

Giving extraordinary kids the chance to be ordinary.



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## Greetings From our Chair and Executive Director

Campfire stories are a fundamental part of any summer camp experience. Conversations and stories told around a campfire are often the memories that last a lifetime.

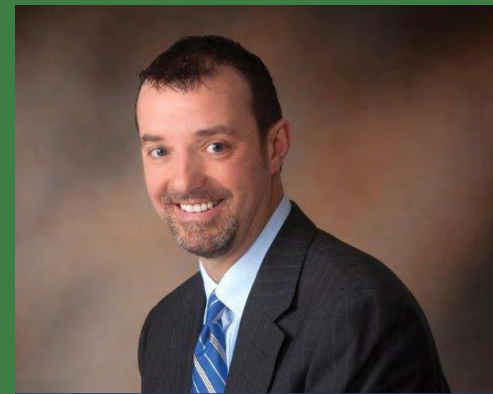
In 2015, more than 450 children and youth were able to create their own campfire story in our summer programs at Brigadoon. The experiences that generated these stories have changed these young lives forever.

Summer camp at Brigadoon has become the focal point of the year for so many children and families in Atlantic Canada living with a chronic illness, chronic condition or special need.

One week at camp provides such a unique opportunity for these extraordinary kids; the chance to be ordinary. These transformational experiences would not have been possible without the generous support of our partners and donors, physicians and clinic staff prescribing camp to their young patients, and the incredible work by our staff team.

Brigadoon Village was established to fulfill an unmet need for camp and recreation programs for children, and with each year that passes, we realize how many more families are in need of our programming.

We look forward to meeting the challenges of our growth in 2016, and wish to thank those that have been with us on our journey to this point for their continued support of Brigadoon and the families we serve.



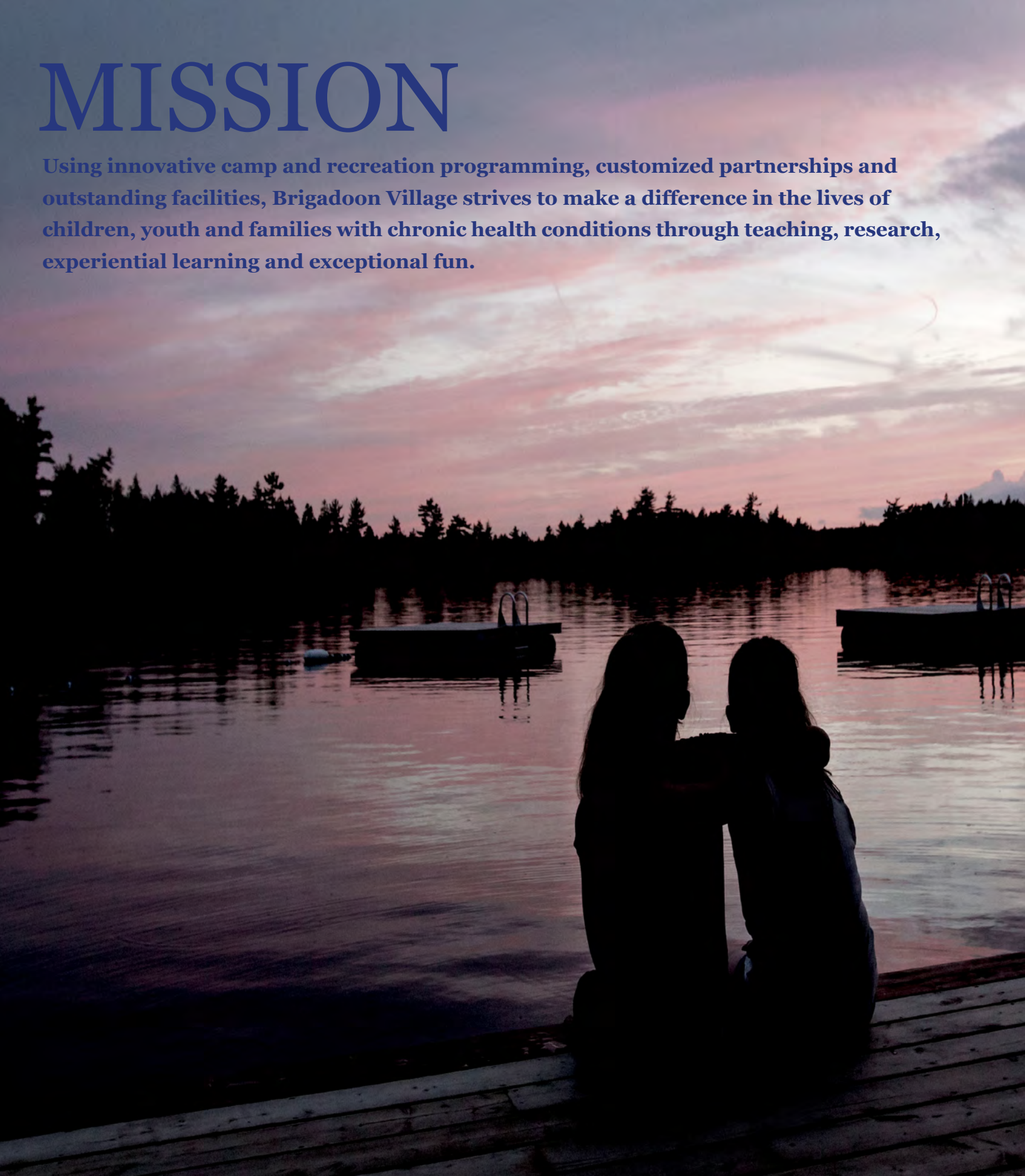
**Greg Blunden**  
Chair



**David Graham**  
Executive Director

# MISSION

Using innovative camp and recreation programming, customized partnerships and outstanding facilities, Brigadoon Village strives to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families with chronic health conditions through teaching, research, experiential learning and exceptional fun.



Brigadoon Village is a non-profit recreational facility located on Aylesford Lake, Nova Scotia.

With our partners, we develop specialized camp programming for children and youth living with a chronic illness, chronic condition or special need, hosting campers from the Atlantic region and across Canada.

Brigadoon Village is the first camp of its kind in Atlantic Canada, and will offer twelve specialized summer camp programs for children and youth in 2016.

Our guiding principles lead program development: to live sustainably, to be innovative, to be environmentally mindful, to be creative, to be compassionate, to be accountable, to be accessible, to create and build partnerships, to be community oriented, and of course, to have exceptional fun!

*"Camp means feeling like i'm not alone and gives me the chance to talk freely about my illness"*



To learn more about Brigadoon Village, visit: [brigadoonvillage.org](http://brigadoonvillage.org) or join the conversation online.



## Siena

### Camp Guts & Glory

My name is Siena, I'm 14 years old, and last summer was my first time at camp AND the best time of my life!

Dr. Otley, my GI, told me about Camp Guts and Glory. My mom signed me up, but I was nervous because I had never been to a sleep away camp and, being homeschooled, I don't usually spend time with big groups of kids.

Right before camp in June, I had to go on naso-gastric tube feed. With the tube taped to my face, and a backpack stuck on my back, I didn't much feel like going anywhere. Then Jen, my dietician at the IWK, mentioned that I could do a one-day drop in at camp to see what it was like, and that there would be other kids on tube feed there. That sounded manageable.

The night before camp, my mom and I drove three hours to Wolfville and stayed at a hotel. Around 4 am, I started vomiting. I was having a bad reaction to my new meds. Mom wanted to take me home but I insisted that I still wanted to go to camp for the day.

When I arrived, I met my counsellor and bunk mates, and after a couple of hours I was feeling like I wanted to stay for the whole week.

I was still feeling a bit nauseous and had many visits to the nurses' room (by the way, all the nurses were super nice), but I stayed and I even entered the talent show! It gave me a chance to meet lots of people, experience sleeping away from home, and do things I otherwise never get the chance to do. It truly was the best time of my life.

P.S. Today I'm packing for LIT camp at Brigadoon Village and I can't wait to get there!



## Bhreaugh Castellani Summer Staff Testimonial

I first experienced Brigadoon Village a few years ago as a volunteer. What I experienced at Camp Kedooopse that week, and again a few weeks later at Camp Goodtime, was incredible. After volunteering for a few years, I came to work full-time. I am so glad every day that I did. The counsellors provide incredible support for one another. It is not a group of friends, not teammates, not coworkers, not a family, but a mix of the very best of all of those connections. The staff has the laughter and support of friends, the strategic, on-the-court thinking of teammates, the professionalism of coworkers (though I did sing about my missing underwear in front of over forty people each week), the warmth and compassion of a family.

In addition to the relationships, I learned so much. I was educated about chronic health conditions, disabilities, athletic skills and survival strategies. I learned more about visual impairments and dietary restrictions in two months in the woods than in a year of my master's program. I learned how to play soccer baseball, and how to survive a zombie apocalypse. I learned about compassion for others, patience, forgiveness, communication, honesty, flexibility, and organization.

Ultimately, though, I learned and experienced the resiliency of children in the face of adversity. As a cancer survivor myself, I know from first-hand experience the obstacles and exclusion, intentional or not, that having an illness as a child incurs.

I often talk about Brigadoon being magical- but, you see, it truly is. When children drive down the driveway, and arrive in the field each Sunday, the most incredible thing happens. The obstacles, exclusions, and difficulties of living with a chronic health condition magically float away into the background. The campers, united by a health condition, diverge into individuals who are so much more than just a diagnosis. They are athletes, actors, friends, siblings, unique individuals for whom a week at camp is a rare, but essential, opportunity.

This magical phenomenon of growth and individualization carries on throughout the week as war stories, laughter, and memories are shared and made. Campers are just that- campers- and everything else surrounding their condition is forgotten. No matter what Brigadoon does for its staff, which by itself is incredible, that is what matters. The magic of camp to normalize unusual circumstances, and let kids come alive, in the woods, 1.5km off of the North River Road. I think of it often, and I'll miss it always.



# BRIGADOON VILLAGE BY THE NUMBERS



Community events are a fun way to spread awareness and raise funds to send children living with a chronic illness, chronic condition or special need to camp!

In 2015...

\$200, 240

Dollars raised through  
community events

25

Individual  
community  
events



"Camp means being stress free, being myself, letting loose, friends and...FUN!"

"My favourite thing about camp is how everyone feels accepted and comfortable with everyone in the camp. It's a great facility for everything that we need."

**In 2015, we offered the following weeklong summer camp programs to over 450 children and youth between the ages of 8-17:**

**Camp See-Ya (blind and visual impairments)**  
in partnership with APSEA

**Camp Braveheart (congenital heart issues)**  
proudly supported by Braveheart Support Society

**Camp Lots-a-Wata (kidney disease)**  
proudly supported by The Kidney Foundation

**Camp JoinTogether (juvenile arthritis)**  
proudly supported by the Arthritis Society- NS Division

**Camp Treasure Chest (lung health)**  
proudly supported by The Lung Association of Nova Scotia

**Camp Trailblazers (craniofacial/facial differences)**  
in partnership with AboutFace

**Camp Guts & Glory (Crohn's & Colitis/IBD)**  
generously supported by Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.

**Camp Got2Go (Crohn's & Colitis/IBD)**  
in partnership with Crohn's & Colitis Canada

**The Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtime**

**Camp Silly-Yak (celiac disease)**

**Camp Kedooopse (bereavement)**

**Camp Carpe Diem (epilepsy)**

*"Camp means having a chance to be me and be with people with the same condition. You feel accepted but at the same time you forget"*

*Summer camp at Brigadoon in 2015 was outstanding!*

Over 450 campers sang songs, paddled kayaks, painted pictures and made new friends.

It's impossible to pick a favourite moment from the summer, since all of them were filled with fun, excitement and laughter. The eleven camp programs over nine weeks saw campers from six provinces come together and share a week with friends that share a similar condition or need.

We had an exceptional team of staff and volunteers, leading programs and campers through their Brigadoon adventures. Without these dedicated folks camp would be virtually impossible. Our operations team kept camp safe and our bellies filled with delicious food.

The only thing better than Summer 2015 is knowing that Summer 2016 will be even more amazing, with lots of new and returning campers coming to Brigadoon!

*-- Gareth Evans, Summer Director*



# 2015 Camp Statistics

- 79%** of campers came from Nova Scotia
- 74%** of campers were referred to Brigadoon Village by doctors and clinic staff at the IWK Health Centre
- 97%** of campers would like to return to Brigadoon Village next summer
- 100%** would recommend Brigadoon Village to friends or family!

*"Camp is where my second home is. I've never felt so at home anywhere else. Camp JoinTogether at Brigadoon Village enabled me to feel comfortable talking about arthritis, learn how to swim and meet awesome people who have changed my life forever"*



# Off-Season Programming

In 2015, over 65 groups including school groups, non-profit organizations, government agencies and corporate groups enjoyed our facility for teambuilding, programming, corporate retreats, special functions, professional development sessions and, of course, camp fun!



Brigadoon also hosted a variety of weekend and shorter camp stays for children, youth and families including: You're in Charge, Wanna Get Down, and Autism Nova Scotia.

*Brigadoon 2015 marked the first year Autism Nova Scotia offered two Brigadoon family weekends in one year. Autism Nova Scotia received a vast amount of interest in these weekends, and both filled very quickly. Autism Nova Scotia received large amounts of positive feedback from these two weekends, including comments such as "the food was wonderful," "accommodations and activities were greatly enjoyed by all members of the family." Families spoke highly of the staff and volunteers, and at the end of each weekend families were talking about how they already could not wait for next year.*

*Autism Nova Scotia is again offering two Brigadoon weekends, now called Camp Au-some, as voted on by families last year. Both these weekends are already full! Autism Nova Scotia is excited to be partnering with Brigadoon again this year!"*

*-- Autism Nova Scotia*



## Nick Camp Guts & Glory

I found out about Brigadoon Village when I went to visit Dr. Otley for the first time in July 2015. I ran into a teenager in the waiting room. I told him I was getting a feeding tube that day, and he told me he had a feeding tube too, and it wasn't that bad. He described everything to me and at the end of our talk he asked me if I was going to Camp Guts & Glory. He said I had to go, he had been going since it opened, and it was amazing. He told me about some of the activities and it really made me want to go. I was nervous though because I was going to have a feeding tube, and I had never been to an overnight camp before.

Dr. Otley also mentioned the camp to me and told me it would be a great experience. I was worried I would be the only kid there with a feeding tube. He said it would be fine, and he promised to check if any other kids would have a feeding tube also. I had second thoughts about going but then a few days later Dr. Otley called my parents at home and said he spoke to the camp, there was another camper that would have a feeding tube. He also talked to Brigadoon about my situation. This really made me feel better. My parents felt really good about it too because there were so many nurses at the camp and Dr. Otley would be there too.

I decided to go, but at the same time I wasn't 100% sure as I had only had the tube for less than three weeks, and it was still so new to me. Who would take care of me and change my tube every four hours? I was also worried about having to go to the bathroom in such a public place.

The day we got there was great, I was met by Dr. Otley, five nurses, the Camp Director, and all kinds of counsellors. That first day just made me feel so much safer. They explained everything I had to do, and which nurses would help me with my tube. I instantly made new friends and joined in all the activities I could: swimming, campfires, archery, cooking – there was so many activities to choose from.

Some of them were a little tough since I could only remove my tube for four hours a day, and meal times were a little hard also as everyone else was eating and I couldn't. We tried to plan swimming activities around my tube being out. I still went to the dining hall, there was always lots of fun going on and I got to hang out with my new friends.

The best part about camp for me though is that I got to be with other people who are going through the exact same things as I was. At home I didn't know anyone that had Crohn's and kind of felt alone. At camp we joked so much about the disease.

I felt so much more confident about my disease and situation after I left camp. Just knowing I wasn't the only one. When I was at camp I didn't have to worry that I had a disease and that I wasn't like everyone else my own age. When my Mom picked me up I told her how much I loved it and that I couldn't wait to go back next year. I have decided I want to be a counsellor one day and help other kids that are going through this.



# Stay Connected.

We love hearing from campers and families! Here are a few highlights from the past year.

## TWITTER

**@yarrowgillis** Love completing application for child, answering yes to medical issues & not being afraid of being rejected. Love @BrigadoonTweets

**@tinacolvey** this has been the best week of my life

**@kevinmccann** We held our company retreat @Brigadoon-Tweets once again. It was great. Love the place and team thinking in it.

**@klcomeau** Thank you @BrigadoonTweets for a great weekend of exploring and challenging ourselves. #Pathfinders #guidingrocks

**@MacPheeCentre** We LOVE @BrigadoonTweets!! Thank you so much for sharing. Can't wait to collaborate!

## FACEBOOK

**Claudia-** Would like to say a big thanks to the staff, my daughter was at Camp Silly-Yak all week and loved it. She was sad when she left she can't wait to go back next year, I honestly think it's the happiest i've seen her in a long time.

**Tammy-** My Thomas is heading to this third year of Camp Treasure Chest tomorrow. He is so excited, and i'm excited for him!

**Michelle-** My boy Franklin just came home from Camp Carpe Diem and he had the BEST week ever. He talked for three hours on the way home about how fantastic it was... the people, the games, the excitement and the FOOD! A special shout out to Blake his leader, he loves you! He didn't want to leave and that is saying something.

**Jen-** Thank you Brigadoon Village. I have seen many smiles from campers, as I have planed and facilitated many activities, as a former-staff....however today I saw another side of Brigadoon....I saw my child return home after being a camper. She always wanted to attend camp, and I was always thankful she did not qualify... however a crazy year, I am thankful Brigadoon Village is there for her and all her new amazing friends. I know how much of an lifelong impact the staff have on our children - and I totally understand how tiring it is to continuously give 110%, so, from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helps in ALL capacities to help extraordinary kids experience an extraordinary camp



Join the conversation!



## 55 Brave Individuals Swam the Northumberland Strait and Raised Over \$150,000

On Sunday, August 16, 55 brave individuals entered the Northumberland Strait to take on the incredible challenge of swimming from New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island in The BIG SWIM.

This year, all of the funds raised from the swim went directly toward sending Atlantic Canadian children living with a chronic illness, chronic condition or special need to Brigadoon's programs.

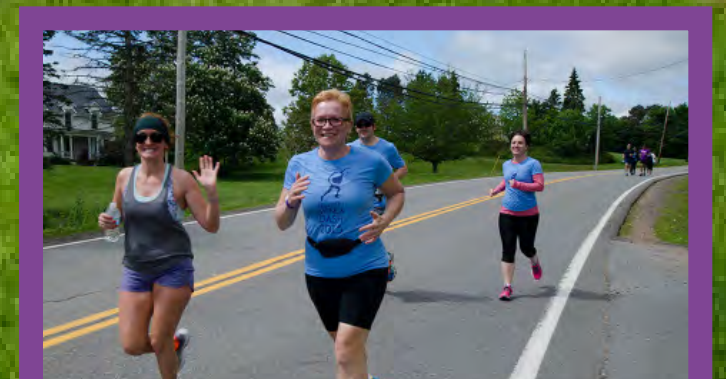
Congratulations to GIVETOLIVE on another successful event and thank you for selecting us as the recipient of funds raised. We would also like to give a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers, kayakers and swimmers.



Brigadoon's inaugural Wine & Dash was a huge success! On June 14th more than 400 runners and walkers took to the scenic country roads of the Gaspereau Valley and completed a ten mile route connecting Gaspereau Vineyards, Domaine De Grand Pre, Luckett Vineyards and L'Acadie Vineyards.

Through the engagement, generosity and support of participants and sponsors, \$75,000 was raised to help send Atlantic Canadian children to camp.

Thank you to the numerous sponsors for helping to make this year's event possible, including: SBW, ZedEvents, BoyneClarke, National Public Relations, Owens MacFadyen Group, The Trail Shop, C100, KPMG, Your Independent Grocer, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Valley Ford, Weed Man, Cushman & Wakefield and Foxhill Cheese House.



## Lorelei

### Camp Guts & Glory & Camp Carpe Diem

Lorelei was born after a long labour and delivery, and had many complications in the NICU. She experienced seizures at a few hours old, and the diagnosis of cerebral palsy came at ten days of age. As she got older more diagnosis were thrown at her, and the early days were often filled with tears and prayers.

In the summer of 2013, she started showing the tell tale signs of Crohn's disease. Months and many tests later at the age of eight we had our diagnosis. As we sat down with her GI nursing team, one mentioned about a very special camp she could attend, and they sent us home with a DVD about Brigadoon. I was immediately sold.

At first, she didn't want to go, but I knew we had to get her there because she needed to see other kids just like her dealing with this disease.

That summer she set off for Camp Guts & Glory, and she had an amazing week at the summer's largest camp, and as the youngest camper! She didn't want to leave when we came to pick her up, she met bunk-mates who she sees every summer now, and talked about Brigadoon for months after. She counts down the days each year until she can return.

After she came back we mentioned to her she could also try going to Camp Carpe Diem for her epilepsy. She was all over it, a second camp at her favourite place? So we did it all over again! And she loved it again!

Brigadoon is magic. Kids get to be kids again. For that one week they're not at the IWK Health Centre, and not doing tests. They're there among their peers who know exactly what they're facing.

Lorelei's not been handed an easy life by any means, and I'm happy for one or two weeks each summer she can go to a place where epilepsy and Crohn's are considered normal, and she doesn't have to worry about anything! I often leave in happy tears after picking her up, and am so amazed we have this wonderful facility right here.

-- Amber (Lorelei's mom)





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Heartfelt thank you to retiring board members: Janane Chater, David Postil and Robert Pitter. We would also like to thank our volunteers who have went above and beyond to ensure our campers have the time of their lives! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

# Donors

Thank you for sharing in our vision of providing a life-changing experience for children living with a chronic illness, chronic condition or special need the opportunity to attend our camp programs. Please note this list is a sample of some of our donors.

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Millis, Ann Elizabeth  
Milne, Stanley  
Moffatt, Sherri  
Monk, Beverley

Morey, Carole E.  
Morgan, Elizabeth  
Morrison, Angela  
Morse, Laura  
Moser, Carol  
Moulton, Patty  
Mount Allison Students' Union  
Muir, Jamie  
Murphy, Jean  
Musie, Shauna

## N

Napier, Matthew  
National  
Neville, Brian  
Neville-Beck, Louise  
Newcombe, Tom and Connie  
Newton, Peter  
Nicholson Family  
Niekamp, Kyle  
Noonan, Peter  
North Alton Baptist Women's Auxiliary  
North River Fire Hall  
Nova Scotia Construction Labour Relations Association  
Nova Scotia Health Authority  
NSCC, Annapolis Valley Campus

## O

O'Donnell, Craig  
Ogilvie, Kelvin  
Oickle, Bernard  
O'Malley, Frances  
Oppel, Kenneth K.  
Orchids Salon & Spa

## P

Paradowski, Cheryl  
Parolin, Andrew  
Patterson, Shelley  
Penney, Annette  
Peters, Robert J.  
Plant, Jane  
Plenus Consultants  
Poley, Debra Louise  
Postuma, Odette  
Purcell, Kimberley  
Purchase, Bruce  
Pyesmany, Allan  
Pynch, Joseph and Kyle

# Donors

## R

Raddall, Dr. Tom  
Rae, Joey M.  
Rand, Florence M  
Rappoldt, Melanie  
Rawding, Marilyn  
RBC Foundation  
RBC Middleton  
R.D. Chisholm Limited  
Redden, Mike  
Reese, Sandra  
Reid, Deborah  
Rent, Terry  
Rice, Jaffray  
Riley, Edith  
Ring, John and Lisa  
Ritchie, J. William  
Robertson, Ken  
Robertson, Sheila  
Robinson, Dorothy V.  
Rockwell, Caitlyn  
Ross, Madeline  
Rotary Club of Kentville  
Russell Marina  
Russell Investments

## S

Saint Mary's University  
Salesforce Foundation  
Sanford, Nancy  
Sangster, Rob  
Saunders, Ellen R  
SBW Wealth Management  
Scaravelli, Philomena  
Schaffner, Bob  
Schofield, Lynne  
Scotiabank  
Shaw, Dan  
Sheet Harbour Lions Club  
Sherman, Stephen  
Simmons, Peter  
Sinclair, Eric  
Sinclair, Lois  
Sinclair, Wendell  
Sinibaldi, Sarah  
Slipp, Barry Lockhart  
Smale, Shawn

Smith, Susan Lynn  
Smith, Marilyn D.  
Smith-Vieira, Ann  
Snow, John  
Spafford, Margot  
St. Monica's CWL  
Stanton, Sarah  
Stevens, Gordon  
Stewart, Margaret  
Stokes, Barbara  
Stonecrest  
Stonehouse, Darcy  
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation  
Street, Robert  
Sunset Palms Shuffleboard Club  
Symons, William

## T

Tait, Isobel and David  
Taylor, Paula R.  
Team SLD  
Thalheimer, Andrew H.  
The Kidney Foundation of Canada  
The Stevens Family Foundation  
The Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Toronto  
The Trail Shop  
The Windsor Foundation  
Tibbetts, Dawna  
Town of Kentville  
Tucker, Cassandra  
Tucker, Wanda

## U

Ueffing, Susan  
United Way of Greater Moncton  
United Way of Greater Toronto  
United Way of Halifax Region

## V

Valero Energy Foundation of Canada  
Valley Ford  
Valley Waste Staff Gift Fund  
VanDet, Mary  
Veinot, Fred and Janette  
Verran, Tammy  
Visentin, Suzanne

## W

Walker Wood Foundation  
Walsh, Mary E.  
Walsh, Natasha  
Walsh, Thomas and Verna  
Waterbry, Jennifer  
Watts, Barbara  
Weatherby, Lee  
Weed Man Maritimes  
Wells, Carolyn  
Wentzell, Valerie  
West, Barb and George  
Whalen, Bernice  
Whalen, Vince and Karen  
White, H. Roy  
White, Heather  
Whynot, Terry  
Wiebe, Michael and Lee Anne  
Wightman, Howard Allan  
Willoughby, James  
Willowdale Farms Inc.  
Wilson, E. John  
Wilson, Marjorie  
Wilson, Patrick  
Woodman, Susan  
Worden, Marcia  
Worthylake, Michael Grant

## Y

Yans, Judy  
Yhap, Margaret  
Young, Nancy

## Z

Zed Events





# Financials

## Brigadoon Children's Camp Society Statement of Operations

(Unaudited)

Year ended December 31

	2015	2014
<b>Revenues</b>		
Facility rental	\$ 477,424	\$ 484,765
Fundraising	749,869	825,235
Other income	2,432	2,267
Amortization of deferred contributions	209,496	216,107
Grants	18,562	15,835
	<u>1,457,783</u>	<u>1,544,209</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Office (Schedule 1)	361,669	281,226
Fund development (Schedule 2)	275,126	242,549
Camp operations (Schedule 3)	1,008,916	1,019,256
	<u>1,645,711</u>	<u>1,543,031</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ (187,928)</u>	<u>\$ 1,178</u>

## Brigadoon Children's Camp Society Statement of Financial Position

(Unaudited)

December 31

	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$ 80,740	\$ 228,748
Receivables	7,071	6,339
Government remittance receivable	1,547	68,449
	<u>89,358</u>	<u>303,536</u>
Restricted cash (Note 3)	207,520	207,520
Property and equipment (Note 4)	6,596,222	6,846,266
	<u>\$ 6,893,100</u>	<u>\$ 7,357,322</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Payables and accruals	\$ 26,783	\$ 55,623
Deferred revenue	76,651	39,778
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 5)	935,135	118,101
	<u>1,038,569</u>	<u>213,502</u>
Long-term debt (Note 5)	319,908	1,262,604
Deferred capital contributions (Note 6)	5,027,915	5,186,580
	<u>6,386,392</u>	<u>6,662,686</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>506,708</u>	<u>694,636</u>
	<u>\$ 6,893,100</u>	<u>\$ 7,357,322</u>



**Thank you for reading our  
2015 Annual Report.**

To learn how you can support Brigadoon Village or help send a child to camp, please visit us online at:

**[www.brigadoonvillage.org](http://www.brigadoonvillage.org)**

**or phone 1-888-471-5666.**



BRIGADOON

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