

Camaraderie

Les communiqués des camarades de Canoe Island French Camp janvier 2016

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORS:

CANOE ISLAND'S MISSION EXTENDS BEYOND FRENCH FOR KIDS

Canoe Island French Camp's main purpose is to teach French and French culture to young people while giving them a wonderful camp experience in a beautiful spot, but it also strives to connect people to the natural environment and to make a valued contribution to the San Juan Island community.

Since 1969 talented staff, many from France, have been sharing their language and culture with campers, now reaching 50 per session - 200 per summer. However, each year, another 400 adults and youth come to Canoe Island in the spring and fall to learn about island ecology and marine biology, kayak and hike, view planets and stars in the amazing dark night sky, and revel in the magical bioluminescence of the Salish Sea. Starting in 2005, families, adults, schools and non-profit organizations have been invited to visit Canoe Island for programs or to hold meetings, with or without French.



Families seek us out for a fun, educational, affordable getaways over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends where we take care of them from arrival in the islands on Friday to departing on the ferry on Monday. We are adding a third Family Camp in 2016 specifically for Canadians (although anyone can come) for their 3-day weekend over Victoria Day, May 20-23. After all, Vancouver Island is just a ferry boat ride away from Friday Harbor, and the city of Vancouver is just a 2-hour drive to the Anacortes Ferry Terminal.

The Friends of the San Juan Islands staff hold their annual retreat here and co-sponsor a Family natural history weekend for Friends' members and other San Juan Island residents in the spring. Other non-profits such as North Cascades Institute and the San Juan Island Land Bank have held work sessions on Canoe Island and learn from us about the cultural and natural history of the Salish Sea region.



Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School from Salem, OR, chose Canoe Island over their Costa Rica program for its 5th graders to extend their natural science research studies for a week each June. Cobb Street School from Roseburg, OR, Oregon Episcopal School, Portland, and Eastside Prep, Seattle, have come to explore the tidepools and forests of the island.

French classes from Charlemagne School from Eugene OR, Lakeside School in Seattle, Mercer Island High School, and St. Paul Academy, Bellingham, have all come to augment their French language studies. Three more Portland French immersion schools are choosing Canoe Island for a field trip in 2016 and 2017.

Local schools from Shaw, Lopez, Orcas, Waldron and even little Stuart islands have brought students for team building and island ecology activities on Canoe Island. Students from Lopez Island help to put the tipi beds, mattresses and storage boxes away each fall as a community service project after they kayak, canoe, swim, and do archery on Canoe Island.

Executive Joseph Jones is currently working with the Lummi tribal leaders on a 2016 Spring Break program on Canoe Island for Lummi students as they reacquaint themselves with their traditional Salish Sea homeland.

Canoe Island French Camp continues to meet its mission of growing world citizens through its camp culture of encouragement and positive attitude in a non-competitive learning environment. This is a place where students of all ages and cultures can come together to learn French, connect to the natural world, and experience personal growth. Come, join us on Canoe Island.

Meillures vouex pour la nouvelle année, Joseph and Connie Jones

A LETTER FROM AMAURY COIN: PARIS TO PALESTINE, AND BACK AGAIN

Chers Canoe alumni,

A year ago, when I was walking around Canoe Island, trying to follow the path despite the piles of dead leaves on the ground, I had no clue I would be back in France today. I left the Pacific Northwest to embark on a new adventure full of dreams and hope. Here I am, in the City of Light. The journey to the French capital was not straight forward, and I took some detours before settling in this charming Parisian apartment at the very top of a typical seven-story building from which I admire the frenzy of the city.



After taking a short rest in France during the spring of 2015, I took off for the Middle-East, a place I didn't think I would ever want to go. I had many reasons to visit Palestine: I had met great Palestinian friends in the US, learned about the situation in high school, talked about it again and again in college, but never felt like I actually knew what was really going on in this tiny part of the world. I thought that volunteering there would be a good way to start to truly understand the situation. Therefore, I applied to be a French and English assistant with a local NGO called Project Hope and settled for a month in the city of Nablus (West Bank), living in an apartment with other volunteers. I taught French and English in the city and in a refugee camp nearby).

What I will remember from my stay is the welcoming and the kindness of the Palestinian people, who are always willing to help you and make you feel at home. I remember the laughs of the kids during the classes, the cultural differences, the pride of the people, the warm atmosphere in the market of the Old City where you stop to eat a delicious Kanafeh (a mix of mild white cheese covered with sugar syrup), the countless sugar-mint teas, and the long-lasting lunches shared with the entire family in the villages. Palestinian cuisine (Middle-Eastern in general) is delicious. My favorite Palestinian dishes are Mahshi (rice stuffed vegetables), Za'atar (Middle Eastern herbs), hummus, and baklava.

I also remember the fascination I had when I first discovered the traditional Palestinian Dabke dance in a very old building in the village of Sebastia. The Dabke dance is usually performed during weddings and other joyful events, mostly by men. It's a mix of circle and line dancing, and the music played is always extremely catchy. Palestine is a jewel, and I highly recommend anyone to go there and embrace their rich culture.

Last July and August, I spent 6 weeks in Kpalimé, Togo (a very tiny country in West Africa) with a local NGO. I worked with the Neighborhood Committee in charge of organizing activities with the population: cleaning the streets, building street lights, rearranging the muddy tracks for cars and motorbikes, etc. But that is story for another time.

I am currently doing a Master's degree in Humanitarian Action in Paris at the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), a well-known French think-tank. By the end of the year, I am hoping to take part in a mission with an international NGO and work in the Middle-East for a couple years. This year will be quite intense between school life, and some other volunteering work with a non-profit advocating for Palestine, and another one advocating against nuclear weapons.

It is very easy to get tired of the French capital: too big, too many people, too noisy, too expensive. And at the same time, Paris is an amazing cultural hub where you can find so many opportunities as a student. I am still very excited about my new adventure, and I hope it will bring me somewhere I can use my skills and learn a lot. I also do hope I will be able to come back on Canoe Island soon, for the 50th anniversary of the camp in 2019, if not earlier.

Thinking about these past two years, I honestly believe that CIFIC helped me mature my professional desires. Working in a summer camp is one of the best schools to learn life as a young adult. From working with the youth, to dealing with cultural differences and learning from others, I will never be enough grateful for what camp gave me.

A bientôt!
Amaury Coin,
Past CIFIC Program Coordinator and Counselor



MERCI A NOS BENEVOLES ET DONATEURS

In 2015, our camper families and friends supported Canoe Island French Camp in many ways. They attended our adult events such as Yoga Benefit Weekend, they registered at higher tuition levels, and they gave generously. Donors listed made contributions between December 13, 2014 and December 10, 2015. If you donated after that time, we thank you and will honor you in the January 2017 newsletter.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Genevieve Ehlers
Audrey Hanson
Yann Dardonville
Nicole Shaw
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Eric Zobel
Brittany Fosberg
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Ali Morrow
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Troisième Canoe
Bistro
Fete de Mardi Gras
6 February 2016
Hotel Deca in Seattle
Fun, feathers, and fine dining!

A benefit gala to support the construction of a new art building, our Atelier!
Visit our website to learn more and register!

CALENDRIER 2016

FRENCH CAMP

SESSION 1	LA RÉVOLUTION FRANÇAISE	AGES 9-16	JUNE 26-JULY 7
SESSION 2	LES VOYAGEURS	AGES 10-16	JULY 10-28
SESSION 3	LE MONDE FRANCOPHONE	AGES 10-16	JULY 31-AUGUST 18
SESSION 4	LES CHEVALIERS	AGES 9-16	AUGUST 21-SEPTEMBER 1

FAMILY AND ADULT EVENTS

BISTRO CANOE	ALL AGES	FEBRUARY 6
SPRING WORK PARTY	ALL AGES	APRIL 15-17
VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND FAMILY CAMP	ALL AGES	MAY 20-23
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FAMILY CAMP	ALL AGES	MAY 27-30
ADULT YOGA BENEFIT WEEKEND	ADULTS	JUNE 3-5
OPEN HOUSE	ALL AGES	JUNE 25
LABOR DAY WEEKEND FAMILY CAMP	ALL AGES	SEPTEMBER 2-5

COIN FRANÇAIS

by Sarah Stephens, program coordinator



For those who like to *carnavaler* in some of the coldest weather of the year, Quebec is the place to be. *Le Carnaval de Québec* is a tradition that has been continued from the very beginnings of *Nouvelle-France*. Inhabitants of Quebec City gather to celebrate in the dead of winter just before *la période du carême*. Many festivities, some world renowned, and some local treasures entertain the public from the end of January to mid February.

L'Effigie de Bonhomme is a well known figure whose home is *un palais de glace*. Carnival goers sip *caribou* while watching competitors in *la course en canot à glace*! Equally impressive is *la sculpture sur neige*, which draws both Canadian and international artists. So what are you waiting for? Tie a *ceinture fléchée* around your *taille* and pull a *touque* over your *tête* and make your way to the biggest winter carnival in the world!

carnavaler~ to celebrate carnival; *Le Carnaval de Québec*~ Quebec Winter Carnival; *Nouvelle-France*~ New France; *la période du carême*~ Lent; *l'Effigie de Bonhomme*~ snowman effigy; *un palais de glace*~ ice palace; *caribou*~ a hot mulled wine drink; *la course en canot à glace*~ ice canoe race; *la sculpture sur neige*~ snow sculpture; *ceinture fléchée*~ arrow sash; *taille*~ waist; *touque*~ hat; *tête*~ head



Contact Us!

P.O. Box 370
Orcas, WA 98280
info@canoeisland.org
360.468.2329
www.CanoeIsland.org