

Camp Northland-B'nai Brith
Annual General Meeting
March 28, 2022

Minutes taken by Leore Zecharia

Dvar Torah – Neil Zworth

This week's parsha is Tazria teaches us about our physicality. It describes in explicit detail for when people have "tzarat" (mistranslated as leprosy). The word "to see" comes up nine times in the first verses of Leviticus 13. These "seeings" seem to be extra – come up with explanations for our understanding of sight. The interpretation understands this as the priest examining the whole person and not just the diseased part. Needs to see what is whole and healthy, not what is afflicted. In the camp experience, we immerse our children in many programs. The total is much greater than the sum of the parts – pluralism, life skills, Jewish identity building, family and community and safety in an environment of nature. Every child is seen as whole and given the best experience as possible. Need to go beyond the physical and in the body, there is light that continues our true self.

Passing of the Minutes – Garry Wise

I have reviewed the minutes and I move that the 2021 AGM minutes as distributed be approved.

- Sean Abenstein seconds the minutes.
- Anyone opposed? *No one opposed*
- Minutes passed unanimously

Camp Northland Mission Statement

To achieve and sustain the highest standards of excellence in camper care, innovative programming, and Jewish identity building in order to ensure that all campers and staff grow, thrive and have fun at Camp Northland by making lifelong friends, building life skills, appreciating nature and respecting one another.

President's Report – Stacey Cohen

- Camp Northland is more than just a camp in Haliburton, Ontario, but a community that comes together and supports every member.
- Thinking about Ukraine and the number of displaced Jewish families. Understanding our roots and remembering that Camp Northland exists today because at the end of WWII, came together to make sure the Jewish community and those underprivileged had a safe place to create memories. Camp Northland is working together with partnerships to see how we can help those affected in Ukraine.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up and offered to assist wherever possible
 - Medical Advisory Committee who guided the path to opening and staying safe last summer

- Parents who dedicated their own time at luggage drop off and COVID tests
- Volunteers on ad-hoc committees, fundraising
- We raised many funds and in-kind donations to help fund scholarship program, improve safety and security of camp, improve programs
- We continue to build on our success with a capital campaign

Thank you to:

- Spin Master Toys (Anton Rabie and Ronen Harary and families) for mentorship and continued support
- UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Silber Family Centre
- The Foundation for Jewish Camping
- Ontario Camping Association (specifically the COVID committee)
- Life & Legacy
- JCamp 180
- Harold Grinspoon Foundation
- Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge Health Unit
- Wayne Safety Inc.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors – a special group of talented people who help direct and protect the interest of the Jewish Camp Council and Camp Northland.

- Jewish Camp Council Board of Directors received the JCamp 180 Outstanding Board Leadership Award
- Credit also goes to past directors and past presidents who helped put us in the positive position we are today
- Thank you to Jay Rudolph, Neil Zworth, Wayne Kirsh and Greg Evans

Thank you to the seasonal staff and year-round professional staff

- We welcomed Marisa Reby who is the Manager of Development
- Annual Day of Giving coming up on April 26, 2022 – goal of raising \$200,000
- Rob Abbs, Maintenance Director, celebrated 40 years with Camp Northland
- Thank you to Denise Harris, Administrative Director, Adam Kertesz, Associate Director and Simon Wolle, Executive Director– thank you for being a part of all of our camp experiences

Thank you to the Directors finishing their time on the Board:

- Jordan Donsky
- Robin Rabinowitz
- Greg Evans, immediate past president
 - Celebrating 13 years on the Board – the longest serving Board member

Rick Carson will be coming in as the new President of the Board

Garry Wise is the next President Elect of the Board

Description of Committees – Stacey Cohen

Committees and sub-committees serve to support the Board, professional staff and operations of camp. Committees are traditionally chaired by a member of the Board and include volunteers. If there is a committee you would like to be a part of, please reach out to the camp.

1. Audit Committee – oversees risk profiles, reviews financial and other risk issues, oversees development and execution of risk management
2. Budget and Finance Committee – chaired by the Treasurer (Hartley Cohen); reviews and provides oversight to operating capital, fundraising and budget process, cash resources, internal control systems and financial reporting process
3. Governance and Strategic Plan Committee – assists in developing and maintaining and improving the framework, process and structures and strategic plan that sets organization priorities and collaboration with Budget and Finance Committee
4. Personnel Committee – reviews and makes recommendations on human resource matters and director performance evaluations
5. Marketing and Fundraising Committees – to enhance and improve awareness and reputation of camp, maximize enrolment and obtain funding
 - a. Alumni Committee – sub-committee
6. Legal Committee – meets on as-need basis and provides advice related to contracts, legislative requirements, legal proceedings and other legal matters
7. Nominations Committee – assesses, recruits and plans for succession of the Board

Thank you to the ad-hoc committees: Pandemic Committee, Covid Taskforce, Medical Advisory Committee and parent round tables

Thank you to Ned Blinick and Rick Carson who chaired the Strategic Planning Committee

Treasurer’s Report – Hartley Cohen

Overview of the financial statement. The auditor Jay Benaim is in the meeting as well – thank you for your help

Statement of Operations – 2021 was the first year of operations after COVID started. These are highlights of 2021 fiscal year against the 2019 year (didn’t operate in 2020)

	2019	2021
Net camper revenue	\$2,500,000	\$2,024,622
Number of campers	435	625
Camper days (# of campers x # days)	13,000	16,000
Revenue of camper days	Identical – able to maintain revenue per camper as pre-COVID	
Net income (revenue over expenses)	\$1,086,000 (with amortization)	+ \$127,000 difference

	Included in 2021 is rent and wage subsidies
	If you back out subsidies, operating income is about \$800,000 and in 2019 its \$1.2 million
	\$300,000 represents decrease in revenue, and we incurred \$127,000 in COVID costs

From operational standpoint = successful year

Statement of financial position (balance sheet) – we are in a strong financial position

- Key to look at is the working capital – current assets less current liabilities.
- Working capital of \$2.8 million in 2021 vs. 2020 - \$2 million
- Cash balances are higher, accounts receivable higher (government subsidies, grants), liabilities are lower – represents the difference in working capital

I motion to approve the financial statements for the fiscal year 2021.

Garry seconds. Anyone opposed?

No one opposed. *Passed unanimously.*

*pre-passed and approved by the Board

The appointment of the auditors for the fiscal year 2022

I motion to reappoint Kraft Berger LLB Chartered Professional Accountants to be appointed as auditors of the corporation to hold office in the ensuing year or the until the successors are elected or appointed at a remuneration to be fixed by the directors being here authorized or empowered to fix such remuneration.

Garry seconds. Anyone opposed?

No one opposed. *Passed unanimously*

Honours – Simon Wolle and Stacey Cohen

To honour some outstanding efforts and contributions in the Northland community.

Includes the public recognition for 2020 honours.

1. Community Volunteer Appreciation Award – acknowledge individuals who have repeatedly gone above and beyond expectations to give of themselves, time effort, and energy, and chutzpah.
 - 2020 – Dr. Ashley Zaretsky
 - 2021 – Jay Rudolph and Isaac Gould
2. Staff Excellence Award – recognizes staff community impact and excellent leadership (different to the summer awards – recognizes work beyond being at camp) There is a scholarship prize of \$250.
 - 2020 – Lauren Tetelbaun
 - 2021 – Brandon Pludwinski and Samantha Akum

3. Lifetime Achievement Award – highest award who have dedicated a lifetime to the organization and children summer camping and to the community.
 - 2021 – Jay Rudolph and Neil Zworth

Election and Instalment of Directors and Officers – Garry Wise

Proposed slate of officers and directors for 2022:

- Immediate Past President – Stacey Cohen
- President – Richard Carson
- President Elect – Garry Wise
- Secretary – Garry Wise
- Treasurer – Hartley Cohen

Neil Grunberg – *I motion to approve the 2022 proposed slate of officers and directors as read*

Greg seconds. Anyone opposed?
No one opposed. *Passed unanimously.*

Nominations for new Board members as Directors:

- Jennifer Katz
- Jodi Lieberman
- Esther Tock

I motion to the three individuals as named, Jennifer Katz, Jodi Lieberman and Esther Tock, be elected as Directors of the Jewish Camp Council for 2022 on a two-year term.

Ned seconds. Anyone opposed?
No one opposed. *Passed unanimously*

Directors who are returning for new two-year terms:

- Sean Abenstein
- Ned Blinick
- Matthew Rosen

I move that those three Directors as named be elected for two-year terms as Directors of the Jewish Camp Council for 2022.

Greg seconds. Anyone opposed?
No one opposed? *Passed unanimously*

Board members who will be continuing their second year as Directors:

- Neil Grunberg
- Ernie Gutstein
- Lynn Kirshen
- Amy Laski

- Elaine Lesniak

Director's Report – Simon Wolle

- In addition to an incredible professional staff, there is also Daniela who is not part of the full-time staff time, continues to stay involved all year round
 - Similarly, Leore Zecharia who helps a lot behind the scenes as well
 - Incredible work by Elaine and Lana Bezner to help support the camp
- We receive awards from organizations like JCamp 180, Foundation for Jewish Camp, the government – i.e., extraordinary efforts during the pandemic, field leadership award, Board leadership award
- We have had to innovate to get from Covid into camp successfully
 - We were called upon to mentor a lot of the camp communities and played a big role in getting many camps open not just ours.
- Staff was one of the main reasons camp was so successful
- We ran at 70% capacity on purpose
- We are doing well and continuing to invest, invest back into camp in all areas – increase scholarship funding, subsidy programs, infrastructure, and facilities, training, new programs
 - COVID infrastructure improvements and facilities infrastructure improvements
- In a solid financial position – if look at 2021 vs. 2019, operated at 70%, but the revenue is at 87% - due to campers staying longer than expected
 - Revenues are almost the same
- Fundraising has been incredibly strong – necessarily to be strong and continues to be necessary
- Expenses are down from 2019, which accounts for positive impact on financials. Can continue to invest back into camp
- Looking to 2022 – Sold out in September and starting the summer with over 100 more campers with a waitlist of campers. Looking for ways to get more campers into camp.
- Big focus on MESSH – Mental, emotional, social and spiritual health
- More to do – need more funding to support goals and capital strategies
- Life & Legacy program – planning for the future – seeking 25 more legacy donors to become our founding members
- A lot of teamwork goes into the ongoing success of camp
 - Thank you to Stacey Cohen for his never-ending passion for Camp Northland and the Jewish Camp Council

New President Remarks – Rick Carson

One thing that remains constant among pandemics and wars is Camp Northland and what it offers our community over the past 100 years. We have a very exciting future. I grew up at Camp Northland where I developed a self of identity, learned to work as a team and develop Jewish values. I realize that our mandate to give campers the experiences we encountered is more important than ever. We owe a huge gratitude to camp leaders who have built camp over the years, both past and recent.

Excited for the new seven strategies and it's no coincidence that "grow" is the first word of the first strategy – not just in numbers, but in quality of camp (programs, culture, staff experience, infrastructure).

I promise to put energy into this role and work with this broad team to success. My contributions will include being an active coach to Simon and his team as they run camp and consider and execute initiatives. Being a coordinator of efforts, be a facilitator of partnerships, having improved governance and visibility, and program innovation.

Thank You Stacey! – Greg Evans

Thank you and congratulations to Stacey Cohen for the successful completion of his two-year term as President.

Good and Welfare – Rick Carson

- We want to recognize the lives of Anne Zworth, Dr. Michelle Hammer, Carrie Glass, and Julia Koschitzsky – may their memories be a blessing
- Mazel tov to Sammy Grunberg on her Bat Mitzvah