

## Hibernation—to spend the winter in close quarters in a dormant condition.

I don't know about you, but there certainly been a few days this winter where cuddling under the blankets, curling up on the couch, or simply hibernating has been the preferred activity when there are storm warnings and frost-bite advisories.

**Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre** certainly has not been hibernating this winter—although the summer months seem the busiest, most of the activity to plan, prepare and staff for those active months takes place in the fall and winter, with the help of the various working groups of the Gracefield Board.

Additionally, a very successful Gracefield Gala was held November 8th, which provided an opportunity for guests to see first-hand the progress on major maintenance projects, such as the Jolly Roger roof, and financially support continuing and future endeavours to ensure that Gracefield is sustainable and viable into the future. It was also an opportunity to award the Golden Paddle and present an award to two very deserving individuals.

Gracefield itself has not been dormant; groups have been using Gracefield as their base for the myriad of outdoor winter pursuits that are available to them, with the added bonus of a toasty fire to warm the toes, delicious food, and beds to re-energize for the next day. In fact, these weekends are just a 'warm-up' to the two March Break camps that are planned—an exciting week of fun activities with plenty of opportunity to thank God for His wonderful creation! Before we know it, this creation will erupt with life, and it will be time for work weekends, booking sites for the summer, registering kids for camp (don't forget the early bird specials!) and setting up trailers. Until then, stay warm and keep Gracefield in your prayers as we get ready for a busy and exciting 2015!



### What are the ABCs of camping?

**A**rchery, **B**oating, **C**abins, **D**ock, **E**arth, **F**rogs, **G**od, **H**iking, **I**ce hockey, **J**umping, **K**ayak, **L**ake, **M**usic, **N**ature, **O**rienteering, **P**avilion, **Q**uiet time, **R**ock wall, **S**wimming, **T**urtle Rock, **U**nburnt marshmallows, **V**egetation, **W**orship, **eX**citing, **Y**ummy food, **Z**iplining!

### Need we say more?

Camps are a great way to meet friends, explore faith and have fun!

We have a bunch of camps available for all interests, including a new **Discovery Camp** for those age 5-7 with a parent, June 26th to 28th.

[Visit the website](#) for a full listing of all our fun camps, including the upcoming March Break camps available for both Quebec and Ontario school holidays. Early Bird discounts are available so register now!

Ask about our **"Bring Three, You Camp Free!"** promotion.

**BRING  
THREE  
YOU CAMP  
FREE!**

## Message from Our Executive Directors

Greetings from what are calling “Gracefield South”! As we write this, we have monkeys passing overhead and colorful big-beaked Toucans performing their song and dance. We have been traveling since November 9th, and have enjoyed a time of enrichment and inspiration.

We began with a week at Heartland Center for the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center Association annual conference in Missouri. We were surrounded with other Camp and Conference Center leaders sharing the same joys and concerns from across North America.

During a week in Florida at Cedarkirk Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centre, we were encouraged by the time shared with staff and an exchange of ideas to bring home.

We were able to return to our old stomping grounds in the Cayman Islands to reconnect with friends and family while also reaching out in several ministry opportunities.

Now, we are in Costa Rica where we are surrounded by a wonderful Christian community that again has given us opportunity to reach out in this community through the local Church and missionaries. We enjoyed Church on the beach this morning—what a blessing!

Thanks to the wonders of the internet, telephone and emails, we have been able to stay connected with Gracefield—attending committee meetings, meeting with a new Christian Ministry client on Skype, lots of planning, pricing, budget details and meeting with Barb.

We are looking forward to all the wonderful items that are highlighted in this edition of Beaver Tales. New to this season is **Discovery Camp** which is a great opportunity for a parent to bring their 5-7 year old to Gracefield before camp officially starts to experience staying in a cabin and capture a taste of what we offer. We also look forward to **offering the week after Easter to the Clergy and their spouses** to come rest, renew and recover after the intensity of the glorious Easter Celebrations. *Clergy, please contact us to get a spot and discuss options.*

If there is one thing that stands out as we travel, it is that where ever you go, there are people who need love and there are people sharing love through Jesus Christ—and it makes a BIG difference.

What a beautiful world God has created, with such beauty and diversity—including you and me.

*Brian & Janet Ham*



## Spring Clean-up/ Work Weekends

*Do you, your family, and your friends have a free day or weekend on April 24th, May 1st and May 8th?*

Gracefield needs your help in getting the camp ready in the cabins, at the boat house/ waterfront, on the trails, in the Tent & Trailer loop, and at various other sites around the camp.

**April 24, 25**  
**May 1, 2**  
**May 8, 9**

Volunteers are especially needed as some regular helpers will be involved with completing the roof at JR with thanks to funds raised at this year’s Gala and Annual Appeal.

Meals and lodging are available.

A big THANK YOU to all those that helped the camp get ready for winter during the fall work weekends. It’s nice to think of all our equipment tucked away cozy for the winter!



## ★ Now Hiring! ★

**Looking for a rewarding summer position as program director, camp counsellor, lifeguard, maintenance or kitchen assistant?**

Gracefield may have a job for you! We are looking for young people who want to be part of a Christian community and share their God-given talent and skills.

Visit “Work With Us” on our website at [www.gracefieldcamp.ca](http://www.gracefieldcamp.ca) for details on how to apply. Good luck!





**BRING THREE YOU CAMP FREE!**

**GRACEFIELD**  
Christian Camp and Retreat Centre  
A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

**MARCH BREAK CAMPS**  
for Children & Youth, ages 9-16

**OUTDOORS**  
Explore our Winter Wonderland—280 woodland acres alongside Lac Castor—while snowshoeing, skating, cross country skiing, racing homemade toboggans... and more!

**INDOORS**  
Meet new friends, participate in teambuilding games and crazy activities such as food sculptures. Explore Christian beliefs through creative, interactive activities and discussions.

4 nights, 5 days for \$276\*  
**CHOOSE YOUR WEEK**  
March 2-6, 2015 FOR QUEBEC STUDENTS  
Early Bird Date: February 23, 2015  
March 16-20, 2015 FOR ONTARIO STUDENTS  
Early Bird Date: February 28, 2015

\*\$307 after Early Bird dates. Provincial taxes extra.  
Includes supervised transportation. Ask about "Bring Three, You Camp Free!"

[gracefieldcamp.ca](http://gracefieldcamp.ca)  
888-493-CAMP (2267)

Association des camps du Québec

**GRACEFIELD**  
Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

**Youth & Family SUMMER CAMP**

Association des camps du Québec

Situated on 280 acres of pristine woodland featuring two kilometres of Lac Castor shoreline

Summer camp programs for youth ages 5-18! Adventure, leadership, friendship & discovery!

Association des camps du Québec

"We will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly, and so become more and more in every way like Christ."  
—Ephesians 4:15

[gracefieldcamp.ca](http://gracefieldcamp.ca)

Association des camps du Québec

# This is Your Gracefield

**Come to Camp!**

For information and registration, visit [www.gracefieldcamp.ca](http://www.gracefieldcamp.ca)



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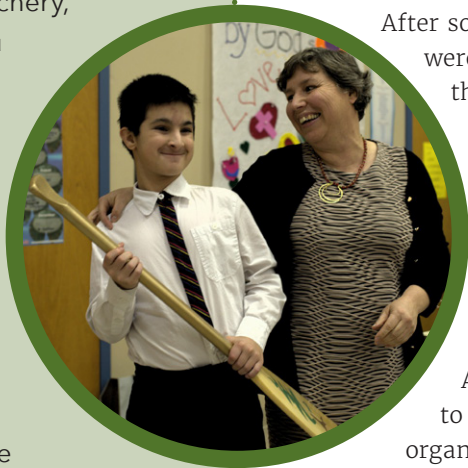


## Golden Paddle 2014 winner Joshua Bajpai

“Being a Christian means a lot to me. When I got the golden paddle award, I felt very proud. I was very surprised to get the award. I was surprised because I didn’t know about the award. I enjoyed camp.

I enjoyed my counselors and my fellow campers. The activities that I enjoyed at camp were archery, canoeing, you name it. My favourite part of camp was hiking to Bruno’s. I’m going to Gracefield next year too.

Getting the golden paddle made me feel good. Being at Gracefield with my family and the staff and campers helps me to be a better person.”



## Gracefield in the City Gala 2014

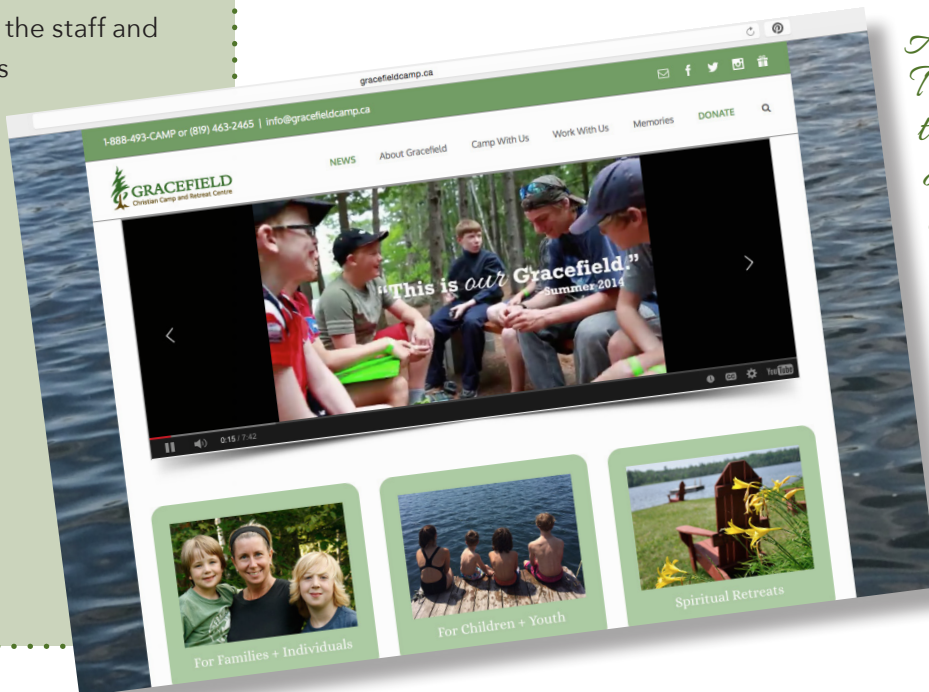
The Gracefield in the City Gala was held at Gloucester Presbyterian Church on November 8th. The theme of this year’s gala was Catch the Vision, and the Executive Directors (Brian and Janet) and Barbra made sure everyone did see, and sometimes touch, all the projects envisioned for 2015 and beyond.

Attendees could purchase Gracefield dollars and then use them to support projects such as the Jolly Roger roof, refurbishing White Pine rooms, and buying beach toys and camping supplies, all important elements towards Gracefield’s vision. Gala goers were treated to several special events throughout the night. First, a Gospel Choir lead by Roxanne Goodman kicked off the evening with a stirring and joyful collection of songs that brought home the message of God’s love, and His Spirit working through people and through Gracefield to touch lives and give hope.

After a splendid Greek meal, we were treated to a [new Gracefield video](#) produced by Marion Bennett and were the first to see the [newly-designed Gracefield website](#) by Joanne Lauzon. Both products showcase Gracefield’s wonderful assets (both people and setting!) and are wonderful tools to promote the camp to a wider audience.

After some frantic last minute bidding at the Silent Auction, three awards were handed out: the first was the Golden Paddle award to the camper of the year, Joshua Bajpai, who demonstrated unending enthusiasm and helpfulness during his camp. The other two awards were handed out to two very deserving people who were instrumental in ensuring the camp continued to operate effectively during the last few years of transition. Barbra Draper (Officer Administrator) and Debbie Brown (volunteer bookkeeper) have dedicated many hours to making sure that phone calls were answered and books were kept to date, amongst many other tasks and acts of dedication.

At the evening, over \$8,500 was raised, with over \$5,000 dedicated to such projects such as the Jolly Roger roof. A big thank you to the organizers, Brian and Janet Ham, and Barbra Draper, and to the “cooks in the kitchen”—Debbie Plant and all the volunteers who helped.



*A special  
Thank You  
to all who  
attended and  
contributed to  
the success of  
the evening.*

## GRACEFIELD PROJECTS MOST IN NEED OF SUPPORT.

PROJECT	GOAL	RECEIVED*	REMAINING
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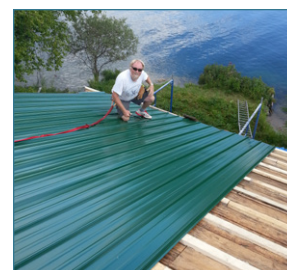
### JOLLY ROGER ROOF

**\$15,000**

**4,480**

**10,560**

\$15,000 for materials only. Each sheet of tin and related accessories cost \$185 and we need a total of 81 sheets. Some work has already been completed. Volunteers are also needed in the Spring to complete this project.



### CAMPERSHIP

**ON-GOING**

**3,500**

**ON-GOING**

There are many youth with such potential leadership or those who just need to experience to love of a Christian community, but who will never get a Christian camping opportunity without someone helping with the cost. The Campership fund is designed to enable youth to come to camp through the generous gifts of others.



### BEAVER LODGE CHIMNEY LINER

**\$850**

**1,000**

**A WOOD STOVE**

We believe there is an air tight wood stove suitable to heat 2000 sq ft out there that could be donated to the cause! In order to add a wood stove, a chimney liner is needed. The combination of these items will allow for the wood stove to be installed behind the fireplace so guests can still enjoy the classic fireplace experience and benefit from the heat of a wood stove. This will extend the length of the season for Beaver Lodge to be enjoyed.



### PELLET STOVE FOR A CABIN

**\$1,600**

**175**

**1,425**

These are a safe economical way to provide heat on a steady basis. With the goal to rent a cabin during the winter, this is a solution with immediate results. Cut a hole and plug it in! It will give opportunity to accommodate larger groups during the winter as White Pine is often not quite big enough for some of those youth and church retreats.

### SOUND Baffles FOR THE DINING HALL

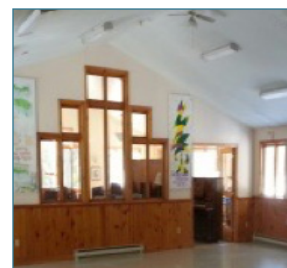
**\$2,655**

**1,100**

**1,555**

One comment we often hear from retreat guests is that it is too noisy in the dining hall. Acoustic Panels Canada is willing to contribute \$500 worth of product so we can install panels on the ceiling to improve acoustical properties of the room.

By installing some panels in stages as we are financially able to will help to eliminate the echo.



### REFURBISH A ROOM IN WHITE PINE

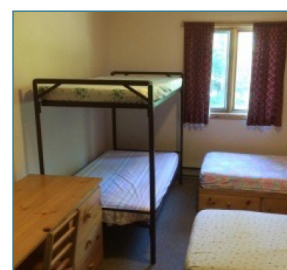
**\$1,300-3,000**

**100**

**1,200-3,000**

Currently there are two rooms completed and nine rooms and four bathrooms to go! Guests favour the renovated rooms and White Pine Lodge is available all year so it is a great investment.

\$1,300 worth of material renews a bathroom with low flush toilet, ceramic floor and baseboard, upgraded exhaust fan, sink, taps, paint and a heater. \$3,000 worth of material renews a room including a new beds, mattresses, bedding, heater, flooring, lighting, desk renewal, paint and trim.



*\*Donations received with thanks, through our Fall Appeal and 2014 Gracefield in the City Gala.*

## Mark your Calendars

### PRESBYTERY WIDE CONFIRMATION CLASSES

for GRADES 7-12

February 28-March 1, 2015

This is a wonderful opportunity to explore faith and what it means to be a committed Christian. The weekend retreat will cover the confirmation materials (Faith, Prayer, The Bible, Jesus as Savior, Holy Spirit and gifts of the spirit, God/Trinity, Creeds, church etc.). It is important that the congregation supports the youth attending the classes and are willing to follow up with their own content and requirements for membership. If you would like to read a copy of the lesson plans, I can send an electronic copy. Cost is \$90/student. Chaperon/teachers are encouraged (free) as they have an important role to help supervise and to help articulate your congregation's perspective.

**Registration Deadline February 21, 2015.** For information contact Christine Ball by email at [christinealexisball@gmail.com](mailto:christinealexisball@gmail.com) or by phone at 613-836-9658

### CLERGY AND SPOUSE RETREAT

April 7-10, 2015

White Pine lodge will be available for Clergy from the Presbyterian Synod for all or any part of these dates. Thank you for being our spiritual leaders, teachers and pastors! Rest from Easter and renew for what is ahead in a beautiful place. Meal rates apply if more than 11 register. Otherwise self-catering kitchen available. Silent Day retreat and optional evening fireside fellowship/inspiration opportunities.

### GRACEFIELD SPRING CLEAN-UP/WORK WEEKENDS

April 24-25, May 1-2, May 8-9

### SYNOD YOUTH WEEKEND AT GRACEFIELD

May 16-18, 2015

### CANADA DAY AND GRACEFIELD OPEN HOUSE

July 1, 2015



## 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](mailto:info@gracefieldcamp.ca)

#### Website

[www.gracefieldcamp.ca](http://www.gracefieldcamp.ca)

#### Facebook

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

#### Twitter

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

#### Instagram

[@GracefieldCCRC](https://www.instagram.com/GracefieldCCRC)

#### Toll Free

888-493-CAMP (2267)

#### Local Call

819-463-2465

## 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 (as shown on page 5), 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.*