

Holding Canadian Yearly Meeting at Camp NeeKauNis Second Interim Report Fall 2010

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Summary

The motivation behind this proposal is to provide a permanent Ontario site for Canadian Yearly Meeting in session at Camp NeeKauNis *when we are scheduled to meet in the Central-Eastern region.*

This proposal, when implemented will result in more involvement with all Friends in the life of Camp NeeKauNis to ensure its viability for the future so that this unique national Quaker asset can be retained. It may be more fiscally sound to use our own internal resources to hold meetings and other gatherings at Camp NeeKauNis rather than pay other institutions. Camp NeeKauNis carries its own insurance and improved maintenance of its physical plant will enable it to provide improved programming and thereby increased use. We can see the new Youth Secretary being involved in Quaker education with Camp as a locus.

We ask the Camp NeeKauNis Committee for an agreement in principle to move forward to (1) establish funding and implement physical improvements and (2) for an ad hoc committee to do this work. We ask for guidance on the makeup of this adhoc committee.

Some Numbers:

2010 FGC lodging: \$30/night adult double; food \$23/day three meals (11 and up)
2010 CYM: lodging \$30/night adult double; food \$30/day three meals (12 and up)
Camp NeeKauNis: casual camper rate: \$64 food and lodging.
FCG: 6 days; CYM 8 days. Program Fees on top.

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-prepared by Paul Sheardown and Kris Wilson-Yang**

The motivation behind this proposal is to provide a permanent Ontario site for Canadian Yearly Meeting in session at Camp NeeKauNis *when we are scheduled to meet in the Central-Eastern region*. We present in this report draft concepts for preparing camp NeeKauNis to host Canadian Yearly Meeting.

Changes are proposed in two major phases: an interim phase after which we should be able to test the proposal by holding CYM in session at Camp NeeKauNis and a second phase in which the larger alterations will commence and be completed.

An outline of the proposed changes is provided on the following page of this document. **It is followed by a draft timeline with priorities.** These improvements will be designed to enhance the Summer Camp programs and not impose unnecessary modernities or waste.

The timeline for the interim phase leads to a completion date of August 2013. The fallback date would be 2015 which would need an agreement to alter the schedule of the place of meeting for CYM. This interim phase will allow Friends to consider improvements and make systems (administrative and physical) to allow the use of this space for periodic large gatherings. The timeline for the second phase is dependent on changes needed and accepted.

It is estimated the cost for this work if done by volunteers in NeeKauNis's usual thrifty way to be about \$125,000 over a period of 3 to 4 years. If professionals were needed to do much of the work then the cost could rise to \$200,000 to \$250,000. We could possibly offer honorariums and pay expenses for skilled workers to come and help facilitate this work and best utilize the labor of our many volunteers. Skilled leaders also enhance the learning opportunities of our volunteers.

Camp NeeKauNis and its volunteers works very hard to offer a full range of camps every year and to maintain its existing buildings on a very tight budget. If alteration on this scale were to take place it would require many new skilled Friends ready to make a multiyear commitment to this process in order to make this a reality. In exchange we have the opportunity to dramatically enhance the facility and present to Friends all across Canada the beauty and spiritual presence of Camp NeeKauNis.

Draft Concepts for Preparing Camp NeeKauNis to Host Canadian Yearly Meeting.

Introduction

What we have hoped to suggest are ways in which Camp NeeKauNis can economically expand in order to facilitate up to 200 visitors a day from the current 75 to 100 visitor capacity. Yearly meeting is a 10-day event possibly to be held every few years at Camp. To accommodate these alterations need to be ones that benefit camp every day or that can be utilized for the length of yearly then stored or shrunk. Capital and human investment are needed, if NeeKauNis is to be able to alter itself to facilitate Yearly meeting. Camp has a long tradition of volunteer labor in its work projects but we have in recent years had only a few dedicated skilled trades people to plan, prepare and direct the labor of the semi skilled and low skilled volunteers. Young Friends have always been a rousing source of the energetic but often low skilled labor. Camp would need a country wide recruiting of people skilled in the trades to facilitate this leadership work in the next few years.

Dining

The current dining hall (Nelson Hall) can seat about 80. If the current work shop and arts and crafts room were removed to create one large hall, the number of diners could go to possibly 120. Even at this 2 seatings of dinner may be necessary for a large crowd. There were about 125 people in Winnipeg in 2010. The pantry could be moved to the annex. The dishes and dishwashing sinks could move to the south end of the hall to allow more space in the kitchen and still allow for the long standing tradition of teams of diners washing there own dishes. A ramp would be needed for the west and east entrances with hand wash sinks near the doors. The workshop would move to a newly constructed 2 car style garage along the road in form the highway. The art room could go to and the existing Green Oak cabin. The creation of a 15 x30 foot covered sunshade built between Nelson Hall and the Meeting Center could also provide overflow dining space on picnic tables. The sun-shelter could also be a key space for children's programs.

Camping

We would propose the creation of a new one acre or so clearing in the woods to the south of Nelson Hall. This would be on the new land west of the gravel pit but east of the ravine ridge. This is a very nice area that would provide good camping. We could build raised wooden platforms to ensure dry stable bases accessed by a lime stone screening walkway from Nelson Hall. Camp could even offer furnished prospector style tents with real beds in them. This would be the most affordable ways to increase the number of beds in camp. They would be taken down in the winter and stored in the new garage. Porta-potties could be used for temporary washrooms and an access road running in behind the former south borderline behind King. The road would be needed to provide access for campers to drop off luggage, to service the port-a-potties and for emergency access. Camping in a standup tent on a solid platform, in a real bed that you did not have to bring with you across the country may be quite attractive to Friends. This type of housing has been used at Yosemite Nation Park in California for many years. (See web site) We would also have regular camping in the area. Last year we had 18 tents at the peak housing about 25 people.

Washrooms and Showers

We would propose turning the rear of Haslam cottage into 3 tiled washrooms and 2 showers with access to the outside only. The existing septic system would be used. It is hoped that with the use of low flush toilets and shower fixtures possibly with timers that

the capacity of the existing septic system would not be exceeded. The addition of a 5,000 gallon flow balance tank could possibly be introduced with out too much bureaucratic effort. This could then be pumped out every other day during the highest peak times if needed. Haslam with washrooms at the rear may become noisy for sleeping so we would suggest moving the camp office to the large east bedroom and leaving the fireplace room as a meeting area. The space created in Rogers could be turned into additional rooms to make up for the beds lost in Haslam. We would continue to upgrade our 10 Kybos (pit toilets) and keep them in use as needed. The showers at the back of Nelson Hall would be upgraded.

Accessibility

The creation of level, moderate grade, path ways made of limestone screenings from building to building would greatly improve accessibility. All cabin entrances such as Rogers and Swan should have ramps to ease access. They would not all need to be done at once. A few accessible parking spots could be created near McNichol with the rest of the vehicles kept back to the east of King cabin.

Parking

In the last 2 years Yearly meeting has used around 40 spots. Many of these could be facilitated on the two sides of the driveway between the entrance and King where we often park now. This area could be leveled lightly and a base put down.

Meeting spaces

We believe the Meeting center can hold 135 chairs and a head table for clerks. This would be enough capacity for most business meeting sessions. The exception may be the opening welcome when all are asked to attend. By improving and possibly extending the stone terrace outside the Meeting center some outside seating capacity could be added for the few peak times. A roll away awning in this area, out side the meeting house, would aid against rain and sun. Break out meeting spots could be a challenge. Apart from the large spaces in the dining hall and the meeting center, plus the smaller Haslam space there are few meeting spots. These could be supplemented with several screened gazebos and even several events tents or rented office style trailers.

Existing cabins and accommodations

The ongoing upgrading of the existing cabins would need to continue so that they would all eventually have the low maintenance steel roofs and are fresh, clean and functional interiors. For those that camps accommodations are still too rustic there is a wide variety of motels and hotels 20 minutes away in Midland. We could even offer a shuttle at peak time to facilitate this. NeeKauNis currently has 87 beds in 16 cabins 5 of which have washrooms.

Waterfront

An accessible path from the Trans-Canada trail to an improved wooden deck with a sun shade would allow friends with mobility issues to access the beach if they had a ride down through Waubashene to the trail. The beach may be an ideal spot for the traditional Wednesday afternoon picnic at Yearly Meeting.

DRAFT TIME LINE AND DIVISION OF WORK PROJECTS

Preliminary Work to be completed by Late Spring 2013:

Creating and modification of paths, parking.
Repairing accessible entrance to McNicol
Building more and new picnic tables
Improving our existing pit toilets

Toilets/ showers, office/bedding closet/merchandise/meeting room in Haslam.
Improved showers at the the back of N-H.

Alterations to Rogers for more beds/accessible entrance.

Improvement is needed to make the beachhouse more secure. Beachhouse is a possible YFs meeting area.

Sourcing portable structures for dining and for servicing tenting in the old area near the entrance with some tenting between Jones and the W's cabins.

Administration:

With input from cooks, RF, and CYM Program to develop the administration for meals (no co-op, but some availability for volunteer fee-reduced help).

Establish a fee structure. Our existing pricing may suffice.

Develop or clarify the administration for camp physical plant during CYM

Clarify the administration for CYM in session specifically local planning (travel, off-site accommodation) possibly by YSHYM.

Observe and note the running of CYM in session at Camp NeeKauNis, with detailed notes for the second phase.

THEN we would be able to see what changes to N-H and to the tenting area would be a needed improvement. The proposed new access road may be conceived as large path that could accommodate an electric golf cart and be large enough for an emergency vehicle.

Some Comments:

CYM needs space for children's programme and a number of breakout spaces (6-8, probably). Programme Committee meets daily and its clerk needs private space; the YM office administrator also needs a private space. These two people are usually given the RA's rooms (or something similar) in the schools we use. We produce printed copy of the minutes every day to be given to the minute review committee, and then the minutes are reprinted with the corrections and posted for Friends to see. There is usually a "clerks' room" and a YM office. It's probable that all this could be managed in Haslam if it were removed from other considerations.-Bev

KEMPTVILLE 2009

Canadian Yearly Meeting in Session

Number of Registrants: 206 (31 adults and youth attending 3 days or less)
Adults: 179
Youth under 17: 27

DORMITORY

	THU Aug 13	FRI Aug 14	SAT Aug 15	SUN Aug 16	MON Aug 17	TUE Aug 18	WED Aug 19	THU Aug 20	FRI Aug 21
DORM SINGLE	4	22	36	40	41	42	38	37	34
DORM DOUBLE	2	20	52	54	57	57	56	56	47
TENTERS (# of People)	4	10	51	70	70	66	62	61	58

DINING ROOM NUMBERS

123 Meal Plans per Day

	THU Aug 13	FRI Aug 14	SAT Aug 15	SUN Aug 16	MON Aug 17	TUE Aug 18	WED Aug 19	THU Aug 20	FRI Aug 21	SAT Aug-22
BREAKFAST	0	8	73	132	147	147	147	142	135	79
LUNCH	0	9	90	147	156	161	157	151	145	51
SUPPER	9	43	119	156	162	160	149	147	141	0

NO FOOD COOP

Some numbers from CYM Finance Committee from 2009:

Lodging fees: \$25 887 for 1147 overnights of all types (single double and tenting)

Food Fees: \$24 180 for 3 163 meals. Note: There was only a meal plan and no Coop in 2009.

Average cost/ meal over all types of meal: \$7.65/meal

Average cost over all types of accommodation: \$22.57/overnight

Site Selection Criteria for CYM Sessions

We acknowledge the diversities of lifestyles among Friends. In doing so, we share a sincere concern to balance the needs of Friends who seek simplicity and moderation with those of Friends whose physical limitations require ease of access. The following are criteria for site selection:

1. **Geographical Location:** To give us the opportunity to celebrate our diversity within the context of Canadian Yearly Meeting, the site should be, if possible:
 - a. selected in response to an invitation from local Friends to hold Yearly Meeting sessions in their area
 - b. near an active Friends Meeting or Meetings whose members can make some local arrangements
2. **Ease of Transportation and Accessibility:** To conserve the physical energies of travellers attending meetings who come from across Canada, the site should:
 - a. be easily accessible from a major airport, highway and other public transportation - maximum one hour
 - i. What is the distance, what are the costs of transportation?
 - b. Are the meeting rooms, the dining room and the dormitory rooms wheelchair accessible?
 - i. how far are the meeting rooms from the main meeting area?
3. **Facilities:** To accommodate Yearly Meeting sessions, the site should:
 - a. *Main Meeting Room* - have space for business sessions of up to 300 people with flexible seating arrangements which can be adapted to meet various needs during the week. This space should be well lit, preferably with natural light, and well ventilated
 - i. Is the seating flexible?
 - ii. Is the environment relatively quiet?
 - iii. Is a sound system available in the room, or can one be rented for special presentations?
 - b. *Breakout Rooms and Display Space* - have at least 12 rooms (lounges can work too) to fit small groups of up to 20 people.
 - i. Is the seating flexible?
 - ii. Display space and tables for up to 20-30 displays (may be hallway or foyer)
 - c. *Office Space, Computer/AV Equipment and Facilities* – Three equipped offices
 - i. Three offices with computer and printer, (cost?) One for CYM Clerks/Agenda Committee, one for CMMC and one for Quaker Book Service (Programme Committee could also have an office, but can make due without a dedicated room).
 - ii. Can these offices be locked? QBS room must be lockable.
 - iii. It would be helpful to have two in a quiet area, QBS in a more public area.
 - iv. A phone line/set/answering capability for CYM use while on site.
 - v. What provision can be made for emergency messages?
 - vi. At least 3 computers with printing and internet access in an area with access from 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (cost?) (times available also depend on host facility).
 - vii. A lab or computer access where laptops could be plugged in for internet/e-mail access (public use)
 - viii. Photocopying access with capability to track usage (cost?)
 - ix. Flip charts, overhead and digital projector, slide projector, TV/VCR (cost?)
 - x. What provisions can be made for notice boards – general, outside main meeting room, messages? – Need about 4-5 4' x 8' wall or portable notice boards

Site Selection Criteria for CYM Sessions

- d. *Youth Programme Rooms* - have 4-5 additional rooms which can meet the needs of an active children's programme - and active participants up to the age of 18 years, with outside areas for games, etc
 - i. Can one of these be used as a lounge for teens?
 - ii. Are there art facilities?
 - iii. Is there a gym?
 - iv. Can they have refreshments in these rooms?
- e. *Dining Room* - have capacity to feed up to 150 people coming out of meetings for meals at the same time
 - i. Are nutritious vegetarian/vegan meals available?
 - ii. Can accommodation be made for special diets (diabetic/low sodium/allergies, etc.)?
 - iii. Can the kitchen cater a picnic on Wednesday for a cost of \$7-8 per person?
 - iv. Meals available 7:30 – 8:15a.m., 12:30 – 2:00p.m., 6:00 – 7:30p.m.?
 - v. What provision can be made for refreshment breaks at 4:00-4:30 p.m. and at 9:00 p.m.? – glasses, juice, coffee, tea, access to kitchen to heat water, teapots and large jugs
- f. *Beds* - have sufficient beds to house up to 150 people, preferably in double rooms with some single options
 - i. How many beds are available and what is the detailed configuration?
 - ii. Is there capacity for dormitory rooms as 'family rooms' at reduced costs (if children sleep on floor)? How many?
 - iii. Do any dormitory rooms have ensuite toilet facilities? If so, how many?
 - iv. Are the beds a reasonable height to accommodate a significant number of seniors?
 - v. How many beds are available on a main floor or wheelchair accessible?
 - vi. What linens are provided – blanket, sheets, pillows, towels, facecloths? Are they optional or included in the cost?
 - vii. Are the dormitory rooms well ventilated? Can windows be opened?
- g. *Camping* - have on site (or nearby) camping facilities for up to 200 people, including appropriate 24-hr bathroom facilities and emergency overnight accommodation
 - i. How close and how many bathroom facilities?
 - ii. What locker facilities are there?
 - iii. Are there refrigerators available for campers?
 - iv. What water supplies are there and how close are they to the camp sites?
 - v. How close is the camp site to the meeting/dining/food co-op area?
 - vi. What overnight emergency accommodation is there?
 - vii. How safe/secure is camping area?
- h. *Food Co-op* – appropriate site for a food co-op serving up to 150 people
 - i. What access is available to hot and cold water?
 - ii. What access is available to hydro?
 - iii. Is refrigeration available, or is there a place where we could plug in at least two large refrigerators?
 - iv. How close is the Food Co-op area to the dining room area?
 - v. What picnic tables are available?
 - vi. What shelter is available in case of rain?
- i. *Alternative Accommodations* –
 - i. Are there nearby motel or bed and breakfast establishments for Friends who need or choose such accommodation
 - ii. How close are they?

Site Selection Criteria for CYM Sessions

- iii. What transportation is there? (Cost?)
 - j. *Parking Space* - What parking space is available?
 - k. *Recycling Capability* – What capability is there for recycling?
 - l. *Fire and Medical Emergencies* - What site provisions are there for fire and medical emergencies?
4. **Cost and Terms of Payment:** To accommodate our financial requirements, the site should:
- a. be reasonably inexpensive - less than \$50/person/day for food(dining room) and bed, \$10-12/day for camping site.
 - b. Provide some flexibility and choice for lower cost options (reduced rates for children, ability to mix and match meals between food co-op and dining room)
 - c. not have additional cover charges for use of facilities or equipment. This is not always possible - we are currently charging Friends a minimal fee (\$3-\$5) per adult registrant per day for facilities.
 - d. have insurance coverage for our time on site
 - e. We can deposit up to \$5,000 when contract signed and will pay balance of amount before leaving at end of week.
5. **Time/Date Scheduling:**
- a. Preferred scheduling is 2nd or 3rd full week in August.
 - b. Can some Friends arrive Thursday and have meals and accommodations?
 - c. Up to 40 might arrive Friday with majority to arrive Saturday afternoon in time for supper.
 - d. Last meal - Saturday lunch.
 - e. Any capacity for a (very) few Friends to stay over an extra night?
 - f. What is required check-out time? We prefer Saturday at 2:00 p.m.
 - g. We can confirm numbers within reason July 15th before the gathering and will close registrations on July 30.
 - h. What is flexibility for changes after these dates?
 - i. What is host facility cancellation policy (is there a 10% grace on meals/lodging for example).
6. **Additional Items/Services of Interest**
- a. Do we have exclusive use of site? If not, how will sharing/overlap be managed?
 - b. Swimming on-site or close to site?
 - c. Availability of Gym?
 - d. Can you provide a site map and any detailed meeting room/dorm room maps suitable for use in assigning rooms, printing in a program guide?
 - e. What laundry facilities are available?
 - f. What security arrangements on site?
 - g. What are smoking guidelines/requirements for site?
 - h. Are pets allowed on site?
 - i. Is the site peanut-free?

* Keep in mind, not all host facilities are comfortable with same-sex couples. This must be disclosed to the site when making the initial inquiries.

Kris Wilson-Yang and Paul Sheardown

Summary

We are hopeful that Camp NeeKauNis can accommodate our Yearly Meeting in session without the building of a large conference facility. Camp NeeKauNis has been a meeting place for Friends for over 70 years. This irreplaceable spiritual centre is a place of community, healing, and growth for F/friends of all ages. Holding Yearly Meeting at NeeKauNis will provide the opportunity for many more Friends and attenders to enjoy its simple peacefulness.

The summer of 2013 is the earliest possible date for CYM at NeeKauNis. This is predicated on discussions that will begin this summer at CYM. This gives us a working timeline.

This report comprises subsections on the current status of camp and its potential with regards to sleeping, eating, cost, and gathering Friends. Each section has queries that seemed relevant.

We hope that Friends will consider the queries. **We are especially concerned with how bridge decision making between Camp Committee and Yearly Meeting be organized so that it will not overwhelm the Camp Committee.**

Please send us written comments on any aspect of this document. If Friends can take on some of the tasks, if they seem reasonable, please also let Paul and I know. We will ensure that all Friends are included in this process.

In Friendship,

Kris Wilson-Yang and Paul Sheardown

Current Status of Camp NeeKauNis and its potential as a site for CYM in session.

Sleeping

The current status of camp's physical plant is that we have our own source of water, we have shared accommodation for 85 people (without considering sharing double beds!) in cabins (4 in an accessible cabin with space for 4 companions) and 20-30 tents (in the playing field). This gives an estimate of 145 folk (assuming 2 people per tent). There is space for approximately 40 cars in the existing parking area (without considering parking in the Resident Friend's laneway). There are toilets in four of the cabins and outhouses sprinkled liberally amongst the cabins. Shower facilities exist, three are accessible for the differently-abled. There is water in all but one cabin, and electricity in all.

Internet access is possible, but deliberately limited at this time.

Day attendance may be possible (see **Gathering Friends**). Billeting in Orillia (31 km), local B&Bs (Coldwater) and accommodation in a local small motel (on Hwy 12 E of 400) is also possible. There are also three major hotels in nearby Midland.

There is a beach with boating and lifeguards can be hired. Access to the beach is difficult for those whose mobility is challenged. There are many paths and pleasant walks for exercise. There is a beautiful playing field.

Some numbers from 2009: Maximum number of Friends staying over: 168
 Maximum number of Friends at a meal: 161

Queries: Can we design a plan to help Camp expand in a flexible and cost effective way? What improvements to the Meeting Centre are needed? Can we plan for the creation of smoother paths and new paths and ramps for greater access. Can we consider creating a modern shower and toilet facility in an existing cabin currently connected to a septic field? Can we improve the existing kybos? Would extending the camping by creating a new meadow to the south of the dining hall (behind "The Disco Can") with a new access road be feasible and acceptable. What about using prospector-tents (on platforms) or yurts with real beds and port-a-potties? Can we access funds for improvements from the Meetinghouse fund?

Meeting

The Meeting center (which is a designated place of worship) can hold approximately 110 seated Friends with clerks' table, and is fully accessible with the addition of a small ramp and groomed access over an open lawn.

The next largest building, which is used as a dining hall and social place can hold approximately 80 seated Friends and is accessible with the addition of a small ramp and groomed paths. There is room for approximately 20 Friends to meet in a smaller cottage. There is ample room to meet outside in good weather.

The renting of marquee tents is a consideration. A secure area for the Book Service can be easily arranged if needed.

Queries: What is needed for conducting the Meetings? What can be rented and what needs to be put in place on a more permanent basis?

Eating

It is the practice at Camp NeeKauNis that meals are co-ordinated by **experienced** volunteer cooks with volunteer staff. All dietary needs are met. Locally sourced food and organic foods are served where humanly possible. Set-up and clean-up are done by campers in meal teams according to a schedule. Thus we have a type of quasi-co-op. Intelligent modification of this practice should be possible!!!

We run a very provident kitchen and with the help of our cooks and CYM co-op kitchen veterans can establish a very reasonable meal program or co-op plan (see **Cost**).

Query: Can we imagine a plan to use the whole of Nelson-Hall for dining?

Cost

For Friends' groups the cost is negotiable and is in the range of \$16-\$20 a night for accommodation only. It is essential that the Camp committee determine costs that are fair and which do not result in operating at a loss. ~~Comparison with other church camps (appendix to come) will be essential.~~

Some numbers from CYM Finance Committee from 2009:

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Average cost over all types of accommodation: \$22.57/overnight

Food Fees: \$24 180 for 3 163 meals. Note: There was only a meal plan and no Coop in 2009.

Average cost/ meal over all types of meal: \$7.65/meal

Queries: Can NeeKauNis work with these numbers? Was CYM happy with these numbers? {Note: Apparently CYM lost money on food in 2009}. Can we see the income stream to compare with these costs?

Timing

It is possible to accommodate Yearly Meeting in the Camp season schedule without disruption of the Camp Programming. During the 2009 season we had a program gap in August and this is also the case in 2010.

Queries: Will NKN program committee prepare scenarios for consideration which include same day turn arounds, one day turn arounds, 10-day and 7-day camps to? Can we imagine CYM in session remaining a yearly event? {The idea of a biennial Meeting is being threshed at CYM this summer}.

Gathering Friends.

Most Canadian Friends are in Ontario. Fifty percent of active Friends and attenders live in Ontario (from 2007 numbers reported in 2008). This is not news!

Shuttles can be arranged from the Toronto Airport. Busing involves getting to Toronto and making a connection. One can also take the GO train to Barrie and bus up, or be picked up by a driver. Many Friends may find the option of driving easier and the possibility of driving daily may exist for many Friends. Ride-sharing should also be considered.

Queries: What role can Simcoe Muskoka MM play, realistically, in local planning? Who is willing to assemble more accurate travel details? (We have information from the two reunions which need to be assessed).

Visit to Camp NeeKauNis, May 4, 2010

Beverly Shepard and I drove from Bev's home to camp on May 4th. We went together to explore various possibilities for using camp for CYM at some point in the future.

We considered two quite different possibilities:

1. All meetings would be on site, and all facilities would be used. Overflow (seniors) would be housed in a motel 15 minutes away, and transportation arranged in the morning and evening of each day.
2. All meetings would be in a nearby conference centre, camping and food coop would remain at camp. There would be a physical distinction made between those who use CYM as a "holiday", and those whose primary purpose for attending is to do business. We would arrange transportation so that those in the camping area could easily attend all meetings.

After reviewing the facilities, it seems to me that the second option does not work. The conference centre, which is 15 minutes away, is more luxurious than Friends would consider appropriate, and it has a price tag appropriate for that type of accommodation.

The majority of my comments, then, will be considering the viability of the first option.

This option would require that seniors and those requiring privacy would need to be housed in a motel. In this situation, we would probably not use the motel we looked at, as we would not need the conference facilities, and thus could select a motel with cheaper rates. We would need to arrange daily transportation to Camp in the morning and back to the motel in the evening. Perhaps volunteers (or hiring a van for the week), could make additional trips for afternoon naps, etc.

Camp can accommodate 85-100 people (depending on whether there are two in a double bed) living in common, with no private room assignments. There is room for many more in tents. We would meet in the Meeting House (the large building on the right as one enters the site), which can hold about 130 comfortably. My sense is that we can get more people than that into the space, and Paul Sheardown is working on a plan that would allow the maximum capacity for the building.

The ground between the Meeting House and the dining room is somewhat flat, and could be made more user friendly for wheelchair access.

The dining room holds a maximum of 100 people, 80 comfortably. There are also picnic tables available. It would be possible to build a platform for a tent, which could serve as a second dining room, and between the two, we could seat everyone in attendance.

Those staying at the motel would be responsible for their own breakfast. Breakfast at camp would be for those staying overnight at camp. That way, we are not rushing Friends to get to camp too early in the morning. Rather we would plan the transportation to have everyone at Meeting for Business, 8:30 am. Lunch and supper would be available for everyone at camp.

One assumption I am making is that our schedule will be the proposal in effect for 2011, all MfWfB happens from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

After lunch, we would need spaces for both plenary and breakout sessions. Everything from Bible or Quaker study to SIGs happens in the afternoons. There are six possible spaces for breakout sessions. If the weather is kind, we can also use the outdoors. Perhaps platforms and tents can also be used as temporary rooms.

Evening sessions would generally be in the Meeting Centre, since they are plenary sessions. Thursday evening, we may once again need the breakout spaces.

The Clerks, Agenda Committee, and Programme Committee would share Haslam Cottage, which has a living room meeting area. This cabin has a private washroom. There are three bedrooms. I think that the Clerk of PC, and/or the Office Administrator, and/or the Clerk of CYM would be appropriate Friends to use these spaces, which are located off the central living room area. This is the one cabin that we would get internet friendly. If someone has other internet needs during the week, they would most likely want to stay at the motel.

The Youth Programme would take place in the cafeteria, and would need to be cleaned up before each meal. We would also hire the three lifeguards that are used by camp during the summer. If it were raining, the cafeteria would be the only location for all ages. However, if it is sunny, there are many outside possibilities.

I didn't see an obvious area for Young Adult Friends...perhaps we could arrange a tent on a platform?

Food preparation and clean up is always an issue. This kitchen has a large capacity that will easily serve our needs. It may be that we would want the Food Coop to organize the meals, but that question is a bit further down the road of decision-making.

Toilets and showers would need serious consideration and capital improvement.

Beyond the capital improvements, let us say that water and facilities are sorted out; the biggest job I see that needs doing is convincing Friends that this is a good idea. Perhaps we could enlist some Young Friends and Friends who love camp into developing reasons why they think it is a good idea.

Here is why I think it is worth considering in depth:

1. We have an amazing asset in camp. Let us put our cash flow into our asset and build it to be a place where Friends want to be, where Friends of all ages can be comfortable. We could develop a 20 – 30 year capital improvement plan, working on one cabin at a time.

2. The quality of the silence is outstanding. Camp encourages one to slow down, to be part of nature, to take time to use one's senses and take it in.

3. It is a good location for Quaker Work Camps. Nothing builds community like working together, and this site needs our positive effort.

4. None of us knows what the future holds, and building up the land can do all of us good as we face the unknown.

5. We know that the future of CYM depends on the Young Friends of today. I believe that Young Friends love camp, and we need to encourage more YFs to come to various camps, or work camps, and to build the bonds that will keep our Society strong.

6. Camp is designed to support community building and spiritual growth through both personal quiet time and group activities of various types. It is possible that camp will do this better than any site that is unrelated to the Quaker experience.

Margot Overington,
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