

# MASQUEBEC

H I L L



*An Overnight Camp for Boys on Newfound Lake in New Hampshire*

# An Introduction to Dave Hughes and his small Camp for Boys . . . . .



*Dave Hughes is one of the truly gifted educators I have encountered in thirty years of clinical practice. His gift is simply this: he profoundly respects each child he deals with, thus teaching self-respect; he allows the child's intellect and the child's sense of fun to commingle and rejoice in one another, thus teaching love of learning; he treats each child with a gentle thoughtfulness, thus teaching the immeasurable value of kindness.*

*Camp Masquebec Hill is a reflection of Dave's spirit and wisdom, and, without exception, every parent and child to whom I have spoken over the years about their Masquebec Hill experience describes it as a truly memorable and valuable one.*

*— Dr. Richard Berlin, child psychologist*

To Whom it may concern,

....a word about the essence of this camp as expressed in its logo which appears at the top of subsequent pages.

When I first saw words like "values" and "altruism" in that logo, my reaction was skeptical to say the least. The former word seems vague and over used of late, and isn't the latter pretty unattainable for young boys between the ages of ten and sixteen? The camps with which I have been associated over the years, if they had a logo or raison d'être at all, never went much beyond fun, friends, and activities.

Having been a teaching colleague of Dave for close to a lifetime, I should not have been a skeptic. Having visited and observed the Camp in action, I no longer am. Dave's entire career as a teacher has been all about getting young boys, hundreds of them, to commit to more than just themselves. As aggressively as I have seen him work at this in the classroom setting, it was always at summer camp on Newfound Lake, at a place that he loves and where he grew up, that he knew boys could best learn and practice what he deemed to be the most important Big Three lifetime skills:

- good judgement
- sticking up for what you think is right
- being aggressively altruistic

This focus truly permeates a session spent at Masquebec Hill. Counselors, who have all been campers at one time, will befriend boys and help them to become better sailors or swimmers or tennis players, but they never lose sight of the Big Three and the myriad of opportunities to develop them in the overnight camp setting. In truth, Masquebec Hill has goodly amounts of the afore mentioned good fun, new friends, and activities, but it is clearly committed to more. In my observation, it achieves a good deal more.

Read Albright , lifetime teacher

For The Friends of Masquebec Hill

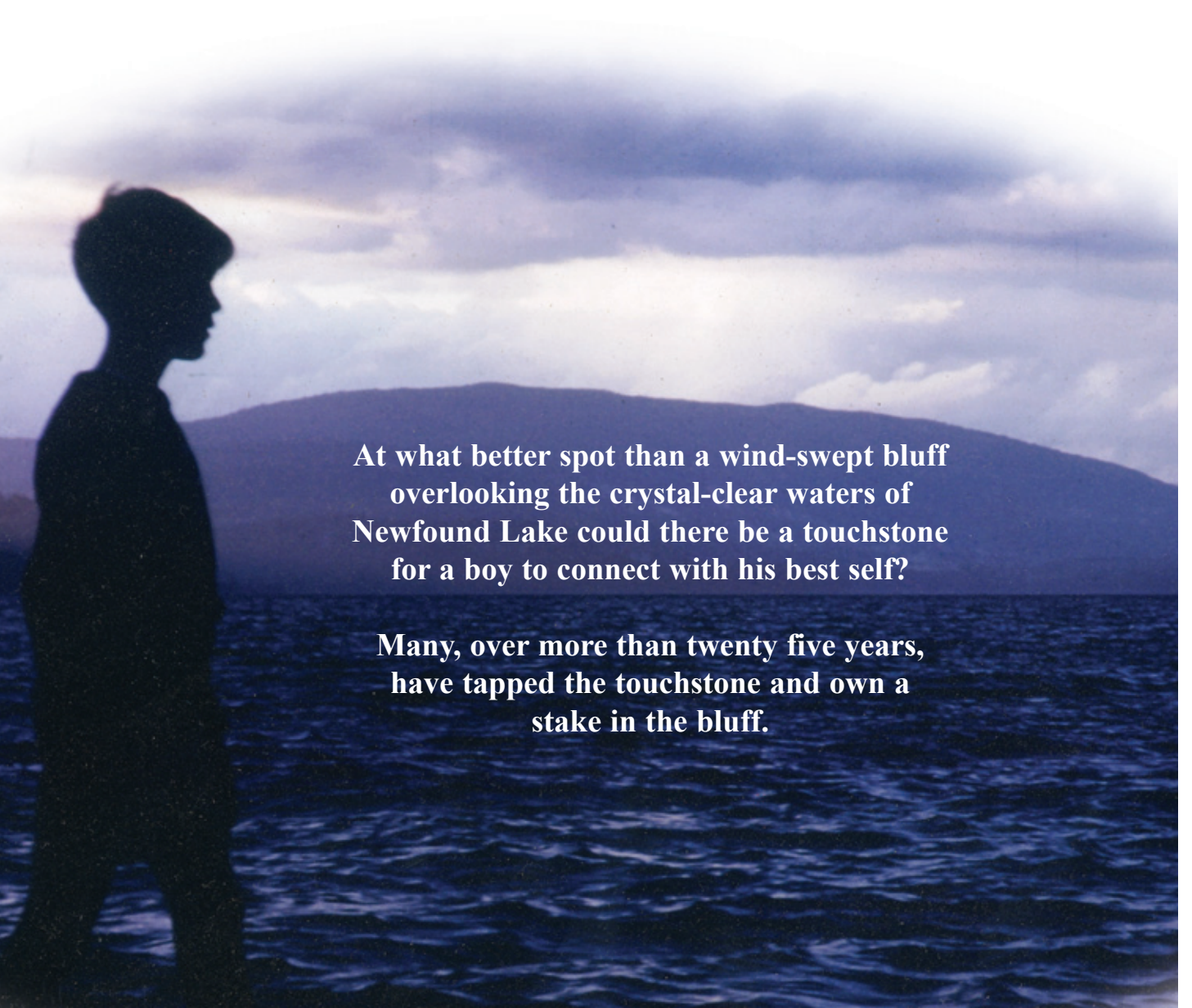
# MASQUEBEC HILL

*On Newfound Lake in New Hampshire*

Masquebec Hill is a small supportive community dedicated to character development in boys and young men.

“The Camp’s goal in mentoring ten to sixteen year old boys is to encourage and celebrate each individual’s understanding of others, good judgement, and abiding values.”

— David Hughes



At what better spot than a wind-swept bluff overlooking the crystal-clear waters of Newfound Lake could there be a touchstone for a boy to connect with his best self?

Many, over more than twenty five years, have tapped the touchstone and own a stake in the bluff.





# **Masquebec Hill's long-standing community on the bluff is:**

## **Unique in its near-family size of sixteen boys and seven counselors.**

In so small a community, each member is vital. A boy quickly realizes his effect on the welfare of the group. The fact that he is counted on as an individual is a powerful boost to a growing youngster's sense of self-worth and responsibility.

## **Distinguished in its tradition of civility and emphasis on integrity.**

Thoughtfulness, kindness, consideration, positive good will, and humor are habits passed on by old campers and expected in the community. Giving a fellow his "space" when he needs it is a time-honored custom. Giving each and every member support is the heart of the community, and trying to understand each other is an obligation.

Valuing and respecting others, self-respect over popularity, tolerance, honing good judgement, courage of convictions, honesty, integrity - such is the stuff of Chapel, "Fireside Chats," "Circles," sessions with counselors, or talks with the Director. These, while meaningful, are no more than a coach's half-time directives when compared with the string of conscience woven into everyday life and activity at Masquebec Hill.

## **Treasured for its continuity.**

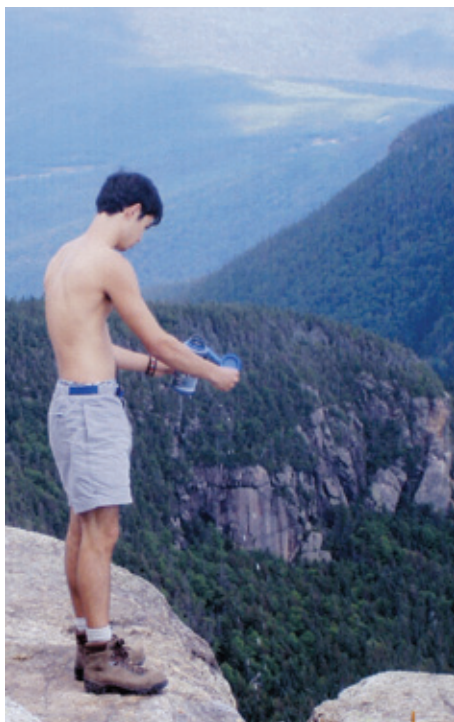
Once a camper, always a valued member of the family. Campers, ten to sixteen years old, attend for three weeks and typically return for many summers. Winter follow-ups, off-season retreats, and frequent communication buoy the connection. Counselors are former campers, committed to the venture, who have proven themselves to be effective mentors.

Such continuity is powerful. Living with older and younger "siblings," being aware of their growth over time, gives perspective to one's own development. We gain the recognition that a developing person is much bigger and more complex than any particular phase he may be going through at a given point.

## **Far-reaching in how we measure its success.**

"Has it been a 'Banner Season'? We don't know yet. The true value of our time together is measured by what we take with us, what we make part of our lives at home and at school, with peers and friends, with our families, and ultimately, with ourselves."

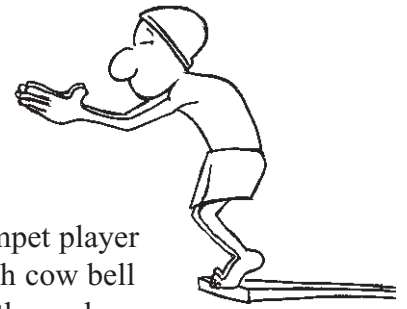
— Dave Hughes, final Chapel service, 2003



*The triangle at Masquebec Hill, values, altruism, and judgement, defines the young man my son has become.*  
— Dr. Susanna Bedell, Parent



# Let's Jump into a day . . .



8:00 AM... Although a gentle wake-up would be appreciated, the only trumpet player who can vaguely ad-lib "Reveille" is still asleep, so the Swedish cow bell bongs on endlessly. You have a choice: you can bounce out of the sack and head to the waterfront for a wake-up dip; you can bounce out of the sack and, remembering to put your clothes on, lumber over to the dining room and start breakfast; or you can simply turn over for another half-hour of sleep.

***It's a warm and humid morning with the hint of developing sailing winds from the south. . . . .***

You go for the splash. The water is delicious.

8:30 ... Everyone gets to the dining hall by now. You start on your oatmeal, orange juice and hot chocolate and then give "Mr. Huge" your order for pancakes. Much chatter while checking out the sports pages. There is a Yankees fan in Camp. We are kind to him. The comics always have chocolate on them. Harry groans about the Stock Market.

Announcement time and the morning activities are decided. You've chosen sailing instruction with Louie since you want to pass your Junior test before races on the last week. Enthusiastic beginners are hitting the tennis courts with Beau. Two die-hard fishermen are headed for a pond where Scot has convinced them the fish are dumber than the ones in Newfound. Before activities, though, you need to clean up your bunk and complete chores with your duty group; today it's dining room and kitchen detail.

***Bottomless fruit bowl on the Porch all morning long.  
Cool Clementines.***

12:00 noon.. Everyone back in Camp for a general swim at the Waterfront. Then up to the Main Camp for a play rehearsal. You have the role of Dynamite Anne, Sheriff of Fishhook County, in *Comin' Round the Mountain* which will be presented on Parents' Sunday. Others have the enviable leisure to play a little pick-up basketball and ping pong or shoot archery or work on art projects until lunch.

1:00 PM... It's a sit-down, family-style lunch today. Many courses. Much conversation. Everyone is trying to convince John the world is round. He has degrees from West Point and M.I.T. and thinks it's flat. Spaghetti and meatballs, corn, salad, garlic bread.

2:00... Solo Time. Young campers hate it. Old boys love it. Almost an hour alone and sedentary anywhere in the upper Camp. Reading, sleeping, drawing, thinking. You start to read and fall asleep in your bunk.

2:45... A trip to the natural waterslides this afternoon. Also basketball and an expedition to snorkel in the shallowest and dive in the deepest parts of the Lake. You choose to show them your stuff in a three-on-three hoops contest in "The Wingarden" and then hit the water. Generous free time at the end of the afternoon. Rick gets you going in some serious frisbee-golf.

6:00... Cookout. Chicken or burgers and dogs. Some onion rings. Salad with ranch. Easy free-flowing ambiance. Organized watermelon seed-spitting contest at the end. You hit the fifty point can and show finesse but are out-done by a sharp spitting ten-year-old.



***"Circles" after supper several evenings a week. "Fireside Chat" (with a counselor presenting an aspect of character he finds important) and the lighting by Jewish and Christian campers together of the Sabbath Candle at sundown on Fridays.***

7:30... Campfire. Sometimes a story. Sometimes music or singing. On Saturday nights, skits or a talent show or a play. Tonight, a movie, *Return of the Pink Panther* on the big screen. You can play chess if you want, but end up getting a few chuckles from Inspector Clouseau who will be imitated by chuckleheads at breakfast tomorrow.

9:30... Take a quick dip in the Lake if you want. Then get ready for bed. Prayers. "Good-nights" from the counselors. "Mr. Huge" checks in with you and finds out how your day went.

10:00... Lights out. You can talk with dorm-mates for a while but need to cut it short. It has been mandated that the group have ten hours of sleep, given different ages and sleep requirements..... Homesick? That's normal. You've made at least one new friend. You've helped a younger kid. Harry and Rick definitely think you're OK. "Mr. Huge" is "excited to have you aboard." Louie thinks there may even be some hope for you as a sailor. And you are one dribbling hot dog of a basketball player with a potentially award-winning role in *Comin' Round the Mountain*. Yes, you have definitely carved yourself a niche.



- Guess you're with us. We all hope so and will give our all to help you make this one of your better choices.

***Sunday mornings are different with a festive breakfast, free social time, housekeeping chores, inspection, and an ecumenical service in the Chapel up on the mountain.***





*You had to get along with the other guys. No one was left out. I enjoyed many first time experiences such as sailing, overnight canoe trips, swimming a quarter mile, jumping off high rocks into cold mountain rivers. Awesome food. Sunday morning inspections kept us squared away.*  
— Davis Rosborough, Camper



# ACTIVITIES



Each camper has an activity advisor who understands his particular interests, helps him set realistic goals for the summer, and advocates for his participation and scheduling with activity heads. The advisor tracks progress, guides choices, and gives encouragement as the season moves along. Advisors also urge their charges to discover and try out new interests.

At announcement time after meals, activities are organized and counselors assigned. Boys make their choices and are scheduled for undertakings which have included:

BASKETBALL - *instruction, pick-up games, three-on-three tournament*

TENNIS (*off-campus*) - *instruction, informal play, ladder, tournament*

CABIN BUILDING - *Working on a small sleeping cabin for future alumni visits*

CANOEING - *instruction, practice, Junior and Master tests, day trips, Lake Umbagog and Baker River expeditions, two-man races*

SAILING - *instruction, practice, Junior and Master Tests, day trips, regatta*

FISHING - *on and off-campus, boat and shore*

SWIMMING - *recreational, instruction, conditioning, distance swims, races*

EXPLORING AND NATURAL HISTORY - *natural water slides, Sculptured Rocks, Welton Falls, Squam Lake Science Center, Planetarium, star walks, snorkeling excursions, collecting samples for Newfound Lake Region Association*

ARCHERY - *instruction, practice, tournament*

THEATRE - *improv, skits, plays, Parents' Sunday production, stage crew*

BAND - *informal jamming, jazz concerts, July 4th Parade in Bristol, Parents' Sunday performance*

ART AND MODEL BUILDING - *sketching, water color, acrylics, plastic and wood kits*

CAMPING EXPEDITIONS - *Belle Island, Mayhew Island*

HIKING - *day hikes up Mts. Stinson, Cardigan, Osceola, Mooselauke, La Fayette; backpacking trips along the Carter Range, into the Pemigewasset Wilderness, and in the Presidentials*

Free time recreation has traditionally included frisbee-golf, ping-pong, art and model building, archery, chess, jazz band jamming, pick-up basketball, treasure hunt, board games, digital movie making and photography, maintaining and updating the website log (sorry, no computer games). The group is always ready to explore and embrace new interests campers bring with them.

# FACILITIES

The Camp enjoys almost a mile of family corporation shoreline with its own sandy cove, a swim area with dock and raft, a changing tent, three sunfish, and several canoes. Other Camp vessels, sloops *Ariana* and *Esther K.*, the launch *Queen Bethie*, and skiff *John's Bucket*, all ride proudly on their moorings - that is, all except the *Bucket*, which bobs.

Several buildings, dominated by a log cabin, stare at the Lake from a grove of towering pines up on the bluff. The Lodge houses dining and kitchen facilities, a stone-fireplaced living room, the Camp office, Mr. Hughes's quarters and a small theatre. Next door are Curtis and Kneeland dormitories with wide double deck bunks built into each corner. Just off the driveway, Old Friends Barn contains the Camp Room, McDugald Infirmary, the Council Room and a two-bay garage used during the summer as the Art Studio, model building center, and ping-pong area.

Outside is our basketball court, "The Wingarden," as well as the archery range, tether ball, quoits pits, numbered trees for a frisbee-golf course, and another heavily used ping-pong table. A path to our outdoor Chapel departs from the residential clearing and weaves its way through the woods up the mountain, intersecting a network of nature trails which traverse Masquebec Corporation property.

***I love this place. You've got to come. - Nick Foley, Camper***



*We want to make this a golden summer like the ones Andy and Jerry gave us.*

– Louis Basel and Chris Cleveland, Counselors



# SAFETY, STAFF, HEALTH

There is safety in positive group tone. There is safety in a small number where each face can be read. There is safety in alertness. There is safety in being well-trained. There is safety in being prepared for the worst. We have John McDugald, who embodies all of the above.



*Associate Director John McDugald, who is an emergency medical technician (EMT), has anchored the Council since 1991. After a distinguished career in the military following his graduation from West Point, John now teaches mathematics and science to sixth and seventh graders at Bullis School in Potomac, MD. As medical coordinator with our nurse and pediatrician, as activities director, and as head of the Waterfront, John insists on council alertness and absolute adherence to safety regulations. He also gives strong leadership on matters of health, reminding us of our obligation to take special care when living in a close-knit group. An experienced professional in middle school education, John is highly respected for his invaluable wisdom and dedication to the best Camp can be. He has been known to create excruciating treasure hunts, and he still needs a camper to convince him that the earth is round.*

Counselors are former campers who have proven themselves to be effective and caring mentors. The physical and emotional safety of each camper is their top priority. Counselors take Red Cross First Aid and CPR courses. Several are trained Water Safety Instructors. One or two have Wilderness First Aid qualifications. Additionally, counselors have a week of training before the season to rehearse safety procedures and establish educational priorities.

## Some Health and Safety Details:

- General swims take place in a confined area under strict supervision.
- Sailing, canoeing and fishing – after instruction, in properly donned life preservers, and within established boundaries – are carefully monitored activities.
- Campers are not allowed at the Waterfront unless it is supervised.
- Excursions away from the Camp are planned carefully by experienced leaders who take specially prepared medical kits. Hiking groups stay together with at least two counselors and a medical kit. They pace themselves according to the shortest pair of legs.
- In addition to the required health history and annual physical from a child's pediatrician, each boy takes a physical examination within twenty-four hours of arriving at Camp. Linda Fischer, our nurse, first aid/CPR instructor, also an EMT, is on call, as is Dr. David Cunis of Plymouth Pediatrics, affiliated with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. We have standing medical orders from Dr. Cunis.
- Hearty, well-balanced, family-style meals are planned by a professional dietician.
- Masquebec Hill is licensed and inspected by the State of New Hampshire and is a member of the New Hampshire Camp Directors Association.

***John McDugald's diligence to well-being is inescapably contagious, and the campers' good sense grows effectually each summer because of this diligence. His weekly inspections and good humor keep Camp immaculate, exceptional, and pathogen-free.***

**— Erik Lambert, Camper, Counselor**



### **To apply, or discuss**

### **Masquebec Hill at greater length:**

write, telephone or e-mail Dave Hughes at Masquebec Hill, 1600 Mayhew Turnpike, Bridgewater, NH 03222. Our telephone number is (603) 744-5841; e-mail address is [davidkhughes@earthlink.net](mailto:davidkhughes@earthlink.net). You can also check out our website currently being constructed by campers and counselors at [www.masquebechill.com](http://www.masquebechill.com). Enclosed is an Information Sheet with references, tuition, and dates for the upcoming summer.

## **What else do people say about Masquebec Hill?**

*Masquebec Hill is an antidote for today's fast paced, highly competitive, smaller-family world. Dave Hughes offers a value-centered experience that teaches peer respect, camaraderie, and cooperation. It gives boys the rare privilege of large family living, wholesome tomfoolery with a dozen or so siblings, three square meals a day, rigorous outdoor adventures, and memories for a lifetime.*

— Brian Rosborough, Parent

*Made awesome friends.*

— Jake Rill, Camper

*I am forever indebted to Masquebec Hill and Mr. Hughes, for I believe he played a big part in setting my priorities in order. He has contributed, along with my parents, family, and church, to a mission that may be subtle in daily life, a mission to set my sails in the good wind. I am no evangelist. I am a teenager. I have a long way to go, and David Hughes and Masquebec Hill continue to set me on my way.*

— Beau Levering, Counselor

*The man, by his low keyed, sincere, caring manner, sets a wonderful, patient tone. Campers and counselors follow that tone and love the man and the Camp for it.*

— Mark Biscoe, Counselor, Advisor

*I expected the carefree fun of a summer camp, but what I found was much more. It was Mr. Hughes's continued focus on character development. I am not totally convinced that anyone is completely altruistic, but I have not met anyone who is closer to being so than David Hughes.*

— Harry Houghton, Counselor

***I cannot imagine what kind of a young man I would be without my experience at Masquebec Hill. — Scot McFarlane, Counselor***