



# The Views

*The Camp Outlook Newsletter — Spring 2016*

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It continues to be my privilege to engage with the work of Camp Outlook. As loyal donors know, Camp Outlook is a transformative experiential education experience for both campers and staff. In almost three years I have been involved, I have witnessed an immense passion for Outlook from board and staff members. Staff are literally crossing continents and oceans at their own expense to give back to Outlook for the way it has enriched their lives, clarified career paths and given them a clear sense of purpose.

The work continues because of these dedicated staff and board members but also in the face of great challenge. A variety of policy and legislative issues external to Outlook have made it necessary to find new office space and redefined Outlook's relationship to Queen's University and student governments. Unfortunately, this will mean greater overhead costs as well as more creative outreach to potential staff. I am sure the committed board is up to the challenge but your financial support is needed more than ever.

Thank you for your on-going interest in and support of Camp Outlook. I can assure you that your donations will be stewarded wisely and with great care to continue Outlook's important work.

Kate Johnson, Queen's University Chaplain ☼

## **Summer Update**

**Janet Cao, Lucy Mackrell, and Stewart MacLean, SCD 2016**

Another year has gone by, and we once again are looking at a summer full of canoeing and portaging in Algonquin. As we start ramping up to the best few months of the year (I'm sure the Winter Directors would disagree with that), it is important to reflect on the 8 months that have gone by since we were last working out of Nelson Street.

There were two main events that made this a particularly difficult time for us. The first was the sad news that Ron Kimberly had passed away. He left an incredible legacy that lives on with Out-

look, and there is no question that his passion for the outdoors during his time at Queen's has brought a little extra joy and adventure to thousands of campers and staff over the last 5 decades.

Our second major obstacle this year was our deratification as a Queen's Club. There have been a lot of big movements within Queen's over the last few years, and unfortunately this has meant that we are no longer eligible for some of our privileges, such as room booking and office space, but we are still fortunate to receive our student opt-out fee and maintain a strong connection with Queen's through our staff and supporters alike. The search for year round office/storage space continues (and if any of our avid

readers can help us find a solution, please get in touch with our board of directors), but in spite of these challenges we are looking forward to a very, very exciting summer.

There are a lot of shake-ups that we are simultaneously excited and nervous for. All three of us came in to this role with a long wish list of projects we would like to get off the ground, and we have fleshed out a few big "to-dos" that we are really looking forward to implementing this summer.

For starters, we have found an instructor who is providing our staff with a course in Mental Health First

Aid for adults who interact with youth. This training will provide a more thorough and structured introduction on how to deal with mental health related emergencies on trip, and hopefully put staff in a better position to prevent these problems from becoming serious.

We have also changed the structure of our introductory trips for this year, transitioning from a 7-day trip in Algonquin to a 5-day trip in Frontenac. With better road access and a shorter drive time, we should be able to have slower mornings before we drive into the park (as this is often a hectic and stressful event) to make our campers feel a little more comfortable. The shorter time frame and the better-maintained campsites in Frontenac will hopefully be less intimidating for new campers, and we are optimistic that we will be able to introduce more young people to the world of canoe tripping.

Finally, we are implementing an internship program for campers who have become too old to trip as campers but who still want to improve their leadership and camping skills with a camp they are comfortable in. This will differ from our leadership trip as interns will participate in trip prep and wrap, giving them a chance to learn how to plan their own trips. We will run short but ongoing feedback and discussion sessions with our interns to help nurture their leadership and communication skills, but most of all are just excited to continue a meaningful relationship with some of our most experienced campers.

### Keep in touch!

Questions? Comments? Change of address? Email us!  
[bod@campoutlook.ca](mailto:bod@campoutlook.ca)

And that's where our summer is right now! After a challenging 8 months we are indescribably excited to finally get back into the park and see our campers again, and are hoping that the initiatives we described above will make for an even better year of tripping for everyone's favourite charity. ☀

### Winter Wrap-up

Mariana Borsuk-Gudz and  
Marc Ondercin, WCD 2015-2016

As the winter season comes to an end and summer starts to peak around the bend, so comes to an end the fall/winter season of Camp Outlook. With many trips and quinzees built, this winter season can be reflected on as a successful one, by staff and camper alike. All of our staff were able to take at least one weekend in the winter half of the season and get out into the woods, and some braved the cold many more times than that! In all, campers and staff walked away with beautiful pictures and even more wonderful memories.

We transitioned this year to an office upstairs from where we had been last year, and in the fall semester of this year, and we are happy to say that the move was smooth! Although we are currently in the process of scoping out a new winter season office, we are hopeful that we find a space that serves us as well as the space we have occupied on Queen's campus in past years. We're excited to see where our search takes us, and we look forward to updating you at the next turn!

Although we used the bus in the fall, in the wintertime our beloved bus took a chilly vacation in a nearby parking lot due to temperatures and snow. It made it through the winter and is gearing up for a return back to Algonquin Park this summer.

With the sending out of our fall newsletter to you our alumni, we were lucky enough this winter to receive quite a few extremely generous donations, for which we are always grateful. Financial donations, as well as donations of gear are always hugely appreciated, and our rack of winter parkas is looking as colorful and warm as ever.

As always, on behalf of our campers and all of our outgoing winter staff, we'd like to thank you for all of your continued support. Although the two of us are sad to say goodbye, we can't wait to see where the wonderful incoming winter directors take the program next year. It's been a fun and wild ride, and we couldn't be more grateful to the winter, to Outlook, and to you. To many more cold and cozy winters! ☀

### 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.



100% of donations support Camp Outlook campers and volunteers and are tax deductible. Contributions can also be sent by mail with cheque made payable to:

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