



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

June 2021

Dear Camp Kawartha Supporter,

Although this has been a challenging year – this is also the year that Camp Kawartha turns 100 years old! Even in the face of the pandemic and all of its uncertainty, we wanted to let you know that our Capital Campaign continues and to take this opportunity to provide you with an update.

For one of the first times in nearly a century, Camp Kawartha was obliged to close its doors last summer. And while that made it challenging financially, it also provided us with an opportunity to focus our attention on an important aspect of Camp Kawartha's Capital Campaign – the construction of our Health Centre. This is a vital space where we look after the health needs of campers, students, staff, and visitors. In the face of a pandemic and all the health concerns this brings, focusing on camper health seemed like an important pivot. We also saw this as a real chance to teach our guests and the larger community about sustainable design. After all, the Health Centre is an innovative *zero building* (with zero carbon, zero waste and zero toxins)!

Over the past year, we've been working with Strawworks, a natural building company who has designed and is building the Centre. Strawworks, owned by Deirdre McGahern, is located in Peterborough and specializes in design, estimating, and building to ensure their buildings perform naturally and effectively, all within budget. Their motto is 'when built properly, straw works'. We look forward to showcasing the Health Centre to you at a ribbon-cutting ceremony tentatively scheduled for September 2021. The Centre should be completed in time for Summer Camp 2021.

We were so fortunate to recruit David Goyette as our HC Campaign Lead. It is David's job to spread the word about the new build and its amazing features, to speak with donors and secure donations.



David has been a fabulous choice! He works with great energy to reach out and not only promote the project but, he has encouraged more individuals, foundations, and corporations to invest, and invest even while a pandemic was raging! David has helped us to be well on our way to achieving our \$400K+ goal for this project!

Sustainability features and materials of the Zero Health Centre...

- **Nexcem Foundation** – The ‘bricks’ are made of waste wood chips and cement. Some of the carbon emissions from the cement are offset by the wood chips.
- **Earthen Floors** – An earthen floor is similar to a polished concrete floor (without all the embodied carbon) except clay is used as the binder. Once dry, it is hardened with a blend of oils and sealed with a special varnish.
- **Straw Bale Walls** – Straw bales are super-insulators and the 16” thick walls offer an R-30 + value. The straw was sourced locally. An efficiently insulated building requires less heat and air conditioning.
- **Natural Plaster** – The straw bale walls will be plastered with a clay, lime, sand and chopped straw mixture. It is a tried-and-true combination that is long-lasting, is beautiful, and is able to sequester carbon.
- **Non-Toxic Paints & Finishes** – The indoor air quality of most new builds is often more polluted than the outdoor air because of the toxic materials like formaldehyde in glues, mildewcides and fungicides in drywall mud. Your nose will judge because you will smell nothing in the new Centre!

Every gift has helped us on this journey!

We are nearing the finish line thanks to donors like you. The Campaign is closing in on its target and the Centre will be up and running in time for Summer Camp 2021! On behalf of the thousands of children who will benefit, we thank you for helping make our zero Health Centre a reality – it is needed now more than ever.

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