

SOME 2008 SESSIONS ARE SELLING OUT!



AND



PRESENT:

CAMPFIRE CHRONICLES

Our Second Newsletter!

Issue 2 Spring 2008

In the News!

Quick hits outlining current events, upcoming promotions, and special events and dates for both Glenbrook and Fraser Lake. Your place for being in the know.

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I Want to Go Home!

Tips and ideas for dealing with homesickness before arriving at camp, and what can be done when it happens at camp.

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Who Are These Guys?

The best camps hire the best staff. We believe that's what sets us apart! Check out the profiles of a couple of staff members that we have hired to give your camper the best possible experience.

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What to Pack?

Packing the right clothing and equipment can greatly impact the camping experience. Here are some ideas of what to include in every campers backpack.

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From the Directors

Some thoughts and updates from Eric and Sarah regarding new programs and partnerships being grown by Fraser and Glenbrook.

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2008 Session Dates

The 2008 session dates are posted for your information. Register early to ensure you get the weeks you want.

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Anniversary Plans Under Way!

This summer marks the 40th year that Glenbrook has offered a day camp experience to campers in the Markham and surrounding area. Since 1968, we estimate that Glenbrook has served over 30,000 campers and developed over 4,000 staff!

To celebrate our 40th year of day camp adventures, we are hosting a party for current and former campers and staff. The anniversary party will be held on **Saturday, June 21st** at Glenbrook, from 3 until 8 pm.



After 40 years of practice, Glenbrook staff have perfected their painting and art techniques. Now we just need to find them some paper!

Starting at 3 in the afternoon, guests can come and take part in some of our camp activities. Go for a wagon ride, try out the climbing gym, run around in the haylofts, look for crayfish in the creek or visit our animals in the barn. Or, just come to connect with old friends!

The highlight of the celebration will be the BBQ and generational campfire. It's fitting since food and fire are such large components of any camp experience!

The planning committee asks that you contribute your memories to the campfire, by notifying us of favourite songs or stories. We are hoping to have good representation from each 'era' of Glenbrook's 40 years.

Finally, if you have pictures or old camp T-shirts that you would be willing to let us use, please pass those on to the camp office.

If you are able to contribute you can contact me by phone (905.640.2127) or email (sarah@glenbrookdaycamp.com)

Thanks for your help, and we really hope you can come to our party!

- Sarah Dougald






In the News: Ready for camp? (see page 5!)

Our camps are constantly striving to serve you better. We host special events and promotions throughout the year which you may be interested in, and we're always looking to develop new quality programs. Here are a few of the highlights!

Registration Still Open

Glenbrook and Fraser are still taking registrations for the 2008 camping season. You can register today in three easy ways:

1. **ONLINE** - it's secure and fast. 
2. **DOWNLOAD** the registration forms from our websites. 
3. **MAIL** or **FAX** the registration form to the office today. 

Several Glenbrook and Fraser sessions are filling quickly, especially those in July. Register today to ensure your preferred camp session!



GDC - Take a Spin In the New Nunu!

Glenbrook is adding some new boats to their fleet. This summer, intermediate and senior campers will have a chance to try out our Nunu kayaks when they head over to the pond for canoeing instruction.

These small, agile water crafts are much quicker and faster than a canoe, and campers will love zipping along from end to end and side to side. We'll see you this summer at the pond!

GDC - Spring Open House: May 3rd

It's time once again for our spring Open House, held this year on Saturday May 3rd, from 10 am to 4 pm. New and returning families are welcome to come for a day of free camp activities, and to meet some of our staff. Enjoy wagon rides, our climbing wall, tours of the camp, and more!

See you there!



FLC - Big Bounce Coming!

That's right! It'll be bigger! It will be bouncier! It will be splashier!

Jump on down to the Fraser waterfront this summer and see for yourself!



Hey Girls, turn on the lights!

The Junior Girl's cabin area is getting a facelift this spring, and part of that work will be installing lights!



GDC

Willowgrove: Special Events

Here are some of the upcoming special events being hosted by Willowgrove, Glenbrook and Fraser in 2008. Everyone welcome!

Glenbrook Open Houses:
Saturday May 3 - 10am - 4pm

Doors Open - Stouffville
Saturday June 7

Willowgrove Golf Tournament Sat June 7th

Relay-For-Life (hosted by the Canadian Cancer Society) June 13 & 14

Glenbrook / Willowgrove 40th Anniversary Celebration June 21

First Day of Camp - June 28 (FLC) and July 1 (GDC)

SPRING MUSINGS

Spring must be here, because Fraser Lake Camp's annual fundraising banquet has come and gone already. In a few short weeks we'll be packing up the camp office and heading to the Lake, getting ready for another camp season.

For a while it seemed as if spring would never come, didn't it? As I write this in the heat of the mid-20's - in mid April mind you - I wonder how hot the summer is going to get! Not that we would complain, because the hot weather makes the lake that much more refreshing!

Getting back to the banquet, we had a great evening, and we raised some funds to allow us to keep improving our program. Over a hundred people attended the event, and once again I was impressed with the commitment we have from our long-term supporters. Several of those in attendance have been involved with Fraser since the early days, even as far back as our inaugural year in 1955!

While many of those supporters no longer have the chance to visit the camp directly, they continue to support the work and mission of Fraser, and for that we are extremely grateful.

The money raised this year will go to various projects. First and foremost, a good portion of the funds will go to supplement our Hand-In-Hand program, in which we add to funds received from organizations such as the Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund and the Geoffrey Wood Foundation.

Secondly, the funds raised will be put towards improving the camp facilities and programs. For example, we continue to work on our waterfront. This year we are putting in some new docks, and in the process we are extending our swimming area. Also, as noted on page 2, we are replacing our well used water trampoline and since it has been so popular we will be purchasing one that is even bigger! Sometimes bigger is better!

We'll also be doing some work in the Junior Girls cabin area, giving the cabins a 'facelift' and adding some indoor and outdoor lighting. We think that will be a big hit!

I'm looking forward to another camp season, and I know many of you are too. Putting on shorts and sandals this weekend reminded me how soon we'll be seeing each other! Can't wait!

~ Eric Musselman

GLENBROOK UPDATE

2008 is shaping up to be quite a summer for Glenbrook. Not only do we have our 40th Anniversary to look forward to, but there are other exciting initiatives that we are working on...

SPiRiT Awards:

Last summer my Support Staff designed an awards program based on the acronym **SPiRiT**. This stands for **Support, Participation, Initiative, Respect, Integrity, Teamwork**. Each activity area is responsible for promoting this philosophy in their programs and then nominating a camper group that best encompasses SPiRiT in the activity. At the end of the week awards are handed out to the groups that showed their best work in these areas. Some examples of these awards were: Most Eco-Friendly (Nature), Picasso's Protégé's (Arts & Crafts), Best Sportsmanship (Sports).

40th Anniversary Lunch Bags:

To celebrate our 40th birthday every camper will receive a free Lunch Bag! The lunch bags are part of our new "Boomerang" or "Littler-less Lunch" initiative. Our goal is to limit our lunch garbage by promoting re-usable lunch containers. As well we plan to start a composting program in an effort to further our environmental initiatives.

Lunch bags will be given out on the first day of camp.

~ Sarah Dougald



What is the 'Story of Stuff'?

Have you ever looked around your house and just thought, "Wow, I have a lot of stuff!" Where does all that stuff come from? Why do we collect it? Where does it go when we get rid of it?

Storyofstuff.com is a website developed by Annie Leonard that examines where our stuff came from, and where it will end up. Here is an excerpt from the website:

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

Terms like 'sustainable living', 'environmental responsibility', 'eco-friendly', and 'green' are becoming part of our everyday language. Many of you reading this are very

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THE STORY OF STUFF

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passionate about environmental issues and concerns. At Willowgrove, we believe the earth and the environment is worth taking care of. In our mission statement it reads that we are committed to "Caring for the land that God entrusted to us".

There is no doubt that our culture is becoming increasingly more materialistic and being driven by the needs of 'convenience'. We want what we want, and we want it now, don't we?. Think of how many products we use everyday that are disposable - cameras, pens, printers, diapers, fast food...

But they are disposable at a cost. I have to admit, I don't want to go back to the quill and ink well, or cloth diapers, or the horse and buggy. There are days when I need to make a two minute stop to get a meal on the go!

So can we have our cake and eat it too? Can we continue using the products and services we have gotten used to, and be responsible for the environment at the same time?

The answer is probably 'yes' and 'no'. No we can't continue using consuming our resources at the current rate for an indefinite amount of time. No we can't ignore the changes in climate that we are creating. But we don't have to throw it all away either and live like bush-men in the hills. We have many wonderful products that allow us to do things our parents would never have dreamed possible.

But we have to make small changes. Like buying products that are 'green'. Like replacing things that are truly broken and not worth fixing, and not just 'out of style'. Like becoming informed about our world and the impact we are having just by living here.

The Story of Stuff. Take 20 minutes and it may change the way you look at your things!

CAMP STAFF PROFILES

Great staff make great camps. Period. End of story. We spend hours recruiting and hiring the best staff possible to work with our campers. Here are the profiles of two returning camp staff, so you can get to know them better...

**LARA
FEASBY**

PROGRAM
DIRECTOR - GDC



Lara, what are you doing at camp this summer?

This will be my seventh summer at Glenbrook Day Camp. I started at Glenbrook when I was 16 as a counselor. Since then I have held various roles including climbing instructor and sports instructor. This summer I will be returning as the program director, a role I thoroughly enjoyed last summer and am incredibly excited to return to.

What do you do when you're not at camp?

When I am not at camp or thinking about camp I am studying kinesiology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. I am currently in my final year and will graduate in June.

Has working at Glenbrook affected you at all?

Working at Glenbrook has given me a confidence in myself that I didn't know I had. It has taught me more about myself than any other experience I have ever had. Without this experience my life would be much different, and I doubt I would be where I am today - hoping for an acceptance to teacher's college and looking forward to a future of working with children as wonderful as the ones I have met at Glenbrook. Glenbrook Day Camp is an extraordinary place and somewhere I can't wait to get back to in a few short months!

See you there!

**STEVE
CONLON**

PROGRAM
DIRECTOR - FLC



Steve, how did you originally find yourself at FLC?

In grade 11 I was looking for something new to try, so I signed up with the Ontario Camping Association through my school to find a camp job. I was contacted about a week later, and without knowing anyone decided to come up and give it a try.

What keeps you coming back?

It's the friendships and the family you make up here. I also appreciate the fact that camp leaders never forced religion upon me. They have a very unique way of teaching, both campers and staff, about God and what he has given us.

What are you most excited for this coming summer?

I am excited about seeing all the new staff!. It's the people that make camp what it is, and we are the most unique, energetic, crazy and all around amazing bunch I have ever seen. And I want to be the camp Frolf champion!

Has being at Fraser changed your career plans?

Originally I went to school for forensic science, but after my second year at camp, I realized I wanted to be a teacher. I love working with kids and I love being able to pass on skills and knowledge! Plus, I hope it gives me a chance to continue to work at camp for the next several years, even if it's for just part of the summer!

ARE YOU READY FOR CAMP???

Getting ready for camp begins at home, and is a great opportunity for parents and children to share in the camp experience together.

Here are two ways to increase the chances that your camp experience is a good one.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Whether you are going to Glenbrook or Fraser, what you pack is almost as important as how you pack. Keep these tips in mind when you are preparing for your camp session:

Tip #1 - Pack together. Campers will have a greater ownership of their belongings if they know what has been packed for their camp session. Use the time together to talk about different things they can expect to happen at camp.

Tip #2 - Remember what you are packing for! We suggest leaving the designer jeans and \$200 sneakers at home, and packing clothes you don't mind losing, staining, or tearing. Follow the suggestions from each camp's "To Pack" list in the parent info packages, and call if you have any questions.

Tip #3 - Label Everything! You may think your camper knows what all their clothes look like, but they don't! And don't stop at clothes - sleeping bags, luggage, backpacks, sunglasses, shoes, toiletry pouches,... Yes! Label everything!

Tip #4 - Label Everything! Yes. It's that important

Tip #5 - Surprise, surprise! Put a note in an unexpected place, or a treat or small present that they will find during camp. An unexpected surprise from home can sure brighten someone's day!

Tip #6 - Don't pack the kitchen sink. Included in the parent info package is a list of items that we ask be kept at home. Discuss these items with your camper and try to help them understand why leaving them at home is a better option.

Tip #7 - Shop together. If there are some key items that you need to purchase before camp (ie. backpack, flashlight, water bottle, etc.) take your camper along and let them be part of the decision making. Making them responsible for selecting an item, and allowing them to choose one they especially like, will make them that much more responsible for those items at camp.

Tip #8 - Pack a laundry bag. For overnight camp, add a canvas or even some plastic bags that your camper can put their laundry items into, without mixing them into their clean clothes.

Tip #9 - Remember sun safety. Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles should be a part of every camper's luggage. (And of course, don't forget to label them!)

BATTLING HOMESICKNESS

For some campers, an unexpected onset of homesickness can be overwhelming and even cause the camp session to be cut short. Here are some ideas for you and your camper to consider before and during camp:

Tip #1 - Plan together! Any pre-camp preparation should involve both parent and camper. For example, you can tour the camp websites to see what kind of activities they will take part in. Talk about what each day will involve, and what kind of routines should be kept. If you have the opportunity, attend an open house (May 3rd!) or visit the camp before the session.

Tip #2 - Express enthusiasm! If you have a history with camp, make sure you honestly and enthusiastically recount your memories of your camping experiences. Highlight the things you know they're going to learn, and the activities you know they will be particularly interested in.

Tip #3 - Spend some practice time apart. If your camper has never spent time away from home, consider arranging an overnight or even a weekend apart. Successfully spending time apart will build confidence in your camper.

Tip #4 - Make a letter writing kit. Writing about camp experiences is a great way for a camper to feel connected with home. Make a kit that includes paper, pre-stamped and addressed envelopes, and pens. Make sure they know where you packed it!

Tip #5 - Write a letter before they leave. Getting mail at camp can be a highlight of the day, so consider surprising your camper with mail on their first day. Write an encouraging letter reminding them about everything they can expect in the coming days, and how you can't wait to hear about it when they get home!

Tip #6 - Arrive on time the opening day. Arriving late can cause a lot of stress for the whole family, but being the last one to arrive can make your camper feel like they've missed out on the start of the fun. Getting there on time can ensure that you have time to properly say good-bye too! (And don't forget to arrive on time for pick-up too!)

Last but not least - Remember that missing home is okay! Tell your camper that missing home is normal, and that it is not really a sickness! Assure them that you will be waiting for them when they return, and that you can't wait to hear all their adventures!

In Focus...

Were you wondering if winter would ever end? Don't fret! Sunny days, green grass and blue skies are just around the corner, as is our Anniversary! And to celebrate our 40th summer at Glenbrook, we're asking you to help us

Name Our Mascot!

If you have an idea for what we should call our new mascot, email your idea to sarah@glenbrookdaycamp.com by June 20.

The new mascot and name will be unveiled at our anniversary celebration on Saturday June 21st.



2008 SESSION DATES

FRASER LAKE CAMP:

- Session 1: June 28 - July 12
- Session 2: July 12 - July 26
- Session 3: July 26 - August 2
- Session 4: August 5 - August 9 (Trail Blazers)
- Session 5: August 9 - August 16
- Session 6: August 16 - August 23

- Leaders In Training 1: June 28 - July 12
- Leaders In Training 2: July 12 - July 26
- Leaders In Training 3: August 9 - August 23

- Counsellors In Training 1: June 28 - July 26
- Counsellors In Training 2: July 26 - August 23

GLENBROOK DAY CAMP:

- Week 1: July 1 - 4 **
- Week 2: July 7 - 11
- Week 3: July 14 - 18
- Week 4: July 21 - 25
- Week 5: July 28 - August 1
- Week 6: August 5 - 8 **
- Week 7: August 11 - 15
- Week 8: August 18 - 22



** 4 day session due to a holiday

- LIT 1: July 1 - 11
- LIT 2: July 14 - 25
- LIT 3: July 28 - August 8
- LIT 4: August 11 - 22
- CIT 1: July 1 - 25
- CIT 2: July 28 - August 2
- Trail Blazers: July 28 - August 9

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Willowgrove is a Christian organization that seeks to nurture the spiritual, social, emotional and physical growth of children and youth through a variety of programs in a natural setting.

In pursuit of this mission, Willowgrove is committed to: *Serving a diverse community; Peace making and non violence; Caring for the land God has entrusted to us.*

Willowgrove is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Mennonite Church.