

SPRING 2022 ISSUE

BEAVERTALES



Official Newsletter of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

Spring Will Come

Psalm 1:2-3

2 But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

As I look out the window of the office here in White Pine, on a windy and snowy winter morning, it's sometimes hard to believe that spring is just around the corner. Yet it is true! Our days of shoveling snow or scraping ice off our vehicles will soon be replaced by a new season – one that brings new life.

In many ways it has been a very long winter for all of us. Since 2020 we have dealt with the realities of the pandemic and the restrictions to operations that it has brought to us. Although we are not free from the continued impact of COVID-19 or its secondary impacts on our lives and relationships, I still believe in spite of all the evidence outside my window, spring will come!

While we spend much of our time these days planning for all the activities that will take place this summer at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, we can't forget that spring comes first.

With that in mind, we need to remember to plant our roots in the right place, in order to have the nourishment needed to bear fruit in season, to grow and not wither, and to prosper in our efforts.

Grace & Peace,
Mark Hamilton
Managing Director

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Gracefield is Turning 60!

This year, we're celebrating 60 years of community and fellowship at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre! We're excited to announce some of our many events to commemorate this huge milestone:

July 1st Weekend: Canada Day weekend & Opening Ceremony to launch the celebrations. Enjoy free program options, Josh's fabulous cooking, nature interpretation walks, Bruce's legendary fireworks, and more!

July 23rd Weekend: The 80's Era Celebration Group

Aug. 20th Weekend: Paddle-a-Thon

Sept 3rd Weekend: Closing Ceremony to end the summer celebrations. There will be treasure hunts, great food, fireworks, and more surprises!

More details and events will be shared on our Facebook, Instagram, and website. Get ahead of the booking rush and contact the office info@gracefieldcamp.ca for booking options for these weekends!

Seeking Helpers for 60th Celebrations

Thank you to those who have reached out and offered to volunteer for the 60th celebrations. We are currently looking for hosts, hostesses, and nature walk interpreters.

For more information or volunteering possibilities, please contact:
manon.campbell@gracefieldcamp.ca



Thank You To All Our Volunteers

The Board of Directors wish to wholeheartedly thank all those who tirelessly volunteer at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre! Without the Lord, and our many helpers, we would not be able to exist! Here are some of the many tasks that we are grateful for: our cabin upgrades, grant vetting, promotional work, work weekend groups, and the list goes on.

We have also been blessed with churches adopting our campers' cabins. Here's a testimonial of Trinity's Cabin 3 experience:



"The last few years a team of volunteers has been working to improve the appearance and structural stability of Cabin 3, which we have sponsored on an ongoing basis. In the past, we painted the interior, fixed the screens, and installed new curtains and rods. The exterior of the cabin became our focus in 2021. Whether it was powerwashing stains off the exterior walls moss off the roof, painting the exterior a bright new colour, or installing new fascia boards and the new metal roof, our team of volunteers enjoyed the work and especially where we were doing it.



In fact, it does not seem like work at all when you are up at Gracefield. We enjoyed swimming, canoeing and walking the trails during the day when not actually doing the tasks we had set for ourselves. And then there were the games and conversation Saturday evening once we had enjoyed the dinner meal Josh had prepared. We look forward to completing the roofing project, soffit upgrades, and ramp and exterior steps replacement (perhaps including adding a deck on the front) as our work activities for 2022 . We're hoping to be able to tackle some electrical, flooring and window upgrades in future years. It is our prayer that these improvements add enjoyment to the camp experience for both the kids campers and those who use Cabin 3 at other times."

Helping Make Gracefield Better

We say a huge thank you to volunteers, parents, campers and guests who took part in our surveys and shared experiences and ideas with us. We are excited for our summer programming. There will be plenty of outdoor activities that all of you can experience around the beautiful shores of Lac Castor! We continue to value your input and welcome your comments and suggestions at connect@gracefieldcamp.ca



Spring Fundraising Campaign

We invite you to support our capital fundraising campaign by participating in our 2022 Lenten Fundraiser. This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 (Ash Wednesday) and ends on Thursday, April 14, 2022 (Holy Thursday).

As you consider how you might support our charitable organization during this appeal, we wanted to offer up a few suggestions for how you could tackle this both individually as well as with your community.

Lent is a 40-day period of spiritual preparation leading up to Easter in which many Christians reflect on Christ's death and resurrection. Giving up something for Lent is a practice many Christians (and even some non-Christians) voluntarily choose to follow each year as a spiritual discipline to help them grow in faith and charity.

Some ideas for ways you could "Give it up for Lent" on a personal front could involve saving the money you would normally spend on eating out, going to coffee shops, driving your vehicle rather than walking or taking public transit, alcohol, etc. and donating it to support our campaign.

Alternatively, you could run a social media peer-to-peer fundraiser asking folks to support GCCRC by "Giving it up for Lent" and donating to your fundraising event. Perhaps your church or friend group could host a fish fry one Friday during Lent and raise funds to support this campaign. Whatever you decide, we know you will be blessed in the giving, and we are grateful for your support!

Scan the QR code to donate to our GIVE IT UP FOR LENT fundraiser!



Prayer and Praise Report

Prayer needs:

- For God to be glorified through work and life of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre
- prayers for those who are sick and in hospital.
- pray for the government, that God would guide their decisions in respect to the pandemic restrictions and in all other matters that they deal with.
- pray for all of the people who will come to experience creation, Christ and Christian community at GCCRC
- pray for those who will be applying to join this summer's staff.
- Prayers for families in our community that are dealing with loss and grief.
- Our need for volunteers to serve on Gracefield planning and serving committees.

Praise Reports:

- For God's amazing provision of hard working, creative and dedicated staff and volunteers
- So enormously grateful for God's provision of new BeverTales creators/editors Elizabeth and Cameron Penner
- For new and ongoing partnerships with community organizations and our opportunities to share Christ with them.
- Praise for the encouragement that has come by so many faithful donations to the work here at the camp.



Summer Program Offerings



Bring friends or family, or come on your own to experience all the fun and fellowship of summer camp at Gracefield, whatever your age!

On the August long weekend, July 29 – August 1, you can join the *GCCRC Community Camp* and enjoy the warmth and welcome of members in the community as you participate in activities, meals and fellowship together. Staff will lead traditional camp activities like canoeing, archery, nature walks, campfires, and arts and crafts. Participants can also enjoy self-directed activities at the camp, along the Grand Trail paved bike path and on beautiful Lac Castor. Good food, a speaker, and Sunday morning worship with the entire Gracefield community are all highlights of this long weekend getaway.

We offer a variety of accommodations and various meal plans to suit everyone's needs. Don't miss Josh's homemade cinnamon buns and fresh bread! Check out all the details on our website.



Don't miss out on our Early Bird Registration discount and sign up by May 31st!

<u>Week</u>	<u>Camp</u>	<u>Cost</u>
July 3-8	Explorer I (7 - 9)	\$475
July 3-8	Pioneer I (10 - 12)	\$475
July 10-15	M.A.D.D. (10 - 15)	\$500
July 10-15	Woodlander (13+)	\$500
July 17-22	Pioneer II (10 - 12)	\$475
July 17-22	Voyager (13+)	\$500
July 24-29	Explorer II (7 - 9)	\$475
July 24-29	Adventure (10 - 12)	\$500
August 1-6	Frontier (13+)	\$475
July 3-29	LIT (Leaders In Training)	\$1080

We're Hiring!

The camp is seeking a permanent Operations Manager, as well as 2022 seasonal staff.

If you're flexible, proactive, and interested in joining the team, please send a completed Staff Application Form or CV and cover letter to work@gracefieldcamp.ca. Take this as your sign to apply right away! More information and job opportunities at gracefieldcamp.ca/employment/



Tales from the Gracefield Loop

July 1995, we have finally arrived! The children managed to nap while driving the winding road up the Gatineau River. Now starts the chore of unloading everything in the torrential rain. It's amazing what a family of five packs for a week of camp. "I wonder what being camp nurse for the first time will be like..."

Summer of 1997, we are packed and ready to go. The children – Mary, Helene and Elizabeth – are excited about going back to Gracefield. They wonder which counselors have returned. They sing camp songs until they can no longer keep their eyes open. This year, we arrive at camp with the sun shining in a blue sky. There is more to unpack because baby David has joined his sisters. The girls know Gracefield a bit better now since this is their third summer. My husband, Alan, will be busy looking after the children while I'm on nurse duty, so he probably won't be able to get as many repair jobs done this year. Thankfully, wide games, swimming at the beach, campfires and tuck shop treats will keep them well entertained.

May 2002. "Hats, gloves, and bug repellent... I think we have everything," I say before leaving the house. Another journey up the Gatineau River is underway and the children are so excited to sleep in our new-to-us trailer as we have joined the Tent & Trailer community. Now the job of setting up a trailer on a wild, uneven site begins. Bobcat Bob, the maintenance man, helps us and becomes a hero to the Campbell kids. It's early spring and we've never been at camp when it's this cold. Nonetheless, there's something beautiful about seeing through the forest before the leaves emerge, noticing all the evidence of deer that have occupied the loop, listening to near silence by the lake and reconnecting with the staff around the campfire. We share the stories of our time away from Gracefield and can sense the excitement building for the camp season. The staff is infectiously full of enthusiasm and energy – it's going to be a great summer.

Summer 2006. The family has walkie talkies to play hide and seek, and bikes to get around the loop, where they always seem to find a kind soul offering sweet treats or entertaining stories. Mr. Whitehead recounts the day he caught his biggest fish in Lac Castor, showing the outline of the fish that he traced on a piece of paper. It was big!

The campfire at our site is a highlight and staff frequently make their way over to join us. There's singing, snacking and storytelling - all punctuated with laughter. David enjoys many shoulder rides on staff by day and manages to fall asleep sitting on someone's lap by night. He has dirty feet from running around without shoes and is exhausted from a full day of activities. This is summer at camp!

August 2021 and COVID-19 has been quite a challenge for camp. Yet another year, another van, packed with ever more stuff. Our days of making sure the kids have everything they need for Pioneer, Voyageur or Adventure Camp are done. However, Alan can never be without tools and can never have too many! Eastblock renovations, JR's trim painting, Parliament Hill dock and other projects have kept us busy over the years. It's just the two of us heading up this time. The children are adults and come when work schedules allow, which always makes us happy. The family continues to grow with children-in-laws and a grandson. Seeing the little one manage his first steps on Parliament Hill and having everyone up here together fills my heart. I love to see the future generations of children experience the caring, encouraging, exciting and loving community of Gracefield.

This year marks the Campbells' 27 years at Gracefield - oh how time flies! This is a special one for the camp as it celebrates 60 years of ministry. As a member of the Board of Directors, I invite you to join us in our 60th Anniversary celebrations.

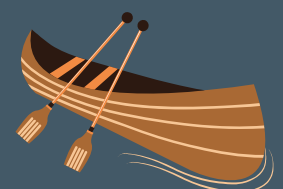
Despite the trials of the past two years, Gracefield community has much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. God has gifted us with the clean waters and extensive shoreline of Lac Castor. Families, individuals, youth and children have experienced its beauty and community. I have seen lives touched by God and moved to share their faith with others. They find themselves drawn back, bringing new faces with them – family, friends, neighbours... They join hands, provide financial support and lift us in prayer when repairs, new projects, staff or more is needed.

This has been "my Gracefield", the place I long to get to as I journey by the lovely Gatineau River. There are many more stories of the past to be told and celebrated. My future story includes the hope that many more lives will encounter the loving presence of God in "their Gracefield."

This summer, come see, swim, canoe, bike or hike, sing, celebrate and experience fellowship with us as we share stories and dreams of our Gracefield, of God's precious gift to us!

Looking forward to seeing you!

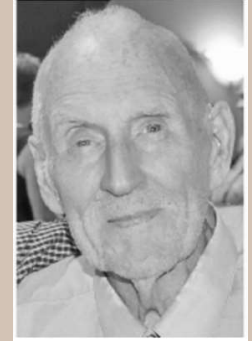
Manon Campbell
Seasonal Site Holder & GCCRC Board of Directors





In Loving Memory

William "Bill" Kerr, a long-time member of the GCCRC community, passed away on February 13, 2022 in his 85th year. He enjoyed numerous summers at camp with his church family and will be missed by many.



"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

Spring Cleanup Dates

This year's Spring Clean Up event weekends will be held on
April 30-31

May 7-8

Our coordinators will be Geo Herbert and Topher Whitehead.



As we need to know how many folks are coming, and what their availability and special skill is (ie, cleaner, tree clean-up skills, gardening, painting, heavy lifter, etc), kindly contact topher.whitehead@gmail.com to let him know when you are arriving, how many helpers will be available in your party, and your contact info.

Keep In Touch!

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

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