



Camp Kawartha

Outdoor Education Centre • Environment Centre • Summer Camp • Facility Rentals

Main Office: 1010 Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer, ON K0L 2H0

Phone: 705-652-3860 Fax: 705-652-1500

Email: info@campkawartha.ca Website: www.campkawartha.ca

Dear Parents, Campers and Staff:

May 19, 2020

Ontario has announced that overnight camps will not be permitted to operate this summer due to COVID-19. As expressed by our government, this upcoming summer is not the time to have 200 campers and staff living together. Closeness is what we value through a camp experience and this has become a hazardous risk in the time of COVID-19.

We spend all year anticipating the summer. To lose that rush of excitement and optimism is a “punch to the gut”. I'm sure you feel as we do; even though we were preparing for this, the blow from hearing this announcement is immense. There is sadness in losing a summer at camp. That same sadness with your children is likely to be very real. We also know for parents it is just as difficult and you have a right to be just as disappointed.

With this news, we wanted to reach out immediately. We will follow-up with further guidance and a more thorough response within the next 2 days.

Camp is still a constant and will always be there! While this news is disheartening, we also acknowledge the global suffering caused by COVID-19. What's more important is that our health is intact and those of our loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Strasberg
Summer Camp Director

Jason Huffman
Board Chair

Jacob Rodenburg
Executive Director

Cathy Romano
Healthcare Coordinator

James White
Registrar

Press Release from the OCA

Today, the Government of Ontario has announced that overnight camps in Ontario will continue to be ordered closed throughout the summer. While this decision is very difficult for everyone who loves Ontario's camps – especially children and their families, the OCA understands and supports this decision. The Government of Ontario made this decision in the best interests of Ontario's children and their families.

The Ontario Camps Association (OCA) supports, advances, promotes and accredits more than 450 day and overnight member camps throughout Ontario to ensure that they meet the highest safety standards for more than 400,000 children and 35,000 camp staff each summer. The priority of every OCA camp is that each camper and camp staff member has a safe experience at camp.

In recent weeks, the OCA has worked closely with multiple Government of Ontario ministries, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, to share our concerns and hopes and to offer our support. The OCA has greatly appreciated this partnership and the government's outreach to us. With today's announcement, that day camps may be able to operate this summer, the OCA is committed to continue working in partnership with the Government of Ontario and provincial and local public health officials, leading up to and throughout the summer to ensure a safe experience for campers and camp staff alike. The OCA will also work closely with accredited day camps that choose to open, supporting, advancing and accrediting those camps.

The OCA looks forward to working with the Government of Ontario on the measures that are needed to foster a thriving and successful day and overnight camp sector in the summers ahead.