



In Memory of Helen Swanson (1920-2020)

Helen Esther (Boesch) Swanson passed away peacefully August 30, 2020 just short of her 100th birthday. Helen was a true pioneer and served as Camp Homewood's first female counsellor in 1950 & 1951. She was invited to stay on following the summer of 1951 to do camper follow-up. **Russell Swanson** joined the ministry team in August of 1951 to look after agriculture, animals, and machinery. That fall Russ experienced a "crash romance course", and he and Helen were married in Portland, Oregon in February, 1952. Following their honeymoon (one that according to Russ never ended!) the Swansons moved to Quadra and their lifelong adventure began!

For the first couple of years, they shared the upstairs of the Homestead with Alf & Margaret Bayne, including a common kitchen and living room. In time, Russ built a small 2 room cottage that boasted neither electricity or cold running water. The cottage was home to

a growing family that eventually included Richard and Stephen. (Lucy and Gordon arrived after they moved into what is now known as the Guest House.)

Russ & Helen's monthly living allowance of \$12.50 was not guaranteed. "We literally lived off the land in the early years" Helen recalled. Life at camp was not easy, but they stuck with it "through thick and thin" for 28 years. Helen was responsible for tending a large garden (often with a baby in a basket!) and preserving hundreds of quarts each year to feed the team. "I loved the outdoors and much of the work was outdoors; gardening, clearing land, the tractor driven washing machine outdoors, and drying clothes outdoors." She and Russ were both butchers by trade. They raised cattle, milked cows and made butter, fed and slaughtered chickens, and of course processed beef for the freezer.

Helen provided food for the soul as well. She and Russ always had an open door, room at their table, and an extra potato for the pot! Helen planted many seeds in the ground, but more importantly, she sowed seeds in the hearts of others by sharing God's word. When Helen & Russ left camp in 1980, they didn't move far: Russ built a home next door and Helen enjoyed watching campers play at the waterfront for another 40 years. Helen always had a pulse for the ministry and she covered us with prayer for 70 years. Helen was known and loved by thousands. She will be greatly missed!

Gifts to honour Helen's life and ministry may be made to the **COVID-19 Survival Fund.**



A Summer Like No Other

This year we hosted **28 Quadra Islanders** for **Day Camp**. This was just 2% of our projected summer registration, but in spite of the low number, the fun factor was off the charts! Kids and leaders had a great week, and the campers eagerly soaked up Val Knowles' messages and the Jesus stories I shared after lunch every day. One particular highlight was watching Rudy* throughout the week. I spotted him right away at check-in on Monday morning: hoodie up, head down, and arms crossed. Being at camp didn't seem to be his idea of fun! After the staff greeted him, his hood came down and he started to relax, but he remained suspicious... As the day progressed he moved from observer to participant. After his mom picked him up she sent me this text: "Thank you. Rudy* had a great time. Said it was 6 hours of mega fun. Can't wait 'til tomorrow, and he says he won't be shy." Turns out he loved it so much that he brought his best friend for the rest of the week! All of our day campers had a blast.

Over the next 6 weeks we ran **day camps for Work Crew and LITs**. **28 teens volunteered 380 days** of manual labour (almost 2,000 hours!). They split & stacked wood, sanded & finished cedar live edge benches, dismantled tent platforms, moved lumber, spread gravel, assembled tents and bunkbeds for 'Rent-A-Tent', and more. Getting stuff done was good, but the **best part of Work Crew was building into the lives of teens and encouraging them to know, love, and serve Jesus.**

Adults stepped up too! In total, **481 days of skilled labour** were donated. Volunteers helped with mechanics, carpentry, painting, gardening, driving, cooking and much more. Over 100 jobs were completed from our 'To Do' list. Camp is looking great! Many thanks to everyone who helped out.

Paul Bailey, General Director



"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28



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Box 40, Heriot Bay, BC, V0P 1H0
Phone: 250-285-3483
camp@camphomewood.com
www.camphomewood.com

It is an ill wind that blows no good.

Disruption is everywhere, and nothing is 'normal' – especially at camp! 36 spring rentals and our entire summer camping schedule were all cancelled. So many of our fall groups have backed out that it doesn't make sense to run any. By Christmas, our revenue losses will approach \$1,000,000. Camp Homewood is in dire straits.

We are not alone. On August 10 the Globe & Mail reported "About 35 to 40 percent of camps in Canada will be forced to permanently shut down this year due to the devastating financial impact of COVID-19 restrictions, says Stéphane Richard, president of the Canadian Camping Association. He anticipates closings will surge as high as 90 per cent in 12 to 18 months if the government does not directly fund the industry. These bleak projections are based on survey data compiled between May and June by the CCA from a collection of nearly 1,000 provincial camps that host 900,000 kids every summer."

We are thankful for all those who donated part of what we owed them back to camp! Even so, camp refunded more than \$150,000 in pre-paid camper fees, which drained our funds. Looking ahead, our Board has determined that **we need to raise \$467,000 on TOP of our regular donations** in order for camp to be on solid financial footing through to July 1, 2021. Meeting this goal would enable us to restart ministry programs in 2021 (either Day Camp in communities on Vancouver Island or "normal" summer camp programs at Homewood). It would also allow us to take advantage of being closed for the next 8 months to improve camp. Wouldn't it be great to refinish the Dining Room floor, renovate bathrooms, or upgrade the Swanson Cottage in memory of Russ & Helen while we have the time to do it? Winston Churchill is credited with saying "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

I believe that leadership is about creating a preferable future. ***I would like to invite you to be a leader in the midst of this crisis by giving to our COVID-19 Survival Fund!*** Together, we have an opportunity to create a preferable future for children, teens and families through Homewood's ministry. Give now, because your gift can help turn a calamity into a blessing for thousands of people!

GOOD NEWS: God is at work! This spring I felt like camp was in the middle of the Joseph story (Genesis 41). Remember the seven good years followed by seven years of famine? I am clearly hoping that the pandemic doesn't last that long, but God filled our 'barns' to prepare us for this season in the 6 months prior to the lockdown through dessert fundraisers, year-end giving, and a special waterfront appeal. As a result of God's provision, we were able to make the most of the last 6 months to improve camp for future ministry. Last year we received just over \$300,000 for designated projects, and the progress around camp has been transformational.

Please give today... because there's no place like Homewood!

Yes, I would like to Support the
COVID-19 SURVIVAL FUND

Visit our website www.camphomewood.com/donate to read our [Designated Giving Policy](#)

I would like to contribute: One time
 Monthly



Please include a VOID cheque or Visa/Mastercard info:

Card No. _____ Exp: ____/____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____



Staff Changes

- **Aaron Gole** (Guest Services Manager) left camp to pursue other opportunities before COVID hit. Aaron served for 14 years in Maintenance, Program, and Guest Services. Aaron & Julie and Jake, Oli, and Charlie were an integral part of the fabric of Homewood, and are deeply loved!
- **Rebecca Stauffer** (Food Service Manager) retired in June after 4 years to return to Princeton, BC to enjoy time with family. Rebecca created over a million fabulous meals during her 14-year career at Ness Lake Bible Camp, RockRidge Canyon, and Camp Homewood. Her gentle leadership and care for others will be missed. Rebecca's husband, **Cliff** is a man of many talents, and his creativity and craftsmanship will bless campers and staff at Homewood and Camp Bob for years to come.

The past 6 months have been very difficult. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-March, we immediately laid off eleven Interns. Four year-round missionaries (see below) and three part-time staff including **Kortni Loeve** (Executive Assistant), **Stacey Contenti** (Guest Services Manager), and **Heather Bailey** (Housekeeping) have been laid off since.

- **Becca Bieri** (Office Manager) was the cheerful voice on the phone when you called the office. Becca left at the end of August, and will now call Victoria home.
- **Marshall Brown** (Program Director) was laid off at the end of March. Marshall brought many new ideas to camp. His quiet leadership, quirky sense of humour, and keen insight will be greatly missed. Pray for Marshall as he learns German so he can attend Bibelschule Brake in Lemgo, Germany in October.
- **Darrah Chmelyk** (Intern Coordinator) was laid off at the end of March along with her Interns. Darrah returned to run Day Camp and to oversee Work Crew in July. Darrah will coordinate the Intern program this fall & winter.
- **Rick Thompson** (Assistant Cook) served at camp for just 10 months before being laid off. Please pray for Rick & Nola and their family as they transition back to Alberta.

In the midst of multiple farewell parties, we did enjoy one 'Welcome to Camp!' shindig when **Melody Hayes** moved to camp in June to become our Food Service Manager. Melody is a Red Seal Chef and has a degree in Hospitality Management. Please pray for Melody and her husband Alex as they settle into life at Homewood and Melody cooks for our Fall Interns and helps out in the office.



Prayer Corner

- **Pray** that God will provide for staff who have left camp and for those who continue to serve.
- **Pray** that the pandemic will end before next summer, and that we will be able to run again!
- **Praise God** for our new docks and the many improvements to the waterfront. God made miracle after miracle happen!
- **Pray** that hundreds will give to our **COVID-19 Survival Fund**. Our 2020 fundraising target is **\$467,000**. Every gift counts. God can do much with little (remember the loaves & fishes!).
- **Praise God** that we sold 2 surplus buses and our old docks! Pray that we will be able to generate more cash as we continue to clean up camp.
- **Praise God** for the various government subsidy and grant programs. 11 Interns went on CERB, camp qualified for CEWS (the 75% wage subsidy), and we were awarded \$84,000 through Canada Summer Jobs to hire young people. This will allow us to hire 18 Interns (5 summer, 7 fall, and 6 winter) to help improve camp.
- **Praise God** for a donation of new refrigeration equipment for our 'temporary' walk in cooler and freezer. Plans are being drawn to double the size of our 40 year old kitchen.