

WINDRIDGE REVISITED

BY ELIZABETH QUINN BROWN



This page: A couple of campers on their way to play tennis. Opposite page: “W” for “Windridge Tennis Camps”—or, perhaps, “W” for “winning” a game of tennis.

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COURTESY OF WINDRIDGE TENNIS CAMPS

WINDRIDGE TENNIS CAMP is an institution—a retreat for generations of children, inspiring their values and teaching them skills like tennis, too. Ted Hoehn, who founded Windridge Tennis Camps, recalls a couple of campers who attended on scholarship: Bounce and Patience, from Antigua. “I had been to Bounce’s home, and it wasn’t as nice as the cabins at camp,” he says. “But Bounce was friends with Thayer du Pont (of the du Pont family) and these kids were walking, hand in hand, to dining hall. In this sort of environment, kids will just be kids.” There have been three camps throughout Vermont—Jeffersonville (1968–1988), Craftsbury Common (1974–2010), and Teela-Wooket (1986–present)—with allegiances to campuses as enduring as allegiances to colleges. Windridge is a club of sorts, with members who thrill in meeting fellow alums throughout their lives. As Ted Hoen attests: “I run into someone with a connection to Windridge just about every day of the year, saying it was the best years of their lives.” Here, we chat

with friends of *Quest* about their fondest memories:

Mimi Anthony, Head Coach at The Spence School
Craftsbury Common (Late '90s)

I grew up in Millbrook, New York, and there was a large group of us who would go to Windridge. I remember when I got stuck with “yachting” as an elective, which was the most unpopular choice. But then I found out what “yachting” actually was: the secret society of Windridge called the Hosmer Historical Society, or HHS. I meet alums all the time, and my boyfriend actually went a few years before me. It’s always fun connecting because it brings you back to those happy times as a tween!

Meg Brossy
Jeffersonville (Counselor: Late '70s)

As a former counselor with children as well as nephews and nieces





This page: Campers relax with their counselor on Great Hosmer Pond, with the water slide in the background (above); the courts, now and then (below). Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Campers in front of their cabin, Champlain; the staff of the Jeffersonville campus, with founder Ted Hoehn with his son, Ramsey (far left); Charley Witherell, director of Craftsbury Common from 1976 to 2006; a Sunfish sails on Great Hosmer Pond; a 1940s picture from Teela-Wooket (a girls camp that specialized in riding) before Ted Hoehn purchased the property in 1986; dining at Craftsbury Common.

who attend the camp, I have Windridge green running in my blood. Once you know Ted Hoehn, the persona of the camp is so obvious. It's all about competitiveness and graciousness. I had to provide 10 references when I was a freshman in college to be a counselor, but Ted Hoehn knows how to screen and so that you don't ever find a bad egg. I have a Windridge shirt that I still wear on vacation. Last year, we were in Belize and Switzerland, and people always say, "Hey! Windridge!" I'll always remember arriving from the Midwest and seeing the Northeast courts, with logs on the edges and chicken fence around them. It was my first experience with landscaping a court!

Nick Coleman, C.E.O. of Ship Sticks

Craftsbury Common (1985–1990); Teela-Wooket (Early '90s)
I remember being introduced to Ben and Jerry's as well as Bob

Marley, UB40, and the other music of the time. I loved mud-sliding and making tie-dye shirts. My wife was a camper when I was a counselor in training, or CIT, but we didn't meet until 10 years later.

Milena Duke, Associate Merchandiser at Ralph Lauren

Craftsbury Common (1998–2000)
My brother, sister, and cousin all went to Windridge—it was almost like a rite of passage. A "first" I remember from Windridge was the first time I ate what *they* called shepherd's pie. I've never been able to eat it again! But, more fondly, I remember winning the lip sync contest with "Get Down Tonight" by KC and The Sunshine Band. I run into people who went to Windridge all the time and in the most random places. I went to college with someone who had been my partner in the mixed doubles tournament at camp, but we



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didn't realize for about a year!

Will Mackie, Student at Trinity College

Teela-Wooket (Camper: 2008–2010; Counselor: 2011–2014)

I'm about to be the male head counselor this summer, but I remember my first experience like it was yesterday. Everything from the opening campfire through the banquet dance seem like they happened last week. There's nothing like the meals during the Teela Games, with all the teams chanting and cheering. It's really an experience. It seems that everywhere I go, I'm meeting people from Windridge. I remember I was at the US Open and someone came up to me asking if I went to Windridge, having seen my hat. It turns out that she had been a camper in the 1990s and, after talking to her, it was clear that many of the traditions that she remembers continue today!

Emma Marwood

Teela-Wooket (1997–1999)

I totally had my first kiss at Windridge, plus it was my first exposure to people from a lot of countries since there were campers and counselors from around the world. It piqued my interest to travel and live abroad, which I've continued to enjoy throughout my life.

Dani Stahl, Style Director of Nylon

Craftsbury Common (Early '90s)

Windridge was like an institution—it's what you did, as someone who went to a girls school in New York. When you remember Windridge, it sort of gets lumped in with Dorrian's. After you stop talking about Windridge, you start talking about Dorrian's. Most of my memories involve Eleanor Ylvisaker. One summer, we were both on top of these bunk beds, but we were in a corner so we were positioned at a 90-degree angle. There were bats in the cabin and a bat came flying and she jumped into my bed. I'll never know how she did it. And I remember waering Betsey Johnson dresses for the banquet at the end of camp. Those were a big thing at the time! ♦

For more information about Windridge Tennis Camps, call 802.485.5400 or visit windridgecamps.com.



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This spread, clockwise from above: These "Windridge Tennis" shirts are as ubiquitous as the "Mount Gay Rum" hats or the "Nantucket" crewneck sweatshirts; friendships are forged around the bunk beds in the cabins; campers are encouraged to be competitive with each other, while demonstrating sportsmanship; archery is among the electives offered at

