

# the coniston chronicle



COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



YMCA CAMP CONISTON

## CHANGING LIVES FOR A CENTURY

1911 — 2011



Present



2000–Present



1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



1936–1963



1911–1935



camp

the coniston chronicle



THE NEWSLETTER FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON CAMPERS, STAFF, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS • SPRING 2011

Director's 2¢

What Our History Really Means

by John Tilley, Camp Director

We've been working on our 100th Anniversary for the better part of a year now ... Camp is awirl with activity, preparing to welcome you for the Celebration this coming June.

Some of you may know I'm a bit of a history buff, and I've spent many hours online, and at local libraries and newspapers, reading stories about Camp.

I've uncovered some fascinating details (which you'll discover for yourself in the Camp History section of this newsletter.) Throughout my research, one of my goals has been to develop a clear picture of how our Camp's history and our Centennial fit together.

I've found one thread that runs so strongly through our story. From the founding of Camp in 1911, through the days at Rand's Pond and the move to Lake Coniston, the story of Camp is about the contributions of people ... individuals



An early group of campers hiking up Mt. Sunapee... beginning the long lasting traditions of today.

from all walks of life, from all economic and social groups, coming together to talk, think, plan, and work to make the dream of Camp a reality.

We have some famous people on our side — statesmen, artists, industrialists, social activists — names that you might recognize immediately.

But so much of the real work of Camp has been done, and continues to be done, by people very much like yourself.

They're not asking for fame or recognition ... they do what

they do out of a deep love and affection for Camp. They know what Coniston meant to them, and they bring that forward into their lives, and into the futures of every Camper.

So the real lesson I've discovered is this: it's you who creates our history. You are what Camp is, and will become. And on behalf every kid who spent a happy day here, we can't thank you enough for all you've done.

John Tilley

CHANGING · LIVES · FOR · A · CENTURY



JOIN US FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

JUNE 17, 18 & 19, 2011 REGISTER NOW!



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • FOR HEALTHY LIVING • FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



## THE CONISTON CHRONICLE

A Publication of  
YMCA CAMP CONISTON

### STAFF

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*Executive Director*

Jennifer Deasy  
*Assistant Director*

Lorraine Newcomb  
*Registrar*

Nicole Berthiaume  
*Afterschool/  
Adventure Coordinator*

Dianne Chadwick  
*Projects Coordinator*

Berta Sinclair  
*Centennial Coordinator*

Aaron Turner  
*Maintenance Director*

Dave Savio  
John McNair  
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Nancy Walters  
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John Zimmerman  
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Brian Grip, *lifetime member*  
Bow, NH

Bert Myer, *lifetime member*  
Hampstead, NH

Tom Simon, *lifetime member*  
Grantham, NH



Dedicated alumni Sherman Horton, pictured here with his family, makes Coniston's website possible.

Sherm Horton and his family have always been tireless supporters of Camp Coniston. For almost fifty years, three generations of Hortons have enriched our Camp ... from the early days of the move to Lake Coniston, through the years of Horton campers growing

into counselors and staff, and now, with Sherm's enormous contribution ... the construction and maintenance of our website, [www.coniston.org](http://www.coniston.org).

Sherm describes his feelings about Coniston as "a community, a relationship with an impact on my entire life ... Camp

Visit the site daily at [www.coniston.org](http://www.coniston.org), or better yet, make it your home page! And don't forget the **Clipboard** ... it has all the updates and information you need, like Camp Registration status, Employment News, Staff Birthdays, News from the Office, and lots of other tidbits. Check out the site for the **Daily Countdown to Camp** too ... and please, do let us know what you think of our new look!

# Thank you, Sherm!!

## A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER MAKES THE NEW CONISTON WEBSITE A REALITY

is first on my list." Sherm, that's exactly the way we feel about you ... there's no way we could thank you enough!



## a Coniston Timeline

milestones, achievements and accomplishments over the past one hundred years

**February 8, 1911**  
– State of NH issues charters for the Sullivan County Committee of YMCAs.

The Sullivan County YMCA opened Camp Soangetaha in 1911, which operated for one summer at the Meriden Bird Sanctuary, the first in the world.

LOGO FOR CAMP SOANGETAHA 1912 thru 1930s



**1912** — Soangetaha name chosen by Dartmouth students; Camp moves to Rand's Pond.



**1911**– The opening of Sullivan County YMCA Camp in Meriden, NH. **Wayne C. Jordan** was the first Camp Director.

**1913** – Camp Director **P.A. Foster** begins (through 1915) and operates Camp in its new location on Rand's Pond, ten miles from our current location on Lake Coniston.

TIMELINE CONTINUES ON PG 4

CELEBRATING  
**ONE HUNDRED**  
— YEARS —  
OF QUALITY CAMPING!



YMCA CAMP CONISTON'S  
**CENTENNIAL** ↗ **CELEBRATION**  
JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

SEE PAGES 12-15 FOR EVENT DETAILS, AND OUR CENTENNIAL SPONSORS!



# donors 2010

## — OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION —

*to every one of the generous 2010 donors who made a great future possible for all our kids!*

### Chairman's Triangle

*\$5,000 to \$35,000*

Bedford Cost Segregation, LLC  
 Carl Witherall Fund  
 Kearsarge Sunshine Fund  
 Lake Sunapee Savings Bank

Lane & Elizabeth Dwinell Foundation  
 NH Charitable Foundation  
 Phenix Mutual Insurance  
 US Forestry Service

### Platinum Triangle

*\$1,000 to \$4,999*

Altman, Richard  
 Calcutt, Ann & John  
 Community Partners  
 Deutsch, Andrea Seebaum  
 Ellie's Café & Deli  
 Gesen, Rolf & Stuart  
 Gillett, Kathleen & William  
 Greenbaum, Steven & Sue  
 Heritage United Way Foundation

Hogan, Brian & Mary Jo  
 Horton, Sherman  
 Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation  
 Josh Young Fund  
 Leach, Richard & Cornelia  
 Motorist Insurance  
 National Philanthropic Trust  
 Perkal, Richard & Kathleen  
 Redmond Family Foundation  
 Tessier, Diane & Tom  
 Walters, John & Nancy

### Gold Triangle

*\$500 to \$999*

Adler, David & Hedy  
 Deasy, J. Michael  
 Dewhirst, William & Patty

### TOP 10 REASONS TO COME TO CAMP FOR OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:

**#9**

That first glimpse of the lake that takes your breath away ... and the familiar smell of the Lodge!

### TOP 10 REASONS TO COME TO CAMP FOR OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:

**#10**

The butterflies that build in your stomach as you turn on the road to Camp!

Franklin Templeton Matching Gift Program  
 Freedman, Karen & Jared Reid  
 Gesen, Nancy  
 Glynn, Barry & Pattie  
 Grip, Daniel  
 Heaney, Fiona & John

## a Coniston Timeline ...

**1916** – YMCA Camp Soangetaha began administering coed camping programs, making our YMCA one of the oldest coed camps in the nation today.

**1923** – The Dudley family of Hanover NH opens a private girls' camp, Camp Interlaken for Girls, on Long Pond in Croydon, NH. The property and buildings would later be sold to our YMCA as the new home for Camp Coniston.

**1926** – The Sullivan County Y purchases the property on Rands' Pond for Camp Soangetaha.



LOGO FOR CAMP SOANGETAHA 1930s thru 1963

1911 1964

**1917** – As part of a national YMCA program which administered all aid and support to US troops in WW I (which eventually became the USO), campers, volunteers and staff from the Sullivan County YMCA raise \$155,000 in two years.



Many of Coniston's enduring traditions date from the years at Rand's Pond ... the CIT Trip to Mt. Washington, Sunday Select, closing campfire, the triangle ceremony, bathhouses named "The College," even the Camp Bell.

**1936** – New Logo for Camp Soangetaha (incorporating Soangetaha name and Hiawatha image).



Johnson, Nancy  
MacIlroy, William Spears  
NH Charitable Foundation  
Roberts, Chris & Diane  
Salvay, Michael & Laura  
Simon, Tom & Carolyn  
Smidt, Maura & Clark  
Tilley, John & Tricia  
Zegans, Claudia & Michael

## Silver Triangle

\$250 to \$499

Bailey, Paul & Eileen  
Barnico, Kate & Thomas  
Belknap, Allen & Karen  
Burak, Jeffrey & Jennifer  
Dickey, Holly  
Domenitz, Jeremy  
Donahue, Catherine & Sarah  
Evans, Lois & Evan  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Foundation  
Kert, Morley  
Marsh, Victoria & Patrick  
Morris, Ann & Marc  
Newton, Doug  
O'Dwyer, Ben  
Perkins, James & Beth  
Pushee, Karen & Mark Greenberg  
Reid D.D.S., James B.  
Sugar River Bank  
Sweeney, Amy & Joe

Temco, Linda & Jason  
Williams, Jenny & Stan  
Yoder, Kate & Doug

## Bronze Triangle

\$1 to \$249

Al Jenaibi, Katie & Ahmed  
Alen, Joseph  
Altmann, Stephanie Lucas  
Alvin, Cindy & David  
Anderson, Laura & Scott  
Arell, Barbara & Thomas  
Baker, Evelyn  
Barden, Dave & Fay  
Barlowe, Charles & Amy Stephens  
Bartholomew, Kerm & Carol  
Bascom, Dana  
Beers, Michael & Donna  
Beir Family  
Beir, Jeffrey & Sarah  
Belamarich, Matthew & Linda

### TOP 10 REASONS • TO COME TO CAMP FOR • OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:

#7

Hearing the bell ring through Camp ...

### TOP 10 REASONS • TO COME TO CAMP FOR • OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:

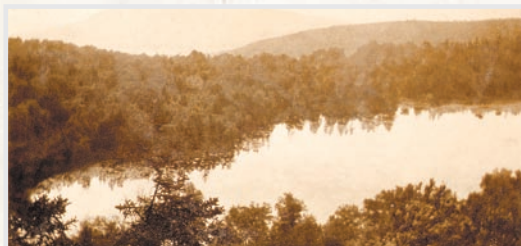
#8

Relaxing on Main Lawn, making new memories, and remembering past summers with old friends ...

Benson, Steven & Cynthia  
Berger, Greg & Astrid  
Birkland, JoAnn  
Bonell, Nancy & John  
Brandon, Debbie  
Bryson, Deborah & Michael  
Buttor-Foederl, Caitlin  
Calcutt, Brian  
Canotas, Vasiliki & Mark McCue  
Carroll Concrete  
Charles Schwaab Foundation  
Chirico, Carol & Joe

## a Coniston Timeline ...

**Early 40's –**  
**George Wheeler**  
becomes Director of  
Camp Soangetaha.



**Soangetaha, "a camp of proved desire and known delight,"** operated under this slogan until the camp moved from Rand's Pond in 1964. The name Soangetaha comes from Longfellow's Hiawatha who is featured in the logo.

**1943 –** At the request of the State of NH, Long Pond in Croydon is renamed Lake Coniston by the Dudley Family.

**1950 –** Deserving children from Newport are sent to Camp Soangetaha by The Josh Young Foundation, founded by philanthropist Josh Young.



**1954 – Norm Van Gulden** becomes Camp Director (through 1959).

**1959 –** Camp Director **Doug Reed** begins (through 1968); Norm Van Gulden leaves to direct YMCA Camp Abnaki in Vermont.



# donors 2010

Claiborne, Gwyneth & Robert  
 Clarke's Hardware  
 Clough, John & Ruth  
 Coleman, Sam  
 Comstock, Scott & Sandra  
 Conner, Duffy & Jen  
 Cook, Celeste & David  
 Couturier, Barbara & Paul  
 Cox, Nancy Kane & Barry  
 Currier, Phillip & Jane  
 Deasy, Jennifer  
 Delise, Lynne & Robert  
 Delmonico, Priscilla & Dom  
 DeTurk, Martha & Dennis  
 Domenichella, Paul & Jeanne  
 Doncov, M. Eugenia & Mark  
 Dorr, Olive Hadley  
 Doucet, Brian  
 Drew, Caroline & Steven  
 Dupuis, Amy

Dwyer, Barney  
 Eldredge, Chris & Sophie Sparrow  
 Ensign, Stephen  
 Ernst, Charles & Annie  
 Faulkner, Charles & Charolotte  
 Finlay, Scott & Martha  
 Fletcher, Dana & Jennifer  
 Franks, Ruth  
 Freeland, Beth & Grant  
 Friedman, Emily  
 Friedman, Jen  
 Friedman, Susan & Robert  
 Furdyna, Frank & Adele

Gallagher, Jamie & Karen  
 Gardner, Katie & Jon  
 Garrahan, Lisa & John  
 Gillespie, Camille & David  
 Glennon, Jennifer & Marty  
 Goddard, Eleanor & Walter  
 Goldfarb, Wendy & Marc  
 Gorman, Alison & Sean  
 Graf, Rachel  
 Granite United Way Foundation  
 Griffin, Larry  
 Grip, Kelly & Brian  
 Haddock, Margo & Harold  
 Hadley, Steven & Lesley  
 Hall, Deborah & James Woods  
 Hall, Travis & Shirley  
 Hampton, Libby  
 Hart, Carolyn & Alden  
 Hart, Harriet & A. Sherburne  
 Helfat, Constance & Kevin  
 Helm, Bill & Tina  
 Henoch, Kate &

**TOP 10 REASONS**  
 • TO COME TO CAMP FOR •  
**OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:**

**#5**  
 Dining Hall fun—singing while you wait ... grilled cheese sandwiches ... dancing while you clean!

**TOP 10 REASONS**  
 • TO COME TO CAMP FOR •  
**OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:**

**#6**  
 The sound of your cabin door as it closes behind you!

D.D. Albers  
 Hickey, Bruce & Nancy  
 Hilton, Debbie & Chuck  
 Hilton, Mr. & Mrs. Charles F.  
 Horn, Bill & Betsy  
 Howe, Carol Ann  
 Hugg, Myra & Joseph  
 Hunter, Stephen & Betsy  
 Hutchinson, Ford & Patricia

## a Coniston Timeline ...

**1963** – The State YMCA of New Hampshire sells Camp Soangetaha property in Goshen, and uses the proceeds to purchase Camp Interlaken in Grantham for \$380,000.

**1964** – *New logo.* While searching for a formal name, the Camp operated under the name "The New Hampshire State YMCA Camping Reservation for Boys and Girls."



LOGO FOR NEW NH STATE YMCA CAMPING RESERVATION 1964 thru 1968

The name Camp Interlaken is sold to a Dudley nephew, and operated as a camp in Vermont.



**1964** – After a major fund drive which helped purchase the property, the Soangetaha campers, board, staff, and programs moved to the facility on Lake Coniston and welcomed many Interlaken campers into our YMCA family.

**1968** – Camp Director **Bob Sanders** begins; Doug Reed moved to direct State YMCA Camp in Maine. New docks put in place at Girl's and Boys waterfronts while the lake is frozen.







**TOP 10 REASONS  
• TO COME TO CAMP FOR •  
OUR 100<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY:**

**#4**

**The taste of  
ice cold  
bug juice!**

Hutchinson,  
Gretchen & Rick  
Hutchinson,  
Patricia & Ford  
Ighodaro, Dawn & Osaro  
Imrich,  
Steve & Cynthia Smith  
J.P. Morgan Chase  
Foundation  
Jennings, Rachael  
Jennings, Sarah  
Jones, Charles & Emily  
Kalfus, Phyllis & Don  
Kamisar, Stacy & Jonathan  
Kelsey,  
Peter & Ginger Ryan

Kert, Cathy & Charlie  
Kessler, Bob & Susan  
Kibbler, Cynthia & Peter  
Kingston,  
Rebecca & Andrew  
Kirkland, Kathy  
Koch, Linda & David  
LaCaillade, Scott & Beth  
Lantz, James & Louise  
Lauziere, Betty  
LaValley Building Supply  
Levesque, Neil & Kelly  
Levine, Jessie  
Lewis, Shari & David  
Lonergan, Judith  
MacInnes, John & Gail  
Magari, Elaine Silverman  
Mailly, Todd & Jennifer  
Malenka, David & Ann  
Mannello, Rich & Karen  
Mansour,  
Lauree & Haitham  
Mario, Joseph &  
Karen Young  
Marvin, Sarah & Jonathan  
McCarthy, Emily

McCrillis,  
Mr. & Mrs. John  
McGoldrick, Mary  
McLaughlin, Julie & Steve  
McLean, Nelson  
Mellert, Barbara  
Mertz, Carolyn & Peter  
Miller, Andy  
Miller, Katie & Tom  
Moran, Anne & Michael  
Morris, Marc  
Morse,  
Gretchen & Abraham  
Moses, Ruth & Joel  
Moss, Frederick & Marjorie  
Moyer, Joan  
Neubert, Marsha  
Newport Family Foot Care  
Nichols, Ken & Susan  
Nielsen,  
Christopher & Andrea  
Noordsy, Sandra & Don  
Null, Corinne & Evere  
O'Connor, Sarah & John  
Olken, Monica & David  
Peterson, Robert & Norah

Pike, Alan & Marcy  
Quackenbos, George P.  
Radermacher, Erik  
Regan, Nina & Bill  
Reiss, Nicole  
Richter, Rick & Elaine  
Rightor, Eric  
Rizzi, Jason  
Rodeschin,  
Beverly & Henry  
Rogers, Benjamin  
Ruggles, Amber  
Ryder, Peter Martin & Liz  
Salvas, Margaret & David  
Sanders, Holly & Richard

**TOP 10 REASONS  
• TO COME TO CAMP FOR •  
OUR 100<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY:**

**#3**

**Vespers ...  
Campfire ...  
and Fireworks!**

## a Coniston Timeline ...

LOGO  
FOR CAMP  
CONISTON  
1970s thru 1993



**1977** – Mildrid Fristedt of Massachusetts donates more than 200 acres of property on Hogg Hill Road to Camp.

**1978** – The Carl Witherall Fund began underwriting Camperships to pay for kids coming to Camp.

**The Witherall Fund** bequeathed \$241,000 to the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, solely for the purpose of sending kids to camp.

**1969** – *New Name.* Camp operates for the first time under the name Coniston, originating from the lake named in honor of the bestselling book by Winston Churchill.

During this time period, Camp grew to host close to 300 campers each session. Camp also constructed new Colleges, the horse barn, Trigger and Gazebo.



**1979** – Camp Coniston pays off original mortgage from 1963 ... ceremonial mortgage burning held at Camp!



# donors 2010

Sawitz, Beth  
 Sawyer, Naomi & Rick  
 Scudder,  
 Steven & Donna Palley  
 Seybold, Ashley  
 Sharp, Stephen & Anne  
 Shenstone, Greg  
 Ship, Carl &  
 Christine Flynn  
 Short, Jillian  
 Sinclair, Berta  
 Slafsky, Julie & Marc  
 Smith, Tammy & Scott  
 Spielman, Sara  
 Spring Ledge Farm  
 Springer,  
 Clinton & Francesca  
 Stevenson,  
 William & Andree  
 Steward, Barbara  
 Strebel, Susan  
 Surprenant,  
 Valerie & G. R.  
 Tarkulich, Michelle  
 Taylor, Bruce & Janet

**TOP 10 REASONS  
 TO COME TO CAMP FOR  
 OUR 100<sup>TH</sup>  
 ANNIVERSARY:**

**#2**  
**Remembering  
 how hard it was  
 to leave ...**

Teach, Gail  
 Theroux, Peg & Steve  
 Tishcoff, Faye Penn & Joel  
 Tolsdorf Family  
 Torres, Diane & Weber  
 Trebino, Patricia  
 Twadell, Susie & Peter  
 Valence, Susan & Mark  
 Vandeventer, Eric  
 Versace, Apple Chapman  
 Vinton, Ruth  
 Vogt, Carol  
 Wakamatsu-Berk, May  
 Walker, Libby

Walton, Debra  
 Weintraub,  
 Joanne & Andrew  
 Whelan, Kevin & Irene  
 Wholey, Christopher King  
 Wiewel, Linda & Walter  
 Wilson, Cheryl & Rodney  
 Wilson, John & Kathleen  
 Wood, Lisa & Michael  
 Work,  
 Michael & Christine  
 Young, Stephanie  
 Zimmerman, Zach

**Dedications  
 & Memorials**

David & Hedy Adler  
*- Hannukah gift on behalf  
 of Josh, Rachel, and Sarah*  
 Barry & Pattie Glynn  
*- In memory of Fritz &  
 Connie Wirtz*  
 Nancy Johnson  
*- in memory of Judy Horton*  
 Morley Kert  
*- in honor of his BahMitzvah*

Shari & David Lewis  
*- in honor of the Session 4  
 Camp nurses*  
 Sandra & Don Noordsy  
*- in memory of Vernon  
 Noordsy*  
 Cheryl & Rodney Wilson  
*- in honor of Chef Richard  
 Nevens-*

**Businesses  
 & Foundations**

Bedford Cost Segregation  
 Boston Foundation  
 The Carl Witherall Fund  
 Carroll Concrete  
 Charles Schwab  
 Foundation  
 Clarke's Hardware  
 Community Partners  
 Lane & Elizabeth Dwinell  
 Foundation  
 Ellie's Cafe & Deli  
 Fidelity Charitable  
 Gift Fund  
 Fitz, Vogt, & Associates  
 Franklin Templeton

**a Coniston Timeline ...**

**1981** – Camp  
 Coniston recognized  
 as an International  
 YMCA for its program  
 quality and inclusion.

**1991** – Camp Director  
**Nancy LaRue** begins  
 (through 1999) — Robert  
 Sanders retires to the  
 mountains of Virginia.



**LOGO FOR  
 CAMP  
 CONISTON  
 1994 thru 2000**

**1982** – In conjunction  
 with Dartmouth-  
 Hitchcock and NH Lung  
 Assn, Camp Super Kids  
 starts at Coniston for  
 campers with asthma;  
 program ran until 2001.

**1994** – **New Logo.**  
 Used through  
 the '90s. The first  
 appearance of  
 the loon as Camp  
 Coniston's symbol.



**1996** – In collaboration  
 with Childhood Cancer  
 Lifeline of NH and Ronald  
 McDonald House, Coniston  
 opens Camp Winning Spirit  
 for families and kids dealing  
 with childhood cancer.

**1997** – The YMCA of NH is  
 dissolved — YMCA Camp  
 Coniston now becomes  
 an independent Y, able  
 to focus our resources on  
 camping and kids.



- Matching Program
- Heritage United Way Foundation
- Hugh Gallon Fund
- Hypertherm
- H.O.P.E. Foundation
- Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation
- The Josh Young Fund
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- LaValley Building Supply
- Lake Sunapee Bank
- Motorist Insurance Co.
- National Philanthropic Trust Foundation
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- The Perkal Foundation
- Phenix Mutual Insurance Group
- The Redmond Family Foundation
- Spring Ledge Farm
- Sugar River Bank
- US Forestry Service

AND THE  
**NUMBER ONE  
 REASON**  
 • TO COME TO CAMP FOR •  
**OUR 100<sup>TH</sup>  
 ANNIVERSARY:**

Because  
**YOU ARE**  
 our history!



a Coniston Timeline ...

**1998** – The new dining hall opens in the site of the old girls CIT cabin, which can feed all of Camp family style in a single 500-place seating.



**1999** – Coniston hosts Kearsarge Area Children of Hope, bringing together Protestant and Catholic Youth from Belfast Northern Ireland for a week of “peace and reconciliation” programs.



**1998 (Fall)** – Camp Coniston begins its first After School programs in the local school districts, completely funded by donations to Camp.



**1999 (Fall)** – Camp Director **John Tilley** begins (current) — Nancy LaRue leaves to direct the Nutfield YMCA outside Manchester NH.

**2000** – Adventure Camp begins as a new option at Coniston, one-week trips for boys and girls 13-16 — hiking, kayaking, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, and more!



## HAPPENINGS FROM IN AND AROUND THE CONISTON COMMUNITY

### We Are True Pioneers!

YMCA Camp Coniston was named a Pioneer of Camping by the American Camping Association at the most recent National Convention in San Diego, California.

The Pioneer of Camping award recognizes organizations who have served with distinction in the camping movement for 30 or more years.

Congratulations to all those from the past and present who have help to make Coniston such a great Pioneer Camp!



It's live! Check out [www.coniston.org](http://www.coniston.org) to see our new look, lots more information ... and tons of photos!

### Hey ... Check Out the New Camp Coniston Website!

Visit the site daily at [www.coniston.org](http://www.coniston.org), or better yet, make it your home page! Be sure to check the Clipboard ... it has all the updates and information you need, and lots of other tidbits. And be sure to let us know what you think of our new look — we want to hear from you!

### The Coniston Radio Station!

That's right; we have a live radio broadcast on our new website, "hosted" by various Alumni! Log in to listen and make requests ... and if you are interested in being our guest DJ, email our webmaster at [info@coniston.org](mailto:info@coniston.org)!

### YMCA of the USA has a new look!

You might have noticed that the YMCA of the USA has updated its look, including a new Y logo.

We will have lots of fun with the new colors, as we continue our mission to create experiences that build healthy mind, spirit, and body for all.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### a Coniston Timeline ...

**2000 – New logo.**  
Coniston officially adopts the loon as our mascot.



LOGO FOR CAMP CONISTON  
2000 thru 2010

By carefully preserving our 1200-acre watershed, Coniston helped to re-establish the loon throughout NH and New England.

**2006 –** Coniston Board of Directors approves the campaign to raise over \$500,000, to purchase the last remaining acreage visible from the lake. This secures our entire valley for all future Conistonians.



**2003 –** West Coast CITs are introduced as a third option (sessions 2 & 3) to complement our existing East Coast CIT programs.

**2005 –** Coniston purchases the remaining land around Cranberry Pond, completing our ownership of the Bog. Over the next 3 years, CITs used this property to help construct Camp's new outdoor Chapel.



**2007 –** Renovation of the Old Dining Hall into New Hampshire Hall, dedicated to the arts — dance, drama, chorus, photography, arts and crafts, and woodshop.

# Alumni and Staff News and Notes

## 1990's Alumni:

**Joanne Fregault Knox** lives in Lake Tahoe with her husband, and teaches literature and theater at Sugar Bowl Academy, a ski academy for grades 8-12. Great to hear from you, Joanne ... sounds like a fun and rewarding job!



**Janine Strebel** (daughter of our fabulous long-time camp nurse, Sue Strebel) happily reports that she married David

Richards on February 11th, 2011! Her brother (and fellow alumni) PJ was honored to walk his sister down the aisle. David's son is a current camper, so we look forward to seeing them this summer on check-in day. Congratulations to the happy families!



**Pam Newman**, now living in Stowe Mass., paid a visit to Coniston last November with her fiancé, Eric Walther, and enjoyed

showing him this treasure of her childhood. Pam will be here for the Centennial and hopes to reconnect with friends!

Love is in the air....two Valentine's Day babies make the news!



**Betsy Blazar** and husband Tim Sullivan welcomed their first child, daughter Charlotte Tousley Sullivan,

who weighed in at 7 lbs, 5 oz. Welcome Charlotte, and congratulations mom and dad!



**Heather Towne Goddu** and husband, Troy, welcomed their second son, Ryder Fenno Goddu on this special day as well. Troy's big brother, Tucker, will surely take good care of them when they come to Camp together!



**Ben Quick**, a 91-92 camper and 96-97 staff, was married on 2/20/11 to Karla Corapi. Ben and Carla met while training for the Boston Marathon for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Congratulations to the happy couple!

## 2000's Alumni

We are sensing a theme here... two Conistonian's with broadcasting/journalism successes! Any more out there?!

**Andy Miller**, a 2010 LIT and senior at Barrington High School in Rhode Island, recently worked a two-day assignment as an Assistant Producer for *Good Morning America* at ABC News. Andy is active in his school broadcasts and is certainly a rising star in his field. Go for it, Andy!

**Joey Whelan** is a Sports Reporter in for KFYZ-TV in Bismark, North Dakota, and was also the voice of Baseball's Can Am League New Jersey Jackals. Surely his confidence to appear on television was nurtured here at Camp!

We are overflowing with pride at these Coniston philanthropists!



**Laurie Stadler**, camp nurse, had the experience of a lifetime on a week-long mission trip to Ecuador. Laurie and the team she served with

completed 41 surgeries in 4 days, and some families traveled an entire day just to receive care. We are proud of you, Laurie!

**Addie Bryant**, 2010 LIT, developed her senior project based on her experience at Camp Winning Spirit (a weekend long retreat held here at Camp for families facing childhood cancer). Addie coordinated a holiday fundraiser for her project, and all proceeds went to the Cancer Lifeline. Way to go, Addy!

**Cat Cook**, CIT and staff member in the 2000's, is currently serving in the Peace Corps in Paramaribom, Surinam in South America. This region has 86 inches of precipitation each year ... we hope you are staying dry, Cat!

Kudos to these alumni/staff, who are in various stages of their contracts with Teach for America. They will be in:

- ~ **Zach Rowe** — Colorado
- ~ **Jake Eaton** — Colorado
- ~ **Will Short** — Los Angeles
- ~ **Ben Mark** — Philadelphia

## DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Email Dianne Chadwick in the office at [dianne@coniston.org](mailto:dianne@coniston.org)

## a Coniston Timeline ...

**2009** – Coniston awarded the Croydon Community award, and honored as a "Champion of Children" by NH Governor John Lynch for our work with Camp Winning Spirit and the Childhood Cancer Lifeline of NH.



**February 8, 2011**  
– Camp Coniston celebrates its 100th Anniversary!



LOGO FOR  
CONISTON  
CENTENNIAL



**Today** ... YMCA Camp Coniston is the largest camp in New Hampshire. Over 90% of our Campers return to us every year — one of the highest return rates of all camps in the US. Coniston's facility and mission allows us to serve children from across Sullivan County, New Hampshire and the nation with top-rated programs that foster respect, responsibility, honesty and caring in each individual.

## FRIDAY JUNE 17, 2011

5:30 PM - 11:00 PM: CENTENNIAL GRAND GALA (age 21+):

- ☞ COCKTAIL HOUR WILL BE HELD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE HALL AND DINNER WILL BE SERVED IN THE DINING HALL.
- ☞ THE GALA WILL INCLUDE COCKTAILS AND HORS D'OEUVRES, DINNER, DANCING AND AN AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE CAMPSHIP FUND.
- ☞ PACKING LIST: LADIES - COCKTAIL DRESS AND DANCING SHOES; GENTS - JACKET, TIE AND DANCING SHOES.
- ☞ THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 350 REGISTERED GUESTS.

## SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2011

*ALL minors must be accompanied by an adult.*

### MORNING ACTIVITIES:

- ☞ OPEN ACTIVITIES: ARTS & CRAFTS, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, ARCHERY, CLIMBING TOWER, CANOEING, KAYAKING, SWIMMING, AND MORE!
- ☞ GUN SAFETY CLINIC BY RUGER
- ☞ CAMP TOURS LEAVING FROM THE FLAG POLE EVERY 30 MINUTES: 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, AND 12:00.
- ☞ SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE CONISTON CAMPSHIP FUND

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

- ☞ DROP IN LUNCH - LUNCH SERVING WILL BE IN THE DINING HALL AND ON MAIN LAWN. \$5.00 PER PERSON/CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 FREE  
WE PUT THE BAND BACK TOGETHER! SCOTT SANDERS, JOHN LOVEJOY AND TOM PERRON PERFORM LIVE!

### AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES:

- ☞ OPEN ACTIVITIES: ARTS AND CRAFTS, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, ARCHERY, SAILING, CANOEING, KAYAKING, BOG WALKS, HIKING, SWIMMING, LAWN GAMES, CLIMBING TOWER, S'MORES, AND MORE!
  - ☞ GUIDED HIKES AROUND THE LAKE
  - ☞ GUIDED HIKES UP SUGAR HILL/INDIAN COUNCIL
  - ☞ SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE CONISTON CAMPSHIP FUND
- 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM
- ☞ NANCY TUCKER PERFORMANCE - MAIN LAWN
- 5:15 PM - 5:30 PM
- ☞ VESPERS - BOYS OF ALL AGES AT BOYS VESPERS RING; GIRLS OF ALL AGES AT GIRLS VESPERS RING
- 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM
- ☞ COOKOUT DINNER - DINNER SERVING AT THE DINING HALL AND MAIN LAWN. \$7.00 PER PERSON/CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 FREE
- 7:45 PM - 9:30 PM
- ☞ CAMPFIRE AND CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY - LAKESIDE
- 9:30 PM
- ☞ FIREWORKS - OVER THE LAKE!!!!
- 10:00 PM - 1:00 AM
- ☞ FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB IN NEW LONDON, DIGBY'S IN SUNAPEE/NEWBURY AND MARGARITA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN LEBANON/HANOVER OPEN UNTIL 1:00AM TO CENTENNIAL GUESTS AGES 21+

## SUNDAY JUNE 19, 2011

*ALL minors must be accompanied by an adult.*

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

- ☞ TRADITIONAL CAMP CHAPEL SERVICE - CHAPEL LOCATED BEHIND THE A-FIELD AND RIDING RINGS, OVERLOOKING CRANBERRY POND.

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

- ☞ COFFEE HOUR TO FOLLOW CHAPEL SERVICE AT THE DINING HALL AND MAIN LAWN

### THE CENTENNIAL WEEKEND IS OPEN TO ALL!

Here is what you'll find when you visit the Centennial link on our website:  
Registration Materials • Lodging Information • Event Schedule and Details  
A List of Who's Coming • Ways You Can Help

[www.coniston.org](http://www.coniston.org)

YMCA CAMP

# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>

PAC  
WITH



FOR  
100 YEARS

CONISTON'S

# ANNIAL RATION

- 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

## RED LOVE



## GUESS WHO'S COMING BACK TO CAMP?!

Here Are Your Coniston Friends Registered For The Centennial As Of 3/25/11. Will You Join Them?

### 1950's:

Marilyn Grayson  
(Interlaken)  
Allen Belknap  
(Soangetaba)

### 1960's:

Janet Parker Mccarthy  
Carol Ann Howe  
(Soangetaba & Coniston)  
Ann Wasserman Morris  
Marsha Howe Neubert  
(Soangetaba & Coniston)  
Pattie Reed Glynn  
(Soangetaba & Coniston)  
Martha Wetmore Scott  
Lynda Pickering  
Lisa Copenhaver  
Catherine Johnson  
Bill Sebert  
Cindy Sebert Nettrour  
Marilyn Grayson  
(Interlaken)  
Allen Belknap  
(Soangetaba & Coniston)

### 1970's:

Bill Leahy  
Lynn Hunter Horton  
Thomas Horton  
Sherman Horton  
Fay Barden  
Chris Macneil Stack  
Allen Kropp  
David Lewis  
Beth Farrey Worthington  
Joe Greene  
Julie Scaramella  
Susie Forman Twadell  
Sarah Bean Apmann  
Sandy Loos Sampson  
Linda Neiterman Temco  
Liz Nelson LaBelle  
Suzy Bean Mancuso  
Martha Wetmore Scott  
Linda Schoenbrun Lowell  
Tina Matarazzo Sheff  
Lisa Copenhaver  
Karin Nelson  
Catherine Johnson  
Dave Barden  
Cindy Sebert Nettrour  
Stephanie Stathos  
Holly Dickey  
Jenny Spear Glennon  
Ginger Hinkle Heald  
Rolf Gesen  
Reb Mackenzie  
Brian Grip  
Del Chapin Bassi  
Martha Huckins Herzer  
Regan Hargraves Belluche

### 1980's:

Bill Leahy  
Lynn Hunter Horton  
Thomas Horton  
Sherman Horton  
Lynn Schiffman Delise  
Allen Kropp  
Derek Taylor  
Kieran Brooks  
Rick Hutchinson  
David Lewis  
Briney Dillon Burley  
Beth Farrey Worthington  
Joe Greene

Erica Labb  
Courtney Labb  
Cynthia Maynard Ward  
Ali Myer  
Doug Newton  
Susie Forman Twadell  
Peter Twadell  
Emily Fiore Nagle  
Sarah BF Donnelly  
Stefan Timbrell  
Marcia Fitzpatrick  
Sarah Bean Apmann  
Howie Kalfus  
Robyn Moreau  
Shelly Partridge Oro  
Andy Zimmerman  
Linda Neiterman Temco  
Andrea Kesslen Barsch  
Sandra Egan Nunley  
Eugenia Rolla Duncov  
Betsy Hastings Mello  
Tobey Weintraub Collins  
Stephanie Sostek Murray  
Liz Nelson LaBelle  
Katie Egan Falcione  
Richard Green  
Darcy Conant Heindel  
Emily Sostek Gatchell  
Brian Fitzgerald  
Suzy Bean Mancuso  
Linda Schoenbrun Lowell  
Tina Matarazzo Sheff  
Kirsten Elin Smith  
Holly Dickey  
Jenny Spear Glennon  
Mary Brien Freeman  
Katie DeWolfe Gardner  
Rua Kelly  
Duffy Conner  
Galen Friend Tremblay  
Del Chapin Bassi  
Martha Huckins Herzer  
Matt Hunter  
Abby Wilson Hoven

### 1990's:

Gen Izutsu  
Karen Freedman  
Jared Reid  
Katie Perry Al Jenabi  
Peter Twadell  
Rick Hutchinson  
Grechen Roemer  
Hutchinson  
Nicole Reiss  
Amanda Tucker  
Briney Dillon Burley  
JoAnn Birkland  
Erica Labb  
Laura McLane  
Courtney Labb  
Ben O'Dwyer  
Cynthia Maynard Ward  
Nancy LaRue Bonell  
Aimee LaRue  
Corey Brown Raiche  
Ali Myer  
Mike Clemens  
Doug Newton  
Emily Fiore Nagle  
Sarah BF Donnelly  
Jennifer Morin  
Marcia Fitzpatrick  
Howie Kalfus  
Heather Mclean

Jack Calcutt  
Robyn Moreau  
Andrew Albee  
Sandy Loos Sampson  
Shelly Partridge Oro  
Pam Newman  
Emily Morse  
Molly Jepsen  
Brian Doucet  
Meghan Salvas Ship  
Brad Ship  
Betsy Hastings Mello  
Stephanie Sostek Murray  
Katie Egan Falcione  
Darcy Conant Heindel  
Shannon Sawyer  
Emily Sostek Gatchell  
Betsy Blazar  
Diana Blazar  
Catie Borbotsina  
Sarah Donahue  
Kevin Cooper-smith  
Mary Blaney Mccarthy  
Katie DeWolfe Gardner  
Jen Letter Conner  
Duffy Conner  
Steve Maguire  
Galen Friend Tremblay  
Kelly Muller Condon  
Jill Albee  
Caitlin Buttor-Foederl  
Robby Muller  
Abby Wilson Hoven  
Zach "ZZ" Zimmerman

### 2000's:

Gen Izutsu  
Nicole Reiss  
JoAnn Birkland  
Ben O'Dwyer  
Mike Clemens  
Leslie Morin  
Shiho Takezawa  
Laura Morris  
Sandra Morris  
Jack Calcutt  
Emily Morse  
Molly Jepsen  
Brian Doucet  
Chris Mccown  
Rebecca Stanfield Mccown  
Meghan Salvas Ship  
Brad Ship  
Tommy Tessier  
Katie Arnold  
Evan Glynn  
Shannon Sawyer  
Brian Beale  
Brenden Olson  
Betsy Blazar  
Diana Blazar  
Jillian Lenson  
Michael Lenson  
Catie Borbotsina  
Sarah Donahue  
Kevin Cooper-smith  
Rob "Hooter" Hooton  
Kelly Muller Condon  
Jill Albee  
Robby Muller  
Emily Mccarthy  
Zach "ZZ" Zimmerman  
Steven Belknap  
Caitlin Buttor-Foederl  
Courtney Blum  
Anna Cooley

### Camp Families And Community Members

Caroline & Bob Beale  
Pamela Ilg & Family  
Ann Grote & Family  
Kristen Eckler & Family  
Deborah Chapin Neebe  
& Family  
Donna Perkins & Family  
Lee and Terri Wilcox  
& Family  
Shelley Ames & Family  
Geoff Dunbar & Family  
Leslie Mcquiston & Family  
Matthew Belamarich  
& Family  
Scott Barden & Family  
Lisa Carey and Family  
Kathleen Gillett & Family  
Tracy Omega & Family  
Dan Lawrence & Family  
Travis Hall & Family  
Cynthia Gorey & Family  
Clark & Maura Smidt  
Anna & David Clark  
Ginny Mccarthy & Family  
Marcy Pike & Family  
Debbie Jacobson & Family  
Jennifer Sagerian &  
Family  
Donald & Elizabeth  
Kimtis & Family  
Nelly & Sarah Palmer  
Mike & Chris Work  
Sara & Jack Morin  
Jeanette & Dru Vinton  
& Family  
Susan Zak & Family  
Ken Sneider & Family  
Tom & Carolyn Simon  
John & Nancy Walters  
Clarice & Keith Anderson  
Roger & Beverly Goring  
Jean & George Sutherland  
Claudia Zegans & Family  
Nancy Johnson  
Betsy & Bill Horn  
Jon & Sarah Marvin  
Ashley Seybold  
Jessica Bunting & Family  
John & Patty Zimmerman  
Richard Altman & Mary  
O'Rourke  
Bob & Lelia Mahoney  
Chris Eldredge & Sophie  
Sparrow  
Jessie Levine  
Anne & Doug Cahill &  
Family  
Kathy Seero & Family  
The Poch/Halligan Family  
The Garrahan Family  
Andrea Redican & Family  
William Sloan & Family  
Colleen Goleman &  
Family  
Cemenska/Sundaram  
Family  
Megan Hammond &  
Family

# — THANK YOU —

TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR HELPING  
MAKE OUR CENTENNIAL WEEKEND POSSIBLE:



**THE JACK AND  
DOROTHY BYRNE  
FOUNDATION**

McCrillis & Eldredge



**THE  
CALCUTT  
FAMILY**

**ELLIE'S  
CAFE & DELI**

**COUNTRY  
HOUSES**  
*Real Estate*

**THE  
GARDINER-DEWOLFE  
FAMILY**

**THE  
TILLEY  
FAMILY**



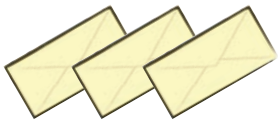
Where Service and Quality Count

**NEW LONDON  
AGENCY SOTHEBY'S  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY**

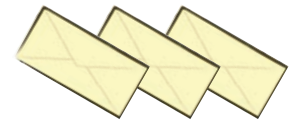


IF YOU OR YOUR CORPORATION IS INTERESTED IN SPONSORING  
THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, CHECK OUT THE EVENT  
SPONSOR LINK ON THE CENTENNIAL WEBSITE PAGE AT [WWW.  
CONISTON.ORG](http://WWW.CONISTON.ORG), OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 603-863-1160 FOR DETAILS.





# MAILCALL!



**Publish your own personalized message for all to see in the Official Centennial Celebration Event Program and Keepsake!**

**From: BERTA**  
**To: 96 & 04 WEST COAST CITS**

**I love you guys!!!**  
**Hope to see you here!**

**From: MOM CHADWICK & DAD KANE**  
**To ELLIE, WILL, & MADISON**

**Hope this Centennial**  
**summer is the best one yet!**

**From: JD**  
**In Memory of: JOHN BIRKLAND**

**Your spirit lives on**  
**at Camp ...**

**From: LORRAINE**  
**TO: JOANN**

**Thanks for retiring!**  
**I love your job!**

**Publish your message in the Official Event Program and Keepsake,** a treasure for all to share at the Centennial weekend and for years to come. Your tribute to Camp will live forever in this historical publication, slated for a special place in our Archives. Say hello to old Camp friends, recognize someone who helped you, or share a Camp memory!

**Message Details:** MailCall envelopes are \$100 each and include one line each in the "To" and "From" sections, and three lines (up to 40 characters) in the message.

**To publish your MailCall message:** contact Berta Sinclair **BY MAY 13th** at the Camp office, [Berta@coniston.org](mailto:Berta@coniston.org) or 603-863-1160.

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS:

## A History of Camp Coniston

### Our Past ... Your Future

In 1911 Camp Coniston met for the first time under the tall pines of the world's first bird sanctuary. It has grown to over twelve hundred acres of pristine wilderness in the mountains of western New Hampshire — a rustic environment nestled along the 3.5 mile shore of the lake from which YMCA Camp Coniston takes its name.

Campers and counselors work together, learn new skills and build a caring and respectful community where all individuals can grow. It is this strong sense of community that translates into an unparalleled loyalty and fondness for Coniston among counselors, campers and alumni alike.

Coniston now enters our Centennial Celebration ... 100 years of creating experiences where campers grow older and stronger, and learn lessons they carry through their lives.

In the following pages, you'll travel through our rich history ... from the early ideas behind Camp's founding, through our growth, all the way to our home on the shores of Lake Coniston.

## Coniston History



# #1

## Community Organizing

By the year 1900, the towns of Newport and Claremont maintained long established active YMCAs teaching English as a second language to immigrants in the mills. In 1911, the Newport YMCA ran all the activities celebrating the town's 150th Anniversary. YMCAs were also founded in Meriden, New London and Hanover, and administered social activities at Kimball Union Academy, Colby Academy (now Colby Sawyer College) and Dartmouth.

Even towns like Acworth, Croydon, Grantham and Mill Village (Goshen) had YMCAs that served as Granges and activity organizers for local youth. At the time, it seemed like there was a YMCA on every corner!

In 1910 these individual YMCAs came together to form a group that could offer larger, more important programs. So, on February 8, 1911 the YMCAs of Sullivan County formed an Association, and as one of their first acts, ran two successful camp programs in Meriden NH that first summer.

### The Concept Behind Our Camp:

Community organizing is an idea with a long history behind it — individuals and local groups coming together, striving to make their community the best it can be.

It's also the perfect description of those who started Camp Coniston. YMCAs began work in New Hampshire in 1852, just months after the country's first Y was founded in Boston. As early as 1875, there was a permanent group in Claremont and, in 1877, a separate group in Newport.

*But why?* What would 19th Century Sullivan County NH need with YMCAs?

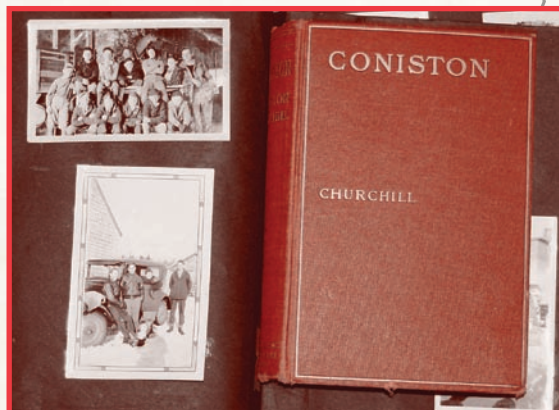
In the year 1899, the county where YMCA Camp Coniston is located was very different. The river between Sunapee and Claremont (which includes Lake Coniston) was home to a highly industrialized community — textile mills and numerous factories kept immigrants coming to the area, and local towns were bustling. But Sullivan County had another side, filled with farm villages, beautiful lakes, boarding schools and colleges. The people in these areas wanted healthy communities too, and their YMCAs acted as community centers.



1924: A group of happy campers who came from all over... exactly what the YMCA Camp founders wanted.

## Do You Know...

During World War I, Pres. Woodrow Wilson called upon America to raise money to support the Allied troops. The YMCA took on the challenge and raised over \$155 million — \$1.5 million in NH, and \$155,000 from Sullivan County alone. This is still the single largest fundraising campaign in the history of the world ... and out of it came the USO!



In 1925 *Publishers Weekly* named the book, "Coniston" one of the top 5 most important books of the Century. Its author helped found the Camp, and Camp was named after his influential book.

Our summer staff believes so strongly in Camp Coniston that, every year, they've donated their own money — a dollar at a time — to fund a Campership and send another deserving kid to Camp.

## Coniston History



# #2

## How Coniston Got Its Name

### *Author Winston Churchill Makes His Contribution to Our History:*

Here's some interesting history — in 1906, the best-selling novel in the United States was called *Coniston* ... written by Winston Churchill!

Churchill was also the most famous writer in residence at the Cornish Artist's Colony. He was distantly related to the British Prime Minister, but before WWII his fame was even more wide spread. In 1925 *Publisher's Weekly* named him the fourth most important author of the young 20th Century. Britain's Churchill once described himself as "the other Churchill ... not the famous one!"

Woodrow Wilson used Churchill's home as a 'summer White House', and he was said to be Teddy Roosevelt's favorite author. In fact, when Roosevelt visited Cornish to ask St. Gaudens to design the Liberty Dollar, a separate motive was to visit with Churchill ... *Coniston* was his favorite book!

Churchill's novel was very important, helping to start the Progressive Movement in New England, which tackled corruption in the US. The famous novel was set in the town of Croydon, but because the book was so popular, people began referring to the town as "Coniston." The Coniston General Store is also named after the novel.

Now let's jump ahead a bit ... in the early 1940s, New Hampshire had so many lakes called Long Pond, the State sent letters to owners, asking them to change the names to something less confusing! In 1943, the Dudley family, then-owners of Camp Interlaken for Girls, changed the name of Long Pond to Lake Coniston ... named after their favorite book!

And that's the way Winston Churchill made his contribution to our name.

# Coniston History

## #3 How Camp Was Founded

Coniston's archives are stored in a small room filled with dusty papers and books — packed on shelves and tucked away into boxes. They document the combined experiences of thousands of Campers over the past 100 years. Amongst the dust, many of our own names can be found.

**But who was first?** Who made Camp possible for you and me ... and why? Most of the records from 1911 and the first years of Camp are lost. Piecing together the parts is like working on a jigsaw puzzle. But the pieces we have provide a vivid picture of that first year.

If you look, the answers to many questions are here — Who made Camp happen? Where did Camp start? And most importantly ... Why did Camp begin?

**Who?** It all began with a group of very important artists — among them painter Maxfield Parish; sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens who created the Liberty Dollar coin; and author Winston Churchill, who wrote the book *Coniston*, for which our Camp was



Sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens, and his famous "Liberty Dollar" coin



named. They were all involved in a local artist colony which was visited by several US Presidents, but they were also interested in **social good** — an important concept at the time.

But they weren't alone. In neighboring Newport and Claremont, large cotton mills were built to take advantage of the waterfalls on the Sugar River, and they relied upon local farm girls as their primary source of labor.

The parents of the local farm girls were convinced to allow daughters to work in the mills because mill owners promised to assist in the moral development of their employees. With these thoughts in mind, the mill owners supported the formation of a YMCA.

**Where?** There is a central figure who connects the artists and the mill owners with the rural youngsters — Charles Alden Tracy, Principal of Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH.

Tracy was a very busy man in 1911. During that year, he helped to found a Bird Sanctuary adjacent to the Academy ... the very first in the world. Additionally, his work as Principal of KUA led him to become a pioneer in working for "civic and rural betterment" with the boys working on the farms. Combining his knowledge of people



Charles Alden Tracy, a Camp founder and head of KUA, bridged the gap between the Artist's Colony and the Industrialists, who ultimately came together to form Camp.

with his enthusiasm for "community education", Tracy lent his name and efforts to founding our YMCA on Feb. 8, 1911.

It will come as no surprise that, within six months, the Young Men's Christian Association (now YMCA Camp Coniston) and Kimball Union Academy would lead groups of boys to the Bird Sanctuary for what

was described as a "week of real inspiration."

So it was there under the tall white pines in Meriden, in the first bird sanctuary in the world, led by some of the most well-known artists of the time, that our Camp came to be.

**Why?** The reason Camp came to be was due to the concept of **social good**. Here is what our founders wrote in the 1919 brochure: *"In the heart of every normal growing boy and girl there is an irrepressible desire for life in the open, where they may sleep in tents, row, fish, swim, hike it over the hills to their hearts' content. These are days in which we must take more than the usual good care of our young people. Theirs will be a big and important work to do in the future and we must help to make them ready. Life at Soangetaha is more than a pleasant vacation — it is a school of good citizenship."*



The original brochure for Camp Soangetaha, from the year 1919

## Coniston History

### #4 The First Campout

#### ... and the Move to Rand's Pond:

Author Winston Churchill,  
Naturalist Ernest Howard  
Baynes, and Wayne C.  
Jordan Run First Camps;  
George Bartlett Provides  
a Home

It takes no more than reading the *Argus and Spectator* and the *Weekly Enterprise* newspapers to realize that Camp's opening was highly anticipated. Full descriptions and details about the leaders were heavily covered in these papers. Here's what the *Weekly Enterprise* tells us:

"There is some confusion in the minds of some in regard to the summer camps to be conducted at Meriden. One is to be held July 26 to August 2nd and the other immediately following, August 3rd to 11th. The first is a boy's camp, pure and simple ... run on the same plan as Camp Belknap. The second one ... besides being a camp, is also educational and especially designed for boys who have a chance to do some farm work."

These programs generated such excitement that prominent citizens from across the state, and even Massachusetts, came to volunteer their services. Ernest Howard Baynes, who

is given credit for saving the American Buffalo, bringing the bird house to North America and helping to create the first bird sanctuary in the world, led both camps on nature walks to the top of Croydon Mountain. Winston Churchill and his friend, Governor Robert Bass, would come on Tuesday evenings to talk to the boys about the ethics of citizenship. Professors from Dartmouth, New Hampshire College (now UNH), Harvard, and the Newton and Andover Seminaries also participated.

The *Argus and Spectator* of Newport, NH reported that boys came from local towns like Newport, Claremont, Acworth and Meriden for the first week of camp, with the second week attracting young boys from across New Hampshire as well as Massachusetts and Vermont.

The first Camp was so successful that George Bartlett, a Charter signer and Board Member of the YMCA, volunteered to host the camp at his property on Rand's Pond for the summer of 1912. A contingent of Dartmouth College students active in the Sullivan County YMCA



An early group of campers playing on Camp's property, which was provided by George Bartlett.

chose the name Soangetaha, a reference to Longfellow's Hiawatha. In 1926 the Bartlett family granted the YMCA permanent control of the property that would remain Camp's home until 1963.

Wayne C. Jordan who, according to records from our national organization, had participated in YMCA work in China, is cited in the *Argus and Spectator* as early as 1909 working for the YMCAs in Sullivan County, NH. Not much is known about the specifics of his life other than this, but he was the first director of the Committee of Sullivan County YMCAs and personally organized the first camps in 1911.

YMCA Camp Soangetaha was very successful into the 1930s, but change was coming. The Goshen, NH town history states that, in the early 1950's, development began on Rand's Pond where Camp was located. Due to the small size of the pond and access issues with neighbors, the long-term survival of Camp was in doubt. And so the Sullivan County YMCA Board began their search for a new property.

# Coniston History

## #5 The Search for Coniston

### Discovering Our New Location ...

In the late 50's and early 60's, the Sullivan County YMCA was actively involved in the search for a new location for what would become Camp Coniston. George Dorr, owner of Dorr Woolen Mills in Newport NH, was the Y's Chairman of the Board. He was a pilot, and with other board members, he spent hours flying around western NH looking for lake sites.

One location they spotted was Eastman Lake in Grantham, NH. To get a closer look they drove out for an on-site inspection, but the trip was complicated by the fact that it was the middle of a snowy NH winter. The gentlemen strapped on their snowshoes and headed off through the woods.

Unfortunately, their journey came to an end when one of their snowshoes broke. They turned back, making their way as best they could while night fell ... the cars seemed miles away as they struggled through the drifts ... and all the while their families waited at home, wondering how a simple trip could take so long!

It was well after dark when they returned, and after thawing out, they decided that perhaps Eastman wasn't the place they were looking for! So the search continued for the new location for Camp Coniston.

### ... And The Plan of Action.

As George Dorr and the Board searched for Coniston's new home, the Sullivan County YMCA was experiencing its own challenges, and the long term prospects looked dim. Doug Reed was director of Camp Soangetaha, and he and George actively supported the effort to move Camp.

Harry Wardell, the Y's State Executive, put his energies and support into helping to get Camp moved. He exercised his influence with the Blood family — Robert Blood had been Governor of NH, and the family was important in the NH State YMCA. Reed knew that they had to move, Dorr had the resources, Wardell used his political capital, and the Dudley family (*more on them later*) was ready to sell ... the stage was set.

George put the plan into action and, from an interview in November 2000, here's the story in his own words: "I became consumed with the name and the move, and it took three or four years of negotiations. There was a meeting in the South Congregational Church in Newport, a fairly substantial group who were able to give. The first one was the most difficult, but you know, if you get one the rest are like dominos. At the end some of them didn't exactly know what they agreed to ... but that's okay, we let them know shortly!"

This was the beginning of raising of almost \$240,000 ... and the rumor was, George stood in the doorway and those people didn't get to leave until they donated! But in the end, it was their vision, support and generosity that made Coniston's permanent home a reality.

## Do You Know...

Originally, the NH YMCA purchased only 600 acres for our Camp Coniston site. Most of the remaining land — over four hundred additional acres — was donated to Coniston by generous landowners. The most recent gift came from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mansfield in 2000, who donated their adjacent parcel to help continue and preserve the Coniston experience.



George A. Dorr Jr. piloted his plane and soared through the skies of Sullivan County in search of the perfect place for Coniston to land.

There were quite a number of possibilities considered for the name of our Camp. Other potential names included YMCA Camp George Williams, Long Pond YMCA Camp, YMCA Camp Soangetaha, YMCA Camp Wilderness, YMCA Camp Timberlake and YMCA Camp Dorr. (In fact, George declined when presented with this possibility, saying "It's not about me.")

# Coniston History



## #6

### The Dudley Family

In the early 1920's the Charles Dudley family began plans for a summer camp in Croydon NH. Longtime residents of the Upper Valley, the Dudley family always felt a strong commitment to help youth and give them the camp experience.

On April 1, 1926 the Dudleys purchased a site in Croydon from a long-time farming family and opened Camp Interlaken, a very fine private girl's camp with a focus on horseback riding. Interlaken was home to some famous alumni — among them actress Blythe Danner, who is also Gwyneth Paltrow's mom.

In the early '60s the Dudleys made the decision to leave the world of camping ... and at the same time, our YMCA was looking for a new home for Camp Soangetaha. The Y wanted a secluded property

on a private lake, and this was the ideal location.

After negotiations, fundraising, and the sale of the Soangetaha property, our YMCA purchased Coniston's new home for \$380,000. But today, Interlaken maintains its connection with Coniston — many Interlaken campers came to Camp after the purchase, and the grandkids of Interlaken alumni still attend today, even though one of the Dudley's nephews reopened Interlaken in Vermont for a few years.

So Coniston found a new name and a permanent home, and continued its tradition of providing quality, life-changing experiences to youth from around the world. It's a goal that Coniston takes seriously, and literally.

## #7

### How the Loon Became Coniston's Symbol

*The "Low Years" During the 70's, and How Coniston Helped the Loon Recover and Thrive*

Many of us at Coniston have heard the cry of the loons across our lake ... that wavering call over the water during summer mornings and evenings. Loons have become common on our lakes and ponds — but it wasn't so long ago that they were almost driven out of the region.

All loons require clean water to stay healthy and thrive. But during the 1970s lakes and rivers in the US had become badly polluted ... so much so that several actually caught on fire.

In 1972 the Clean Water Act was enacted, requiring towns and industries to "clean up their act." And it worked — water quality steadily improved, and many species that were close to extinction came back and flourished.

The Loon Preservation Society reports at the low point during the 1970's, the 900 lakes and ponds in NH may have hosted as few as ten pairs of loons. But because its pristine quality had always been preserved, loons continued to nest on Lake Coniston, and generations of those birds flew out of our valley to help repopulate the Northeast.

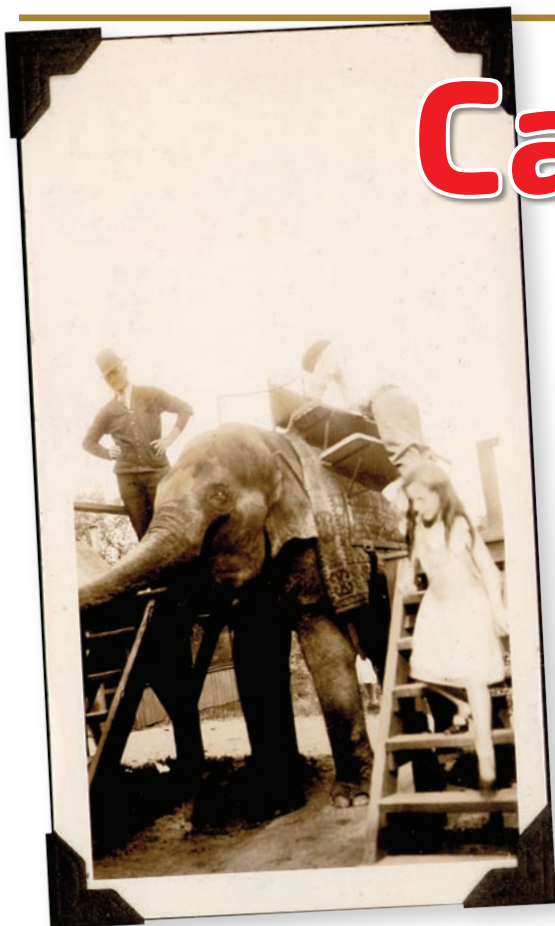
All of these factors led to an increased awareness of just how incredibly special the loons on Lake Coniston were. Because loons were dependent upon the safety of the site, the purity of the lake, and return summer after summer to raise their young, the bird slowly came to symbolize Camp, and was first used in the formal logo in 1994.



Part of the legacy that the Dudley family left to Camp is the **Dudley Cabin**, a rustic and secluded structure on the far side of the lake. The Dudleys loved the spot and were active campers — even though they were both approaching 100 years old! When

the Dudleys passed, the Dudley Cabin was recognized in their honor, for helping to preserve the Coniston camping experience for generations to come.

# Camp Fun ...



The Circus came to Camp! Even in the early years, Camp directors provided life changing opportunities.



Camp activities, like Dance class, have always taught self confidence while having fun!



Cabin clean up time ... even chores are fun!



Dancing in the Dining Hall- one of many Camp traditions where kids are foot loose and fancy free!



1930's postcard view of Camp ... picture perfect!



Bonding at the Sunday Cookout builds great Camp friendships and memories!

Luckily for the girls hanging over the water, teamwork and trust prevail!







# ...Then and Now!

One Hundred Years Of Great Times, From 1911 To Our Centennial In 2011!!



Boxing was offered as a Camp activity in the 1930s. Program choices have expanded and grown a lot since then!



Horseback riding goes beyond sport. It connects human and animal spirits!



Archery ... a Camp favorite through the years!



Triathletes... on your mark!



Lavish costumes are always a part of Evening Programs!



**you** don't  
know **Camp!**



## OR DO YOU? — THE CONISTON CAMP QUIZ!

1. What is the first meal of each session?
2. After which meal do we play songs in the dining hall?
3. How many horses are at the barn?
4. How many staff did we have last summer?
5. What is the total amount of campers we had last summer (including CIT & Adventure Camp)?
6. How many camper cabins in girls camp?
7. How many camper cabins in boys camp?
8. What is the breakfast snack on middle-Sunday before chapel?
9. How many candles are used during candlelight ceremony on main lawn each session?
10. How many years have John & JD worked together?

FIND THE ANSWERS IN THE TEXT BOX AT [WWW.CONISTON.ORG](http://WWW.CONISTON.ORG)

## the top 22 — CONISTON'S "BIG HITS" !!

**favorite  
camp  
songs!**

- |                             |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Taps — Day is Done       | 9. Oom Plicka Plicka                           | 16. Revelry                            |
| 2. Come Saturday Morning    | 10. The Alligator is My Friend                 | 17. Make New Friends                   |
| 3. One Little Candle        | 11. Boom Chicka Boom                           | 18. John Jacob<br>Jingleheimer-Schmidt |
| 4. The Coniston Song        | 12. Just a Boy and a Girl<br>In a Little Canoe | 19. Linger                             |
| 5. From the Hills of Old NH | 13. The Birdie Song                            | 20. One Bottle of Pop                  |
| 6. Elvevo Elvivo            | 14. Donut Shop                                 | 21. The Moose Song                     |
| 7. The Princess Pat         | 15. To the Colors (BUGLER)                     | 22. The Bear Song                      |

## One hundred years of service — 1911 THROUGH 2011

**Camp  
Directors  
Through  
the Years:**

*1911:*  
Wayne C. Jordan

*1913:*  
PA Foster

*1916:*  
Maynard  
Carpenter

*1920:*  
FR Fogers

*1923:*  
DK Morrison

*Early 40's:*  
George Wheeler

*1946:*  
Lewis Primer

*1950:*  
George Magoon

*1954:*  
Norman  
Van Gulden

*1959:*  
Doug Reed

*1969:*  
Bob & Erma  
Sanders

*1991:*  
Nancy LaRue

John Tilley  
*Executive Director  
1999–present*

Jen Deasy  
*Assistant Director  
2000–present*



Present



2000-Present



1994-1999



1970-1993



1911-1935



1936-1963



1964-1968



1969-1970

**THANK YOU TO OUR CENTENNIAL SPONSORS  
FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS CELEBRATION POSSIBLE**



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**YMCA  
CAMP CONISTON**

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