



News from the Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp - 2009

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

For the past several months Sparrow Lake Camp (SLC) has been in a slumberous state of hibernation but work has already begun to ready the area around the existing Leaders-in-Training (LIT) building, in preparation for two new wings that will be added prior to the arrival of this summer's campers. Thanks to volunteer labour, costs are expected to be in the range of \$40,000. Each intensive month long LIT training program, for youth aged 15, includes camp skills development, instruction and opportunity for certification in canoeing, sailing, first aid and aquatics. The expanded building will accommodate a maximum of 24 participants in each of two sessions.

Have you seen our [new website](http://www.sparrowlakecamp.com)? www.sparrowlakecamp.com Previous editions of this newsletter are available from the Friends tab. Our costs for distributing this newsletter are less if we can send it electronically, so if you received this in hard copy by mail, please let us know if you have an email address that we could use.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN 2012 Volunteers will be meeting soon to share ideas for the camp's 100th birthday celebrations. If you are interested in helping or have ideas to share, please let us know. Donations in any amount will be appreciated to assist with capital improvements.

What we would like to do: Build a multi-season youth leadership centre, estimated cost \$400,000 and a permanent multi-purpose pavilion, estimated cost \$20,000... but...

What we need to do: Many of the camp's buildings are beginning to show their age, in particular the Dining Hall and Recreation Hall which will require an estimated \$250,000. to upgrade.

How donations can be made (if you would like more details about any of these, please contact us):

- 1) Donations can be sent at any time (contact information is provided later in this letter) and, if you wish, you can indicate the specific project that you would like to support
- 2) Send \$100. to the "Dollar a Year" Fund, or whatever amount you are able. If every former Camper, Board Member and Staff Member contributed we would be in a position to fund all our projects.
- 3) Sign up for PAR (payments will automatically be debited to your bank account and remitted to the camp)
- 4) Sponsor or be a participant in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, September 27th, 2009. Refer to www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com Search for the Sparrow Lake Camp team.
- 5) Support the Pass It On! Campaign, a joint fundraising campaign of Toronto United Church Camping to raise funds to support Camp Big Canoe, Camp Simpresca, Lake Scugog Camp and Sparrow Lake Camp
- 6) Many employers have campaigns to raise money for charities. Within that campaign you can direct your contributions to Sparrow Lake Camp, as we are a registered charity.
- 7) If you are celebrating a special occasion or are asking for in memoriam donations for a loved one, designate Sparrow Lake Camp as the beneficiary. We can provide donation cards and mailers to assist.

AWARDS

In preparation for our Centennial, we would like to profile awards that have been affiliated with Sparrow Lake Camp for many years. There are two awards as follows available to camp staff:

The Hellen Schwarz Memorial Award

The Hellen Schwarz Memorial Award is the highest recognition a staff member can earn. Originally created in 1987 as the Counsellor Award, it was renamed later that summer to celebrate the life and contribution to the camp of Hellen Schwarz, who served the camp from 1983 -1986 as an exceptional counsellor and C.I.T. Director. The recipient must be a Counsellor, which is the staff position that works most closely with the campers, demonstrating a high level of enthusiasm, commitment to the camp's ideals, compassion for others and, above all else, dedication to the campers..

The Marr and Janice Ross Spirit Award

Created in 1990, the Spirit Award recognizes two staff members who make an exceptional contribution to the life of the camp. During the summer of 1999, The Spirit Award was renamed The Marr Ross Spirit Award to celebrate the life, remarkable spirit, and exceptional contribution to the camp of Marr Ross who served the camp from 1988 -1999 as Site Supervisor and member of the Camp Management Committee. In 2001, the Marr Ross Spirit Award was renamed The Marr and Janice Ross Spirit Award.

In Recognition of dedication to United Church Camping staff members who complete five summers of employment have their names placed on a "Recognition" plaque.

The Galilee SLC Volunteer Award

John and Anne Galilee, for whom this award was named, when created in 2006, have been and continue to be, generous supporters of SLC. Nominations can be submitted to recognize a person who has, through volunteer efforts, made a significant contribution to Sparrow Lake Camp. Staff members and full Board Members are not eligible to receive this award. Recipients to date: 2006 – David Henry; 2007 – Gail Henry; 2008 – Eric McFarland and Tom Stephens.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of every "Sparrow Lake Camp Kid" since 1912. Many credit their camp experience with helping them become positive and productive members of the various communities of which they are a part and helped form their faith foundation.

Bill Crew died in September following a four year battle with cancer. "Mr. Bill" and Marg Crew will be remembered by many SLC alumni as they were the on-site supervisors 1977-1987 and also served on the SLC Management Committee for 16 years. The positive impact of Bill's commitment to SLC continues through his children: Rob, who is our current Executive Director; Blair a former Camp Director and Board of Directors Chair and Scott and Tim who worked at camp during their school vacations. Two of Bill's grandchildren were on staff last summer and there are more to come!

Pre-Camp Clean Up: Saturday, May 23rd, Post-Camp Clean Down: Saturday, October 17th Come and spend the day at camp helping with yard work, unpacking/packing equipment, painting, cabin cleaning and have a lot of fun in the process. For the pre-camp only, you could stay overnight and make it a clean up weekend. Meals are provided on work days so please let us know a week in advance of each date if you will be attending. Please note that persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent and summer camp policies apply.

Open House at Camp: Sunday, June 28, 1 – 4 p.m.

Arrange to meet your friends at camp, have a tour to see what's new or historic, enjoy a BBQ lunch with the Board of Directors and Friends at the grills, have a swim, find a quiet spot to read, or relax under a tree. This is a great opportunity for campers to show their parents and friends around.

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

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Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc. is a registered charity under #86000 9489 RR0001

MISSION STATEMENT:

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