



News from the Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp - 2007

Everyone is welcome to join the Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp, a group of volunteers who care about the future of Sparrow Lake Camp.

Greetings and a special Thank You to all Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp (SLC) who have sent notes about great camp memories – we have shared excerpts in “From the Mailbag” which follows. This newsletter, which we started in 2006, is created once a year to keep you informed of happenings and fundraisers for SLC. If you missed the 2006 issue, please refer to www.sparrowlakecamp/friends or call and I will mail you a copy.

There are **two opportunities to visit SLC** before summer camp, 2007 starts:

- 1) On May 27th, at 1:00 p.m. Chaverim will be in concert at SLC - for details about the group, visit www.chaverimband.com. Chaverim members play instruments and sing contemporary Christian music. If you would like to spend the day at SLC, brunch will be served from 9 to 11 a.m. and a roast beef dinner will be served at 5 p.m. Please note that **advance reservations are required for meals**. Brunch @\$10, roast beef dinner @\$25. A freewill offering will be taken following the Chaverim concert. Refer to the bottom of this message for contact information, to make reservations for meals or if you have any questions.
- 2) Open House at SLC, Sunday, July 1st 1 – 4 p.m. Come for a swim, go on a camp tour with a summer staff member or just sit and relax. Come for lunch and meet the SLC Board of Directors and Friends who will be BBQing hamburgers and hotdogs throughout the afternoon.

SLC WILL BE 100 YEARS OLD IN 2012 and we continue to work towards raising funds to make improvements to the camp's assets so SLC will look its best for its Centennial Party. Donations of any amount will be welcome, and a charitable donation receipt will be issued. Here are the current priorities: Purchase of replacement camp van and truck at a cost of \$17,000.; purchase of 4 generators, costing @ \$7,000, purchase of 6 additional canoes and 14 kayaks (a new program being offered this summer) for a cost of \$8,669. When funding is available, we also plan to build a storage shed for the camp vehicles and maintenance equipment, at an estimated cost of \$20,000. On our “dream list” is a four seasons building that could be used for retreats and to provide rental income in the off season. We estimate that this would cost in the range of \$400,000. Please note that “in memoriam” or other dedication donations will be noted with an appropriate plaque on the item and/or referenced in a central location.

“THE GALILEE SLC VOLUNTEER AWARD” was created in 2006 to recognize a person who, through volunteer efforts, has made a significant contribution to SLC. By way of background, John and Anne Galilee, for whom the award is named, have been and continue to be, generous supporters of SLC. John is a life member of the SLC Board of Directors and both he and his wife Anne worked tirelessly at camp for many years. The first recipient of The Galilee SLC Volunteer Award was David Henry, who did everything from posing as an explorer for a Special Day, to painting, with many days of other contributions in between. Congratulations and thank you to David Henry.

CAMP CLEAN UP Our Camp clean up days for 2007 are: May 26th and September 29th. To enable us to plan for meals, please let us know, a week in advance of each date, if you will be attending.

FROM OUR MAILBAG Please note that, for Privacy reasons, we have not included any reference to the submitter's identity. If you would like to make contact with them, please send an email or a note and I will pass it along.

- 1) *"I was a camper at SLC in '58 (cabin 6) and '59 (cabin 2). One year of those two I made a driftwood "sculpture" which my mother, now in her 80's, still has on a shelf in her living room! We travelled to the camp on a special train from Union Station to Washago, then by bus to camp. One evening a huge launch docked at the main dock and a softball team from Port Stanton got off and, as I recall, trounced the Camp team. I had a SLC crest on my jacket all through high school."*
- 2) *"I first went to SLC as a camper in 1946, was a camper for several years and a counsellor for several more. I was also the camp nurse the year I graduated from nursing school, and the assistant director another year. I married a United Church minister and thought my camping days were over until I responded to a call from Dr. Torrance asking me to direct two girls' camps (we were not integrated in those days). I spent July at camp for two summers. All my memories of SLC are positive. I know that a great part of the faith I have today came about through the programs at camp: Morning Watch, Chapel Services, and evening antiphonal singing at Vesper Rock. There is no experience like SLC and I will never forget the fun and learning that I had there."*
- 3) *"I still tell stories of my experiences at SLC. I often come to the Open House at camp and I always sing the SLC song coming up the road to camp. My husband laughs every time and regrets he didn't know about the camp when he was a boy to attend himself."*
- 4) *"I worked at SLC as a counsellor, Crafts Director and Program Director. I was not known to be a morning person and part of my job was to lead grace at breakfast. Late in the summer I finally made it up for 3 mornings for Polar Bear, and the whole camp gave me a standing ovation. Another year the staff put on a production called "Campspell" which was a very memorable experience."*
- 5) *"I was sharing my SLC experiences from about 1957 and 1960 with my 2 grand-daughters. Great times are remembered fondly. When I paddle my kayak, I still sing "Up yonder where waters do gracefully flow. That's just where the temple of God is I know, with pine trees in turning a solace do make in all of God's beauty at our Sparrow Lake." The opportunity to function in the outdoors was based upon my experiences at Sparrow Lake. My parents didn't do any camping. My "den mother skills" as the mother of two boys and half a neighbourhood really began with hikes, shore suppers and the wonder of singing under the stars lo those many years ago."*

Please take a moment to share your camp memories – you will find yourself smiling as you write and will know that you passed a smile to the reader as well.

If you would like additional information or would like to make a donation to support camp refurbishment or any other camp project that interests you, please contact:

Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp

C/o Luella Stephens

1 Janellan Terrace

West Hill, Ontario M1E 3M8

Tel: (416) 283-1267

Email: friends@sparrowlakecamp.com

Website: www.sparrowlakecamp.com/friends

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Sparrow Lake United Church Camp is a caring, inclusive Christian community providing a quality outdoor camping experience for children and youth in a pristine natural environment.