

Édition 2020

La Camaraderie

Canoe Island French Camp's Newsletter



This unanticipated year has been a period of loss and reflection for Canoe Island French Camp. As the COVID-19 virus spread around the globe and across the United States, we made the difficult decision to cancel all 2020 programming for the safety and well-being of our camp community. For the first summer in 50 years, Canoe Island was still and quiet.

We deeply missed our campers, staff members, volunteers, and families this year, and we grieved the loss of connection and learning that happens on Canoe Island. But the stillness of 2020 also made space to reflect on the singular opportunities camp affords all of us and allowed time to prepare for a strong future.

In this 2020 edition of La Camaraderie, we share an unusual year in the history of CIFIC. Though this story reflects loss and sadness, it also recounts the incredible generosity and strength of our camp community as well as testifies to our shared hope for the years to come. We are profoundly grateful to you, our community, and we are grateful to have survived 2020 so that we can continue to carry out CIFIC's mission.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Will Kier
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Alena Harris
Pâtissière and Kitchen Manager

Cass O'Callaghan
Bookkeeper



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

2020 was not a year that any of us expected. Each day that passed during this long and strange summer, we thought about life at camp and the many traditions we were all missing: Shaw days, theme days, banquet days, and our wonderful day-to-day. Confined to our home and witnessing entire countries being cut off from each other, we longed for the freedom and connection of camp more than ever. From the sound of laughter in the tipis to the smell of the sea air while quietly kayaking around the island, what makes summer special on Canoe Island is experiencing these moments together.

But for all the grief we felt, CIFIC enjoyed many blessings and victories, including a truly phenomenal outpouring of support from camper families, local islanders, and alumni. In a year when we weren't able to see any of you, we certainly felt your love for CIFIC. Additionally, we were able to use the time and skills of our year-round staff to make the most of our summer on a limited budget: we executed several large facility projects, completed many repairs and updates, and dreamed up plans for 2021. We also launched a local bake sale that proved to be a ray of sunshine.

And on a personal note, 2020 was an extraordinary year for us. In January, we married at the Friday Harbor courthouse and in May we welcomed Odette into our family. It has been our privilege as directors to help shape your children's lives. We know that your children's camaraderie, *joie de vivre*, and kindness will shape our daughter's life. To the many of you who sent a gift for Odette,

checked in during the newborn days, or sent words of encouragement as we became parents, *merci beaucoup*. Despite our isolation and our longing to share our daughter and our joy, we never felt alone thanks to you all. We eagerly await the day we can introduce her into the CIFIC community.

Every year during the fall, winter, and spring, we are counting down the days until we can reunite with all of you on Canoe Island. For many of us, camp is so much more than sleeping in tipis, spending time outdoors, or learning French. Camp is a home, a family, and a part of our year that we hold our breath for. In 2020, we're holding our breath a little longer until we can be together. *On a hâte de se retrouver!*

—Directors Ben and Margaret



2021 PROGRAM DATES

Ever since we closed the facility in the spring, we've been planning for an amazing 2021. We are assessing the ongoing pandemic and acknowledge that factors beyond our control may necessitate canceling programs this spring, but we are cautiously optimistic for our 2021 programs.

FRENCH CAMP DATES

- Session 1 June 20–July 1
- Session 2 July 4–22
- Session 3 July 25–August 12
- Session 4 August 15–26

FAMILY AND ADULT PROGRAM DATES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Spring Work Party | April 16–18 |
| Yoga Benefit Weekend | May 14–16 |
| Victoria Day Weekend Family Camp | May 21–24 |
| Memorial Day Weekend Family Camp | May 28–31 |
| Labor Day Weekend Family Camp | September 3–6 |



Drying lumber in the solar kiln



Building garden boxes



Replacing Château posts

ADDITIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- Thanks to generous donations from friends of CIFIC, we purchased a fleet of 15 bikes this winter. In the coming years, campers and staff will use the bikes to explore other islands and embark on new adventures.
- We found new avenues to serve the local community. Our weekly bake sale, which helped to sustain CIFIC throughout this quiet year, also gave Alena Harris the opportunity to donate about 500 baguettes to the Orcas Island Food Bank in the spring, summer, and fall.
- We expanded and refined the garden and developed a lesson plan that incorporates activities based on sustainable agriculture into our programs.
- We replaced rotting posts in the structure of the Château using logs of Douglas fir.
- We added a 14' Boston Whaler ("The Loon"), a fuel-efficient and versatile boat, into the CIFIC fleet.
- With the help of donations, we purchased two new energy-efficient ovens to replace camp's very old, outdated singular unit, doubling our baking capabilities and reducing energy usage.
- We doubled the island's chicken population this spring when we welcomed 11 new Orpingtons to the Palais des Poules.
- Our sawmill produced over 25,000 linear feet of premium lumber from trees we felled on island.
- Thanks to community donations, we built a greenhouse using only Canoe Island lumber.
- We undertook urgent repairs at camp's building on Orcas, "La Conciergerie," replacing decaying dock beams and updating the well.
- We remodeled and updated the kitchen of "Le Musée" with modern, efficient appliances.
- And finally, we stripped and repainted the pool!

GREENHOUSE

One triumph of 2020 was erecting CIFIC's greenhouse. This project was made possible thanks to generous donations from community members as well as support from the San Juan Island Community Foundation. The frame for the structure was constructed entirely from wood milled on Canoe Island from cedar trees we felled and dried on-site. From start to finish, this project was a successful exercise in sustainability and a manifestation of CIFIC's desire to build environmentally responsible structures. Because fundraising exceeded our expectations, we were also able to replace the 20-year-old cedar shingles on the roof of the sports shed at the same time we completed the greenhouse. We are very proud of this greenhouse and especially proud that support from the community made it a reality.

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of the **San Juan Island Community Foundation**, as well as the following donors, for making this project possible:

Jenna Anderson	Dianne Macondray
Anonymous	Bradley Miller
Jon & Joan Christoffersen	Peg Gerlock & Phil Johnson
Diane Clifton	Sheryl Phelps
Cathy Ellis	Katy Schafer
Emilie Gincig	Chase Stoddard
Birthe Gorton	Cassy Meyers Taylor
The Kier Family	The van Dongens
Tracie Luthi	Jen, Loren & Max Dickey Vollmer



WEEKLY COMMUNITY BAKE SALE

When we began canceling programs in April and turning our attention to projects to bolster camp and the facility, we kept saying to ourselves, “*Nous faisons du citron pressé*” (we’re making lemonade). But when we found ourselves with chickens laying dozens of eggs intended for campers who never joined us, it became more fitting to say, “When life gives you eggs, make quiche.”

This year, we made great use of our commercial kitchen, our extraordinarily talented pâtissière, Alena Harris; and all our eggs and garden greens to hold a weekly bake sale on Shaw Island and Orcas Island. What started as a small endeavor in October of 2019 blossomed into a booming weekly event with Alena baking baguettes, croissants, galettes, quiche, sourdough, and other treats.

It brought us joy to continue a small part of CIFIC’s traditions this year by bringing baked goods into our neighbors’ homes. The weekly bake sale has been an opportunity to connect with new friends across the water, residents who may have heard “La Marseillaise” floating across Indian Cove in the summer but never set foot on Canoe Island. And as our island neighbors showed up in droves to support CIFIC, we endeavored to support our neighbors. On Fridays, Alena also baked fresh baguettes for the Orcas Island Food Bank, donating about 500 baguettes in 2020 so far. We are proud of our organization’s adaptability and creativity; these strengths allowed us to be productive and serve our community during this unusual year.

To the many island residents who bolstered CIFIC during this difficult period by supporting our bake sale week after week, we send you our heartfelt gratitude!



NEW OVENS

We have long wanted to replace our 45-year-old oven; the year-round bake sale in 2020 was the perfect time to reassess camp's needs. The old oven required tinkering to hold temperature and assure quality results. The new oven is a double unit that has improved fan controls as well as steam injection. The upgrade is also Energy Star compliant, helping us work toward our goal of a greener facility. We are overjoyed that we can offer current and future CIFIC chefs equipment befitting their talents.

We would like to thank the following donors for making possible the purchase of this new oven:

Cynthia & William Claridge
Mary N. Clark
Kathryn Ann Fernandez

John & Jean Frye
Gail & Steve Harrower
Susan Maffai



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARIE-PIERRE KOBAN

On May 7, 2020, we lost Marie-Pierre Koban, the former French Director of Canoe Island French Camp. Though many members of our current community never met Marie-Pierre, everyone who has visited Canoe Island has benefited from her legacy. She was instrumental in manifesting Dr. Austin's dream of the first French Camp on the West Coast. In her time with CIFIC, she crafted the French curriculum and helped shape many of the traditions and values that we carry on at French Camp today. Marie-Pierre was a visionary leader who dedicated her life to teaching and spreading a love of the French language. Throughout her career, she worked for Alliance Française, American Association of Teachers

of French, Lakeside Middle School, and Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association. She was with CIFIC from 1979 to 1996 and stayed involved with camp long after she retired. CIFIC will always bear the mark of her hard work, vision, and wisdom, and we are grateful for her countless contributions to camp.

We would like to thank **Glenda Schuh**, **Maria Gilbert**, and **Renee McFarland** for their donations to the scholarship fund in honor of Marie-Pierre Koban. Their gifts help spread Marie-Pierre's love of the French language to future CIFIC campers.

BICYCLE ADVENTURES AWAIT OUR CAMPERS

For Giving Tuesday in November of 2019, we asked the CIFC community to support our efforts to purchase a fleet of 15 bikes. In recent years we've rented bikes each summer for older campers to enjoy excursions on San Juan Island. By owning our own fleet, we can send more campers of all age groups on bike trips each session and also explore new islands. Donors to this project funded 100% of the 15 bikes and helmets. We are so grateful for your support and excited for the adventures that await our campers.

We would like to thank the following individuals for generously funding our bike fleet:

Gilles Belin

Eric Bosworth

Aurora & Andrei Breazna

Genelle Chomsky

Samuel Cunningham

Marisa Ikert

Kristen Jarvis

Renee Lausier

Elizabeth Le

Mathieu Lemerle

Anne Reagan Misner

Wendy Pierpont

Emmanuel Saint-Loubert-Bié

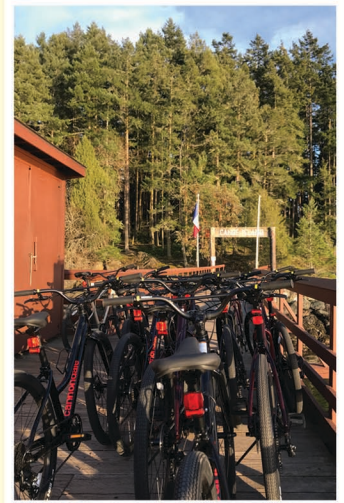
Chelsea Schafer

Laura & Matt St. John

Jennifer Swanson

Viviane Tubiana

Susan West



We apologize to some of the individuals who donated via Facebook; Facebook anonymized donations, preventing us from acknowledging you. Please know that we received your donations and they were crucial in this project.



FRIENDS HELP ILLUMINATE THE ISLAND



For many years we have been putting aside funds to replace the power cable that supplies Canoe Island with electricity. Dr. Austin installed the original power cable in 1967, and it has already surpassed its life expectancy. We have long planned to replace the cable in the fall of 2021 at a cost of approximately \$300,000 for barge fees, excavation, labor, materials, and permits. Without this power cable, Canoe Island French Camp could not exist.

When we realized this spring that 2020 would not be a typical year, we took stock of the financial impact of the spring programs we cut. Not only were we unable to set aside funds in 2020 for the power cable, we also needed to use part of our emergency funds. We turned to friends of CIFIC to help illuminate the Island, asking for your help to fund the physical material of the cable. At a cost of \$12 per foot, we projected that the material for the 2200-foot-long cable would equal \$26,400.

We were bowled over by your response to our appeal for help. Camper families, alumni, staff, board members, and island neighbors contributed to this cause, donating enough to cover the expense of the cable material. We are humbled by your generosity, which will literally keep the lights on for years to come.

We would like to thank the following donors who made a contribution in response to our appeal for help funding the power cable:

Melissa Alexander	Amaury Coin	Marisa Ikert	Ethan Meyer	Taylor Sproed
Gilles Belin	Heather Conti	Janice Kary	Lynn Meyers	Mary Steller
Phil Bloch	Cassandra Delaune	Steve Kleine	Susan Murdoch	Celeste Stern
Eric Bosworth	Raquel Dina	Elise Kruidenier	Daryn Nakhuda	Jennifer Swanson
Sally Brunsmann	Cecile Durand	Gayle Kwon	Ali Nelson	Tuyen Tran
Ron Burian	Eve Epstein	Elizabeth Le	Sue Oliva-Flores	Viviane Tubiana
Susie Cantor	Cynthia Feeney	Sydney Ledford	Monica Perillat	Gaël Vidal
Mia Cassidy	Heidi Flora	Kara Lobritz	Sheryl Phelps	Julia Wagner
Kelly Chang	Brittany Fosberg	Lisa Longano	Wendy Pierpont	Grace Wallen
Michael Chang	Gretchen Galuska	Anna Loop	Justine Robinett	Susan West
Linda Choi	Maria Gilbert	Tracie Luthi	Raymond Russell	Brett Williams
Joan Christofferson	Claire Golden	Tina Ly	Emmanuel Saint-Loubert-Bié	Nicolas Yviquel
Jon Christofferson	Cristin Gordon-Maclean	Anna MacKenzie	Steve Sakakini	Jenn Zinda
Katherine Cleland	Laura Grove	Michelle MacLise	Chelsea Schafer	Eric Zobel
Stephanie Cleland	Paula Heron	Margaret Mathews	Glenda Schuh	
Rhonda Cohen	Vanessa Hamer	Nancy McFadden	Jenny Smithers	

SUPPORTING CANOE ISLAND FRENCH CAMP

When we had to cancel all 2020 programs, you, the friends of CIFIC, stepped in to help us make it through to the other side of the pandemic. And while we are still in the midst of this crisis, we believe we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Your support has ensured that we can operate as strong as ever in 2021. We are full of gratitude to you for bolstering CIFIC during this trying year.

If you are in a position to make a year-end charitable gift to CIFIC, we hope you will consider donating to



the financial aid fund. We predict higher-than-ever needs in 2021 due to the effects of COVID-19. A strong financial aid fund will ensure that all children can come together and thrive on Canoe Island this summer.

To make a donation, consider using the enclosed envelope to mail a check. You can also donate online with a credit card by following the QR code or visiting our website.

DONORS

Listed below are donors from November 2019 through October 2020 who gave to the general facility fund, the financial aid fund, or the unrestricted fund. Many families from French Camp or family programs donated all or part of their tuition and fees in 2020. This support was crucial and we send our donors an enormous “merci” for their generosity this year.

Suhani & Sajal Agarwal

Jenna Anderson

Anonymous

Belinda Bail & Joe Herrin

Claudia & Adam Batz

Melody & Walter Baumgartner

Gilles Belin & Anna Letbetter

John & Anna Berry

Lisa Bowen

Liane & Rutherford Brakke-Pound

Aurora & Andrei Breazna

Heidi & Eric Brose

Stephanie Brown

Elisa Burgess & Eric Bosworth

Ron Burian & Eve Epstein

Elizabeth & Ben Canning

Darla Cardwell & Eric Duerr

Kelly & Michael Chang

Genelle & Peter Chomsky

Melissa & Raymond Clark

Lynda Clements

Patricia Collins

Rosannah Cope & Casey Hons

Sarah Coyle

Sam Cunningham

Rebecca Davis-Suskind & David Suskind

Olivia Delaune

Cristian Diaconu

Julie Doumbia

Michele & Jonathan Drucker

Camille Duong

Hamish & Sarah Eisler

Teresa Eyler

Heather Sherman & David Fandel

Carey Farquhar & Thomas Chi

Cynthia & Daniel Feeney

Fran Fife

Susan Fine & Matthew Horvat

Elizabeth & Dylan Fitterer

Patricia Flynn
Jordan Fong
Brittany Fosberg
Michael Frank & Jo Anne Schlesinger
Jennifer Frei & Ed Radza
Sandra Fried & Adam Price
Lisa Friede & Christoph Mack
Jessica Galuska
Sharon Gerth
Cristin Gordon-Maclean
Eric Gough & Kim Schroeder
Blake Grayson
Laura Grove
Barnaby Harford & Beth Birnbaum
Mark & Heidi Harris
Henrik Haude
Geoffrey & Lauren Hausheer
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Tricie & Ross Hunter
Bronwyn Jackson & Jared Erickson
Tamatha & John Jordan
Brad Joseph
Marcus Kauffman & Cassandra Moseley
Gur & Meyrav Kimchi
Marie-Pierre Koban
Kelly Koffman & Dipankar Ray
Wendy Kotila & Boughty Canton
Simmone LaCorte & Nicholas Heldfond
Elizabeth Le & Sean O'Neill
Sydney & Chris Ledford
Clare Lewis
Ren Lis
The Little School
Kyle & Monika Lussier
Tina & Pat Ly
Sabrina Marzari & Ross Neil
Andrew & Cheryl Masterman
Gwen McConnell & Marc Gavin

Mareka McCullough
Nora & Walt McGraw
Morgan Milagrosa
Bradley Miller & Patricia den Brinker
Anne & Nathan Misner
Stephanie & Gary Mochan
Steve Mrazik & Christine Finlayson
Pamela Myers
Daryn & Brooke Nakhuda
Pavel Nikitin & Elena Erosheva
Chris Oliva
Nataliya & Nels Olson
Carmen & Waring Partridge
Andrea & Stanford Peng
Monica & Xavier Perillat
Rebecca Peterson
Arnaud Petitjean
Antoinette Pietka & Czeslaw Czapl
Ellen Pizer
Ann & Marc Pottier
Lila & Ezra Richardson
Dianne Riter
Daniel Root & Julie Kim
Raymond Russell
Emmanuel & Meg Saint-Loubert-Bié
Andrea & Craig Sayers
Chelsea Schafer
Bill Schafer & Margaret Watson
Lisa & Jim Schnitzius
Deanna & Jon Shannon
Iris Smith
Jenny & Curtis Smithers
Jianlan Song
Liane Sperlich
Mary Steller
Allison Sterling
Celeste Stern
Jane Talbot
Ian & Paola Thomas

Rachel Throolin & Jared Blum
Tuyen Tran
Alan & My True
Rochelle Turner & Graham Miller
Todd & Michelle Wagner
Elizabeth & Seth Walther
Richelle & Jon Ward
Susan West
Raney & Brett Williams
Cindy Wolf & Keven McKenney
Frances & Allen Wong
Jennifer & Eric Zinda
Stri & Larry Zulch

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Christian Dardonville
Lynn Bond Johnson
Catherine Lheureux
Julian Tiffay
Annette & John Pierre van Dongen
Tina Whitman & Mike O'Connell

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