



Ninnescah News

Volunteers are Wonderful!

By John Stoesz

Camp Mennoscah is blessed with a host of volunteers. They really are the lifeblood of Camp. Volunteers put in and take out the dam, cook and do dishes, nurse sick campers, hand out medications and once in a while comfort the home-sick. They construct new buildings, perform maintenance, teach campers, clean, wash, paint, mow—whatever is needed to be done. I used to say that Camp has three main sources of revenue—camper fees, group rentals and contributions. But I was overlooking the donation that really keeps camp going—volunteers. So I began to add up the dollar value of volunteers so far this year. I estimated \$10 an hour (realizing that many of our volunteers are worth far more) and multiplied that times the number of hours the volunteers have contributed in just three areas.



Summer volunteers	\$ 92,000
Bathhouse volunteers	16,000
<u>Work and Play volunteers</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$113,000

If I add in the many other hours people have contributed, then it becomes clear that the dollar value of volunteers is Camp Mennoscah’s major source of revenue. I don’t say “thank you” enough! In this issue we highlight four of Camp’s “valiant volunteers”—Jim Yoder, Ken Janzen, Darrin and Karen Hiebert. They are just the tip of the iceberg. The danger in highlighting a few is that so many are left out. In future issues please watch for stories on other valiant volunteers. If you would like to nominate someone to

be featured in a future newsletter—please email your suggestion to office@campmennoscah.org.

Thank you Volunteers!

Camp Mennoscah Association Board of Directors

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Valiant Volunteers: Jim Yoder and Ken Janzen



By John Stoesz

Earliest Connections

Jim's earliest connection to Camp Mennoscah was about 1958. He, his wife Doris and their two young children participated in Family Camp. They cooked breakfast on "buddy burners"— #10 cans turned upside down with holes near the top for ventilation and at the bottom to slide twigs in to keep the fire going. Jim recalls that "the kids loved it."



people who think Camp is well worth the time." Both agree that it is a pleasure to call people to ask if they will volunteer because they are so willing. If for some reason they can't do it that day they'll say "please call again." Jim estimated the dollar value of the volunteer efforts on the bathhouses. If one takes 69 days times an average of four volunteers a day times an average of six hours a day times \$10 an hour—is about \$16,000 and counting! (The donated hours of some of the volunteers—like Jim and Ken—are worth far more than \$10 an hour. So \$16,000 is a low estimate.)



Ken's earliest connection to Camp wasn't until the late 1980's early 1990's. He grew up in Oklahoma and as a boy went to a camp there. His earliest memories of Camp Mennoscah are taking his three children to Summer Camp. He really got involved in Camp as a volunteer after he retired.

THANK YOU KEN AND JIM!

Jim and Ken want to extend a "big thank you to everybody that's helped." Volunteers came from nine Mennonite churches, one Mennonite Brethren and one Methodist church.

Continuing Connections

Both have quite a list of volunteer connections to Camp. Jim recalls serving on the old WDC Retreat Commission with Camp Directors Menno Duerksen and Bill Stucky. He headed up the construction of the Retreat Center. Ken worked on the Camp Director's house (Olivia's home), and also on the new swimming pool. Jim was on the planning committees for the house and the pool but was not involved in the actual construction because both times he left for Arizona to volunteer at the Hopi Mission School.

Super Volunteers

As if volunteering for Camp Mennoscah wasn't enough, both have deep volunteer connections with other nonprofits. Space prevents listing them all. For Ken it's the Mennonite Central Committee meat canning and the MCC Flatlander Bicycle Ride. For Jim it's Hopi Mission School (Ken has helped there as well) and Habitat for Humanity. Both volunteer with Mennonite Disaster Service. They recall working together on MDS projects in Picayune, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina and in Minot, North Dakota after a flood.

Bathhouses

Jim and Ken are the key volunteers for the bathhouses which are now nearing completion. Both have put in many, many hours and recruited lots of others to join them. Ken recalled, "The best thing is stopping at McDonald's in South Hutch for ice cream on the way home." He said, "The most fun is working with other

Camp Mennoscah Bathhouse Volunteers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Becker, Bob | Buller, Arlin |
| Claassen, Milt | Davis, Dean |
| Deckert, Goeffrey | Doerksen, Mike |
| Ediger, Byron | Enz, Jim |
| Erb, Kent | Frey, Rod |
| Friesen, Jerry | Galle, Omer |
| Goering, Jay | Harms, Ed |
| Harms, Merrill | Hiebert, Darrin & Karen |
| Janzen, Ken | Jost, Dale and Shirley |
| Linscheid, Paul | Mueller, Chuck |
| Nachigal, Frank | Neufeld, Bob |
| Ortman, Rick | Patterson, Dean |
| Peters, Ron | Ratzlaff, Arlin |
| Schmidt, Archie | Schmidt, Donavon |
| Schmidt, Mike | Schrag, Wayne |
| Stucky, Bruce | Stucky, Steve |
| Thompson, Miles | Thomsen, Ib |



Post Camp Staff Pizza Party



Valiant Volunteers: Darrin and Karen Hiebert

By Valerie Klaassen

Have you ever seen lightning strike the ground? Darrin Hiebert, one of our faithful volunteers, remembers being a youth camper and watching it rain from his cabin when lightning struck outside the boys bathhouse! While assisting in the kitchen during senior high camp, Darrin was moved by the singing on the final evening of camp. The campers had created community throughout the week and had developed meaningful relationships. It was especially touching for him to watch how everyone was included.



Darrin and his wife Karen became regular Camp Mennoscah volunteers when their children began coming to camp in grade school. They have cooked for summer camps, worked on the director's home with their Sunday School class from Whitestone and volunteered at Work and Play Camp. They recalled that they were a bit unsure of how they would be received at Work and Play Camp since they are younger than the typical attendees. However they were made to feel very welcome by the long time participants. They each take time off their jobs to come to Work and Play camp to assist with the many tasks following 10 weeks of summer youth camp. They've enjoyed staying through the week after this camp is over to finish up projects and enjoy the quiet atmosphere away from technology and everyday responsibilities.

The couple relates "Volunteering at camp is very rewarding in so many ways. Obviously, you know that your time helps camp make ends meet. But it's more than that. It's being able to do something even somewhat meaningless like paint picnic tables that people notice

when they come to camp. We enjoy helping maintaining camp for current and future generations."

Facilities Manager Gardell Stucky values their help even though they make him work harder. "They make me get all of these jobs around for them to work on! They will run out of things to do if I don't! I had Karen paint the Camp Mennoscah sign at main camp and while she was painting the letters she said the brushes I gave her were a "bomb". (Does that mean that we now have to be careful with that sign because it is dangerous?) And Darrin- when something doesn't work right, he takes it home. He took the bracket off the log splitter (said he was going to make it better) and took it home with him! Every time I come to work, they already have started working. What's the big hurry? Sometimes I'm not sure I want to go in the shed because I think they're trying to fix something that's not fixable. Because of them I have more work to do- we have TWO mowers to maintain now!"

Gardell said "All kidding aside, Karen and Darrin are the "bomb"! Their want of making the camp a better place is amazing! You can't ask for any two better people to come to camp and leave their "footprint" on the tasks in hand. Many thanks and blessings to them!"



Recently Karen and Darrin helped Camp acquire a Big Dog mower! THANK YOU DARRIN and KAREN for your generosity and for sharing your time and skills!





Camp Mennoscah

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Annual Meeting

By Valerie Klassen



A beautiful, sunny, fall day set the stage for the inaugural disc golf game and the first tours of the boy and girls bathhouses prior to our

Fourth Annual Meeting held on Sept. 20. Reports from camp staff included Olivia's humorous snap-shot of the summer youth camping program. Gardell's summary of grounds and

maintenance projects, and John's update on the budget and financial and volunteer contributions. The board chair Valerie Klassen, summarized board activities for the past year including finishing work on strategic planning with Advancement Associates, moving forward on the disc golf course after receiving a donation, approving hiring Deborah Dimmick as office assistant, building two bathhouses and making progress on advancement and marketing initiatives.

Jim Yoder, coordinator for the bathhouse project, reported on the construction of these two buildings.

Electrical, plumbing and finish work will continue through the winter with the goal of finished bathhouses for summer camping season 2016! Patrick Loganbill, board member, shared that Eric Prehiem assisted in designing and planning the new disc golf course. Valerie acknowledged the good work of three board members who are going off the board: Darrin Hiebert,

Arlin Buller and Jay Goering.

New board members appointed and elected at the meeting are Jon Miller, Willmar Harder and Mike Doerksen. The meeting ended with an expression of thanks to all our volunteers and donors without whom Camp Mennoscah could not fulfill its mission and vision.



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