

BEAVERTALES



Official Newsletter of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre



The Most Important Relationship

ROMANS 8:1 (The Message) "With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud."

This time of year we are reminded of what really matters, and challenged to do better next year with what we have. The predominant theme of many heartwarming Christmas movies points us away from the gripes and possessions that distract us in our everyday lives. It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol, Home Alone, and Die-Hard all point to the principle that the relationships we have with people in our lives are of more value than the possessions we can accumulate.

We have many great Christmas traditions and liturgies as Christians, but if they fail to point us to the relationships that are of value in our lives then we have missed their meaning. I love the way the paraphrase of the Bible The Message interprets Romans 8:1. I would break it down into four parts, although as you see there is an element of repetition to make a point here.

1. With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah
2. that fateful dilemma is resolved.
3. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us
4. no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud.

Because of Jesus, we can have freedom from what separates us from God, and we are pointed to the relationship that matters most of all: the one we can have with Him.

Grace & Peace,
Mark Hamilton
Managing Director

This issue:

The Most Important
Relationship
PAGE 01

Winter Camping
PAGE 02

2021/22 GCCRC Board
PAGE 03

Prayer and Praise Report
PAGE 04

Progress Updates For
Summer Camps
PAGE 05

2022 Program Offerings
PAGE 06

Ways To Give
PAGE 07





Book a Cozy Winter Stay at Gracefield

Did you know that you can book a winter stay at Gracefield? If you're looking for a space to have a weekend away, gather with a group, or host a team-building retreat, you can do all of it at camp this winter. From snowshoeing the trails and skating on the lake to cozying up by the fireplace, it's an idyllic getaway!

For information about general booking options, you can contact the office info@gracefieldcamp.ca



Why Not Try Winter Camping This Season?

If you're looking for a bit more of an outdoorsy adventure, our Erskine Cabin Villiage is the perfect spot to gather with friends or family for an unforgettable winter experience!

For information on group winter camping packages, contact info@gracefieldcamp.ca





Looking for Volunteers!

2022 will mark Gracefield's 60th Anniversary!

To celebrate, we hope to plan a number of celebratory events and are looking for volunteers to serve on a planning committee. Contact Manon Campbell at manon.campbell@gracefieldcamp.ca for more information or to get involved.

Welcome to New and Returning GCCRC Board Members



GCCRC Board meetings have been held on virtual platforms for the past few years, and we are thankful for all the new technology we are learning to use to keep on top of meeting and planning.

GCCRC Board members tend to go above and beyond when it comes to serving, and we are so grateful for our new and returning board members. We wish to thank Topher Whitehead, our outgoing Property Committee Chair, for all of his leadership, vision and service, and also pleased to announce that Geo Herbert will fill the role of Property Chair.

2021/22 GCCRC Board of Directors

- Paula Whaley
- Ruth Draffin
- Johnen Everson
- Brian Laughton
- Joan Coulter
- Chris Bolger
- Geo Herbert
- Manon Campbell
- Marc Laurin
- Alex Heath
- Dan Plant
- Debra Scholey

Gracefield Internship Program

This summer's Gracefield Internship Program was a major success. The two interns assisted in meeting the strict cleaning requirements in light of Covid and helped with a big maintenance project that likely would have otherwise not been done. They were also able to obtain their CIT certification from ACQ, along with ORCA training and First Aid Training.

We are excited to announce that we will be running our LIT Program again in 2022. All interested candidates can make inquiries to Chris Bolger via email at program@gracefieldcamp.ca



So Much Gratitude

As we look back on 2021 and wrap up the year, we are reminded of all of the generosity of so many people who have given their time and money to support the ministry of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre.

In spite of the challenges we have faced in the past two years, Gracefield is in a good financial position.

There is work yet to be done, but we continue to strive to be good stewards of this beautiful land and the gifts of time and money that come from our GCCRC family.



Prayer and Praise Report

Prayer needs:

- For God to be glorified through work and life of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre
- Continued wisdom in navigating the impact of Covid 19 on what we do at Gracefield.
- Hiring of an Operations Director and Staff for Summer 2022.
- Our need for volunteers to serve on Gracefield planning and serving committees.
- Energy and God's leading for Gracefield's Board and Managing Director

Praise Reports:

- We are so thankful for a great response to our Poinsettia Campaign!
- Our renovations to the camper cabins, the Manager's Cottage, and Jolly Roger are progressing and we are excited that the Lord provided generous donors and volunteers to facilitate it.
- For God's amazing provision of hard working, creative and dedicated staff and volunteers.
- For new and ongoing partnerships with community organizations and our opportunities to share Christ with them.



Progress Updates for Children's Camp



Work continues on the maintenance and improvement of our camper cabins. We want to give a huge thank you to coordinator Owen Mahaffy and our sponsor churches for all the work that has been done this year!

- Cabin 1 - Knox Manotick
- Cabin 2 - Parkwood
- Cabin 3 - Trinity Kanata
- Cabin 4 - Knox Ottawa
- Cabin 5 - St Stephen's

We so look forward to having campers back for overnights in these cabins.

Plans are well underway for summer 2022, when we hope and pray that we will be able to see the return of our regular children's camps.

We are happy to announce that the theme next summer will be "Creation Speaks." What better way to reintroduce campers to this beautiful location than to focus on how nature can point us to the Creator.

Our marketing materials are being designed and registration will open soon. Keep reading on page 5 to take a look at the 2022 camp schedule!

Our Camp Schedule for Summer 2022

Week	Traditional Camps	Wilderness Camps <small>(learning canoe tripping skills + an off-site camping trip)</small>
July 3-8	Explorer (7-9); Pioneer (10-12)	
July 10-15	MAAD Camp (10-15)	Woodlander (13+)
July 17-22	Pioneer (10-12)	Voyageur (13+)
July 24-29	Explorer (7-9)	Adventure Camp (10-12)
August 1-6	Frontier (13+)	

Wondering about our LIT program?

We'll be running our Leaders In Training program from July 3-29 for youth aged 15 to 17 who are ready to take the next step towards becoming a great leader at camp, and in their communities.

What about families?

Mark your calendar for the August long weekend because we're organizing an activity-filled family-friendly weekend! We've renamed Family Camp to "Gracefield Community" Camp for groups and individuals who want to experience all that Gracefield has to offer. Take a look at page 6 to see what that is!



Exciting Program Offerings For Summer 2022

As you gather with family and friends this holiday season, consider planning a trip to Gracefield!

There are a wide variety of program options and activities available for children, teens, adults, couples, and families. You can find something that suits how you enjoy spending your leisure time...



With traditional camp activities

- Try archery -- Sign up for basic archery lessons and try to hit the bullseye!
- Do some crafts -- With help from staff or using a premade kit, create your own special works of art.
- Use our ropes course to build teamwork -- Under the guidance of a staff member, work together with your family or group to meet the challenges of the outdoor ropes and challenge course.
- Climb the youth-sized bouldering wall -- With direction and supervision by staff, try to make it across the wall.
- Play sports -- Enjoy kicking a soccer ball, throwing a football, playing Ultimate frisbee or other favourite activities on the sports field.

In the wonder of creation

- Walk in the woods -- Take a relaxed saunter along the paved Trans Canada Trail, or explore the many hiking trails through the 280 acre GCCRC property, from flat walks through the forest to more challenging trails to the ridge and a lookout over the lake.
- Learn about nature -- With the help of staff or self-directed, explore the flora and fauna surrounding you.
- Relax surrounded by nature -- Enjoy the stillness of the lake, the quiet of the night, the sound of loons and other birds, the scents of the forest, or explore what Winter season has to offer by way of skiing, skating and snow shoeing!

In community

- Walk the labyrinth -- Enjoy quiet meditation time in the forest as you learn about and follow a traditional labyrinth path.
- Worship -- Participate in outdoor worship services led by GCCRC staff, or enjoy your own private worship time in a quiet corner of the property.
- Sing together -- Gather around a communal campfire and sing some favourite songs with your group, and others.
- Make new friends or reconnect with old ones -- Enjoy physically-distanced chats with others who share similar interests and beliefs.

On Lac Castor Blanc

- Canoe on the quiet lake -- Canoes are available to rent at our boathouse and a quick canoeing lesson by an ORCKA-trained instructor is included in the price if desired. You can also bring your own canoe or kayak to explore the lake.
- Swim -- Enjoy the clear water, whether close to shore or crossing the bay during the traditional Sunday swim to Turtle Rock. Lifeguard services are available at the beach.
- Explore the shallows and the depths of the lake -- Water depth ranges from very shallow to incredibly deep. (The Canadian Navy once brought divers here for deep water training!) Try swimming and snorkelling, or look down into the lake from a dock, canoe or kayak.

Beyond GCCRC

- Cycle the Véloroute des draveurs -- 28 km of paved trail pass right through the GCCRC property, which connects to another 72 km of gravel dust trail. Bring your bicycle and explore north to Massine along beautiful Blue Sea Lake and south to the town of Gracefield (with ice cream and more!) and beyond.
- Explore the region -- Take a drive to explore the nearby towns, including a climb or drive to the heritage fire lookout tower at Mont Morissette Regional Park which provides a panoramic view over Blue Sea Lake and the surrounding area.
- Enjoy all that our local ski hills have to offer during the Winter months.

If you want a break from cooking and more time to enjoy the program options, you can order some delicious take-out meals from the GCCRC kitchen. Make sure you try the homemade bread and cinnamon buns!





Ways To Give

There are many ways that you can make a difference in the lives of both adults and children attending camps and group programs that run year round at Gracefield. Every gift—large or small will help us facilitate our many programs, as well as manage and maintain our amazing camp and conference centre.

MAKE A DONATION

Your gift will help us to build skills and transform lives!

- Donate via PayPal Givings Fund Canada 100% of your donation will go to the Camp PayPal Givings Fund Canada will issue a tax receipt.
- Send an Interac e-transfer to info@gracefieldcamp.ca.
- Mail a cheque to Gracefield Camp at 37 chemin des Loisirs, Gracefield, QC, J0X 1W0.
- Call the office at 1-819-463-2465 or 1-888-493-2267 to donate using your credit card

GRACEFIELD GUARDIANS

We encourage you to consider joining our Gracefield Guardians program, making regular monthly donations to the Camp. If you would like to do so, please email or call the Camp to register for monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR) from your bank account to Gracefield.

LEGACY GIVING

A gift to Gracefield CCRC through your will allows you to make a lasting impact on young lives, while reducing taxes to your estate. A gift of a new or existing life insurance policy allows you to make a larger gift that is ultimately greater than the premiums paid. With Gracefield named as the beneficiary, your annual premiums qualify as charitable tax receipts. For more information on Legacy gifts, please consult your financial advisor, or email our fundraising team at paula.whaley@gracefieldcamp.ca

GIFTS OF STOCK AND SECURITIES

With a gift of stock or securities, you can contribute to GCCRC and save on capital gains tax. For more information, please contact us at paula.whaley@gracefieldcamp.ca



Keep In Touch!

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

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