

# Fraser Lake Newsletter



## Session 1



### Air bands spice up camp life

Two days from the end of camp a little pop music could be heard in the Fraser Lake Camp dining hall. And campers weren't just listening, they were getting their groove on.

It was the second annual air bands competition, organized by the CITs. Although last year's Disney theme went over well, the CITs chose a pop theme this year.

### Leaders flex muscles in 36 hour dash for safety

Cold, smelly, battered and bruised; that's how the LITs returned to Fraser Lake on Sunday. Their arrival was four days ahead of schedule, but they said their journey through the Algonquin bush was nothing short of epic.

#### Portage gone wrong

Three days into the trip,

Music from the Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys and Aqua were all on display.

Every cabin did an excellent job, but there were a few memorable performances.

Shadrack had a spectacular solo dance in the Eagles cabin's performance of "Only Got 4 Minutes to Save the World."

The Woodchucks cabin's hilarious rendition of "Wanna Be" by the Spice Girls had the entire audience in laughter.

Sunshine Villa rocked the house with a stirring dance to "Everybody" by

the Backstreet Boys.

The Rangers cabin had the privileged of dancing to "Barbie Girl" and certainly entertained the crowd.

But the Pine Lodge cabin were the stars of the show. Their perfectly choreographed dance to "Doctor Jones" took home first place.



Sunshine Villa busts a move at Air bands

co-leader Jenn Baker got injured when a canoe hit her on the neck. With a wounded leader, the LITs ditched half of their supplies and began a day and a half voyage back to civilization and safety.

They paddled and paddled and portaged and paddled so Jenn could get medical help. After 32 kilometers of canoeing and eight kilometers of portaging, they finally reached help and good food.

"I am really proud of my LITs. They worked their butts off," said co-leader

Ted Grilo.

The best news of the trip, Grilo said, was when they heard Jenn would be okay.

Connor, an LIT, said that it was fun to grow close with everyone on the trip and it was a great group.



(LITs From left to right) Alex, Kyara, Ted, Myron, Connor, Clara, Jenn, Dara and Dylan pose for a shot before their memorable voyage.

# New TRAILS Program starts

## Movie stars spotted at Fraser Lake

There were a few exceptional campers stalking the grounds of Fraser Lake Camp session 1. With the help of Kristin Watkins, the camp developed a program to teach leadership and life skills to our exceptional campers: Krystal, Dylan and Logan. They helped out around the camp this year. TRAILS stands for Taking Responsibility and Independence in Life Skills.

It's Krystal's sixth year at Fraser. Dylan has been coming for 3 years and for Logan's this is her first year.

### Movie Stars

Krystal and Dylan both were busy this year strutting their stuff as actors in *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*.

It's a made for TV movie that will appear on the Women's Network in Canada. Krystal plays the main character and appears on the cover of the July Reader's Digest, while Dylan plays the role of Krystal's boyfriend in the movie.



(From left to right) Dylan, Krystal and Logan hammed it up Session 1 at Fraser this year.

## Counsellors in Waiting

### CITs learn basics of being staff

Fraser Lake was home to an extremely tight group Session 1. Most of the time they could be located at Harrison Lodge learning the ins and outs of the counsellor trade; at waterfront chilling and goofing around; and randomly across camp performing team work activities. They were the counsellors in training.

Over 50 per cent of the Fraser Lake staff once

completed the CIT program. It runs a total of one month. During that time the CITs spend two weeks together as a group being trained and two weeks in cabin with the kids. Camp director Eric Musselman said it's the most important program at the camp because it has the most impact in shaping what Fraser Lake is going to be in the coming years.

This particular group of 13 did not disappoint. They gave the camp a healthy dose of enthusiasm. All of them said their time was a blast. "I learned how to be a

leader; how to resolve conflict, how to approach kids," said CIT Anna Parker.

Sammy Wahl said the closeness of the group was special. "Everybody bonds so fast because we

are with each other 24/7." Cecelia Barber can't wait to become staff. "Next year I'm going to come prepared. I'm going to know the campers, the staff and how the camp works."



The CITs chilling at waterfront, This group of 13 helped air bands become a huge success.



## Camper Corner

Ebony and Mimi had never been to Fraser Lake before Session 1.

The siblings came after their dad found the camp through Google.

"I was really nervous coming here, but it was a lot of fun," said Ebony.

He said his Woodchucks cabin had lots of fun together and that he really liked his counsellors.

When Ebony wasn't playing with his cabin, he was in Fraser Lake program areas.

Skimming the Fraser Lake water in his kayak was his favourite, he said.

His sister Mimi also said she had a blast.

"Because Session 1

is a bit smaller you get to know everyone so well," she said. Air bands, Mimi said, was so much fun. She said she thought it was going to be hard to create a dance but it turned out easier than she thought.

Mimi unleashed some polished dance moves at the front of the dining hall. But her highlight of the session, she said, was when she learned how to canoe.

"At the beginning there were four of us in a canoe and we didn't know what we were doing at all," she said.

Both Mimi and Ebony said they want to come back to Fraser next year.

## Wide Game

The colour team wide games were a huge hit this year. With the introduction of team flags, the friendly competition between campers grew and made the games more fun. The championship came

down to the last day with Chinook, Tremor, Inferno and Riptide all tied. Riptide managed to fend off their three foes in a final game of four-way dodge ball to take home the Session 1 title.

### Wide Game Standings

	Wins	Losses
Riptide	4	6
Inferno	3	7
Chinook	3	7
Tremor	3	7

### Registration for 2009

**Opens November 1st**  
**Please visit our website for more details**  
[www.fraserlakecamp.com](http://www.fraserlakecamp.com)

# Q & A with the Camp Director

*Eric Musselman sat down and answered questions about camp, himself and his family.*

**Q: What are some new things you are excited about?**

A: We have made a lot of improvements to the waterfront, with a new water trampoline and a new dock. Also, the spirit for wide game is much better with the new colour team flags.

**Q: What were the highlights from Session 1?**

A: We had a lot more campers this year. The medieval theme dinner was a lot of fun. The air bands evening was very funny and interesting to see. But I was most excit-

ed that every camper who was there seemed to get excited by camp.

**Q: What makes camp so special?**

A: I think camp in general is special because it is counter cultural. It gives kids a chance to go against the grain of what they normally do. Away from video games movies and other things. By taking those things away the focus changes to community living with complete strangers and trying to make that work. Camp promotes making humans the way they were meant to be.

**Q: What's the key to a successful camp?**

A: A great staff. We

could have all the nicest toys in the world but if we have staff who are not genuine who don't have good character and are more interested in themselves than others then we wouldn't get very far.

**Q: Could you tell me a little about your family?**

A: I'm very into my fami-

ly with three young kids who are suddenly approaching the age of coming to camp and mom and dad are little nervous about that stage. It's a difficult balance to try and take care of 120 of other people's children while still having time to take care of my own.



Eric Musselman taking care of the camp family.

## Staff member recalls Kenyan chaos

Jon Moyer never believed that he would have to come home from Kenya early. The Fraser Lake staff member was in the peaceful African country with Canada World Youth, when the election crisis broke out in late december. "It was shocking," he said. "It was a very surre-

al experience. We were so close to a thing that in Canada we don't really experience."

Moyer said he was lucky because the town where he stayed mostly consisted of one tribe, so he never felt terribly in danger. But according to Moyer, his mom did not feel that sense of security from across atlantic. "She was in a state of panic," he said. "My younger brother wasn't too impressed because he didn't feel like he was getting enough attention." Eventually Canada World

Youth pulled out of Kenya. There was violence half an hour away on both sides of where Moyer was staying. He said it was disconcerting to come back to Canada. "To come back from a place where drama was so high and palpable to Canada where the biggest drama some people experience is what clothes to wear or who's text messaging them is unexplainable," he said.

Moyer is returning for his third year on staff. An avid sportsman, he said the reason he keeps com-

ing back to Fraser Lake is the people.

"Helping out kids is one of the most rewarding experiences out there," he said.

Air bands, Moyer said, was the one event that stood out from first session. His cabin of 13-year-old boys danced and lip sank to 'wanna be' by the Spice Girls.

In the fall, Moyer is going to attend the University of Guelph where he is going to take International Development. He hopes to travel more in the future.