



"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

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St. John Bosco Camp Association, Spring 2014



The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few short months ago we were bidding farewell to the 2013 camping season. The successes of last summer give me cause to believe we can expect great things for 2014 and beyond. We have a wonderful core staff that embrace the long term vision for Bosco and are a supportive asset to the Board.

I welcome Bernie Vossen to the position of Camp Manager. You can read more about Bernie on the next page, and learn why we created this position. We as a Board look forward to working with Bernie in making the 2014 season rewarding for campers, staff and volunteers alike by bringing year round continuity to the business of running camp.

I also say welcome to the string of new volunteers and welcome back to our long-time friends. We can look forward to May long weekend, introducing more dedicated people to our ever-growing army of friends of Bosco.

Welcome to 2014. Let's work together to make this the best year yet!
I hope to see you all this summer!

Cheryl Kirzinger
President, SJBWC Board of Directors

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!

We've been on Facebook for ages, connecting alumni new and old in a Bosco group. We now have a Facebook page, where we can keep you posted on all of the exciting things happening at camp! Please come join us, and share a memory or a photo of your time at Bosco! Don't forget to 'like' the page, and keep an eye out for news, updates, contests and so much more!



<http://www.facebook.com/stjohnboscocamp>

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Cheryl has already mentioned in her article, we are very happy this year to welcome Bernie Vossen to be our Camp Manager. "What," (I'm sure you're asking) "is a Camp Manager doing at Bosco?" Don't worry, I'll fill you in, but first I have a little bit of background.

St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp is currently run by a volunteer Board of Directors who meet monthly and are responsible at the highest level to keep camp running from year to year. Our responsibilities range from setting the menu, to deciding where we should market, to fundraising and applying for grants from our many generous sponsors, to unloading recycling.

On the front lines we have our dedicated camp counsellors and resource staff. They keep the camp running day to day and hour to hour during the summer. They are the ones who make Bosco such an incredible experience for the campers with their enthusiasm, their imagination and their hard work.

In between these two hard working teams, Bosco has our administration team, who takes the big picture that the Board has and turns it into a realistic action plan to rally the camp staff around. In the past this has been done by a Director and an Assistant Director who have worked as camp staff and, in addition to hard work and enthusiasm, have a knack for desk work.

By hiring Bernie as our Camp Manager we are eliminating the position of Assistant Director. That means that this year camp will be overseen by a Director and a Manager. The Director will focus on keeping the staff and campers happy and healthy, much the same as in past years. The Manager will take over a lot of the paperwork, coordination, camper correspondence before they get to site, and archery (I hear he's a pretty amazing shot with a bow).

Needless to say we are very excited for this new development! Please let us know how you feel about this and if you can think of any ways to improve it even further let us know that too.

See you this summer!

Martin Plemel
Vice President, SJBWC Board of Directors

MEET OUR CAMP MANAGER, BERNIE VOSSEN

I was born and raised in Regina and I am married to my wife Maureen for over twenty-seven years. Together, we have three sons who are all living away from home. I retired from the Saskatoon City Police in 2008 after twenty-eight and a half years of service.

Since my retirement I have been working as a farm hand for a Viscount area farmer from seeding to harvest and my winters are spent as the caretaker of the Viscount Community Center and Rink. Seventeen years ago my family and I moved to the small town of Viscount, Sk where my wife was teaching and this is still our home. In Viscount I am a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, the Knights of Columbus, Viscount Wildlife Federation and the Viscount Archery Club. I have always been an outdoor enthusiast as my family and I have enjoyed camping, hunting, quadding and sledding.

I am looking forward to the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead as a member of the Bosco Camp Team.



OTHER STAFFING NEWS AND 2014 JOBS

Rounding out summer 2014's awesome administration team is Carlin Preun, who will be returning this year as Camp Director!

2013 Camp Director emeritus Miranda Bachman will also be back to Bosco in 2014, taking on a non-administrative role and returning to her love of counselling.

The hiring has only just begun! 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 2014 contingent! Forms are available on our website under "Jobs" or contact Bernie Vossen at manager@johnboscocamp.com.

Don't forget to stay tuned to our website or new Facebook page for other staffing announcements as they arise!

HERE COMES SUMMER 2014

Have we got an amazing summer lined up for you!

- 1st camp: July 9 - 19 (July 13 - 19 for Juniors)
- 2nd camp: July 23 - Aug 2 (July 27 - Aug 2 for Juniors)
- 3rd camp: August 6 - 16 (Aug 10 - 16 for Juniors)

Juniors, Intermediates, Wilderness Skills, Canoe Out-Tripping Skills and Wilderness Out-Tripping Skills will run all 3 sessions. Aspiring ALE'ers will have their adventure of a lifetime from July 9 - August 2 (with a second session offered only if demand permits).

2014 camper fees have been posted on our website, and registration is now open! 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!

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

So this is the big year of finishing of the shower building. We would appreciate any help we can get! If you are interested in helping with it please contact myself, Robert Newton, at 306-426-2033 and I will contact you when we have work weekends planned. We also have chinking to finish on Mike's Cabin, as well as the windows. The other major thing is replacing the windows in chapel. This will be a major upgrade to camp. Thanks to all that have helped us in the past year!

Robbie Newton
Chair of Buildings and Facilities

FOOD SERVICES UPDATE

Hello Bosco Peeps... with spring around the corner and the always fun Spring Clean please keep Bosco in mind. Small kitchen supplies such as utensils, pans, trays, plates, cutlery, cups, mugs, bowls etc. can be useful to us. Send us an email with what you may want to donate (a picture helps) and we can arrange a pick up if necessary or you could just hold onto until camp time and send up with your children.

Thanks!

Matthew Saulnier
Chair of Food Services

2014 MASS DATES

We're excited to be welcoming Father Travis back to camp this summer to celebrate Mass with us! Masses will be held May 18, July 13, July 27 and August 10 at 5:00 pm.

2014 MAY LONG WORK WEEKEND

You are invited to join us on the May long weekend, May 16 - 19, 2014. 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 2014 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.



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Our second annual Fall Fling on November 9th was a massive success. We had a fantastic evening of food, entertainment and live music, and raised over \$2500! 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 so excited for our third annual event on **October 4th!** If you would like to help us make our 2014 Fall Fling even better, please get in touch with your ideas! 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 2014 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 2014 camper fees and canteen!

We have bingos coming up on **February 15th, March 15th, April 5th, May 10th and June 14th.** 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 also hosting BBQs at Princess Auto on **May 24th and July 26th,** and the Confederation Canadian Tire on **September 6th and 7th.** We'd 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.

SAVE THE DATE: FALL FLING 2014

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Fall Fling, October 4th at St. Joseph's Parish Hall!
Keep an eye on our Facebook page or the website for details!

THANK YOU

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank our 2013 major sponsors for their generosity and trust, which allows us in turn to offer our campers the best experience possible! Thank you to:

- Dakota Dunes Development Corporation and the City of Saskatoon, for funding for our camper sponsorship program
- The Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation, for funding towards the purchase of SPOT radios and satellite internet for the camp office
- Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation, for funding to support the replacement of the chapel windows as well as other chapel maintenance
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA) and Saskatchewan Lotteries, for funding for our Naturelore program

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.

CONTACT US

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