

Where do you stand on flying?

Most have a love it or hate it mentality about it; either it's a convenient and fast way to get from point A to B or it's a white knuckled, stomach churning, unpleasant way to get from point A to B. I don't mind flying, in fact I enjoy the sometimes spectacular views and natural phenomena that you can spot at 40,000 feet in the sky. Recently I was able to spot sun dogs (rainbows caused by ice crystals) on top of the clouds and have also witnessed the most brilliant sun rises and sun sets accompanied by the deepest hues of orange and red. On clear days, I map out the geographical features, take note of the major human structures of roads and towns and then try to guess roughly where we are in the country and see if my guesses are right on google earth. At night, I often wonder about those solitary twinkles of light in a sea of blackness and wonder who the light shines for and why they chose to be in the middle of what appears to be nowhere. What flying gives you is perspective, an opportunity to see the world from a different point of view and challenges your perception of what you know. Case in point, Mount Royal from the air appears as flat as a pancake and not the elevated vantage point to see the vast metropolis that is Montreal spread out from its slopes.



What is your perspective of Gracefield? Is a residential camp for kids? A place for your family to pitch a tent? An opportunity for retreat with your group? Gracefield is in fact all of these, and provides many different opportunities and experiences to people. In fact, the camp has recently undergone a strategic review, an opportunity for experts to take a look at our facilities, our program, our property, our committees and our Board in order to give us a fresh perspective on what are we doing and how we can better serve our mission.

And what a year to do it in too...not only is Canada celebrating its 150th, but Gracefield is marking its 55th anniversary! We are kicking off the season with a Gracefield in the City event on April 1st and have lots of exciting events planned including a photo contest and a very special event on August 19th that can't be missed. We are also asking you to sign up for our volunteer database, a list of all skills and talents available within the Gracefield community, to be called upon when needed for all types of situations.

This year, let us take the time to examine and challenge our own personal perspective of Gracefield and perhaps find new ways to engage and participate in this wondrous place.

May we add your name to our Volunteer Database?

Do you like to clear trails, or set out pails?

Are you a knitter, or a pipe fitter?

Are you a chopper, or a shopper?

Are you a cooker, or Facebooker?

Are you a sweeper, or are you a housekeeper?

Do you know numbers, or are you a plumber?

Do you want to raise funds, or bake some buns?

Do you love Gracefield and have a skill or talent that could be put to use at one time or another?

Please contact Janet Stark by email at jstark9@cogeco.ca to add your name and details to a list of volunteers, or [download](#) the form from the GCCRC website and email it to Janet.



Photo Contest— Show us your Gracefield!

As part of Gracefield's 55th anniversary, we are having a photo contest, with the winning photos to be published in a 16-month calendar available for purchase August 2017.

We are seeking photos of all sorts—natural surroundings, activities, action shots—the sky's the limit! Photos will be shared in an [album on Facebook](#) and visitors will to "Like" to vote for the calendar finalists. A jury will select the final winners among the entries with the most votes.

We ask that photos be submitted via email to photos@gracefieldcamp.ca before April 10th.

Guidelines:

- 300dpi at 9x12" • No more than 2mb • JPG/JPEG

Winning photos will be published in print and online marketing materials, so we ask that any people appearing in photos have provided consent for their image to be used. Limit of five (5) submissions per person.

Once received and reviewed for eligibility and quality, our staff will add your photos to the Facebook album. Any photos added to the album without authorization will be deleted and disqualified.

We are excited to see your pics!



Life-Saving AED

After receiving generous donations from the Gracefield community, the camp now has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which is located next to the office in White Pine. The AED is a portable device that is instrumental in dealing with a sudden cardiac event by checking the heart rhythm and sending an electric shock to try to restore a normal rhythm.

While we hope that we never have to use it, it is a vital and important first aid tool that we are thankful to have at camp.

Careers at Camp

Are you a visionary leader and results-oriented manager? Why not apply for the job of Executive Director of the camp! Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director manages a small full-time staff year-round, and a larger complement of staff and volunteers during the summer camping season. S/he will bring to the position a love of the outdoors, a commitment to the ministry of Christian camping, and demonstrated skills in business and/or ministry development, and in outreach to communities.

For more information and a detailed position description please contact the chair of the search committee, Rev. Karen Dimock, by email to kd@standrewsottawa.ca Applications will be received until April 30th, 2017.

Looking for the BEST summer job ever?

Why not make a difference in a camper's life by joining the staff of Gracefield. There are all sorts of positions available, from counsellors to cooks to lifeguards. [Positions and job descriptions can be found on our website.](#) Applications for positions will be accepted until March 31, 2017. Please send a cover letter and a resume to Barbra at info@gracefieldcamp.ca.

Happening at Gracefield...

WORK WEEKENDS

Volunteers are what help make Gracefield a great place to relax, play and experience God's gifts. Volunteers, young and old are especially needed for the spring work weekends to help get the cabins, the buildings, the canoes, the program, and Tent & Trailer (T&T) areas ready to welcome all who want to experience the Gracefield community. These weekends will specifically take place April 28-30 and May 5-7. Meals and accommodation are available. If you are free during the week and want to donate some time, please free to call the camp office and make arrangements. Also make sure to add your name to our volunteer database, indicating your unique skills!

AUGUST WEEKEND

Mark the weekend of August 18th on your calendars! Gracefield is celebrating and is inviting you to join in!

August 19th we are planning to have a joint event at camp in conjunction with the Billings Museum of Ottawa to commemorate the camp's history and the linkages with the Billings Family.

Explore the camp, take part in activities and enjoy the festivities on this special day, which is in part to celebrate our 55th year in operation. Following on Sunday, August 20th, there will be a special ecumenical service led by our former Executive Director, Janet Ham, with many community leaders, churches and townfolk from local villages participating. Come and join this special worship service.

Come for a day or stay for the weekend! There will be lots of things to do and see! Accommodation is on a first come first served basis so reserve your campsite or room today!

SUMMER CAMPS

Why not BRANCH OUT this summer and try a camp or discover a new one? This summer's theme is Branching Out and we have lots of fun and interesting camps ready for kids, parents, grandparents and families. It should be a great summer full of nature, water sports, campfires, songs, games, and Christian reflection through discussion, skits and discovery. **And returning this summer are busses to transport your child to and from camp!** Our 2017 Camp Dates + rates are below, and we invite you to [check out the website](#) for a full listing and description of camps this summer. *The early bird deadline for registration is March 31st.*

2017 CAMP DATES + RATES

DATES	CAMP SESSION	AGE	RATE	EARLY BIRD
March 13-17	March Break Camp (Early Bird deadline February 28th)	9-16	\$307	\$276.70
June 23-25	Discovery Camp (1 adult + 1 child)	All	\$175	\$175
	—additional child or adult		\$57	\$57
July 8-Aug 4	Leader In Training	15-18	\$970	\$873
July 5-7	Family Camp (meals + accommodations extra)	All	\$75	\$75
July 9-14	Explorer (Day camp available)*	7-9	\$410	\$369
July 9-14	Pioneer I (Day camp available)*	10-12	\$410	\$369
July 16-21	MADD: Music, Art, Drama + Dance (Day camp available)*	11-14	\$430	\$387
July 16-21	Adventure*	12-16	\$420	\$378
July 23-28	Frontier*	12-14	\$420	\$378
July 23-28	Pioneer II (Day camp available)*	10-12	\$410	\$369
July 30-Aug 4	The Way*	14-16	\$410	\$369
July 30-Aug 4	Family Camp (meals + accommodations extra)	All	\$100	\$100
July 30-Aug 4	GRAND Camp (meals + accommodations extra)	All	\$100	\$100
Aug 6-11	Night Owl*	14-16	\$450	\$405
Aug 7-11	Day Camp	7 and up	\$180	\$162

Taxes extra. Early Bird deadline March 31, 2017. Family Discounts: 2nd Child -10%, 3rd Child -20%, 4th Child -30%
* Overnight youth camps include bus transportation from/to Ottawa.



OUR 2017 THEME



gracefieldcamp.ca



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819-463-2465 | info@gracefieldcamp.ca

Come to Gracefield... in Ottawa!

GRACEFIELD IN THE CITY

What a great way to launch the upcoming camping season and our 55th anniversary by having a spring Gracefield in the City! The event will be held on Saturday April 1st, at the Britannia Yacht Club, from 6-9pm. What can you expect at this event? Dinner, dancing, silent auction, and there will be lots of time for you to share your Gracefield memories with other supporters of the camp. Tickets are \$60 and can be [purchased online here](#).

This is a terrific occasion to celebrate the camp and the many wonderful volunteers and staff (old and new) who make Gracefield a blessing to so many.



PARENT AND CHILD EXPO

Come check out the camp's booth at the Parent and Child Expo, March 25-26 at the Nepean Sportsplex. This event features a variety of Ottawa-area exhibitors and activities that focus on fun, learning, and being healthy & active. There will be gymnastics demonstrations and Try-It Zone by Starr Gymnastics, Probots Ottawa robotics zone, face painting, balloons, arts and crafts activities, an Usborne Books reading corner, demos and much more. It's an exciting family event where you and your children can play, learn, and explore! Come and say hello at the Gracefield booth!



Keep in Touch!

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please contact us!

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre

37 Chemin des Loisirs; CP 420
Gracefield, Quebec J0X 1W0

Email

info@gracefieldcamp.ca

Website

www.gracefieldcamp.ca

Facebook

[/GracefieldCampConf](https://www.facebook.com/GracefieldCampConf)

Twitter

[@GracefieldCCRC](https://twitter.com/GracefieldCCRC)

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Toll Free

888-493-CAMP (2267)

Local Call

819-463-2465

BeaverTales is generously edited by Jen Buie-Richardson, and designed by Joanne T. Lauzon.

Please Donate

The ministries at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre depend on a variety of fundraising efforts and generous donors. You may choose to contribute to Gracefield for a specific project, or on a more general basis. You may also consider donating to the Campership Fund which helps children and young adults enjoy our camp experience, who would not otherwise be able to do so.

You can donate by mailing a cheque, calling the office with your credit card, or online through our [website](#). Monthly donations are possible through the PAR program—please call the office for more information.

A tax receipt will be issued for all monetary donations.