



# Campfire Chatter

Summer 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 the current camp season, news about upcoming events at camp, donation opportunities and updates from our volunteer committees. We have also included a section on “Where are you now?” looking for people that have been disconnected from the camp.



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## Summer Camp Has Begun!

We began our summer this year on July 1 with a Canada Day Celebration at Opening Campfire. So far our sessions have been full with over 235 campers each session.

We added new kayaks, climbing as a skill option and updated our tripping protocols by adding cell phones on all canoe trips. The two one-week sessions were a huge hit this year for our new campers.

Weather has been quite chilly for July with a few major thunder storms but that hasn't stopped us from enjoying camp and paddling trips from Muskoka to Temagami!

## Adventure Leadership Update

In July we had two very successful Junior Adventure Spanish River trips, a trip to the Missinaibi River and our longest trip on the Hayes River.

The Hayes River group left on July 11 for an adventure in Northern Manitoba. The group has already seen pelican, moose, beavers and caribou. We look forward to their pictures and stories when they return to camp. In August we will

send out the Wabakimi, Quetico, Coulonge River, Lake Superior Hike and Georgian Bay Sea Kayaking trip for more adventures!



## New for 2007

Unfortunately due to compliance with Public Pool Regulation section 3.11.4 Public Pools Equipped with Diving Boards or Platforms - under the Building Code Act, 1992 - O.Reg. 350/06 our jumping tower has had to be shut down for the season. The depth of the water in the A pool is too shallow for the height of our tower with this regulation. We are actively looking for interested people to help us build a new tower in deeper water for the summer of 2008.

## Email Change

Please note when emailing your child at camp this summer, or for general inquiries, our email has changed to [camp.pinecrest@ymcgta.org](mailto:camp.pinecrest@ymcgta.org)



## Strong Kids Fund

During pre-camp training each year our summer camp staff hold an auction to help raise money to send children to camp. This year the staff purchased hand made paddles, framed photos of Pine Crest, a white water training day, movies in the Director's cabin, extra coverage during a session and many more thoughtful items. Thank you to our local businesses that had donated to our auction: **Shoppers Drug Mart, Paddle Shack, Muskoka Outfitters, RMS Seguin, Emma Nishimura**, and many more!

This year our own staff team raised \$4000.00 for children next summer. We are working hard to meet our fundraising goals and would appreciate any help you can give to assist children to come to camp. You can make a donation on our website at [www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)

## Family Camp July 29-August 3

This year's family camp is our biggest ever with 20 cabins full for the week.

Families have enjoyed traditional camp activities, an overnight on our back lakes, a tri-lakes paddle, lots of high ropes and sun all week long!. Families enjoy the benefit of participating together or even dropping off the kids at program while adults enjoy a swim in the lake. We also had a special guest Craig Cardiff, perform for families on August 2 at Closing Campfire. Registration for Family Camp 2008 begins on December 1, 2007.

## Merchandise

Our merchandise is on the way! For any campers that did not receive their pre-order while at camp we apologize in the delay and will be mailing them to you. Unfortunately with all the camps ordering at the same time, we were on a bit of a back order with our items. We will have sweatshirts, jogging pants, t-shirts, hats, travel mugs, stickers, stuffed animals and more specialty items. If you would like to order Pine Crest gear but are not coming to camp, just send us a quick email and we will arrange the order for you! You can also check out these items on our website [www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)

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## Lumbermen and Voyageurs -- The Pine Crest Story

A group of Pine Crest alumni and staff have started work on a book to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of YMCA Camp Pine Crest. With a targeted publication date of November 2009, the committee is now focused on gathering as much information, as many stories and as many photographs as possible to memorialize Pine Crest's storied history for our alumni and the benefit of future generations.

The committee will be reaching out to the Pine Crest community for their input through newspaper advertisements, through magazine and newspaper articles, through the Pine Crest website and through word of mouth. In particular the committee is currently focusing on the early years – tracking down stories and photos from the first few decades-- a real challenge but one that from time to time produces surprising results! To date we have found one person who was on staff in 1926 and another from 1936-41. However we need your help to fill in the missing years!

For example, we have reviewed Globe and Mail articles from the 1915 -1925 period where the names of those who passed their “A” test and “B” test were published together with a description of their swim across the lake to achieve the award. And also in the Globe learned about the “Order of the Pine Needle” -- a group of Pine Crest alumni that got together commencing in 1919 who recruited new members annually based upon their commitment to the goals and objectives of the camp...To find out all of the stories you will have to read the book.

You can help by contacting the committee with your stories. There will be a follow-up – in some cases interviews at your home and a request to borrow your pictures to take copies of them for the publication of the book. Please get in touch as soon as you can -- we don't want to miss your stories !!

Please visit our website at [www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca) to share your own stories online and see our growing photo gallery!

## Advisory Group

The Advisory Team is working hard to support all the projects to be ready for the 100th Anniversary in 2010.

Bryan Graham– Chair

Andrea Balmer– Camp Manager

Casey Crerar– Director of Alumni and Volunteer Development

Committee Members: Tupper Bean, Greg Clark, Mary Jang, Scott Clarke, D'Arcy Munn, Robin Squires, Cynthia Van Hellemond.



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In June of 2010 we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Camp Pine Crest. We are looking for interested alumni and volunteers to help make this event a true Centennial Celebration. Our goal is to have the event on site with 1000 attendees. This group will also be planning events and promotions for the entire anniversary year. Please contact camp at [camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org](mailto:camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org) if you would like to help!



## Where are YOU now?

As we continue to grow our alumni database, we have found that there are some people that are important to our camp history 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 with Casey at [casey.crerar@ymcagta.org](mailto:casey.crerar@ymcagta.org) or 705-762-3377 so we can reconnect.

**Bob McNight**  
**Bob Lee**  
**Helle Vhlaid**  
**Pierre Beaudry**  
**Glenn Allen**  
**Marta Scythes**  
**Norm Low**

**Dave Cabarn**  
**Bob Atkinson**  
**Neil Scarth**  
**Bruce Rowney**  
**Brian Langley**  
**Paul Lynch**  
**Steve Alexander**

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## Summer Camp Survey

Each year we collect valuable data from our summer programs that help to determine program planning and operation considerations for the following year. If you attended camp this summer, please take a moment to fill out our online survey at

[www.icount2.ca/atmycamp.html](http://www.icount2.ca/atmycamp.html)

We appreciate all the feedback you give that can help us provide great experiences for your children.

## Volunteer Work Weekends

This year we had two very successful Volunteer Work Weekends. At the end of April we had over 75 people who helped to shovel gravel, build tipi platforms, grade and drain the Adventure Field, paint cabins, clean buildings and get camp ready for our busy season. In early June we were joined by employees from Novartis that built a beautiful boardwalk at the Beaver Pond, cleared trails, cleaned and painted around site. We are grateful for all the hard work everyone has put into these weekends. It was great to see a variety of YMCA staff, camper families, current staff and alumni join us this year.

The fall Volunteer Work Weekend is scheduled for **October 12-14th, 2007**. Please RSVP soon as space is limited at this time of year!



## 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 team-building, 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.

## New program for 2007

This year we are very happy to introduce our P.I.N.E. program. A 3-5 day, environmental learning program tailored to meet the requirements of the grade 4-8 curriculums. Please let us know if you are interested in learning more and we will be happy to come to your school to do a presentation.

## Job Board

As the summer season wraps up, our fall outdoor centre program is just beginning. We are looking for **Outdoor Centre Program Staff** for a contract of September 2—October 18, 2007. Each staff will be doing facilitation for high ropes, teaching all camp activities including canoeing, kayaking, hiking, orienteering, arts and crafts, theme events and much more. Our outdoor centre also includes opportunity to lead canoe trips for various groups throughout the fall.

Please apply to Coel Balmer, Outdoor Centre Director at [coel.balmer@ymcagta.org](mailto:coel.balmer@ymcagta.org) by **August 15, 2007** with a current resume and cover letter.

## Alumni Weekend

Please come to camp this September and share a weekend paddling, exchanging stories and relax in the place we all love. We encourage alumni of all eras to come to this event. This will be a relaxed weekend to reconnect to the camp and enjoy being away from the city with old camp friends. Reserve a cabin for your group for only \$100/person (max 10 per cabin)

Our Alumni weekend is scheduled for **September 28-30, 2007**. Please contact our office for registration forms.

## Alumni Drop In November 8, 2007

Please save the date for another great evening together— Location and details to follow!

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— 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 POC 1M0  
(705)-762-3377  
Fax: (705) 762-5961

[camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org](mailto:camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org)

[www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)