



Here beginneth the log of...

SUMMER 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRANTWOOD CAMP • PO Box 3350 • Peterborough, NH 03458 • (603) 924-3542 • www.brantwood.org

Brantwood Camp Goes Online



What staying connected looks like this summer.

Launched on July 7th, we created a free 4-week program that provides campers and staff members a chance to connect and engage in ways centered around the 5 Ideals. We had approximately 21 campers sign up for this program and typically have 8-12 campers attend the 1 hour Zoom meeting each week. Boys Camp Director Mr. O'Connor and Assistant Director Mrs. O'Connor along with Girls Camp Director Ms. Kozak and Assistant Director Ms. Santiago are leading this program with special guests Mr. Howard, Ms. Candow, Ms. Doherty, and Mr. Welcome.

Staff Training

We created an online Junior Counselor/Miscellaneous Counselor Training. Approximately 20 JC/MCs are participating in this 5-week program which includes a 1 hour Zoom meeting each week with homework and journal assignments. This program is designed to provide opportunities for self-reflection and awareness, training about various aspects of working with kids, and some program development. JC/MCs are the future of our Camp. By providing a learning experience this summer, we'll bolster the growth of our staff members for next summer.

During the last 2 weeks of the summer, we will offer our Leader in Training (LIT) Program. It will provide a combination of self-reflection and leadership training for those who will eventually become our Junior Counselors.

During Week 2, we designed an online trivia experience about Brantwood Camp through the "Kahoot" platform. The staff winner of this trivia game was Middle Counselor Mr. Sullivan. The camper winner was Josh Hall.

Additionally, we have created a virtual Brantwood Camp Escape Room for campers to enjoy. This amazing experience provides some camp history and requires lots of brainpower. Get ready for some trial and error and maybe you'll win!

Brantwood Escape Room https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTEKhuMKMJDLTUKttDiSYwZ-9tW2j0QZd3h8PGCtRlWpZVGyG/viewform?usp=sf_link

Brantwood Staff Members have also created videos to encourage campers to be active and creative during these times.

Be sure to check out the Brantwood Camp YouTube channel. We have been posting various videos covering arts and crafts, athletics, chapel talks, and a tour of the beautiful Beaver Pond at the girls camp.



Athletics https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yQwo8Pyj5c

Brantwood Knots https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yQwo8Pyj5c

Visiting the Beavers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKqOfxf1QXU&t=32s>

Camp Crafts <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyK-SwWMDAvw>

Be MORE Brantwood <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xai4ztmmR-g>

We all recognize that online is not the ideal setting for Brantwood Camp. But it is our hope to provide a little fun, some engagement and connection for our campers, staff members, and community.

Please check out the Escape Room, and the YouTube channel for a little more Brantwood. And we'll stay in touch before the end of summer.

Letter from the Executive Director



“It is our goal to welcome our Brantwood Family home again.”

– DOUG SUTHERLAND

Brantwood Camp sure is missing the sounds of kids this summer. But because camp’s not in full swing, we are taking advantage of the quiet and making some noise by way of improving and upgrading the camp infrastructure. We hope you’ll notice the updates when you return next summer. And Campers, be on the lookout for a Brantwood Camp Care Package coming your way soon!

In lieu of in-person camp, we are sharing the spirit of camp via several kinds of online programs. To be honest, we all recognize that online engagement does not replace in-person camp. The joy of looking someone in her/his eyes and having a conversation, shaking someone’s hand, and the fun associated with playing sports are impossible in an online format. However, we are making the best of a not great situation.

In brief, Brantwood Camp may have been cancelled this year, but you can’t cancel our spirit. Campers, Staff Members, and Board Members have been actively engaged, ensuring our ongoing connection to camp, our mission, and our community. Camp will be needed more than ever next summer.

Personally, I am so glad to be able to get to know many of you through these online programs. But I am very much looking forward to getting to know you in person. I miss being at camp with kids and staff more than I can say.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Sutherland".

The Brantwood Impact

At the end of the Brantwood Road, a new beginning.

WHAT A DEAL – \$14

This is how I remember some events as I attended Brantwood Camp.

My first year they threw me on a train, from the train to a bus. The bus stopped for something to eat and it sounded like we were not going to eat for a long while. We crossed some tracks and the bus stopped and let us off. A few trucks drove off with our luggage and at that time I thought my family was trying to get rid of me. We walked up to the camp where they took our money so we could not escape. I was directed to Amoskeag. I figured I better learn all I could if I were to be left in the woods the rest of my life. Of course in those days there were no flush toilets, cold running water in one building, one shower at Doctor’s shack. I loved it. I learned very quickly if you worked hard and helped others you were rewarded with a stayover. All went well and at Awards Night I had passed two levels and won a stayover.

Many other things have come to mind like catching all sorts of strange things at the old pool and waiting for the ghosts from the old pool to show up. I use to like to sit by the pool and look out to the mountains.



Chuck Newton (left) with his family in the summer of 1956.

The work ethics I learned helped me through life, college etc. and the sports I learned allowed me to play in High School and College. I also officiated 3 sports for 35 years. I retired about 10 years ago but still do consulting work when time will let me

Thanks for pushing this old mind to remember all the great weeks spent at Brantwood for \$14.00 at least that is what my mother told me.

Chuck Newton, camper in the 1950s

READERS: This will be an ongoing column in our newsletter. Please share the impact that BWC has had on your life’s journey.

Send to: Harriet DiCicco, hfckd1@gmail.com.

If you prefer to chat, let her know and she is happy to talk with you and write up the conversation.

Campus Improvement Projects Begin

What is an essential part of the camp – a part that no camper or staff member can do without – that is hidden from view? Our water system.

You know the expression “it never rains but it pours”. Well, this flooding was not coming from the skies but from the underground tanks supplying water in the Boys’ campus.

Originally installed in the 1960s, these metal holding tanks have certainly done their due diligence. The days of rewelding have come and gone. So, during the month of July, the old equipment was removed and new plastic tanks were installed.



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I was a camper from St. Paul’s Church in Brockton, Mass.

The first year I swam in the swamp across the street from the camp, the following year the swimming pool was installed, plus the large meeting hall.

The cabin chief was a couple of days late and when asked how come, he said he had engine trouble with his airplane. I spoke up and said I bet I could fly, and he replied, “I bet you could.” That was the first and only encouragement I can remember having. (Editor’s Note – The cabin shack counselor was Edward T. Hall)

As my life experience turned out, I ended up in aviation as my life’s work. FAA airframe/Power plant license 36 years working for Sikorsky helicopter Quality Control inspection, private pilot, flight engineer on a DC-613 Heugike Transport, ASW Helicopter, Rescue crew Navy Reserve crew chief.

Those words of encouragement are still in my mind from time to time.

Thanks to you all.

Richard Bingham, camper in the 1940s

THE IDEALS LIVE ON

“Being so young, Brantwood set me on the right track”

In response to an invitation, sent to all members of the Brantwood family, to share a personal reflection about the impact that Brantwood has had on one’s life, **James (Jay) Waterhouse** wrote back about the values that Brantwood instilled in him, and shared a story that he has always felt spoke directly to the value of unselfishness.

“On the night of December 22, 1989, my neighbor’s house was on fire. Even though the fire department was only 5 minutes down the road, I couldn’t just stand there and watch the home burn down with people in it. I entered the home and got one neighbor out and then went back to get her sister. That’s when I got injured.

Between the hospital and rehab, I spent 2 weeks shy of a year recuperating. My loving wife was 3 months pregnant with our 2nd child at the time. My son was 2½. My wife had our beautiful daughter while I was in the same hospital. She had to

manage a newborn and a 2½ year old and all my medical decisions.”

“I guess I could have been ‘woe is me’”, shared Jay. “But there were other people at the rehab in far worse shape who were never going to leave and I decided that I was going to walk out of there. It is all about your attitude.” More than twenty-eight years later, though he is still dealing with medical issues from that day, Jay is a positive individual.

He grew up in Hyde Park, Boston. When asked how he found out about the camp, he said, “My father went to Brantwood. He swam in the old pool which was later turned into a shooting range.”

Jay went to camp in the late 60s. He remembers Director George Topka and Counselors Stephen DiCicco, Jack Gillette and Steve Lockwood. He was in Skatutakee with Bill Gurney and fondly recalls the comradery amongst campers from many different states.

In reflecting on his 3 summers at Brantwood, Jay spoke again and again about how the counselors “respected and trusted me to do certain things. Continued on next page

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THE IDEALS LIVE ON continued

I fed the animals in the Nature Shack and I was a table boy. And at Silver Lake, when counselor Steve Lockwood, swam across the lake, I was asked to be in the boat along side of him to accompany him. I felt honored to be asked.”

“I never got a hat. It was hard for me to pass all the tests because I had ADHD. I almost got a stayover. Being so young, Brantwood set me on the right track. It set me up and gave me a good feeling about myself . . . gave me a lot of confidence and made me more independent.”

He remembers a time when a group of boys got into trouble by using fire extinguishers and having a squirt gun fight. As punishment (and to teach them a lesson about the importance of those extinguishers), the counselors built a campfire and gave those boys buckets with holes in the bottom. They had to fill up the buckets at the old pool and then run across the field to put the fire out!

After graduating from high school, Jay went to work as a printer in a Boston publishing company.

When asked why he donates to Brantwood, Jay talked about the inner city kids who need this kind of experience. Knowing the impact that Brantwood had on him, Jay said, “I wish I could give more. And I hope everyone gives above and beyond.”

Unselfishness is certainly a value shared by all members of the Waterhouse family.

In 2008, his wife Barbara founded Circle of Hope (www.circleofhopeonline.org) – a nonprofit organization based in Needham, Massachusetts. Its mission is “to provide homeless children, women and men in Boston and Metro West with clothing and necessities in order to preserve and enhance overall health and personal dignity. They deliver donations to over 20 homeless shelters and clinics and serve more than 4,700 people each year with the help of over 80 volunteers.”

And his son and daughter have pursued careers in education – the former as an educator; the latter as university researcher applying theory and innovation to society’s current challenges.

What a family embodiment of the 5 Ideals of Brantwood!

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you shop!

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