



Campfire Chatter

Winter 2007

A newsletter for families, volunteers, alumni, donors, staff and clients of YMCA Camp Pine Crest



Inside this edition of the Campfire Chatter you will find updates on 2008 camp registration, news about upcoming events at camp, donation opportunities and updates from our volunteer committees. Check out the section called "Where are you now?" as we search for people to reconnect to the Pine Crest community.



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Happy Holidays!!!

from your friends at YMCA Camp Pine Crest

2008 Registration begins on January 1, 2008

Brochures have been mailed to all 2007 campers and registration is scheduled to begin January 1, 2008. We have had a slight delay in our start date due to changes to the GST in the new year. In order to provide the most seamless customer service for all registrations this year we have decided to delay the start date for everyone. We appreciate your patience while you wait until the new year.

Just a reminder that you can register by fax, mail or online at: www.camppinecrest.ca with a Family PIN number. If you do not currently have an account or need assistance with online accounts please call our office at 905-859-9622 ext 233.



2008 Adventure Leadership Trips

Each year we provide exciting opportunities for our Adventure Leadership participants to strengthen their outtripping skills while visiting beautiful locations throughout Canada. This year, we are offering the following trips:

New for 2008

Our One-Week Camp sessions have been extremely popular over the last few years for children ages 7-12. This program is a great way to start your child's overnight camping experience or is great for those that enjoy a shorter stay away from home.

This year we are offering one-week sessions during the first two weeks of July (during Session A) and the last two weeks of August (during session D). During the last one-week session of the summer, campers will take part in the Pine Crest Games, a tradition that has taken place at camp since the 1940's!



Introducing our newest members of the Pine Crest team!

Many of you know that Andrea and Coel have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of their new baby. Well, we would like to introduce you to our youngest member of the Pine Crest community— Sloane Rowan Tosh Balmer. Sloane, Andrea and Coel will be back at camp next summer along with Otis, Norman and LeRoy.

Thank you to all those that have sent good wishes for our new family!

Alex McIntosh (“Mac”)

While Andrea and Sloane are enjoying some time off work, Anne Coleman has stepped in to the role of Acting Director for Pine Crest. We are also very pleased to

introduce our new Assistant Director Alex McIntosh that has joined the full time team. Alex has worked for Pine Crest for the past two full seasons and brings a wealth of camping and outdoor education experience to our team. Alex will be on the other end of the phone for all your camp and registration questions this year!

Family Camp 2008

2007 Family Camp was a great time had by all ages. Once again, our popular Family Camp will be held in the middle of the summer (July 29-August 1). Please check out the new Youth and Adult rates for this year! Family Camp has limited availability to don't delay in your registration!

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Alumni News

Many of you may be wondering what it means to be an alumni at Pine Crest. If you have ever been a camper or a staff member at Camp Pine Crest then you are considered an alumni.

We have many active alumni volunteering to help organize the projects to celebrate our 100th Anniversary, write a history book, fundraise for our annual and capital projects, annual events and to provide a consistent and reliable connection among our alumni members and the camp.

If you would like to be involved with one of our Alumni projects or volunteer at camp, please contact us at Pincrest.alumni@ymcagta.org

Please contact us to make sure we have the most updated contact information for you so we can keep you connected!

Where are YOU now?

As we continue to grow our alumni database, we have found that there are some people that we do not have updated information for to add to our database. If you know where any of the following people are, please connect us at: Pincrest.alumni@ymcagta.org or 905-859-9622 ext 233 so we can reconnect.

Peter Turner
Tom Best
John Fishell

Grant Vistorino
Brian Green

Lumbermen and Voyageurs -- The Pine Crest Story

Did you know that...

- the name Fraloch Bay was a result of Camp Fraloch, a YMHA camp located on the south side of Clear Lake?
- a little further along the lake was another boys camp run by the Christian Boy's Association and hence the CBA portage?
- Camp Pine Crest started out on the south side of Clear Lake on a farmer's shore property?
- the first tract of land purchased was 20 acres of farm property around what is now known as First Point. Additional lands were not acquired until 1945. Until 1955 when struck by lightning, there was a farm house and barn located where the Winter Lodge now stands?
- campers used to come to camp by train from Union Station in Toronto and walk in with their gear from Torrance?
- in the 1930's some canoe trips started by paddling to Gravenhurst and then taking the train into Algonquin Park and then canoeing in Algonquin Park for 7-10 days?
- the Pine Crest Games were inspired by the British Empire Games-now the Commonwealth games? (Originally you would be assigned to a team for life so that a cabin could be made up of 2 Lumbermen and 4 Voyageurs)
- campers were paddling to Flat Rock Falls and up to Parry Sound in the 1920's?
- sailing trips were made on the Muskoka Lakes in the 1970's?
- trips paddled from Temagami to Camp in the 1970's, from Camp to Toronto in the 1950's and a war canoe trip was taken in the 1970's to Ontario Place?
- fires from lightning strikes resulted in burning down the first dining hall in 1919, a building where the director's cabin now stands and the Holy Smoke?
- the infirmary used to be "Lakeside"?
- in 1972 and 1973 a Pine Crest canoe was portaged around Toronto for 28 miles each year as part of the Miles for Millions walk?



There is a committee in place working on gathering the facts and the stories and the pictures to commemorate YMCA Camp Pine Crest's 100th anniversary. We need memories and pictures to help piece together the rich history of the Camp. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** gathering information. We are looking for people who want to pitch in and help and/or people to contribute stories and pictures. Please go the website www.camppinecrest.ca and tell us what you can do to contribute to this project. You don't have to be in Toronto to help -- Peter McCrodan has been helping from Victoria and Barney Morehouse from Bancroft along with several others from afar and a few active committee members in southern Ontario including Dave Rowney, Scott Graham, Jeff Miller, Brian O'Donnell, Coel Balmer, Kathy Wallace, Andrew Harvie, Ross McKerron and many more!

Contact us at : Pincrest.alumni@ymcagta.org or camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org

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Help Send a Kid to Camp!

Each year we fundraise to help provide opportunity for children of all ages to attend our camp programs. The amount that is provided to each family in need is determined on an individual basis and can range from the cost of bus fare to full fee depending on the need. Our fundraising money is raised through individual donors, business contributions, our own staff and fundraising monies within the YMCA community that is designated to Pine Crest.

100% of your donation goes towards sending a child to camp in the upcoming year if you designate your contribution to Pine Crest Strong Kids or Send a Kid to Camp Funds. You may choose to designate your funds to another program in the YMCA or our own Capital Campaign for Pine Crest.

Our goal for 2008 is \$52,000 and will grow over the next few years to provide opportunity for children in the summer and outdoor centre programs. Please stay tuned for exciting events that will help us reach our goal for 2008.

Cynthia Van Hellemond is the lead volunteer for our Annual Campaign committee and is working hard with our full time team to ensure that we raise enough money for our upcoming season. If you would like to help Cynthia or have a donation to make, please contact our office at 905-859-9622 ext 233 or camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org.

Outdoor Centre

Each year Camp Pine Crest opens in late April to begin operation as an outdoor Centre for elementary, highschool, 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 were a huge success. We were able to provide programs on site for over 1500 participants as well as a very busy canoe tripping program 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

Summer 2008 applications are now being accepted and interviews are well underway. If you are a minimum of 17 years of age by December 31, 2008 and have the experience and motivation to work with children, great staff and contribute to a great camp— please fax or email your resume and cover letter to Anne Coleman at anne.coleman@ymcagta.org or 905-859-7892 by December 30, 2007.

We are currently interviewing for all positions including Wellness Coordinator, Volunteer Nurse, Kitchen staff, Kitchen Supervisor, Canoe trippers, program staff (waterfront, high ropes instructors, natural arts, environmental programmers), Outdoor educators, Counsellors and Supervisors.

Please access our 2008 employment package at www.camppinecrest.ca for more detailed information regarding each position.

Help with our Anniversary Celebrations!

As part of our plans to celebrate CPC's 100th anniversary, we are asking alumni, parents and friends of the camp to suggest candidates to represent various decades of staff/campers throughout CPC's history. These people will be asked to participate in planning CPC's 100th anniversary celebrations. Please send names and the years they attended camp to: camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org



We are always happy to hear from you! Please give us a call if you have any questions about Camp Pine Crest.

Andrea Balmer— Camp Manager

Anne Coleman— Acting Director

Alex McIntosh— Assistant Director

Coel Balmer— Director, Outdoor Centre

Casey Crerar— Director, Alumni & Volunteer Development

Winter:

13300 Concession 11
Schomberg, ON LOG 1T0

(905) 859-9622 ext 233

Fax: (905) 859-7892

Summer:

1090 Gullwing Lake Road
Torrance, ON P0C 1M0

(705)-762-3377

Fax: (705) 762-5961

camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org

www.camppinecrest.ca