



CAMP WASAGA

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

CAMP WASAGA 2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Liora Glow

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Donna Reid

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David Glow

CAMP STAFF – 2007

The following extraordinary people were members of our summer, Thanksgiving or May Work Weekend staff or worked at camp rentals:

Luke Barr – Program Director, Thanksgiving
Max Becker-Golden – Assistant Leader
Josh Claeys – Assistant Leader
Blake Fortier - Dishwasher
Debbie Fortier – Program Director
Nikki Fortier – Senior Leader/Special Needs Aid
Jocelyn Garnet - Naturalist
Daniel Giesbrecht – Maintenance Director
Jessica Gillingham – Senior Leader
David Glow – Assistant Leader
Liora Glow – Camp Director
Rachel Hagel – Kitchen Assistant
Jeff Kirkpatrick – Camp Director
Pam Kirkpatrick – Cook/Kitchen Manager
Jenn Kostaskey – Cook, Thanksgiving
Erika Larsen – LIT Director
Chris Parker – Kitchen Assistant
Celeste Perin – Senior Leader
Morgan Placatka – Waterfront Director
Courtney Punton – Assistant Leader/Dishwasher
Daniel Silverthorne – Assistant Leader
Kelsey Taylor – Assistant Leader
Lauren Timlick – Assistant Leader
Tony Zak – Cook

Many thanks, as well, for our volunteers who worked at camp this summer – Luke Barr, Jesse Claeys, Christine Cooke, Genelle Gevers, April Gobert, Matt Jackson, Micaela McGonigal, Hannah Mikukska-Tinman, Erin Placatka, Janelle Plamondon, and Claire and Angie Woodbury.

Thanks to all of you! Without all of our dedicated Camp Wasaga family, there would be no Camp Wasaga!

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am again very pleased to have served Camp Wasaga as Chair of the Board for 2007. And I thank the other members of the Board and its committees for their many hours of dedicated effort to ensure that Camp offers our campers the quality holiday that we have developed and maintained over the past 33 years. And equally important is the fine work done by our summer staff and volunteers who are responsible for the delivery of our program to our clients. Well done!

And a special "thank-you" to Liora Glow, our Executive Director, for her dedicated efforts to promote Camp Wasaga within our community and abroad. A great deal of our progress and success is due to Liora's care and commitment.

As the year started we had plans to enhance our site by completing three main projects; an addition to our kitchen, a storage building to house our program equipment and a parking area for staff vehicles. In May we started the process of obtaining building permits for these projects from Parks Canada. We soon encountered some difficulties, as the Park requested information re the environmental impact of our projects, and also wanted a site survey done to ensure all construction would be within our leased area. As the cost of the survey, \$3000, was not in our budget we requested permission to go ahead with the projects as we were confident they were within our property lines, with the commitment that we would have the survey done in 2008. For several weeks we were unable to get a definite answer to the request but in September we were told that no building permits would be issued without the survey. The survey was started in late October but as of the end of December had not been completed. As a result none of the projects have been started, although the plans are in place and the funds have mostly been secured. The lack of progress in these projects has been a major source of disappointment this year for the Board.

One other area of concern this year is the increased cost of operation which has resulted in a small operating deficit. In many years we use rental profit to help meet our operating costs but this year our rental income was less than we expected. As a result of the deficit, plus a significant increase in salary costs due to the increase in minimum wage levels for 2008, the Board has approved a fee increase of 10% for next year. We expect this increase will enable us to erase this year's deficit and meet our operating needs for next year.

In 2008 we will again have an accreditation visit from the Manitoba Camping Association as well as another visit from The United Church accreditation team. Camp Wasaga has been accredited by the MCA every year since 1990 and by The United Church since it started the process a few years ago. However accreditation by The United Church is by no means a sure thing, as one of their significant requirements is an inclusion of U.C. theology in programming. Since Camp Wasaga caters to families of many different faiths we have avoided any programming that promotes a particular faith. We focus instead on activities to strengthen family ties and on providing a good economical family holiday. The lack of U.C. programming is of concern to their committee that grants accreditation and in discussions with them prior to our last accreditation they suggested three possibilities if we failed accreditation: 1. We continue as a non-accredited U.C. camp. 2. We continue as a non U.C. camp or, 3. The camp is closed by the U.C. The

last two options are of concern to the present Wasaga Board as our by-laws state that the value of the camp is to go to the four U.C. Presbyteries that operated it prior to 1975 when the current Board took over its operations. In 1975 Camp was offered for sale for \$12,000, while in 2008 our buildings will be insured for \$1,000,000. We anticipate having discussions in 2008 with the U.C. about the possibility of converting the Camp to a non U.C. camp, or some shared value of the Camp if it closes. A recent letter from the U.C. to all related organizations indicated they have just completed a procedure by which related organizations can end their relationships with the U. C.

2008 promises to be an eventful one in the life of Camp Wasaga. If you feel you can help in the operation of Camp by joining the Board or one of its committees please let us know by calling 947-0906 or contacting any Board member. We promise we will find you some interesting projects to assist us with.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Ryan, Chairperson
Board of Directors, 2007

CAMP DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Part A)

The summer of 2007 was one filled with happy campers! I was the Camp Director for staff training and through until the end of week 3, when Jeff Kirkpatrick very capably took over the reigns for the remainder of the summer.

Weather was quite an issue this past summer. We had one storm that felled a number of trees, including one large tree that fell on top of the staff cabins. I think the staff did a wonderful job of handling the situation, from Erika, Luke, April and Jeff climbing onto the roof of the staff cabins to dismantle the tree to our innovative program staff who not only kept our campers happy in the rec hall during the storm, but also convinced "Pat and Amanda" to bring their show to Camp Wasaga when the Frith performance was cancelled due to fallen trees. Camper evaluations were very favourable and the rebooking rate was very high.

We enjoyed our new roof for the dining hall, complete with skylights. Unfortunately, our new dock, took a very circuitous route to Manitoba, arriving a month later than planned and with no instructions as to how to assemble it or anchor it. Any of you engineers, please join us for the work weekend for a great challenge! Our new cycling program was very well received and we hope to expand it next year again.

Staff training went very well and our appreciation goes out to Luke for his "team building" workshops, his guidance as Chair of the Program Committee and his follow-up throughout the summer. One new area of training was the "RMNP Ambassadors" session. It was great to partner with the Park in this training and we hope to do so in other areas in the future. The Health Canada Officer was very pleased with our facility and gave us a favourable report.

We had a very successful LIT 1 and 2 program this summer under the guidance of Erika Larsen, who also completed a new LIT Director manual.

Our Naturalist, Jocelyne Garnett, did a great job. She introduced some new concepts such as the kayak adventure that was well received by all. People really appreciated her willingness to share her knowledge and enjoyed her very natural, sunny disposition.

The kitchen, under Pam's leadership, was again run very smoothly and served delicious meals. The entire kitchen staff was such a pleasure to work with and their willingness to assist campers with their special dietary concerns was greatly appreciated. Although there were a few concerns with the new dishwashing system, most people were very pleased with this idea.

Dan Giesbrecht became our Maintenance Director in week 2 of camp and we were very pleased with his positive attitude and his care of our site.

Many thanks to Jeff Kirkpatrick who was our volunteer medic during the first few weeks of camp, then became Director-in-Training for week 3. Jeff took over as Camp Director for the last three weeks of camp and did a very good job.

Many thanks to all of our dedicated staff, volunteers and campers! I also sincerely appreciate all of the efforts of our Board of Directors, who tirelessly work on a volunteer basis to keep Camp Wasaga such a wonderful place. I thoroughly enjoy working with such a wonderful, dedicated group of people!

Respectfully submitted
Liora Glow,
Camp Director, 2007
Weeks 1 to 3

CAMP DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Part B)

As Liora has already stated the summer of 2007 was full of happy campers. I took over the directing roll for the last three weeks of camp. These weeks ran quite smoothly with little problems.

One of the little problems that did come was staffing, unfortunately we lost a couple of key players for the last 2 weeks of camp but thanks to the vim and vigor of our program staff that remained on site we were able to pull through with no disruption to the camper programming.

The temperature dropped amazingly for the last week of camp but it did seem to slow anyone down. I am very thankful to all of the staff and volunteers that helped me through my first summer as camp director. I look forward to working at camp in the future. I also would like to acknowledge the dedication of our board, staff and volunteers that have kept camp running throughout the years.

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Kirkpatrick
Camp Director, 2007
Weeks 4 to 6

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Another summer has come and gone for the Program Staff at Camp Wasaga. Over the past year the Program Committee has focused on increasing the amount of educational, environmental and team building activities for children, adults and families at Camp Wasaga. Staff feel that incorporating these activities into regular programming will develop a stronger connection to Riding Mountain National Park and strengthen family bonds. Programs such as the popular 'Amazing Race' are designed to improve family communication and provided opportunities for all members of the family to succeed. The Program Staff have done an amazing job at creating a program that involves all members of the Wasaga community.

The Leader in Training program was a success again this year and continues to help establish a mentorship program that helps campers that want to take the next steps to not only become camp staff, but become leaders in their community. We continue to rely on this experiential program to maintain our high standard of program staff.

The Program Committee continues to look for new programs and activities for campers. This year the program added a Frisbee golf course in the old archery field, purchased mountain bikes, and added new kayaks to the fleet. In the coming years we hope to add new canoes, build a low ropes course and expand the climbing program. These activities all come at a high cost to camp and the Program Committee would like to thank the fundraisers and volunteers at Camp Wasaga who make these projects a reality.

The staff were a strong group this year and worked hard to develop great programs for the campers. We do however continue to struggle with staff retention and would like to see the average age of our leaders increase. The Program Committee has been working in partnership with an outdoor experiential company that would offer more rental contracts to camp while offering four month employment to our university aged staff. It is our goal that we could retain older staff and offer longer employment time to ensure working at camp for the summer becomes an affordable option for those staff.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2008. Thank you

Respectfully submitted.
Luke Barr, Chair
Program Committee, 2007

KITCHEN REPORT

I had the pleasure once again to head up the kitchen this past summer. A big thank-you to my crew, Chris Parker, Tony Zak and Rachel Hagel. Also part of our kitchen team were our two dishwashers; Blake Fortier and Courtney Punton. They were a group of mature, reliable and fun staff who made my job easy and enjoyable.

This spring we were slated to start construction on our kitchen addition, but it has been delayed. Permits and evaluations are slowing things down, but we're holding tight for this coming spring, when things may start up. We were set back by an "Environmental Assessments", required because we are part of a National Park. These assessments are

required before we can apply for building permits, creating a domino effect, stalling any building or construction.

On a positive note, as part of our money allocated for the kitchen addition, was a new stove, which I am happy to say was installed and put to much use this past summer. After a slight renovation on our door frame to fit the darn thing in, we set it up and it works beautifully. This addition should last camp for at least 20-30 years.

The kitchen addition project has many components, and requires a lot of planning and thought. A big thank-you to Keith MacFarlane, who has volunteered many hours as our architect and to Jim Ryan and Wes Towle who are overseeing this project.

Some other details of this past summer and issues arising from evaluations are as follows:

- One of our chest freezers has died. If you or anyone you know would like to donate one we are currently looking for two. They can be either chest or uprights.
- Our coffee urn system is failing us, and the quality of coffee came up week after week. I would recommend a different system all together for this upcoming season, one with large coffee carafes. This is something I've started to look into.
- The dishwashing position needs some working on. Hopefully with the new kitchen layout we can rectify this. A triple sink system and proper drying areas are part of the addition plans. Better staff training will be addressed for training week next year.

Thank-you for the opportunity to work at Camp Wasaga. Heading up the kitchen is a fabulous way to spend the summer and I look forward to many more.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Kirkpatrick,
Kitchen Manager, 2007

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

As the year end creeps closer and closer, I enjoy thinking back about the summer at camp and the warm weather. This past year was very good for registrations. After all was said and done we had two cabins available, otherwise we filled them all. Our returning camper percentage is very high, except for week one, where this past season we had a large family reunion which did not rebook. I look forward to contacting all the waiting list families to get them into spots for this upcoming season. It's the highlight of this position.

We increased the fees this past year. Adults were \$268, increased to \$280, age 4-16 were \$198 increased to \$210 and under 4's were \$98 increased to \$108. We increase for a number of reasons, a few being, increase in the minimum wage, and inflation. It also keeps us from having to increase it substationally in one year. We have kept the Capital Improvement Fee at \$50 per family.

This past year we decided to increase our bursary contribution from \$1000 to \$2000. We used \$1028 of it this past season, helping 6 different families, and I will encourage campers to apply for this upcoming year when they register. The Sunshine Fund helped 9 of our kids come out to camp this year, for a total of \$1890.

The board has agreed upon moving the fee deposit requirement date up to February 28th, with the mail out going out in early January. This will help registrations immensely. I have had many requests for cabins and families need to book their holidays so I need to start the process earlier. This should alleviate the stress that comes in April when everyone sends in their fees. April is also a time where people cancel, so it will be good to be able to fill those cabins earlier, and the new families can make work arrangements. Lastly, as more and more is done on the computer, I also wish to get more done online. We are working on a new website which should have an online registration form. I have also been doing research in database software for camp, which could open up opportunities for families to register, and pay for themselves online. Keep an eye out for our newsletter for more updates on that.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Kirkpatrick
Registrar, 2007

SITE COMMITTEE REPORT

Camp Wasaga had another busy and fun-filled season in 2007. We started the season with the usual May long weekend work party to open camp. We managed to get the cobwebs down and shutters open on another season. Many thanks to all who were able to attend for the weekend.

By now I had hoped everyone would be raving about our new kitchen. Unfortunately we have run into many roadblocks along the way. The contractor we have used for all our construction projects since the start of the new cabins decided to retire from the business early in 2007. By the time we had found an alternate contractor there was not sufficient time to get the work done in the spring so we postponed the construction until the fall. At this point we found out about building in a National Park. It took a few months but the park finally decided we needed an Environmental Assessment before they would issue a building permit. This was completed, delivered and finally approved. After this approval the park decided we would need a new site survey before we could continue. This unexpected expense will cost us approx \$3400. The surveyors have completed the on site work and we expect the report soon. Which means that we hope to start actual building in the spring to be completed by the May work weekend.

We did however get several significant things done this year. A quick look into our kitchen will show our shiny new stove. And the roof of the dining hall has finally been reshingled and should be set for another 25 years. While the roof was being done we had 2 skylights installed to brighten your spirits while we enjoy the fine meals we always get at camp. We planned and created a lovely meditation garden on the Presby part of our site. The garden is called "Zoe's Place" in memory of Zoe Goldstein. We ordered an expansion to our dock in the spring for delivery on July 2. Unfortunately there was an issue at the supplier and we did not receive this until so late in our season that we did not install it. We will get it in for next season. We have added some kayaks to our fleet. We installed a Frisbee golf course. Finally we have started purchasing bicycles to build a program around.

Next spring in addition to our planned kitchen construction we are hoping to expand our

parking facility so we can eliminate having any cars parked on the grass around staff cabins. We also intend to relocate the staff cabin at the east end of the rec hall to the area that used to be occupied by the boat sheds. This is to make room for the new storage building we have planned in the spot presently used by the staff building. This storage building will provide a secure facility to house our waterfront equipment, program equipment and the new bicycles. We had hoped to start on the storage facility and the parking expansion this past year but see the issues with dealing with national parks as noted above. We had also hoped to purchase and install 2 new water heaters this year, but this too will be done next spring.

We are always interested in finding people who would like to participate in planning or carrying out site improvements. So if you have a few spare hours please contact me at 444 7820 or email me at wes.towle@unisys.com

Respectfully submitted,
Wes Towle, Chairperson
Site Committee, 2007

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

In November/December 2006, we made a whopping \$939.60 on our wreath fundraiser. This year's profits were \$425.00. At our last AGM we raised \$131.55 on our wonderful baskets at the silent auction tables. Our annual fundraiser, the Bud Spud and Steak this May raised \$554.00. It was down from 2006 and we will be looking at something different for 2008.

We were booked for 3 days in May and June to work at bingo at Club Regent. We were only required to work 2 of those days and we raised \$14,000.00. A great big thank you to everyone who came out and helped by volunteering.

At the fun and fabulous "Girls Getaway" weekend in May we raised \$117.00 from the baskets at the silent auction. We now have a box for donations for the Piano Fund by our new piano at Camp.

We are booked to have a fundraising event with "Sisters of the Holy Rock" in 2009. Hopefully this will be a major fundraising event and a big success.

Leave your permanent mark on camp!

Camp Wasaga has acquired, for use at camp, several 12 foot long picnic tables. These tables have legs of 13 gage 2.5" round steel tubing which has been powder coated. They will last a lifetime.

For \$500 you can purchase the naming rights for a picnic table with an engraved metal plaque. There is also a raffle being held so that everyone can have a chance to name a table. Raffle tickets for the naming right will be available from camp with the draw to be held at the end of the summer. Tickets will be \$10 each.

Dedicate a picnic table with your family names or in memory of someone.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Cann, Chairperson
Fundraising Committee, 2007

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Our best promotion for camp is “word of mouth” from campers. As families grow up and leave spaces for new families the next generation become part of our camp community. During the Parade of Camps week at St Vital Centre we had campers come out and hand out brochures, we hope we have even more people committing to a time block so that no one has to do double duty this year.

What camp needs is for YOU to recommend camp for weekend rentals in the spring and fall. Filling Camp Wasaga with family gatherings, weddings, and theme weekends is what keeps camp prices down for the summer. This is a way everyone can contribute to the viability of camp. We had a number of weekends available last year and it cost camp money to be sitting empty!!
Call Liora for full details.

Respectfully submitted,
Tzipporah Meijering, Chair
Publicity Committee, 2007

RENTALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Spring was quite busy with rentals, but as it has been in the past number of years, the fall was fairly quiet. Rental groups included the United Church Women’s Wasaga Weekend, Opikihawawin, the Mormon Girl’s Camp, Mormon Fall Retreat and the Prairie Reform Church retreat.

We also ran our very successful, not to mention fun, Girlfriend Getaway. Our theme was Dreamgirls and twenty wild and wonderful women enjoyed workshops, crafts, hikes, massages and a great PJ party. Many thanks to our presenters Deb Fortier, Sandi Cann, Donna Kochie and Anne McConkey as well as to our massage therapy students, Antonio, Roxanne and Patricia. We plan to have our 4th year either the last weekend in May/08 or the first weekend in June. Watch for further news and consider joining us!

We did not reach our budgeted projections, as the Prairie Reform Church who had originally booked for one week and were expecting high numbers, had to settle for a small weekend rental due to their low numbers.

We are looking forward to hosting the Leinweber/Catellier wedding at camp next June, as well as the UCW Wasaga Women, the Girlfriend Getaway, Opikihawawin, Brandon reunion group and the Mormon camps. Unfortunately, neither the golf camp or the Father/Child weekend happened this fall, but Jeff and Luke are hopeful for next year.

Luke Barr and Tzipporah Meijering are working at developing a partnership with a few organizations that would use our facilities for school programs mid-week in May and June.

If you know of anyone who would like to use our wonderful site in the spring or fall, please call me at 947-0906 or email me at campwasaga@mts.net

Respectfully submitted,
Liora Glow, Chair
Rentals Committee, 2007

