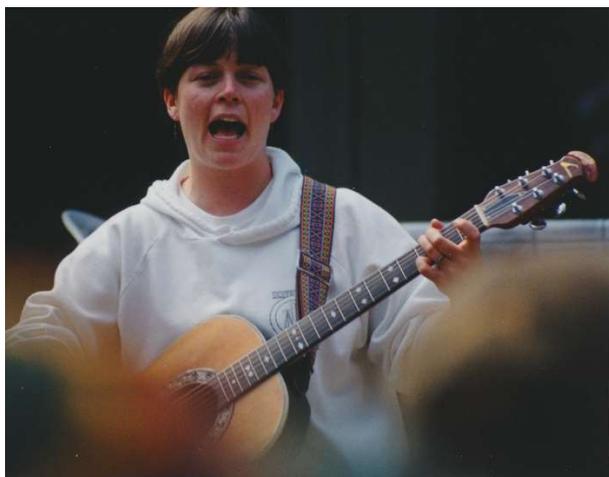




2016 Annual General Meeting

Saturday May 13, 2017 at 5:30 pm
Location: Letson Park, West Montrose





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday May 13, 2017, 5:30 pm

Location: Letson Park, West Montrose

Welcome

Distribution of Annual Reports

Acceptance of Minutes from 2015 Annual General Meeting

Chair's Report

Executive Director's Report

Approval of 2016 Financial Statements

Program Report

Property Report

Personnel Report

Voice of the Membership: Open Forum for Questions and Discussions

Closing



BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

2016 was not the easiest year in Silver Lake's history, but thanks to strong leadership, great summer and off-season staff, and an amazingly supportive community, it was still one of the camp's most successful. Camper numbers were outstanding, the camp's physical infrastructure has never looked so good, outdoor education is growing, an increasing number of constituency members and groups avail themselves of our facilities, our finances are in good shape, and we continue to enjoy the involvement of dozens and dozens of volunteers who care about the camp and its success. In so many ways, it's "good news story" after "good news story".

However, 2016 was also a time of challenges. It was the year that Dave Erb decided to hang up his ED hat after an astonishingly successful run. Dave took over when the camp was, frankly, struggling. He turned things around, grew our camper numbers, built a new business (outdoor ed), expanded the scope of our retreat programs, established new relationships within our constituency while nurturing the old ones, rebuilt the dining hall after a fire, led the two most successful fundraising campaigns in the camp's history (with the active involvement of super-volunteer Jim Erb), and effectively rebuilt almost every single piece of infrastructure at the camp. Not bad for an eight year run. We all grieved his departure.

And then he didn't quite leave. (More on that in a moment.)

The board found a new Executive Director – Karen Cornies. And she is great. We are confident in her abundant gifts, her deep commitment to everything the camp stands for, and her eagerness to take on the role and the future. I am confident in Karen's ability to lead the camp to new levels of excellence. I also want to acknowledge that every senior leadership transition is a challenge on some level for everyone involved. Organizations develop habits around long-standing leaders, people come to take things for granted and become non-critical about things we haven't had to think about for a long time. Karen is asking good questions, nudging the board in worthwhile directions, and working extremely hard. I know she will welcome the support and good will of everyone involved in the camp, and I know she will ably build on the success of our last few years. Welcome Karen!

At the very beginning of the summer season, Dave was taken out of play by a freak concussion. His recovery was long, but blessedly very positive. Nonetheless, he left a rather large "Dave-sized" void during summer. And as noted earlier... that's a big void at SLMC. Into that void stepped Melanie Cameron, Summer Camp Director. If one person gets the "hands down no dispute most valuable player award" in 2016, it has to be Melanie. (She would quickly object and talk about her team, no doubt. And that would be highly appropriate, but Melanie simply must get some special mention.) Not only was Dave out of the action for most of the summer, but so was Rebekah Caldwell, our other senior leader, and for a time, one of Melanie's Assistant Directors too. Melanie could be forgiven for feeling a little like Job and shaking her fist at the heavens from time to time. But the board saw very little of that. Melanie stepped up and stepped in, kept the show on the road, and protected staff and camp from the painfulness of these challenges. We are so grateful to her.

At the end of 2016, Melanie decided to pursue new directions early in 2017 after helping to hand off critical activities to Karen. Though we obviously wish her well, she will be much missed by everyone.

Rebekah Caldwell, our Outdoor Education leader, also deserves special and heartfelt mention. She has grown our outdoor education program to a point of profitability, and dramatically expanded the reach of the camp's impact. Rebekah's activities have increasingly helped anchor Silver Lake in the local community, developing a day camp initiative that runs during quiet weeks. The day camp has led many in the community to appreciate what our camp has to offer, and also resulted in expanded outdoor education programming. And Rebekah, too, was critical to the success of camp this summer, especially as she returned from her own medical leave to help Melanie carry the summer program over the finish line. It was a race well run, but one that left those involved rather completely depleted. Thank you Rebekah.

David Penny, too, was a linchpin in the success of summer 2016. David took on the new role of spiritual life coordinator and revitalized the camp's approach to spiritual programming – a high priority for the board. My own children came home talking excitedly about David, Quest, and David's stories. We are thankful he shared his gifts with us. And we are also thankful for the steady support he was able to provide to Melanie. Thank you David.

I also want to express special appreciation to MCEC for their support of the spiritual life position. Their financial contributions were key to our ability to experiment in this space in new and exciting ways. Thank you MCEC.

After summer camp, it was leadership transition time. Dave started to return to work slowly, Karen began to take the reigns, and Dave departed for new things. Then he came back – in a way that is of great mutual benefit to everyone involved. Dave has returned half-time for a period of months to continue to assist with the transition, to help wrap-up our "Finish the Job" campaign, and generally set us up for success. It turns out this is good for everyone. It's obviously good for us, and it also allows Dave to do a job he cares about while simultaneously pursuing his new, entrepreneurial passions. A true win win.

I will confess, during the greatest challenges of 2016, I did not always feel grateful in the moment. But as I look back on the year, I am flooded by a sense of gratitude. Gratitude to the camp's leadership, to its committed staff, to its supporting volunteers and constituency, to its dedicated board and its generous donors. And, of course, the camp is grateful for the hundreds of campers who make Silver Lake an exciting part of their summers. They are Silver Lake's reason for being. To so many, Silver Lake is home. Silver Lake is fun! Silver Lake is a place of positive transformation and growth. What happens at Silver Lake is holy. It is sacred ground. To everyone, thank you for your part in making it possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Weber
Board Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It was a unique year at Silver Lake with one Executive Director experiencing significant health issues in part of the summer and fall, and another Executive Director starting in the Executive Director role.

Much thanks goes to Melanie Cameron who stepped up to carry much of the load, to the board who went to extraordinary lengths to support the work of the camp, to Rebekah Caldwell who took up pieces of the Executive Director work and to summer staff and volunteers who pitched in extra support to keep camp going. What a team!

There were other difficult moments in 2016 as well. In the fall Elinor Hansen was diagnosed with celiac disease and a rare form of cancer. Several weeks later she was hospitalized and passed away on March 7, 2017. Friends of Silver Lake continue to mourn her passing. Elinor was a camper, CILT, counselor, head lifeguard, CILT Leader, board member and volunteer.



Silver Lake is truly a vibrant community and I am thankful to be part of it.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cornies
Executive Director

Summer Camp

2016 was another great year at Silver Lake and we have so many people to thank for it – staff, volunteers, campers, parents, our many donors, and our supporting church constituency.

Our overall camper numbers were up over 2015 (813 vs. 732). Generally all camps were well attended with the exception, as is usually the case, of our two week Arts & Adventure camp. Our number of MCEC campers remained strong. The summer staff really pulled through this past year, particularly with the additional health challenges faced by the leadership team. The vast majority of staff from MCEC churches.

This was our second summer with a new leadership structure in place. In January 2015, Melanie Cameron started as Summer Camp Director in a 0.5 FTE role that's part-time throughout the year and full-time in the summer months. Summer staff really appreciated her leadership style. Also on the

leadership team were Jessie Castello and Chris Morgan as Assistant Directors and Rebekah Caldwell as Outdoor Education Director.

In wrestling with the question of how to deepen Christian faith formation at camp, the leadership team launched the "Spiritual Life Coordinator" position, made possible by financial support from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, and hired David Penny for it. A big part of the role was to be a resource to staff, encouraging them in their faith journeys and building their capacity to share faith with campers. The theme for the summer was adapted from the 2016 MennoMedia Vacation Bible School curriculum.

Outdoor Education Report

We had a good year for outdoor education. Between January-December 2016 we had approximately 28 groups, 6 of which were new bookings. The month of June was booked solid with day and over night groups. Spring 2016 was the first time that we hired full time Outdoor Ed staff for the full month of June.

Climbing wall construction happened in October 2016. This will hopefully bring in some more local school groups.

We are looking forward to a great 2017 season. It has already been a busier winter than the past and spring is also shaping up nicely. We are excited to get to use our new Climbing Wall this spring.

Retreats & Rentals

All retreats had strong numbers and programming.

Retreats in 2016 included:

- Fathers & Kids Retreat (January) - FULL
- Winter Youth Retreat (February) - FULL
- Women's Retreat (February) - FULL
- Young Adults Retreat (April) - STRONG FIRST YEAR NUMBERS
- Junior Youth Retreat (June) - LOTS
- Men's Meat Retreat (September) - LOTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please see attached Financial Statements;

#1 2016 Summary Operating Statement

#2. 2016 Balance Sheet

#3. 2016 Financial Review Report

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Beech
Treasurer

PROPERTY REPORT

Thank you to all of the donors, summer camp volunteers and work weekend volunteers who continue to invest time, money and energy into our great camp!

In 2016 Hemlock and Balsam cabins were replaced in time for summer camp. The climbing wall was constructed, ready to go for the 2017 season. Juniper cabin was taken down, piers poured and building permit secured with anticipated completion in May 2017.

PERSONNEL REPORT

According to the by-laws of the corporation, six board members are elected by the membership for 3 year terms (maximum 2 consecutive terms), 1 is appointed by Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) for a 3 year term (maximum 2 consecutive terms) and 1 elected by the summer staff for a 1 year term.

At the May 13, 2017 annual meeting, Chris Steingart and Ron Rempel will leave the board after completing two terms. Nominations for these two board positions will be presented at the meeting. The following four elected board members will continue:

Mark Weber (2018)**

Chelsey Rempel (2018)*

Pam Fehr (2019)**

Scott Beech (2019)*

The MCEC representative on the board is Wendy Janzen (2018)*

The current staff representative is Jocelyn Cameron, Staff Representative (August 2017)

* First 3 year term

** Second 3 year term



CONCLUSION

Great things are happening at Silver Lake. We continue to hear so many first-hand accounts of the power of camp and stories of lives that have changed! In 2017, we'll continue to focus on our main ministry – summer camp. We'll work hard to resource and support our “non-summer” programming including Outdoor Education, Retreats and Rentals. But most importantly, we will remain open and attentive to the Holy Spirit to see what great and wonderful things God has planned for Silver Lake in the year ahead.