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The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The first time every summer when I take that turn and start driving down that dirt road onto St. John Bosco's beautiful grounds, my palms start to sweat, my heart beats faster, and I get restless knowing I am almost there. Stepping out of my car in front of Admin, breathing in the scent of Bosco, it is then that I know I am home.

There is this lure about Bosco that is indescribable, but always keeps people coming back. I have been attending Bosco consecutively for the past 13 years and seeing the effect that camp has, on not just the campers but the staff and visitors as well, is heart-warming and inspiring. People always say this is their last year at camp, but the fond memories of the friendships made and the times spent out on those Bosco roads always draws old faces back, and with the old faces there are always new ones right behind. Having new campers and staff come in and grow to love camp as much as I do shows just how infectious the Bosco spirit is.

As Director this year I know that this will be my last full season at camp, but I also know that I am not done. Like so many others, I know I will find my way home to camp as often as I can. Bosco becomes a part of you, so make your way back this summer. Whether it be as a camper, staff, alumni, or just visiting, bring those memories back to life in the place where it all began.

I hope to see you all this summer!

Miranda Bachman
Camp Director
St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to St John Bosco Wilderness Camp's 55th year. As an organization we are very proud of what we have accomplished over the years, providing the youth of Saskatchewan and beyond with a unique camping experience. It is encouraging to look the faces of today's campers and remember that some of their parents, or even their grandparents, were campers themselves. This is a legacy we can be proud of.

In 2013 we look forward to celebrating this success with a reunion. Please visit the Bosco website for information on this event. As well, this year we will be breaking ground on a new shower facility. If there is any way you can support this project by donating time or funds it would be greatly appreciated.

Camp's face is changing a little but the Spirit has not. In continuing the Bosco Spirit, we welcome Miranda Bachman as camp director this year. Miranda was our highly energetic assistant camp director last year and we are very pleased that she has agreed to come back again to give her time and energy.

Lastly, I encourage you to get involved. We have spots available on our board if you would like to be directly involved in the future of Bosco. If that is too large a commitment, please give of your time on the May long weekend. We can always use the help to open camp for the year. It is a time to connect with old friends and do some valuable work.

Cheryl Kirzinger
President, SJBWC Board of Directors

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

A new year means a few things: that it's a great time to get out and build your snow fort, that if you breathe in really fast your nose will freeze shut, and most importantly, that this summer is closer than last summer. So we've been working hard (on all of our hot chocolate breaks) to make this year one to remember!

I am very excited to be working this summer with our new Camp Director, Miranda Bachman. Miranda is bringing her enthusiasm, her leadership, her energy and a year of experience as Bosco's Assistant Director. Having seen first-hand the excellent work that Miranda has done in the past, I have no doubt that this summer is in caring and capable hands. We also welcome Carlin Preun on board as our Assistant Director.

Even with a stellar administrative staff joining our ranks, we could still use an extra pair of hands or two. At our core, the Bosco Board of Directors is a group of people who love camp and are willing to put in the work to make sure that camp is as good as it can be for many years to come. If that sounds like you, please consider talking to us and joining the Board. If you want to get to know us a little bit better, we now have biographies up on the website, so please drop on by or drop us a line. Maybe I'll even let you help me work on my snow fort.

Martin Plemel
Vice President, SJBWC Board of Directors

MEET OUR 2013 ADMIN STAFF

CAMP DIRECTOR: MIRANDA BACHMAN

I have been attending St. John Bosco Camp for the past 13 years, and have loved every minute of it. Bosco has been a part of my life for so many years and I am so happy to get the chance to help others find their love for camp as well. When I am not at camp I am spending my time dancing, whether it is teaching a class or taking a class. I am currently trying to pursue a professional dance career looking to dance on cruise ships. Camp has always been my home away from home and I am so excited to spend my summer once again surrounded by so many awesome staff members and campers! I am looking forward to an amazing season!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CARLIN PREUN

My name is Carlin Preun and I am 21 years old. I grew up in rural Manitoba north of Winnipeg with my parents, two sisters and a large extended family. Currently I live in Winnipeg where I have just finished my fourth year of science at the University of Manitoba. I like staying active and enjoy skiing, rugby, and jiu-jitsu, as well as spending time at our cabin in Whiteshell Provincial Park.

I first came to St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp in 2008 at my parents urging (they met at camp), when I took part in ALE. I really enjoyed my time here and decided to come back as staff. It will be my third year working here and I am excited to be able to offer the great experience I had as a camper to those who attend camp now. I can't wait for this season to start and look forward to seeing all the new and returning faces this year!

FUNDRAISING AUCTION

Bosco alumnus Brian Venn has generously donated a vintage ruby ring to auction off, with all proceeds going to camp.

This gorgeous ring is a dainty 10kt yellow gold band, set with one large round cut ruby (2.29ct) and two rectangular cut rubies (1.18ct total), with an appraisal value of \$450.

Bidding is now open on Ebay at (click on link)

http://cgi.ebay.ca/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=251231114813#ht_500wt_1088

***Please drop by and place a bid to help out your favorite camp!
Auction ends on February 27th***



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Our October 20th Fall Fling was a massive success. We had a fantastic evening of food, entertainment and live music, and raised over \$2000! Thank you so much to everyone who came out to lend a hand, strum a guitar, or just to relax and enjoy the event. We are looking forward to making this a yearly event. If you would like to help us make our 2013 Fall Fling even better, please get in touch with your ideas! We haven't set a date yet, but we'll keep you posted!

We are also planning a spring steak night. If you are interested in helping out, providing a donation for our silent auction or raffle, or just want to join us for a night of fun and friendship, please watch our website or Facebook page for more details as they emerge!

In the meantime, we are working hard to write grants, seek sponsorships, and raise the funds needed to subsidize your 2013 camping fees. As camper fees only cover about 2/3 of our costs, the remaining funds have to be raised through the tireless efforts of our volunteers. There are still a lot of opportunities available to help us fundraise. For your efforts, you can earn **Bosco Bucks** to use towards 2013 camper fees and canteen!

We have bingos coming up on March 16th, April 27th, May 11th and June 15th. All shifts go from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm, and we need workers for whole shifts as well as partial shifts. We are currently selling tickets for our annual quad raffle fundraiser and need people to sit at ticket tables or take tickets to sell. We are also hosting BBQs at the Confederation Canadian Tire on June 8th and 9th, and at Princess Auto May 11th and August 10th. and would love to see you out! If you can spare a few hours to help out at any of these events, we'll throw some **Bosco Bucks** your way! For more information, please contact Lynn at lynn@johnboscocamp.com.

TURN YOUR SPARE CHANGE INTO A DONATION

St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp is so excited to be partnering with Changelit Canada to assist with our fundraising efforts!

Changelit is a new and innovative way to automatically round up your debit card purchases, and automatically directing the difference to the charitable organizations of your choice! Your sales receipts remain unchanged and you have complete control over your rounding preferences! Whether filling your gas tank or buying your morning coffee, Changelit enables you to help out every time you make a purchase for yourself.

Visit <https://changeitcanada.com> for more information or to sign up!

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

We've been working hard to get the plans ready and building permits underway for our new shower building! We are just waiting for the official thumbs-up so we can get started this spring. We currently need a contractor to pour a cement pad; if you know anybody that would be willing and able to tackle this job, please let us know.

We also have many projects on the go as usual, like painting, animal-proofing, tent fixing, adding soffit to existing buildings, adding tin to the dining hall, and of course building the new shower facility from scratch! If you would like to help out, join us for a work bee on the May long weekend (details below), or come help out on a work crew throughout the spring and fall. If you are interested, contact the office for more information!

Robbie Newton
Chair of Buildings and Facilities

2013 MAY LONG WORK WEEKEND

You are invited to join us on the May long weekend, MAY 18 - 22, 2013. Mark your calendars for the Annual Bosco Work Weekend at Zeden Lake!

Join the Camp Board and Staff as we clean up and set up camp for the 2013 camping season. Come for one day or for the entire weekend. Join in the work, fun and fellowship as we clean buildings, clear deadfall, set up tenting sites, put in the docks and work on many other projects to ready the camp site. Many hands help to make the jobs go quickly. Food, lodging and great company are provided.

Not available on the long weekend but still want to help with a building project? No problem! We have projects that we would like to complete prior to the May long weekend and others that we are still in the planning stages of and these will be ongoing throughout the season. Get in touch with us if you'd like to help out!

If you have expertise in carpentry, gas fitting, plumbing, design or procurement of building products, we could probably use your expertise. Please don't be shy! Send us an email attention Buildings & Facilities Committee c/o info@johnboscocamp.com.

NOW HIRING!

Are you interested in working at Bosco for a week, a month, or the whole summer? We are still looking for some spirited staff to round out our 2013 contingent! Forms are available on our website under "Jobs" or contact Miranda Bachman at director@johnboscocamp.com.

THANK YOU

We are blessed with a long list of generous people and organizations to thank. So many, in fact, that we've had to move the list to our website! Visit us at www.johnboscocamp.com and click on the "Thank You!" button.

We are a non-profit corporation and a registered charity. Camper fees do not come close to covering the cost of operating camp. Therefore we rely on volunteer labour, grants and donations to help us offer our unique wilderness experience at a reasonable cost. St. John Bosco Camp would not be the camp that it is without the grants and sponsorships that we receive from our sponsors, or the time and effort of our tireless volunteers. If you are interested in making a monetary donation or volunteering in any way to help at camp or with other activities throughout the year please contact us.

HERE COMES SUMMER 2013

Have we got an amazing summer lined up for you!

- 1st camp: July 10 - 20 (14 - 20 for Juniors)
- 2nd camp: July 24 - Aug 3 (July 28 - Aug 3 for Juniors)
- 3rd camp: August 7 - 17 (11 - 17 for Juniors)

Juniors, Intermediates, Wilderness Skills, Canoe Out-Tripping Skills and Wilderness Out-Tripping Skills will run all 3 sessions. Aspiring ALE'ers have two options for their adventure of a lifetime: from July 10 - August 3 or July 24 - August 17.

2013 camper fees have been posted on our website, and registration will open soon. We are excited to offer both early-bird and alumni pricing this year! Early-bird prices run until April 30th and will save you \$40 per camper (\$80 for ALE) off our regular camp fees. On top of that, alumni - former campers or their siblings, or the children of former campers or staff - will receive an additional discount off the early-bird fees, if registered and paid in full by March 31st!

See the website, or call or email us for more information!

BOSCO ALUMNI REUNION

Fun, Fellowship, Opportunity!
55 Years of St. John Bosco Camp

Friday June 28 to Monday July 1, 2013

It is time FOR ACTION, get the word out to all Bosco alumni that there will be a reunion on the long weekend in July, 2013. This pre-camp reunion is a time for fellowship, fun, to relax, visit and catch up with old friends, and learn what camp is doing now.

If you choose, the reunion also offers an opportunity to help out camp with many projects that need to be completed, that need hands to complete. Projects like painting, putting up fascia and soffits on the staff building, build a new shower building, fix the terracing, etc. This work bee will occur before and after the reunion, from June 24 to July 8 , to help camp get ready for campers.

The fees for the reunion are \$125 per person (16 years or over) or \$300 per family with children under 16. Please register early by emailing alumni@johnboscocamp.com. An online registration form is in the works, but right now we need to know that people are going to attend and you can email this to us now. We will let you know where to send your fees, which can currently be paid by cheque or money order, though we are working towards online payment as well.

Fees cover:

Accommodations: Tenting areas are available; supply your own bedding etc. Cabins are not available. Self contained trailers or tents will be placed on the open field. There are no electrical hook-ups or sewer service.

Meals: Friday mug up, Saturday brunch/supper/mug up, Sunday breakfast/lunch/banquet/mug up, and Monday brunch.

Entertainment: Mike Clancy's Night Gallery Tour, Canoeing, Nature Hike, Wide Games, Water Fight (weather dependent), Wilderness Crafts, Art Show, Silent Auction, Storytelling, Campfire Program, Liturgy, construction lessons, Waterfront activities, The "Do You Remember" tour and Fellowship.

Get in on the action right now - sign up today!

Watch our website for more information and online registration or email us now! alumni@johnboscocamp.com

CONTACT ST. JOHN BOSCO CAMP



Box 3002, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S9
Ph: (306) 978-0019
Fax (306) 978-0037
Email: info@johnboscocamp.com
Web: www.johnboscocamp.com