

LIT REPORT
BY CLAIRE MAHAFFY

This summer I had the pleasure of being the LIT (Leader in Training) Director here at camp. The LITs were here for five weeks and accomplished many things that will live on in both song and story. The eight youth worked hard to gain many certifications, including, of course, their accreditation as counselors from the Quebec Camping Association. However, LIT isn't all about the piece of paper you get at the end, so much happens before that. From canoeing, to crafting, to travelling, LIT really is an adventure.

Here are some highlights from what was a jam packed summer:

Winning the staff/LIT ultimate game

Getting ORCKA certified

Hosting multiple talent shows

Tie dying anything and everything

Planning their own wide games

Helping with leadership for MAD Camp (and throughout the whole summer)

Going to Canada Youth

Telling amazing campfire stories

Making infinite amounts of friendship bracelets

Going on our trip and handling it like pros

Leading enough "Get to Know You" games to subdue a large group of small children

Paying it forward



Where did the time go?

It seems like only yesterday we were planning for summer at Gracefield, with hopes for sunny and hot weather after the long and drawn out winter of 2014. We are now closer to Christmas than we are to Easter, with another successful summer now behind us under the watch of **new Executive Directors, Janet and Brian**. We can't call them newbies anymore—after a very busy summer of camps overflowing, three weddings, and a generous heaping of maintenance and repairs, they are well seasoned now to the riches (and the difficulties!) of the wonderful property that is **Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre**. You can find a full accounting of their eventful summer on [page 2](#).

Janet and Brian weren't the only ones that had a full summer. Eight young people had the time of their lives as part of the **Leaders in Training** program. Their one month experience provided them a full complement of different adventures that will hopefully lead them to be great Gracefield staff in the future. Read about their adventures in the sidebar to the left.

If you had the opportunity to visit Gracefield this summer, you'll have noticed the hustle and bustle of staff and volunteers working to maintain and enhance facilities for campers and guests. There was no shortage of tasks to accomplish, and there are still things to do before the snow flies! Find out more about maintenance activities and how you can **volunteer** this fall on [page 5](#).

As we embrace the coming fall, please keep Gracefield in mind for [Thanksgiving](#) as a place for friends and family to gather in His name, to thank our Creator for the many blessings we receive, and partake in the bounty that He provides. Unable to join us for an entire weekend? Consider coming up for the day and let us do the driving. Our [Fall Colours Day](#) is planned for October 1st. Also mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8th and the [Gracefield in the City!](#)

As we sadly say goodbye to summer, and welcome the burst of colour that is fall and the future wintry wonderland to come, remember that Gracefield is the perfect spot to host a fall or winter retreat—recreational opportunities abound and there are plenty of options for accommodation. Call the camp to reserve your group's spot!



Message from Our Executive Directors

September 2014. Here we are. As Executive Co-Directors, six months into this position, we want to take this opportunity to express good news and some needs to help keep the good news rolling at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre.

First up is to celebrate the phenomenal resource this place is. We love the name for this ministry as it captures its essence:

GRACEFIELD—Our location is undisputable. Gracefield is a beautiful scenic drive only 1½ hours north of Ottawa. You arrive to towering pine trees, clean pure water and air that is sweet to the lungs. The city of Gracefield, just 10 minutes away, has all the basic conveniences that one would need.

CHRISTIAN—We want to keep in the forefront the fact that we desire to model and honour Jesus Christ in the mission and vision of this ministry.

CAMP—This is an amazing place of resource and opportunity as a summer camp for children, teens, and families—including grandparents! We are fortunate that through the generosity of churches and individuals, Gracefield can provide camperships to those who may not otherwise be able to attend and who find their connection to God at camp.

Gracefield is also a campground where you can lease a site yearly or come up for just a weekend. In addition to the serviced campsites, there are wilderness tent sites to hike into or the popular Bruno’s lakeside wilderness site with four canvas tents on platforms.

One of our campers who received support to attend camp, convinced her family to return and camp in our campground a few days later in the summer. During their stay, the family was able to take part in a number of family camp activities and now can’t wait to return next year.

Another family came to camp for a few days, and kept lengthening their stay. Before they left, they had their name placed on the seasonal waitlist for a future permanent site.

RETREAT CENTRE—We often shorten the name to be Gracefield Camp however, we are also a Retreat Centre with a 120–person capacity dining hall, three lodges and a private cottage on beautiful lakeside grounds. These resources are available for retreats in addition to the five cabins in the woods and camping venues. This summer we had the pleasure of hosting three weddings who found that our retreat facilities were perfect for accommodating their guests.



We are thankful for the varied resources here which are perfect for many ministry options. Thanks be to God for these resources which He has allowed us to manage and utilize.

Some people may be asking, “**Did you survive the summer?**” With His Grace and Strength, and top notch staff, we sure did!

We started off with an intense week of staff training, enriched with many special professional guest instructors to whom we are so grateful. **Staff then dove head first into the largest camp of the summer with 55 children registered! Fifty percent of these children were first time campers.**

Reports coming back from these children and their parents is that they will be back next year with friends—so that means there is a bright future for camps at Gracefield!

The Way Camp did a beach embellishment project (some are calling it a sand box, while we call it Third Beach) by getting more sand to the beach area, back from the shoreline close to the fire pit. Unfortunately, we are restricted from adding or taking away any soil or growth from the beach area, so now this space provides a fun place for kids to build and play.

If you happened to visit during

MAD (Music, Arts, Drama) Camp you would have been inspired by the many groups of youth scattered throughout the property—all engaged in some form of creative expression. We had dance group in White Pine lounge, Improv Theatre under the trees, artistic expression of painting, and a fashion show production in the pavilion. The place abounding in creativity!

This year premiered Grand Camp for grandparents and their grandchildren.

Grandchildren were entertained by our counselors. Special memories were made between grandparents and their grandchildren. Grandparents left with people in mind that they want to bring with them next year.

The Adventure Camp and Night Owl Camp, though smaller in number, enabled campers to receive lots of personal attention. The Adventure Camp made their home at Bruno’s tenting platforms and campers described their overnight canoe out trip to Lake Victoria as awesome. They loved cooking over the fire and learning survival skills. Night Owl Camp leaders found late night activities to keep this group enthused and engaged. They ended their time at Arbraska Lafleche zip lining.



Reports coming back from these children and their parents is that they will be back next year with friends—so that means there is a bright future for camps at Gracefield!

We were fortunate to be able to provide every camper the opportunity to take home a Bible and study tool to continue to learn and share the Good News.

One camper's grandmother told us last week her grandson has not stopped talking about camp since he got back. He liked the handout Bible which was easier to understand than the regular bible. His parents do not go to church and when the list of items to bring to camp included a Bible he asked Grandma "What is a Bible?" She was upset he had no knowledge of the Bible.

I think it was money well spent!

There are many stories from this summer and we would be pleased to come and share them at your Church, committee or service group. For example, **we had an 11-year old camper who was learning the names for God, Father, Counsellor, Comforter, etc. She then exclaimed how her cabin counselor was the very best counselor ever, then stopped herself and said "After God, that is!"**

This typifies for us the experience the campers are having here at Gracefield—they are learning and experiencing relationships with one another and a relationship with God in this beautiful playground of nature.

We also had a very successful Leaders In Training program running during the month of July under the awesome leadership of Claire Mahaffy.

We are thankful not just for the beautiful shining stars in the Gracefield sky, but the shining stars on the ground—the staff who shared their varied gifts and abundant energy to make these results. So the good news is the camping program is alive and well with a promising



future of campers and leaders. We invite you to read our staff biographies on our website at www.gracefieldcamp.ca.

Gracefield facilities have also been a priority this summer. We have a vision of rallying together those with the passion and resource to not just maintain the buildings and property that we have, but to make it all an even more beautiful, efficient and robust facility to cope with the volume it experiences. We have started to cycle through each area with repairs and improvements as time and resources allow, and intend to become more assertive with this program.

Starting from the top down, **roofs are a priority and we will be focusing on Beaver Lodge and Jolly Roger (JR)** this year. We have started already with the lakeside of JR and we encourage you to come up and check out our progress. You can see photos and the maintenance report [on page 5](#).

We are looking forward to Autumn and all the activities this season brings, including our **Fall Colours Day, Thanksgiving Weekend and the Gracefield in the City Gala**.

Please pray, work and serve with us as we seek to be part of the Great things God is doing here at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre.

The needs are great, though not overwhelming. When we seek the impossible and it comes to fruition, we know God's hand is upon it.

—Janet and Brian Ham, Executive Co-Directors



Celebrate Autumn at Gracefield!



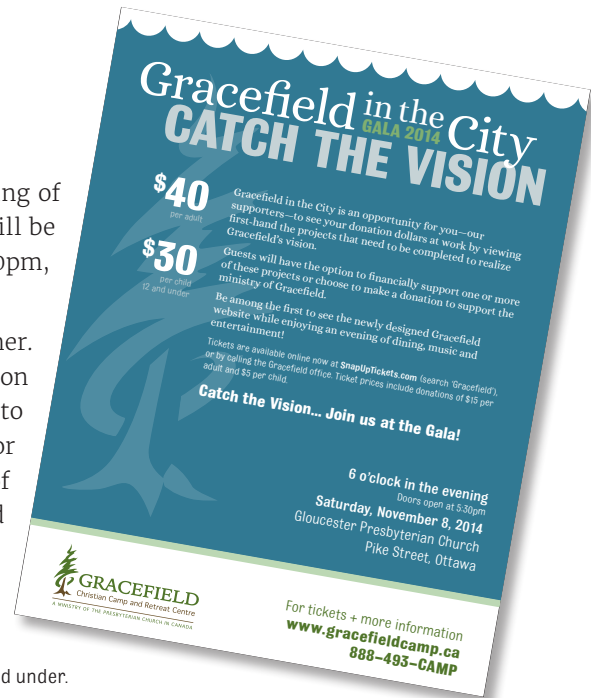
Gracefield in the City Gala 2014... Catch the Vision!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 8, 2014** and plan to attend an evening of celebration with fellow Gracefield supporters. The Gracefield in the City Gala will be held at the Gloucester Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. Doors will open at 5:30pm, with the programming beginning at 6pm.

Catch the Vision is the theme of this year's Gracefield in the City Gala and dinner. This evening will be an opportunity for you—our supporters—to see your donation dollars at work by viewing first-hand the projects that need to be completed to realize Gracefield's vision. You will have the option to financially support one or more of these projects or choose to make a donation to support the ministry of Gracefield. Gala goers will be among the first to see the newly designed Gracefield website while enjoying an evening of dining, music and entertainment.

Tickets—**\$40 per adult*** and **\$30 per child (12 and under)***—are available online now at [Snap Up Tickets](#), or by calling the Gracefield office at 1-888-493-CAMP (2267).

* Ticket prices include a \$15 donation for adults, and a \$5 donation for children 12 and under.



Summer 2014 Volunteers

FULL SUMMER

Mark Nesbitt

Kept all the lawns groomed and helped with many projects

TRAINING WEEK

Adam & Christa Janes

Youth Pastor and Family Counselor

André & Dannielle Paris

came back also to be Program Directors for MAD Camp

Dan Plant

St. John's Ambulance First Responder
First Aid Trainer

Dr. Debra Luckow, Psychologist

Carol Ann Joiner

Special Ed./Facilitator

Christine Ball, Synod Regional Staff

Manon Campbell, Nurse

Paapa Abekah

Canada Day Sharing Faith through Music

Bruce Hastings, Fireworks

WEEK ONE

Guy Laberge, First Aid

Susan Clarke, Chaplain

Vince Hartung & daughter Samantha

Christiane Muldoon

Jim Stackhouse

WEEK TWO

Guy Laberge, First Aid & Chaplain

WEEK THREE

Guy Laberge, First Aid

Karen Hurd, ORCA Training

Paapa Abekah, Rap artist

André Parris, Chaplain

James Hurd, Preached on Sunday

WEEK FOUR

Christine & William Ball

Family Camp Program Director, Chaplain

Karen Hurd, LIT Canoe Out Trip

David Goldsmith

Adventure Canoe Out Trip

Northfield Singers

Bilingual Praise Group

Brenda Clement, Nurse

Christine Robinson

First Aid Responder for Family Camp

WEEK FIVE

and throughout the summer

MAINTENANCE CREWS

Gordon Richardson

Bruce Buie

Alan Campbell

David Campbell

Elizabeth Campbell

James Dance

Jordie Shute (June)

Aiden Mahaffy

Claude Vezina

Rhonda Beauregard

KITCHEN SUPPORT

Bonnie Laframboise

Christine Paquette

WEDDING SUPPORT

Marian Bennett

James & Matthew Dance

Johanna Lee Pinto

Alex Plant

Thank You, Volunteers!

*“If I had a hammer, I’d hammer in the morning,
I’d hammer in the evening, and all over this land.
I’d hammer out danger, I’d hammer out a warning,
I’d hammer out love between my brothers and my sisters,
all over this land.”*
—Peter, Paul & Mary, 1964

There was sure a lot of hammering going on a Gracefield this summer in addition to the sounds of chainsaws, axes, power tools, rakes, and lawn mowers! The maintenance season kicked off in late April with two work weekends, which were mostly dedicated to removing trees that fell over the winter. It is hard to imagine now, but **Parliament Hill and the road near Beaver and JR were littered with thick limbs and branches** needing chopping and stacking for future use.

Several projects, both planned and unexpected, were undertaken by staff and volunteers over the summer.

The roof of Community was replaced in advance of the busy camps, and some floors in Beaver were temporarily replaced. The floor in the women’s washroom at East Block was also strengthened and the floor redone with new tiling.

One of the bigger projects was the replacement of the JR roof on the lakeside. After many years of leaking, it was determined that this required immediate attention. Several volunteers and camp staff striped the roof of shingles, put strapping down, and then added the **new, green metal roofing**. Metal was chosen for its durability over the long term. Plans are to do the rest of the roof in the near future, followed by the Beaver roof, which is also in dire need of replacement.



Some of you may have noticed the new building at Second Beach.

Thanks to a generous donation of both labour and structure from Karen Hurd, a **new**

outhouse now sits in the woods and blends in perfectly with surroundings. This is a welcome addition for both campers and day users alike!

As fall approaches, thoughts turn to getting the camp ready for the winter, including putting away summer equipment, cleaning out the cabins and other prep work for the cooler, snowy days ahead. See the sidebar to the right for dates for the fall work weekends.

All of these activities could not have been accomplished without the dedicated cadre of staff and volunteers who lent their expertise and skills to complete these tasks.

Thanks for your help!



UPCOMING WORK WEEKENDS

It’s that time of year to roll up your sleeves and give Gracefield a hand at getting ready for those long winter months ahead.

From putting away canoes, to sweeping out the cabins, there is a job for every age and ability level.

Accommodation and meals provided.

Work Weekend 1

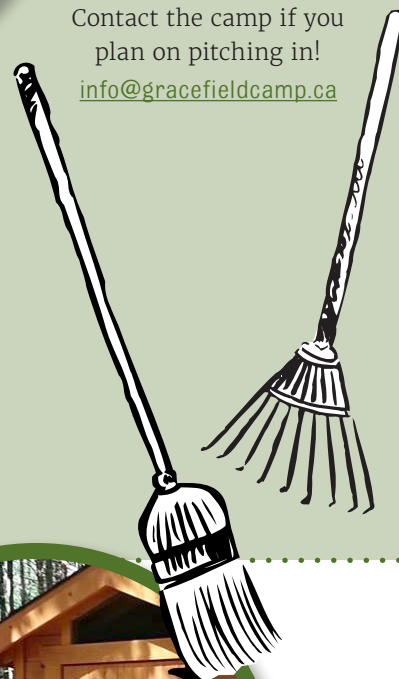
October 17-19

Work Weekend 2

October 24-26

Contact the camp if you plan on pitching in!

info@gracefieldcamp.ca



Just a few more things...

HELP WANTED: WEEKEND HOSTS

This winter Brian and Janet are looking for weekend host and/or hostess between mid-November to mid-February. There may or may not be groups to welcome but would like to have someone staying at White Pine on weekends.

Give us a call or email if you would be interested in helping out this way.

DONATE NOW

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 secure [Canada Helps website](#). Monthly donations are possible though the PAR program—please call the office for more information.

A tax receipt will be issued for all monetary donations.

WISHLIST

It's amazing how much we require on a day-to-day, season-to-season basis here at Gracefield. Just like at your house, supplies need to be replenished, tools need to be repaired, and often replaced, furnishings need to be salvaged or renewed, and so on.

Here are a few items from our Wish List in case you, or somebody you know, might have things to spare. The [complete list](#) can be viewed at our website. Please contact us if you require the item(s) to be picked up.

Volunteers!

- cleaners
- painters, interior & exterior
- carpenters, experienced
- wood choppers/splitters
- roofers
- tile setters
- tree trimmers, experienced

Assorted needs:

- white kitchen aprons
- quality white twin fitted sheets
- new/gently used twin mattresses
- push gas lawn mower
- two-way radios
- parking lot gravel
- ...and so much more!



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](#)

Twitter

[@GracefieldCCRC](#)

Instagram

[@GracefieldCCRC](#)

Toll Free

888-493-CAMP (2267)

Local Call

819-463-2465

Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre is dedicated to helping all people experience spiritual discovery, growth, and renewal.

It is a community that nurtures a deeper love of Christ, provides comfort and support, builds leadership, develops meaningful relationships, and practices stewardship of the environment.