

As Seasons Change...

The air was hot and heavy, a day where you feel and smell the threat of rain. The rain wasn't unwelcome; this past summer was one where every moment of moisture was a blessing given the dry conditions. Creation was thirsty and you could feel it under your toes as you walked through the crunchy grass and observed the wilting fauna. Rain was badly needed for Gracefield's baby seedlings too; 200 of them were planted in areas affected by the forestry management project. I am glad I was never a tree planter being paid by the tree, as I took the time for each one to find the perfect spot: no competition from other trees, good soil, and room to grow. I figured each one could potentially be around for hundreds of years, so giving it a good start was my responsibility. That's why we needed this impending downpour.

The day was culminating in a gathering under the Pavilion for a celebration dinner hosted by the Gracefield Board—an opportunity to say thank you to staff who were finishing up for the summer, and for LITs who were graduating from their program. That is when the casualties started to happen. The wind suddenly whipped up into a frenzy and, looking out over the ball field, you could see trees crashing down—their dry roots unable to hold onto the earth. As the rain was unleashed, more trees fell, branches broke loose, and Gracefield bore witness to the wrath of a storm which had been building for days.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2 eloquently declares:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot.

So it is at camp in real, tangible events, such as the one described of the seedlings and the mature trees, and also with the cycle of the seasons as activities wind-down and the camp inches towards those quieter winter months, only to start fresh again in spring.

But in every season, there is always a place, a time, an activity at Gracefield or for Gracefield. Whether you bring your congregation up for a weekend of fun and fellowship, or you tell those new neighbours with kids about camping opportunities, or simply pray for the staff of Gracefield, this facility needs each and every one of us to promote it and encourage others to come to this wonderful sliver of God's creation. See how you can help by volunteering for work weekends or attending the Gala. We are also in need of volunteers to serve on various committees that assist in the overall functioning of the camp.

As **1 Peter 4:10** states:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Wishing you a joyous and abundant Autumn!

Your friends at Gracefield

Work Weekends

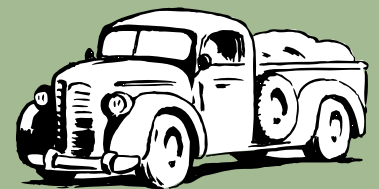
Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work we go... and working at Gracefield is fun!

Packing up all the summery things, making sure all the wintry stuff is ready to go, closing up and shutting down.

What a great way to spend a fall weekend as an individual, family or congregation. It's also an important way to get kids involved in the inner workings of the camp and perhaps earn needed volunteers hours along the way. The big bonus? No bugs!

Weekends are planned for **October 21-23 and 28-30**. Meals and accommodation provided.

Please contact the camp office for further details.



Camp Vehicles

Some of our camp vehicles have, or are about to, bite the dust, kick the bucket, cease to function. If you have a functional truck or minivan you would like to donate to the camp, or know of such a vehicle being offered at a reasonable price, please contact Barbra to see if it would match the needs of the camp. In particular, the camp would like a truck that could also provide snow plow services.

Tales from Summer Camp

The summer camp season seems so long ago, but for the kids and youth who participated, the imprint of camp remains on their hearts and souls. Here are two perspectives from 2016 campers.

VICTORIA OGDEN, on LEADERSHIP IN TRAINING

This summer at Gracefield sure was awesome! From C.Y. (Canada Youth) to L.I.T. (Leadership in Training), I've had so much fun, learned lots, and I've made tons of new friends.

C.Y. was an incredible opportunity for me and the rest of the L.I.T.s to meet Presbyterian youth from all over Canada, and ran from July 5–10. The event is only held every two years, so I'm really glad we got to participate as a part of our training. The overall theme of the week was "We Are Home," and through large and small group worship, we discussed modern issues such as the ongoing refugee crisis. The three other L.I.T.s and I stayed in dorms and ate meals together at Brock University, where C.Y. was held.

Mixed in with worship and small groups, we had lots of other relaxing activities: there were large events held every night with themes like Canada Day, and we also got to choose some fun activities to do during the afternoons. Some of those activities included tie-dye, soccer, yoga, duct tape creations, board games and so much more. Overall, we had a super fun week getting to know each other before L.I.T. at Gracefield.

Even though L.I.T. at Gracefield only ran from July 12th to August 4th, the memories I've made, the marshmallows I've shared, and the faith I've witnessed will last a lifetime. We all had so much fun star-gazing, participating in talent shows, and jumping into the lake that the four of us have become a tightly knit "L.I.T. family". We had water-and-sponge fights, watched movies late at night. We slept in Jolly Rodger, the Manager's Cottage, hammocks, Bruno's, and the cabins. As a contribution to the camp, our L.I.T. project was creating a large multi-coloured cork map where visitors, campers, and just about anyone who comes to camp can pin on where they have traveled from.

We all got to intern so many different positions after we received the bulk of our training. Some of my favourites were office-administration, counselling, kitchen staff, maintenance, and housekeeping. Seeing the different roles that collaborate and come into play at Gracefield was a very eye-opening experience. Being a part of L.I.T., we went through a lot of training. We did ORCKA canoe training, First Aid, Outdoor Living Skills, and how to lead many different camp activities in order to fulfill the 200-hour Association des Camps du Québec L.I.T. certification. We made it!

L.I.T. was a wonderful time for all of us to grow in faith, in knowledge, and maybe even a couple of inches, but overall, I know that I won't forget any of those grace-filled days.

ELINOR WHITEHEAD, on MUSIC ART DRAMA & DANCE (MADD) CAMP

I went to MADD camp at Gracefield! I remember it all. I remember when my cabin was trying the big wall challenge, and everyone was supporting everyone, when i did it i saw all the campers cheering me on and when i got up there I felt Victorious! And when we had our first night in the cabin, staring at ceiling wondering what great things would happen next. When we did the Archery I loved seeing all the arrows fly in the air. When the talent show came my friend and I did " Hey Jude" and I did a solo "Lost Boy", I loved watching all the performances, seeing all my new and old friend(s)' great talents! At the end it was so hard to let go but I knew that there is ALWAYS next year and I ALWAYS come other times than in summer anyway. All the counsellors were so nice and they always stuck with you. At the end it was GREAT it was way better than I imagined!



Scenes from Gracefield...

Do you have photos, art, or stories to share?

Send them to info@gracefieldcamp.ca and we may feature them in BeaverTales, on social media, or our website!

Here are just a few of the amazing photos taken throughout our various camps this year. [Visit our Flickr account for more!](#)



A Fond Farewell for Brian & Janet

On August 13, a fitting tribute was held for Brian and Janet Ham for their dedication and service as Co-Executive Directors of GCCRC the past few years. A dinner was held in their honour, followed by a time of fellowship and singing. Attendees were invited to share stories of Brian and Janet’s inspiration, encouragement and devotion to our Creator. Of course there were many tales laced with humour and joy, and although we are sad to see them go, we wish them well on their next great adventure!



Thanks to all who participated in our Gracefield Gala survey! We have much work to do to plan for this awesome event which allows us to celebrate the camp and its mission.

Saturday, November 5, 2016
Villa Lucia Supper Club, 3430 Carling

Auction, entertainment, good food, friends, and dancing!
Watch our website, Facebook, and your email for information + tickets!

Living Grace Fully Thanksgiving at Gracefield

Saturday October 8th, through Monday October 10th, 2016

Embrace God’s Gift of Grace through...



- Purpose-filled pauses
- Meditative walks
- Creative art workshops
- Worship and life-applicable bible studies
- Outdoor fall activities –for all ages!
- Thanksgiving celebration Sunday evening

Come for the weekend —or the day!

Weekend prices depend on meal and accommodation package. Event schedule will be determined based on participation.



For INFO + REGISTRATION:
info@gracefieldcamp.ca
or 888-493-CAMP (2267)



Keep in Touch!

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

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819-463-2465

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.