



CAMPFIRE CHATTER



JUNE 2008

Connecting you to Camp Pine Crest

Alumni News

Many of you may be wondering what it means to be alumni at YMCA Camp Pine Crest. If you have ever been a camper or a staff member at Pine Crest, we consider you to be a Pine Crest alumnus. The newly designed Campfire Chatter is designed to keep alumni and current camper families up to date about Pine Crest activities — especially as we gear up to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

There will be plenty of opportunities for alumni and current camper families to get involved. We're currently looking for people to help out with our:

- 100th anniversary celebration
- Online Story Book and History Book
- \$1 million Capital Campaign and our annual Strong Kids Campaign

If you would like to be involved with one of our alumni projects or volunteer at camp, please contact us at pinecrest.alumni@ymcagta.org or call Leanne Morton at 905-943-9622 ext. 319.

Be a Part of Pine Crest History

Tell us your stories, send us your pictures and reconnect with old friends.

We're proud to announce that the YMCA Camp Pine Crest Online Story Book is launching this month. It's time to dig up your treasured photos and relive the stories of your youth. Use the Online Story Book to reconnect with friends, share experiences and inspire your fellow Pine Cresters to do the same!

In celebration of YMCA Camp Pine Crest's 100th anniversary and the \$4 million revitalization project, we invite you to reminisce on the good ol' days and be a Pine Crest ambassador! Tell your Pine Crest pals and check www.camppinecrest.ca for more details.



Campers enjoy a song around the fire

Celebrate 100 years of YMCA Pine Crest

Mark **June 12, 2010** in your calendar. We are planning the celebration of the century and we want you there! More details to follow.

Introducing Leanne Morton

Manager of Pine Crest Alumni and Volunteer Development

Leanne Morton has recently joined the YMCA Camp Pine Crest team to give support to our volunteer development, alumni program, Strong Kids Campaign and Capital Campaign. She has worked for the YMCA for 18 years in camping, philanthropy and child care. Leanne is a current Pine Crest camper parent and is a great fit to help us move towards our 100th Anniversary. Please join us in welcoming Leanne.



YMCA Camp Pine Crest Launches \$1 Million Campaign



To help fund the \$4 million capital investment in Camp Pine Crest, we have begun organizing our \$1 million Capital Campaign. Over the next two years, leading up to our 100th anniversary, we will be inviting alumni and current camper families to consider making a gift to the campaign or becoming campaign leaders.

We are very pleased that Pamela Grant, Co-Chair, Current Camper Families, and Bryan Graham, Co-Chair, Camp Alumni, have stepped up to lead our campaign.

Pamela, who takes on the role of Co-Chair, Pine Crest Capital Campaign, became involved with YMCA Camp Pine Crest 13 years ago when her son Daniel, who was nine at the time, attended for the first time. Pamela's daughter Gillian followed in her big brother's footsteps, and throughout the years Pamela's children have been part of the Pine Crest family as campers and staff. Gillian will be working at Pine Crest as a first-year counsellor this summer. Pamela says, "I'm excited to be part of this campaign because Pine



Bryan Graham, Co-Chair, Camp Alumni

Crest means a lot to our family. Pine Crest is a unique place...it captures nature in its unspoiled beauty. When you think of camp, Pine Crest depicts all that a camp should be."

Pamela is currently working as the Executive Director at the Youth Challenge Fund. "My day job is about working with and supporting young

people. Youth are critical in everything we do. To have them take their rightful place as leaders or co-leaders is critical. Anything that helps them nurture those skills is a good thing. Pine Crest allows our young people to build their skills and learn to be leaders."

Bryan brings a wealth of experience and commitment to his role as Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign. He recently retired as an Audit Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Toronto where he led the firm's higher education and not-for-profit audit practice for some 25 years. Bryan remarks that his career

and values as a person were shaped in so many ways by the people and experiences he enjoyed at Pine Crest in his late teens and early twenties. "I was



Pamela Grant, second left, with her family

truly fortunate, as my years at Pine Crest set the stage for the unfolding of so many positive events in my life that I only now fully appreciate as I look back over the years."

Bryan also adds that he is looking forward to connecting with many Pine Cresters from across the generations, including those he worked with at the Camp in the late fifties and early sixties. "There are many ways in which people can get involved to support the future success of the camp. We look forward to hearing from as many as possible as we embark upon our Capital Campaign and a variety of exciting activities to celebrate 100 years of accomplishment."

Both Pamela and Bryan would love to hear from you. You can reach Pamela at **416-507-3295** or **PGrant@youthchallengefund.org**, and you can reach Bryan at **416-941-8259** or **bryan.graham@ca.pwc.com**.

Building a Better Camp Pine Crest

In anticipation of the Camp's 100th anniversary in 2010, we've developed an updated master plan for the property, which will revitalize and enhance various important aspects of the camp's physical infrastructure. This renewal process is the result of a broad consultation over the past two years and reflects the rich traditions and values of the camp as they have evolved over the past 98 years. Our overall aspiration is to ensure that future

generations of Pine Crest campers continue to experience quality programming and outstanding leadership in an inclusive, small-group environment.

Central to this renewal process is our \$4 million investment in the camp. We'll focus on the renovation and updating of all our summer camper cabins, the construction of a number of new year-round leadership facilities to better support the use of the property in the spring and fall periods, and the enhancement of a number of existing support facilities that are essential to the successful physical operation of the camp. A number of other facilities are a part of the plan, including a new washhouse for the girls and a new out-tripping centre on Gullwing Lake.

The plans for the future are very exciting and you can learn more about them by accessing the Centennial Master Plan on the YMCA Camp Pine Crest website. We will also be featuring various aspects of our redevelopment plans in future issues of *Campfire Chatter*, so stay tuned.



Squirrels cabin



Recreation hall



YMCA Strong Kids Campaign

Help send a kid to camp!



Each year through the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, we help send kids to Camp Pine Crest who might otherwise not be able to afford this experience.

loud, I loved it! One day while brushing my teeth, I saw a garter snake, which was cool because I never saw one before."

One of our financially assisted campers is Tyrelle, who lives with his mom in low-income community housing. He had never been out of the city, had never seen a lake, been in a canoe or smelled a campfire.



YMCA Camp Pine Crest makes a positive difference in the lives of so many children, youth and families.

Each of us has fond memories of the experiences that changed our lives. We know that

Pine Crest develops future leaders – our alumni are a testament to that. Adds Tyrelle, "It's going to be so much fun again. I know I'll be learning new things."



Tyrelle

Says Tyrelle, "I loved going to camp. It was so much fun and it all started with the bus ride...I made two friends. Everything was so clean and there was no garbage anywhere. In swimming, I made it to level four which makes me a "swimmer."....I also got to play the drums for the first time – very



Alex

So many more children like Tyrelle are waiting to discover all that Camp Pine Crest has to offer. You can help by visiting www.ymcastrongkids.ca and giving to the Strong Kids Campaign today.

Welcome Back Andrea

Andrea Balmer has returned from maternity leave to resume her role as YMCA Camp Pine Crest Camp Director this summer. You'll be able meet Sloane (the new addition to the Balmer family) at camp as she will be spending her days paddling, hiking, swimming and learning all the camp songs with her dad, Coel. He'll be taking a short leave and will be returning to the Outdoor Centre in the fall. You can reach Andrea at andrea.balmer@ymcagta.org.



Sloane, Andrea & Coel

Family Camp

We're looking forward to another great family camp session from July 27–August 1, 2008. We are currently full with a waiting list for the summer program, but have decided to offer a fall family camp as well from September 19–21, 2008. Please register through our office or by downloading the registration form from www.camppinecrest.ca. This is a very popular program – and on a beautiful fall weekend in Muskoka with no bugs, it's sure to fill soon!

2008 Registration Update

This year our registration opened on January 1, 2008. We are happy to report that as of June, all programs are currently full to capacity with the exception of the following seven openings:

- CIT male – three spots
- Dumoine River – two spots
- One-month girls August – two spots
- Leadership Training week courses – room in all courses for Wilderness First Aid, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross, Whitewater Clinic and ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 1

First Annual Alumni Weekend

This year we hosted the Alumni Weekend on May 16-18 for alumni and their family and friends. Despite the rain, over 20 people joined us for a weekend of relaxation, camp activities and entertainment. We plan to host this event each year, so stay tuned for details for 2009.



Ashleigh

Outdoor Centre

Each year YMCA Camp Pine Crest opens in late April to begin operation as an outdoor centre for elementary, high school, college and university groups. Our staff are program facilitators for teambuilding, outdoor living and guided canoe trips, environmental programs and traditional camp activities. We also offer hosted programs for conferences, training courses, individual groups and other businesses.

This year our outdoor centre seasons continue to be a huge success. We were able to provide programs on site for over 1,500 participants and we have a very busy canoe-tripping program planned throughout the fall. We are always looking to expand our bookings and fill each spring and fall. Please contact us if you would like more information and Coel will be happy to do a presentation or personal planning meeting with you to organize your visit.

Job Board

Join our staff team to work or volunteer. For the summer of 2008, we are still interviewing for a male Adventure Trip leader and trip drivers. All staff are required to complete a Police Records Check prior to employment. Please refer to our 2008 employment package for specific position requirements. Applications will be accepted by Anne Coleman, Assistant Director, at anne.coleman@ymcagta.org.

We also need volunteer medical staff for the month of July. Volunteers in this department will help with immediate assessments on site, referrals, distribution of daily medications and assist in the training and support for seasonal staff. Volunteers are supported by our Wellness Director. Two-week placements are also available, and you can make arrangements for families by contacting Andrea Balmer.

Adventure Trips

We are pleased to announce that all our extended canoe trips will be running again this summer for Adventure Leadership (ages 14-17). Groups will be paddling on the Spanish River, Missinaibi River, Dumoine River, Coppermine River, in Quetico Provincial Park and with Georgian Bay Sea Kayaking. A group will also be doing an extended hike through Lake Superior Provincial Park in August. If you missed our information night, please contact our office to receive participant information package to help prepare for the summer.



Enjoying the view



Taking a break in the crisp air

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



United Way
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.



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Return undeliverable Canadian mail to:
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