

THE Zingette

The Newsletter of the
Camp Kawartha Alumni Association

Spring 2012

Reunion a Success!

May 27th - May 29th 2011



Camp Kawartha's 3rd Alumni Reunion was held on May 27th to 29th and was another huge success.

As we continue to grow each year, the reunion draws more and more camp staff from across various generations, with this year's bringing in over 40 people (plus some babies).

Our days and nights were spent catching up, meeting

new people and sharing many unbelievable stories. We held late night campfires, and a lively, tear-filled version of "The Game", which included the favourite rounds of facial expressions and hands-only. Saturday was busy with the alumni giving a little something back to the camp.

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In an effort to maintain our commitment to the environment, we have gone **paperless**. Please ensure that we have your current email address on file. Past issues are available on the alumni website.

Update your contact information by visiting the alumni website at <http://campkawartha.ca/summer-camp/alumni.php>

You can contact us by email at alumni@campkawartha.ca or send us a message through the Alumni Facebook page.

Interested in having your profile published? We would love to hear from you! Please feel free to send us a small update to let our members know what you have been doing since you left Camp Kawartha. It is a great way to stay connected with friends and keep everyone up to date! Check out this issues entries on page 3.

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At this year's reunion, we wanted to come together to give something back to the camp. On a grey Saturday morning, the alumni divided into groups to tackle two major projects: putting in the docks, and building a sun shelter.

We have all experienced the scorching sun on the Range, and in recent years, archery has been moved to an open field off of one of the main paths. While archery remains one of the most popular camp activities, campers spend their time waiting in search of some shade. The alumni worked hard to piece together the frame and nail it all in place.



Many braved the cold waters of Clear Lake to install the swim docks on Camp Kawartha's waterfront. This has become an annual tradition, as a handful of eager staff members help prepare for the upcoming camp season. While it may be cold, it is a sure sign that summer is on its way. Once finished, some staff still hadn't got their Clear Lake fix and took in the first sail of the season.

Next reunion will take place in May 2013, so keep your calendars open!

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Site Development Plan by Cathy Romano, President Board of Directors

A few years back, it was identified that Camp Kawartha was at a crossroads. Aging facilities, a softening market for both Summer Camp and Outdoor Education and a changing demographic, all led to the understanding that new ideas needed to be developed for Camp Kawartha to remain viable in 2012 and beyond.

The Environment Centre at Trent University was the first step in our development. The center has allowed Camp Kawartha to develop many community partnerships but also provide programming to both younger and older students. The building is also a representation of sustainability that the camp is moving towards.

However, the main site on Birchview Road has been offering many challenges, and ideas on how to move forward are dependent on how one has experienced Camp Kawartha. A board member or weekend user does not always see the camp in the same way as a camper/student, teacher or staff member.

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WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



Mickey (Letford) Campeau
"Jagger"

Staff 1993-1994

LIT 1992, Camper 1988-1991

It's Jagger . . . wow, I haven't said THAT in a long time!! Ah Camp Kawartha . . . where do I begin? It's been years since I've been a counsellor and seemingly eons since my camper days and yet, somehow, it all seems like yesterday; and I'd go back and do it all again in a minute.

We all have our stories of late nights on the dock under the stars, singing songs and laughing around the campfires, days off and rocking out (almost professionally - or so we thought!!) to air-bands summer after summer; Jack Frost smoking his pipe beside the no-smoking sign, years of Zingtong, freezing polarbear dips, brushing our teeth at the trough, goofy songs, summer crushes, Johnny Appleseed, candle ceremonies on the beach. . .

I could go on, but I'm sure my memories of camp days are probably very similar to yours, even if we didn't share the Camp for the same summers.

My memories are sacred, happy, fun and take me back half a lifetime, as I'm sure yours do too.

There's something about Camp K that joins us together even if we've never met. It's magical - and it's in our blood. It has made us the people we are today . . . better spouses, better leaders, better team players, better parents and better friends.

Since those magical Camp days I've moved a little, worked a lot and am living just west of Kitchener Waterloo with my lovely husband, our 4-yr old rock-star son and our 115-lb chocolate lab (who by the way, would LOVE camp, too). I'm a small business owner, a mom, a wife, a daughter, a sister, a friend and always, a camper at heart.

To all of you - much love and many s'mores!



Adrienne Ross
"Suds"

1987-1992, 1994, 1998-2000

So much has happened since my time at Camp Kawartha. Not long after my last summer, I attended Queen's University for my B.Ed. and started teaching at the Bethany Hills School and worked at the Kinark Outdoor Centre during the summers. After 6 years at BHS I moved to Trinity College School in Port Hope. I leapt into the world of Admissions and that has given me the opportunity to travel all over the world, meeting prospective students and their families and exploring many of the countries that our international students come from.

I was able to fulfill one of my travel dreams when I went to Thailand in the fall of 2010 as part of a recruiting trip to Asia.

During this time I moved around a bit, but in July 2011 my partner, Justin and I settled in Bowmanville. This gave us a chance to get ready for the birth of our daughter Abigail, who we were thrilled to welcome in November. Motherhood is proving to be tons of fun and I am certainly looking forward to introducing CK to Abby in the years to come and showing her the rock where mummy spilled the blue paint!

It is difficult to pick a favourite memory. I have so many to choose from and I have seen the camp go through so many changes over the years. I guess the best things are the lifelong friendships I have with people I have known for over 15 years (some more than 20!). These people are still a big part of my life and although we do not get to see each other very often, we just pick up where we left off and our relationships are anchored in our time at CK!

Get Involved!

Surf 'N Turf

Last year marked the first that the alumni formally made an appearance at the Annual Surf 'n Turf dinner fundraiser. With a table reserved for us, we enjoyed an amazing meal of hors d'oeuvres, fresh lobster, steak, salads, and decadent desserts. There was also an assortment of drinks to be purchased at the bar and Martini area. We were entertained all night with music, testimonials, games, and both a live and silent auction.



Tickets cost \$150 (tax receipt issued for \$65) and can be purchased through the camp. The money raised during this event goes to support and subsidize campers and students who participate in the many wonderful programs at Camp Kawartha. When purchasing your tickets, please make sure to state that you are alumni so that you will be seated at the correct table for the event.

This is a great opportunity to revisit the camp and see old friends or for those who could not make it to last year's reunion. Come on out and enjoy some delicious food and great company for an amazing cause!

Green in Motion

On Sunday, May 27th, Camp Kawartha will be holding its annual Green-in-Motion fundraiser at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre in Peterborough. This event is an excellent way for alumni to give back to the camp in a meaningful way, and the money raised will help subsidize the cost of sending needy children to camp.



You are welcome to act as a volunteer at the event or you can participate by walking, running, or biking with family and friends. Those interested in raising money can access a pledge form from link below. Spread the word and bring some guests as we move rain or shine. We hope to see you there!

Green-in-Motion Pledge Form:

http://campkawartha.ca/community/Green-in-Motion_PledgeForm.pdf

Site Development Plan (Continued from page 2)

We reached out to a consulting company who had no previous experience with the camp, and no heartstrings attached who could see the camp for what it is. In other words, they are looking at the camp with fresh eyes, and how refreshing it has been.

The company is du Toit Allsopp Hillier (<http://www.dtah.com/firm/>). They were the lead in developing Evergreen Brickworks (<http://ebw.evergreen.ca/>) in Toronto. They spent a full day at the camp with engineers in tow, detailing every building. They have poured over the Strategic Plan and the business plan. They also spent a day doing a workshop with all interested parties (staff, past and present, board members, users and volunteers) to get a full understanding of what Camp Kawartha really is.

Recently, they met with the Site Development Committee to introduce some of their ideas of moving forward. Looking at the camp, they immediately understood that the Playing Field was a gathering space, that the buildings that surround it remind them of a “town square”. They saw and heard about the importance of the Cabin Cluster, the Range and the waterfront. They have felt the passion of the people who know and love Camp Kawartha, and they have commented on our “excellent programming for both Summer Camp and Outdoor Education”.

By the same token, they have pointed out our main entry to the camp, our “hodge-podge” of buildings, our deteriorating dining hall, kitchen and Health Centre, and our lack of facilities with indoor washrooms for accessibility. They have pointed out that though we preach and teach sustainability, other than the new office, the green house and dining hall extension, we lack that reality in our facilities.

We are now half way through this process and du Toit have presented us with some ideas on how to improve on the above. These ideas, when they are more clearly formulated, will be presented to you.

The main take away messages are:

1. We must do something to Camp Kawartha to help us to continue to meet our Mission and Vision Statements and to be competitive and financially sustainable.
2. Anything we are going to do, is going to require a substantial financial and volunteer effort.

Camp Kawartha and the Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre was built by a community back in 1921 and again in 1985. As part of that community, we are looking to you to help us move forward for the next 50 years.

There will continue to be updates on the Camp Kawartha Alumni Page on Facebook as well as an email to keep you informed of new developments. Stay posted and please think of ways you can help us keep the Camp Kawartha ideal alive.

