



Since 1910

CAMPFIRE

CHATTER



CONNECTING YOU TO YMCA CAMP PINE CREST



 FAMILY CAMP UPDATE

 REGISTRATION CHANGES

 FUNDRAISING PARTIES

 PINE CREST MEMORIES

Go Green

To receive this newsletter electronically, please join our online community at www.camppinecrestalumni.ca or email leanne.morton@ymcagta.org to add your email address to our mailing list.

W I N T E R 2 0 0 9



Camp News

FAMILY CAMP UPDATE

We have two dates for family camp this year! Enjoy two full weeks of camp with our family members of all ages **July 26 to 31** and **August 30 to September 5, 2009.**

REGISTRATION CHANGES

Our registration office has changed to 103-60 Centurian Dr, Markham, Ontario, L3R 8T6. Our phone number is 905-480-9612 ext. 301 and fax is 905-943-7612. Please email us at camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org. You can also register online with econnect at www.camppinecrest.ca.

SEND IN YOUR CAMP STORIES AND WIN

Enter our camp story competition! Submit your best memory or story of camp to camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org before **March 31, 2009**, for your chance to win a 2009 camp sweatshirt. All campers and alumni welcome to participate, and pictures are encouraged.

JOB BOARD

YMCA Camp Pine Crest will be hiring a full-time Outdoor Centre Coordinator to handle all of our fall, winter and spring season programs. This posting will be out by the end of January. Also, watch for a posting for a Full Time Camp Administrator in early spring. Please contact Andrea Balmer directly for more information at andrea.balmer@ymcagta.org. For our summer session, we're looking for medical staff, van drivers, maintenance and kitchen staff. Please contact Alex McIntosh at alexander.mcintosh@ymcagta.org for summer employment.



Construction Update

By Scott Clark, Pine Crest Alumni

The new OP (Outdoor Pursuits) building and girls' washroom are nearing the final stages of completion. Once spring arrives, the camp will ensure that all of the building systems function properly post-winter and that everything will be at the ready for the beginning of camp.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes approved the site plan design for the permanent staff housing project. Two houses will be built by June 2009, while another will begin construction in the near future.

The renovations of the camper cabins are well underway. The project started with the girls' section, where at least seven of the cabins are to be completed by April 1, 2009, with the remaining five cabins finalized by mid-June. The work will then move to the boys' section.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I would like to thank all those volunteers who tirelessly committed to the cabin demolition and clean up in October. This effort significantly reduced the total cost of the project.





Fundraising Parties: A New Way of Supporting YMCA Camp Pine Crest

On December 6, 2008, Julie and John Sleeman hosted their annual black-tie Christmas party with an added twist. Their "Christmas with a Conscience" party raised much-needed funds for the Strong Kids Campaign to send kids to YMCA Camp Pine Crest next summer.

Twenty couples came to Julie and John's home for an evening of great company and food, catered by Olaf Mertens of HIP Restaurants in Mississauga. Games and auctions for prizes (including a private dinner catered by Chef Mertens) raised an incredible \$15,000 for Strong Kids. The YMCA Strong Kids Campaign is focused on raising financial support for children, teens and families who

are unable to afford the full cost of participation in a Y program or activity.

Julie and John's kids have been Pine Crest campers for a number of summers, as have the children of many of their friends. Both the hosts and guests felt the party was an excellent opportunity to give back to Pine Crest and to campers such as Erin Lamodin, who shared her story with party guests. After Erin's father suddenly died when she was 10 years old, her life was turned upside down. Erin helped out much more around the house since her mother had to work full time, and there wasn't any money for extracurricular activities as there once had been. Through

Strong Kids, Erin was able to attend Pine Crest, and she says her time there has been the best of her life.

Thank you to Julie and John for hosting such a spectacular event and to all who came out and supported YMCA Camp Pine Crest so generously! Fundraising parties can range from black tie to a backyard barbecue and are a fun and different way of raising support for YMCA Camp Pine Crest. For Valentine's Day, you could host a "Share the Love" party, or perhaps a "Pot of Gold" St. Patrick's Day event.

If you're interested in hosting your own fundraising party, please call Tom Vosper at 647-241-8200 or email tom.vosper@ymcagta.org.



Our YMCA's Investment in YMCA Camp Pine Crest



As we look ahead to YMCA Camp Pine Crest's 100th anniversary in 2010, our Association is setting a course for the next part of our journey. Our vision is a YMCA Camp Pine Crest for the next century: A revitalized summer camp experience that can more effectively serve our participants, staff and community and an outdoor centre that reaches new heights of environmental education and stewardship in today's changing world.

Central to this renewal is the Association's \$4.5 million investment in the camp. The YMCA has already invest-

ed \$3 million and our goal is to raise a further \$1.5 million through donations from alumni, staff, volunteers and other donors, including corporations.

To realize our vision, we call on our friends of YMCA Camp Pine Crest for your commitment and financial support to:

- Help build a lasting legacy of creating leaders and memories
- Help repair and protect the environment

• Help children learn valuable life skills and gain the confidence needed to make healthy choices as they enter adolescence

• Help children broaden their horizons, dream big dreams, and experience the wilderness and world outside the city

Be a part of the legacy and donate today!

Financial assistance will be necessary for many families this year more than ever before. Please help us raise money to send children to camp during these tough economic times.

You can donate online at:
www.camppinecrest.ca



YMCA Camp Pine Crest Memories: Bill Whillans, Camp Director 1978-1982

In the fall of 1978, Bill Whillans was invited by Henry Labatte to the dual roles of Director of Camping Services and Camp Director of Pine Crest. The previous four years he served as the CEO of the Pictou County, Nova Scotia Y.

Central to the responsibility was the challenge to turn around rapidly declining enrollment at all camps, particularly the "flagship," Camp Pine Crest. This meant achieving a successful repositioning for Pine Crest within the camping world.

A major step in the Pine Crest process was the 1979 landmark decision to immediately integrate girls into the summer camp operation and focus only on summer and not fall and spring. Bill's wife Karen was Camp Business Manager, and in two summers Pine Crest was not only once again at full enrollment but creating room for expansion.

Bill continues to feel connected with YMCA Camp Pine Crest because of the vivid memories he and Karen share from

that experience and the friends they made there. Although it was tough in the beginning making so many changes to the camp, rebuilding was ultimately extremely rewarding. "There were many incredible staff that I had the good fortune to work with," says Bill. "These staff helped to put it all together. They are the deserving heroes who made the camp successful again."

Now retired, Bill and his wife travel the world and experience new cultures. Bill adds, "I hope Pine Crest continues as a thriving camp, and that every child has the opportunity to go there and experience all that Pine Crest has to offer."



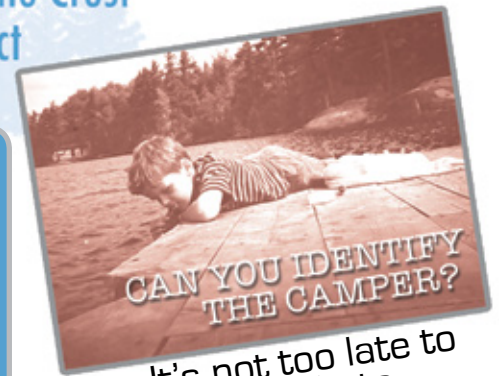
We have 1,425 alumni in our database, and we need your help to reconnect with the former Pine Crest campers and staff who have lost touch. If you know any Pine Crest alumni not on our mailing list, please ask them to send us their email address. As an alumnus, you'll receive regular camp newsletters, exclusive invitations to alumni social events and camp weekends, email updates, information about our 100th anniversary and much more.



The YMCA Camp Pine Crest History Book Project Needs You

With the help of Ross McKerron, Rae Fleming is writing a history of Pine Crest. They have been busy prodding campers, counsellors and directors to provide written memories to add to the YMCA Camp Pine Crest History Book.

Rae and Ross would love to hear from campers from any period. So far, they've been in touch with campers who have shared unforgettable stories. Ivan Robinson's remarkable foresight and generosity has been an immeasurable help. Thanks to Ivan, there is a valuable collection of Pine Crest documents at Trent University Archives, including about thirty glass negatives by Charles Potter, who photographed the camp in 1945. The photograph accompanying this



It's not too late to contribute.

article is from the Potter collection. Can you identify the camper?

Please get in touch with Ross at drmckerron@sympatico.ca or Rae at rbfleming@lindsay.igs.net by the end of March. They hope to hear from you soon!



Celebrating 100 Years of Memories

The YMCA Camp Pine Crest 2010 event committee has begun planning for the event of the century. What would you like to see at our 100th anniversary celebration? To share your ideas or become a member of the event committee, please contact Leanne Morton at leanne.morton@ymcagta.org.

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: 11900 7080 RPO001

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.



Your YMCA's charitable registration number is: 11900 7080 RPO001



YMCA
We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Return undeliverable Canadian mail to:
42 Charles Street East, Toronto, ON, M4Y 1T4

