



"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

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St. John Bosco Camp Association, Spring 2015



The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Another summer is quickly approaching and the off season has been a very busy one for me. After doing last season's reports and having some free time, I have started to get ready for the 2015 spring and summer season. Staffing is the main priority and registrations have started to come in for processing.

This summer looks very promising, for several reasons which should be obvious to our campers and visitors. We should have the shower facility up and running this summer, and hopefully there will be new docks for camp. There have been applications for grants to help with keeping camp running as well as replacing older equipment. At this time we are still waiting for word as to whether or not we have been successful with these applications. There are still a few more to apply for, and with some help from these foundations and agencies, we should be able to make some positive changes again this summer at Bosco.

The Board has approved a new logo for camp and so far the feedback has been very positive. It will be on the camp t-shirts and we are looking into the possibility of having it on other items as well. If there is anything that you think you and others would purchase with the new logo on, please let me know. You can see this new logo featured in this newsletter.

Together with my wife Maureen, we are looking forward to being at camp this season. I felt last year was a success and hope this year will prove to be as well.

Bernie Vossen
Manager, SJBWC



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again we are looking at the launch of a new camping season. Seems like a few short months ago we were saying good bye and wishing each other well, ending a successful summer. While the snow has been nestled in the pines at Bosco and all is quiet, the Board and Camp Manager Bernie Vossen have been working hard to prepare camp for our 57th year of operation.

I cannot neglect to mention our dedicated staff that, while they leave to continue their studies or return to jobs, they never fail to keep the chatter and excitement alive.

If you are a longtime friend of Bosco you will have noticed a positive evolution to the grounds and buildings up at camp. If you are new to us or have been away for some time, know that we continue to develop and improve our facilities to ensure our campers and staff have a quality facility and in turn a summer of memories that will last a lifetime.

Finally, all this would not be possible without our army of volunteers that continue year after year to answer the call and come with tools and enthusiasm to keep camp running and looking first-rate. At this time I would like to invite you to join us, May long weekend, for fellowship and a little work.

Welcome to 2015. See you this summer!

Cheryl Kirzinger
President, SJBWC Board of Directors

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

This year will be a big year for Buildings and Facilities at Bosco. First off, we will be finishing the long awaited shower building. This will be a huge benefit to camp, and will allow us to increase our capacity in comfort and style. We are planning on giving the fridge and freezer a well-needed up date. One of the biggest-ticket items this year is replacing our old docks with new floating docks for a more inviting waterfront. In the administration building, we are looking to replace the flooring, and to improve the layout by removing some internal walls. Of course, there are many other maintenance items like painting, replacing steps, doors, windows, and screen doors, all to keep camp running safely and smoothly. As Bernie mentioned in his message, we are applying for some grants to replace equipment. With help from our community partners we may be able to start on one of our next big projects: moving in a building for a new medical facility.

As you can see, this is going to be a very ambitious year. Many hands make light work so please contact Bernie by emailing manager@johnboscocamp.com and join us up at camp for the May long weekend at our work bee.

Robbie Newton
Chair of Buildings and Facilities

2015 MAY LONG WORK WEEKEND

You are invited to join us on the May long weekend, May 15 - 18, 2015. 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 2015 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 manager@johnboscocamp.com.

HERE COMES SUMMER 2015

Have we got an amazing summer lined up for you!

- 1st camp: July 8 - 18 (July 12 - 18 for Juniors)
- 2nd camp: July 22 - Aug 1 (July 26 - Aug 1 for Juniors)
- 3rd camp: August 5 - 15 (Aug 9 - 15 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 8 - August 1.

2015 camper fees have been posted on our website, and registration is now open! Early-bird prices run until April 30th and will save you \$30 per camper (\$60 for ALE) off our regular camp fees.

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

STAFFING NEWS

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 2015 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 Facebook page for other staffing announcements as they arise!

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

We held our 3rd annual Fall Fling on October 4, 2014 and it was once again a huge success. Good friends, good food, some entertainment, raffles and silent auction and the end result was just over \$2500 was raised to go towards our new Shower/Laundry building at camp. Thank you to all who helped to make this event a continued success.

Please mark your calendars for the 2015 Fall Fling, October 17th at St. Joseph's Parish Hall!

If you would like to help us make our 2015 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.

In the meantime, we are working hard to write grants, seek sponsorships, and raise funds needed to subsidize your 2015 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 opportunities available to help us fundraise. For your efforts, you can earn Bosco Bucks to use towards 2015 camper fees and canteen.

We have bingos coming up on April 11th, May 9th and June 13th. All shifts go from 11:15 am to 6:00 pm and we need workers for whole shifts as well as partial shifts. We are also hosting a BBQ at the Confederation Canadian Tire on September 12th and 13th. If you would like to help with any of these fundraisers, please contact Lynn at lynn@johnboscocamp.com for more information. Also we will post more dates and events on our website as they become available, so make sure you check back often. If you are unable to lend a hand, perhaps you will be able to stop by and buy a burger!

SAVE THE DATE: FALL FLING 2015

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Fall Fling, October 17th 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 this opportunity to thank our 2014 major sponsors for their generosity and trust, which allows us in turn to offer our campers the best experience possible. Thank you to:

- Dakota Dune Community Development Corp, for funding our camper sponsorship program and for a generous donation towards our food costs.
- Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation, for funding towards the cost of the electrical for our new shower/laundry/mechanical building.
- The Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundations for funding to purchase a new washer for the kitchen laundry, a jet pump, pour over coffee maker, and several fire extinguishers.
- Saskatchewan Lotteries for money raised through our Bingos and the Provincial Gaming Grant.
- Federal CSJ Grant and Provincial SSW Grant for funding summer jobs for students.

A heart-felt thank you goes to My Pharmacy from Prince Albert for their donation of medical supplies and bandages to keep our First Aid Building stocked so that we could treat the cuts and blisters and other ailments of campers and staff. We are especially thankful for the generous donation of Epi-pens.

We also had a number of very generous donors which provided funding for camper sponsorships and assistance in funding our main camp programs. We would especially like to recognize the following individuals for contributions:

Peter MacMahon, Elizabeth MacIsaac, Josephine Bertrand, Lorna Plemel, Joe & Helen Dasiuk and the Estate of Dorothy Neuses.

Many thanks goes out to all the people who donated money, supplies and also time and labour to assist in the start up, running and close down of camp. We are truly blessed with a long list of generous supporters.

We are a non-profit corporation and a registered charity. Camper fees do not come close to covering the cost of operating camp. We rely on volunteer labour, grants and donations to help us offer our unique wilderness programming 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

REMINDER: Our Saskatoon office has closed. Our mailing address year-round remains at:

Box 3002, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S9

Note our new phone and fax number (toll free):
1-844-SJBOSCO (1-844-752-6726)

Email: info@johnboscocamp.com
Web: www.johnboscocamp.com

