

2020

ANNUAL REPORT KAWARTHAS CAMP



INSPIRING OUTDOOR & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

OUR MISSION

Camp Kawartha inspires environmental leaders and stewards of all ages through dynamic, accessible, year-round outdoor programming and powerful partnerships.

FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JACOB RODENBURG:

RESILIENCY & FLEXIBILITY

When COVID-19 first swept across the globe in March of 2020 and the government instituted a general lock down, we at Camp Kawartha became alarmed. For one of the first summers since 1921, we would not be able to offer summer camp. That meant more than a thousand campers would miss their friends, would not be able to practice outdoor skills or have the chance to connect deeply with the natural world. Thankfully our staff are nothing short of remarkable. Immediately they began to plan how they might keep the spirit of camp kindling. We developed a virtual camp and offered "Camp in a Box." We developed on-line resources such as "Nature Note" and we created virtual campfires. We began a fundraising campaign. And we were even able to run a small day camp at our Environment Centre, all under the careful scrutiny of our Health Team and guided by Public Health.

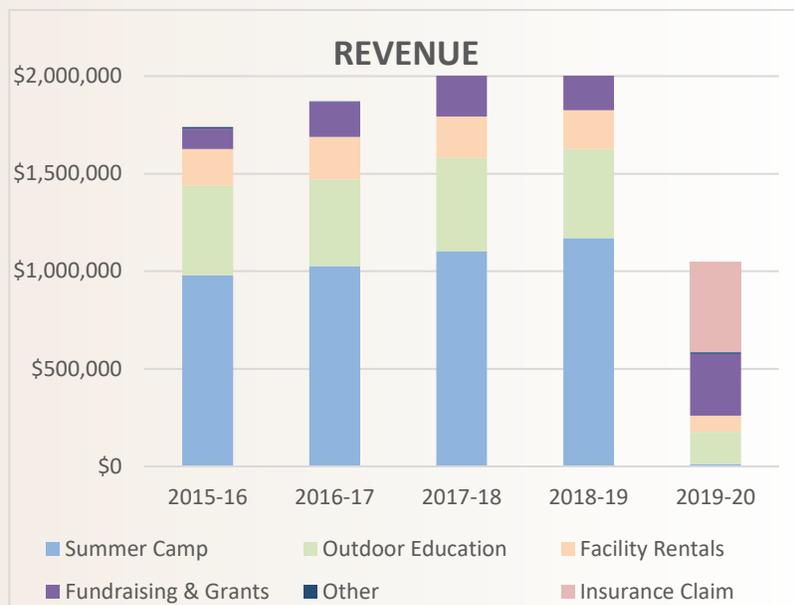
"Resiliency and flexibility" – these are two themes that have characterized the past year. With outdoor education bookings cancelled, we pivoted and became a **Forest School**, offering curriculum-linked programming to students whose parents were not ready to send their children to school. We provided **Forest Camps** to parents in Peterborough at our Environment Centre. And while this has been a challenging year financially, we were fortunate enough to have insurance that helped us to recover some of our lost income.

Because of our adaptability, we have kept our core staff employed, we delivered meaningful programming and most importantly, we laid the groundwork for a magical summer camp in 2021; our 100th year of operations! Thanks to many of you for your generosity, for the kind words you shared with us when we needed them most and for your ongoing support over this past year.

It has made all the difference!

CAMP KAWARTHA 2019- 2020 IN NUMBERS

-  **+734** of elementary & secondary students taught (both places)
-  **+5,531** visits to the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre
-  **+393** undergraduate students visitors
-  **+183** student teachers taught about environmental stewardship
-  **+68,000** visitors to the CK Environment Centre since opening
-  **+22** Watershed Stewards certified
-  **+550** elementary & secondary students taught
-  **+1930** students participated in our homeschoolers Forest Fridays, Woodland Wednesday and Forest Kindergarten
-  **+100** native species added to our shoreline naturalization project in partnership with **Environmental Council for Clear, Stoney & White Lakes**



OUR VISION

That Camp Kawartha will be recognized as a national leader in the delivery of high quality and inspirational outdoor and environmental programming; practicing, teaching and promoting sustainable living practices to children and adults of all ages and abilities.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Despite the challenges we along with many others faced, we were able to find new ways to be relevant and to deliver on our mission. Read on to find out more...

ON THE PATHWAY

Last year, we reported on the success of our pilot for the Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship project. Led by Camp Kawartha, this wonderful community-based initiative involves over 40 organizations, schools and volunteers who are providing stewardship experiences through each age and stage of a child's development. We are pleased to report that Camp Kawartha received a major grant of **\$750,000** from the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** to roll this program out for the Peterborough Region over the next 3 years. This will involve providing programs for schools, workshops for teachers, outings for families and resources to help our community connect to nature. We are now in a wonderful position to expand our reach, as we deliver our mission of fostering positive stewards. To find out more, please visit www.pathwayproject.ca

SUMMER CAMP 2020

With so many enthusiastic young leaders eager to lead, not having a summer camp was both sad and disappointing. However, with the positive can-do Camp spirit organized by our Summer Camp Director, Adam Strasberg, they quickly organized some wonderful virtual camp opportunities and provided hands-on resources to connect families to the outdoors. Their enthusiastic virtual campfires and their efforts to stay in touch with camp families made a huge difference to the mood of campers, parents tell us.

TEACHING OUTDOORS...

Camp Kawartha's Forest School comes to life!

This fall, Camp Kawartha became an official Forest School offering programming to 3 cohorts: Kindergarten, Grade 1 to 3 and Grade 3 to 6. A school bus picks students up from Peterborough and our teacher-trained educators deliver curriculum-linked programming, outdoors. Over 90% of the student's time is spent on our 185 acres of forests, fields and wetlands that surround Camp Kawartha. They are learning about ecology, geography and the history of this region. 24 students are enrolled in this program.

CAMP KAWARTHA OUTREACH

Thanks to a grant of **\$88,700** from the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, we will now be able to provide programming at schools. We'll not only get students outside where the risk of COVID is much less, but we'll also show teachers programs that they themselves can implement in school grounds. We hope to visit 100 classes this spring.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Thanks to a grant from Canada Summer Jobs, we were able to hire maintenance and trail workers. They took the opportunity to spruce up our facilities by refinishing buildings, expanding our gardens and planting native species. Our trail team completely revamped our trail system, adding new trails, replacing our board walk and installing a Trail Head Station. We now have 6.3 kilometers of our own marked trails! Come and explore. Just let the office know in advance and we'll provide you with a map.

Thanks to donors, grants and the hard work of the **Environment Council for Clear, Stoney and White Lakes**, we now have an extensive demonstration naturalized shoreline. We have information signs along with a link to a website where visitors can find out more about the kinds of native plants to plant and the benefits of a restored and healthy shoreline.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



PROGRAM UPDATE

We took this opportunity to update and revamp our outdoor education programs for school groups. We now have **65 curriculum-linked programs** covering environmental science, the arts, geography, physical education and history. We were also able to align our programs with the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** or **SDG's**. With this program refresh, we'll be ready to welcome schools back with new and relevant program offerings.

EXPANDED ENVIRONMENT CENTRE PROGRAMS

They say that out of challenge emerges opportunity. The new programs offered at the Environment Centre are a testament to how a creative response to a crisis can create innovation. For example, we now offer for school children, a **Forest Kindergarten**, drop in nature days such as **Trail Tuesdays** and **Woodland Leadership and Adventure**. We also have a French language after-school program called "**Les Renards**." We've expanded our homeschooler offerings to include **Woodland Wednesdays, Forest Fridays, Bushcraft and Wilderness Skills, Earth Healers** (a program about herbal plants), **WILD** (Wildlife, Wild Places and Wild Issues). Over 85 children participate in these programs per week. We are able to keep the programming almost exclusively outside.

A HEALTHY HEALTH CENTRE

In order to replace our aging Health Centre constructed in the 1950's, we are building a certified, net **Zero Health Centre** (with zero carbon, zero waste and zero toxins). This innovative centre will support our Health Team as they look after the health needs of students, campers and visitors. For health care practitioners, this space will be an exemplar of how clinics can be designed to be more sustainable, healthy and integrate nature into their design. The centre is being built by Strawworks, a natural building company in Peterborough and they are including a wide variety of sustainable design elements

including straw construction, mycelium wall, solar, alternative energy systems and a living wall. The centre is negative carbon - **absorbing 5 tonnes of carbon**. Compare this to a conventional building of the same size which takes about 50 tonnes of carbon to construct.

We are fortunate to have David Goyette lead our Health Centre Campaign. Currently we have raised or have pledged \$250,000 for the construction of this innovative building. The total cost of the centre including outfitting with medical equipment will be \$375,000.

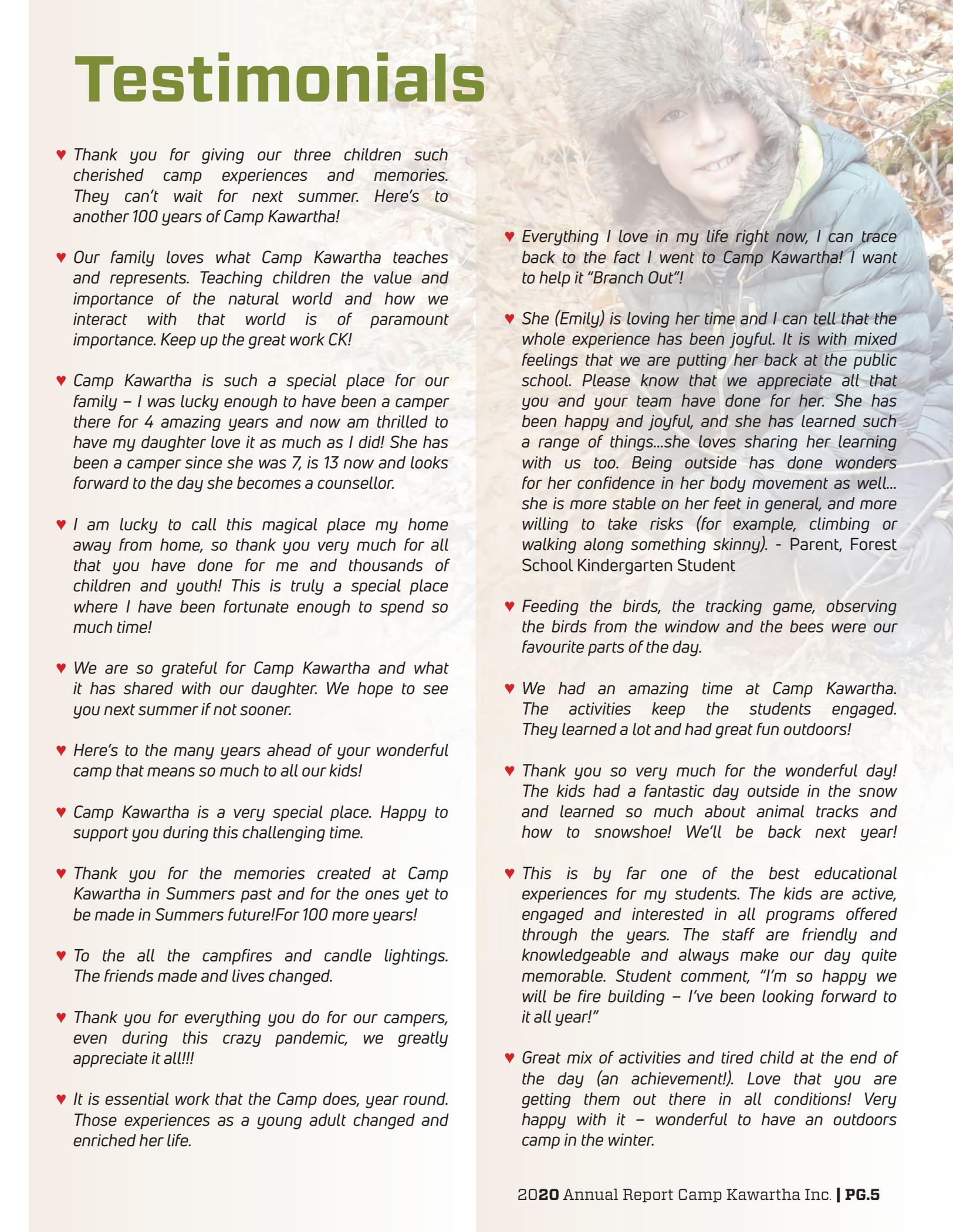
GETTING THE WORD OUT

Despite the pandemic, we've been able to promote our work on sustainability and stewardship. Our Executive Director, Jacob Rodenburg, spoke in Calgary last fall about the Pathways program. He recently co-authored a chapter in a book which is receiving global recognition. As the publisher states "We are delighted to inform you that your book Environmental and Sustainability Education in Teacher Education, Canadian Perspectives is among the top used publications on SpringerLink that concern one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Over the past year, he has also written a variety of articles on nature, outdoor and environmental education for publications such as EcoParent and Cottage Country Life.

HELP US THRIVE

In response to the loss of summer camp revenue, Camp Kawartha rolled out its Thrive100 campaign as a way to recognize 100 years of camping. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we were able to raise more than **\$23,000** to help us. Especially touching was the contribution by three special young people Poppy, Rowan and Enid Zavitz, who collected bottles, cashed them in and donated \$750 for our Thrive Campaign!

Testimonials

- 
- ♥ *Thank you for giving our three children such cherished camp experiences and memories. They can't wait for next summer. Here's to another 100 years of Camp Kawartha!*
 - ♥ *Our family loves what Camp Kawartha teaches and represents. Teaching children the value and importance of the natural world and how we interact with that world is of paramount importance. Keep up the great work CK!*
 - ♥ *Camp Kawartha is such a special place for our family – I was lucky enough to have been a camper there for 4 amazing years and now am thrilled to have my daughter love it as much as I did! She has been a camper since she was 7, is 13 now and looks forward to the day she becomes a counsellor.*
 - ♥ *I am lucky to call this magical place my home away from home, so thank you very much for all that you have done for me and thousands of children and youth! This is truly a special place where I have been fortunate enough to spend so much time!*
 - ♥ *We are so grateful for Camp Kawartha and what it has shared with our daughter. We hope to see you next summer if not sooner.*
 - ♥ *Here's to the many years ahead of your wonderful camp that means so much to all our kids!*
 - ♥ *Camp Kawartha is a very special place. Happy to support you during this challenging time.*
 - ♥ *Thank you for the memories created at Camp Kawartha in Summers past and for the ones yet to be made in Summers future! For 100 more years!*
 - ♥ *To the all the campfires and candle lightings. The friends made and lives changed.*
 - ♥ *Thank you for everything you do for our campers, even during this crazy pandemic, we greatly appreciate it all!!!*
 - ♥ *It is essential work that the Camp does, year round. Those experiences as a young adult changed and enriched her life.*
 - ♥ *Everything I love in my life right now, I can trace back to the fact I went to Camp Kawartha! I want to help it "Branch Out"!*
 - ♥ *She (Emily) is loving her time and I can tell that the whole experience has been joyful. It is with mixed feelings that we are putting her back at the public school. Please know that we appreciate all that you and your team have done for her. She has been happy and joyful, and she has learned such a range of things...she loves sharing her learning with us too. Being outside has done wonders for her confidence in her body movement as well... she is more stable on her feet in general, and more willing to take risks (for example, climbing or walking along something skinny). - Parent, Forest School Kindergarten Student*
 - ♥ *Feeding the birds, the tracking game, observing the birds from the window and the bees were our favourite parts of the day.*
 - ♥ *We had an amazing time at Camp Kawartha. The activities keep the students engaged. They learned a lot and had great fun outdoors!*
 - ♥ *Thank you so very much for the wonderful day! The kids had a fantastic day outside in the snow and learned so much about animal tracks and how to snowshoe! We'll be back next year!*
 - ♥ *This is by far one of the best educational experiences for my students. The kids are active, engaged and interested in all programs offered through the years. The staff are friendly and knowledgeable and always make our day quite memorable. Student comment, "I'm so happy we will be fire building – I've been looking forward to it all year!"*
 - ♥ *Great mix of activities and tired child at the end of the day (an achievement!). Love that you are getting them out there in all conditions! Very happy with it – wonderful to have an outdoors camp in the winter.*

Donors

October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Foundations & Charities

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities
Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
Michael Evans & Heather Gardiner Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Otto & Marie Pick Charitable Foundation
St. Peter's on-the-Rock
The Arscott Family Fund
The ChariTree Foundation
The Gainey Foundation
The Stony Lake Heritage Foundation
Williams Wilson Sherport Foundation

Community Supporters

1496974 Ontario Limited
Birkdale Investments Ltd
Chemung Lake District Lions Club
City of Peterborough
Hardwood Nature School
Kawartha Credit Union Limited
Kiwanis Club of Peterborough Incorporated
LLF Lawyers LLP
M&P Tool Products Inc.
Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield
Rotary Club of Peterborough - Kawartha
Township of Douro-Dummer

Individuals

Ryan Adams
Craig & Jane Allison
Paul Andrews
Roger & Pat Armstrong
Ryan Arnone
Kevin & Jayne Asselin
Michelle Ayres
Brenda Ball
Gary & Dianne Benson
Dianne Berlenbach
Katie Binda
Mike Bishop
Lucie Blouin
Peter Boffo
Craig Brant
Cathy Breedon
Jane Bremner
Margaret Broadfoot

Individuals

Donald Bull
Bob Burgis
Matt Bywater
Helen Campbell
Stephanie Campbell
Sylvia Cashmore
Ruth Cassidy
Philip S. Chester
Susan Chiddix
Jill Childs
Liam Churchill
Sue Clarke
Deb Coates
John Cockburn
Madeleine Cole
Karen Copson
James G. Coyle
Warren Craft
Brandie Davis
Christina Davy
Kevin Dupont
Nancy Dennis
Kady Denton
David L & Lee Dobbin
Kelly Dobbin
Ross & Ann Dobbin
Cameron Douglas
Cathy Dueck
Amie Elliott
Rod Farrell
Rae Ann Fera
Isobel Finnighan
John Flynn
Stuart & Joan Found
Michael Fox
Bob French
Fiona Gentle
Leigh Gibbens
Jill Goddard
Lara Griffin
Leslie Grightmire
Jonathan Gucciardi
Betsy Ann Gynane
Marion Habermehl
Marie Hanchet
Carolyn Hay
David Hayes

Individuals

Myke Healy
Dena Heming
Doug Henderson
Christine Hennings
Jessica Hennings
Lisa Hicks
Anne-Catherine Higham
Lilian Hirdes
Alexandra Hubley
Carol Ingleton
Carlotta James
Tristen Jentzel
Hilda Jolley
Sandy Jones
Chantale Killey
Deborah Krick
Henry & Michelle Kroesen
Marc Laflamme
Terra Lasenby
Ellie Lavery
Brian Learoyd
Paul Legacy
Robert Little
Brian Love
Peter & Marilyn MacLoghlin
Maeve Maguire
Dave Mahoney
Paige Mahoney
Daniel Marinigh
Rudy Massimo
Asha & Kiran Mayadunne
Brian McIlwain
Louise McLaren
Dan McWilliams
B. Josephine Mewett
Diane Michael
Carla Molinaro-Kim
Richelle Morgan
Stuart Hoegner
Theresa Morris
Christine Morris-Bolton
Vince Charbonneau
Elizabeth Nisbet
Emily Norris Harrington
Terry & Jeanette Northrop
Robert Paajanen
Marcelo Palacios



Camp Kawartha

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

Phone: 705-652-3860

Toll Free: 1-866-532-4597

Email: info@campkawartha.ca

Website: www.campkawartha.ca

Charitable Registration # 12453 9214 RR0001

 @CampKawartha

 @CampKawartha

 @CampKawartha

 @CampKawartha

 @CampKawartha

 Camp Kawartha