six students who had never painted a mural had created a work of art that delighted the library staff and patrons. It was joyful for me to see the students wrestling with their concerns, finding confidence to pursue their vision, and putting in the hours to make this large work of art. It will continue to be a companion for library-goers in Harrison for decades to come!

Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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

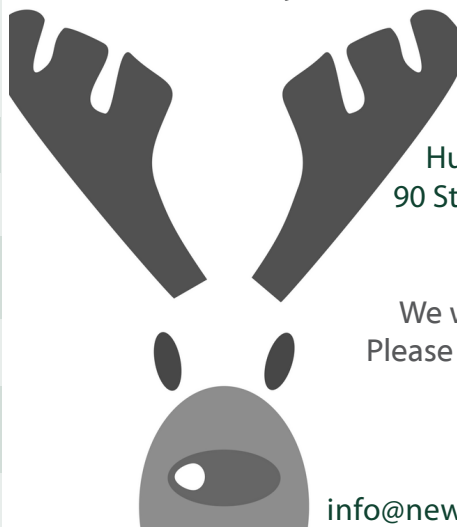
2019 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

1st session	June 15 – July 6
Two-week session <i>for new campers</i>	June 15 – June 29
2nd session	July 7 – August 3
Two-week session <i>for new campers</i>	July 7 – July 20
Full session	June 15 – August 3
CIT	June 15 – August 3
Family Camp Week 1	August 5 – 11
Family Camp Week 2 <i>(50% off for new families)</i>	August 12 – 18
Creative Arts	August 20 – 27

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

CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 1, 2018



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
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