



CAMPFIRE CHATTER



FALL 2008

Connecting you to YMCA Camp Pine Crest

Camp News

Camp this summer was a great experience for all campers and staff! We continue to provide canoe and hiking trip opportunities for all our groups, certify campers in ORCKA canoe and YMCA swim levels, and provide a wide variety of activities to make our sessions memorable. This summer we tried out four sessions of one-week campers. It was a huge success and we will continue to offer this option to bantam and junior-aged campers for next summer.



We had more adventure leadership and extended leadership trips this summer than we've ever had before. Due to increased rain, water levels were extremely high in our local area and we had to re-route some of our more common trips. We'll be looking at a variety of trip options for the 2009 season.



The Camp Pine Crest Games were held August 26 - 27. Jasmine Mahdy led the Lumbermen and Vincent Scudder helmed the Voyageurs. Both days were exciting and challenging for all campers, and the Lumbermen were victorious in the end. Special congratulations to Ally and Mitch Wood who had the fastest marathon time this year!



As many of you know, Maple Leaf Foods recalled a list of products this summer that were commonly used at many camps in Ontario. We had ordered select lunch meats for our use in buffets and sandwich meals at camp. Upon notice of the recall, all products were removed from the property and families were notified. If you or your children have shown signs or symptoms of listeriosis (see the Ministry of Health website at www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/disease/listeria.html for more info), please consult your doctor.



Camper registration for summer 2009 will begin on January 2, 2009. Please check our website for more information on how to register online, by fax or by mail. You can reach us at our winter office after November 1, 2008, at 905-859-9622 ext. 233 or email us at camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org.



Capital Campaign Update

To help support the \$4 million capital improvement of Pine Crest, we have launched a \$1 million capital campaign. To date, we've raised \$100,000, and campaign Co-Chairs Pamela Grant and Bryan Graham are both pleased with the progress and your generosity. Says Pamela, "Camper families realize the significant and lasting impact Pine Crest has had on their children and they want to help ensure that Pine Crest continues to be there for many generations to come."

Bryan adds, "In true Camp Pine Crest tradition, we are delighted that leaders are stepping forward to help with this vital campaign." According to Andrea Balmer, Camp Director, "It's so rewarding to all camp staff when they learn that our alumni and camper families are donating to Pine Crest. It really motivates us knowing that we really are doing something very special here at camp!" To become a campaign leader or make a gift, please email Tom Vosper at tom.vosper@ymcagta.org or call 647-241-8200.



Donor Snapshot: The Cayley Family



The Cayley family has been actively involved with Pine Crest for the past 10 years. Daughters Courtney and Sarah have both been campers, and dad Chris and mom Suzanne have been active camper parents. The family recently donated to the YMCA Camp Pine Crest Capital Campaign, with Suzanne's employer generously matching the donation.

Chris didn't go to YMCA camp as a child, but he values the memories, experiences and opportunities that camping afforded him. Sarah first went to Pine Crest 10 years ago when she was six years old, and now she's a counsellor in training with aspirations to work at Pine Crest one day.



Suzanne & Chris



Courtney & Sarah

When asked what inspires them to give to Pine Crest, the family agrees that camp gives children both freedom and added responsibility. Chris adds that camp, "primes children for life and teaches them skills they'll use forever." The family also thinks one of the most valuable experiences of camp is that in the outdoors, everyone is on a level playing field, regardless of their background. Sarah adds, "I want everyone to be able to enjoy Pine Crest."

The Cayleys are proud to be a part of building a strong foundation for the next 100 years at Pine Crest and praise the camp's long-term plans. Sarah sums it up best when she says, "I hope that Pine Crest will be able to give more opportunities to more children, continue to maintain its beauty and expand and be around for another 100 years."

Construction Update from Scott Clark, Revitalization Chair

Construction on the out-trip building and girls washhouse are almost complete, and work has begun on staff housing and leadership accommodation. Drawings and surveys are underway and we look forward to sharing the renderings as soon as they are available. We are also planning for work to begin on a new jumping tower at the end of the swim dock. This location will provide deeper water and a safer spot for jumping.

Thanks to all who provided comments on the renovations to the Squirrels cabin. We've incorporated the information into a search for materials that

would cost-effectively allow for an updated cabin with sufficient lighting, ventilation, storage space and larger bunks. Two of the guiding principals in stated in the Centennial Master Plan are small group experiences and democratic living, and these cabin renovations will allow opportunities for social development, group interdependence, interpersonal problem solving and leadership development.

Scott is an alumnus who lives in Gravenhurst and frequently visits Pine Crest construction sites. As head of the Revitalization Committee, Scott will be sharing on-going construction updates

with current camper families and alumni through both *Campfire Chatter* and the website. For more information on how you can help, please contact scott.clark@hotmail.com.





Your Story & Share Your Memories



For many alumni, experiences at Pine Crest shaped who they are today. Friends made at camp remain connected, the skills learned are used in their daily lives, and Pine Crest had a lasting impact on the people they've become. We want to reengage and reunite our alumni and share their stories, photos and history.

Thank you to those that have shared your stories and photos on our online storybook and memory board. To reconnect with Pine Crest, please visit www.camppinecrestalumni.ca.

Alumni drop-in events

Join us for the opportunity to reunite with alumni, share your stories, view our archives and learn more about plans to celebrate Pine Crest's 100th anniversary. We'll be hosting events in Mississauga, North York and London. Please continue to watch the website for dates and locations.

October 30 5:00-11:00 p.m.

Fionn MacCool's,
181 University Avenue, Toronto

November 28 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Oakville



Alumni Engagement – Chair Greg Clark

Alumnus Greg Clark is chairing the Alumni Engagement Committee. Greg is looking at methods of locating and reconnecting with the Pine Crest alumni from the past 100 years. If you would like to be part of this committee, please email Greg at greg.clark@cbre.com.

Be part of the celebration – be part of our history!

If you are interested in assisting with any of Pine Crest's initiatives, or you are looking to reconnect with your fellow Pine Cresters, please contact Leanne Morton at leanne.morton@ymcagta.org or 905-943-9622 ext. 319.

The Event of the Century – Celebrating 100 Years of Pine Crest

We're planning two events to celebrate Camp Pine Crest's 100th anniversary. A big celebration will be held June 11-13, 2010, at Pine Crest and the History Book launch will occur in November 2010 in Toronto. We're looking for people that would like to participate on these committees to organize, plan and promote these events. If you're interested, please contact Leanne at leanne.morton@ymcagta.org.

History Book Update

Historian Dr. Rae Fleming is currently working on writing the Camp Pine Crest 100th anniversary History Book. To share your stories and photos of days gone by at Pine Crest please email him at rbfleming@lindsayjgs.net.

Lowe's Canada makes generous investment in YMCA Camp Pine Crest



As part of a generous \$500,000 investment in the YMCA of Greater Toronto, Lowe's Canada has directed half that amount to support YMCA Camp Pine Crest. Lowe's will be naming our new winterized camper accommodations, which are currently in the developmental stage of the \$4 million overall capital project.

As home improvement warehouse Lowe's expanded into the Canadian market, the Lowe's Canada team recognized a connection between its core values and those of the YMCA. Furthermore, Lowe's has a long and rich history, which it saw mirrored in the YMCA.

"Lowe's is committed to recognizing and supporting efforts that enrich the lives of our neighbours and customers," said Don Stallings, president of Lowe's Canada. "By supporting YMCA of Greater Toronto and Camp Pine Crest, we are contributing to causes that are important to our customers and employees and also helping build a stronger foundation for the children who will be tomorrow's employees, homeowners and community leaders."

The YMCA is grateful to Lowe's Canada for their outstanding support and we look forward to a long and strong partnership.

Pine Crest Memories: Ivan Robinson, Camp Director 1964 - 1968

One of Ivan Robinson's fondest recollections of his term as Pine Crest Director is the nervous excitement he felt the night before the campers arrived. Ivan had worked with the East York YMCA and was Camp Wangoma Director for five years, but running Pine Crest was a challenging job. Ivan remembers, "I always had butterflies in my stomach before the kids arrived, and then I was too busy to be nervous anymore!"

After his term as Director at Pine Crest, Ivan moved on to lead the Toronto Family Services Bolton conference centre and camp until he retired. Ivan says he often thinks of Pine Crest and the life-long friendships he made there. Says Ivan, "Pine Crest continues to touch the lives of many youngsters, and I hope it will continue for many years to come."

In Memory - Riley Tench

As a camper, CIT, counsellor and woodcraft director, Riley stood out at Pine Crest in the late 1960s and early 1970s. When most were striving to emulate the canoe-tripping legends of the day, Riley, with his shoulder-length wavy hair, merry blue eyes and thin, most un-camplike frame, was busy just being himself. He wrote poetry, stayed up all night sipping rose-hip tea, played Bob Dylan on guitar. Everyone loved Riley because he was without ego, pretension or get-ahead ambition. He took delight in encouraging people to be themselves, which he was in all he did, said, sang, wrote or felt, not just at Pine Crest, but, according to his friends, throughout his joyous life.

- Paul Illidge, PC '67-'71

Mission: The YMCA of Greater Toronto is a charity offering opportunities for personal growth, community involvement and leadership.

Values: Caring • Health • Honesty • Inclusiveness • Respect • Responsibility



Your YMCA's charitable registration number is: 11930 7080 RR0001

Vision: The YMCA of Greater Toronto will focus on making connections: connecting people, connecting with youth, and connecting with the community.

Campfire Chatter is produced by the YMCA Communications Department.



We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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