

# Fraser Lake Newsletter



## Trail Blazers



### Camp travels to the land of Oz

“It’s like the Wizard of Oz, except funnier,” is how one camper described Fraser Lake Camp’s travelling campfire during Trail Blazers.

Laughs and giggles filled the dining hall on the last day, as children watched the Wizard of Oz satire.

The original plan was to have the scenes travel all across the camp, but mother nature refused to cooperate and doused the

would-be set with rain.

Still, the adjusted indoor version of the play, which Rachel Bender and Ryan Drudge wrote, garnered appreciation from campers and staff alike.

Rachel said her decision to use campers as props worked out.

“We had campers be trees or gates or Emerald City citizens,” she said.

Counsellor Amy Zehr played Dorothy and received many accolades for her performance.

“It was really fun,” she said. “It’s too bad it rained, but the kids seemed to really enjoy themselves,” she said.

Perhaps, Connel Robnson’s hilarious depiction of the scarecrow was the highlight of the show.

Robnson only had one line throughout the entire

play, which was, “I don’t got a brain.”

Campers continued to beg Robnson to repeat his line, even after the show was over. He of course obliged.



Dorothy (above) is chased by the Wicked Witch in Fraser Lake’s Wizard of Oz travelling campfire.

### Waterfront receives major face lift

If you managed to make your way to Fraser Lake Camp’s waterfront this year, you probably noticed a couple new items lining the shore.

First, there is the new water trampoline, which has sent both campers’ spirits and bodies flying this year.

“You go so high. It’s so much fun,” said Emily

from the Raccoons Cabin. When asked how high she was sent in the air, Emily smiled and said, “really high.”

The trampoline comes with a “blob” that launches campers high into the air before they descend into the depths of Fraser Lake.

As well, the new floating dock has made good friends with those who enjoy sun soaking in their free time.

“It’s just a nice place to relax,” said Paulina, Pine Lodge’s counsellor

Finally, a fresh shipment

of sand has made playing on the terraces so much more comfortable.

“We want to make our

waterfront as fun as possible for campers,” said camp director Eric Musselman.



The new trampoline (above) has sent campers soaring to huge heights.



# Camper Conversation

Kenrick was one of many first-time campers during Trail Blazers.

Although he said he was a bit apprehensive about camp when he first arrived, by the end of his time at Fraser Lake he didn't want to go.

"I had a fun double time," he said. "It's pretty sad leaving."

Whether he was jumping on the new water

trampoline or learning a song in music, Kenrick said he was doing new things at camp.

His favourite programs were swimming and arts and crafts.

"The counsellors were awesome," he said. "They were so much fun to be around."

The travelling campfire was a highlight for Kenrick; but as he pointed

out, "I wouldn't exactly have called it 'travelling' because we didn't really go anywhere."

Kenrick's keen sense of justice was perked during the Fraser Families wide game, when Chinook's (his colour team) counsellor was sprayed with soap for cheating.

"I was completely outraged," he said. "They only did it to Chinook."

**Registration  
for 2009**

**Opens**

**November 1**

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website for  
more details.**

**www.fraser-  
lakecamp.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 Trail Blazers?**

A: We had lot more campers, which gave us a lot of energy. It was neat to have a bunch of kids here who have never tried camp before. And of course costumes for twin dinner are always fun to see. Despite the rain travelling campfire seemed to get a lot of laughs.

**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 family 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.



## Camper Corner

Most campers come to Fraser Lake Camp to try and learn new skills; Anne-Julie and Justine are no different.

The pair, who hail from Quebec, came to camp because they wanted to learn English.

"My English improved a little bit over the week," said Anne-Julie.

Fraser Lake not only provided the opportunity for Anne-Julie and Justine to learn English, but also the chance to make friends and have fun learning program area skills.

"I really loved my cabin," said Justine, who stayed in Sunshine Villa with Anne-Julie. "Our counsellors were very funny and we all got along really well."

Anne-Julie said it was funny when the counsellors would try and speak French. "They tried but they not really good at speaking it," she said.

The girls said that reaching the top of the 20 foot climbing tower was a highlight for them.

They also said that campfire was really amazing. "*If I Had a Boat*' was my favourite song," said Anne-Julie. "But I liked the ones with French words a lot."

The two were not looking forward to the six-hour drive home to Quebec City.

"That's the whole day," said Justine. "I don't want to leave."

As they waved goodbye out the Fraser driveway, they said they would be back next year.

## Riptide Rumbles

The Fraser Lake Camp Wide Game League saw its most dominant team of the summer Session 3. It was the blue team, Riptide, who convincingly captured the Wide Game crown.

It's Riptide's second

title of the summer. A breathtaking display in bucketball, followed by total dominance in dodge ball paved their way to the title.

As the icing on the cake, the Blue team won the Olympics.

## Wide Game Standings

	Wins	Losses
Riptide	3	1
Chinook	2	2
Tremor	1	3
Inferno	1	3

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Opens November 1st

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# Leaders of Tomorrow

## CITs learn how to be a counsellor

Fraser Lake was home to an extremely tight group Session 3.

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 building 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



The CITs (above) buckled down for two weeks and learned the basics of what it takes to be a counsellor.

month. During that time the CITs spent 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.

Thomas said he was a

little bit nervous before coming to camp, but after the CIT program he feels ready to be a counsellor.

"The two weeks of training really made me feel confident going into cabin," he said.

The best part of the program, Thomas said, was getting to know the group. "We are with each other so much; you have to get to know everybody really well," he said.

It was Colleen's first time at Fraser Lake Camp. She said the first two weeks of CIT taught conflict resolution skills, as well as team building skills. "I feel like I can use these skills for the rest of my life," she said.

## Volunteer lends helping hand

Every year at Fraser Lake Camp, there are unsung volunteers that help the camp run smoothly. Gaynette Friesen is one of them.

She volunteered in the kitchen Session 3 and said she had a great time.

A mother of 2, Gaynette said she wanted her children to have the same camp experience as she did when she was a child.

Her dad was a camp director and she said she ended up sleeping in a tool shed.

"My mother was furious," she said.

Gaynette called Fraser Lake Camp Director, Eric Musselman, and asked if she could volunteer.

Although she listed all of her wonderful skills, Eric said that her help would be best served in the kitchen.

Gaynette obliged and helped to liven-up the Fraser kitchen with her dry sarcastic humour.

"It was a great week. I had a lot of fun," she said. "I now know what Carpel

Tunnel Syndrome is."

Her camp highlights, however, happened outside of the hot kitchen.

Swimming, paddling and star gazing, Gaynette said, is what she enjoyed the most. "I taught a whole bunch of constellations to kids. I showed them Jupiter, the North Star and the Ice Cream Cone," she said. "It was just really rewarding to see how excited they were to learn something."

When asked to describe her most authentic kitchen

experience, Gaynette said baking muffins until midnight because they had to be ready the next morning.

"You have to work really hard in the kitchen," she said.

It was all worth it because she got to live amongst the rocks and the trees, she said.

"Rocks and trees; that's what I like best about Canada," she said.

Gaynette said she hopes her children want to return next year.