

# Retirement Announcement of Jill Laidlaw, Executive Camp Director



**For many of us** – life at Camp Cavell stretches back to our grandmothers and reaches forward to our children. Since 1984, the face and vitality of Camp Cavell has been that of Jill Laidlaw. For the last thirty-eight years, she has made her indelible mark from the tops of our majestic trees to the ever changing shoreline of Lake Huron. Through her stories and quiet personal interactions with campers to silly songs and chocolate chip cookies, Jill’s presence at camp is undeniable.



**If not for Jill’s concentrated foresight, Camp Cavell Conservancy would not exist today.**

Through her diligent pursuit of alternatives, our new not-for-profit corporation was established. She gathered supporters and led the way to creating a new entity. From infrastructure to programming—Jill’s tireless dedication has paid off in immeasurable ways. The rapport that Jill has built with alumni and historical groups has been the backbone of development in recent years. From new roofs and renovated structures to updated utilities, these gifts represent major commitments to Camp



from our beloved user groups such as those in the dance, disability, and faith communities.

**We all—campers, staff, supporters, volunteers, board members, and community groups**—have been through a lot together over the years: there have been threats of being sold and tree-toppling winds, but also celebrations through dance and wish-boat ceremonies. Whether you were a longtime Cavell Camper or just stopped in for a visit—all of us have shared in Jill’s gracious hospitality.

**We, the Board of Directors, are honored to announce that 2022 will be a “year of celebration” at Camp Cavell.** After thirty-eight years at the helm, our beloved colleague, friend, and mentor—Jill Laidlaw—has decided to begin another great adventure in life with her husband Tom at the end of this year.

**Jill’s personal touches have been as varied as the circumstances.** Were you the person she walked to your cabin in the dark because your flashlight quit working? Were you the kid who was scared to go up the tree but she helped you believe you *really* could do it? Were you the person who was a bit down on your luck, but she listened and made you feel valued? Were you the person who made their first kayak trip on the lake even though you couldn’t swim, and she made you feel safe? Or maybe you were the family that desperately needed to be together and play, and she made your stay at camp fun?

## Camp Cavell Board of Directors

**Marilyn Marshall** *Co-Chairperson*

**Teresa Jex** *Co-Chairperson*

**Meg Coughlin** *Treasurer*

**Bea Castillo** *Secretary*

**Jeanne Lilienthal** *Campership Chairperson*

**Peter Baker** *Facility Chairperson*

**Theresa Tobkin** *Volunteer Chairperson*

**COME CELEBRATE WITH US & GIVE AS WE HONOR OUR DEAR FRIEND AND EXECUTIVE CAMP DIRECTOR EXTRODINARE, JILL LAIDLAW!!!**

**SCHEDULED PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

**August**

[Jill's Celebration Weekend](#)

[Sightseeing Boat Cruise](#)

[Celebration BBQ Buffet Dinner](#)

**October**

[Halloween Family Weekend](#)

[Quarter Paddle Auction](#)

**DONATE**

[Donate in Jill's Honor](#)

**SAVE-THE-DATE FOR 2022**

Jill's Farewell Autumn Dinner - October or November

\*We are encouraging everyone to bring old photos, especially your favorite ones with Jill or share your stories honoring the gal who really put this place together and helped make all the joyful memories happen. *[The pictures and stories will be display on the dining hall bulletin board all summer and then made into a scrapbook!]*

Camp Cavell, 3335 Lakeshore Road, Lexington, MI 48450

810-359-2267

[www.campcavell.org](http://www.campcavell.org)

[office@campcavell.org](mailto:office@campcavell.org)