

# SYNOD OF CENTRAL, NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO and BERMUDA

Synod Camp Board  
Board Convener's Report  
November 2, 2019.

## Board

[www.ilovecamp.org/our-board.cfm](http://www.ilovecamp.org/our-board.cfm) / [www.ilovecampboard.org](http://www.ilovecampboard.org)

The Synod Camp Board (SCB) has gone through some personnel changes since the last report to Synod. As the convener, I would like to formally thank Spencer Brown, Victoria Leigh, Lisa Whitwell, and Susan Young for their generous contributions to camp over the last several years. As members of our volunteer board, their time and dedication to the Christian camping ministry have not gone unnoticed.

The members of the SCB who served during 2018-2019, and who will continue to serve into 2019-2020 season are as follows:

- Natasha Dunn, Convener
- Rev. Karen Pozios, Faith Formation
- Lisa Riess, Human Resources
- Rick Shaver, Treasurer
- Dave Dougall, Strategic Business/Accessibility
- Travis Allison, Fundraising (incoming)
- *Elizabeth Whitwell, Deputy Convener (outgoing)*
- *Victoria Leigh, Secretary (outgoing)*
- *Susan Young, Strategic Business Operations (outgoing)*
- *Spencer Brown, Fundraising (outgoing)*

At our meeting held on October 7th, we had one potential SCB member attend. They were eager to join in and help out with our camping ministry.

- Spencer Blake, Secretary (incoming)

Our board recently motioned to have a membership, with optional 2-year renewal. Existing board members will set where they are in their current term. It is the hope that with careful and intentional succession planning, the SCB will continue to thrive so that it may serve The Cairn Family of Camps. Our outgoing members for the 2019-2020 season will be Lisa Riess, May 2020 and Natasha Dunn, September 2020.

## Glen Mhor & Iona

The SCB would like to give thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, we had another successful camp season at Glen Mhor in 2019. Our registrations were on par with projections; Michelle and Robynne continued to market and promote to boost numbers for the 2019 summer season. Glen Mhor will be celebrating our **90th Anniversary in 2020** (1930-2020) which will include celebrating the past, the present, and the future of the Presbyterian Camping Ministry. Michelle will be available to answer any questions regarding the 90th Anniversary.

The Iona camping season did not run due to low enrollment. Four campers who were registered were offered a space at Glen Mhor or Tripping. Due to a variety of circumstances, including low enrollment, site maintenance

(i.e., washrooms, running water), and overall viability for The Cairn Family of Camps, it was recommended by Michelle to close Iona. The camp board will work closely with Michelle to rebrand and redevelop the Glen Mhor tripping program as the Iona Tripping Program. This option will allow us to keep a connection to the history of Iona and maintain a focus on small unit wilderness-based experiences, which has always been the basis of Iona's identity.

## Camp in Your Own Back Yard

After substantial cost-analysis, prices for this program will have to be increased for the 2020 camping season. Michelle will be in communication with all churches in the Synod regarding this upcoming change (educate how much it costs to deliver programming; phase in an increase over 2 years).

## Presbyterian Music Camp (PMC)

**FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH PMC:** On Monday, September 23rd, a committee of the SCB (Natasha, Karen, Rick, Michelle) met via online video conference with Doug Kendall of PMC to discuss the future relationship with Cairn Family of Camps and PMC. On the call, it was noted that there have been communication breakdowns for several years and all parties would like to see changes to the Terms of Reference and the organizational structure and governance of the camps. At this time, a representative from PMC will continue to attend SCB meetings as they investigate the options of running as a camp independent from Cairn Family of Camps. This will include research regarding day-to-day policy, financials, insurance, charitable status, investment fund, and a continued relationship with Synod CNOB and the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

## Finances

A summary financial statement for 2019 is attached.

As previously noted, we are currently without CRA charitable status. Our reapplication for status has been submitted and though we are waiting to hear back from CRA with hopes of a positive resolution, we have taken several steps to fundraise.

### **CANADA HELPS ([canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org))**

The Synod Camp Board would like to thank the Synod of CNOB for adding the Cairn Family of Camps to the CanadaHelps.org website (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/cairnfamilyofcamps/>). A fundraising initiative "Matching Campaign" is already off the ground and we have been able to generate commitments of \$835/month. Our goal is an additional \$2000/month by May 2020.

## Future Considerations

As mentioned previously, the SCB will continue to review and revise the Synod Camp Board Terms of Reference to reflect the current organization of the board of directors as well as the camps/camping programs. Our goal will be to have new Terms for approval at the 2020 Annual Synod meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Natasha Crompton-Dunn

Convener