



Campfire Chatter

March 2007

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



Welcome to the re-introduction of our community newsletter! We have decided to combine our previous newsletters into one for our current families, donors, volunteers, staff, outdoor centre clients and alumni. This newsletter will be posted on our website and available quarterly to keep you up to date on camp.



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Summer Registration Updates for 2007

We begin registration each year on December 1. This year we have added the option to register online with econnect at www.camppinecrest.ca We have had a great response with over 150 families utilizing our online option so far. Our summer programs are currently 75% full which is ahead of last year this time.

Full programs as of March 8, 2007 include:

Girls and Boys LIT and CIT programs

Girls and Boys 1-week sessions (July 1-6 and 8-13)

Girls and Boys Session A and B

Leadership Exchange 2007

This program has the best of what Pine Crest has to offer for 15-17 year olds. During the 7-week program, participants will do an **adventure whitewater canoe trip** on the Dumoine River, complete their **Standard First Aid and CPR**, work on **skill development in all camp program areas** and achieve their ORCKA Level D in canoeing, do **cabin placements** for hands on counselling experience and participate in sessions specific to counselling techniques. Finally, this year our exchange group is going to beautiful **British Columbia to Camp Elphinstone** to meet up with leaders from Camp Howdy and Elphinstone for a week of fun. Our Leadership Trainers **Andrea Bischoff and Dave Salisbury** are waiting for you! Space is still available!



New for 2007

This year we will be building 2 new teepees for the Adventure Leadership groups, adding new kayaks to our fleet and updating the Frisbee golf course around camp. We have also added climbing as a skill option for Juniors, Seniors and Pioneers.

We have also hired Nellis Canada for our food service for the season, we look forward to their tasty food this summer!



Strong Kids Fund

This year YMCA Canada has launched a new campaign called Strong Kids Fund. You may have seen the TV commercials and advertisements that will be running until March 15th, 2007. This is a national launch of our new Annual Campaign formerly Spirit of Giving and includes the Send a Kind to Camp fund.

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

Financial Assistance update

Each year Camp Pine Crest has a limited amount of funds that are raised through generous donations to help children attend camp. Our application process begins on December 1 each year unfortunately we have already reached our target for the year. We provide over 10% of our camper population financial assistance in some way. Please be sure to apply next year in December to ensure you will be considered. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Balmer at andrea.balmer@ymcagta.org

Family Camp

Back by popular demand, Family Camp will remain in the middle of the summer this year from July 29-August 3, 2007. Enjoy our traditional camp activities as a family, adults only or children only programs. Families share a cabin and will be able to go on an optional overnight camping trip on our backlakes campsites.

This year you can look forward to canoeing, kayaking, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, high and low ropes, climbing wall, archery, drum circles, campfires, skit nights and much much more! Please contact our office for a registration form today! camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org

Merchandise

For the first time, camp attire is available for order on the 2007 registration forms. 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!

Website

Our Camp Pine Crest website has taken on a new look. We hope that you find all the information you need for summer camp, outdoor centre, alumni and staff events at www.camppinecrest.ca

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Alumni Database

A group of dedicated volunteers and staff are working hard to update our alumni database. If you haven't already done so, please take some time to update your current contact information and share some names with us! Casey Crerar our Director of Alumni and Volunteer Development would be pleased to speak with you about names we may be missing!

Advisory Group

An Advisory Group is currently being assembled to provide support and advice for the Camp Manager of Pine Crest. This group will be made up of active alumni, volunteers, current families and staff. We are working to balance this team with strategic resources for the leadership of the camp. If you would like to become involved in the camp workgroups, please contact Andrea Balmer.

This group will meet every 2 months to discuss issues related to strategic planning and upcoming events.

Next meeting: April 3, 2007.

1st Annual Winter Drop In

On February 16th this year we held our first Alumni Winter Drop In at the Elephant and Castle in Toronto. It was very successful with a positive showing from a good range of Pine Crest eras.

We were very pleased to have Ivan Robinson, past Camp Director attend and look forward to seeing many of you at next year's event.



Volunteer Work Weekends

Last spring we had a very successful Work Weekend to open site with 106 volunteers in attendance. We were able to open camp quickly and complete many site projects ahead of schedule. If you can't bare the bugs, join us in October for the closing work weekend. During each of these weekends we also ensure that there is plenty of time to enjoy the camp activities and beautiful (but cold) environment. Our work weekends are a huge part of how we ensure our beautiful site is maintained. This year, spring work weekend is scheduled for **April 27-29, 2007**. If you would like to participate, please contact us for an RSVP form. Unfortunately space is limited for these events

Master Plan

In 2005 a site revitalization plan was developed for Camp Pine Crest. In fall of 2006, this plan was approved by the YMCA Board of Directors. The plan includes environmental considerations, a facelift for our existing buildings, new market considerations and is consistent with our guiding principles and the Vision for Pine Crest 2010.

We are currently assessing the health and safety considerations on site, preparing for infrastructure work to begin and setting priorities for our building schedule.

A Capital Campaign will begin early 2008 to help us achieve our goals for this master plan.



Alumni Weekend

Please come to camp this September and share a weekend paddling, exchange stories and relax in the place we all love. We encourage alumni of all eras to come to this event.

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

100th Anniversary

In June of 2010 we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Camp Pine Crest. We are looking for interested alumni and volunteers to help make this event a true Centennial Celebration. Please contact Casey Crerar at casey.crerar@ymcagta.org if you would like to help! Our goal is to have the event on site with 1000 attendees.

Voyageurs and Lumbermen.. the Pine Crest Story

What better way to celebrate 100 years than to create a history book? Coel Balmer, Ross McKerron and a group of alumni and volunteers are diligently working to produce this project by fall of 2009. They need your help! If you have any stories, photos, memories or names that you think would be useful, please contact Coel Balmer from our office to share the information. Coel.balmer@ymcagta.org Proceeds from the first run will go towards the restoration of our Recreation Hall mural by Fred Hagan.

Website connection...

Please visit our website to view our new Alumni page at www.camppinecrest.ca Newsletters, links to the anniversary and annual events, history book updates and advisory committee meetings will be available there. We would like to share stories and photos on this page for the future, if you have any to share, please contact Casey Crerar.



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War Canoes

Thank you to Emery Investments, Menkes Developments Inc., CB Richard Ellis Limited, Kleinburg, Nobleton, Schomberg Rotary and The Remington Group for their generous donations. These funds have been dedicated to restoring two of our large war canoes. Jim Spencer from Spencer Canoe Company has worked hard to make sure these boats will be ready for us in the spring of 2007.

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.



Book a program with us!

The outdoor centre currently operates each year between late April to the end of June and September until the middle of October. We have over 1800 visitors through our outdoor centre each year and look forward to this program growing!

If you would like to book a group please contact Coel Balmer, Outdoor Centre Director at coel.balmer@ymcagta.org or visit our website www.camppinecrest.ca for more information.



Job Board

This year we have 110 summer staff ready for over 900 children that will visit us at camp! Hiring is almost complete with a great team already in place. We are still currently looking for the following positions:

Wellness Coordinator (usually nursing student)

Volunteer Nurse or Doctor for July

Maintenance Supervisor (April- November)

Boating Program Staff

For more information on each position please refer to our employment package on our website at www.camppinecrest.ca



Training Events

Please check out our training calendar on our website for more detailed information on the following courses: ORCKA Flatwater Instructors, ORCKA Moving Water II and Tripping II, Wilderness Advanced First Aid (Wafa) and WFR, NLS full course and re-certification. Our staff orientation weekends on **May 18-20 and June 1-3** are for all staff- please RSVP.

We are working hard to get ready for site opening in late April. Please give us a call if you have any questions about Camp Pine Crest.

Andrea Balmer– Camp Manager

Anne Coleman– Assistant Director

Matthew Henderson– Seasonal Assistant Director

Coel Balmer– Director, Outdoor Education

Casey Crerar– Director, Alumni & Volunteer Development

Winter:

13300 Concession 11
Schomberg, ON LOG 1T0

(905) 859-9622

Fax: (905) 859-7892

Summer:

1090 Gullwing Lake Road
Torrance, ON POC 1M0

(705)-762-3377

Fax: (705) 762-5961

camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org

www.camppinecrest.ca