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Comments: FROM THE OWNER OF KINGSWOOD CAMP FOR BOYS
"THE MAGIC OF LAKE TARLETON"

So, it is to a small but crackling campfire before which sit 160 boys and about 40 more adult counselors that I step up and command attention. Try doing this yourself; it is not an easy chore. But, I have come upon a hailing that works, at least along the shores of Lake Tarleton in New Hampshire it does:

"Fellas, you've got choices tonight: You can stare into the hot embers of the fire; you can focus on that full moon rising over Mt. Mist; or you can listen to the silence of Mother Tarleton that might be broken by a loon's call; pick your spot and then let quiet fall upon this magnificent setting."

They both listen and comply. They sense, as I do, that Lake Tarleton is something very special in today's pell-mell world. This is no TV screen or animated movie. No one giggled when I referred to our lake as "Mother." Without having to be told, they know this would be sacrilegious. And, while Kingswood Camp is backed by no formal religion, it does have several pillars of ethical behavior, the first of which is a profound reverence and sacred respect for Lake Tarleton.

Of course, that last sentence does not happen automatically; it has to be ingrained and Kingswood's inculcation commences the moment boys say good-bye to their parents on the opening day of each session. "Everybody assemble at the council fire down by the lake," and from that moment our serious work begins.

That work is to teach children to respect the world the way they find it and, accordingly, thus learn to respect one another. Again, this is not just talk; we mean what we say and the children intuitively understand this. We get terrific results every summer and we can thank the profound effort to maintain and conserve the natural grace of the Lake Tarleton area for this outcome.

Thank you very much for taking Kingswood's viewpoint into consideration as you consider the various elements of the Tarleton Integrated Resource Project.