

"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

In this issue:

Director's Message

Notice of AGM: November 21, 2009

Staffing News

Buildings and Facilities Continue to Improve

St. John Bosco Camp Association, Fall 2009



The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This past summer marks my 10th year at camp and I think I can summarize it in a single word. Wow. There were so many incredible campers, staff members, visitors and volunteers who love camp so much, how can we help but having an amazing summer? It's neat to see that at camp, no matter how short a time you think you are there, it is still possible to leave a lasting mark.

Making a mark at camp comes in many shapes and sizes. With every building we repair, add on to, and even paint I know that the people working leave their marks in little ways. Every volunteer who comes up on a weekend to help improve camp leaves their mark. In an equally visible way, each camper who brings a new joke, a new story or a new sense of humour leaves a huge mark on everyone in the group and often, everyone in camp. Each memory you make with your friends leaves an imprint on the collective memory of the camp. I know that I heard quite a few good stories about great campers and great groups.



Martin and Lacie.



**Assistant Director
Courtney Nicolson.**

Part of me thought that this year at camp was going to be my last. I've been making my mark at SJBWC for 10 years; it seemed like a good time to move on. That is nowhere near a possibility now. I met so many campers this year who left a mark on me with their smiles, their laughter, and sometimes their disregard for the rules. I had such a great staff, and it's not just me saying that. I had former staff members come up to visit who were jealous they couldn't work in an environment with such great connection to others. I worked with so many volunteers who love this place, it seems, more than I do (if that's possible). I don't know if I would be able to forgive myself if I didn't come back next year to see what kind of mark we can make.

Martin Plemel, Camp Director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are pleased to report the end of a successful and exciting year at Bosco. We saw many changes and improvements, none of which would have been possible without the help of the energetic staff, invaluable volunteers, and tireless Board members. The combined effort of all these wonderful people made these things possible. The installation of The Spa (flush toilets!), the donation by First Choice Graphics of signs at the Swim and Canoe beaches, and the painting and decaling of the Bus to Bosco and the trailer (decals donated by the Positive Choices Leadership Program of the Lloydminster Catholic School Division) were just a few of the projects completed this year. We are also pleased that the Mudrik family has donated a beautiful park bench in memory of Alex Mudrik, a longtime Board member and friend of Bosco. It has been placed behind the Dining Hall looking out over the lake where Alex enjoyed spending his time after sharing a meal with staff and campers. We would also like to acknowledge Ward Zintel, who spent his May long weekend riveting and restoring life to our canoes. These, along with numerous other projects prove that the Bosco spirit is alive and well in our staff and alumni. I encourage anyone who thinks they would like to contribute a little time to Bosco to give us a call. The camping season may be done, but the work continues. There is no job too large or small—any and all help is appreciated including working bingos and BBQs and selling raffle tickets. We do have positions available on the Board if you would like to have an immediate and hands-on connection to Bosco and its future. If being a Board member does not fit your lifestyle, feel free to contact us and let us know what you are willing or able to help out with.

Again, thank you to all who gave of their time and energy to make the summer of 2009 such a success. God bless and see you next year.

Cheryl Kirzinger, President, SJBWC Board of Directors



Alex Mudrik's memorial bench.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This year we had 344 students and chaperones join us in our 3-4 day May and June school programs. 205 campers attended our summer programs, which included three 10-day camps in July and August as well as our 24 day ALE program.

NEW FOR 2010! We are excited to welcome 8 year-olds to join us at Bosco for the 2010 camping season! This means some changes to our program structure. All Juniors (8-10 years old) will attend camp for 6 days, while Intermediates (10-12 years old) will attend the regular 10-day sessions. Senior and ALE programs will continue as they have in the past.

The planning continues for new activities to be added in 2010, so stay tuned for more!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 21, 2009

1:30 PM

**Lower Level, St. Joseph's Parish Hall
(Corner of 8th Street & Broadway Ave, Saskatoon)**

*Please contact the camp office
if you wish to be placed on the agenda.*

STAFFING NEWS

Thank you to the incredible and tireless staff this year. It was encouraging to see the return of so many former staff to carry on the traditions that have made Bosco a life-long commitment for so many. As well, we saw the addition of new staff that brought fresh ideas and new energy. The Board once again thanks all staff who helped make camp such a great experience for our campers. It is because of their dedication to providing a wilderness camping experience that blends an appreciation for God and nature that we have campers return year after year.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Martin has agreed to stay on part-time over the winter, to assist with the planning, preparation and PR for the 2010 camping season where he will again join us as Camp Director. Martin can be reached at director@johnboscocamp.com.

Thank you, everyone, for helping us make our mark!

WANTED: YOUR VOICE!

Do you have ideas on what should be included in our next newsletter, or do you have any content (stories, poems, photos) that you'd like to see us print? Please get in touch with Tracy Creighton (tracy.creighton@gmail.com).

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AT CAMP CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

The past few years have seen steady improvements to camp facilities and 2009 was no exception.

If it moves, it moves better: This spring we rounded out our vehicle fleet of three with a trustworthy 2001 Chevrolet Venture van. We painted our 20-passenger camp bus and decaled it with our name and logos. We also purchased and decaled a good used cargo trailer for supply runs and our Bus to Bosco service. On the May long weekend, several worn aluminum canoes were riveted and welded, giving them many more years of life.



Newly painted and decaled Bus to Bosco and cargo trailer.

New camp van.

If it smells, it smells better: For the first time in our 51 years, we have flush toilets! The facility, nicknamed “The Spa”, replaces the 2-seater outhouse between the Nursing Station and the Administration Building. The Spa was built with proceeds from our successful 50th anniversary in 2008.

The grounds and buildings look better: New railing was installed at the top of the hill overlooking Zeden Lake behind the kitchen. New signs were installed at Canoe Beach and Swim Beach. We painted the Overflow building and sports shed. Staff and campers planted approximately 120 spruce and jackpine on our grounds. These came from ditches and beneath power lines outside of Narrow Hills Provincial Park, after obtaining a permit from Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management. At the end of September a group of six Board and staff members returned to camp to put a tin roof on the Duplex, which was home this year to our Assistant Director and Camp Supplier. However, rain prevented us from finishing the job with a new coat of paint to the building, although we did start. This same September weekend we also built eight new tent pads to replace several which we retired.



The Spa!

Camper planting trees.

The Duplex gets a new roof.

If this is good, the future's even better: Upcoming projects for 2010 and 2011 include re-roofing the Nurse's Station and kitchen storage shed, new windows for the Nurse's Station, adding on to the dishwashing station, and the construction of a West Side Spa, a new washing/showering facility, and a new front gate. As always, donations of money, materials or labor to these projects would be greatly appreciated—if you'd like to make a lasting contribution to Bosco's infrastructure please contact our office.

Thank you to those alumni, staff, Board members and campers who make all of this hard work possible. Camp is looking great. If you are interested in renting the camp facilities for a group or family gathering in 2010, please give our office a call!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS, DONORS AND GRANTING AGENCIES

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. 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.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GRANTING AGENCIES

The Dakota Dunes Development Corporation • Human Resources Development Canada • The Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation
The City of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan Lotteries • Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

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Steve Wlodarczyk

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED MATERIALS, TOOLS & LABOUR

Ward Zintel • Kevin & Jacqueline Mudrik & family • Margaret Fagnou • Alan Koob • Garry & Darlene Newton • Joey Lukan
Chad Thurber • Alfred Labrecque • Sawyer's Tree Service • Murray Doepker • Iris Verbaan • Kathy Teeling • Jerry & Esther Pidskalny
Laurie Bourgeois • Della Roy • Sean Graham • Roger Siemens • Dean Grieman • Cheryl & Vince Seaborn • David Godwin
Students of Holy Cross High School, Saskatoon • Matthew Saulnier & Katimavik • Stan Wagner • Lorna Plemel • Earl Kirzinger
Positive Choices Leadership Program of the Lloydminster Catholic School Division

We are fortunate to have such a long list of supporters. If we have neglected to mention you by name, please accept our sincerest apology and be assured that your support for Bosco is very greatly appreciated and touches the lives of so many.

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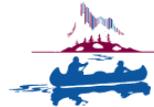
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