

# **Detroit Finnish Co-operative Summer Camp Association**

(a.k.a. Finn Camp)



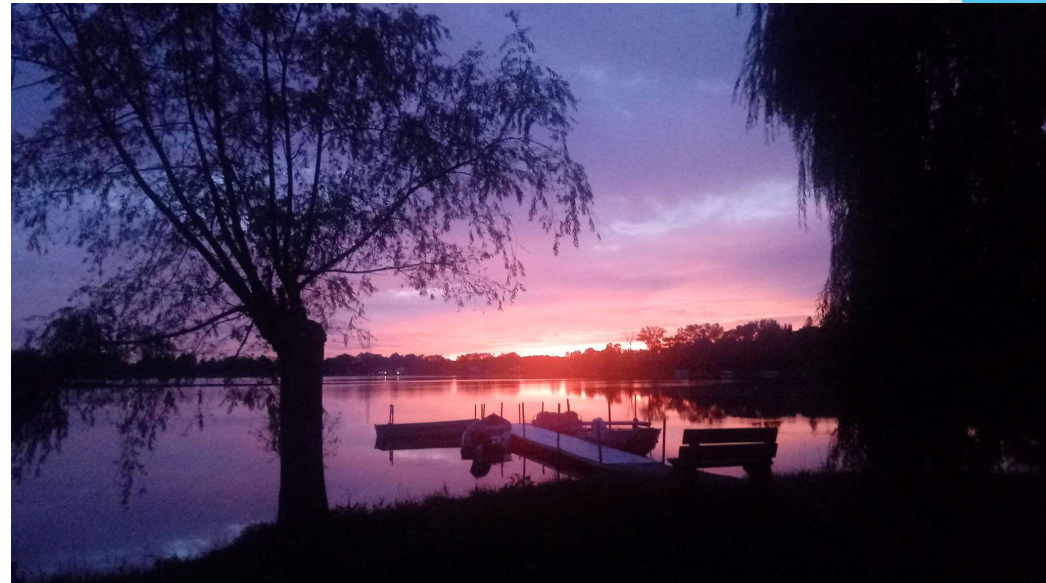
# Finn Camp as a Co-operative

- ▶ Founded in 1925 by Finnish Americans in Detroit
- ▶ Longest-running co-operative in the state of Michigan (or the USA?)
- ▶ On the Register of National Historic Places
- ▶ Approx. 185 members.
  - ▶ Work 24 hours each year
  - ▶ Can vote in membership meetings (2x / year)
  - ▶ Pay association dues & taxes (\$450-500 / year)
  - ▶ Can own a camp & use facilities
  - ▶ Can reserve facilities for private events



## Finn Camp – Physical

- ▶ >100 acres in Wixom, Michigan
- ▶ Exclusive access to Sun Lake, boat access to Loon Lake
- ▶ Sauna house, dance hall, clubroom (club liquor license), ravintola
- ▶ Athletic fields – Softball, basketball, pickle ball, horseshoes, bocce ball
- ▶ 2 Common bathrooms for ~150 camps
- ▶ Caretaker house, equipment shed, pole barn





## Finn Camp - Physical





# Finn Camp Organization – Board of Directors

- ▶ Seven BOD members – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Works Administrators (x3)
- ▶ Elected to 2-year terms, alternate years (3,4), maximum four years consecutive
- ▶ Meet 1x/month in winter, 2x/month in summer
- ▶ Manage caretaker & beach manager
- ▶ Manage finances and budget: ~\$250,000 / year
- ▶ Enforce Blue Book rules
- ▶ Organize membership meetings
  - ▶ Annual Meeting (April): elections, budget
  - ▶ Semi-Annual Meeting (October)



# Finn Camp Organization – Blue Book

- ▶ Articles of Incorporation – define DFCSCA
- ▶ By-Laws:
  - ▶ Membership
  - ▶ Board of Directors
  - ▶ Fiscal Management
  - ▶ Property / Liquidation
- ▶ Rules:
  - ▶ Work hours, reservations
  - ▶ Rules: general, beach, sauna, camps
  - ▶ Committees
  - ▶ Fees & Assessments



# Finn Camp Organization – Committees

- ▶ Bar – manage club liquor license, host events
- ▶ Recreation – children's activities
- ▶ Future Planning – major physical investments
- ▶ Woods – maintain woodlands
- ▶ Cultural – host cultural events
- ▶ Kitchen – maintain summer kitchen
- ▶ Investment – manage endowment
- ▶ Events committees: Juhannus, Winterfest, Finn Fest, St. Urho's
- ▶ Scholarship committee – college scholarships
- ▶ Many other committees, 23 in all





# Annual Calendar (1/3)

- ▶ Year – Round:
  - ▶ Sauna open Wednesday & Saturday
  - ▶ Clubroom open Friday, Saturday nights.
- ▶ February – Winterfest
- ▶ March – St. Urho's Day Party
- ▶ April – camps open
- ▶ April – Annual Membership meeting
- ▶ April – August: Friday night softball, Wixom over 35 league, Friday Night Grill





## Annual Calendar (2/3)

- ▶ Summer Schedule – Memorial Day to Labor Day
- ▶ May/June – spring golf outing
- ▶ June – Fishing Derby
- ▶ June – Juhannus
- ▶ July – Summer Swim Classes at Sun Lake
- ▶ Summer – parties, breakfasts organized by committees, clubroom open on Wednesdays
- ▶ August – Children's Weekend



## Annual Calendar (3/3)

- ▶ August – Detroit Finn Fest
- ▶ Labor Day – fall golf outing
- ▶ September – Campers' picnic
- ▶ October – Halloween Party
- ▶ November – Harvest Dinner
- ▶ December – Pikku Joulu
- ▶ December – Adult Christmas Party





# History

- ▶ 1925: Association formed. 1<sup>st</sup> sauna house
- ▶ 1927: Dance Hall constructed
  - ▶ Lower floor of dance hall used as ice house, general store
- ▶ 1940s: Electricity for camps
- ▶ 1940s – 1950s: Weekly dances in dance hall
- ▶ 1960s – lower floor of dance hall converted to club room
- ▶ ~1970: neighborhood land sold to create endowment for major projects
- ▶ 1970s – first Detroit Finn Fest
- ▶ 1980s – 3<sup>rd</sup> (present) sauna house constructed
- ▶ 2000s – Loon Lake boat launch
- ▶ 2017 – Edwin Elkhill scholarship fund

