

"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

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St. John Bosco Camp Association, Fall 2010



The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This has been a big year for me. In addition to returning as Camp Director for a second and final season, I finally finished my Bachelor's degree. This means when September rolled around this year I, for the first time in my memory, did not return to school. There's something of a parallel in my grave decision to step down as Director the same year I gleefully decided not to continue on with a Master's degree.

But the fact that I won't be officially returning to either organization this season does not mean that I'll leave them behind. Quite the opposite! I certainly did not go through five years of engineering classes so that I could forget those lessons the moment I walked out the door. Likewise, nor did I attend St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp for over a decade so that I could turn my back and forget. Camp is a part of who I am.

Hopefully if you're reading this, camp is a part of you too. The possibility that I might not travel to camp next summer does not take camp away from me. Camp has done more than teach me how to light a fire, canoe, and navigate: camp has shaped me. Camp has taught me how to live a life that I can be proud of, how to never be ashamed of who I am. These are lessons I keep closer to my heart than anything I learned at university.

The decision to not return to camp is always a hard one. Remember that just because you leave camp doesn't mean that you have to leave it behind. There is a vibrant, growing community of those who want to reconnect to their camp roots. If you've been away from camp for a while, you should look into the Alumni Association and the events they are planning for this year. If you're like me and have hardly left camp at all, well, there's no reason to lose that connection to your roots.

Camp is like a second home to a lot of us. If there's one thing I learned at that second home that I never would have learned at my Saskatoon home, it's a healthy appreciation of country music. So in the words of Bon Jovi, who says you can't go home?

See you around... Martin Plemel

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 21, 2010

1:00 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.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

At this time we are giving Members notice that our current Constitution and Bylaws will be replaced with Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Copies of said changes are on the website or available as hardcopy upon written request. A motion to adopt the new documents will be made at the AGM.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are pleased to report the end of a successful and exciting year at Bosco. Where does the time go? It seems such a short time ago that we were cleaning camp, doing repairs and readying the place for campers. Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers who selflessly work to keep camp running so well, who work so hard at camp and elsewhere on camp's behalf. The camping season may be done, but the work continues. Even in the dwindling days of September work was happening as the First Aid building got a new roof.

I am also excited to report that I have nominated one of our own dedicated volunteers, Robbie Newton, for recognition in the CBC Champions of Change competition. Check out <http://www.cbc.ca/change/> to see what it's all about!

We are thrilled that the Bosco Alumni Association is working to re-group. The people that showed up to the September 18th meeting (see page 3) were interested to see where help was needed and have decided to formally put the Alumni back in action. How wonderful it was to see people from so many different eras! Please check our website for a link to contact the Alumni. It is a chance to make a change, to get involved and to re-ignite some old friendships. Personally I saw people I have not seen in 25 years. It felt like coming home again.

As always we are looking for help with bingos, BBQs, raffle tickets, and other fundraising endeavors. Please watch for exciting details on earning **Bosco Bucks** as a way to help with the cost of sending a child to camp. If you would like to have an immediate and hands-on connection to Bosco and its future, we do have positions available on the Board. 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. We have Committees that work directly with the Board. If you have a particular skill or expertise that you want to share, give us a call.

Again, thank you to all who gave of their time and energy to make the summer of 2010 such a success. God bless and see you next year.

Cheryl Kirzinger
President, SJBWC Board of Directors

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).

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF!

The Board would like to extend a huge **thank you** to the staff of 2010. Martin and Monique, your outstanding leadership and enthusiasm was infectious. It was encouraging to see the return of so many former staff to carry on the traditions that have kept Bosco alive for so many years. This year we took the opportunity to recognize years of service of the remaining staff on the last day of camp in August. We are thrilled to report that we had several five- and six-year staff members as well as our Camp Director Martin Plemel who has seven years of service under his belt. We also had many newcomers that showed us true Bosco spirit like they had spent years there. I would also like to extend a thank you to the staff that were unable to spend the entire camping season with us, but were able to give us a little of their summer. It is greatly appreciated. It is this type of energy that is the life blood of camp and keeps our campers coming back.

Thank you, everyone, for helping us to make a difference in the lives of the youth that come through the gates of St. John Bosco Camp!

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

So you forked out \$10 for a membership to the St. John Bosco Camp Association when you registered your campers. Now what? Well, membership gets you more than just a charitable donation tax receipt. You also receive:

- Voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting, held every November
- A say in the growth of camp
- Semi-annual subscription to our newsletter "The Bosco Wilderness"
- An invitation to register campers early and receive special Alumni Registration discounts
- **NEW for 2010:** Opportunity to earn *Bosco Bucks* and reduce your camper registration fees (see page 5!)
- Notification of fundraising events, work bees, and other events
- A chance to join the Board of Directors
- The opportunity to promote Christian Wilderness camping in Northern Saskatchewan

Anyone can become a member. We have three types of memberships: Catholic Organizations (voting privileges equal to three votes) are \$100, Organization or Commercial memberships (associate member – no vote) are \$25, and Individual/Family memberships (one vote) are \$10.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Spring was a busy one this year, with 397 students and chaperones from 13 schools and youth organizations joining us during our 3-5 day May and June school programs. It was great to see some familiar faces and to also welcome organizations joining us for the first time!

This summer saw 217 campers through the Bosco gates during our three 10-day July and August sessions, which included two 24-day sessions of our ALE program. For the first time, we welcomed 8 year-olds to join us during our concurrent 6-day Junior camps, which were very successful.

Planning is now underway for the 2011 camping season! Stay tuned to www.johnboscocamp.com and our Facebook group (search "St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp") for 2011 camping dates, program updates, and other news!

WIN A \$20 CANTEEN CARD!

We'd love to hear what you thought of your 2010 Bosco experience, and invite you to spend a few minutes filling out our camper evaluation form. **Everyone who returns a completed evaluation form will be entered in a draw for a \$20 canteen card!**

This year we are providing the survey in an online format for your convenience. There is a section for campers to fill out, and one for parents to provide their thoughts.

Parents: <http://snipurl.com/2010parents>

Campers: <http://snipurl.com/2010campers>

If you are reading this newsletter online, you can hold down the CTRL key and click on a link to go directly to the survey form. Links are also available on the website. If you would prefer to receive the survey as a hardcopy, please contact the camp office.

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION REKINDLES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

St. John Bosco Camp Alumni:

Alumnus *noun* /ə'ɪl.m.nəs/ (plural **alumni**): Someone who has left a school, college or university after finishing their studies there.

1983, 1986, 1993, and 2008 were years that marked special milestones in the history of St. John Bosco Camp, when current and former staff members gathered to reminisce and celebrate the years and achievements of St. John Bosco Camp's existence. A Staff Alumni Association was formed and, as sometimes happens, also faded for a few years.

The 2008 St. John Bosco 50th Anniversary rekindled the desire to re-energize the Bosco Alumni and on September 18, 2010, in Saskatoon, around 20 people met to form an organizing committee of the new Bosco Alumni. Currently we are concentrating on getting contacts for the former staff, from 1958 to present, with the years 1986 to present being the toughest. People seem now to be more mobile and old home addresses are not very accurate, especially as the years move backwards towards 1958.

It is our hope that all those who have been staff will contact your Bosco staff friends and send to the Alumni contact information (email is essential) or leads to get an accurate list and information on people's current whereabouts. Contacts should be sent to the Bosco Alumni via the Camp's email at johnboscocamp@sasktel.net and note attention *Bosco Alumni*.

The Alumni Committee is starting with the Staff and then we hope to branch out to all those who were at Camp and feel that they would like to stay connected in some form or another, which would then truly express the meaning of Alumni as all those that attended Camp over the years. But one step at a time!

Thanks,

David Godwin
Alumni Committee



The Bosco Alumni is in search of items that Bosco needs to continue its operation and through the Alumni Wish List, we hope to help Bosco out with supplying needed materials and cash for projects. For example, the kitchen needs new blades for the Hobart, which is that huge mixer/slider-dicer machine. Remember those great sliced carrots and potatoes we did not have to cut for tin foil dinners because we had the Hobart? Well if you saw what it does to a carrot right now it would make a Billy-goat puke! Get the point? Right now we need about \$1000 to get new blades and I am calling out to all who love carrots and tin-foil dinners to pick bottles and cans or sell lemonade on the streets, to get the cash to buy new blades for April 1, 2011.

Thanks, David Godwin

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES: A BUSY SUMMER!

The past few years have seen significant improvements to our buildings and facilities and 2010 has once again been no exception. We kicked off in May with our traditional work weekend to get camp up and running. Crews were kept very busy on the May long weekend, and work continued throughout the spring as the deck on the Staff building was replaced - a much needed replacement. Safety rails were installed on the stairs in the Quonset, and new windows were installed in the treatment room of the First Aid building. The kitchen received new lighting and two new-to-us water heaters were purchased to replace the those at the kitchen and shower building.

The Knights of Columbus from Prince Albert came up and painted the inside of our dining hall and kitchen in May. This was a major undertaking which they completed like professionals. In June a group of Knights from the Nipawin area painted the kitchen storage shed and finished painting the outside of the Duplex, a project which began last year but not completed due to rainy weather. This spring and summer again saw a lot of trees come down in wind storms, but once again we were lucky to have no major damage.

Thanks to our funding from the Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation, eight new in-camp tent pads were built with steel frames for our 10' x 12' canvas tents, and four new in-camp tents were purchased. We also bought nine new out-tripping tents to replace those that were beyond repair. We also received funding for a new canoe trailer, as an axle broke on our old one on the last out-trip in 2009. It was a heavy trailer, built tough and it served us well for nearly 30 years. A deep freeze in our canteen quit working this year so if anyone has a good used freezer they wish to donate to camp before next spring, please give us a call.

Our final work project this fall was to replace the roof on the First Aid building using funds received from a grant from the Dakota Dunes Development Corporation.

Thank you to those volunteers, alumni, staff, Board members and campers who make all of this hard work possible. Camp continues to look better every year, but we are constantly striving to improve our buildings and facilities. 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.



Before, during, and after shots of the First Aid building roof! Thanks for all your hard work Robbie and Martin, and to Dakota Dunes for your financial support for this project.

DAKOTA DUNES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION



Beautiful new laser-cut sign at the Admin Building donated by Precision Profiles.

The Staff Building gets a new deck!

New tent pads, frames, and tents sponsored by the Lorne & Evelyn Johnson Foundation.

FUNDRAISING NEWS: INTRODUCING BOSCO BUCKS!

Did you know that camper fees only pay for 64% of the cost of sending a camper to Bosco? The remaining 36% of the funds have to be raised. We seek out grants and donations wherever possible, but a lot of the money comes from the on-the-ground efforts of our volunteers, who work long and hard to ensure that Bosco has enough money to pay our staff, maintain our infrastructure, and provide a safe and memorable experience for your children.

People's lives are busy, and we appreciate the time spent by our hardworking volunteers more than words can say. The reality is that it is always a struggle to find enough people to assist us with our fundraising efforts. As a result, we are introducing a new volunteer initiative this year called **Bosco Bucks**.

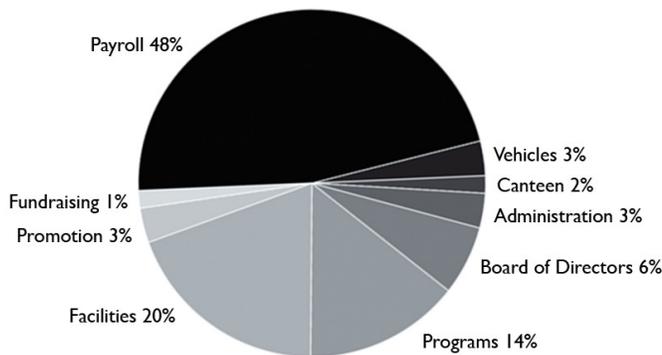
Effective October 1, 2010, on a one-year trial basis, St. John Bosco Camp Association members will have the opportunity to earn credits when they volunteer their time to help camp with our fundraising efforts. Come help out at a bingo or BBQ or with ticket sales (or other events as they arise - if you have any ideas, please let us know!) and you will earn credits that can be applied towards the cost of camper fees or canteen (staff - you can also use them to get subsidized training opportunities).

Once you earn your Bosco Bucks, you have up to 18 months to use them. They are only applicable to offset camping fees or canteen and have no cash value. They are 100% transferrable - dedicated volunteers may find themselves earning enough Bosco Bucks to send their camper to Bosco for as little as \$50!

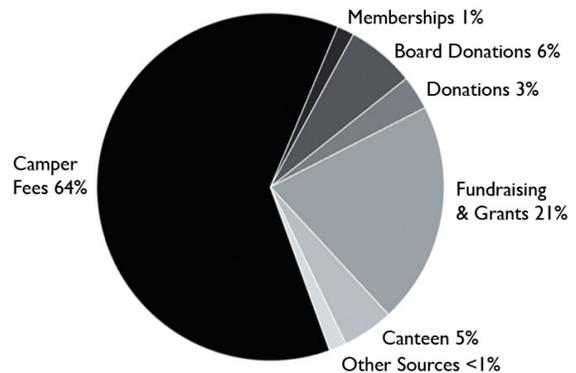
Not in Saskatoon? You can earn Bosco Bucks by organizing a sanctioned fundraising event in your own community.

For more details or to find out how you can participate, please contact the camp office at johnboscocamp@sasktel.net, phone 306-978-0019, or visit us online at www.johnboscocamp.com.

2010 EXPENSES



2010 REVENUE



NATURELORE

We wish to thank the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA) and Saskatchewan Lotteries for their generous contribution to our Naturelore program. Through their sponsorship, we were able to run a program that promoted the environment and our responsibility to take care of it. Using games, projects, and interactive activities, the Naturelore program is able to excite campers about nature and teach them how to take care of it.



We had school groups visit the camp from May to June, and summer campers from July to August. All campers were able to benefit from the Naturelore program. Summer campers were able to work on and earn badges for *Earth, Water, Sky, and Life*. We were blessed to have had the grant from SOEEA and Saskatchewan Lotteries. We hope to have a continued partnership with them in the future.



Shelter building at Naturelore.

Photo courtesy Erin Dunn

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. There- 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.

WE WANT TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation. This year they provided the funds needed to build a canoe trailer, and to replace a few of our tent pads and tents.

The City of Saskatoon (www.saskatoon.ca), Province of Saskatchewan Student Summer Works Grant, and Government of Canada - Canada Summer Jobs Grant funded a portion of our employee costs.

The City of Saskatoon, through their "Wilderness Camping Experience" program, also provided funding for ten campers from inner-city Saskatoon schools and the Open Door Society.

The Dakota Dunes Corporation (www.dakotadunesdc.com) funded the new roof on the First Aid building.

Empowering "You" Group (www.empoweringyogroup.webs.com) sponsored two children to attend camp free of cost. They also donated two fantastic sleeping bags and two backpacks.

Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (www.soeea.sk) & Saskatchewan Lotteries funded our Naturelore program.



THANKS ALSO TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES, CORPORATE SPONSORS, RELIGIOUS AFFILIATES, AND INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming • My Pharmacy • First Choice Graphics • Precision Profiles • Synergy Credit Union, Lloydminster
Canadian Tire Store Preston Crossing, Saskatoon • Canadian Tire Store Confederation Park, Saskatoon • Wholesale Sports
Hino Trucks and Doepker Industrial • Northern Saskatchewan Tourism Inc • St. Michael K of C • St. Joseph K of C
John Paul I K of C 7315 • K of C Unity 5707 • K of C Melfort 5788 • K of C Fr. Barbier 9757 • K of C Chevaliers De Colomb
K of C Holy Spirit 8905 • Melfort CWL • Sacret Heart CWL • St. Eugene CWL • Pathlow Catholic Ladies Aid • Gary & Darlene Newton
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Katelyn Bonokoski • Theresa Butterfield • Jocelyne Clarke • Joe & Helen Dasiuk • Ian Fleming • Wes & Marni Fredin • Joe Gaumans
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Vincent & Susan Tetreault • Graham Toporowski & Annette Jaspar • Beata van Berkom • Michael Clancy • Dwayne Germaine
Kevin & Jacqueline Mudrik & family • Robert & Laura Fagnou & family • Margaret Fagnou • Stan & Nicole Wagner
Joey Lukan • Jim & Lorna Plemel & family • Cheryl Kirzinger & family • Lynn Barnes • Tracy Creighton • Jenn Gallays • David Godwin
Mel Vetter • Alfred Labrecque & Carol Fredrickson • Joe Kammermayer • John Cook • Mark Lich • Iris Verbaan • Kathy Teeling • Della Roy
Sean Graham • Roger Siemens • Karen Altrogge • Holy Cross High School • ...and to all our staff, alumni and friends that helped with our
many Bingos, BBQs, ATV ticket sales, 3D glasses sales, PR booths, and work bees.

We are blessed 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.

ST. JOHN BOSCO CAMP IS A MEMBER OF



Saskatchewan Camping
Association
(Accredited Member)



Canadian
Camping
Association



Saskatchewan Outdoor
and Environmental
Education Association



Northern
Saskatchewan
Tourism

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