



CAMPFIRE

CHATTER



CONNECTING YOU TO YMCA CAMP PINE CREST

Summer 2010



Friendship and Memories Campaign



Camp and Registration Updates



Celebrating 100 Years



Camp and Registration Update



The camp is bustling with energy right now! The construction teams are rushing to complete everything for the anniversary, outdoor centre groups are flooding through the doors, staff are arriving for training and courses, and families are visiting to check out the camp before the summer!

It has been unusually cold this spring, with snowfall in early May. Everyone at Pine Crest is very much looking forward to summer! As we prepare, just a reminder to families to look for the family update letter that will outline details for connecting with your campers this summer by email. The general mailbox for Pine Crest (camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org) **will no longer be used for camper email**. We found that the volume

is just too large for us to consistently provide great service for all inquiries at camp so we have chosen an external server.

You will see a link directly on the main page of our website at www.camppinecrest.ca. Look for the red button on the right side that says, "Stay in touch – email your camper." For a small fee, you will be able to send emails to your children at camp. A portion of the fee also goes towards our Strong Kids Campaign.

Thank you for your understanding as we make this transition to a more effective email system at Pine Crest!



**100th Anniversary Celebration at
YMCA Camp Pine Crest – June 12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
100th Anniversary Weekend – Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13**

It's not too late to register! We want to see you at the party of the century. Visit www.camppinecrest.ca for more information and to register online. Contact Leanne Morton at leanne.morton@ymcagta.org or 905-943-9622 ext. 319 if you have any questions.

Are you connected?

Stay connected with us on Facebook! Just go to Facebook and search for "YMCA Camp Pine Crest." You can also send us your email address for updates, important dates to remember and so much more, including future editions of Campfire Chatter. Register at www.camppinecrest.ca and help us go green!

Also, check out our brand-new video at our website.

Interactive Pine Crest Map

Visit memorable spots, check out camp photos and listen to a song at the campfire with the YMCA Camp Pine Crest interactive map. Reminisce and remember online! Just visit www.camppinecrest.ca and click on the map link.

Restoring our mural

In 1941 Fred Hagan painted a large two-piece mural depicting the various activities at Pine Crest. Installed in the rec hall and located on either side of the large stone fireplace, each piece is six feet tall and 11 feet wide. Due to age, water and other damage, the mural was removed in 2000.

During the recent winter and spring, a group of artists, led by Peter Adams, and with the generous contribution of space provided by Rene Petitjean, repaired and restored the mural. It can now be enjoyed once again by all visitors to Pine Crest.

Thank you to Sandy McNair and Tony Fry for the time and effort they have dedicated to completing this project.



Friendships and Memories Campaign Update

From April 16-18, 2010, a group of alumni from 1997-2001 gathered at Pine Crest for a chilly weekend of reminiscing with great food and great company. It was a wonderful reunion of alumni but the purpose was much larger. This "giving circle" gathered to raise money for the Friendships and Memories Campaign and sponsor the Holy Smoke Cabin. News went out months before to attract as many alumni as possible. This group was able to raise over \$27,000 towards the campaign!

Julie Pashby describes why it was important for her to participate in this fundraiser. "After having

had an invaluable experience at Pine Crest myself, making a donation to the capital campaign helps to ensure that many other children can benefit from the incredible things Pine Crest has to offer."

Darcy Munn adds, "Pine Crest has played a large part in my personal and professional development thanks to the skills I acquired while going to camp and working there. I'm delighted to support Pine Crest as it continues to build future generations."

We encourage alumni of all ages to put together giving circles. Together we can make a difference!



Alumni fundraisers at the Holy Smoke Cabin,



Dave Munroe and Ross McKerron flank Camp Director Tony Fry, staff banquet, 1972.



"The Chief" arrives to lead a traditional Indian council.



At the Torrance docks 1946.

Please join the Camp Pine Crest legacy!

To give to the Friendships and Memories Campaign, contact Richard Lefebvre at 416-413-1020 ext. 2046 or richard.lefebvre@ymcagta.org.

Donate today!



Thank You Volunteers

The staff at YMCA Camp Pine Crest would like to thank all of our volunteers. From those that volunteer at camp throughout the summer to those that have been working to plan the 100th anniversary event. We couldn't do it without you!

This year Ross McKerron was recognized as a Celebrated Volunteer at the YMCA's annual volunteer celebration event. Ross began as a 10-year-old camper. He then became staff, senior staff, an advisory board member, reunion organizer, and whatever else is needed. The entire YMCA Pine Crest staff sum him up as "the ultimate Pine Crest historian and networker."

Over the four decades of his involvement, Ross has touched a great many people. He has not only helped raise funds to bring young people to Pine Crest as campers, but also created an on-going extended family of former campers, staff, directors and donors. Thank you, Ross.





Dates to Remember

Information Nights

- May 25:** Family Information Night — North York YMCA: 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 2:** Family Information Night — Metro-Central YMCA: 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 4-6:** Volunteer Work Weekend at Pine Crest
- June 8:** Adventure Leadership Information Night — Metro-Central YMCA: 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 15:** Leadership Information Night — Metro-Central YMCA: 7-8:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

June 8-11: Alumni Canoe Trip
Revisit the waterways of Pine Crest and get back to nature! You'll relieve your fondest camp memories on this out-trip.

June 12: 100th Anniversary Celebration
Join us for the party of the century!

June 19: Family Open House
— 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
This is a day for new campers and their families to come and explore the site, get to know the staff, participate in camp activities and enjoy a buffet lunch.

August 1-6: Family Camp
Enjoy a YMCA Camp Pine Crest experience with your entire family in beautiful Muskoka. This very popular program is packed full of children's programs, adult programs and family program options, including an overnight canoe trip. Family members of all ages are welcome and will be staying together in our newly renovated cabins.

August 7: YMCA Strong Kids Triathlon and Open House
Run, paddle and swim and help send a child to camp. The YMCA Camp Pine Crest Triathlon is an opportunity for you support our YMCA Strong Kids Campaign. The race will begin at 9 a.m. and is followed by a buffet lunch and open house for the community.

October 29-31: Haunted Halloween Weekend
Carve pumpkins, enjoy mystery dinners with traditional camp programming, and experience the "Muskoka Magic."

December 3: YMCA Camp Pine Crest History Book Launch and Social
Where: Metro-Central YMCA in Toronto
When: Friday, December 3, starting at 5 p.m.
Tickets: \$25

Lumberman and Voyageurs: A Pine Crest Story
Reserve your copy of the much-anticipated history book! \$60 advance purchase (plus any

applicable shipping), \$75 after September 1. Details available at the 100th Anniversary Event!

December 26-January 1, 2011: Christmas Camp
Campers will spend the week engaged in winter activities as well as enjoying their favourite traditional camp programming.

March 13-18, 2011: March Break Camp
Campers will experience our traditional camp during the winter with ice-skating on the lake, hot chocolate over the fire, tracking animals and so much more!

February 18-21, 2011: Family Weekend
Enjoy a weekend away participating in winter activities that are targeted towards families and fun. This four-day experience will provide your family with a refreshing and vibrant assortment of programming.



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