

This is His Gracefield

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” —Ecclesiastes 3:11

While the Spring and Summer of 2020 were challenging for our Gracefield community, we have seen the Lord’s fingerprints on each encounter, each provision, each new beginning and even each departure.

He is truly making everything beautiful in its time, and we look forward to seeing God’s work in the life and mission of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre in the coming days, months and years!

We invite you to enjoy our Gracefield update, and hope to see you at the lake or perhaps when we visit your church this winter season.

Welcome Mark Hamilton!

The end of May saw us welcoming our new Managing Director Mark Hamilton. Mark was born and raised in Shawville Quebec. His earliest memories of Sunday school and church are of being a young child at Bristol Memorial Presbyterian church. He comes to Gracefield after thirteen years in the GTA—ten years of which was spent as Warehouse Manager for Canadian Stone Industries. Previous to this he had been employed in golf course maintenance and very involved in pastoral ministry.

Mark has experience as a volunteer coach and worked with students at multiple high schools and at sports camps, and while living in the Vancouver area he served as the chaplain for the Vancouver Canadians baseball team. He has also served in congregational ministry in the roles of youth and young adult ministries, musical worship, and as a small group leader at churches in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario.

Prior to joining us as the new Managing Director at Gracefield, Mark had been serving in many areas including as an elder and on the communications team for the church he was attending in Brampton, Ontario. Mark completed his BA in Strategic Ministry at Millar College of the Bible in Pambrun Saskatchewan. He has a long background in camp ministry and has served at numerous camps as a cabin counselor, director, and as a camp speaker/bible teacher.

The GCCRC Board and Search Committee are both thankful and pleased to have welcomed Mark to this position, and have been blessed while working with him towards our vision and mission at Gracefield this Spring and Summer. His patience, grace, wit, warmth and attention to detail have been a constant as he navigated this challenging season.



Our Gracefield Board 2020



Mark Hamilton (Managing Director), Chris Bolger, Topher Whitehead, Joan Coulter, Paula Whaley, Johneen Everson, Ruth Draffin, Dan Plant, Debora Scholey and Jim Paulin (Missing Wikke Jarosz and Brian Laughton)

Please join me in thanking outgoing GCCRC Board members, Tim Patterson, Shaun Seaman, Claire Mahaffy, Debra Luckow, Glenn Ogden and Ellie Bennett. They made such an amazing contribution through their leadership and passion for Gracefield. We have been so blessed to serve alongside them and wish to thank and honour them for the many ways they have impacted the work and life of Gracefield Camp.

Join me as well as I welcome new and continuing board members: Chris Bolger, Topher Whitehead, Joan Coulter, Paula Whaley, Johneen Everson, Ruth Draffin, Dan Plant, Debora Scholey, Jim Paulin, Wikke Jarosz and Brian Laughton.

—Paula Whaley



THANK YOU, OWEN AND DIANA!

May 31st, 2020 officially marked Owen Mahaffy's last day as our Managing Director.

We were blessed in early 2019 to have Owen and Diana Mahaffy step in as Interim Managing Directors.

Our flourishing 2019 summer would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication to GCCRC's mission.

Owen continued past the 2019 summer season as we searched for a permanent Managing Director and has been invaluable in keeping our camp running during the past Spring and Summer.

While we will miss Owen and Diana greatly, we are so thankful for their work in strengthening our Christian community. Please join us in wishing Owen and Diana well and thanking them for their dedicated service to our ministry at GCCRC.

We Give Thanks for Volunteers

Volunteers contribute in so many ways—maintenance, fundraising, projects and more!

Adoption Notice

One last adorable camper cabin (photo of Cabin One, circa 1985) at Gracefield is looking for sponsor congregations to provide for its ongoing needs.

Have you looked after a cabin in the past and want to be reunited? Or is your congregation looking to be matched with a cabin that needs some TLC?



You provide volunteer labour and funds for repairs. Gracefield supplies guidelines, material standards, help with planning and hosting volunteer visits.

This is a great opportunity to support Gracefield while building fellowship and mission activity within your congregation, and experiencing the wonder and beauty of nature at the camp.

Contact director@gracefieldcamp.ca to become involved!

Fall Favorite Campfire Recipes

It was a lovely August evening, and I had invited a few folks over to share my campfire. One of them brought a tinfoil bundle and tossed it into the embers, poking it every now and again while we visited. After an hour or so, she retrieved a lovely steaming, sizzling package of goodness, and sat and enjoyed her late night snack.

There's nothing like
Campfire Potatoes!



PAULA'S CAMPFIRE POTATOES + ONIONS

- 2-3 lbs white or red potatoes
- 1 medium to large onion
- 6-8 slices bacon
- 1-2 tbsp olive oil

Cut onion and potatoes into chunks.

Lay out foil into a "pan".

Lay 3-4 slices of bacon on the bottom, then add onions and potatoes.

Add oil and top with remaining bacon.

Wrap foil tightly.

Grill 20-25 minutes and then flip foil packet over and cook an additional 2-3 minutes.

Recognizing Our Gracefield Staff of 2020



MARK MUNROE
Maintenance Head

Gracefield was blessed to have fantastic staff and volunteers this summer. Our maintenance head is Mark Munroe—long time T & Ter, past staffer, enthusiastic volunteer and all round champion of all things Gracefield—Mark excels in his role as caretaker for the Gracefield property, and was a wonderful mentor and staff lead this summer. Jackson, his sidekick, has become the camp’s mascot and is always ready with an energetic welcome!



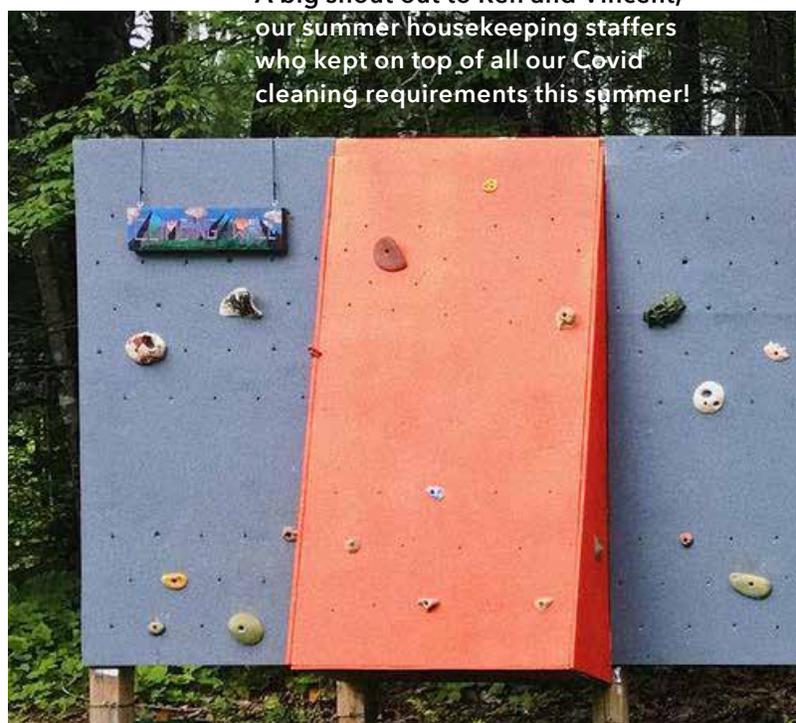
MATT SAYERS
Maintenance Assistant

Matt is another long time staffer at Gracefield, whose hard work, attention to detail, and easygoing attitude has endeared him to staff and visitors alike. Matt filled many rolls this season, not the least of which was fueled by his creativity which led to some fantastic promotional products, and some beautiful benches at some of our favorite vistas. Matt volunteered his time this summer and we are so thankful!



JORDY HEAD
Housekeeping Staff

Jordy is a terrific long time GCCRC staffer, who many of you know as Merlin. Typically a camp counselor, Jordy traded in his whistle for a mop this season and graciously filled a huge need by heading up our housekeeping squad. With the many mitigation requirements due to Covid, Gracefield was kept spic and span thanks to the tireless and enthusiastic efforts of Jordy and his team. Thanks so much for volunteering your services this summer Jordy!



A big shout out to Ren and Vincent,
our summer housekeeping staffers
who kept on top of all our Covid
cleaning requirements this summer!

Recognizing Our Gracefield Staff of 2020



MARLEY CAMERON
Office Administrator

Marley came with her family to camp at Gracefield before working here this year. She has not only a big heart for people, but also an amazing set of administrative and leadership skills. So when her friend Matt Sayers heard we needed an office administrator for the summer, he asked Marley if she would apply for the position! Marley took to the role like a loon on Lac Castor Blanc, and was a tremendous asset to our front end team. We really couldn't have managed well without her skills and passion.



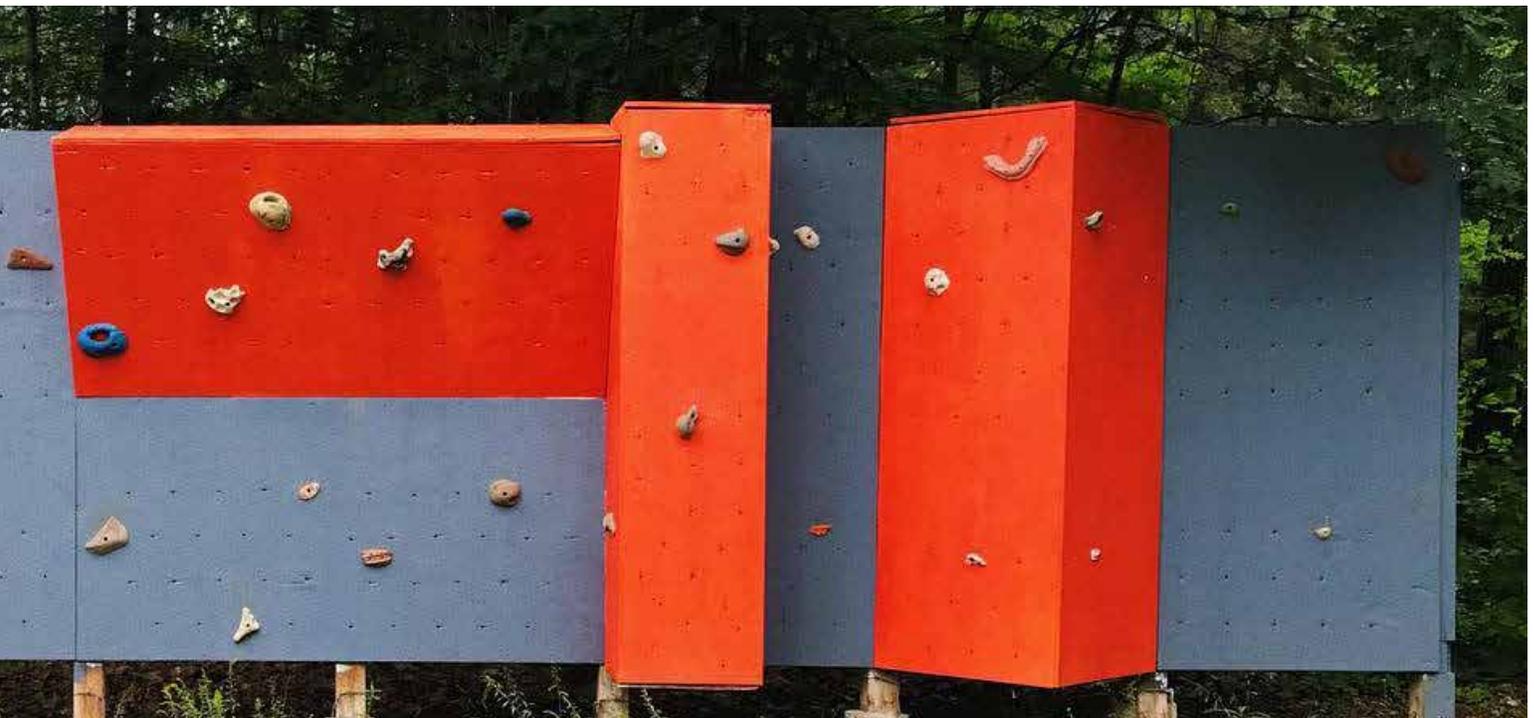
JOHN HARDER
Guest Services

John was an amazing asset to our guest services and front of house team this summer! He kept housekeeping informed of incoming guests, took orders for meals, helped manage bookings, and really just filled in where he was needed. He's a terrific team player, and always does what he does with a great smile on his face!



JOSH GUILMETTE
Gracefield Chef

Our wonderful chef Josh is continuing to work in the kitchen along with providing the insights on operations that he has gleaned from the past few winters and the many years cooking in remote locations. As we had to pivot to take-out meals this summer, Josh was spot on with developing a menu, and cheffing up some fantastic meals for guests and staff alike. And who can resist those tasty cinnamon rolls! Josh keeps everyone coming back for seconds ("There's more!") at Gracefield.



Recognizing Our Gracefield Staff of 2020



AMELIE LEBLANC-BRITT
Assistant Chef

What a blessing to have Amelie's help in the kitchen this season. She really was an asset to the team, and we are grateful for her ability to share the load in the kitchen. Thanks Amelie!



MATT MacPHEE
Waterfront Director

Peacock returned to camp as Waterfront Director, but his contributions to the staff this summer can't be summed up under one title. He spent time handling the waterfront duties, for sure, but in addition to this he was clearing trails, answering any biological questions that were thrown his way, and spent time in the kitchen. Every toolkit needs to have a good multi-tool and Matt stepped into any role that needed to be filled!



ANNA HEATH
Intern Program Director

Anna filled the role of program coordinator this season. Our program goal this year was to run an LIT program, but due to Covid restrictions, we had to think creatively about how to accomplish that.



CHRIS BOLGER
Program Advisor and Transition Mentor

Chris was brought on staff to advise and mentor Mark Hamilton with regards to program development and management. Chris is a longtime Gracefield staffer with so much experience on the program edge, but he's also a great strategist, communicator and all round leader—he was a natural fit for the role we had in mind as our new Managing Director transitioned into his position.



CALLUM RICHARDSON
Wilderness Director and Intern Program Leader

Callum assumed many roles this summer, and was always up for a day organizing or planning something—like the end of summer staff canoe trip, helping to set up and run the Intern program, as well as taking on many of the camp's tech needs!



INTERNS

The LIT program was transitioned into an Internship program which allowed for the development of some up and coming high quality future staff members. In addition to the volunteer work that this group did around the camp they were also able to complete the required training to gain their ACQ CIT designation, and their first aid certification also. Thanks for all your amazing work in mentoring our interns this summer, Anna!

Ways To Give

There are many ways that you can make a difference in the lives of both adults and children attending camps and group programs that run year round at Gracefield. Every gift—*large or small*—will help us to facilitate our many programs, as well as steward our amazing camp and conference centre!

MAKE A DONATION

Your gift will help us to build skills and transform lives!

- ✓ **Donate** via [PayPal Givings Fund Canada](#)
100% of your donation will go to the Camp
PayPal Givings Fund Canada will issue a tax receipt
- ✓ **Send an Interac e-transfer** to
info@gracefieldcamp.ca
- ✓ **Mail a cheque** to Gracefield Camp at
37 chemin des Loisirs, Gracefield, QC, J0X 1W0.
- ✓ **Call the office** at 1-819-463-2465 or 1-888-493-2267
to donate using your credit card

GRACEFIELD GUARDIANS

We encourage you to consider joining our Gracefield Guardians program, making regular monthly donations to the Camp. If you would like to do so, please email or call the Camp to register for monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR) from your bank account to Gracefield.

LEGACY GIVING

A gift to Gracefield CCRC through your will allows you to make a lasting impact on young lives, while reducing taxes to your estate.

A gift of a new or existing life insurance policy allows you to make a larger gift that is ultimately greater than the premiums paid. With Gracefield named as the beneficiary, your annual premiums qualify as charitable tax receipts.

For more information on Legacy gifts, please consult your financial advisor, or email our fundraising team at paula.whaley@gracefieldcamp.ca

GIFTS OF STOCK AND SECURITIES

With a gift of stock or securities, you can contribute to GCCRC and save on capital gains tax. For more information, please contact us at paula.whaley@gracefieldcamp.ca

Memories of our Gracefield Adventures this Summer

Submitted by Wikke Jarosz

We drove up to Gracefield this summer and stayed at the Manager's Cottage with some friends that literally grew up going there.

It was relaxing, cozy and the kids loved having a fire on the property, the access to the water and canoeing across the lake.

Would definitely love to go again next summer with bikes and tents and have another adventure of a different kind!!!



The Last Word

The growing season has ended and farmers are harvesting the last of their crops. Walking around the loop, I see that trailers are being packed up and winterized. While the weather gets colder and the nights get longer, our camp gets quieter. When I have some quiet time to reflect, I am thankful.

Thankful for our volunteers who have worked so hard on so many projects. From East Block to JR Jetty, to all of the wood splitting and much, much more.

Thankful for the staff who made this summer an overwhelming success, with enthusiasm and their hearts for service.

Thankful for the interns who brought life and laughter, and left their imprint on our summer in many positive ways.

Thankful for the donors who have continued to faithfully give to the camp to see our mission brought to life.

I am thankful to be here at GCCRC this year, and Lord willing for many years to come. While we continue to navigate the Covid-19 reality and its impact on our lives and the ministry of GCCRC, we appreciate your generosity and the giving that happens in all forms. With that comes a need to continue to be good stewards of what we have, and the donations that we receive. Our greatest need in this area continues to be donations to the general/operations fund. If you aren't already signed up to be a Gracefield Guardian (PAR donor) monthly supporter of the camp, please consider joining the mission in this way.

We are already hard at work for 2021. Much needed improvements to facilities such as the iconic Boathouse and Jolly Roger are underway, and the program schedule for next summer is also under development. I am looking forward to sharing updates on both very soon. Stay tuned to our social media feeds for the latest updates!

Grace & Peace,

Mark Hamilton

GCCRC Managing Director



Keep in Touch!

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

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