

Dorion Bible Camp

*70th Anniversary
1946 - 2016*

Building on the Foundations

Memories & Testimonies

A MINISTRY OF
one hope
CANADA



Introduction

“Building on the Foundations”

For over 70 years now, Dorion Bible Camp has been building on a “sure foundation”. It’s because of this foundation that the ministry of Dorion Bible Camp has impacted so many thousands of lives over these 70 years. The need for ministries like Camp Dorion to reach children and youth for Christ has never been more critical than it is at this present time. And we will only continue to impact for Christ as we make certain that we are continuing to build on the “sure foundation”, with Jesus Christ as the “Chief Cornerstone”.

As you take time to reminisce and remind yourself of the past history of DBC during these 70th anniversary celebrations, how about thanking God for those individuals (building blocks) that He used to impact you at Dorion? For those of us who were privileged to serve as staff, board members and volunteers, let’s thank God for allowing us to be used as His “building blocks”.

It’s good to remember how God has worked in the past because it reminds us that we can trust Him to work in the future. The construction needs to continue, both spiritually and literally. And I believe that God will need many more “building blocks” before the work is completed.

I find it to be incredibly exciting as I contemplate the tremendous possibilities for Dorion Bible Camp over the next seventy years. I wonder what new people God will bring on board for this work, how we “old guys” will continue to serve and what the camp ministry will look like ten, twenty, thirty years from now. My prayer is that God will continue to use Dorion Bible Camp to advance his kingdom and that we will keep on building on the good foundation that has been laid over the past seventy years.

Donna Barron
Board Chair
Dorion Bible Camp



Donna leading the Nativity Play
at Primary Camp 1987

A PLACE TO CAMP

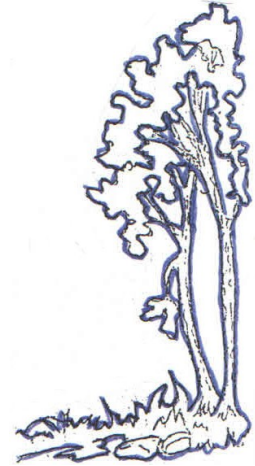
(Excerpts from Mae Mouland's piece written for the 25th Anniversary 1970)

ONE AFTERNOON in 1969, Mont Parks and I were sitting at the ball field, half watching the game, while scribbling down words to a new camp song. We fit them to the "Ontario" tune and that evening Jim Ferguson and Mont presented it to the teens. It took and has now become a favourite of all our campers.



Give us a place to camp
And a place for fun
And call this place
 Camp Dorion.
A place to swim,
Where waves are high,
The greatest place
 Underneath the sky.
Give us a ball and bat
And a volleyball
And don't forget
 The dining hall.
A place to camp,
A place for fun
 At Dori-ori-orion!

Give us a place to camp
And a place for fun
And call this place
 Camp Dorion.
A place with grass
And flowers and trees
And know the God
 Who has made all these.
Give us a place to sing
And a place to pray
And learn that Jesus
 Is the way.
A place to camp,
A place for fun
 At Dori-ori-orion!



MANY YEARS before this was a song, however, it was a prayer....the prayer of a committee of interested men and women who in 1940 ran an ad in the local newspapers which read thus:

"Canadian Sunday School Mission desires a camp from June 29-July 6.
Anyone having a camp they would like to have used for the Lord's work
please phone...."

And so different camp sites were used until 1946 when a farm at Dorion was up for sale: a tiny bit of clearing by Lake Superior surrounded by nineteen acres of bush!

They bought it for \$400.00. It was far from the city with the road bad at that time. But God, Who can see into the future, could see in a few years a good highway, a city by-pass and a growing community stretching east...Hurkett, Nipigon, Red Rock, Cameron Falls, Schreiber, Marathon, Manitouwadge...with hundreds of children needing to know Him...and God knew, too, that we would be in the centre of a friendly community, where kind folk would supply meat, potatoes, lumber, and where around us would be garages, stores, propane service, doctors, lumber yards, bush and mosquitoes!

1946 - 1950, under Mr. John Heska, CSSM Provincial Superintendent, we saw the erection of eight buildings: the first dining room, now Parkdale Place and Birch Bungalow, the kitchen, now Vacation Villa, and six cabins.

IN 1946, the opening year, eleven staff looked after forty-two campers for one week. Last year fifty-nine staff cared for over seven hundred campers over a period of eight weeks, plus a Labour Day Conference, at a summer program cost of \$16,000. We have to admit it's been pretty exciting!

I WANT right here to pay tribute to two men who helped a great deal in the early years: Mr. Roy Johnston, who so many evenings came down from Hurkett, and Mr. John Beaton, who helped build the present chapel by the lake, the staff house and Tumble Out. John and Virginia spent their honeymoon here at Dorion.

IN 1950 Eleanor Moyer took over the responsibility as Camp Director. The same year I applied to the Mission and was sent here. I was scheduled to go to Sault Ste. Marie, and then the Ontario Superintendent, Mr. Muddle, changed his mind. Miss Moyer didn't know what to do with me. Sometimes she still doesn't! But I stayed.

ONE OF THE first things we bought was a push lawn mower. That was a great day, when the little clearing that had been hay field was transformed into green lawn. We planted flowers and cleared brush. Well-meaning folk said, "You can't make a lawn without a roller." You can...but don't ask me how many mowers we have worn out in the process. And don't try it unless you're younger, like we were then!

SECONDLY, we bought a coloured slide camera and began to advertise...in the schools, churches, homes, anywhere. More and more children came. The little dining hall bulged at every joint and proverbially we hung them from the rafters at night.

With an extra push from the Department of Health, we launched into our biggest building program: a new kitchen and dining hall. It began in 1955. Actually I can't say when it was finished, because it isn't. Work on it is a continuous process. Just this Spring the kitchen was panelled and some trim put around.



IT WAS OUT OF A DEEP FEELING of our own inadequacy that the Dorion Bible Camp Alumni was formed in 1960. Our first campers were now grown up, and had benefitted from the camp when young, because older folk had contributed. Should they not be sharing their means and abilities to benefit other children? Dr. Jerome Harvey became the first president. Jerome had been at camp as a teenager and had built our first raft. It was constructed so efficiently that once during an offshore breeze it got away loaded with campers and Carl Leschied just pulled up two of the boards and used them as oars. That's what we call "building in case of emergency!"

THE FIRST ALUMNI project was the insulation and panelling of the dining hall with the white ceiling. By this time the fireplace had been remodelled three times! If we learn from our mistakes, we must have acquired a lot of wisdom, for we have made so many! One of the most apropos Bible verses for us is Lamentations 3:22, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed."

THEN THE ALUMNI took on the enormous task of bringing in the hydro. The Company would put the poles in for one third of the way, but we had to do the other two thirds. Have you ever tried to lift a hydro pole without proper equipment? If so, you know why at that time we wrote this song:

Nobody knows the trouble we've had ... putting in the hydro.
Nobody knows the trouble we've had ... putting in each pole.
Sometimes it's up; sometimes it's down... O yes, Lord.
Sometimes it's almost in the ground... O yes, Lord.
Nobody knows the trouble we've had ... putting in the hydro.

OUR NEIGHBOUR, Mr. Ray Trowbridge, shared in the work and the cost. Others helped and the Lord gave beautiful weather every Saturday right up until December, until the poles were in. Martin Busby and Matt Yakimchuk did the wiring. The Cameron Falls crew donated a Saturday for the final hook-up and on August 19, 1963 we turned on the switch in the dining hall!

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of our next president, Mr. John Morrison, the little two room motel was put up; last year the tuck shop was enlarged. This year's projects included a new chapel floor and the installation of the telephone for \$350.00. Mr. Parks is now president, Jim Ferguson, Secretary-Treasurer and John Morrison, building manager. Their next project has to be to repair cabins, so that we can keep our licence.

I've jumped a bit ahead of the story in order to keep the Alumni projects together. Now back a bit...

SPRING 1952. Eleanor came to me one day and said, "Did you see the new counsellor...looks about fourteen?" The new "boy" counsellor was Mont Parks. Actually, he was nineteen and had already had a year at The Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music in Michigan. His campers would ask him what he was going to do when he grew up. But In nineteen years, we have come to appreciate a stature measuring far beyond his 5 foot 7 1/2 inches. His summer home is Tumble Inn and so many boys ask to go there we are considering charging them extra for that privilege. Eleanor keeps threatening to tear Tumble Inn down, but both Mont and I are leaders of the Opposition Party, the N.D.P.: "No, don't, please!"



1955: Dick Ohlman & Monty Parks

MONT'S COMING marked the beginning of a contact with GRSBM, a school which for many years has provided us with some excellent counsellors and speakers. One of these was Mr. Dick Ohlman, who came first with his trumpet, then his brother, his fishing rod and later his wife! Now we try not to let him come without his carpenter tools. Dick is now the Ontario Superintendent, and so actually is our boss. We used to tell him what to do. Now we tell him what we want done! He built the office in 1968 and the front porch on the dining hall in the Fall of 1969. I don't think we've told him yet what's next.



1966: Emily "Millie" Pytyck

We are told that food is 50% of the success of any camp. Some have the art of cooking and some don't. Miss Pytyck, or "Millie" has it. Millie can cook for five or 150 and it tastes delicious. The only reward she asks is that people eat it and enjoy it! We have been enjoying it for the past nineteen summers.

A HISTORY of Dorion Bible Camp would not be complete without a tribute to one more person, Mr. John Anderson, who was with us for ten years. When he died in 1965, I thought a lot about Mr. Anderson's unassuming but important role at camp.

I REMEMBERED the many spring mornings he so patiently had waited for us to pick him up...how inevitably he reminded us that we drove too fast...how we stopped at McKenzie so he could buy ice cream...how we were never allowed to lift anything...he was always a gentleman.

I REMEMBERED the neat piles of wood I could see from my cabin window...the wash water kept hot...the many logs carried from the beach...the warm blaze of the fireplace for morning staff

meetings...the coffee...the axes and knives sharpened...the brush cleared...the grass scythed...the leaves raked...the ditch kept cleaned out.

I REMEMBERED the times I had come upon him kneeling in prayer or reading his Bible...the testimonies in chapel, urging the children to give their lives to Jesus while young...the kindly smile and word he had for each of them...the way he added his gift to the children's missionary offering each week...how often he paid for some child to attend.

YES, these are things I will always remember, for you see, people like Mr. Anderson one never forgets.

THERE ARE so many more things I could tell you about today, like the time just before Thanksgiving Camp when we found a dead moose on the shore. The Dep't of Lands and Forests told us to take it in a canoe down the shore. The big problem, of course, was not that of two ladies lifting a dead moose: we didn't have a canoe!



1966: John Anderson

OR OUR FIRST wedding here, which required putting a back door in the chapel and the pop crate step broke when the bride went to sign the register.

OR THE MOST frightening experience of our twenty-five years when Bob Parks and Earl Parrot thought Granite Island looked interesting, and so started out in a leaky rowboat the 6 1/2 miles, leaving at 8 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m. the next day, becoming the object of a concentrated search by commercial fishermen, Lands and Forests aircraft and private planes during one of the roughest storms ever seen on Black Bay...and the encouraging words of the O.P.P. officer who looked across the choppy water and muttered, "Lake Superior never gives up its dead." and the consolation of the verses from Ps.107: "For He commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof...He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still...then they are glad, so he bringeth them into their desired haven." The next year we struck row boats off the camp program.

OR PEOPLE: people like Earl Keatley who donates two beef cattle every spring and Mr. Bond who cuts and wraps them, the Keatleys who supply potatoes from their barn, the Ed Keatleys who are always there by the side of the road for whatever we need or Leonard Beer who has been fixing things here for 25 years, or Mrs. Plunkett, responsible for all the flowers every year or Mr. Whybourne who engineered the new well last Fall, or Malcolm Galbraith who put in a new septic tank and field with his backhoe this Spring.

OR THE PROBLEM we had getting a camp licence this year because our cabins have too many cracks in them and at the same time are not properly ventilated!

WHAT SHALL I more say? For time and space would fail me to tell of camp romances, of counsellors and speakers, nurses and cooks, who have given of themselves, have eased itching bug bites, fed hungry children, washed mountains of dishes, emptied garbage, overcome homesickness, life-guarded, played, sang and won boys and girls to Christ. "These too, having obtained a good report, and receiving not much in material reward...God having provided for them and the camp, without them, could not have operated..."

God built Him a camp and filled it with treasures untold.
He carpeted it with soft rolling lawn and columned it with a beautiful lake.
He studded it with pine trees, balsam and birch.
He bordered it with deep, shadowed forests and filled them with song.

Now He calls hundreds of boys and girls and summons them.
They come from the Lakehead area, each with expectations and hope,
The glow of adventure in their eyes and in their hearts excitement.

Out of the bounty of earth and the labour of men,
Out of the longing of hearts and the prayers of friends
God fashioned a camp in love and blessed it with divine purpose
And we call it DORION.

For the Dorion Bible Camp we praise Thee
With its Christian fellowship so sweet,
As we all with one accord meet around Thy precious Word
Or commune before Thy mercy seat.
Speak, O Lord, to our hearts, we pray Thee,
That our lives to Thee may yielded be.
May we seek to do Thy will,
Serve Thee loyally until,
In the glory land Thy face we see.

* * *

May thousands in the realms of day,
Who shall with Jesus reign,
Point here and each rejoicing say,
"There I was born again."

(For the complete text contact Richard Pepper at rpepper@tbaytel.net.)

The Beer Family at Dorion Bible Camp by Bevans MacMaster

As we begin celebrating 70 years of ministry at Dorion Bible Camp, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of the Len Beer family.

Len and Irene were quite involved in the sixties and seventies, serving in maintenance and kitchen areas of ministry. Len was quite adept at just about any repair job, ably assisted by his close friend **Martin Busby**. I've been told that there wasn't a door that could not be hung perfectly by Len.



1961: Donna Beer (Lakeside Chapel in background)

Irene spent many hours exercising her cooking abilities in preparing meals for hungry campers. Remember, those were the days when absolutely everything was prepared from scratch. Donna often quipped that her brother **Roger** sometimes hesitated to eat unless he was assured that his mom had a part in preparing the food. Not a bad recommendation.

Roger and Donna always accompanied their parents to Dorion and soon began sensing camp life, albeit from baby blankets and baskets. As they grew older, both youngsters soon began to become involved in camp ministry activities.

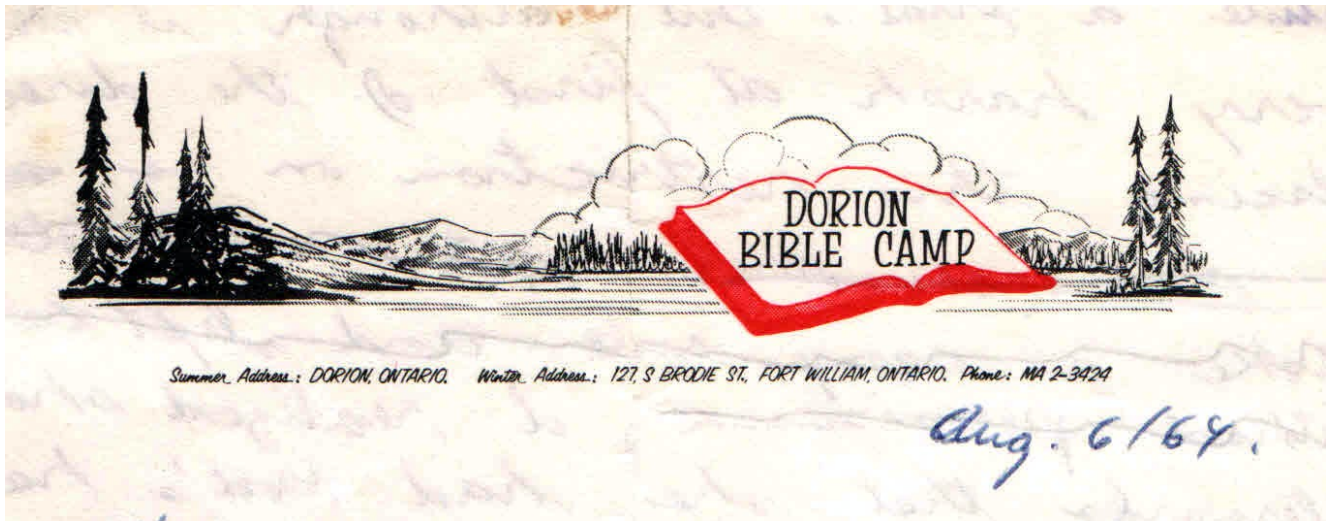
Donna revealed that **Eleanor Moyer** sometimes called on her for help. (Nice to have an IN with the director). They often recalled the special camp sessions that occurred, including dress-up times, talent shows and even Christmas celebrations in mid-summer. Donna contributed time in the kitchen as well, joining in the singing that helped to pass the time as dishes were washed and pots scrubbed.

After receiving her nursing degree, she served as **camp nurse** for several years until medical issues brought her active involvement to a close in the early eighties.

Activities at Dorion Bible Camp were not totally restricted to summer months as **special events** were often held during the **Winter and Spring**. One of Donna's favourite memories was that of the sounds created when the blocks of ice that had been pushed up to the shore of the camp property began melting and disintegrating. The result was a distinct crackling and tinkling, which to her sounded musical in nature.

When I had **the honour of marrying Donna** almost 30 years ago, I gained a beautiful wife, a loving home and, as a bonus, Dorion Bible Camp. **Len, Irene and Donna** are all now with the Lord, however I'm confident that they will be celebrating Dorion Bible Camp's 70th year with us in heavenly fashion.

Letter Written About Camp in 1964 by Pat Hutton (née Harbron)



This summer at camp has really been a blessing to me in many respects. When working on dishes most of the time the chance to talk to campers is very limited, but even by being cheerful in my duties the unsaved campers can notice the change Christ has made in our lives.

Since I was saved out here as a camper ten years ago, I never really seemed to grow in Christ through trials and testings until this summer. The testings could appear first trivial to most folks but to a girl who in the last year had almost put boys first place in her life, the deprivation of associating with a new boyfriend in the person of a young counsellor was quite a trial. But although it seemed very harsh at first of the director placing this restriction on us, I realized shortly afterwards that she had God's hand in her decision. I have really learned more about the Lord since that time and have realized that He wants me to put my whole life in His hands. Even in matters as having boyfriends are unimportant now. My only aim in life now is to please Christ and let Him live His life in me. No selfish desires of mine can take first place since He is in the prominent place.

A real blessing in my life this year was to see all the young people coming to know Christ as their Saviour and Friend.

Especially at Teens Camp I saw how powerfully God could work through the speaker and prayer. A girl from our cabin was saved in the evening service. I had devotions with her in the morning as she prayed for her unsaved friend at camp; the friend was saved in the morning service. It's wonderful to serve Christ here.



1963: 10 Yr Bibles for Fred, Donna Martin & Pat Harbron

Memories of Dorion Bible Camp by Ben Wagar

Where do I begin? Some of my earliest memories of my life are from Dorion. Our mom, Kay Wagar (pictured right) was a cook there for a few weeks each year, so my sister Betty and I stayed there with her even before we were old enough to be campers. I remember being in the nurse's cabin with her.

When I was finally old enough to be a camper it had to be in Tumble Inn with Monty Parks. More about this amazing man later.

Dorion Memories:

- Swimming (buddy system) in ice-cold Lake Superior, having to walk a mile for it to be deep enough to swim.
- Climbing the tallest tree there, right to the top.
- Miss Moyer with her whistle
- The crowded dining room: cream of wheat for breakfast.
- Lining up for the tuck shop.
- Camp fires, and singalongs on the beach.
- Hikes and cookouts along the Wolf River.
- Funny accents of the American Bible school students who came to help for the summer.
- Baseball & Archery
- Skits (Pencils "Two for five!")
- Sword drills & learning new choruses in Chapel.
- 5 year New Testament & 10 year Bible, which I still have.
- Being a Joe Boy (getting a lifetime of experience rather than monetary remuneration, according to Miss Moyer) -- and she was right!
- Learning to drive standard on the old camp truck.
- Thanksgiving Camp and bringing the raft into shore in October.



So many great memories, almost exclusively of the old camp. I left Thunder Bay before the new camp came along. It brings me great sadness to learn that the original property has been sold. So many kids were affected in a positive way, and many were brought to the Lord there. I'm sure the money will be used to make the Dorion experience even better.

I cannot talk about Dorion without mentioning Monty Parks. This man had a profound and lasting influence on my life.

When he first moved to Thunder Bay, he boarded with us for a few years. We shared times around the kitchen table, and he would let us listen to his records. He worked at A.R.C.

industries with my mom. You could actually sit on the cardboard furniture he created..

He asked me to sing in the Monty Parks Choir, and I said I would if Steve Sakiyama would. Pretty presumptuous. Soon we were singing in the bass section. Little did I know the influence that choir would have on me. When the Milleys moved to town, Vicki, Val, Tim & Tom joined the choir. Vicki and I have been married for 39 years, now with two grown children, and three grandchildren. Out of that choir the New Life Quartet was started. Vicki played, and Tim, Tom, Steve and I sang. Vicki is still playing at our church, and for me when I sing there periodically.

Thank you for letting me share these memories with you. I hope your memories are as great as mine.



Memories of Dorion by Steve Sakiyama

I loved every moment of **Dorion Bible Camp**, mainly because of the enriching relationships during my time there. I have lost touch with many of these folks (and some have graduated to be with the Lord) but I still remember them as if it were yesterday.

As a Camper:

Meeting Jesus in beautiful surroundings, through the singing and speakers proclaiming the truth of Scripture, and in the lives of the staff: **Miss Moyer, Monty Parks, the James family, Ruth Juntune, Millie Pytyck.**

As a Joe-Boy:

Peeling potatoes, splitting wood, cleaning outhouses, scraping the griddle and just plain having fun with **Kevin Pollock** (pictured above, right), **Kevin Pytyck, Nigel Weaver,** and **Ben Wagar.**



As a Counsellor:

Watching, praying, leading young campers in **Tumble Inn, Tumble Out,** and **Parkdale Place**

Sorry, won't be there in April – but have fun.

Memories of Dorion Bible Camp by Raven Morningstar (Mo Andrusyk)

Helping Dave Marshall with Bush Survival, teaching orienteering, and working in the kitchen with Millie. Favourite songs: "Happy Am I", "The Camp Song", "Pass It On".

Twin suppers, lumberjack supper and dressing the part of a lumberjack, and dressing all in plastic bags for the rain and wearing all the bible camp shirts and jackets and modelling them during skit nights in the chapel.

My most all-time favourite memory is heading out on a treasure hunt around the camp; the final stop was the tool shed to receive my brand new bike. Mine got run over at camp and I wasn't sure what I was going to do to get around.



1987: Mo finding the treasure, her new bike!

Blessed and Blessing at Dorion Bible Camp by Kevin Pollock

Looking back on Dorion Bible Camp from 1946 to 2016, we see lots of changes: different Directors, board members, costs, regulations, campers, and staff.

But throughout the 70 years it is the same gracious God who has richly blessed DBC, providing for many different needs. This very special God never changes; He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The Lord Jesus was welcomed 70 years ago, and today we are still presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



I don't know the number of campers since 1946, but I know there were good times had by all, and many can say, "Dorion Bible Camp is where I was born again, and I am going on living for him."

Camp has been a blessing for me, starting in 1966 when God called me as a camper to this work. Twenty years ago I wrote a testimony for the 50th Anniversary booklet, and so here I will share some highlights of my time with Dorion since then.



1995 - 2004 I co-led canoe trips (often to White Otter Castle) with **Dave Shaw**, helping with devotions. My faith in God was tested by strong winds and rough water, but I praise God for safety on the water and the roads. I enjoyed worshipping God in the beauty of lakes, rivers, the forests, the rocks. Though we did see moose swimming in the lake, there were no bear encounters!

I still canoe with campers at **Dorion, Round Lake Bible Camp** and **Camp Gitchigomee**, but only on day trips.

Starting in **1997**, along with many others, I helped Don Tulloch build **Eagles Nest**. It took 3 years to build, and finally opened in **April 2000**. Before it was finished, we enjoyed our first **New Year's potluck lunch in 1999**. A highlight for me was helping Don in early December bend the shingles with a heating torch, along with helping build tables and chests of drawers.

On October 12th, 2001 God opened another door to serve in carpentry at camp, this time to participate in the **Quick Build** of a **Camp Office/Director's Home**. **Dennis Seargeant** led 58 volunteers in this two week project. Charlie and Margie Wilson moved in **Oct. 25, 2001**.



Eagles Nest under construction

2004 to the present: I am a cabin leader, canoe instructor, and kitchen helper each summer.

July 8, 2006: I received a canoe paddle as my gift for **40 years** at Dorion Bible Camp.

After I retired in 2011 from 30 years with Canada Post, I have continued volunteering at **Dorion**, along with **Round Lake**, and **Camp Gitchigomee**.

August 10, 2012: I received my **45th year** gift, a leather-covered Bible with my name on it.



Staff Home/Office Building

January 2014: I joined the Dorion Bible Camp **board**.

October 3, 2015 other board members and I, along with **Martin & Shannan Lord** who had arrived in April, ran our first **Fall Golf Classic** at Dragon Hills: 28 golfers attended and \$4000 was raised.

In conclusion I have to say thank you to our very special God who promised to do a work in me (Phil. 1:6).

I have enjoyed 48 wonderful years at Dorion Bible Camp.

My future plans are to work with Dorion as a board member and volunteer, developing the property, and sharing the Gospel with the campers

-- along with teaching them canoeing!!!

Monty Parks

March 18, 1933 - March 17, 2001



For 48 years **Lamont Royce Parks** (Monty) served at Dorion Bible Camp every summer, singing, playing his guitar and telling Bible stories to the children in a way that only he could. Eventually, a small cabin was furnished for his use: "**Lamont**".

In **1996** Monty shared these recollections of his summers at Camp Dorion:

*In **1952** I arrived to be a counsellor after a two day bus trip from Michigan--a green American in a foreign country. What I found was a small clearing on the shore of Black Bay. There were five cabins, a rustic dining room and kitchen, a chapel with dirt floor, no hydro, no running water (except when we ran for it to draw it from the well) and a small staff which included **Eleanor Moyer**, "**Mo**" **Mouland** and **Millie Pytyck**. I loved it. This became home for each summer.*

*Years came and went and so did many campers and staff. We changed from oil & gas lamps to hydro power and from outhouses to flush toilets. But I'm glad to say that one thing hasn't changed: The purpose and message of the camp is still the **Good News of Jesus Christ**; to know Him and make Him known.*

Monty was born and raised near **Grand Rapids, MI**. After graduating from the **Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music**, he worked for **Youth For Christ** in Belleville until **1968**, when he moved to the **Lakehead** to work for **ARC Industries**.



Monty was known for his inspiring music, but also for his humour expressed in skits (such as "**Pencils**", "**The Peach**", and "**How to Wemove Peanut Butter Fwom the Woof of Your Mouf**") and jokes. He often commented, "**B.I.A.K. - Boy am I confused!**"

A highlight for Monty was his trip to **Israel**, a gift from Camp Dorion in **1982** to honour his thirty years at camp.

Monty was known for his confident faith and firm convictions expressed in a **gentle and respectful manner**. Again in 1996, he expressed how he had learned not to jump to quick conclusions:

God's work in lives is often not visible at the time. There were campers who seemed to be intensely interested in the Gospel, but grew up choosing not to follow the Lord. But there were also campers who appeared uninterested, but who were actually trusting Him and today are serving Him. We must faithfully sow the seed and water it, but only God can do a real work in hearts.

Eleanor Moyer (May 12, 1918 - August 4, 2004)

Eleanor Ruth Moyer was born **May 12, 1918** at Dickson Hill, ON, the eldest of six children. She attended **Toronto Bible College** 1939 to 1941.

A shy Mennonite farm girl from southern Ontario, she arrived at the train station in Port Arthur in **1940** to begin her summer job teaching **Vacation Bible School** for the **Canadian Sunday School Mission**. Her duties included obtaining permission from the school boards in seven different rural communities, travelling by bicycle, finding her own accommodation, locating and inviting the children, creating lesson plans and activities, and planning closing programs for parents each week. For this she was paid the sum of **\$15 living expenses** for two months.



Amazingly, Eleanor returned the following two summers. Eventually she was hired by CSSM to work year-round in the area. In **1946**, the Mission purchased the 19 acre property on the shore of **Black Bay** for a Bible camp, and in **1950** Eleanor became the camp's "**interim**" **director**. Back then the concept of women in leadership was frowned on. Her "interim" job lasted for **22 years**, during which time she grew **Dorion Bible Camp** to become a modern, full-facility camp that served hundreds of campers each summer.

She continued to **teach Bible** in schools, but in **1953**, only a few years after taking on the job of camp director, she decided to open a Christian bookstore as well. With a \$200 loan from her father, Eleanor opened "**The Christian Supply House**". Over the **thirty-two years** that she operated the store, it continued to thrive and expand. Eleanor became a member of the **Thunder Bay Business Association** at a time when women were rarely seen in the business world.

In **1985**, Eleanor retired and sold her successful business to **Hull's Publishing Company**. It continued to serve the community faithfully until closing **Feb. 15, 2014**.

After a **trip around the world** to visit former campers serving in missions, Eleanor moved into a **condo on Brodie Street**, where she enjoyed entertaining, teaching, hosting Camp prayer meetings, and writing letters.

She received an award in 1973 from Christian Camping International for **outstanding service to Christian camping**. She was declared "**Alumnus of the Year**" by Toronto Bible College in 1974. A **business award** from the city of Thunder Bay is among her treasures.

But what "Miss Moyer" treasured most were her spiritual children -- lives changed and empowered for serving others -- and the words she can anticipate on That Day: "**Well done, my good and faithful servant.**"

Much of this article was adapted from "End of an Era" by Marianne Jones. See mariannejones.ca/end-of-an-era/.

Seasons of Life by Karen Hyckenberg (née McGratten)



If you stick around long enough in any one place, you will experience every season of life. I cannot fully give an account as to what my experience at Dorion was like without touching upon these times.

Dorion was my refuge each summer, whether as a camper or as a staff, my summer place of knowing where I belonged and had purpose. I know I annoyed my non-camp friends every September by constantly going on and on about my summer and the people I met there. I couldn't help it.

It was a place where, as a child, my mom saved up all her paper money from the previous year to attend a second week at camp. It is a place where, she sat beside me at age five as I fell asleep in my mashed potatoes out of pure exhaustion from the day's activities. It was a place where I moved past simply being siblings with my older brother, David, to being good friends.

It was a place where I was greeted every morning at the entrance to the dining hall by an individual in cow shorts who not only knew *my* name, but the names of *every* camper that followed (this meant a lot to me **Richard Pepper**). It was a place where I couldn't wait to see certain cabin staff again, and the positive influences they have had in my life (**Amy James, Carly McKeever, Eva Cullis**).

It was a place where I was exposed to Christian music, like DC Talk, Jars of Clay and Newsboys. It was a place where I did flips off bunk beds and gave my testimony at the campfire. It was a place where my faith was celebrated, not ridiculed.

It was a place where I was given responsibility at a young age, and learned life-long skills (I know how to mop properly because of you, **Karl Wilson**). It was a place where my immaturity as a Christian and as an individual existed. I wish I knew then what I know now (an apology to my kitchen girls for not letting them read *Harry Potter*).

It was a place where I bonded as a kitchen girl, all in tears, reading *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* late at night. It was a place where my friends and I unsuccessfully tested our boundaries by trying to stay up 15 more minutes past curfew to finish the end of "Top Gun", knowing there was at least 45 minutes left.

It was a place where accountability and forgiveness went hand in hand, with the encouragement and challenge that it is what you do next that matters. (The bell and Zelda's never looked so good after having to wash all the paint off from a late night prank.)

It was a place where I learned that God wanted us to pray about things both big and small, such as for the boy who lost his glasses in the lake to only find them at the end of the week: a near impossible feat in the wavy waters of Black Bay. I've lost count how many times I've walked out to the raft, a football field length in distance from the shore, in order to lifeguard in a wetsuit and sweaters.



It was a place in which I found solace after the death of my dog and Oma, both within the same summer. It was a place where the love of a wise woman walked patiently and lovingly with me during the early stages of an eating disorder, and who continues to play an important part in my life even though distance and busy lives make it difficult to connect (I love you, **Margie Wilson**).

It was a place, later on in life, where mental illness robbed me from being able to enjoy my time there, and made me miss my first summer in 15 years. It was a place where I had to learn my time there wouldn't last forever and my positions of Head Hospitality Hostess and Waterfront Director would be filled by someone new. It was a place I had to eventually say good-bye to, as life demanded other responsibilities and passions.

And even as Dorion Bible Camp, or Camp Dorion, has its own seasons of life and changes, sometimes making me unable to relate as I once did, it is still a place I cherish and look back with tremendous fondness, laughter and joy. The bell will always keep on ringing in my mind, similarly to the sound of the train whistle carrying on in the night.

I find comfort in knowing I will be reunited with some of the people my memories hold who are no longer here: Lydia Frey, Inez Williams, Monty Parks. All of us drawn to camp in one way or another because of and for Christ... the 70 year constant of Dorion Bible Camp. What a privilege it has been to serve and be served, in this place, for 16 of those 70 years.

Mt. Lister



May 20, 2005 marked a momentous time at Dorion Bible Camp. That was the day that construction on **Mt. Lister**, our **40 ft (12.2 m) high, four-sided climbing tower, with zip-line** began.

By the time camp started, the tower was ready and many came out to celebrate its completion and grand opening on **July 3, 2005**. It was named after **Dr. George Lister**, a Thunder Bay man who had a passion for climbing and who got the climbing program started at Dorion over ten years previously.

Since that opening day, the tower has been one of the biggest attractions to staff and campers alike. Over the course of the five weeks of 2005 that it was first offered, plus the LUCF retreat, we had **over 500 people** either climb or zip, or both! The most challenging of the four sides is affectionately named "**Everest**".

Leila Edmond (a cabin leader) was the first to make it to the top, and **Jade**

Forsberg was the first camper.

The potential for use of the tower is fantastic and DBC has been using it as a tool for group- building, leadership skills, and just plain ol' fun!

Note this prayer request from the Fall '04 Dorion Digest:

In **1995** Dr. George Lister contacted Charlie, volunteering to introduce rock-climbing and rappelling to the camp. A **rock face near Pearl** was chosen for this, and George and a friend drilled holes and embedded hook holds at the top.... Two obstacles remaining are its **distance from camp**, and the **wait before it can be used again after rain**.... We have dreamed of building a tower on our own site, but other expenses have hindered us. It seems so impossible, but lately we have focused on God as **the God of impossibilities**. So we have decided to make it a **serious matter of prayer**. Would you join with us in praying that we would be able to build one. In honour of the late Dr. Lister we plan to name it "Mt. Lister" when it is completed.

Praise the Lord for answered prayer!

God's Faithfulness to Dorion Bible Camp

by Keith Baxter

Even though I grew up in Thunder Bay, I didn't attend Dorion Bible Camp until I was 21.

In 2005, when I had no plans after Spring tree-planting, my friend Chris Vieira asked me to be a Cabin Leader at Dorion. It certainly hadn't been on my radar, but it ended up being a very enjoyable and challenging 5 weeks, and that summer was the start of regular involvement with DBC.

The following year I became Summer Program Director, and ended up doing that job for three straight summers. To this day that remains as one of the most enjoyable and memorable jobs I have ever had.

At Dorion I had the amazing opportunity to see children introduced to Christ, young Christians grow as they worked in community towards a common goal, was challenged in my faith by other leaders that I am so grateful to have been able to know. I have even learned some skills that have helped me in my career, not to mention the lifelong friendships I developed there.

Thinking back over my time at the camp I have so many memories that it's hard to share just one that captures how important the camp is to this region.

It's pretty amazing that we're celebrating 70 years of God's faithfulness through the ministry of DBC, and of the faithfulness of many people. In my time at DBC I witnessed over and over again, when it seemed that an obstacle was too great to overcome, whether it was a financial need, broken equipment or a staffing need, God always provided what was needed at the right time.

And because of people being willing to serve, even when it seemed like things might be falling apart, children could come to a safe and fun place, be fed good food, meet new friends, know that they are valuable and loved, and be introduced to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Camp ministry has changed over the years, but it still exists because God is using it for His purposes.

After a couple of years of not being involved with the camp directly, I was approached about joining the DBC Board of Directors. I was humbled, and accepted the invitation. Over the three years that I served on the Board, there were many challenges. At one point it looked as if the camp might not survive. But it did, and God continues to use DBC to reach those having the least opportunity to hear of Christ and disciple believers for living and serving through His Church.

I haven't been closely involved with DBC for the last two years, but I've had the joy of seeing some exciting things happening there, and I'm sure there will be many more to come. God is faithful, and we have 70 years of Dorion Bible Camp history to prove it.



At Home at Dorion Bible Camp by Miana Whitfield

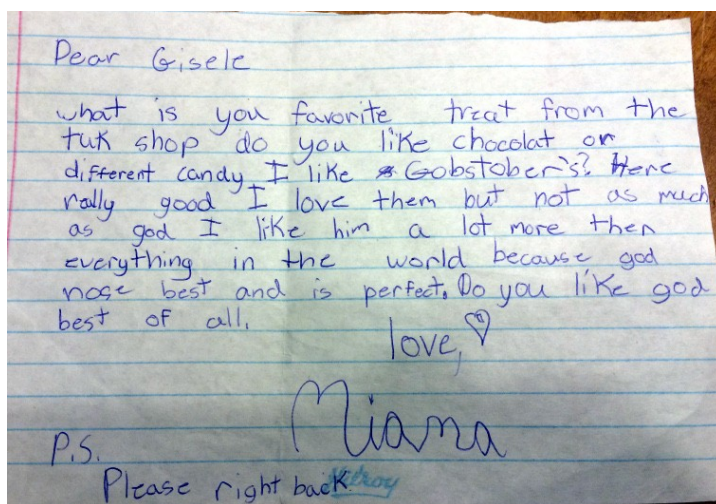


The first year I camped at Dorion Bible Camp I was six, although that wasn't the first time I'd been there. Every year I'd ride down with my parents to drop my older sisters off for their week of fun. I was envious, what was this magical place they got to go, why couldn't I go?

So I'm sure you can imagine my delight when I first got to go. Finally I wouldn't have to take part in the ride home with my parents. Although I had never been, I knew almost everyone at Dorion. Friends of my parents or my sisters. Consequently, they also knew me, which is why as soon as I walked through the door to my first ever cabin I was greeted with, "Of course they would put you in my cabin."

Well, what can I say, it's no lie that I was an overly excitable child and that's before tuck time. I took pride in the fact that I was known by almost all the staff. I knew I was safe there.

As I got older, I entered that phase where I would get homesick. I couldn't spend a single night at a friend's house without crying and demanding to be brought home. However, as summer arrived and I was dropped off at Dorion, as usual, I felt at ease. No tears. No demanding to be picked up. In fact, not a thought about my parents unless they sent a letter or we were discussing parents in a group.



Looking back now, I realize that the reason I wasn't homesick was because I was home: surrounded by people I know loved and cared about me. To this day I consider those people my family.

I want Dorion Bible Camp to be a place that kids can come and have a sense of security, the way I do. I found a home and a family in Dorion Bible Camp. So as Dorion Bible Camp is celebrating its 70th anniversary, I'm celebrating my 10th year anniversary being at this camp. I intend to celebrate many more years to come.

P.S. I still do love God the best. Some things just can't be changed.

A Family Introduction by Martin and Shannan Lord (Dec. 2015)

We are a family of five, **Martin and Shannan Lord** and we have three children: **Nicola (14), Victoria (12)** and **Timothy (7)**.

We have relocated from **South Africa** and arrived in Dorion on 21 April 2015 to take up the directorship of Dorion Bible Camp with **One Hope Canada**.



Martin has also recently taken up a part-time pastoral position at **Dorion Bible Fellowship** with approval of One Hope Canada. Joining the Dorion Bible Fellowship has been a blessing as they reached out to us with friendship, love, practical support and prayer.

We have travelled here from a small farming community outside **Johannesburg**. Full-time mission work for us started in **2004** with **Youth for Christ** to run their training centre.

In **2003** Martin was serving as a **Pastor** in **Christian Family Church**, as well as employed as a **Sales Manager** for an imported foods Company and Shannan worked as a **Food Services Manager** in a hospital group. But we both felt our careers were leaving us little time for family and ministering to people.

We were appointed by **Youth for Christ** in **January 2004** and, leaving behind “lucrative” careers, we started an incredible adventure at what we thought was our forever place. The ministry was challenging and demanding but hugely rewarding.

It was with sadness that we handed over our ministry in South Africa. It was especially hard to leave behind our family, adopted children and friends, but God had already started to stir our hearts as far back as 2009 that change was coming.

There was huge excitement arriving in Dorion, along with a load of work awaiting us to prepare for the summer. Our mission so far has been to facilitate revival of the **Dorion Bible Camp** and work with **One Hope Canada**, bringing Hope to all Canadians, as expressed in their mission statement:

“We present the Gospel, to those having the least opportunity to hear of Christ and especially to children and youth, and we disciple believers for living and serving through His Church”

One Hope Canada and the board together decided to **sell one of the two Camp properties**. We are in the process of facilitating a sale of the east property [Now achieved. - Ed.] All funds generated will be spent on infrastructure development of our west property for our future ministry plans.

Our ministry heart is to see God restore and rebuild the family, the foundation of society. Even though Shannan and I come from patchwork families we still believe the values and principles are redeemable and new foundations are possible despite the past. Malachi 4:6 says “He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers....” And Luke 1:14 says “it is He who will go..., to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” So we too trust God to change hearts and lives with the message of love, family and community.

PARTNER US IN PRAYER:

Legal status in Canada – We are currently in Canada on a **5 year temporary visa** as missionaries, but wish to become permanent residents. Currently we have no medical benefits, and this can be quite stressful with a family of five, as well as costly as we pay for travel insurance to cover unexpected medical needs. We can only apply for Permanent residence once we have been here a year and so we need your prayers for this process to go smoothly. Pray too for understanding and clarity regarding the legal issues of the process. Pray for a speedy change to Shannan's status which was submitted in October.

Our son Timothy has Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum (the part of his brain that communicates between his left and right brain is partially missing). The brain can learn to re-path communication through the cerebellum, but the process is slow and demanding on the educators and therapists. He has speech apraxia & has shown some regression since our move. We pray that Timothy will respond to the education he receives, and that the Lord will do a healing work which will allow him to learn and correspond better.

Camp Staff – Prayer would be appreciated in this coming year for the right staff appointments at Dorion.



The 2020 Horizon

Isaiah 58:11,12 (NIV) “The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”



CAMP DORION
EAGLES NEST CONFERENCE CENTRE
COME GROW WITH US!

2020 commonly refers to the clarity of vision... yet as we see this decade drawing ever closer to the end with the year 2020 just around the corner, we might find ourselves thinking and wondering aloud as to what our future holds and what lies in store for us.

We soon realize that having a clear vision as to what we should look like by 2020 becomes an important part of our future. In Proverbs 29:18 we read that without vision people perish. Vision is such an important part of goal attainment, yet most people have no strong sense of what they want to achieve. With a clear vision the steps necessary to reach our vision are clearer and our actions line up with our real goals.

It is confusing to think of Ontario as a mission field and our community needing missionaries just like those that arrived in Dorion 70 years ago. The latest stats reveal that the number of Catholic youth has dropped in Canada by one-third and Protestant youth by almost two-thirds.

We are told in the Scriptures to “train a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6), but children have limited access to the gospel and to God. Technology has captured the hearts and minds of our youth. Sadly we are seeing a decline in ethics and behaviour, and our youth seem to be looking for something they cannot find. The rate of bullying, substance dependency, abortion, sexual confusion, depression, and suicide has increased beyond levels we have seen before. This seems like a huge and insurmountable problem, but maybe these trials will lead people to realize they don’t have it all; they need GOD. It makes us realize that all we have leaves us empty.

Ontario is a mission field and God is raising up people who will be ready to serve this generation of children and youth. What an exciting time to be called to the mission field of Canada! What an incredible privilege to have GOD task us to serve!



Our current motto is “Come Grow with us”, which lends itself well to our goals of growing our campers, alumni and DBC well into the 2020’s. We are going to be building on the age-old foundations laid over the last 70 years both physically and spiritually.

Our vision remains steadfast; focused on those with the least chance to hear of Christ. We continue to search for them, inviting them to attend Dorion Bible Camp. Tens of thousands have walk through Dorion’s doors over the last 70 summers. Many have chosen to receive Christ for the first time while others have renewed their faith and continued to grow in their walk with Christ.

We invite you to come and partner with us that together GOD may achieve great things and be glorified at Dorion Bible Camp!

-- Martin & Shannan Lord

What Do You Remember About Dorion Bible Camp?

"It only takes a spark...." Spaghetti supper when we sang "On Top of Spaghetti" - Lynn D.

"Mayfly Mush"! (the song, not the mush) - Jennifer H.

"Give us a place to camp and a place for fun, and call this place Camp Dorion." I loved Dorion Bible Camp, especially singing. Red River Cereal was my favourite. - Kerry T.

The Golden Broom, All-Camp Pillow Fight, tuck shop, Variety Night. - Kari K.P.

Helping Millie, girls singing while doing dishes, "As the Deer" by the campfire - Bonnie A.

Monty's "A Peach", Monk Supper, Mark & Amanda, Eagle Camper award, banquet, mayflies, coming up with team names, Tug of War and above else the kitchen.

Best memories: working with Millie, learning from Mae how hot dish water should be, and that stinky porridge pot. Finally - why did Richard insist on his table being set with green dishes? - Dana H.B.

"Thank you for all the men that live." - Jessica B. (and "Thank you for 'the mall'.")

"God Hates Country Music", archery, canoeing, hotdogs falling into the fire, PIC! - Mark B.

Millie's ice cream and Rice Krispie dessert, looking out at the water while in the old chapel and hearing the waves hit the shore - Mary R.

Team time with "Kill Richard" and team songs (chants). - Moe B.M.

I always loved that game where we had to hunt for counsellors! And the Friday night variety show! And making camp fire on the beach, and of course all the songs: Attakattanuva, The Dorion song, "Seek Ye First". All the theme suppers. What a great place! - Mandi C.

Cookout - Shawn F.

I always enjoyed Richard drawing up the "bloopers" from the summers. Am I still considered the "Blooper King?" I remember taking the crown from Neil E. Dainio! - Vern M.

Andy James, ELK, Lotto-scrape, the Well - Edward G.

Stay in touch with Dorion Bible Camp. Share memories; join in future plans!

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Search for "Dorion Bible Camp" on Facebook.

"Like" the "page" (official news & events); "join" the "group" (alumni/nostalgia).