



HIDDEN ACRES REVIEW

The Times They Are a-changing

Summer Cabins

As Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp looks back on 55 years of camping ministry, we are filled with gratitude for God's great faithfulness! Over all those years, God has called many people to this set-apart place to come and serve or be served. Thousands of staff and volunteers and tens of thousands of campers and guests have found and offered blessing and enrichment here.

The camp's first platform canvas tents gave way to wooden summer cabins in the mid-'70s. In 1989 these were moved across the lane from the north side to a spot behind the young tree nursery; the smallest one eventually became our current nature centre and the remaining three duplex cabins nestled into their "Rainbow Valley" home. While our cabins have served campers well for more than forty years, the time has come to replace the three in that location, as they are no longer able to keep pace with increasing regulations. They are still sturdy though, and could serve a useful purpose in the right setting. So we are offering them free for the taking to anyone who can re-purpose them.

It is our goal to fundraise and build three new, improved, and slightly larger duplex cabins in Rainbow Valley, starting in the fall of this year with the goal of being ready for our 2018 summer campers! We recognize that this is a big undertaking that will require volunteers and significant financial resources. Your help is needed and appreciated! Contact Campbell at the camp for more information. *CN*



The Old Cabins in "Rainbow Valley"

New Staff Position

*"Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre is seeking an inspirational and committed person or couple for the newly created position of **Facilities and Environmental Stewardship Director**. Guided by the camp's mission statement, the FES Director will live on site and bring practical maintenance and organizational skills and a broad vision for creation care to camp life and operations beginning in Fall 2017. The successful applicant (s) will demonstrate a willingness to work hard, a desire to be active in Christian community, a genuine interest in working with young people, a love for nature and the outdoors, and a proven capacity to improvise, adapt and overcome."*

I am happy to report that the position advertised above has now been filled! We are excited that Brent and Mary Anne Musser have accepted this position and look forward to moving into the brown staff house at Hidden Acres sometime this Fall. They currently live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with their four children. Exact timing will depend on many factors including Brent's immigration status. *CN*

Housing Needed

The good news about filling this vital new position at camp means that two families will be relocating. The Mussers will as stated above move into the staff house that has been occupied for the past 31 years by the Nisbet family, and Campbell and Chris will find a place to live off-site. Campbell will remain in his role as Executive Director, but there will be some changes in job description as he hands over the facilities management aspects of his work. At this point the Nisbets are

hoping that they will be able to find suitable rental housing in the area. The Nisbet children who grew up at Hidden Acres are understandably sad at the thought of no longer being able to come back "home" to Hidden Acres. However the family is committed to this positive direction for the ongoing health and sustainability of this sacred space where great things continue to be realized. We value your prayer support as we once again enter a season of change. *CN*



Great Retreats So Far

We started our retreat year off with our Family Day Open House in February. Despite not having very much snow, 125 people enjoyed everything from crafts to pretzel making to hunting for treasure. The lack of snow didn't stop anyone from having a great day!

On March 13 & 14, almost 100 Grandparents and their grandchildren enjoyed exploring, celebrating and sharing the gifts that God has given them at our Grandparent and Grandchild Retreat. Bryan Moyer Suderman came and led our retreat this year and through singing, story telling and activities encouraged everyone to think about the gifts they have and how they can use them to encourage and support those around them. It was a great couple of days!



This year's Spring Seniors Retreat was led by Jack and Irene Suderman. We had 87 participants join us to engage in the real life of the church within and beyond Canada, using Cuba and Mennonite Church Canada as examples. The goal of the day was to be inspired by God's amazing plan for the reconciliation of the world through the church; and to identify lessons that can be learned for our churches in Canada. According to the feedback received, these goals were met! We also enjoyed singing and worship times throughout the day led by Irene Suderman who was accompanied on the piano by Dorothy Shantz. *CP*

Remembering Rick Kramer - Richard Kramer of Milverton, a long-time supporter of Hidden Acres, passed away on Friday May 5th as the result of a motorcycle accident. Rick's connection with Hidden Acres goes back more than 45 years to when he attended his first overnight camp here as a young boy. We never expected that Rick would not be around to share in these memories at our 2017 Chicken BBQ. Getting out on his motorcycle when winter gave way to spring was one of the things Rick eagerly anticipated each year.

Apparently Rick was not so keen on his first experience as an overnight camper at Hidden Acres Children's Camp. He soon got over that, however, and later he became a big supporter of the camp for many years. He camped here with St. Agatha Mennonite Church, brought his children Ryan and Aundrea to children's camp, served on the camp board and volunteered on committees, helped with the Road Hockey Tournament and supported the camp financially in a number of ways. Of course, Rick found ways to involve his wife Barb and son Ryan to help out as well. When it came to questions about accounting and business management, Rick was always willing to help out.

We are grateful to the Kramer family for designating Hidden Acres as the suggested charitable organization to whom memorial donations could be made in Rick's name, and grateful as well for the generosity of family members and friends who chose to honour Rick's memory and his own generous spirit in this way. *CN*

Better Trash Talk at HAC



Anna Kuepfer

When I was four, I had the best backyard ever. It had a tree house and a sand box, and in the summer we set up a sprinkler. Sadly, it wasn't all fairytale. The depths of the back corner were overshadowed by a big black compost bin that towered high over my four year old frame. I wouldn't touch it with a 25 foot pole. It smelled bad for starters. I had nightmares about the swarm of flies that would erupt, black like a volcano, every time the lid was lifted. It was terrifying.

But when I first talked to Campbell and Chris about the new Environmental Services Coordinator position at Hidden Acres, fly-filled stinky black bins were far from my mind. I was going to eliminate ALL food waste! I was responsible for educating the generations to come! What could be more exciting? →



SUMMER CAMP



Thank you to the Waterloo Region Record Lyle S. Hallman Foundation Kids to Camp Fund held at The KWCF for providing funding to support our camper subsidy program!

We are pleased & thankful to share that the **Jim and Lorna Blair Charitable Foundation** is supporting our Summer Cabin project.



STRATFORD PERTH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Our camper subsidy program is supported by a grant from the Larkworthy Family Fund, held within the Stratford Perth Community Foundation. We thank them for their continued support.



We are grateful for the support we have received from **Toyota Canada** to help cover the cost of the chicken for our Annual Chicken BBQ.

(Continued from page 2)



Zerka Mya

Hi! My name is Zerka Mya, or some campers may know me as, Gub. Camp holds such a special place in my heart that is hard to describe but as soon as you step foot on Hidden Acres property, it is understood. The instant calm and loving vibe is something that I just cannot seem to get enough of. As this summer will be my third on staff, I often get asked why I keep doing it. I'm not sure if there's a specific reason, like being ponded everyday for an entire camp week (oddly a wonderfully refreshing experience). Or it's more of an overall thing that I want to keep experiencing, the typical camp day of CACAs, funny outfits from the Cargo Room or having countless laughs together. I have worked at a few different places and Hidden Acres is a rare find in the sense that you get to live, breath, eat, serve, and grow together with the other staff. You create a bond so special, it leaves you with unforgettable memories. For me, every single staff and camper has something to teach me. I have grown in so many ways since my first summer at HAC, I have become more confident, more independent, and more grateful. Serving others, together as a team, is such a humbling experience. One of my favourite verses that seem fitting to HAC is Galatians 5:13, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love". At Hidden Acres, we are free. Free to be silly. Free to be who we are. Free to serve one another humbly in love. And that? That is priceless.

Help make a difference at camp by donating online. Visit us at www.hiddenacres.ca and look for the logo below



HAC OPPORTUNITIES

Hidden Acres Board of Directors
Hidden Acres Property Committee
Hidden Acres Chicken BBQ Committee
Volunteer Gardeners

HAC WISH-LIST

Utility trailer (2000 lb capacity)

“ぼかし” (meaning odor free composters and how to compost food scraps, meat, dairy, everything) claimed it didn't smell, and all you had to do was dump everything in and wait. I was skeptical, to say the least. It was pronounced “bokashi” in English, which roughly translates to “fade” or “break down”. It's not compost, but instead it uses microorganisms to break down the things a regular composter can't - meat, dairy, eggs, cooked food - mainly the things that smell the worst. As much as it seems to have appeared out of nowhere, it can be traced back hundreds of years to Japan, where farmers would spread microorganism rich soil over rotting waste to decrease the smell. Fast forward to today, and the microorganisms can be purchased in the form of “Bokashi Bran” to be added to the bucket along with food waste until it is full, then sealed and left alone to do its work.

Yesterday I lined up our whole composting system - two solid blue barrels, prepped and ready for Bokashi, two tumbling composters. One bag of Bokashi bran, zero flies so far. Also zero compost. Bring on the plate scrapings, campers! We need some compost for our gardens!



We want to express our deepest gratitude for the many people who have volunteered at camp since the fall.

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate planted trees, raked the grounds and cleaned summer cabins as part of their Evirathon/Servathon fundraiser. We are grateful for the ongoing support from Rockway and their students.

Lawn Mowers are always needed to help keep the many acres of lawn neat and tidy. Thanks to Carl Erb and Gerry Pot for their help this year so far.

Sandy Schout is gathering the history of rental groups from many old calendars/documents and creating a computer copy of this information for our records.

Spring Work Day - On Friday May 13th, Hidden Acres had a work day organized by the Property Committee. In addition to Property Committee members we had the support of the following volunteers: Stephanie Winfield, Tyrone Winfield, Cassie Zehr, Isaac Zehr, Carter Lemke, Kiera Gallian and Kya Gallian. Projects included planting trees, repairing signage, fixing picnic tables, and more. We are very grateful for all the work the Property Committee manages through-out the year.

Retreat Volunteers - Thank you to those folks who volunteer to help with our retreats - **Grandparent/Grandchild Retreat**: Duane Cressman, Kira Larochele, Maryann Hoyos, Jenna Rose, Duane Cressman, Aaron Lantz, Alicia Martin, and Maryann Hoyos. **Family Day**: Ashley Jeffries, Karen Freeland, Sarah Mya, Kim Rempel, Shane & Heather Gillian and their children Kiera & Kya, Cassie Zehr, Isaac Zehr, Cecilia Martin, Amanda da Costa, Aaron lantz, Julia Lantz, Emily Rempel, Kira Larochele, Devon Grainger, Camille Martin, James & Cathi Watson and their children Isaac, Micah, Josh and Ben. **Spring Seniors Retreat**: Tracy Mclean and her children Raya, Kate and John, Chuck Bender, Brenda Wagler, Carol Brownridge, Vanda Wagner and Betty Ann Wagler.

Mark Your Calendars

2017

June 30 - July 2
Family Camping Weekend

July 3 to August 30
Summer Camp

September 8 - 10
Building Community Retreat

October 2 - 3
Fall Seniors Retreat

November 21
Annual Meeting

2018

February 19
Family Day Open House

March 3
Bowlathon

March 12 or 13
Grandparent & Grandchild Days

TBD
Spring Seniors Retreat

Membership Application

I would like to support the ministry of Hidden Acres by becoming a member of the Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp Association. I agree with the Hidden Acres mission statement which is ***“to provide a welcoming, peaceful gathering place where diverse groups of people experience life-giving connections with God, one another, and nature.”***

Enclosed is my \$25 membership donation.

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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