



Algonquin Park



The Views

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Camp Outlook Newsletter - Spring 2014



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Winter Tripping

Reflections by a Fall/Winter 2014
Volunteer

My favorite Outlook trip of this last year was towards the end of January. It was a small trip out to the Queen's University Biology Research Station with the temperature dropping well below what I, as a Brit, am used to, and a good snowfall on the ground. With the dirt road snowed over, we had to park on the main road and use our sled to carry our gear on an expedition into the fields. After a quick lunch, we got to scraping together the snow around to see how far through Quinzee building we could get. Thanks to some frantic shoveling from one particular camper (fuelled by the need for shelter and banana chips: a potent combination), we actually completed the stacking a few hours before night-fall. This gave us some time to go out on a hike through the forest before returning to hollow out the rest of the dome and settling down for hot dogs and hot chocolate (things were getting pretty chilly). We eventually got the shelter finished and spent the night there, and discovered that Quinzees are shockingly warm. It was a great trip and I was able to tick some items off my Canadian bucket list. But most importantly the campers and counselors loved it. It's hard to get outdoors in -25 Celsius, but it was well worth it in the end. ■

Summer Update

By Juliana Richniak and Sean
Munoz, Summer Directors 2014

Even though the 2013-2014 Winter season did its best Game of Thrones impression, it seems the long night is finally relenting and Spring has officially sprung! Despite those lingering sub-zero temperatures and stubborn snow banks, we truly are nearing that beautiful first day of Camp Outlook's summer program! We're writing as this year's excited incoming summer camp directors, Sean and Juliana (aka Sealiana).

We are extremely humbled to have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Ben and James and the many directors before them this year. We hail from different Outlook eras; Sean first joined Outlook full-time in the summer of 2011 and Juliana's summer as full-time staff was in 2013, which has allowed us to each bring different experiences to the table.

Together we've already had the privilege of meeting and getting to know a truly amazing group of people all eager to donate their time to volunteer with Outlook this summer. One of the beautiful things about Outlook to us is the staff diversity and the atmosphere that it creates, and we're very happy to say that the 2014 summer staff is an enthusiastic and diverse group of people who will each bring their own

Fun Fact: Algonquin park is estimated to be home to about 7000 species of insects!

unique strengths and experiences. Excited doesn't even begin to describe our feelings about seeing these 22 people come together and become a family in just under 2 months' time.

One exciting development for this year's staff training is the transition from the 2-day Wilderness First Aid certification to a 4-day Advanced Wilderness First Aid course. The course will actually take place in the wilderness and will give new staff a chance to camp out in tents and learn first aid skills in a real-life setting. Both the Board of Directors and we believe that by offering this extensive qualification to our staff we'll be able to provide them with a more thorough, hands-on certification that will better prepare them to manage any injuries or emergencies that may arise on trip.

As is always the goal, we will strive to bring as many campers on trip as possible, but we are also really hoping to increase the total number of girls coming to Outlook this year. We hope that by working hard with referrers and schools to promote Outlook as a fun, challenging, and achievable experience for both female and male campers we can help more girls discover a passion for the outdoors!

We hope that if you are in the Kingston area this summer you will drop in
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Summer Update Continued...

and say hello; Outlook could not do what we do without the support and generosity of the entire community. Thank you all very much for staying connected with Outlook and we hope you have an amazing canoeing season because only one thing is certain... Summer is coming! ■

CANOE PARTS



Fall/Winter Update

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

It's been a long winter this year, but Fall & Winter Outlook has been nothing short of spectacular. From trips in the middle of snow storms to suddenly warm and wet trips, our trippers have done it all. It always brings a smile to our faces seeing campers come back for trips week after week, no matter the weather. The Queen's University Biology Station proves time after time a great place for winter camping, providing us with clean snowy fields to play in and majestic sleeping forests to walk through. It's been an awesome season for fun winter activities – from snowball fights to snowman building – and some killer quinzees were built over the course of the season. It's been good fun for campers and trippers all around.

This winter we had a number of successful fundraisers. We repeated our yearly pub night at Clark Hall Pub, sold hotdogs outside of the Underground, had a couple bake sales, and introduced a square dancing night! Our pub night this years was "80's camping" themed, and was a success, of course. We had a number raffle prizes generously donated by local Kingston retailers and played lots of camp games. The Square Dance was absolutely fantastic. Outlook's Bronwyn Hodgins was the caller and taught us a number of different dances alongside a live band. With a room full of beginners dressed in plaid and gingham, it came as no surprise that this night was hilarious.

The Queen's community has again been gracious enough to prove they love and support the work Camp Outlook does by voting to retain Camp Outlook's opt-out fee for another 3 years. Starting here in 1970, it's amazing to see the Queen's community still

support our program over 40 years later.

As the Fall and Winter camping season comes to a close, Emily and I say our goodbyes to Outlook. It's been a whirlwind experience. We couldn't have asked for a better season as directors, and in many ways we've gotten more out of the program than we ever thought possible. After a collective 6 years with Outlook, it's sad to say goodbye. But we're so excited for Juliana Richniak and Sean Munoz to take over for the summer and Emma Couillard and Maggie Hess to continue into the next season of Fall/Winter. We wish them the best of luck and hope they have as much of a blast as we did!

Here's to many years of wilderness camping to come! ■

Keep in Touch

Questions, comments, change of address? Email Sheryl!

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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.CanadaHelps.org

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