



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 and Campers,

It is with heavy hearts that we announce, as a result of the orders of the Provincial Government due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the cancellation of all summer camp bookings at the main site for this upcoming season.

Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. We know this isn't easy as you deal with having children at home, perhaps working from home and for some of you, perhaps an uncertain future

At the same time, Camp is such a special place for all of us. It shows us what a thriving, caring and active community can be. It brings out the best in all of us. Perhaps you and your children can bring a bit of camp spirit to the members of your families and to others in your circle - a smile, a laugh or a spontaneous virtual hug. It is in the small gestures that we show we care. Know that we will be back, stronger, more resilient and more determined to give your children a magical summer camp experience next year.

Please know that we are considering the possibility of offering a modified camp experience such as virtual camp and/or a reconfigured day camp, this summer. However, we will only do this if we feel the risks can be appropriately minimized, if our offerings are consistent with Camp Kawartha values and if we are able to comply, execute and enforce all public health guidelines. Please stay tuned for details.

Financial Implications:

Our priority is to make sure that you are not negatively impacted financially from the cancellation of camp. As stated in a previous letter, we are committed to **refunding 100% of your payment (including deposit) for summer 2020**. We appreciate the confidence and trust you have put into our camp throughout this crisis by maintaining your children's enrollment in Camp Kawartha.

The financial implications of this decision are significant for all of us. Camp Kawartha, as a not-for-profit charity, relies on income from summer camp to sustain our operations throughout the year. The cancellation of camp is a significant blow to our organization, especially as we approach our 100th year of operations in 2021. Next week you will receive more details about opportunities to support the camp during this unprecedented time. This follow-up email will include details on the refund process and how to make a donation should you chose to do so.

With over a thousand families to reach out to it will take a little while to ensure that everything is processed properly. We appreciate your patience in this.

How do we move forward with our feelings?

We spend all year anticipating the magic of summer camp. To lose that rush of excitement and optimism is a just like a "punch to the gut." We know there are stories out there where campers literally spend all year counting down the days, or anticipate seeing a friend they only see at camp. Camp reveals our best selves and losing that opportunity can be a huge letdown. It will certainly be a blow to our staff. As in every summer, there is so much energy and potential bubbling up in our summer team. They are always more than eager to deliver the best summer camp ever.



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We also know for parents it is just as difficult. Running a household while being forced into new routines may be pushing the limits of your endurance and you have a right to be very disappointed by this news.

At the same time, we have been encouraged by the overwhelming support of parents in spite of their own challenging circumstances. These include assurances of returning in 2021, words of encouragement to remain open and offers to sustain camp so that it can operate next summer, as strong and as healthy as ever!

The sadness we feel at the prospect of not running summer camp is immense. And your children are likely sad too. It is real and it is poignant and may express itself in frustration and discouragement. Over time, and when appropriate, try to turn these strong feelings into a teachable moment about the value of resilience and patience. Summer camp will come again!

In the end, compassion, empathy and gratitude is what will make this and all other experiences, better - now and for the future. And one thing you can be sure of. Summer Camp 2021 will be full of energy, joy and exuberance – the best summer camp ever!

Yours sincerely,

Jacob Rodenburg
Executive Director

Cathy Romano RN
Health Care Coordinator

Adam Strasberg
Summer Camp Director

James White
Camp Registrar