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The Views

Camp Outlook Newsletter - Fall 2013

Winter is Coming!!!

By: Owen Quenneville and Emily Jarvis, Winter Directors 2013/2014

As the days get colder, and the leaves have mostly fallen, covering the ground in a blanket of orange and yellow, it's become more and more clear that summer has come to a close. At this time of year, most people leave the provincial parks for less chilly pursuits, but we break out our fleeces and wool socks to head back out for a full and gorgeous season of Fall camping. To help run our program this Fall/Winter season we've hired a staff of 21 trippers and 5 executives who can't wait to get outdoors with our campers and show them a great weekend camping experience.

We've had another incredible training weekend at the Carlson's farm this year. We were lucky to have beautiful weather on Saturday and spent most of our time outside. We ended our busy day with a campfire and a few of us even slept outside under the stars! We have another great group of staff this year and have already learnt a lot from each other.

Our first trip of the fall went out on the weekend of October 19th, and we're sending out more trips weekly from now until the exam time crunch of December, picking back up in late January for the Winter. The first trip also got to be the most gorgeous, getting out before all the leaves have fallen and experiencing the beauty of Frontenac Park at the height of Autumn. For the rest of the season our trips will also be heading into

Frontenac Park to experience some great hiking and camping by Buck Lake.

Fundraising initiatives that are set to run throughout our camping season are also underway. Most recently, we had a pumpkin sale at the end of October near Queen's campus and an appearance at the Reel Rock film festival. We look forward to some by-donation yoga sessions coming up throughout the year, and other events planned for later on in the year to promote ourselves around the Queen's and Kingston communities.

We are excited to get our biweekly Sports Nights started up again. A fun night for both the staff and campers, it gives a great chance for everyone to get to know each other in a different setting before we get out in the woods.

We look forward to another action-packed season ahead! ■

Welcome Kate Johnson = Incoming Queen's Chaplain

In the last Views, Outlook bid a fond farewell to Brian Yealand, who retired last spring after 30 years of service as the Queen's chaplain. This Fall, we exuberantly welcome his successor, Kate Johnson! Kate graduated from Queen's Theological College in 2006, receiving a Master of Divinity with a concentration in restorative justice. Since then, she has gained a broad range of experience working as a chaplain and counselor at institutions such as Correctional Services of Canada, Kingston General Hospital, and the Canadian Hearing Society. We were thrilled that she was able to attend our Annual General Meeting in September, where she already began sharing with us her many insights and ideas. We look forward to this exciting new partnership with a newly reinstated member of the Queen's community who is as dedicated as we are to helping young people navigate the big canoe trip that is life. ■



Summer Update

By: Ben Mogl-MacLean, Summer Director 2013

Dear friends of Outlook, the summer of 2013 has run its course, and we now have the pleasure of filling you in on some of the successes of this summer. James and I began the summer with high hopes and big dreams; we schemed and planned for hours throughout May in our basement office at Queen's. Looking back now it amazes me to see how much this summer surpassed our hopes and expectations.

We sent 112 youth from around Ontario on 23 different trips. These trips were led by 20 full-time staff and several dedicated part-time staff. James and I can't begin to thank our staff enough, the dedication and passion they put into their leadership roles is one of the major contributions to Outlook's continuing success.

Outlook experienced quite a few structural changes over this summer, the most significant of which was moving our home base. For at least the last decade, Outlook has resided on the corner of Brock and Albert, across from the corner of Victoria Park. In meetings with Sci '44 Co-op early in the year, we decided that moving to a new location was in our mutual interest, as it better suits our growing needs. So we moved in just around the corner to 31 and 29 Nelson. The change was one of our bigger challenges this summer. However, the new location has many perks such as: more staff accommodations, better food storage facilities, and the fact that our equipment no longer had to be stored in the dark/damp/scary basement!

We improved our staff training month with the addition of more swim training time, and a series of camping skills sessions. We are also happy to announce that the staff, in their three days of fundraising, collected close to \$6,000!

One of our goals this summer was continuing to offer the diversity of trip types that Outlook sends out in a summer. As in years past, we had 7-, 9-, and 14-day trips all go out successfully. We also ran another round of leadership trip, and are happy to report that we had our first two official interns in recent history. This was a project initiated by the previous summer directors that we were able to see succeed. We are also happy to report that we continued our partnership with the Sexual Assault Center of Kingston and ran another trip with them this summer. We received great feedback from both the youth and staff. Finally, James and I are excited to announce the entry of our first non-aluminum canoe into our storied fleet of boats. At the end of this past summer Outlook purchased a used Kevlar canoe, which has now been affectionately named "Gentle Kev".

As our time at Outlook comes to a close, James and I have been looking back over the past two years and trying to understand what has happened. How can this organization really exist? A 100% volunteer-run camp that relies solely on the goodwill of the people in this community, who help this group of young people to take a bunch of girls and boys out on canoe trips, just to get away from it all and have some fun. Ya right, sounds like something from the 70's. But here we are, the summer of 2013 having just passed us by in a blur of bug bites, sunburns, and laughs. Over the past two years, James and I have seen so much generosity, compassion, and concern for other people's wellbeing. But how do you get a bunch of young people to volunteer their summers? How do you raise enough money from the Kingston community? My only answer can only be, you won't have anything to go on until you have experienced it yourself, directly or indirectly. To bring this to a close, there aren't many things that can better remind us of what Outlook

means than praise from a parent of one of our campers. Here is an email we received this summer:

“ Hi there, I just wanted to send a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers of Camp Outlook. My son recently attended an Algonquin trip and came back just beaming. I sat up for hours when he got home listening to him excitedly tell me all about his adventures. In addition to the beautiful scenery, the camaraderie with the other campers, the enjoyment of the hard work, the fun and games and the adventure itself, he spoke so highly about the respect and expertise shown by the camp leaders. Your dedication to excellence was obvious to the eyes of a 15 year old boy - not always a small feat, ha ha. ”

Thanks so much for the wonderful experience you provided for that 15-year-old boy, and for so many other youth. ■

Keep in Touch 

Questions, comments, change of address? Email Sheryl!

bod@campoutlook.ca

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.



www.givetoqueens.ca/campoutlook

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