

"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

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St. John Bosco Camp Association, Spring 2012



The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



One of the greatest things about camp is that you can always count on eventually seeing a familiar face. You may not recognize every face at the beginning, but by the end, they become unforgettable.

I can say, I had no idea camp would reintroduce itself back into my life. Although Bosco has always been where my heart dwells, the memories that were once so vivid had begun to fade. Little did I know though that - in the midst of university, working, travelling, everything - I would manage to find my way back to camp. I was able to fall in love with everything all over again. Even after years of being missing in action, I managed to discover some very unforgettable faces. This time, I wasn't so quick to run away, and I have decided to stay a while.

Like many of you, I consider Bosco to be my home. Consequently, it will always have a special place in my heart. Over the years, life brought me away from camp, but, to my surprise it has also brought me back. Now, my hope for all of you is that life will be kind enough to bring you to camp. Whether it is your first time, or your 100th I can assure you, there will always be something waiting there - maybe even the most unexpected of things.

I am so incredibly excited for camp this year, and I hope all of you are as well. We are still in the process of hiring and fundraising, and all of that fun stuff. Every day that goes by, in all the anticipation, I have to remind myself we still have a ways to go before we get to be back up at camp. I am looking forward to sharing an amazing season with all of you, meeting all of our outstanding volunteers and staff, and being left with my face hurting from smiling so often.

With that, I encourage all of you to come out. You may just discover some unforgettable faces.

See you out there!

Gillian Wourms
Camp Director
St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Even though it feels as though we have yet to experience winter, the 2012 camping season is only a few months away! The Board has had a busy off-season. We are reviewing our strategic plan, we have moved into this millennium and developed an online form and payment process, and we are working on our infrastructure plans as we work on plans and fundraise for the new shower facility.

All of these things would not be possible without our incredible group of volunteer Board members. I cannot adequately express how honoured I am to work with such a dedicated and resourceful group of people. We are almost to a full complement, but we can still use a few more people. If you are interested in becoming a voice in the future of Bosco, please give us a call.

We welcome Gillian Wourms to the position of Camp Director and Miranda Bachman as Assistant Director. We as a Board look forward to working with Gillian and Miranda in making the 2012 season rewarding for campers, staff and volunteers alike.

As always, Bosco is fundraising. We have had great success with our steak nights and we will be having one again in April to launch the 2012 camping year. Plan to attend, invite a guest, and come get re-acquainted with old friends, meet some new ones and support a camp that has made a difference in so many lives.

I feel great things for Bosco this year. We are not without our challenges, but let's face them together so we can say in September 2012 "This has been our best year yet!"

Cheryl Kirzinger
President, SJBWC Board of Directors

MEET OUR 2012 ADMIN STAFF

CAMP DIRECTOR

My name is Gillian Wourms. I grew up in Lloydminster, SK where I have been fortunate to learn French, become a swimming instructor and lifeguard, partake in synchronized swimming, come to adore music, and discover my passion for working with children. All of these passions have led me to have many opportunities, and now to my career and to the person I have become. I first came to Bosco when I was 11 years old, and returned during the summers up until I was 15, when I then decided to partake in some other experiences. All of these experiences have brought me to discover more about myself and about the world. Today, I am in my 3rd year of French education at Faculté Saint Jean, University of Alberta and I continue to enjoy my passions. I am looking forward to another great year at camp, and I can't wait to see all of you again!

HERE COMES SUMMER 2012

Have we got an amazing summer lined up for you!

- 1st camp: July 4-14 (8-14 for Juniors)
- 2nd camp: July 18-28 (22-28 for Juniors)
- 3rd camp: August 1-11 (5-11 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 4-28 or July 18-August 11.

2012 camper fees have been posted on our website. 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!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

My name is Miranda Bachman. I am 21 years old and have been with St. John Bosco for 13 years - 8 as a camper and 5 as staff. When I am not spending my time at camp I work as a dance and yoga instructor and spend as much time as possible taking a variety of different classes to increase my dance and fitness toolkit for the future. I am currently working on starting my career as a professional dancer and choreographer, focusing on cruise ships and resorts which will allow me to be able to travel and see the world while doing what I love most. I am very outgoing and adventurous and absolutely love being around kids and the environment that Bosco brings. I am looking forward to the upcoming season at camp and can't wait to see what the future brings!

PROGRAM UPDATE

Martin here! You might recognize me from the Director's articles in the newsletters from a few years ago. Now I am working hard on the Board with the Personnel and Training Committee, the Programming Committee, and in my position as Vice President. The Board seems to be pretty happy with me. Which makes me wonder: If they're this happy with me, how happy would they be if you (yes, you, reading this right now) joined up with the Board? I'm sure you that have skills far surpassing the average individual. We keep pretty busy, so if you could make a little bit of time we could certainly find work for you with Bosco.

But enough about you.

Coming this summer to a camp near you: Passports! At the end of their time at camp this summer, campers will be presented with a passport-style handbook chronicling their experiences and activities at camp. With pages for canoeing, Naturelore, orienteering and much more, everyone will get to bring home a precious keepsake of their wilderness adventure.

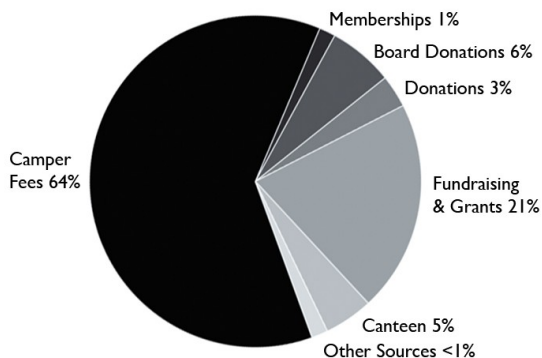
That's all that I have for you right now. Hope to see you up this summer!

Martin Plemel

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Our November 5th steak night in Saskatoon was a roaring success. We had over 160 people join us and netted a total of \$2906. Thanks to all who came out, re-connected with their favorite Bosco people, and supported our fundraising efforts as we head into the 2012 camping season!

Did you know that camper fees only cover about 64% of our costs? The remaining funds have to be raised. We seek out grants/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.



There are still a lot of opportunities available to help us fundraise. For your efforts, you can earn **Bosco Bucks** to use towards 2012 camper fees and canteen!

We have bingos coming up on March 17, April 14, May 13 and June 16. All shifts go from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm, and we need workers for whole shifts as well as partial shifts. Also, we are currently selling tickets for our annual quad raffle fundraiser and need people to sit at ticket tables or take tickets to sell. If you can spare a few hours to help out, we'll throw some **Bosco Bucks** your way! For more information, please contact Lynn at lynn@johnboscocamp.com.

We are also planning a steak night for late April. 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!

2012 MAY LONG WORK WEEKEND

You are invited to join us on the May long weekend, MAY 19 - 21, 2012. 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 2012 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. These projects include replacing some kitchen counters, installing our new stoves, finishing the construction of the laundry/water heater room behind the kitchen, construction of a Westside washroom facility and perhaps even the beginning work on a new shower/laundry facility. 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 johnboscocamp@sasktel.net.

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NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

We are pleased to announce that we are launching a new online registration and payment system for 2012! We are pretty excited to be getting with the times! We hope you will find it a convenient way to sign your kids up for camp. You will be able to pay online using PayPal, which means you can pay directly from your bank account or use your credit card. Of course, if you are more comfortable with traditional means, you can still do that too!

At the time of writing, we are just testing out the system to make sure it's 100% before we go live. Please watch our website for the big launch!

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 2012 contingent! Forms are available on our website under "Jobs" or contact Gillian Wourms 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.