

Camp Menesetung
from
1997 to 2022

Soar Like an Eagle





Soar Like an Eagle



“One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.” – Helen Keller

Camp Menesetung has seen many changes over the past 25 years as we endeavour to reach greater heights than ever before. This is a continuation of the history compiled in 1997 for the 50th Anniversary of Incorporation.

**Goderich Summer School was
established in 1921**

Camping Began Here in 1935

Incorporated 1947

**Name Changed to Camp
Menesetung 1968**

**75th Anniversary of Incorporation
2022**

Compiled by Steve Miners

Board of Directors 2022

Board Chair: Ralph Watson

Vice Chair: Ross Carter

Treasurer: Janet Bettles

Secretary: Marg Bakker

Property Committee Chair: Jeff Wareham

Board Member: Steve Miners

Board Member: Mandy Sinclair

Board Member: Tracy Emmerton

Board Member: ShariAnn Kuiper

Board Member: Joanna McMurchy

A part of the Camping Ministry of the
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

Letter from the Board Chair

Who knew when this farmland became a camp 87 years ago that it would remain a valuable part of the United Church and the community? Many changes have happened over those 87 years and the Boards and Staff of Menesetung have coped, changed and grown to remain relevant. Many thanks go to those individuals who served the children so well.

My United Church membership is in Brussels and I have lived there my entire life. When thinking about the church camp, weekend work bees, overnight ones, were part of my fond teen memories. As well, Mom, Alma Watson was one of the Brussels women who sent dozens of cookies to feed the campers for many years. My brother John spent several good years at Menesetung as a camper and then staff and still has good stories to tell.

Several years ago, as life and people changed, Brussels United was in need of reliable, regular Christian education for our children. Mary and Clayton came to our aid and we watched our children grow in faith and friendship with their visits. For our congregation it was a touch of summer camp in the winter and spring. It was good. Clayton planted the seed at that time for me to consider being a Board member. Pre-covid I joined. These years have been interesting to say the least. Getting to know each other as Board members, coping with covid restrictions and camp closures, rules around health issues and disease, each event a little easier to cope with than the last one. Clayton and the Team have been awesome as they handled

the many, many issues. The Board's role is to support the staff and my hope is that they feel that support as we truly appreciate their diligence.

With celebrating the past 75 years of incorporation we remember, learn and plan into the future. We celebrate the past visions that came to be, and the improvements over the years that kept camp relevant. We dream. Balancing dreams and cash remain a struggle but as we plan for the next 75 years, faith and hope remain at the core for our Board. Thank you for your interest in Camp Menesetung, enjoy the celebrations.

Ralph Watson

Board Chairperson

Letter from the Executive Director

Over the past seven years that I have been at Camp Menesetung, I continue to remain inspired by the positive impact that a week of summer camp can have on a person. In a day and age when kids spend much of their free time on their phones, and almost all of their time indoors, the opportunity that summer camp provides has become increasingly important.

While we have worked to preserve some favourite and most precious Camp Menesetung traditions in camp life, we have also worked at re-imagining how we operate and the camper experience. While many of our buildings remain the same, what happens at camp has undergone significant remodelling. And it would seem that our changes are having a positive impact as spring school field trips, and summer camp registrations continue to increase year-after-year, with 2022 taking us to new heights in recent memory with well over 1000 students visiting and more than 400 summer overnight/day campers.

During my time connected with camp there are many camper moments of growth, healing, and independence that I am proud to have had even a small connection to. From a bigger picture perspective here are a few camp-wide changes I am most proud of contributing to:

- Fostering a culture of change and adaptability through shared leadership and visioning: I often have the honour of spokesperson for significant changes and efforts developed by the many incredible leaders on our camp team. To highlight a few:

(Cont.)

- From 2016-2018, Mary Ross, my visionary Co-Director and partner;
- In 2019, Jessica Tenhor, camp's logistical mastermind and first Summer Camp Director under our new organisational model;
- From 2020-present, Colleen Lowrie, filling camp's first year-round position dedicated to implementing programs as Camp Director, Colleen's passionate commitment to what camp can be for campers and staff, particularly those in marginalised groups, has steered camp through years of pandemic challenges and taken our actions on inclusion and creating intentional community to new heights.
- Planning and implementing a highly successful Spring School Field Trip Program: Providing outdoor education for students, increasing employment up to 4 months for several staff, creating an additional income stream for the camp, and acting as an effective marketing tool for boosting summer registrations.
- Transitioning summer camper programming from more rigid scheduled rotations, to a structure prioritising camper choice and their ability to affect what happens in their schedule.
- Our move to prioritise outdoor adventure and the environment. Over the past 7 years we have created, developed and expanded camp out tripping programs, where

(Cont.)

campers set off on adventures to learn how to do no-trace camping in the wilderness. In 2022 we are running 4 different multi night out trips throughout the summer and have a dedicated out trip coordinator on our team managing the trips and our out trip staff. Additionally, in 2021 we launched a new canoe program for campers where for the first time in many years campers returned to Lake Huron, this time with a paddle in their hands, and instructors close by.

- Setting up and moving camp's administration and camper registrations from entirely on-paper, to almost entirely online in a way that facilitates easy remote collaboration during the summer or off-season.
- Making it through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to offer campers experiences that pursued our mission throughout, working with the board to make many difficult decisions, and succeeding in pivoting our operational model several times. Entering 2022 with greater public trust and awareness, having many camps reach out to us for advice as a leader in the field as a result of our efforts, putting us in a stronger position than when we entered the pandemic.
- Our work to become a safe space that celebrates and empowers people from marginalised groups. Hosting Huron County's first 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Empowerment retreat, investing in anti-racism and trauma-informed care staff

(Cont.)
training, and taking the first steps towards
right relations with our Indigenous
neighbours.

75 years down the path and we have come far
indeed, our work only possible by standing on the
shoulders of those who have come before. Yet
much remains on the list of needs, possibilities, and
dreams for the camp. And it is my hope that the
direction camp takes for our next 25 years is one
defined by shared vision, collaborative involvement,
transparent approach, and a continued willingness
to change.

If you are reading this, you are just the sort of
person whose ideas, skills, time, or resources can
help take Camp Menesetung to a 100 year
anniversary with even more to celebrate. Please
consider connecting with us - you are welcome on
our team anytime.

Clayton Peters (he/him)
Executive Director of Camp Menesetung

Jim Collins Donna Collins Joanne Rowcliffe
Kathleen Siertsema John Siertsema Jack Gerrits
Bob McDougal Joan Clark Susan Howson
Steve Miners Rev. Gani Lazaro Brian Raidt
Rev. Stephen Huntley Deb Roy Lillian Hallam
Margaret Bakker Bill Weber Nancy Daer
Bill Bogie Doug Canavan Barb Knox

Thankyou to
those who have
volunteered their
time to be Board
Members over the
past 25 years

Charlie Whitwell Marilyn Elgie
Barb Howe Karen Riddell Glen Lamb
Jan Logtenberg Fred Hakkers
Deb Hakkers Ross Carter
Elley Van Bergen Jill Tenhag
Sandra Evan-Jones Donna Beaudin Gar Lee
Mel Knox Janet Bettles Pat Bernard
Sherri Nau Clark Brian Hymers Ralph Watson
Mandy Sinclair Jeff Wareham ShariAnn Kuiper
Tracy Emmerton Joanna McMurchy

Life Continues at Camp

1997 – 2022

Following a year of celebration in 1997, life at camp got back to normal but not for long. Under the leadership of Board Chair Joanne Rowcliff, a Waste Management Committee was formed to proceed with the much-needed septic system replacement. After meeting at our camp for 60 years, Chickigami Camp decided to close. The Adopt-A-Cabin project was making a huge difference and going strong. The kitchen was renovated and the dangerous Goat Trail was closed.

In 2001 Barb Knox became the Board Chair. We built a new water pumping system and chlorination building. We could no longer supply water to the cottagers below. A piece of land was sold to the cottagers to accommodate the two wells they required.

The year 2002 saw big changes with the retirement of long-time Director Barbara “Spoony” Hicks. The last Open Camp and Single Parent Camp were held. Susan Potter became the new Director for the next year. The new septic system was installed in time for the 2003 season. A web-site was established and, after a few webmasters and many developments, evolved into the web-site we have today.

The year 2004 saw a new Director again as we hired Dale Hill. Programing changes began with the addition of Archery Range, Initiatives, Arts Camp and Specialty Camp. A partnership was developed with “Reach for the Rainbow”. In 2007, the pool received major renovations.

Two of our Board Members received “United Church of Canada Camping Awards” in recognition of distinguished service to United Church Camping and the lives of children and youth. Steve Miners received the award in 2006 and Marilyn Elgie received the award in 2008.

The year 2008 saw Jill Tenhag take on the roll of Director. A revision of our bylaws was necessary due to London Conference taking on the supervisory roll of camps. By 2011, we had added two Initiatives Elements and five Low Ropes Elements. The following year, the Climbing Wall was added.

The year 2014 saw Alexander Rey become Director followed the year after by Janelle Eeuwes. A match made at camp. We also saw a Facebook page developed which has led to great communication opportunities. Planning had started for the new central washroom. Completion of the washroom followed in the span of a year.

Clayton Peters and Mary Ross became co-directors in 2016. On-line registration with Camp Brain was established which offered a Tiered system for registration cost. Many new program changes took place, one being the reintroduction of Spring School Programs.

In 2018 a New Board structure was introduced and Clayton became the Executive Director with the addition of a Summer Camp Director and Administrative Assistant. Jessica Tenhor joined as Summer Director followed by Colleen Lowrie. Long time Board Chair Barbara Knox, resigned due to

health reasons, followed by her husband Property Chair Mel Knox. Steve Miners accepted the position of Board Chair.

In 2019, the Dining Hall received a new floor, tables, cooler and stainless-steel counters. Benches were made for the front of cabins and Vesper Point. At least 60 dead ash trees were removed. The Bunkhouse was decommissioned due to its rotting floor. An Emergency Generator was installed to keep the well and part of the camp running during a power failure.

A Hazardous Materials Survey was completed in 2020 as required. A small amount of asbestos was found and contained as needed. This was also the first year of Covid-19 so decisions had to be made. A small staff of six moved in to camp and isolated for the summer under the guidance of the Health Unit. On-line camp was developed and offered for those interested. In the Fall, Lavern Clark, Cliff Snell and Steve Miners painted the Church and A/B Cabin. Lavern and Steve returned in the Spring to paint the Craft Hall.

After much consideration, the Board decided to offer in-person camp following strict guidelines. No Covid-19 cases reported. New picnic tables and shelters were added to accommodate outside dining. Screen doors were added to cabins for ventilation. The new canoe program was started with donations of equipment.

In 2021, Ralph Watson took over from out-going Board Chair Steve Miners. Plans were going well for the 75th Anniversary of Incorporation.

Arrangements were made to receive 200 trees from Maitland Valley Conservation. A decision was made to create a paid position for a part time maintenance person. After consultation with Aboriginal groups, we decided to keep the “Camp Menesetung” name.

The Board decided to direct major donated funds to the infrastructure projects with priority given to Staff/Nurses Cabin renovation. Planning for a full camping season was going ahead with the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions.

The return to full time camp was amazing. School trips were again happening in June and the summer camps were well attended once again.

Our 75th Anniversary of Incorporation was celebrated on August 28 after a year of hard work done by our planning committee. Barbara Hicks, better known as Spoony, returned to lead the Sunday service. We had visitors who found their pictures from 1947 and some from this past summer. The day was enjoyed with the morning service, lunch, afternoon activities, campfire supper and evening canoe ride. The day was enjoyed by all.

Adopt-A-Cabin

Conceived in 1994 by inviting UCW groups to help clean the cabins, this program still exists at camp today. By 1995, most cabins were adopted by individual congregations and families. Lead board members in the past for this program have been Susan Howson, Nancy Daer and Marilyn Elgie. Board Chair Barb Knox organised this program for many years followed by our Executive Director Clayton Peters. Individual themes have developed inside many cabins through the years. Some of the cabin volunteers have been involved since the start of the program. The Board has had the opportunity to concentrate on other projects while knowing the cabin interiors are welcoming to the campers.



- Miners Family
- Wendy Padfield
- North Street United
- North Side United
- Lee Family
- Clinton United
- Brucefield United
- Dashwood-Zurich Pastoral Charge
- Grand Bend Youth/UCW
- Auburn UCW
- North Street Youth
- Wesley Willis United
- Dungannon-Nile UCW
- Gar & Alie Lee
- Wingham United
- Egmondville United
- Varna-Goshen Pastoral Charge
- Ontario Street United
- Blyth United
- Ashfield-Trinity UCW
- Victoria-Benmiller Pastoral Charge
- Nancy & Tricia Daer
- Jim & Donna Collins
- Lakeshore United
- Bayfield UCW
- Hicks Family
- Londesboro United

Memory Quilt



CAMP MENESSETUNG MEMORY QUILT - 2008

On August 16, 2008 Camp Menesetung celebrated the 85th anniversary since the Goderich Summer School began, the 75th anniversary since the land was purchased for the present site, the 60th anniversary since Incorporation, and the 40th anniversary since the name was changed to Camp Menesetung. The Board of Directors felt that this was reason to celebrate the camp's rich history in a lasting tribute. Thus the idea of a Memory Quilt.

Camp Menesetung is affiliated with the United Church of Canada, and is supported in many ways by the various pastoral charges of Huron-Perth Presbytery. In 1994 a program was introduced whereby individuals, various pastoral charges, and UCW groups could 'Adopt-A-Cabin'. This meant that the Adopters were responsible for maintaining the interior of their cabin (spring cleaning, painting, and furnishing). The Board of Directors is responsible for painting and maintaining the exterior of the cabins, the dining hall, church, craft hall, washrooms, and the grounds. Over the years there have been some changes in the list of Adopters. Some Adopters have been involved since the beginning of the program.

For the quilt, each current Cabin Adopter was asked to contribute at least one 12'X12' block. We asked that it be representative of their involvement with Camp Menesetung. Specific instructions were given as to finished size and background colour. Each block was to indicate which adopter was submitting it. Various suggestions were given regarding church camping activities which could be incorporated into the theme, such as Arts & Crafts, Music, Discovery, Swimming, Campfire, Outdoor Living Skills, Archery, Drama. Also, other pastoral charges and UCW groups other than current Adopters were invited to contribute a block if they wished to. The submissions were diverse and very interesting. The Board of Directors is grateful to all contributors for their outstanding work and dedication.

The project was co-ordinated by Barbara Knox, Chair of the Board. Sincere appreciation is extended to Clara Anne Jewell of Benmillar, who, along with Irene Milliam, prepared extra blocks. Clara Anne then assembled, and quilted the finished product. Her expertise and dedication to the project was a Blessing.

(Cont.)

Quilt Blocks were provided by:

• Auburn

- Cabin A - Cabin and Evergreens - The original cabins were built in 1935. Cabins B & B were built in 1955. Cabins 1 & B were added in 1960.*
- The Camp Logo, designed by Joyce Beas of Auburn, was chosen in 2004 from several submissions in a contest to design a new logo for the camp.*

• Grand Bend

- Cabin B - Cabin - Cabin A & Cabin B are heated. Therefore they are frequently used by rental groups in the spring and autumn.*

• Victoria Street - Benmiller

- Cabin #1 - Fireside Fellowship & Campfire - Lasting memories of camp are often formed around the evening campfire.*
- Outreach Activities - Christian Camping is one of the most crucial missions of the United Church of Canada. What could be more important than the youth?*

• North Street

- Cabin #2 - A Selection of Pictures with a United Church & Camping Theme. The wall hanging 'Celebrate God's World' was designed in 2003 by Marilyn Potter when her daughter Susan was Camp Director. It represents the theme for the summer, and is comprised of the handprints of all the staff. Also hanging in the church is a tree of handprints of all the campers in 2003, also designed by Marilyn Potter.*

• Nancy & Frank Dier

- Cabin #3 (Dier's Den) - A Cross-Stitched Presbyterian Cross Symbol. Camp Menziesburg is affiliated with the United Church of Canada, but is open to a variety of religious faiths, school groups and community organizations. Campers, counsellors, staff, volunteers, and rental groups represent a cross section of society.*

(Cont.)

Fred & Deb Hakkers

- **Cabin #4** - **Witch Spirit & Campfire** - Evening campfire is one of the most symbolic activities of outdoor camping. Through skits, songs, comedy & fun it brings a perfect ending to the day.

Northside - Cavan

- **Cabin #5** - **Cabin with Evergreens** - The peace and serenity of the setting can be enjoyed at all times and all seasons of the year. God is certainly alive at Camp Menesetung.

Londeshoro

- **Cabin #6** - **Church with Rainbow** - Since 2005 Camp Menesetung has been involved with 'Reach for the Rainbow', a program that facilitates the inclusion of mentally and/or physically challenged youth into weekly camps. Londeshoro United has supported this endeavor through their Outreach Committee.
- **Cross, Trees, Blue Cabin** - Camp Menesetung has been offering Christian Education / Discovery since its inception. Thousands of Campers, Staff, Board Members, & Volunteers have benefited over the years from their involvement with the camp. Continue the Tradition!

Dungannon - Nile

- **Cabin #7** - **Camp Logo** - Symbolic of God's gifts to mankind - water, air, land, and fire. In this outdoor setting Camp Menesetung offers lodging and worship opportunities.

Trinity

- **Cabin #8** - **Children, Water, Church, Campfire, Canoe** - Through their fun experiences at Camp Menesetung, children learn about God, some for the first time, and create lasting memories and friendships.

Bayfield

- **Cabin #9** - **Cabin on Black** - Camp Menesetung offers a residential program from Sunday afternoon to Friday night. Also popular is the Day Camp, with the option of staying overnight Thursday.

(Cont.)

- **Sailboat** - Sailboats and other watercraft can often be seen on the water of Lake Harm. Outstanding sunsets are always a Blessing for all to enjoy.

Wingham

- **A-frame** - **A-frame, trees, raccoons, logs** - The A-frame was built in 1980 as a recreation hall. The camp is home to many forms of wildlife - raccoons, deer, wild turkeys, chipmunks, birds, etc. We just borrow it for a month of the year. When it was discovered that raccoons were wintering in the A-frame a concerted effort was made to keep them out. Since the chimney was the point of entry a chimney cap was installed & strapped down. When they subsequently chewed a hole through the shingled roof a steel roof had to be put on.

Wesley-Willis

- **Omega** - **Picture of Wesley-Willis** - Although now amalgamated as Clinton United, up until 2006 Wesley-Willis was the Adopter for Omega Cabin, and continues to do so as Clinton United.

Egmondville

- **House** - **Church, 'Sharing & Caring'** - This is the motto for Egmondville United Church. Camp Menziesburg is grateful for the support of many caring church communities.

Wendy Padfield

- **Bunkhouse** - **Bunks, Rainbow Roof** - The Bunkhouse, now used as sleeping quarters, used to be the kitchen of the old Dining Hall, which is now used as the Craft Hall.

Ontario St.

- **Staff Cabin** - **Picture of Ontario St** - Although now amalgamated as Clinton United, up until 2006 Ontario St. was the Adopter for the Staff Cabin, and continues to do so as Clinton United.

(Cont.)

Vanna-Gooßen

- *Health Center - Dresden Plate Design* - It is mandatory to have a health professional, nurse, or E- Aider on site for every camp. This cabin is home to that individual for the summer.

Jim & Donna Collins

- *Trailer - Trailer* - Provided by Jim & Donna Collins, the trailer has been home for the summer for Christian Education (Discipleship) volunteers, or for the camp cook.

Belgrauz

- *Rocks, Trees, Sand, Water, Campfire* - These are some of the elements of the great outdoors, where campers can come to truly appreciate God's World in a safe and caring environment.

Marlene Forbes

- *Tree of Life* - A well known symbol of Christianity.

Sports

- A variety of games and activities. The camp has a basketball court and volleyball net. Also now offered as part of the program is Outdoor Living Skills, Archery, Initiatives, and Adventure Camp.

Pool

- A 'Must' for summer camp. Perpetually a favourite event.

Baseball

- A multitude of activities take place on the raised hill of the septic system, including soccer & parachute games.

Music

- Historically a part of all camping experiences - campfire songs, arts & drama, worship, Morning Watch, Vespers.

Part of a Team

Barb and Mel Knox became a part of camp when Barb accepted an invitation to join the Board of Directors in 2000 and became the chairperson the following year. Mel tagged along and soon started volunteering with property maintenance. Before long, Mel became the Property Chairperson.

Many projects were completed during their time on the board. The new septic system was installed. New water regulations brought on the chlorination of water which meant changes to our water distribution system. A new main washroom facility was built. Major pool renovations were undertaken. Many program elements, including climbing wall, were added.

Fundraising was a continued process. Hot dog sales at Zehrs and pancake breakfasts were yearly events. And best of all were the Fall Turkey Suppers. Mel could sell tickets to anyone.

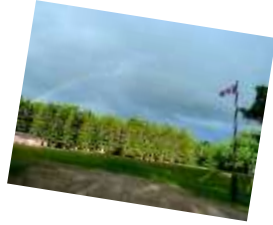
Barb and Mel volunteered countless hours dedicated to keeping the camp in great shape. When you saw the flag flying you new camp was ready for visitors. A steel flag pole was erected in honour of the contributions made by Barb and Mel over 18 years. Mel passed away in 2019 followed by Barb's passing in 2020.

Out With The Old Shed



In With The New Main Washroom





Typical Day At Camp

Early Years

A Camper's Daily Routine	
(Camp will operate on Sun Time)	
7:00—	We arise to a new day.
7:00—	That morning dip.
8:00—	Start my Watch.
8:30—	Breakfast.
9:15—	We set our home in order.
9:30—	Group study period.
10:15—	Directed Recreation, by Rev. Harold Seel.
10:40—	Group Study Period.
11:30—	Lessons necessary.
11:35—	Ministry Interest Group.
12:25—	We dine.
1:45—	Sing-song and music appreciation.
2:15—	Reading, rest and quiet.
2:45—	Daily assignment period—leaders gather around.
3:05—	Hand-rafts, Rev. W. D. George.
3:4—	Afternoon swim.
5:30—	We sing and sing.
6:00—	Group games.
6:30—	Viewers—Rev. Harold Seel.
6:45—	Camp fire.
8:45—	Interest Groups.
10:15—	Snack.
10:30—	And now good-night and lights out.

2022

A Typical Overnight Camper's Day at Menasetung*	
*Wake-Up and Bed Times will change depending on the age of the campers of a given week.	
7:15am:	Morning Optionals (Campers choice: ex. Polar Dip, Yoga, Dance Party, Sleep In etc.)
8:00am:	Flag (Full Camp mindfulness activity to start the day off right)
8:30am:	Breakfast!
9:00am:	Duties & Cabin Clean Time (Cabins compete for the daily Golden Broom!)
9:40am:	45 minute program session blocks at the Menasetung program areas!
12:30pm:	Lunch!
1:30pm:	Rest Hour (Relaxing during the hottest part of the day: read a book, nap on the hammocks, take some 'me' time)
2:30pm:	45 minute program session blocks at the Menasetung program areas!
3:30pm:	Afternoon Snack!
3:40pm:	45 minute program session blocks at Menasetung program areas!
4:20pm:	Free Swim in the Pool!
5:30pm:	Supper!
6:20pm:	Cabin Time!
6:50pm:	Evening Program! (All Camp, themed BIG games and challenges!)
8:00pm:	Change into "Longs n' Longs" and come to Evening Snack!

What to Bring to Camp

- * Sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, PJ's and flashlight.
- * Hat, Water bottle and Sunscreen.
- * Clothing for hot days, cold days and wet days.
- * A change of shoes and a pair of boots.
- * Swim wear (no bikinis), beach towel, and raincoat.
- * Long sleeve t-shirt and long pants for night time "bug wear", and bug spray.
- * Personal items: comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, towel, washcloth, and shampoo.
- * Medications, if any. If your child is taking medication such as Ritalin, continuation at camp is strongly recommended.

Please put your name on your personal items. We will not be responsible for lost items

What NOT to bring to Camp

- * No Water Guns.
- * No Bikinis.
- * No Electronic Equipment (cell phones, radios, iPods, iPads, tablets, computers, walkmans, CD players, tapes, CD's or electronic hand held games).
- * No Food, Candy or Money.
- * No Alcohol.
- * No Cigarettes or Illegal Drugs.
- * No Visitors are allowed during camp.

Important Times to Remember

Registration is between 3 – 4 pm on Sunday and pickup time is 7 pm Friday. Family members are invited to join us at 6:45 pm for "closing" campfire.

Day Camp drop off is 9 am each morning and pickup at 4 pm unless using before or after care. On Thursday night pick up time is 8 pm for those not sleeping over. Family members are invited to join us Friday at 4 pm for "closing" campfire.

Beginner registration is between 3 – 4 on Tuesday and family members are invited to join us Friday at 6:45 pm for "closing" campfire.

Boom-Chika-Boom

Down By The Bay

Ain't No Flies on Us

Kumbaya

I'm Being Swallowed by a

Boa Constrictor

Announcements

Bingo

Father Abraham

Hole In the Bottom of the

Sea

If You're Happy



Ash Borer Hits Our Trees

We have lost a total of about 75 trees around camp due to the Ash Borer Disease which has wreaked havoc around Ontario. The trees were dead and needed to be removed for safety reasons, especially in the woods behind the cabins. We had several trees down the hill towards the beach which were removed due to safety for the cottagers. Many of the trees would probably be as old or older than camp. Through a program with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, we were able to plant 200 trees this Spring. A Blyth Scouting group volunteered their time to help plant the trees. A special thankyou to Ralph and Betty Watson for the generous donation to cover the cost of the trees.







Looking After the Property

Maintaining the property remained a challenge through the years. The last 25 years have seen the Property Committee led by Jack Gerrits, Jim Collins, Bill Bogie, Mel Knox and currently Jeff Wareham. Many volunteers have helped directly with the committee including Gar Lee, Lavern Clark, Cliff Snell, Merv Holden, Marilyn Elgie, Steve Miners, Barb Knox, Donna Collins, Margaret Bakker, Karen Riddell, Harvey Bernard, Pat Bernard and many others who came out for Camp Cleanup Days. It truly does “Take a village to raise a child” and we rely deeply on our community. Our Board of Directors took a leap in 2021 and hired a paid part time Property Manager which has worked well.



Directors Through the Years

Dale Hill, Director, Summers of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

In the fall of 2003, I was introduced to Camp Menesetung almost by accident after seeking information about another United Church Camp. It seemed God had another plan for me and as I reflect on my time as Director, it is with many fond memories. Being Director built upon, and tested, the leadership skills I had gained at other summer camps and in the initial years of my career as an elementary school teacher. I hired a number of staff who became long time, dedicated members of the Menesetung team. We strengthened partnerships with local churches through “Camp Sunday” visits, the adopt-a-cabin program, camper and staff reunions and church services and retreat weekends hosted at camp. We also developed partnerships with other United Church Camps and summer camps in the area, including staff visits to Camp Kintail.

For campers, we reinstated the archery program and implemented low ropes and initiatives. We also created Specialty Camp and built an out-trip program that included hikes to Point Farms Provincial Park. In order to meet accreditation standards, we developed policies and procedures in line with the Ontario Camp Association and the new (at that time) United Church of Canada Camps accreditation process, culminating with being one of only several camps across Canada to achieve full accreditation in the first summer.

I was always amazed at the dedication and support of long-time board members and volunteers, Barb and Mel Knox and Bill Bogie, among many others. Each year the amount of donations from the wish list and the generous support of those who attended open houses, bbqs, silent auctions and other fundraisers impressed me. Some of my favourite memories are the sunsets, camp fires, evening programs and laughter echoing throughout the camp. My prayer is that Camp Menesetung will continue to provide a safe place for children and youth to participate in outdoor and spiritual experiences for many years to come.

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Jill Tenhag, 2008 – 2013

Jill took over the leadership as Director after working with Dale Hill. As is often the case, Jill raised her children at camp. We saw a golfing choice added for teens to try along with the addition of two Initiative Elements. In 2011 five Low Ropes Elements were added in the woods to expand the ever changing choices for campers. Before and after care was added to the increasingly popular Day Care program. Jill was so excited to bring the addition of the Climbing Wall to again offer more exciting choices for campers.

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Alexander Rey, 2014

It's hard to say just how important Camp Menesetung is to me. After many summers of working at United Church camps, I came to

Menesetung in 2014 as the director, ready for a summer of excitement, adventure, and fun. Despite being new to the camp, the Board of Directors immediately welcomed me with open arms, bringing me up to speed with everything Menesetung. From learning how to run the water system to meeting with long-time supporters, I couldn't have imagined a more helpful and dedicated group of volunteers. Time and time again, I was amazed by the amount of community support for this place, which made so many things possible.

My memories from the summer are a blur of early morning swims, late night vespers, and everything in between. I had a summer of delicious meals in the dining hall, hilarious talent show afternoons, trips up and down the rock wall, runs into Goderich for supplies, and even the occasional slip and slide. I'll never forget the feeling of being there while campers find their footing and start to make new friends in their cabin groups. Most of all, I'm grateful to have worked with a simply unparalleled staff team and an assistant director who would later be my wife!

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Janelle Rey, 2015

The summer of 2015 I had the privilege of being Camp Director, after being the Assistant Director the summer before. I'll never forget driving down the gravel road to see camp for the first time, feeling full of excitement and possibility. My mission was to ensure everyone on site stayed safe, hydrated, and had fun. The days were rewarding, but exhausting! I

recall using the rock wall, swimming pool, and nightly camp wide hill games with all the campers.

I truly believe the staff at overnight camp get just as much growth and enjoyment out of camp as the kids. Camp Menesetung will always hold a special place in my heart and it was the place I met my future husband. Everyone was and is always welcome at Camp Menesetung, and it was always truly amazing to see what could be accomplished working together as a team

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Jessica Tenhor, 2019

My first experience at Camp Menesetung was the summer of 2017 as the Program Coordinator. The first time I walked into the Dining Hall and saw the view of the lake, I knew I was in the right place. Camp Menesetung had a lot to teach me during the summer of 2017, and I was glad to return in 2019 as the Summer Camp Director.

The summer of 2019 brought many challenges, as every summer does. But following every challenge was success and joys that stick with me. And that is all thanks to the community that Camp Menesetung is made of. Here are a few examples of that community at work:

- Campers and LITs from 2017 were now on staff.
- Staff alumni pre-2017 came back to work at Camp in 2019.

- We worked to implement an Integration program that provides 1:1 support for campers.

Additional highlights and memories that have remained with me from the summer of 2019 include:

- Taking a walk down the road with a camper who wanted to leave, and turning into a time of salamander searching and collecting firewood. That camper became my buddy and was excited to be at camp after that!
- Pranks on the Program Coordinator! The best was finding her bed in the gaga ball pit!
- Witnessing the special moments of staff connecting with campers, and campers connecting with each other.
- Seeing confidences soar in both campers and staff throughout the weeks of summer.

Camp Menesetung is a very special place and I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to experience the magic of Camp at Camp Menesetung.

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Colleen Lowrie 2020, 2021, 2022

In 2017 I came to Camp Menesetung to be a Chaplain for one year. It is now 2023 and I am going into my fourth summer as the Director. I did the Chaplain job in 2017 and 2018 and volunteered in 2019 because even when life would not allow me to spend my entire summer at camp I still needed to

find some way to be at Menesetung because the place is so special.

My shift to Director took place in February of 2020 when I hired what I still believe would have been a truly spectacular summer team. A month later we moved into the first COVID19 lockdown and then not long after that we made the extremely difficult decision to lay off the significant majority of the summer team knowing that we would not be able to run camp in person that summer. What a start to my work as Director!!!

There is so much that I lament about the COVID time. With a couple years distance I really see and understand how significant the impact of losing a summer and then running in 2021 with extremely different routines has been to camp. Our staff of 2023 were the leaders in training and counsellors in training of pandemic time. They learned all their routines like how we gather on the tarmac, how we process through the dining hall and clean-up after meals, how we make camp in a time where strict safety rules took precedence over spontaneity, risk-taking, and silliness. We didn't wear costumes in 2020 and 2021 because we weren't sure how to clean them in a timely and effective manner, in 2021 campers traveled in incredibly structured ways reverting from our previous camper choice based system and now we have to start from scratch with that system again. There is a lot that has been lost, and a lot that we will be building anew in 2023.

All that being said, there were truly amazing moments during the pandemic time as well. I remember in May while we were running lockdown programming for our community, being out on my balcony trying to smash through a block of ice to get to my camp t-shirt frozen within it all while streaming on Instagram live. That ran for 30+ minutes and I did not make it into the shirt but I did sing camp songs on request for campers who were already missing camp before summer even began. I remember getting to camp and running campfires on Zoom live from the campfire. The six staff on site putting all their energy into making camp come alive in the strangest of circumstances. Gill, Clarissa, Clayton, Mary, Fawkes and I had many ups and downs as the tiniest staff team ever to work a summer at camp but what united us and the 13 other volunteers who led sessions from their home was an overwhelming passion for making camp happen in a summer that kept being called “the summer without camp”. Cara baked bread and sent us step by step videos, Katie decorated ice cream cone cupcakes with campers via zoom, Ariel taught art projects, Mac showed us how to pack a bag for an out trip on location in the forest, Max, Julia, Keifer, and Elizabeth instructed Clayton on cleaning a bathroom over zoom, Gill started our day enthusiastically with morning announcements and songs, Clarissa invented a version of ninja using pool noodles for the day the CITs visited, Clayton sang about aunt uma who has chickens, Slightly got full access to everywhere at camp, the on-site staff made Menesetzung movie trailers in the pool and spun-off Netflix baking shows Nailed It & Sugar Rush with Banana Rush an all-banana themed

baking show. Fawkes kept us fed. Mary teamed up with Slightly for the best version of Man of the Sea ever. The list can go on and on and on. And we ended the summer with a visit from some local goats (thanks to Meeting Place organic farms).

Through all of it, Menesetung showed its resilience and it has been tough moving out of the pandemic space but I am proud to have been a leader in this significant historical moment and I am that much more proud to say, Menesetung did what it needed to do for the safety of its staff, campers and community and we never truly closed our doors to the people that needed us most.

Camps Through The Years



1948



1947



1953



1960



1966



1970



1989



1993



2014



2015



2018



2019



Covid
2020

2021



2022

Brochures Through the Years



Brochures Through the Years



2022 Camps



75th Anniversary Weekend!

August 26-28, 2022

As Camp reaches 75 years of incorporation and 101 years since the very beginnings it's time to celebrate!



**CAMP MENEŠETUNG
ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND**
August 26-28, 2022

Memories Bring Back Memories...

Camp Menešetung
1947

75 Years of Incorporation and 101 Years since our very beginnings!

- Join for a day, night, or the weekend!
- Bring your family or friends if you wish!
- Kids club available!
- Optional program sessions (Swimming, Archery, Canoeing, Climbing Wall etc.)
- Banquet Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Reconnect with old friends!
- Sunday Service with the one and only Spooky!

Celebrate Camp Menešetung's 75th Anniversary this summer. Around the campfire, over camp favourites in the dining hall, and at Vesper's point overlooking Lake Huron as we relive camp days!

Find out more! www.campmenezetung.ca/75years



Camp Menesetung would not exist if not for its numerous volunteers. Thankyou to those who have volunteered with our Adopt-A-Cabin program over the years. Thankyou to those who come out for Camp Cleanup Days. Thankyou to those who have helped maintain our property over the years. Thankyou to those who have been Board Members. Thankyou to those who support our Fund-Raising Events.

You rarely meet a person so selfless and devoted, and we are honored to have you on our volunteers' team. Thank you for all the energy you have given to this worthy cause. We hope you know the priceless impact you have had on so many lives.

ANNIVERSARY EVENT

REGISTRATION



SERVICE WITH SPOONY



MEMORY LANE









COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

The Miners Family donated this bench to commemorate the years of camping on this property.

