

A Fond Farewell...

*The past two years have been a blast,
If we could, we would do more to make it last.*

*But upon us is the end of this season,
God knows and understands the reason.*

*With joy we celebrate what God has done,
It has been about more than having fun.*

*We have seen in this beautiful place,
God touching lives with His Grace.*

*Relationships have been strengthened,
Commitments to one another lengthened.*

*There have been people who met God,
who before thought Jesus was odd.*

*Children have become wiser to the Bible,
While having fun in the forest being tribal.*

*New friendship have been made,
for them nothing they would trade.*

*Relationships with God and one another,
You never want to extinguish or smother.*

*In this place these relationships grow,
To the world this we want to show.*

*Gracefield Camp and Retreat Centre is,
A place away from city and show biz.*

*It is a place to slow down,
And get rid of the frown.*

*Surrounded by God's creation,
Enough to inspire elation.*

*God's fresh air and water so healthy,
Enjoying this is what makes us wealthy.*

*The things that matter are right here,
And to God they can draw you near.*

*So very thankful we are,
that we came from afar.*

*Joined with you in this work so great.
Embraced we were with love, not hate.*

*Partnering with staff and volunteers,
has resulted in success and cheers.*

*Not for what we all have done,
But for in all what God has begun.*

Let's pray together for a safe, meaningful,
fun summer of 2016 for staff and all who come.
To God be Glory.

For anyone wanting to keep in touch with
Brian and Janet, please contact:
Brian at bham77@hotmail.com
Janet at jabetsc@gmail.com

Come Celebrate Canada's Birthday!!

Everyone is welcomed to come and enjoy a day of activities and fellowship on Friday, July 1, 2016 at Gracefield. There will games for the whole family and opportunities to canoe and swim. The evening will be capped by an amazing fireworks display over beautiful Lac Castor Blanc.

Activities will begin at 10am followed by a pot luck BBQ at 5:30pm. Please bring a salad or a dessert to share—the hot dogs and hamburgers will be supplied by the Camp.

Fireworks will begin at dark and are guaranteed to explode your expectations!!

For more details, and to let us know you are coming, please contact the Camp office at 819-463-2465 or by email at info@gracefieldcamp.ca

Hope to see you there!



Gracefield Promotions

Gracefield staff and volunteers have been busy promoting the camp to audiences throughout the presbytery. In April, a booth was set up at the Parent and Child Expo in Ottawa showcasing all the wonderful activities that Gracefield had to offer. Over 600 pamphlets were distributed and many people commented on the fantastic display and program description that was provided. In addition, a Gracefield ad was placed in the Ottawa's Parent magazine (free at many grocery stores).

Another aspect of Gracefield promotion is within a congregation. For example, on April 24, Brian and Janet provided thoughtful and meaningful insight as to why camp—especially a Christian camp—plays such a pivotal role in one's life journey, especially in one's spiritual development given the busy-ness and technology that permeates our lives. This was accompanied by "camp" guitar music, and some personal testimony from congregants who have a meaningful relationship to Gracefield through various aspects of our programs (camper, tenting, and retreat). Brian and Janet set up a display during coffee hour to provide information and many enjoyed telling stories of their time at Gracefield.

If your church or community group would like a visit, please call the camp office to arrange a time.



Volunteer Work Weekends

Thank you to all who came up to volunteer for work weekends this spring!

Besides tree and brush clearing, there was general camp clean-up, the docks were readied for the summer, and most of the buildings were swept and organized for the groups coming in for spring retreats.

Missed your opportunity to help or maybe need to earn some volunteer hours for high school? There will be work weekends in the fall (usually end of October) to help put most of the camp into hibernation for the winter—except White Pine Lodge, of course, which is always ready to host your winter group retreat!

Just a reminder that meals (volunteer 4 hours) and rooms (volunteer full day) are provided. Contact the camp for more details and look in the next issue of BeaverTales for the fall dates.

Summer Camps!

Be sure to [check out our website](#) for summer camps. There are 16 different camps being offered—truly something for EVERY AGE.

Discovery Camp for ages 5-8 along with a caregiver gives opportunity to test and experience camp for a weekend.

Leader in Training program excellent for 15-18 year olds giving superb experience and training while building an impressive resume for their future.

Grand Camp for Grandparents to come with their Grandchildren.

...and many other kids' and youth camps! Register today!

Introducing Malcolm Hamilton, GRACEFIELD'S NEW FACILITIES DIRECTOR

We asked Malcolm a few questions, so we can get to know him better...

What's your history with Gracefield?

My first experience with Gracefield was driving up to my parents who were up for a week of camping sometime back before 1982. During the week they phoned and their starter motor had quit on their car. I drove up with another one and it was raining so hard we pushed the car into the tent where I changed the starter for them. I am no stranger to Christian camps; in the early 70s. I attended Iona camp, outside Bala Ontario, near Gravenhurst. I would have to say Gracefield is by far the nicer camp.



What do look forward to most doing at the camp?

I am most looking forward to the escape Gracefield offers from the city and the oppressive heat and humidity of the lower Ottawa Valley in summer. The scenery is breathtaking and I'm already more than impressed with the commitment and friendliness of the volunteers.

Early bird or night owl?

As far as sleeping habits go I am adaptable to the needs of the job. I spent 7 years on nights in the 70s and 80s. Other times I was up before dawn for years at a time. Getting 8 hours is one of those nice to haves in life I suppose.

What's your favourite tool and why?

I own more tools than most hobbyists, with my favourite being needle nose vice grips. My hobbies include working on cars and trucks, the older the better. I dispense free advice on several automotive forums. I also enjoy collecting music, but I'm no musician to be sure.

What are your past times/hobbies?

More than a hobby I was a competitive swimmer from 1966 through 1974. While in Algonquin Park we had a three stage(relay) lake race, much like Gracefield has. That was the last time they ever put my brother and I together on the same team. We gave our third swimmer so much lead, we finished the third stage of the race before any of the other teams had finished the first relay stage.

Camping, hiking and fishing have been favoured pastimes, off and on, over my lifetime. I've had the good fortune to have lived in, or visited, every Province and territory in Canada. I've fished in the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic oceans and countless rivers and lakes.

While on Vancouver Island in 1971, my Dad and brother Stewart and I joined a hiking club. We hiked all over the Island's coast lines, nearby islands and interior. While living on Baffin Island with another brother, in the Arctic, although not a hunter, I carried Caribou to the elderly and shut in Inuit who were thrilled as they could no longer hunt.

What's your hope for Gracefield?

I recently learned about the closure of other nearby Christian camps and it concerned me. It is my intention to assist the volunteers and board members of Gracefield to build on all their previous hard work and ensure this is not our fate and GCCRC carries on for future generations of campers.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

Adoption Announcement!

Break out the balloons... Cabins 1, 2, 3 & 5 have been adopted!

They are such deserving cabins, protecting years of boys and girls from pesky mosquitos and other critters, sheltering them from the fiercest of storms to the hot blaze of the sun, providing a space to hear secrets, shed homesick tears, have FOB (feet on bunk), tell ghost stories, develop friends for life, and learn about one's self and the Creator of all.

The cabins are showing their age (50 years this year!) and the generous congregations of Knox Manotick, Parkwood Presbyterian, St. Paul's Kemptville and St. Stephens have decided they needed some TLC after these many years of service. This year the cabins will be "adopted" and fixed up through donated time and materials by these congregations.

Cabin 4, the one that has the best view of the beach, is still seeking some helping hands to spruce it up. If your congregation, group, family or friends would like to adopt this cabin to give it a refresh, that would be great!

Our hope is that the cabins can be refreshed in time for Gracefield's 55th anniversary next year.

Please contact the office for more information about how to help.



March Break Camp Review

ACCORDING TO HUGO ALBERT (AGE 10), WHO IS A REPEAT CAMPER, THE BEST PARTS OF THE MARCH BREAK CAMP IN HIS OWN WORDS ARE:

- ... The Counsellors, who are very nice, plan fun activities and at night you play games with them.
- ... You make lots of friends.
- ... The beautiful outdoors where you can have fun outside in snow, like in the barracks.
- ... Campfires outside in the snow.
- ... Making crafts like fish and doing painting.
- ... Playing ping pong and sometimes getting to watch a movie at night.
- ... Very good food, even if you think you won't like it you will. The best are pizza, and breakfast burritos—my ultimate favourite!
- ... At Gracefield you learn more about God, and you learn about Him in different ways, in fun ways where every one participates and shares their ideas.
- ... I love Gracefield so much I am going to the May youth weekend and summer camps and I plan to go back next year for March Break.
- ... Favourite memory from camp: Kade went so fast down the toboggan hill he almost flew off the toboggan!
- ... My only wish – ice for skating like at the Knox weekend!



Keep in Touch!

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

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Toll Free

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