

BEAVERTALES



Official Newsletter of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

A note from 2023 Staff

"For behold, the winter is passed; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land."

- Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

As the temperature rises in Ottawa, it is slow to climb at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre. Despite the colder weather lately, the beauty, peace, and nature that surrounds us here doesn't stop us from jumping in the lake for a quick ice-dip! This has us excited to welcome sunny and warm weather, along with campers, guests, and more staff!

As we prepare to start our second year as counselors, we're excited to see all of the amazing campers from previous summers, and eagerly waiting to meet the new 2023 campers! We can't wait to have another summer filled with friendships, learning, and memories during this 2023 season. We have been anticipating camp games, Josh's food, and spending time with one another and with God. This summer we look forward to all of the crafts, hikes, canoe trips, and campfires that we get to experience.

Here at Gracefield, a variety of camp options are available; from our wilderness camps for those who love the outdoors to our MADD camp for all of the creative minds, we have something for every camper. If you haven't already and would like to sign up for a summer camp this year, registration is open on our website - we'd love to have you!

In order to ensure our camps run smoothly for the busy summer season, a lot of work is being done this spring, including two very successful work weekends. Our crew of staff is continuing to work day and night as we continue through spring, to prepare everything for our campers and guests.

As we wait for summer, some of our accommodations and lodges are now open to guests looking to spend some time in the great surroundings that Gracefield offers. Make sure to check camp's Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for updates on current accommodations and summer programming.

We look forward to having an amazing summer with all of our campers and guests!

Holly "Scotia" Tinker, Isabel "River" Chatelain, Sara "Stripes" Richter

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Spring Cleanup

As it is custom, two weekends in early May were dedicated to some much needed Spring clean up in preparation for the summer season. The sunshine and warm weather were welcomed by all. A great sigh of relief was heard for the absence of the black flies. We are so grateful for the many volunteers that took part in these weekends - on behalf of all the guests and staff, thank you!



Campaign update - Giving Day for Peaceful Sleep

Gracefield is looking to improve its beds for the benefit of its guests - you!

We are happy to report that \$2,749 was raised during the March 25th Giving Day for Peaceful Sleep campaign. Thank you to all who contributed to help improve our guests' experiences.

If you missed our event on March 25th, you can contact the office to find out how to make a donation.



The Gracefield Scoop

Contemplation Coffee Sale

Last year, Gracefield partnered with the Blue Barn coffee roastery from Wakefield and had its own brand of coffee Contemplation created as a fundraising initiative. Gracefield's church ambassadors, Monica & David McLean from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, took the opportunity to showcase Gracefield's Contemplation Coffee at St. Paul's over the Mother's Day weekend. The sum of \$420 was collected from the sales' proceeds. We thank you, Monica, David and St. Paul's congregation for your generous support!



Camper Cabins, Church Sponsorship Program

We are thrilled and grateful to see all the improvements made to the Campers' Cabins through the Church's Sponsorship Program. Thanks to the many hands and commitments from Knox Manotick - Cabin 1, Parkwood Presbyterian - Cabin 2, Trinity Kanata - Cabin 3, Knox Ottawa - Cabin 4 and St. Stephen's - Cabin 5. We invite you to come to camp and see for yourself the makeovers that have taken place. You won't be disappointed!



New Website

We are proud to announce that [Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre](http://gracefieldcamp.ca) has a new website!

Take a look at gracefieldcamp.ca, where you can find all of the information you need to visit us this summer. We look forward to connecting with you soon!



Summer Programs

Gracefield is excited to have some renovated rental facilities and campground sites available for booking this summer and fall.

On our new website, you can find various options for [Lodges & Cabins](#) and [Tent & Trailer Camping](#). Use our [Book Now](#) feature so that you don't miss out!

Summer camp registration is filling up. You can find out more information on each of the camps on our website!



Camp	Weeks
Explorer (Ages 7-9)	July 9 - 14 July 30 - August 4
Pioneer (Ages 10-12)	July 9 - 14 July 23 - 28
"MADD" Camp (Ages 10-15)	July 16 - 21
Woodlander (Ages 12-14)	July 16 - 21
Frontier (Ages 13-16)	August 13 - 18
Adventure (Ages 10-12)	July 30 - August 4
Voyageur (Ages 14-16)	July 23 - 28
"LIT" (Ages 16-18)	July 9 - August 4



Paddle-a-Thon 2023



The 2023 Paddle-a-Thon Campaign is open for registration!

Now is your chance to join [Gracefield's 2023 Paddle-a-Thon](#) as an individual, as part of a team, a church group, or you can also simply donate. Visit us on [Facebook](#) or our website for more information, or contact info@gracefieldcamp.ca to experience Gracefield's community that day!

A Note From the Managing Director

New Year's day is January first, and yet it feels like in the context of camp we should consider the first day of Spring as a time of new beginnings and fresh opportunities for the season ahead. The 61st year in the history of the camp will have less fanfare than last year with the many 60th anniversary activities, and yet we are excited about what is to come. Our camper registration numbers are ahead compared to this time last year, and we are also ahead of the pace set in 2019, before the pandemic.

This summer we are learning about the fruit of the spirit. Spring brings a reminder of how seeds need to be sowed in rich soil and given sunshine and water in order to grow. It often takes a lot of work and time before the plants can bear fruit, but the rewards are so great.

It has been said that nothing worthwhile will ever be accomplished without hard work. That is also true of our spiritual growth. Like a garden, we cannot expect that our faith is going to grow overnight, without tending to and proper nourishment.

If we are planted in good soil, under the right conditions, and working at it, we will in time become the Fruit-FULL community that we are called to be.

Grace & Peace,
Mark Hamilton
Managing Director

