

## Summer Reflection | 2018

Things are much quieter here today though the echoes of the laughter, singing and stories still whisper through the air if you listen closely.

From fireworks to campfires, the campers and guests at Gracefield this summer were many. We had over 150 people share dinner on a hot, hot Canada Day which ended with a spectacular fireworks display.

Almost 120 campers enjoyed long-time traditions of canoeing and campfires, arts and crafts and archery. This year, we added new program equipment including an aquamat at the waterfront and a Gaga pit in front of the lodge. For those who don't know what Gaga is, it's a form of dodgeball played inside a ring where the objective is to get opponents out by hitting them below the knees with a ball. It was built by our pre-LIT Quest campers and was a camper favourite.

We were blessed with gifted and talented staff who worked hard as they cared for campers, took care of guests, and maintained the site over the summer season. It was wonderful to watch staff stretch in their gifts and discover new ones as they worked alongside one another. One area where staff were stretched was leading and sharing with weekend guests during Sunday worship.

We were blessed with a variety of weekend visitors in our lodges and trailer sites, and it's great to see so many people enjoying the beauty that Gracefield has to offer. One of the highlights was hosting a wedding near the end of the summer. As the couple currently live and work in Siera Leone, guests came from near and far to celebrate with them.

To all the staff, volunteers, guests and camper families: thanks for making summer 2018 a wonderful time.

*Bruce Howard*

Executive Director



## Volunteer Highlight

Hi, my name is Holly Drake and this past summer I was given an amazing opportunity to work at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre; I did not take it. Yet, I didn't want there to be a summer that went by without going to Gracefield.

Being a volunteer gave me many opportunities such as working in the wonderful kitchen that Gracefield has, yet also being able to participate outside with the campers on support staff leading fun games and activities for them.

Both positions that I was put in gave me the greatest feeling—whether I was helping a little one shoot a ball into a hoop, or having the pleasure of giving a camper a warm meal after a long day, the faces that I would see would always warm my heart. Gracefield has created this wonderful community that welcomes any family and friends making it a special place to be at, and also be a part of their staff as I was this summer.

I will definitely be going back to Gracefield and for anyone that is given the opportunity to come to Gracefield to volunteer or work I would highly recommend it!

*Holly*

## Leaders-in-Training 2018

This year's Leaders-in-Training program was an absolute success! For four weeks, three LIT campers joined us up at camp to build up and exercise their leadership skills. Our 2018 LITs, Emily, Jordan, and Gavin, discovered the tools needed to grow into leadership with us, and left our program as both leaders and disciples.

From interning in cabins as counsellors in training to heading out on a four-day canoe trip on 31 Mile Lake, our month together was jam-packed with new opportunities to step into leadership and discipleship in new and exciting ways. As a group, we experienced different spheres of camp in lending a hand through maintenance, guest services, and kitchen tasks. We learned about how essential every position at camp is to the smooth running of a camp season. Each LIT finished off the program with several new certifications, as well—including their first three ORCKA canoeing levels, Standard First Aid, and official ACQ LIT certification. What a full four weeks!

It was incredibly rewarding to see the growth of each participant first-hand on our closing canoe trip. Spending four days on the lake with these amazing young leaders was such an incredible opportunity, and this is when I felt we were closest to God while surrounded by the beauty of His creation. Everyone did their part to help each other pull through our time on the water and our time together on our "Blueberry Island" campsite. I'm still overwhelmed with gratitude for having had each individual LIT join us this year to share their gifts and talents with us.

We are definitely already looking forward to next year's LIT program. The Gracefield Program Team is already stirring up new and exciting ideas to make each LIT experience unique. If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming an LIT, feel free to contact the office for more information!

*Mikayla & David*

LIT Directors 2018



## Roll Up Your Sleeves!

**Oct 12-14 and/or Oct 19-21**

...or perhaps roll them down depending on the weather!

The work weekends are coming up after Thanksgiving and we need your assistance—any age and ability—to help pack up the camp for the winter.

Your contributions could include gathering and burning brush, splitting and stacking logs for White Pine, final clean up of cabins, putting away all waterfront gear and canoes, and a myriad of other big and small jobs to help ensure that the camp is ready for the colder months.

In exchange for your help, room and board is provided.

Please call the office for more details, at 819-463-2465.



## Camp Wish List

Gracefield runs on volunteer support and donations of all kinds. Camp is in need of the following items, new where possible, or gently used. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### OFFICE/GENERAL

- New office laptop
- Boxes of pens
- Boxes of Sharpie markers, all sizes
- Masking tape
- Painters tape
- LED lightbulbs
- Corn brooms

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Chainsaw safety gear: helmet, gloves, chaps
- First Aid: bandaids, boxes of vinyl gloves
- Small flashlights and batteries

### PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

- Buoy line
- Large adult canoe paddles
- Beach toys: waterguns, pails, shovels, goggles
- Complete board games
- Complete puzzles

## Fall/Winter Retreats

Grab your congregation, your art group, your extended family, your yoga class, your genealogy club, your card-loving pals, your winter enthusiast friends—grab any group you belong to and bring them up to Gracefield for a retreat!

The fall and winter are especially fun when you can take advantage of outdoor activities and then curl up beside a roaring fire. Or, simply find one of our many puzzles and challenge yourselves to get as many done over the weekend!

Make the retreat as formal or informal as you want—all you need to do is bring your crowd and we take care of the food, the lodging, the snacks, even the wood for the fireplace is ready to go!

Plan your retreat today by calling the office at 819-463-2465.



## From the Board

As we move season from Summer to Fall, this period is also one of transition on the Gracefield Board of Directors. Firstly, we'd like to welcome Ellie Bennett into her new position as Chair; she replaces Bon E. Cummings who has stepped down from this position after 7 years of dedicated service. Also leaving the Board this year are Karen Dimock and Ian Johnston. We'd like to thank Bon, Karen and Ian for their much-appreciated years of commitment and service to Gracefield. We know they will stay keen supporters going forward. As they leave, we are fortunate to welcome Jim Paulin, Topher Whitehead, and Dan Plant to the Board, and we wish them well as they contribute to the stewardship of the camp.

As we look ahead, one of the Board's priorities is to review progress alongside the Strategic Plan adopted in early 2017 and continue to develop an overall workplan for the camp to help implement it; much has been done but there is still much to do. The plan is available on our website at <http://gracefieldcamp.ca/files/2017/04/Gracefield-Final-Report.pdf>. Our goal is to report back to you in future Beaver Tales on progress and related activities. If you have any questions for the Board on this or any other matter, please get in touch at [board@gracefieldcamp.ca](mailto:board@gracefieldcamp.ca).

*Glenn Ogden*  
Vice-Chair of the Board

## Church Visits

*Does your congregation or group want to know more about the mission of Gracefield?*

Our Executive Director or a Gracefield ambassador would be happy to come to your Sunday service and provide details about how it touches many lives through its many experiences, either as a summer camper, a retreat guest, a tent and trailer user, or simply a child of God who feels His presence on the properties' towering pines, warm fragrant winds, or silky lake water.

This is a very special place and belongs to all. Let us tell you how you can experience this wonderful location surrounded by God's bountiful creation.



# Living Grace Fully Thanksgiving at Gracefield

Saturday October 6th, through  
Monday October 8th, 2018



**SATURDAY:**  
Afternoon Tea  
Evening Fireside Chat  
Mindful Nature Walks

**SUNDAY:**  
Morning Worship  
Canoeing + Archery  
Gratitude Art Workshop  
Thanksgiving Supper

**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](mailto: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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**Local Call**

819-463-2465

*BeaverTales is generously  
curated and edited by Jen Buie-Richardson,  
and designed by Joanne T. Lauzon.*

## 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 though the PAR program—please call the office for more information.

*A tax receipt will be issued for all monetary donations.*