



CAMPFIRE

C H A T T E R



CONNECTING YOU TO YMCA CAMP PINE CREST



Camp News



Fundraising



Camp Pine Crest Memories

Spring 2009



Camp News

Save the Date

Celebrate 100 years of memories on June 12, 2010. The event committee has been busy making plans for the party of the century! On June 12, YMCA Camp Pine Crest will celebrate its 100th anniversary. If you want to be part of the anniversary committee or you are interested in being a "decade captain," please email Leanne Morton at leanne.morton@ymcagta.org or call 905-943-9622 ext. 319. More details to follow.

Family Information Nights

This is a great opportunity to come out and meet some of the YMCA Camp Pine Crest staff, see a slideshow of camp and have all your questions answered prior to summer.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

7-8:30 p.m. Metro Central YMCA

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

7-8:30 p.m. North York YMCA

Friday, June 5, 2009

7-8:30 p.m. Metro Central YMCA

For all leadership and adventure leadership participants, information nights are mandatory prior to participation in your program. These nights go over the fine details of your trip arrangements, expectations for participants in the program and you will meet the trainers for this summer. If you can't make it to your information night, please contact Sharif Mahdy at 705-762-3377 or sharif.mahdy@ymcagta.org.

Leadership Information Night:

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

7-8:30 p.m. Metro Central YMCA

Adventure Leadership Information Night:

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

7-8:30 p.m. Metro Central YMCA

Welcome to the Team

We're happy to announce that we have some wonderful full-time staff to introduce to you!

We recently hired Suzy Pollard as our Outdoor Centre Coordinator. She will be handling all aspects of our spring, fall and winter programs and summer family camps. Suzy comes to our team with an extensive background in camp management, experience working with a variety of clients and specialized populations, and the perspective of many different outdoor centres and summer camps.

Long time staff member Sharif Mahdy joins our full-time team for the spring and summer season as Assistant Summer Program Coordinator. Sharif will be overseeing the leadership and outtripping departments of camp and assisting Alex McIntosh in the successful operation of the 2009 camp season. Sharif "Beef" is well known by campers and families and will be a huge asset to our successful summer.

The Balmer family is hoping by staff training that they will be able to introduce their newest member! The baby is due the end of June and Andrea, Coel and Sloane (along with the rest of the full-time team) will be living on site permanently as of May 2009. We look forward to this exciting time and appreciate all the continued support from the Pine Crest family.

Volunteer Work Days

As we finalize projects for our 2010 anniversary events, we have a lot of work to do on site. Our first volunteer work weekend was on April 24-26. We had a great showing of alumni, staff and returning volunteers who worked hard to open camp. Thank you to all those that helped out!

The autumn work weekend this year will be on October 16-18. Please call to RSVP.

Registration

Registration is moving very quickly and we are ahead of schedule compared to last summer. We still have some room in the traditional one and two-week sessions; please contact our registrar Lindsey Cottes at 905-480-9612 ext. 301 for details.

Supporting Strong Kids

There are many ways to support the annual Strong Kids Campaign to help send kids to camp, including:

YMCA Corporate Team Challenge

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Location: Exhibition Place

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Early bird registration — \$140/team for entries received or postmarked by May 13, 2009

Calling all Pine Cresters — whether you are a camper, parent, staff, volunteer, alumni or just someone that would like to support us, you can run as part of the Camp Pine Crest Team! Register your team in the race at www.ymcatoronto.org and then let camp know you have done so and we will provide you with a YMCA Camp Pine Crest race t-shirt to wear that day. You can also drop by our refreshment booth and meet other Pine Cresters running to support Strong Kids!



Fundraising Goes Grassroots

In our last issue, we told you about the YMCA Camp Pine Crest fundraising party John and Julie Sleeman held. It was a black-tie event featuring fine food and the Sleemans raised an incredible \$15,000 to send kids to camp.

However, fundraising doesn't need to be on a grand scale to make a difference. Six-year-old Harrison isn't old enough to go to Camp Pine Crest yet, but that hasn't stopped him from helping other kids get there.

Last summer, Harrison operated a lemonade stand in front of his house and raised over \$100, which he donated to help send kids to Camp Pine Crest. This budding young philanthropist can teach a lesson to all of us about caring, generosity and helping those less fortunate. Says Harrison, "My brother loves Pine Crest and I think all children should get to go!"



Program Updates

- As always, canoe tripping is one of our main program areas at camp and we've made changes to ensure that all campers feel more confident in their paddling skills prior to leaving camp and that they're involved in the planning process. We also ensure a high level of food quality while on trip.
- We've worked over the winter to update our outdoor living skills and environmental programs. Many of the aspects of the YMCA Camp Pine Crest woodcraft program from the past will be integrated into these skills to offer additional challenge and variety for our campers. Summer 2009 also marks the beginning of our paddle-making program for senior and pioneer campers.
- New for 2009: Parents and family members will be able to check our website during the session to see updates of when cabin groups have arrived back at camp after their canoe trip.
- Help us go green! We'll email newsletters after each session in addition to individual parent letters. Please ensure that your correct summer email is recorded by our registration office to receive this important update after the session. It will include specific information about while your child was at camp, upcoming news and events and the link to our family survey for feedback. Email camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org to update your info now!

Annual Camp Pine Crest Community Barbecue and Strong Kids Triathlon

This summer, join us at camp on Saturday, August 1, 2009, for our annual Strong Kids Triathlon. You can enter as part of a team or as an individual to swim, run and paddle to support sending kids to camp. Pledge forms are available through our office. Entry fee is \$20 per team and \$10 for individuals. Race will begin at the waterfront at 10 a.m. sharp.

After the race, please join us for an open house barbecue complete with tours of the site, updates from the staff about our plans for 2010 and an open waterfront to enjoy with your family. All cottagers, families, alumni and staff welcome! The barbeque will run from 12-3 p.m.

New Winter Program for 2009/2010

This year will be the first holiday and March Break camps offered at YMCA Camp Pine Crest with the new renovations. Summer campers will be invited to register for our holiday camp from December 26–31. We will explore Camp Pine Crest as a winter wonderland — skating, snowshoeing, tobogganing, playing broomball and hockey, taking hikes, and enjoying traditional camp activities. Space is limited to 48 campers so register early! More information will be included in summer newsletters for all families.

Outdoor education is also expanding into the winter season. We will now be operating from January to the March Break each year for specialized bookings. Contact our Outdoor Centre Coordinator Suzy Pollard at 705-762-3377 or suzy.pollard@ymcagta.org for details.

Construction Progress

This summer, campers will see many changes to our physical site as construction nears completion on many of our projects, including:

- Girls' section cabins
- Girls' section washroom
- New Outtripping Centre — Beausoleil
- Updates to our boating and swimming docks
- Renovations to the Rec Hall foundation
- Two new full-time staff houses
- Updates to Centennial Lodge

A surprise at the waterfront!

Throughout the summer, there will also be projects under construction that will not affect our camp program. This includes the renovation of Winter Lodge to a new winterized dining facility and the addition of two new winterized lodges — Norval Lodge and Wangoma Lodge — to accommodate our winter programs.



Camp Pine Crest Memories

**Tony Fry, Camp Director
1968–1972**

Tony Fry worked at YMCAs in Halifax, St. Catharine's and Montreal before becoming Assistant Director of YMCA Camp Pine Crest in 1967. In 1968, he was promoted to Camp Director, a position he held for four years before being named the YMCA Director of Camping Service.

According to Tony, what makes Pine Crest special is "the people that I connected with and remain connected with." The lifelong friendships that can be made at Camp Pine Crest are something that Tony hopes will continue forming for many generations of campers to come. He adds, "All of my good intimate friends go back to my days at camp."

One of Tony's fondest memories of Camp Pine Crest is his ritual morning dip in the chilly lake — although he has a bit of a secret to share. "I got a lot of kudos for the dip from both the staff and campers, but never my wife Cathy. She knew something no one else knew: I would wake up early, turn on the hot water in the shower and let it run. Then I would run to the dock in front of the Director's cottage, jump into the lake, splash around, and run back to the cabin and have a nice long hot shower. What a way to start the day!"

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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