

ANNUAL
REPORT

2023

BRIGADOON
VILLAGE

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Message from The Chair

Thanks to the commitment of our dedicated staff and board members and the continued generosity of our supporters, we are coming out of the pandemic years with optimism. It is safe to say, like many not-for-profits, we have weathered uncertainties with COVID-19 and its impact. Last year, it really did feel like new life was breathed into Brigadoon, heralding a period of transition and growth.

Our week-long camps were back to full capacity and 709 children and youth from across Atlantic Canada benefitted from the life-changing experience of camp at Brigadoon. We welcomed back The BIG SWIM, held in support of Brigadoon by GIVETOLIVE, with 36 swimmers braving the waters of the Northumberland Strait and raising over \$150,000. We were proud to show off our facility to many new faces and old friends from government, donors, camper families, and more. We welcomed back friends to camp

for our Summer Social which was attended by supporters who toured the Village hearing first-hand from former campers and staff about the lasting impact of Brigadoon.

We recognize that the past number of years have been challenging ones for many people. We are tremendously grateful to those who continue to stand with us and who have given Brigadoon a renewed sense of hope and excitement. Thank you to our wonderful and faithful donors, government supporters, and community partners. We are only able to provide the transformational experiences of camp for hundreds of children each year thanks to YOU.

With gratitude,



Scott Flemming
Chair, Board of Directors



2023 Snapshots



Parent, Volunteer, Donor

An Enduring Legacy of Support

One of the pillars of camp at Brigadoon is fostering connections. We hear many stories of the ways campers connect with their peers during their time at camp and how so often, these connections last for years.

Roger Sinclair's connection to Brigadoon began 17 years ago when our founder, Dave McKeage, invited him to serve as the chair of the organization's first capital campaign. Roger knew first-hand how important Brigadoon Village could be for kids like his own daughter, Abigail. In 2004, Roger and Lisa's (Bugden) daughter, then three, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Abigail began attending the Canadian Cancer Society's (CCS) Camp Goodtimes before it had a home at Brigadoon Village and experienced how, at camp, you're able to be more than your diagnosis or medical history—at camp you can be ordinary.

New to fundraising at this level, Roger agreed to co-chair the campaign with Ruby Blois, and they, with Dave McKeage, went on to raise more than \$10 million through private, corporate, foundation, and government donations and secured a 50-year lease of land from Nova Scotia Power. Brigadoon Village became a reality.

Abigail, now 24, attended CCS Camp Goodtime at Brigadoon Village from 2012–2017. Today, she is completing her Master of Arts in Performance – Voice at the Royal Academy of Music in London, U.K. and following graduation this summer will begin a two-year post graduate Advanced Diploma in Opera.

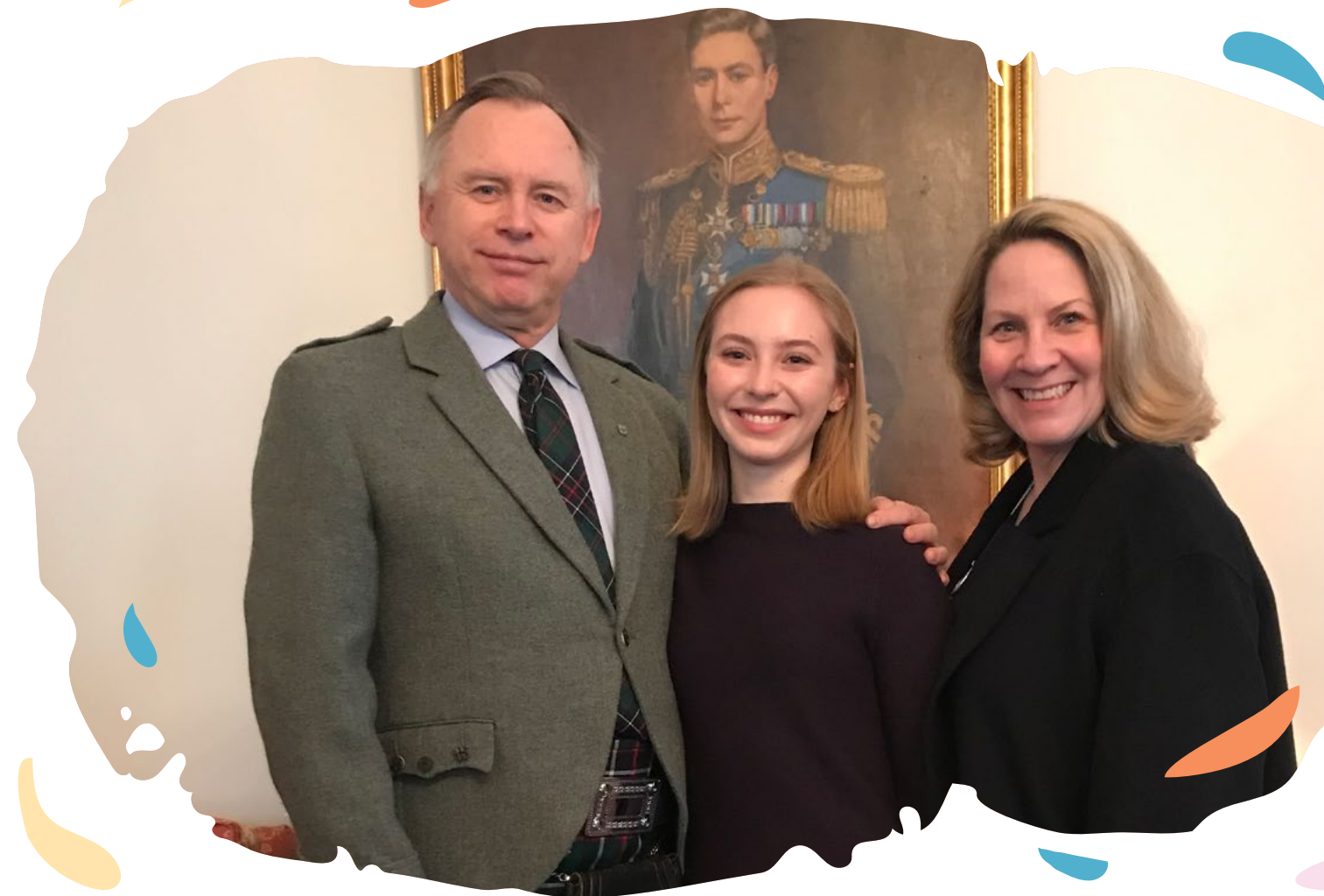
Roger and Lisa continue to be strong supporters of Brigadoon. Lisa currently serves on Brigadoon's Board of Directors. Over the years, Roger has seen the vital role fundraising plays in keeping the doors open at Brigadoon. While the generous donations that Brigadoon receives each year help to fund camper registrations and programming, legacy gifts ensure that the organization can look to the future and plan for generations of campers to come. Recognizing Brigadoon's need

for legacy donations that will assist long-term, Roger set up a new life insurance policy and donated it to the organization. In doing so, Roger has not only ensured that his generosity will live on at Brigadoon beyond his own lifetime, but he will receive the tax benefits now. For many donors, making a gift of life insurance – whether by donating an existing policy or opening a new one – allows them to make a larger donation than would be otherwise possible in their lifetime.

Someone recently asked Roger when he plans on stepping back from supporting Brigadoon.

“When the kids quit, I’ll quit,” he responded.

The extraordinary kids at Brigadoon are no quitters so we're grateful to have Roger in our corner for the long haul.



2023 Impact

Of those surveyed:

95% of campers tried something they had never done before

"My camper was so proud of trying new things, especially overcoming his fear of boats by canoeing with the team!"

"Our daughter was amazed with herself that she tried the Giant Swing – definitely out of her comfort zone."

95% felt like they belonged

"They have a great group of friends at camp they feel comfortable talking with, as they know they will understand them more than people who don't share their condition."

98% of campers plan to apply and return to Brigadoon next summer

"My camper didn't think she would ever be able to attend an overnight camp. Brigadoon made that possible and she absolutely loved her time there. She made some great friends that she still talks to daily and cannot wait to return next summer."

"My camper wants to come next year because she enjoys every part about camp and it's a good reminder that she isn't the only kid in her situation"



Campers became more **resilient!**

"He recently didn't make the team he was trying out for, despite having the best performance compared to someone already on the team. He better understood that other factors than performance can come into play (e.g., team loyalty) and he was less upset than he has been in the past."

Campers gained **confidence!**

"She led her back-to-school allergy meeting with new and returning school staff and was able to articulate her needs and explain her condition with confidence. She also came home with a desire to "find a sport"—to my theatre kid, this was new. She is happily trying two new sports now, where she knew no one and is having a great time."

"He is more willing to put himself out there more with new people. Asks for help easily from strangers and I find advocated for himself a lot more in food situations when he's trying to navigate menus etc."

What **difference** has coming to camp made in your camper's summer?

"It was the highlight of my child's summer. She is more confident, independent, and the relationships she has with her cabin mates are going to be lifelong!! Your staff are amazing!"

"He gets a week that's just for him. No one is scared or hesitant of his condition."

In a camper's words:

"This year really changed me. It made me appreciate community and friendship more than ever."

"A place to be myself, make some new friends, and to push myself to be a better me."

Junior Counsellor Program

Bridging the Gap from Camper to Counsellor

Just as we see campers grow and change over the years, Brigadoon Village's programming continues to evolve. One of the programs that has seen significant growth over the past several years is the Junior Counsellor program.

Over their time at Brigadoon, campers not only build important friendships and connections with other campers, but the spirit and magic of Brigadoon itself becomes a special part of their lives. Graduation from Brigadoon is always a bittersweet milestone. Knowing there is a pathway like the Junior Counsellor program that allows them to return to camp in another capacity helps many campers with this transition.

After their last summers with us as campers, many want to return to give back and to be part of making a difference for other children. The transition from camper to counsellor can be a tricky one—especially for someone who has been coming to Brigadoon for many years. The Junior Counsellor program was developed to help bridge this transition to support camper-graduates.

We're thrilled that the **Halifax Youth Foundation** has come on board to support the Junior Counsellor Program for the 2024 season!



Summer 2021

When Caroline Keats was almost 15, she was diagnosed with asthma. On a visit to the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre in St. John's, N.L., Caroline's mother noticed a pamphlet for Camp Treasure Chest at Brigadoon Village on a bulletin board. At first, Caroline was reluctant to make the trip to Nova Scotia for camp, but after her first week at Brigadoon she discovered she loved it and hasn't looked back.

After spending four summers as a camper and taking part in leadership training, Caroline graduated to the Junior Counsellor program in 2020—the first year the program was delivered. Since being offered, the program has grown to 11 Junior Counsellors and includes a full week of training in June,

followed by a return to Brigadoon for two weeks during the summer. During this time, they are paired with a Counsellor, and the Junior Counsellors live in a cabin supporting campers through activities from wake-up to bedtime, ensuring they are safe, included, and experiencing the magic of Brigadoon.

Since taking part in the Junior Counsellor program, Caroline has gone on to earn a degree in Biochemistry and Nutrition from Memorial University while returning to Brigadoon each summer in a variety of Counsellor/Programmer roles. The summer of 2023 was exciting for her as she took on the role of Program Coordinator for the Junior Counsellor program.

"It's amazing to see the difference in Junior Counsellors from the beginning of their two weeks to the end. Some arrive unsure of themselves and hesitant and before you know it, they're confident, taking initiative, and trusting themselves and their abilities," says Caroline. "I'm beginning my master's degree in Occupational Therapy this fall and I know that my growth at Brigadoon has really helped me outside of the camp environment, as well."

Brigadoon values having former campers like Caroline return in leadership positions, armed with experience, empathy, and a love and understanding of camp.

Financials

Brigadoon made a strong financial recovery in 2023, resulting from growth in fundraising and camp programs. The generous support from our community of donors and sponsors, as well as oversight from our Board of Directors, has put Brigadoon on a path to financial sustainability.

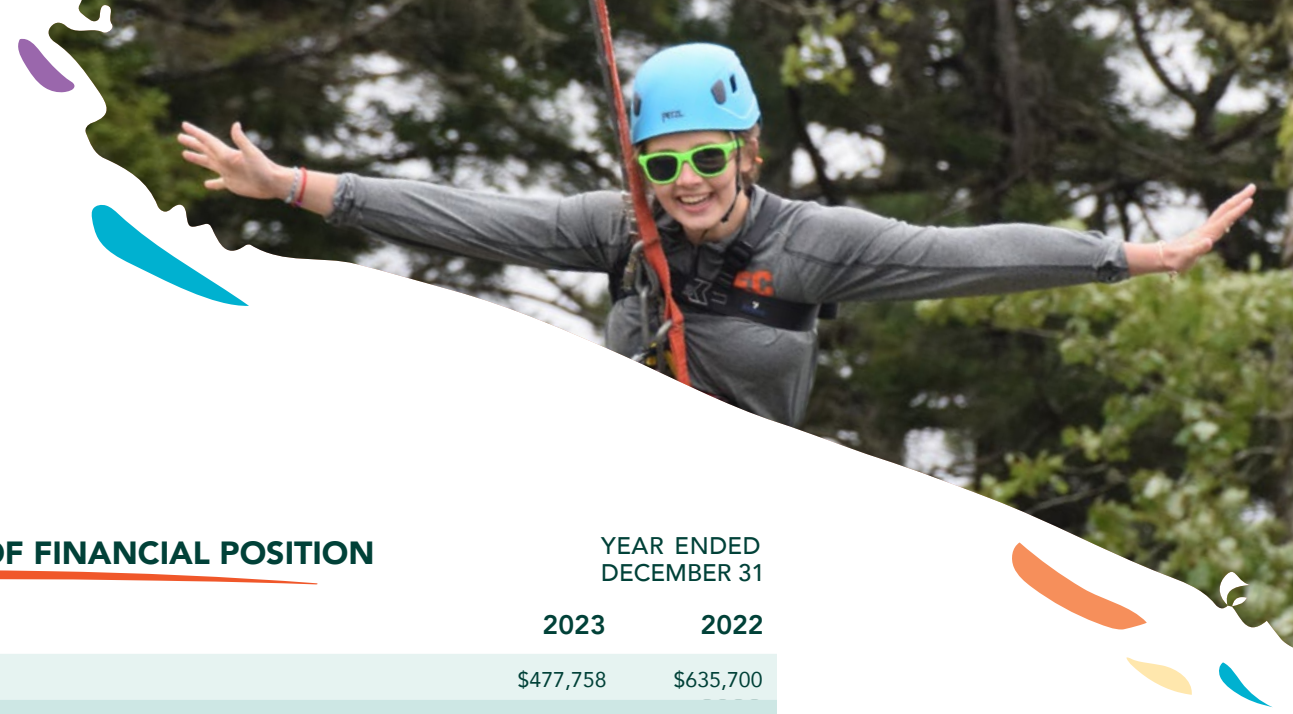
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	
REVENUES	2023	2022	
CAMP REVENUE	\$992,772	\$597,004	
FUNDRAISING	\$1,758,317	\$1,001,359	
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$574,957	\$376,494	
OTHER	\$224,174	\$98,065	
	\$3,550,220	\$2,072,922	
EXPENDITURES			
CAMP OPERATIONS	\$2,584,516	\$1,879,985	
FUND DEVELOPMENT	\$484,657	\$544,654	
OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION	\$806,687	\$725,135	
	\$3,875,860	\$3,149,774	
OTHER INCOME			
	\$60,255	\$40,281	
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$(265,385)	\$(1,036,571)	



Thank you to our camp sponsors



Hydrostone



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	
ASSETS		2023	2022
CURRENT	CASH	\$477,758	\$635,700
	RECEIVABLES	\$3,006	-
	PREPAIDS	\$47,657	\$46,890
	HARMONIZED SALES TAX RECEIVABLE	\$5,601	\$4,918
	\$534,022	\$687,508	
INVESTMENTS	\$776,719	\$673,470	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	\$15,074,111	\$15,729,212	
	\$16,384,852	\$17,090,190	
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT	PAYABLES & ACCRUALS	\$160,467	\$140,128
	DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS	\$101,459	\$66,245
	BANK LOAN	-	\$2,162,768
	CURRENT PORTION OF CALLABLE DEBT	\$321,277	\$105,000
	CURRENT PORTION OF LONG TERM DEBT	-	\$30,000
	CURRENT PORTION OF DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION	\$548,359	\$516,307
	CURRENT LIABILITIES BEFORE CALLABLE DEBT	\$1,131,562	\$3,020,448
	CALLABLE DEBT	\$771,270	\$237,917
	1,902,832	\$3,258,365	
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,260,615	\$12,389,359	
	\$15,163,447	\$15,647,724	
FUND BALANCES			
UNRESTRICTED	\$789,114	1,054,499	
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED CAPITAL	\$115,000	\$115,000	
ENDOWMENT	\$317,291	272,967	
	\$1,221,405	\$1,442,466	
	\$16,384,852	\$17,090,190	

Thank you!



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