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### ANNUAL EDITORIAL 1995

In 1995, the camp began its second century of dedication to the growth of the individual and the building of a strong community. We remained loyal to the vision of the camp's founder, creating a community that helps "make boys strong, confident, self-reliant and efficient, able to do and think for others as well as themselves." From Mr. Charlie's discussion of the phrase "times change" to Bob Bulkeley's sermon on the value of a strong community, we considered, in William Faulkner's words, "the old verities and truths of the heart" which have motivated the members of this community for over a hundred years.

While continuing our dedication to the essential elements of communal life, we strived to strengthen, as well as preserve, our community. The size of the camp was the largest since 1937, allowing for some creativity in the construction of a new Dana Porch, a second Umbagog expedition, and a second Short Walk. Beyond these practical changes, we also reconsidered some of the intangible elements of camp life, such as the importance of individual initiative. Our willingness to consider new variations on old themes shows that Pasquaney will survive and prevail in the second century!

The following excerpts from this summer's tree talks provide an excellent indication of Pasquaney's enduring legacy.

**Andrew Callard on Improvisation:** Just as I wasn't able to discover the infinite possibility of beautiful sounds that awaited me on the piano until I decided to experiment with chords and melodies, you won't be able to experience the job of living in the moment at Pasquaney unless you are willing to give yourself the freedom to improvise. This might mean spending some time with campers you don't know too well, trying new activities, or giving yourself some time alone. Take advantage of all that Pasquaney has to offer. Maybe you have never gone sailing— give it a shot... don't just concentrate on the activity in which you are most skilled. Improvise, and you will find that your summer will be significantly more fresh, improvise, and you will find that your summer will be significantly more fresh, exciting, and enriching.

**Al Bocoock on Positive Attitude:** Whatever the situation or whatever your personality, the most important

thing to remember is that your attitude has tremendous effect on the people around you. Your happiness and supportiveness will breed happiness in those around you, and likewise your negativity will bring them down. If you can keep your thoughts and actions positive and supportive, you will find that not only will you be happier, but also your positive outlook will be contagious. Your smile will make others smile. Your humor will bring out humor in others, your kindness will bring out kindness in others. Each positive action you take will produce a positive reaction. In a banner season these actions and reactions keep building on themselves in an upward spiral.

Elliott Randolph on Being Honest with Yourself: Don't blame environment or some other condition for your failure or your inability to do something right. You are ultimately responsible for your actions. Take the initiative to understand yourself, to know your strengths and weaknesses. I want to leave you with a quote from a letter from my great-grandfather to my great-uncle Andy (a camper here who died a captain of a submarine in World War II): "May each day's descending sun see at your hands some worthy purpose done." So when we lie in bed after taps, let's reflect on what we did that day and have a mental picture of our hands being dirty from accomplishing something that improves our well being, that helps us work on our faults and be true to ourselves.

Chris Granger on The Recipe for Being Our Best Selves: There is a tradition at southern weddings of a groom's cake, made in the image of a pastime of the groom. At my recent wedding it was in the shape of a mountain and was delicious chocolate cake with heaps of chocolate icing — and it was far more popular than the main wedding cake, especially among the children. There was also a stack of cards next to the cake providing the recipe. Shortly after the last piece was taken, two eight-year-old boys were near the remains of the cake. One boy, with a big piece of the cake on his plate, looked proudly over at the other and said, "I've got a piece of the chocolate cake." The other held up a card in his hand and calmly responded, "Well, I've got the recipe." When we are at camp in the summertime, we are eating the cake. But what we really need — what is far more valuable in the long term — is the recipe. There are two aspects of that recipe that have had a tremendous impact on my life. The first is the lasting friendships I have made here, and the second is to practice being one's best self.

Kevin Cattrell on Accepting Criticism: One of the hardest things we ever learn at Pasquaney is accepting criticism... More often than we know it, criticism is a form of love.... My sincerest hope is that we learn not to accept anything short of our all-out efforts, that we hone in on our most important goals and never lose sight of them, and that we maintain the steady, reliable source of perspective that comes from listening to other people's criticism.

Matt Meredith on Apathy and Complacency: If we enjoy camp and its community atmosphere, we have an obligation to uphold standards of the camp so we can continue to enjoy it. This community is not something that just happens. It is a dynamic to which we must make a constant and conscious effort to maintain. If individuals are apathetic about their role in the community, this feeling can spread like the plague ... when apathy and complacency are present, it is the details which like the plague ... when apathy and complacency are present, it is the details which go first. Around this hillside every single individual is responsible for these details so that we can take pride in ourselves and in our community and can enjoy the benefits of being part of it.

Jonathan Callard on Communication: If I remember that friendship comes before performance, if I stop and think about what I want and how I will express it, if I keep other people's feelings in mind, if I make

eye contact, and if I write a letter or find a comfortable place to talk, then I should be an effective communicator. But I can't do it without friends. If I forget these communication tools, I have positive feedback and support to keep me on track. (Sung) "I have my books and my poetry to protect me — I am shielded in my armor hiding in my room safe within my womb — I touch no one, and no one touches me — I am a rock, I am an island." I hope that none of us ever becomes a rock or an island. I hope that we all communicate.