

Édition 2019

La Camaraderie

Canoe Island French Camp's Newsletter



In this 50th year of operation, Canoe Island French Camp has had another memorable season. Our staff and campers treasured the many campfires, walks through the woods, songs, delicious meals, and the friendships we sparked throughout the summer.

The growth and good memories of 2019 are thanks to the community of people who sustain and support CIFIC. We extend our gratitude to the incomparable counselors, volunteers, and staff who make Canoe Island French Camp magical, as well as our dedicated board of directors, and, of course, our wonderful campers.

In this 2019 edition of La Camaraderie, we are pleased to share highlights and changes from the past year. We are also excited to share some words from recent staff and alumni and to celebrate the many contributions of our vibrant community. Thank you for continuing to be a part of Canoe Island French Camp.

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Will Kier
Island Caretaker

Nicolas Yviquel
Camp Management Intern

Julian Tiffay
Program Coordinator

Alena Harris
Pâtissière and Kitchen Manager

Cass O'Callaghan
Bookkeeper



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

In this 50th year of our organization, we were proud to be at the helm of Canoe Island French Camp and honored to be the caretakers of this ambitious and storied institution. This year has been an occasion to look back at our history and take stock of what Canoe Island French Camp has offered children and families for the past five decades. We connected with many former campers and staff and we have been heartened to hear from returning alumni that the ambiance, traditions, values, and spirit of CIFC remain the same after all this time. The many joys that Dr. Austin hoped to offer when he created CIFC are intact: a spirited group of kind-hearted children, pristine nature, opportunities for connection and friendship, and a love of learning and French.

2019 also saw changes big and small on Canoe Island. This year we welcomed two new year-round staff members and said “au revoir” to an old friend. We enjoyed the longest programming season in the history of camp. We launched several new projects while working hard to preserve camp’s existing structures and programs. A dedicated and hard-working staff made these accomplishments possible, and our loyal and passionate campers make our endeavors worthwhile. Merci beaucoup!

—Directors Ben and Margaret

2020 PROGRAM DATES

Though it's still winter on Canoe Island, nearly all our 2020 programs are full already. We look forward to welcoming back many returning campers and staff and meeting the new members of our community.

FRENCH CAMP DATES

- Session 1 June 21–July 2
- Session 2 July 5–23
- Session 3 July 26–August 13
- Session 4 August 16–27

FAMILY AND ADULT PROGRAM DATES

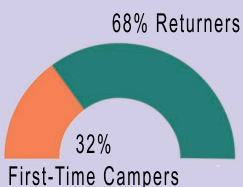
- Spring Work Party April 17–19
- Victoria Day Weekend Family Camp May 15–18
- Memorial Day Weekend Family Camp May 22–25
- Yoga Benefit Weekend May 29–31
- Labor Day Weekend Family Camp September 4–7



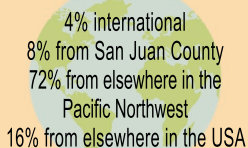
2019 CAMPER SNAPSHOT

Our camper population changes from year to year. Here's some information about our 2019 campers.

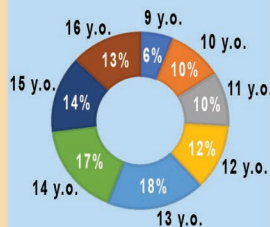
RETURNERS



GEOGRAPHIC



AGES



LANGUAGE



In September we bid "au revoir" to staff member Nicolas Yviquel. Nico was an invaluable part of CIFIC's year-round staff. We are grateful for his innumerable contributions to CIFIC's programming, including the research and design he undertook for projects such as our educational theme banners and the Festival de Canoe. He also spent months curating and formatting historical documents and film in order to help preserve CIFIC's legacy for our 50th anniversary celebration. He dazzled us with the new skills he acquired while working here, both his design and editing skills as well as the breadth of his knowledge of natural history. We will mourn Nicolas' absence in the coming years but we know that he will remain part of our community and that he is setting off in the world to do great things. Merci, Nicolas!

LES DERNIERS MOTS DE NICO

As a teenager, I remember filming short movies with friends where the plot involved an experience that would transform a person. The transformative experience would be a book or a piece of art or an encounter that the character would absorb, leading them to see the world in a completely different way and changing their life radically. As a young filmmaker, I never managed to capture this transformation in a way that satisfied me, and as I grew older I found the notion of radical change to be utopic and unrealistic.

During my final Inspiration Point, as I listened to everyone around me share their personal stories, I remembered this artistic ambition from my youth. I saw that communities such as the one on Canoe Island can completely transform people for the rest of their lives. All of us search for a place where we feel part of something meaningful. On Canoe Island, we can work, play, grow, and thrive in this environment. CIFIC made me realize that one of the most valuable things in life is a strong and caring community. For this reason, I find myself deeply grateful for everyone who has been part of my Canoe Island experience, both staff and campers. I am also grateful to the people who have shared this experience and work hard to preserve the real beauty of this institution.

I've been extremely fortunate to have experienced such positive change in so many different arenas of my life during my time on Canoe Island. I have also had the honor to enact a bit of change on Canoe through my passion and ideas. I aspire to continue to contribute to CIFIC and know that this wonderful organization will preserve its raison d'être in the years to come. Merci, Canoe!





ADDITIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

Here are some of the highlights and changes on Canoe Island this year:

- Julian Tiffay, past counselor, joined our year-round staff in April as our Program Coordinator.
- Will Kier joined our year-round staff in April as our Island Caretaker/Facility Assistant.
- Alena Harris, longtime seasonal pâtissière and kitchen manager, joined CIFIC's year-round staff.
- Thanks to generous donations from the community, we purchased three new pottery wheels to bolster our art program.
- With the help of several talented and hardworking volunteers, and using lumber from the island, we erected *Le Palais des Poules*, the chicken coop for our 13 chickens.
- We established a garden next to the *terrain des sports* and served fresh vegetables throughout the summer to students and staff. We hope to invite campers into the garden in 2020 to explore issues of sustainability and local agriculture.
- We produced over 7,000 board feet of cedar lumber using 25 trees from Canoe Island; we will use this ultra-local lumber in construction projects this year.
- We introduced "dîner au Château" to camp programming, inviting tipi groups and staff to the Château each night to dine with directors Ben and Margaret. We loved the chance to connect individually with campers and staff.
- We replaced the Château's 42-year-old cedar roof with a metal roof.
- We launched a project to weed, re-organize, and restock camp's library, with a generous donation from Half Price Books as well as donations from many thoughtful community members.

SUPPORTING CANOE ISLAND FRENCH CAMP

CIFC is proud to be a self-sustaining nonprofit. Our tuition and fees cover our operating expenses and we are fortunate to operate at capacity. We rely on charitable donations from you, our community members, to serve two important purposes: to fund scholarships for deserving campers and to help upgrade our facility. In 2019, **CIFC awarded \$37,000 in financial aid**, all of which was funded thanks to generous donations from friends of CIFC. Our community also donated over **\$8,000 to**



the facility fund. With your help, we can continue to cultivate an amazing community of campers and improve the facility for today's campers and future generations. Please consider an end-of-year donation to CIFC to help support these important missions.

SEEKING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS FOR SUMMER STAFF



Throughout the summer, four medical professionals join our staff to ensure camper health and safety. They live, work, and play on Canoe Island and are a vital part of our community. We are deeply grateful for these volunteers who give so generously to keep our community healthy and happy. These dedicated professionals not only provide top-notch medical attention around the clock to our campers and staff; they also serve as unique mentors and role models to our community. If you know of an RN or MD who you think

would be a good fit for Canoe Island French Camp, please spread the word about camp. Ideal candidates should love working with children, appreciate the outdoors, and be community-oriented. We would love recommendations from friends of CIFC about potential medical professionals for 2020 and beyond.

YOUNG ALUMNI GIVING BACK

While the majority of donations to CIFIC come from camper parents, this past year has seen an uptick in contributions from current campers and recent alumni. These contributions from young donors has delighted us; these recent alumni have firsthand knowledge of how the experience of camp can shape a person's life, and we are heartened by their generosity in sharing this gift with future generations of campers. We would like to celebrate support from Creighton Hofeditz, an alum, former counselor and program coordinator, and recent volunteer, and share his thoughts on his experiences on Canoe Island.



Smell triggers memory in powerful ways, and when I visit Canoe Island now, the smells—the salt spray at the dock, the bark of the cedars, the tipi canvas, the timbers and stone of the Maxim's—make me feel like I am looking through many pairs of eyes simultaneously. The eyes of a 12-year-old boy who always struggled to fit in, finding his first real experience of community and belonging; the eyes of a 19-year-old counselor who learned to play guitar just so he could lead the songs of Canoe and carry on traditions; the eyes of a 34-year-old man who has friends all over the U.S. and Europe because of a unique and indescribable little island in Washington. Like the evolution in the song “Circle Game,” which I first heard on Canoe, the island and the

camp have played different roles for me as I have gotten older, and it's been a great joy to be able to return over the years and reinvent that relationship. I know that most people haven't been able to do that as often as I have, but I think anyone who comes into contact with Canoe Island knows the way it reverberates throughout the years. Strange coincidences and connections, profound shifts in mindset and thought, a richness of memory that approaches the realm of mystery and dream-like wonder. These are the things that I believe animate and fill a life, instead of merely sustaining it. Canoe and the people I know because of it have been anchors for me, and have shaped much of the adult I've become.

My grandmother sent me to camp for four summers, and when I inherited some of her estate after her death last year, I knew that I wanted to honor her memory by making my experience possible for other children. I am certain that the most significant journey I ever took as a young person was that first walk up the Champs-Élysées, towards the songs and the warmth and the laughter of what was to become my favorite place on earth.

WAYS TO SUPPORT CIFC

1. Send your child to camp!

Preserving and supporting our fantastic community of campers is our primary goal. “Merci” to all the families who send us their curious, passionate, and thoughtful children who make up this community.

2. Tell a friend!

About 60% of our campers come to Canoe Island on the recommendation of a friend or family member. We rely on our dedicated community to introduce the next generation of amazing campers to CIFC.

3. Volunteer!

Our organization thrives thanks to the many individuals who give so generously of their time and talent. The dedicated medical professionals, construction volunteers, teenage assistants, artists, board members, and all the friends of CIFC who give freely of their advice and expertise help make this organization safe and successful.

4. Donate!

Donations from our community, both financial contributions and in-kind donations, help us continue to improve the facility and broaden our camper base. Consider including CIFC in your year-end giving. Also remember that we eagerly accept in-kind donations such as computers, construction equipment, books, boats, and more!

5. Stay in touch!

Follow our social media accounts, check out our monthly newsletter, and send us an email if you're in the neighborhood and would like to visit Canoe Island. We love hearing from alumni, both longstanding and recent.

6. Leave us an online review!

Reviews on Google and Facebook help prospective parents gain insight into the CIFC experience. Please share your thoughts online.



DONORS

An enormous “merci” for the generosity of the following donors,
whose gifts we received from November 2018 through October 2019.

NIVEAU PLATINE (\$1000 and above)

Dan Root & Julie Kim
Creighton Hofeditz
Elisa Burgess & Eric Bosworth
Lynne & Andrew Carmichael
Ian & Paola Thomas
Susan Murdoch & David Oxorn
Matt & Laura St John
Anne-Marie Bollen & Philippe Hujoel
Tricie & Ross Hunter
Kathryn Fernandez
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NIVEAU OR (\$500 - \$999)

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GALA SPONSORS

Many organizations and individuals donated generously to our 50th Anniversary Gala. We are grateful to the following businesses for making our gala such a great success.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. We are grateful to the following people for giving generously of their time and talent.

FRENCH CAMP ASSISTANTS

Elle Boudreau
Andrew Breazna
Kate Brunell
Andrew Burgess
Leah Burian
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Liliana Chomsky
Margaret Dickson
Drew Dryden
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Thea Flora
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Dorothea Orth-Smith
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Max Rice
Mae Shindell
Evan Shoemaker
Chase Stoddard
Lee Van Horne

EDITOR

Marisa Ikert

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Nora Chapman
Vivian Powell
Alena Harris
Henrik Haude
Braden McGee
Justin Saint-Loubert-Bié
Amanda Webber
Joseph Wi Wakan

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Julie Jessum

MUSIC TEACHER

Creighton Hofeditz

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ewa Pastusiak

WORK PARTY VOLUNTEERS

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Jamie Elsbury
Katie Cassidy
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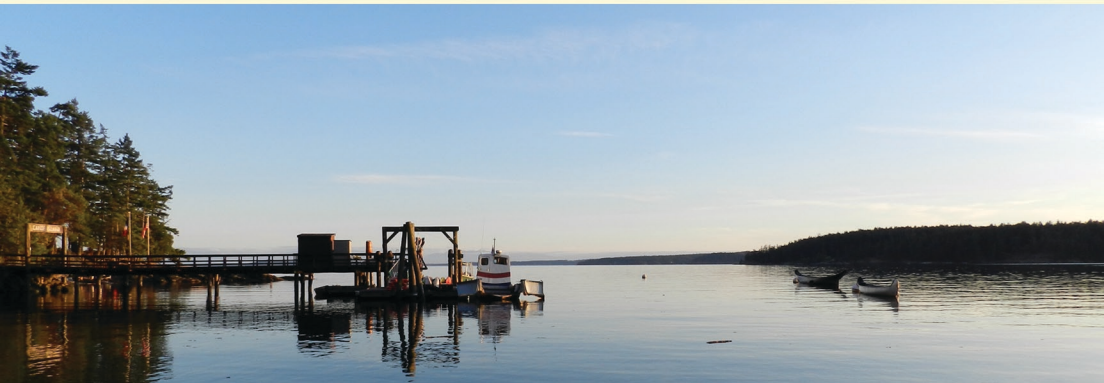
Michael Alexander
Nels Olson
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Bill Schafer

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Sofia Zelaya
Mari Plombon
Glenda Schuh
Sarah Brinkman

FAIR REPRESENTATIVES

Mia Cassidy
Braden McGee





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