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The Views

Camp Outlook Newsletter - Fall 2012

Queen's Chaplain Brian Yealland Retires After 30 Years Serving the Community

By: Tamara Sandor and Carly Ainlay

In 2013, Queen's will be bidding farewell to a longstanding member of its community. We at Camp Outlook will be sending off a key stakeholder and essential "behind-the-scenes" backbone of the camp who has supported us for more than half of our existence as an organization.

Padre Laverty, the Chaplain's predecessor, provided both fundraising assistance and mentorship to Ron Kimberley and others when they first started the camp in 1970. Brian Yealland took over as Queen's Chaplain in 1983, and continued the legacy of ensuring the financial stability of Outlook. As Outlook's key link with both the broader Kingston community and important Queen's alumni, he sent out more than 400 hand-signed letters per year. This helped to keep important supporters apprised of the camp's activities, and consistently resulted in raising donations to cover one-third of the camp's yearly budget.

Not only has Brian Yealland helped to mobilize financial support for Camp Outlook; the Chaplain has also contributed incalculably to Outlook by sharing his wisdom with generations of Outlook vol-

unteers. Each year, he has offered us time out of his busy schedule to speak to both the summer and winter volunteers about the tradition into which they have entered—giving them perspective beyond the unique conditions of their own year and impressing upon them the longer-term impacts of the service they provide to the Kingston community.

From the youth and volunteers at Camp Outlook, here's wishing a big "Thank You" to Brian for all you have contributed. The relationships you have built with supporters and the insight you have shared will continue to benefit the program for years to come. May we recommend a wilderness experience to celebrate this next stage of your life!? ■

Keep in Touch

Moving? Know any lost Outlook friends that would like to receive the views? Send your contact information to Sheryl:

bod@campoutlook.ca



Fall/Winter Update

By: Evan Woodley and Matthew Ondercin, Fall/Winter Co-Directors

As the temperature in Kingston drops along with the leaves, Outlook Winter is once again continuing our tradition of weekend camping trips. As everyone heads indoors after a long summer, we have headed out to hire a staff of 25 volunteers, including a solid 6-person executive team, all of whom are dedicated to the Outlook philosophy and are willing to start winter camping. Our staff training trip to the Carlsons' beautiful farmhouse in September was once again a great success and we cannot thank the Carlsons enough for their constant support of Camp Outlook. The staff enjoyed a weekend of sharing skills, bonding and possibly being the last people to swim in Lake Ontario until the spring! This season our focus is on organizing the new office, improving on the transition process to add continuity to Outlook's winter program, and trying to be a little more high-tech every day. This fall, Outlook has 10 weekend trips planned. They have already been underway as of late September and will span until the December exam crunch. These trips not only keep us connected with our campers but also keep us all connected with the great Canadian Outdoors, teasing

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Summer Update

By: Tim Richardson, Camp Outlook Summer Director 2012

Camp Outlook's 2012 summer program left a trail of amazing memories, made possible by a phenomenally committed staff group, the overwhelming generosity of the Kingston community and the exceptionally beautiful weather in Algonquin Park that held out nearly all summer-long.

In Outlook's 42nd summer my co-director Zoe and I set out to improve the camper experience at every stage of a youth's interaction with the camp. We reworked the application process, simplifying application forms and converting them into an electronically fillable format. We introduced a new 7-day trip, designed with an easier route and shorter length than our normal 9-day trips to help ease first-time and nervous campers into the world of canoe tripping. And, for the first time, staff wrote a personalized letter to each and every camper from their trips, offering our campers another way to remember their adventures in the wilderness.

We followed up by collecting feedback from campers after their trips and received some amazing responses. When asked what their favourite part of trip was they told us it was "camp fires at night, portaging, hanging out with new people", "just spending time outdoors", "meeting new people", "learning I am capable of doing good stuff," and "Everything!". When asked to rate their trip on a scale of 1 to 10, the majority of respondents gave their trip a 9 or 10.

We also worked to improve staff training this year, with a whole new workshop based around understanding personality and

how to work with someone whose personality and leadership style is unlike one's own. The workshop was facilitated by veteran facilitator and team coach Janice Parvianien, who donated her time, resources, and fantastic presentation skills to developing our staff's leadership abilities.

This season Jeff's Map donated one hundred waterproof maps and a wall map of Algonquin Park, Peter's Drug Store contributed a significant batch of first aid supplies, and we received eighteen brand new bailers for our canoes. Our staff raised more than \$4500 over the course of three busking afternoons on Princess Street, a stunning example of the Kingston community's support for us. We were also the recipient of many equipment donations from passing Kingstonians, who gave us tents, thermarests and rain gear. We are in constant need of new and used equipment, so donations large and small make a huge difference to us.

Across my three summers with Camp Outlook, more than anything else, I've seen people give. I've seen a staff member work for a fortnight straight, day in day out, cleaning and inventorying equipment just to make the next person's job easier. I've seen a startup business donate \$1700 worth of their stock, simply because they believe in Outlook's mission. I've seen a camper going back to the start of a 2.8 kilometre portage to carry an entire second load because someone they met three days ago has a sore ankle and needs a hand. When I describe Camp Outlook to others they are surprised, shocked even, that an organization run entirely by volunteers and funded solely by donations could continue to exist for 42 years. I have been asked: How do we get people to give their whole summers for free? What do

the volunteers get in return? How can we rely on the community giving enough to keep Outlook running every year? But the answer to these questions is simple: people will always surprise you. Outlook endures because, given the right circumstances, and a genuinely good cause, humans reveal themselves to have an astounding capacity for generosity.

And therein, too, lies the value of Outlook. Over the course of a canoe trip with Outlook, camper and counselor are constantly surprised by one another, and themselves. Each trip teaches you that with enough time you will always discover something worthwhile in each and every person you meet; that snap judgments are a worthless mechanism for deciding how to treat others; that everyone has something to give. ■

Fall/Winter Update Continued...

our camping appetite throughout the long winter until once again we can break out the paddles and bug spray and head back to Algonquin.

Not much else to say right now besides, Winter is coming. ■

Thank You !

We would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** for your support! Outlook is made possible by the donations, time, energy, dedication, thoughts and well wishes that are generously contributed by the camp's friends and alumni.



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