

AFTER
TEN
YEARS

Dr. B. B. B.



*The
Story of*
BOLTON CAMP

An Enterprise for Human Happiness



After Ten Years

1922—1932

30,765 children and mothers have passed through the gates of Bolton Camp in the last ten years, in their search for health and happiness. The first summer of operation Bolton Camp gave a holiday to 1,002 children and mothers. That number has grown from year to year until now the capacity of Bolton Camp, for the season, is 5,200. There is a capital investment of \$203,254.00.

The Camp has not only grown in size; it has also developed greatly in the quality of service that it is able to render. The real results lie in the new hope awakened, physical vigour renewed and more worthy ambition for life stirred into action.

This little booklet is dedicated to all those who have made Bolton Camp possible. The warm human interest and generous thought of many people have been the creative force in bringing about the result, which this booklet, through picture and story, will attempt to describe.

30,000 eager young voices say "Thank You" to the donors—Men's Service Clubs, I.O.D.E. Chapters, Home and School Clubs, Dickens Fellowship, and private individuals. Special reference should be made to the Federation for Community Service and the Star Fresh Air Fund, without whose support this work could not be carried on.

The thanks of the Neighborhood Workers Association are tendered to the firms through whose kindness it has been possible to issue this pamphlet without cost to the Association.



A view of the old farm house as it was in 1922. Reconditioned it is still in use. With this exception all the 124 buildings which now compose Bolton Camp have been erected since the property was purchased.

In the early spring of 1922 a small group of men stood on a hillside on the property which was afterwards to become Bolton Camp. What they saw was a property neglected and overgrown with weeds, but beautiful and spacious with its 100 acres of rolling land, its winding creek and its wooded hillsides. It evidently supplied all the essentials for a Fresh Air Camp, to which could come tired mothers and white-faced children to claim their heritage of health and happiness. In imagination the men saw this quiet spot filled with boys and girls joyously playing in its glens and level spaces. Each man said in his heart "this is the place." It was at that moment Bolton Camp was born.

From the first, Bolton Camp had in mind the needs of work-weary mothers and

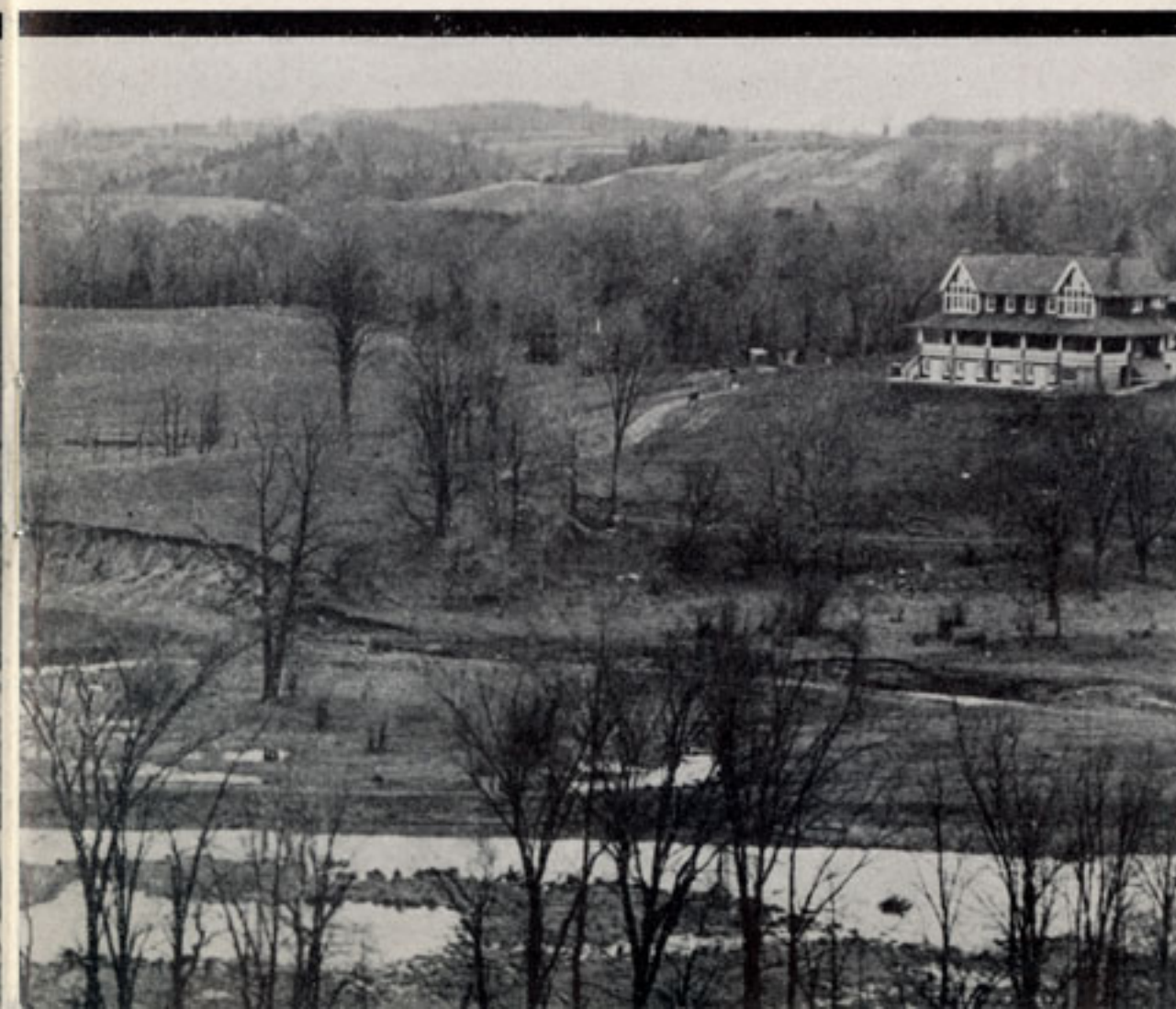
their children, to whom there was open no other escape from sordid surroundings. It was to be a camp for those whose need was greatest—not for those who could afford a holiday elsewhere. No child who has ever knocked on the doors of Bolton Camp has been turned away because of lack of money.

During the ten years four units have been built up: Hastings Lodge and Camp Howell for mothers with small children, Rotary Camp for boys, and Sherbourne Camp for girls. Bolton Camp has presented all the problems of a municipality: road and bridge construction, sewerage disposal, water supply, housing, drainage, health protection, power, and light, etc. With accommodation at one time for 1,133 persons, including staff, it is one of the largest and best equipped camps of its kind.



This large club house was part of the original property, and became the first unit, Hastings Lodge, with accommodation for 130 children and mothers. Destroyed by fire in 1923, (without injury or loss of life to anyone) it was replaced by the present Hastings Lodge unit with accommodation for 285.

As the camera saw Bolton Camp at the time of its purchase in 1922. Its hundred acres of rolling land had great natural beauty, but much of the ground had to be drained and levelled to be usable for playground purposes.



A unit accommodating 60 boys at one time, was organized the first year. They had their meals at the Hastings Lodge Dining Hall. Later a complete boys' unit was built with separate dining hall and recreation building accommodating 290 boys.



Scene showing part of creek bed as it was in 1922. The creek is one of the natural beauties of Bolton Camp, but required much work to put it in condition. Compare this with picture on the opposite page.

SOME FACTS ABOUT BOLTON CAMP

100 acres of land.

Value of Camp Property—after liberal amount taken off for depreciation.....\$178,579.93
Value of Equipment..... 24,674.08

Total.....\$203,254.01
Number of Buildings..... 124
(Counting 1932 building programme—7)
There is no mortgage or other incumbrance upon the property.

Bolton Camp is organized under four units as follows:—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Camp Howell with a capacity at one time of..... | 285 |
| Hastings Lodge with a capacity at one time of..... | 285 |
| Rotary Boys' Camp with a capacity at one time of..... | 290 |
| Sherbourne Girls' Camp with a capacity at one time of..... | 138 |
| Total..... | 998 |

Total capacity (including staff)..... 1,133

Length of stay at Camp per party....12 days

In the ten-year period (1922-1932) Bolton Camp has given a twelve-day outing to 30,736 children and mothers.

An average of 90 volunteer counsellors give service with each party.

Average cost per individual for 12-day outing (1931), \$8.56.

This works out at a per capita cost of 72 cents per day per child as compared with a per capita cost of \$2.48 per day per child in a New York organization with similar standards doing similar type of work.

203,404 meals were served at Bolton Camp (1931) at an average food cost of 6 2/5 cents.

284 volunteers gave service at the Camp in 1931, many serving for two or more periods.



Morning worship under the trees.

God bless all little boys who look like Puck,
With wide eyes, wider mouths and stick-out ears;
Rash little boys, who stay alive by luck
And Heaven's favor in this world of tears—
Ten-thousand-question-asking little boys,
Rapid of hand and foot and thought as well,
Playing with gorgeous fancies more than toys,
Heroes of what they dream, but never tell;
Father, in your vast playground let them know
The loveliness of ocean, wood and hill;
Protect from every bitterness and woe
Your heedless little acolytes; and still
Grant me the grace, I ask upon my knees,
Not to forget that I was one of these.

—Arthur Guiterman.

Right—The boys' camp in the first years of operation. Later, Cabins (as shown in the next picture) were substituted for tents.





A group of the "heart" and "chest" children recommended by the outdoor clinics of the Hospital for Sick Children. Quieter games fit their need, and they are spending a happy hour with clay modelling and hand work.

Below—In the two large swimming tanks more than 700 boys and girls learn to swim each summer.

PLAYTIME AT CAMP

Morning comes early at Bolton Camp, ushering in a new day of fresh surprises. For the wee tots, kindergarten period with singing games, marches and pretty dances. For the boys and girls, handicraft groups of soap modelling, basketry, leather work, signalling, etc., varied with a new Indian dance or folk dance. The athletically inclined indulge in baseball, archery, volley ball and badminton. The swimming hour brings supreme delight. Some 700 children learn to swim each year in the two large swimming tanks provided through the generosity of Mrs. D. A. Dunlap. Scarcely a day passes without a picnic party, gaily setting forth to cook their meal at some favorite out-of-door fireplace.

The sports programme is planned with the needs of the different age groups of the boys and girls in mind. Nor are the mothers forgotten. Their need is often

greater than that of their children. Often they come so disheartened with work and fatigue that only after a good rest and much beguilement can they be enticed into the romping games of their girlhood and into taking part in the plays, masquerades and children's parties which belong to their hour after their little ones are safely tucked into bed.

Perhaps you think you would find all the boys and all the girls at home after taps, but even then mysterious happenings occur. If the night is clear, shadowy boyish figures wend their way up the winding path over the hills to some far-off Indian encampment. There, snuggled in their blankets, they lie down in the fields and gaze on the stars and listen to legends about Vega, Cassiopeia and all the rest. While a light on the highest hill will be guiding a group of girls, with their Counsellors, for an overnight hike to Hill Top Lodge, which calls "Come up here, O dusty feet, Here is fairy bread to eat."



Childhood and old age meet at Bolton Camp.

Below—Picnics come often at Camp. Appetites are even keener when food is cooked out of doors. The Camp has six of these fireplaces.



Left—Rotary Hall, central assembly building, the gift of the Rotary Club of Toronto in 1931. It will seat (camp fashion) over one thousand people.



Bolton Camp is a place where babies grow fat and strong. Doctor and nurse give particular attention to their needs, and the twins in the picture show the result.

Below—The Boys' Unit can accommodate 290 boys at one time. This is one group lined up beside the Charles Dickens Memorial Dining Hall, ready to salute the flag—an unfailing part of the daily routine night and morning.

HEALTH

A physician, three trained nurses, with the active co-operation of the other members of the staff, are responsible for the health of the campers.

There are three aspects to the health work at Camp:

- (1) The protection of the campers against contagious disease, accident, etc. Medical examination before coming to camp, use of pasteurized milk, scientific treatment of the water supply and the utmost caution guarding against water hazards, etc., are the means employed.
- (2) The study of the individual needs of the campers. The undernourished child is given orange juice, milk, cocoa, between meals—swimming period is limited, rest period prolonged, etc. Especially handicapped children, such as cardiac cases, are similarly studied and the camp

programme adapted to their particular needs.

Each summer over 200 children, recommended from the Heart and Chest Clinics of the Hospital for Sick Children, spend four weeks at Camp (the usual period is 12 days), and follow there a careful regime laid down in consultation with Dr. Parsons and Dr. George Smith, who are responsible for their medical care in the city. The Heather Club are particularly interested in this group and provide special attendants and nurses (in addition to the regular Camp staff) to look after their needs.

- (3) Health Education. Good health habits are taught through the health talks, health parades, putting on little plays, and songs participated in by the children, and showing the mothers the value of a vegetable diet, and milk, the use of the toothbrush, rest, fresh air, etc.



Airy and attractive cabins, such as this, house the campers, giving privacy to each family.

Below—Folk dances and singing games form part of the morning programme at Bolton Camp.





Hill Top Lodge crowns the highest hill on the Camp property. The gift of the employees of the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, it brings unfailing joy to the girl campers, as the centre for their overnight hikes.

Below—The girls of Sherbourne Camp ready for their swimming period.

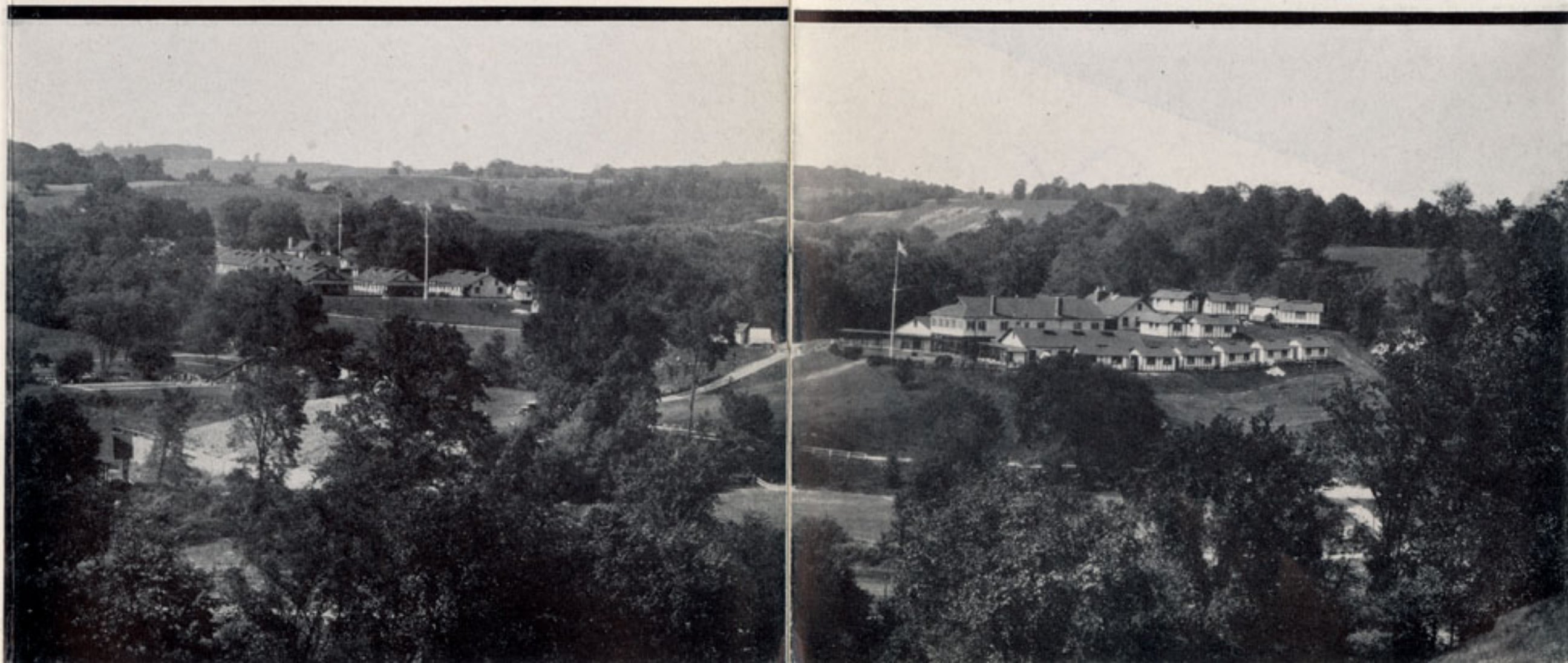
Right—General view of Camp Howell, a unit for mothers and children, with a capacity of 285 at one time.

VOLUNTEER COUNSELLORS

Bolton Camp is unique in its Volunteer Service. Each Counsellor must have an understanding of the ideals of the organization, and capacity to give the highest type of service. In 1922, there were thirty-five Counsellors. The growth of the camp and the development of programme standards has had a marked effect in increasing the number of Counsellors needed year by year, and in 1931, 284 Counsellors made an outstanding contribution of voluntary service. The paid staff has not been increased. The loyalty, ability and interest of the Counsellors has played an important part in the success of Bolton Camp.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

The religious life of Camp stands first among its character-forming influences. Bolton Camp is non-denominational. It is not part of the function of the Camp to change a church affiliation, but rather to deepen the camper's sense of loyalty, and vitalize his connection with that church with which he has already some relationship. This has been the aim of Bolton Camp.



MUSIC

Music enhances happiness. It is no less true at Camp. Whatever the children and mothers do seems to overflow in song. Jazz music is not encouraged at Bolton, but songs new and old, with a lilt and a swing, with cadence and melody are taught and enjoyed. Sea Chanties, Negro Spirituals, Folk Songs and jolly Camp Songs are sung, which to some convey a new idea of music.

NATURE STUDY

Children can live in Toronto a long time without any realization of the beauties of nature. Not so at Bolton Camp. The Nature Study Group stimulates their interest in the joy of discovery—the song of the birds, the flowers, the trees, their different leaves and bark and the uses of wood. They search the heavens for the different constellations and stars. Proud is the camper who can relate a legend about a particular one.



The Indian Council Ring (the gift of the Canadian Progress Club) is the centre of many impressive Indian ceremonials dear to boyish hearts.

Below—Off for an overnight hike—sleeping under the stars and cooking breakfast out in the open before returning to Camp.

Left—The Hastings Lodge group, also for mothers with small children. This, too, can accommodate 285 at one time.

BOLTON CAMP
Operated by
NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION
22 Wellesley Street
Member Federation for Community Service

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