



# EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

November 2018

Eagle Island, Inc.

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## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Marina Lowry** has jumped right into her new position, heading the committee planning the EIC Reunion/Meet the Camp Director event. She also has roles in fundraising, the Camp Committee, and editing for Eagle Island. She currently is Managing Editor of Trade Publishing at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**Will Harrington** is currently an English Teacher at The Williams School in New London and a master's student at Mount Holyoke College. His help in many areas, including technology and databases, will be an asset to Eagle Island.

**Stef Goodsell** brings extensive knowledge in communications and public relations to her position on the board of Eagle Island. She is currently a VP in the Strategic Communications Division at The Glover Park Group.

**Marie Spess** is a retired CFO of Fortune 500 companies and nonprofit children's theater. She brings a wealth of financial, business, and operational knowledge and experience to her position at Eagle Island. As chair of EI's Finance committee, she will be a valued asset to Eagle Island with compliance and best practices.

## MEET THE CAMP DIRECTOR / REUNION

**Marina Lowry**

Please join us on **Saturday, November 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm** at Morrow Church, 600 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, NJ, to meet with friends old and new and **meet Eagle Island's new camp director, Katrina Dearden**. We'll have lots of updates on what's happening on the island, as well as snacks, a sing-along, and fun door prizes.

Who is coming, you ask? Registrations are rolling in from Family Campers, camper parents, friends, Women's Weekenders, and **EIC alumnae from every decade . . . including the 1930s!**

The fun will continue at an **afterparty at the Cassidy from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**, just a few blocks from the venue, right across from the Maplewood train station.

**Don't delay, sign up now!**

Please visit our page for more information and to register.

Can't attend? View a LIVE STREAM of the event:

[eagleisland.org/reunion](http://eagleisland.org/reunion)

## FOR THE LOVE OF CAMP

**Katrina Dearden**

What is summer camp? It's kind of a crazy idea, if you really stop to think about it. It's a secluded place parents send their kids away to for weeks at a time to be supervised by very young adults. But that's also what makes it so special. It's a separate world, completely alien to "normal life." It's a place where young people can be independent; where they can try new things they never even dreamed of. Where the adults in

their lives trust them to make good decisions because they have no reason not to. And campers get to live up to that expectation. It's a place where everyone needs to chip in and do their part (or, because it's camp, everyone *gets* to chip in). It's a place where the word "can't" is always followed by the word "yet," Where friendships are formed, and bonds are made that last forever.

Soon the sounds of laughter will again echo across Eagle Island. Campers will splash in the lake, songs will fill the dining hall, sailboats will capsize, and trails will be explored. And an intentional community will be brought back to life. One where we all work to make everyone feel welcome, where we create a space that encourages trying new things, where it is okay to fail and try again. A place that celebrates uniqueness and discovery. A place that can only be described as a summer camp.

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## MATCHING CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Karin Walsh Rutledge

Everyone knows that Eagle Islanders love a challenge! This fall, numerous visionary and generous Eagle Island donors (including all fourteen board members) are challenging former campers, staff, work/women's weekenders and family campers. These donors are promising \$230,000 in matching gift funds. The challenge? **Eagle Island will not receive the money without your help!**

**Any gift you make until January 5, 2019, will be matched dollar for dollar.** This effort to raise more than \$500,000 is to facilitate important infrastructure upgrades and other work needed so campers can be on the Island as soon as possible.

Eagle Island's mission is to inspire and empower girls and young women to be confident, collaborative, and courageous. Remember your own journey through the sights and sounds that make Eagle Island special by [watching this video!](#)

With this campaign, we are also launching a way to send a donation via text. Simply text OPENEIC to 44-321 and in a few clicks and swipes, your donation will be on its way to doubling!

**Please don't let these generous matching dollars slip away: Take action today!**

Online: [www.eagleisland.org/donate](http://www.eagleisland.org/donate)

Mobile: Text OPENEIC to 44-321

Snail mail: P.O. Box 245, Livingston, NJ 07039



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Jon-Luke DeStefano

Meet Jon-Luke, a family camper who became a Maintenance team member in 2004. Jon-Luke was a tremendous help on the island this past summer; fixing camp vehicles, clearing trees, doing trail maintenance, cutting logs for EI's new stump circle, and helping wherever needed. He brought his own set of tools "just in case" and ended up finding uses for most of them around the island.

He also helped with the Winter Carnival parade and gathered a group of fellow supporters to march along. Dressed as a hiker, Jon-Luke distributed EI bracelets to kids in the crowd.

Currently a full-time Engineering Technician, Jon-Luke also has a company of his own called STAY STRONG CO. His company allows him to make multimedia crafts and home goods.

When asked what he would like to see for the future of Eagle Island, Jon-Luke responded; "I would like to see Eagle Island get back to its former glory with some new additions and updates, of course. It hasn't been whole in quite some time, and I feel it would make all involved in the process have something to look back and be proud of. Bringing it all back to life! I'd love to see future campers and guests make unforgettable memories like the ones I hold so near and dear to me. Homes are always a work in progress, but all the memories are priceless."



## CONSTRUCTION ON THE ISLAND

In early September, EI awarded the contract for much of the building restoration and repair work to Don Bennett Building Repair and Maintenance, a local contractor out of Tupper Lake. Over the past two months, Bennett and his crew have been extremely busy. The work includes:

- Replacing more than two dozen supporting piers and columns under the dining pavilion, kitchen, main lodge, family cabin, and infirmary/guidehouse—work critical to ensuring the structural soundness of the buildings for years to come.
- Preparation of the dining pavilion basement area for later installation of water tanks and treatment equipment.
- Extensive excavation under the kitchen down to the bedrock to allow for a much-needed drainage system, necessary to protect the kitchen foundations, floors, and walls from water-induced rotting.
- Removal of rotted sills, floor joists, and flooring and replacement with new lumber in much of the rear part of the kitchen building.
- Preparation of the dining pavilion and kitchen for new roofing, which will be installed over the next two weeks.
- Excavation of road and pipe-laying for a portion of water and septic systems, with improvements to roadway coming up to Main Camp.
- Masonry repairs on chimneys and foundations.

Todd Hall and Adirondack Camp Care have also been busy with repairs, renovations, and site improvements. Their work includes:

- Foundation and repair work in the front part of the kitchen to ready the area for the kitchen improvements
- Trenching and laying of conduit to Main Camp for the upgraded electrical service.





## Let's grow the "CAMPFIRE CIRCLE"

We invite you to join EI's Campfire Circle as a monthly sustainer. This is a great opportunity for YOU to help us meet our ongoing financial needs. For \$100 or more per month YOU will be given special recognition in the next newsletter and receive a commemorative "Campfire Circle" silver pendant as a token of our appreciation.

It is easy to set up a monthly recurring credit card donation on the **DONATE** button on our website. Being a sustainer gives EI a steady stream of funding, which enables us to plan for necessary work as we move toward having campers experience . . .

### CAMP 2019!



Katrina Dearden – October 2018

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Share Eagle Island happenings with your friends,  
**LIKE, JOIN, SHARE** us on your social media



friendsofeagleisland



Friends of Eagle Island



EagleIslandADK

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## WHAT EIC DID FOR ME Adriane Collett

At age 11, I realized I was different from other kids...I had unpopular ideas about what I liked and who I wanted to be. My favorite books were about nonconformist girls, and I decided that was what I wanted to be. The minute I stepped onto Eagle Island with my sisters, I knew it was the place for me.

Women wore whatever they wanted, and sang out loud and danced with abandon, and did all the jobs I had only seen men do. Other girls liked me despite how weird I thought I was. And my counselors showed us how to become self-possessed, capable women, whether climbing Mt. Ampersand, mopping the Green Johns, or learning to sail.

Eagle Island embraced every girl: Confidence and the ability to laugh at yourself were valued more than how popular you were at home. I came home empowered to stand up for myself and understanding the awesome strength of bonds with other women, helping me carve out my own path as an adult: being myself and always fighting for my beliefs.

I attended a women's college and became a teacher. I married a man who liked everything that made me feel unusual, and we had two daughters. I sing them camp songs, take them into the woods, and tell them stories of a magical place where girls make the rules, stick together, climb mountains, and make forever friends.

I carry a shield of confidence and acceptance everywhere I go: I got it at Eagle Island.

Douglass College, Rutgers University, BA (Honors) 1996  
Teacher, Lafayette School, Chatham, NJ

## CALENDAR

### EIC Reunion/ Meet the Camp Director

Morrow Church, Maplewood NJ

Saturday, November 17, 2018

1:00-4:00pm

[register online](#)

### Saranac Lake—Winter Carnival Parade

Saturday, February 9, 2019

email: [kdearden@eagleisland.org](mailto:kdearden@eagleisland.org)