

Camaraderie

Volume 10, No. 2

Les bulletin des Camarades de Canoe Island French Camp

Fall 2008

Merci mille fois, Dr. Austin!

40 years ago, Dr. Warren Austin had a great idea: Start a summer camp where children from all over the world could come together to learn French language and culture while engaging in healthy outdoor and artistic activities and investigating the fascinating natural history of the San Juan Islands. From a small beginning on Orcas Island in 1969, the camp quickly became a unique presence on the West Coast when the camp moved to Canoe Island. Now, 40 years later, alumni say it feels just the same but better than ever!

We think Dr. Austin, who died in 1999, would be pleased with our efforts to make a difference for children who will be making a difference in the world. And we would like to think he would have been thrilled this past summer to have seen his 9-year old granddaughter, Pearl, attending the camp he started 40 years ago.



Celebrate with us in 2009

We'll celebrate 40 fun years with events both in Seattle and on Canoe Island in 2009. The fun will begin March 20 at our *soirée d'anniversaire* or birthday party benefit at the Palace Ballroom in Seattle and continue in August when everyone is invited to return to Canoe Island Saturday-Tuesday, August 29-September 1. Come for the weekend, all four days or just the Sunday celebration. Meet new and old friends; do your favorite activity: archery, sailing, kayaking, swimming; just watch the ferries go by from No Name Point; and sing those favorite songs at the campfire ring or on Inspiration Point. More details will be flowing your way over the winter, and you can register online now for the Canoe Island festivities. Space is limited for overnight reservations so don't delay.

Our logo will take on a celebratory banner for the year, and will be seen on summer camp T-shirts and sweatshirts as well as on our 1980s retro T-shirt that will be for sale soon. To help us get ready for our celebrations, send us an email telling where you are now and what you have been up to in the last 5, 10, 20 or 40 years. We'll compile your messages to share with the summer celebration guests. Don't forget to send a photograph!

We hope to see all of you next year.



Warren and Bunny Austin in Geneva Switzerland, July 1966.



Dr. Austin in front of the Madrona Inn on Orcas Island, first site of his French Camp.



IN THIS ISSUE

Merci Dr. Austin.....	1
Celebrate with us in '09...	1
2008 Highlights.....	2
Letter from Carrie Marsh.....	2
Glenda Schuh's Family Weekend.....	2,3
Le Colombier Architect.....	3
2009 Schedule.....	4

2008 Highlights



2008 staff, L-R: First row: Jessica, Ben. Second row: Eugenie, Amanda, Stephanie, Caroline, Emilie, Justine. Third row: Jason, Mathieu, Hayley, Tristan, Thomas, Hugo, Taylor, Joseph, Connie

- Campers arrived from 6 countries, 17 states and 3 Canadian provinces.
- Enrollment swelled to 177 campers -- full enrollment in each session. (So enroll early this year to insure your spot in your favorite session!)
- Campers eagerly enrolled in the expanded 3-week Le Monde Francophone session: the addition of the third week allowed CIFIC to fill the entire summer.
- The Ferry Queen returned to Canoe Island better than ever after being damaged while moored during a strong spring windstorm.
- Our great safety record continued with no camper injuries needing physician's attention.
- Our spring fundraiser, Bistro Canoe, was a success thanks to hard work by the board of directors and staff, excellent cuisine by 2007 Chef Will Henderson and friends, and the support of all of our CIFIC friends who attended and supported our auction.
- Our spring Adult Yoga Weekend raised money for the CIFIC scholarship fund and added agility to the participants.
- Our Spring Work Party was well attended and helped to prepare the island for the campers.
- Financial aid was given to 27 deserving campers, totaling \$24,000.
- The multi-level tuition structure was successful with 25% of families offering to pay at the third level and 18% offering to pay at the second level to cover the full direct and indirect costs of providing the camp experience for their children. This generosity will help us move forward on such projects as replacing Oscar and including some multi-season housing in Siberia.

Meeting Our Mission

Carrie Marsh, mother of a 13-year-old camper, Madeleine Marsh, wrote to us the day Madeleine returned from camp, articulating so well our philosophy.

Dear Joseph, Connie, Counselors & Staff
Extraordinaire,

I brought Madeline home today - at least I think it was Madeline. I barely recognized this wonderful young lady sitting next to me on the Ferry. She smiled from ear to ear, laughed as she recalled story after story of adventure and endless fun. She spoke of plans to not only continue her French language courses but to expand on them and join in on group meetings and outings - she was energized like I've never seen before!

Your personal attention, exploration and encouragement has brought this young lady just that much closer to not only knowing herself a bit better but others from around the world as well. I've always talked with her about the world being "hers" to explore and the many adventures that await her in the years ahead - she now believes me and is eager to plan and prepare for these events to come.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all - you have opened Madeline's heart and mind to the many journeys that await her and the endless possibilities they will bring.

With endless gratitude,

Carrie Marsh



Glenda and her daughter, Maria, 1982

Glenda Schuh's Family Weekend

Nearly every camper knows Glenda Schuh who has been a Canoe Island French Camp nurse for 27 summers and a lot of them remember her daughter, Maria Schuh, who accompanied Glenda to Canoe Island for years. This September, many of the Schuh family joined Maria and Glenda for a long weekend to celebrate Maria's 30th birthday. We asked Glenda to give us a little history of her many summers on Canoe Island.

By Glenda Schuh

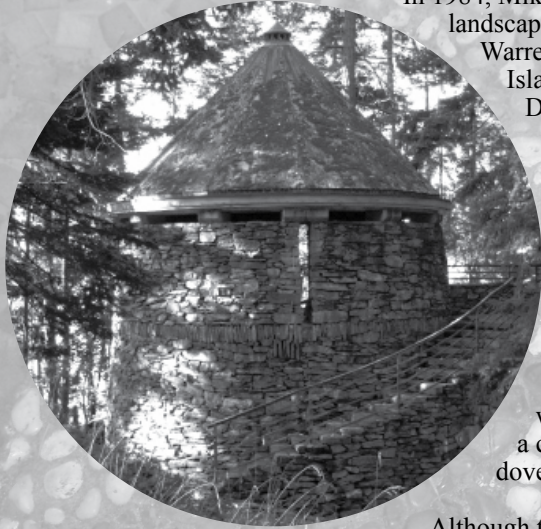
In 1981, we received a phone call from Skipper (Marge Wintersteen), Canoe Island Camp Director: "Have I got a deal for you!" It was a plea for help - a camp nurse was needed. Our family knew Skipper through Girl Scout activities and they said, "If Skipper needs help, you had better go." That was my first experience on Canoe Island. It was such a wonderful adventure that when the invitation was extended each year, I accepted.

Because I used some of my vacation from the hospital to go to camp, I asked for permission to bring one of my children with me each summer. Maria was the one to go, because the boys and Theresa were all playing summer baseball or working.

Maria began her 15-year experience on Canoe in 1982, first as the nurse's child, then as a camper, and on two occasions as kitchen assistant helping the cook. Her second summer in the kitchen she brought her best Canoe friend to work with her, Karla Heczkova,

Le Colombier Architect Visits Canoe Island

In 1984, Mike Hamm, a founding partner of the Portico Group, a new young innovative landscape architecture firm from Seattle, began to turn Canoe Island into founder Dr. Warren Austin's vision of France meeting the Northwest. Mike returned to Canoe Island this September to reminisce with the CIFIC board of directors and staff about Dr. Austin's legacy.



"He (Dr. Austin) wanted to put animals on Canoe Island. Our team looked at the Island and was enchanted with it, but we didn't want to make it a zoo," said Hamm. Over the next three years The Portico Group extensively mapped the island for vegetation, views, and plans for developed areas including fresh water ponds and marshes, an amphitheater, a stone hamlet for housing, a French-style place, an elaborate water feature between the rock fire ring and lake, an aviary and an enclosed flight area for butterflies.

From France that first year, Dr. Austin sent a postcard of a dovecote and windmill he and his wife, Bunny, saw in Provence – a round stone building with a conical shaped roof. One year later Canoe's icon, Le Colombier (French for dovecote) was finished complete with adjacent water feature and stone patio.

Although the entire plan was not finished, many Portico features enhanced the developed area of the 47-acre island. Besides Le Colombier, their work can be seen at the fire ring, the rock wall-lined road leading to the Chateau, the stone incinerator and the surrounding rock walls. On your next visit, take a look at the map by the office in Le Ritz to see Portico's original plans for the island.

"I was thrilled to see all the site analysis drawings at the Portico Group, 22 years later. And Mike's visit to Canoe Island was an incredible day of reminiscing and dreaming about the future," said Laura Grove, CIFIC board secretary and past camper and counselor.

Mike has offered to continue a partnership with Canoe Island French Camp and recently donated maps and other documents from those early years to camp. They will be on view during the 40th anniversary celebrations. Portico has offered to prepare a concept plan (pro bono) for the proposed new multi-use building and associated site improvements next spring for the camp.

"Working for the Austins at Canoe has been one of the highlights of The Portico Group design practice," said Mike. "It is wonderful to reconnect with Dr. Austin's legacy for Canoe Island and to see that the French Camp is flourishing with talented leadership."



2008 Board Retreat
L-R: Portico Group Architect Mike Hamm, Tracie Luthi, Joseph Jones, Micheline Bilodeau, Ben Straub, Tom Bilodeau, Laura Sommers, Cass O'Callaghan, Laura Grove, Chris Oliva, Jessica Haag

Glenda Schuh's Family Weekend cont...

from New Haven, CT. They worked hard with Tex and brought home recipes to serve 50 people or more! Some time was also spent with Bill Westlake, (caretaker for 31 years) and his maintenance tasks. That was wonderful, too.

Maria's 30th birthday wish was to celebrate on Canoe Island with family and friends, including Bill and Cele Westlake. The Ferry Queen arrived from dry dock repairs and shuttled happy guests to the island. The weather provided typical NW Washington variations - some rain, wind, clouds and sun. Meals in Maxim's, boating, swimming, archery in the rain, jumping off the dock at night with the bright bioluminescence, sleeping in the tipis and riding the ferries made lovely memories.

Life on Canoe is special and provides a unique experience for all who walk the trails, float in the boats, swim in the pool surrounded by hanging baskets of flowers with the beautiful sky above, and sleep in a tipi with its glowing light at night.

Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Austin for making your dream come alive for so many people throughout the world.



Schuh Family
L-R front row: Maria, Loren, Mike, Hayden
L-R back row: Madyson, Julie, Bob, Glenda, and Katie (Schuh) and Jake Depew



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2009 Schedule

2009 registration is ready to go on-line and by mail-in forms, both of which you can find under Registration on our website: www.canoeisland.org. Last year some camps filled by March and as we are already receiving registrations, now would be a good time to choose your summer session. Remember, if you register with full payment by the end of 2008, you can take a \$100 discount.



Campers

Open House
 Saturday, June 20

Session 1 Les Voyageurs
 Sunday, June 21-Friday, July 10

Session 2 La Révolution Française
 Sunday, July 12-Friday, July 24

Session 3 Le Monde Francophone
 Sunday, July 26-Friday, August 14

Session 4 Les Chevaliers
 Sunday, August 16-Friday, August 28



Adult & Family Camps

Spring Work Party
 Friday, May 1-Sunday May 3

Adult Yoga Benefit Weekend
 Friday-Monday, May 15-17

Memorial Day Weekend Adult & Family Camp
 Friday-Monday, May 22 -25

Labor Day Weekend Adult & Family Camp
 Friday-Monday, September 4-7

40th Anniversary Celebrations

Bistro Canoe Benefit Dinner and Auction
 March 20

40th Anniversary Celebrations
 1 Day Sunday, August 30

2 Days Saturday-Sunday, August 29-30

4 Days Saturday-Tuesday, August 29-September 1

Camaraderie

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