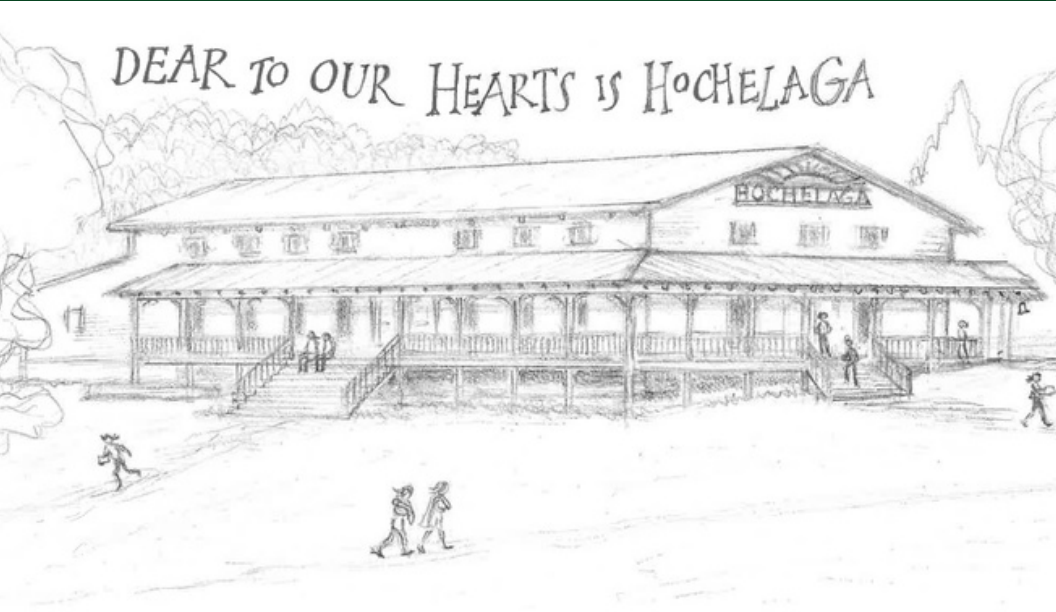




2024 Alumnae SCAMP



***News and updates about
Camp Hochelaga***

-

By alumnae, for alumnae

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Edited by:

The Camp Hochelaga Alumnae Committee

Beth Barovick (1963-1975)	Danielle Joyce (1997-2014)
Kelly Burgdorf (2001-2009)	Mary Lou Lord (1969-1982)
Lillian Curtin (2012-2023)	Helen Prakelt (1968-1981)

With assistance from the Camp Director
Christine Perry (2003-ongoing)

Recap from our 2024 Alumnae Dinner



We are so grateful for everyone who was able to join us this February at Burlington Beer Co for a night of community and celebrating together.

Inaugural Alumnae Award Recipient

At this dinner, we also had the opportunity to honor Moe Kaplan for her continued support of camp for all of these years.



“In 1997 Moe received the Hochelaga Spirit Award in honor of all her efforts. She has been unwavering in her dedication to everything Laga over the years. We have all benefited from her warmth, her wit, and her knowledge of everything camp.”

“She truly embodies the Hochelaga Spirit. Her years of writing the alumni newsletters and working tirelessly to keep former campers and counselors up to date on the state of Hochelaga have kept this wonderful camp alive for so many.”

Updates from Camp

“We are so excited for the summer ahead! This year we’ll be welcoming counselors from **over 9 different countries**, as well as launching our **No Bunk Empty** program as we continue to strive towards a welcoming, inclusive, and empowering community space for all.

YWCA VT is excited to announce our new partnership with Vermont Department of Children and Families, **No Bunk Empty**, aimed at giving every kid in foster care the opportunity to go to summer camp. This new initiative launched by our **Executive Director, Chelsea Rendlen**, is centered on the belief that no bunk should be empty when there are kids that want to experience summer camp. The pilot program is launching this summer at Camp Hochelaga!

We’re also incredibly proud to share that from surveys completed by our 2023 campers, **99% felt a sense of empowerment** from their time at camp, **94% felt understood** by their camp community, and **99%** were able to feel a **sense of belonging** at camp. We could not do this without our amazing staff and campers, and we’re so grateful for everyone who spent some time at Hochelaga this past summer.

Beyond that, the weather’s getting warmer and we’re starting to gear up for some **spring projects** before the campers come - including some beautiful new **wooden bleachers** for around our firepit constructed by our own Maintenance Manager, Tracy Perry, (which should be ready for use by the **Eclipse this April 8**).

We are so incredibly grateful to all of our alumnae who continue to stay connected. Whether through volunteering at camp, attending social events, volunteering on our Alumnae Committee, or just by reading this newsletter to stay up to date - we thank you for the time and love you continue to put into Camp Hochelaga.

With ‘Laga Love, -”



Senior Prophecies

Senior Prophecies appeared in the Scamps of days gone by...much like a Yearbook prophecy, every senior received a mention with a prediction of what they would be doing "In twenty years..."

Taken directly from the 1979 final Scamp of the season, here are some gems:

Sue Allard will be a sumo wrestler.

(So, she's not a wrestler, but she wrestles her French Horn and plays glorious music.)

Karin Bloom will be a professional artist.

(Hey, this one is actually true! Karin retired from a career as an elementary school counselor, relocated to New Mexico and is now creating beautiful pottery.)

Allison Brooks will still be wearing her tie-dyed shirt.

(Oh Allison, we hope this is true.)

Maureen Chaffee will have her hair grown down to her feet.

(Nope, I've seen recent photos. But she is teaching elementary school.)

Melissa Cherry will run in the Boston Marathon.

(Um, no, but she lives in Boston.)

Tillie Johnson will have permanently crimped hair.

(No, again, I've seen photos and Tillie is as lovely as she was at camp. Wonder where that prophecy came from - curling iron mishap?)

Amy McLanahan will still be insecure.

(Hardly! This college professor teaches math & stats - that takes a LOT of courage if you ask me.)

Barb Poulin will be an Olympic field hockey goalie.

(No, but she is still an amazing athlete running the trails in Colorado.)

Sherri Steinfeld will be performing on Broadway.

(Well, she lives in Manhattan and has been known to belt out tunes on that street, and also attends a few shows... so, yeah.)

Carolyn Stevens will play the guitar for the Beatles.

(She plays a lot of Beatles tunes on her guitar. Perhaps Paul and Ringo have heard her.)

Sandy Valine will have her own teddy.

(She has 2 adorable kittens, so if she was kidnapping teddies, I'm sure those days are behind her.)

What will YOU be doing in 20 years??

Ways to Give

Purchase Merch



Merch is available online, year-round through our [Camp Store](#).

Plus stay tuned for our 2024 restocks and updates!

Donate

When you donate through our [Donation Page](#), your funding can go towards facilities improvements, supporting our mission, or supporting our scholarship fund.



Volunteer



Join us at camp for volunteer days on **May 11** and **Sept 14**. More details can be found on our [Events Page](#) online.

Interviews with Alumnae:

EMME OVERTON

**Former camper & counselor, current
Co-Head of CITs**

What are you most excited for this summer?

I'm most excited to work with the CITs this summer! So many things to be excited for: seeing returning staff, seeing returning kids, meeting new kids - but really excited to work with our CITs. I feel like this is going to be another good year, and I want to make it another good year for them.

Stargazing or skipping rocks?

Stargazing



Favorite place to read a book at camp?

Any of the trees up on senior line. Particularly the tree with the big leaves.

Favorite taps song?

ROSE! My mom would sing me taps songs as a kid and my favorite was cannonball.

What does empowerment mean to you?

Empowerment means community, support, encouragement, and follow through.

Be honest, have you written on the bunks and what did you write?

NO! Way too scared for that. I have written on the beams of senior lounge though for banquet, and I wrote it right under my moms name.

We always say that we wouldn't be the same without camp. How do you see the influence in your day to day life?

I probably wouldn't have the good relationships I currently have ... relationships I've made at camp that I carry over outside.

Pet Peeves

HP: "Not cleaning up your mess in the cabin"

RL: "Campers who "forgot" something and ask to go get it"

PD: "Breaking the rules right after a discussion of the rules"

SR: "People who complain about the weather"

CK: "Bathing suits that do not dry before you have to put them on again"

CP: "Talking with your mouth full"

DL: "Forgetting to clean the bathroom"

SL: "Mosquitos buzzing around my head at night"

MR: "No dances with Abnaki"

DB: "Dances with Abnaki"

LH: "Rain during free swim"

FS: "creepy crawly spiders"

BR: "rocks in the lake"

DS: "KP duty"

TL: "hard mattresses"

BB: "Eileen's chartreuse bikini"

RD: "having to compete for the Golden Broom award"

BT: "when my tenties get way more mail than me"

DL: "having to stay quiet at flag raising and lowering"

EB: "waking up early then realizing it's Sunday"

SR: "rainy days Mondays...or any other day"

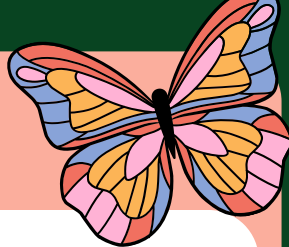
LD: "having to perform water ballet inside"

JH: "the 'Laga crawl"

LC: "cabinmates talking in the A.M. before bugle"



Dear Scampy



Dear Scampy, where can I find camp's upcoming events? - Sincerely, Looking to Hang Out

Dear Looking to Hang Out,

You should check out the [events page](#) for upcoming events through YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelega!

Much love,
Scampy

Dear Scampy, how do I stay in the loop about camp updates? - Sincerely, Out of Touch

Dear Out of Touch,

You can help our Alumnae Committee update our files by updating your [contact information](#). We'd love to hear from you! Feel free also to let us know where other alums are living and if you'd like to contribute to the committee in any small way! If you have any questions, please ask **Helen** (hr4bish@gmail.com).

Much love, Scampy

Dear Scampy, I'd love to be more involved in what alumnae are doing! - Sincerely Seeking Alums

Dear Seeking Alums,

Please email camp.director@ywcavt.org to join our Alumnae Committee, or connect through our [Alumnae Page on Facebook](#).

Much love,
Scampy

2023 Alumnae Reunion



So Cute!



Camp Friends are Forever



BFF!



XOXO

Interviews with Alumnae: Kathy Allard Whelan

Kathy is one of “the 70s” crew. She graduated from UVM and embarked on a writing career. She later became a middle school English teacher, and she is now retired and enjoying family and travel.

What years did you attend Hochelaga? 1972-1982

Where was your favorite spot at camp? Why? The waterfront. I’m part fish, I think. I’ve always loved water and the counselors were so great there. And there was so much to do - swim, do water ballet, canoe, LAUGH.

Which counselor stood out for you? What did you learn from them?

I had lots of counselors I really loved. Lynn Flanagan made me laugh, always. Jane O was amazing for her musical talent and for wit - that is one smart woman. Pat Huntsman, whose sister was a good friend from my home in Montpelier, was like an older sister to me (I was so sad when she passed away). Trine Wilson, Barb Groff, the Trask sisters (also from Montpelier), just so many lovely and talented women.

Do you have a favorite Taps song?

I love the songs “Today” and “Spider’s Web” the most, and I sang them to my children and now my grandsons.

Do you have a story that makes you belly laugh?

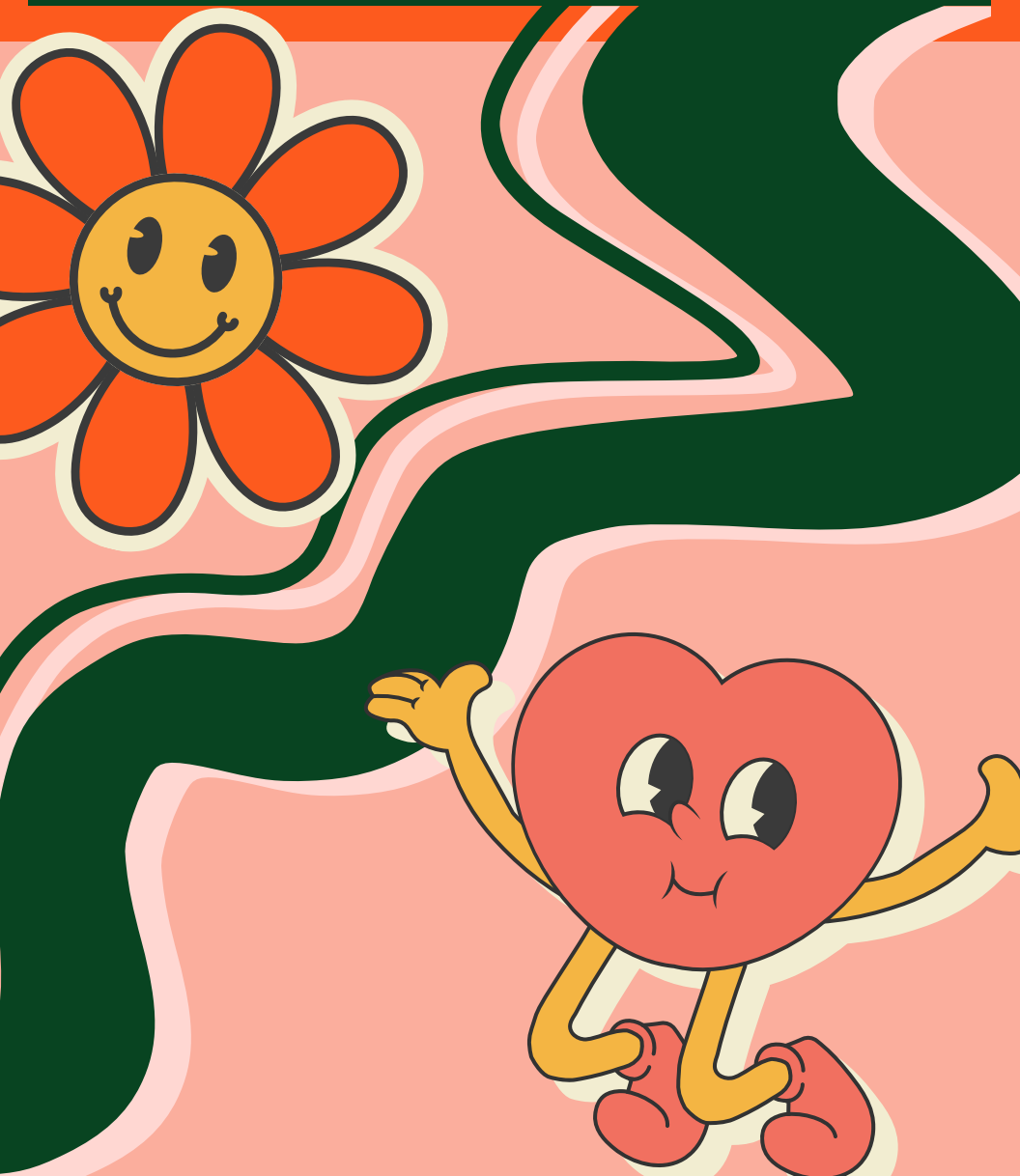
I didn’t think it was very funny at the time, but when I was a counselor, my friends stole all my clothes out of my trunk and replaced them with ensembles from the wig. I was leading the dining room, I was doing it in a very mod jumpsuit. (Editor’s Note: It was Jane, and your dining room ensembles were delightful. One favorite was the drum majorette.)

We always say that we wouldn't be the same without camp. How do you see the influence in your day to day life?

We are influenced by the people that we meet in life, and many of the people that I camped with I consider to be lifelong friends, even if it is years between seeing each other. Working on Scamp helped me decide to study English in college and I did have two careers writing - one in public relations/marketing and one teaching English. When I was teaching, I often thought back to the things we did at camp (song downs!).

If you could go back to 1919, what would you ask the original camp crew? Would you give them any advice?

I am curious to know what effect they thought camp would have on the girls that went there. I wonder if they knew what they started would last so long. Advice? I do think throughout the history of camp, women in society have been less than respected, and one of the things that camp gives girls is a place where they can be who they are without the societal preconceptions about women and what they can or cannot do. So I guess I would say, have an idea? Go for it!

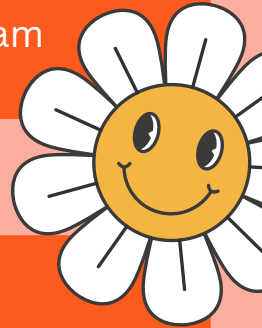


2024 Camp...



Ins

Writing candlelight letters
Attending alumnae events
Embracing the rock beach
Joining the musical
Coming to the eclipse event
Laughing until your belly hurts
Skylarking (bring it back!)
Stargazing
Canoeing
Trying a new activity
Putting all the toppings on your ice cream
Joining SCAMP



Outs

Not wearing sunscreen
Talking during rest hour
Mosquito bites
Whitecaps on last day at camp
Psycho fish
Talking during songs
Writing on the bunks
Wearing a wet bathing suit all day
Van eating mud
Snakes in the sports shed
Uncatchable wolf spiders



Coming Up Next...

YWCAVT Camp Hochelaga Presents:
Solar Eclipse Gathering!

TICKET PRICES:
BY DONATION

All donations will go directly to supporting our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women+.



FOOD!
LOCAL VENDORS!
MUSIC & FUN!



APRIL 8TH, 2024

1PM - 5PM

34 HOCHELAGA RD

SOUTH HERO, VT 05486



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

RSVP HERE

“Reflections of Camp Hochelaga From an Aging, Former Resident Handyman”

"O "Laga" we will ne`er forget no matter where we roam

It is the very best of camps, to us it's just like home
So give three cheers and let them ring throughout this world so wide

To let the people know that we in love do here abide"

The above words to this beloved Camp song have remained in the hearts and minds of countless campers and counselors over multiple generations.

Selected words -" laga", best of camps, home, love continue to carry lingering endearment. Hochelaga was my summer residence for seven years during the mid-1950s and 1960s. My home was a tent adjacent to the upper tennis court. I too, slept on a standard issue steel cot with model 3" - 4" mattress and ate the same daily meals. There was; however, an electrical outlet and a small bureau. My initial association with the camp began following completion of the sophomore year at Burlington High School, working in the breezeway of the old lodge, washing pots and pans in the deep sink, cleaning floors and assisting the cooks.

The following year I received a promotion to the coveted position of resident handyman which was to continue over the next six years. Each season, preparations for the reopening of Camp began in April during the school spring vacation with colleague and friend, Everett Dubuque, younger brother, Bert and support from two space heaters. Work involved painting the floors of several buildings and ;performing minor repairs as necessary. During the Memorial Day

"weekend, we began erecting and furnishing the tents (54 in number) attempting completion by the second week in June. Next in line was the waterfront including installation of two docks, preparation of the four floats, boats and canoes in time for the beginning of the formal canoe school and arrival of councilors, about one week prior to the official opening of camp for the summer. The councilors always provided important help in completing waterfront activities. Additional work around Camp included installation of loudspeakers, flood lights, air conditioners, screens, groceries, as well as coordinating annual; installation of plumbing for water, sewage and chlorination.

The long awaited opening day for Camp Hochelaga finally arrived after nearly ten months of solitude and emptiness. That first day, while exciting, was also usually quite busy with much lifting and carrying of trunks and luggage, rearrangement of beds and mattresses and many errands. It was, however, always a joy to greet and chat with returning campers and their parents.

The opening of Camp each summer mandated significant changes in my daily routine and responsibilities. I had moved into my tent "home" a day or two before and although each day was never the same, there were repetitive requirements and responsibilities between reveille and taps. These included checking and testing the water and sewage chlorination systems three times daily, cleaning and maintaining the three bathroom facilities (long, short and halfway) during the breakfast hour, KP duty in the kitchen -operation of two dishwashers, after each meal, serving ice cream cones each Sunday evening following dinner. For variety, usually each morning a

list of assignments awaited-trips downtown to the Camp frozen food locker (ex. 206 pork chops, 65 pounds hamburger or 225 pieces of chicken et.al.), trash and or garbage pick up and disposal, providing wood and making fires on cold, rainy days, replacement of milk containers in the dining room, periodic repair of tents, platforms, cots, road upkeep, waterfront issues, etc.

However, opportunities also arose for driving campers and councilors on mountain hikes, to St. Michael's Playhouse, movie theaters, roller skating, and the annual swimming competition in St. Johnsbury. During these trips, I was usually serenaded by the singing of many camp songs. It was a profound experience. Still fondly remembered with nostalgia. Occasionally, accompanied by the camp nurse it would be necessary to drive a camper for additional medical treatment. Two water ballet performances, open to the public, were scheduled each summer, which required setting up light and sound equipment. In the final week of Camp, the head councilor and handyman inspected each tent as to status and need for possible replacement.

The final day of the camping season eventually arrived. Its closure for me, marked a sorrowful moment which is occasionally recalled even today. As we know, Hochelaga typically closed on a Sunday. Councilors would remain at Camp Sunday night leaving for their homes Monday morning. My mission that Monday was to drive up the tent lines and pick up some eight large steamer trunks for delivery to the train station in Burlington. Following a final farewell to councilors, staff and cooks, I would leave Camp about mid-morning complete the delivery, stop at a fast food restaurant for lunch arriving back at Camp after mid-

day. Upon parking the station wagon/truck in front of the lodge, I stepped outside to the sounds of---- Silence, emptiness. It was expected but still remained somewhat unsettling. Any funk on my part was limited as in the distance, an approaching tractor could be heard. Everett had noted my return and was bringing his father`s tractor with wagon, to begin the demanding process of returning Camp Hochelaga to bed for the winter. If the previous review of preparing the Camp for opening in the spring could be compared to a brisk walk, the final closing requirements could be defined as a rapid sprint. In several years, approximately only two weeks remained before Labor day and the beginning of a new school year. Additionally, weather could be a complication as it was necessary for each tent to be completely dry prior to storage. Somehow, we managed to prevail and insure the Camp would be secure to await a new Spring. My work at Hochelaga continued into the Fall painting tent platforms and the wigwam porch.

In retrospect, I will always be very grateful for the unique opportunity, privilege and blessing to work and serve with legendary Director, Florence Weld and respected YWCA Vermont throughout my high school and college years. The many responsibilities provided and wonderful associations, relationships forged are fondly remembered. This experience represented a significant transformational period in my life. The memories would return at times during those long midnight watches on the bridge of a naval warship and in my later business and family life. Equally significant were the opportunities to witness the many campers and young women being influenced and transformed by the "Laga" Spirit, developing spiritually, physically, intellectually, culturally and emotionally. "There was

laughter, joy and fun; activity for everyone with pride
in a job well done"

"Now the light of day begins to fade away, the sun has
said good bye on this last day,
Father time is changing all the old to new but,
He can not change our love for you-*Dear Laga*"

Robert (Bob, Bobby) McBride
Camp Hochelaga 1955-1961 and continuing



***THANK YOU
FOR
READING!***