

BEAVERTALES



Official Newsletter of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

Letter From an Old Friend

My first visit to Gracefield was back in 1990, when our eldest was just a toddler. My wife went almost every summer when she was a child and has memories of visiting with her grandparents from Scotland. We went back to Gracefield this past August, for a family reunion and to say goodbye to my wife's father, who'd recently passed. While making this latest visit with our grandson, the fifth generation of our family, it was wonderful to feel the warm embrace of a place we continue to hold near and dear to us.

Geography now limits how often we get to Gracefield, but we do visit often in our minds and in our hearts. Memories of Gracefield remain some of my most vivid; swimming to turtle rock with my young daughter (on my back at times) after a simple and beautiful church service, catching a bat with a fishing net in the big room at Beaver Lodge, the Pavlovian response we developed to the dinner bell, building a tarp camp in the rain, tapping into the energy and sense of wonder the camp kids and young counselors exude. The strong community, mystical setting, transcendent spirituality and simplicity of Gracefield help keep me grounded in the belief that we can live in love for each other, peace in our world and harmony with our planet.

Doug Young
Gracefield community member

This issue:

Letter From an Old Friend

PAGE 01

Seasonal Updates

PAGE 02

Summer Staff Appreciation

PAGE 03

Paddle-a-Thon and A Note
From the Managing Director

PAGE 04



Seasonal Update

After our Thanksgiving celebration, Gracefield is still open throughout the fall.

If you are looking for a venue to host a group retreat in the late fall or next year, the camp would be thrilled to host you.

For more information or to find out about availability, please contact info@gracefieldcamp.ca or call us at 819-463-2465.

Save the Date

We are happy to announce that March Break Camp will be happening March 10th to 15th, 2024 for kids aged 9 to 15 years old!



MARCH BREAK CAMP
IS BACK!

Three photos showing children participating in winter activities: ice hockey, tubing, and skiing.

MARCH 10 - 15, 2024 / AGES 9 - 15
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

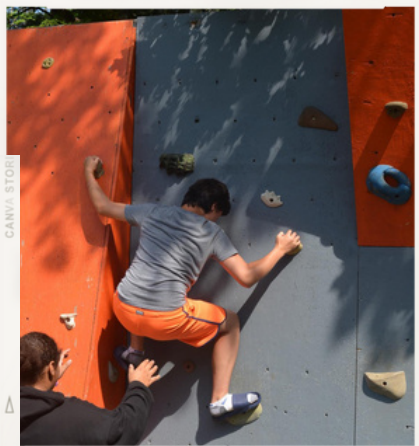
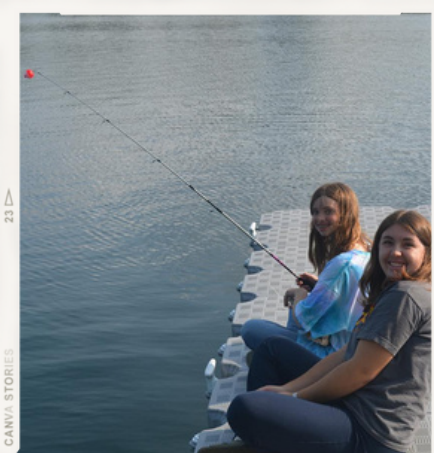
Visit our website at <https://gracefieldcamp.ca/march-break-camp/> for more information and to register for a week of fun-filled activities!



Cheers to a Memorable Summer!

The dedication and enthusiasm of our program staff provided the children and youth campers many fun experiences and opportunities to learn new skills while living in Christian community. We are thankful for their committed work this past summer!

If you want to join in on the fun and are feeling called to work with us in 2024, visit our Employment Opportunities page <https://gracefieldcamp.ca/jobs/> to apply.



Paddle-a-Thon 2023



We are pleased to announce that we raised \$4,015 during the Paddle-a-Thon this summer!

We are very grateful for the generosity and faithful support of all those who contributed and volunteered to support the event.



A Note From the Managing Director

I remember hearing of a youth drop-in centre that picked a wall and encouraged the youth to graffiti it as they decorated the space. To start the ball rolling the director of the drop-in took a spray can and sprayed “Jesus Saves” across the wall. A few days later he noticed that beside it someone had sprayed “Moses Borrows”. It’s funny but true, the whole Old testament borrows from the promise of what is to come. On Thanksgiving Sunday at camp we talked a little about some of the things that Moses shared in his message to the people of Israel as they prepared to enter into the promised land. At the end of their time in the wilderness he challenges the people to remember what God has done. Sadly, in spite of God’s faithfulness it is clear that we as people tend to forget all too often the blessings that come our way.

With that in mind, I want us to celebrate:

- a 25% increase in overnight kids camp campers in 2023 compared to in 2022, and we anticipate that to continue next year beginning with the upcoming return of March Break camp in 2024;
- the groups, the families and the adults who came back and enjoyed the camp again this summer having been away for a while, enjoying the facilities as they are now, while telling stories of the memories they have of past fun at Gracefield; and
- the many people of all ages who enjoyed Gracefield Christian Camp and retreat Centre for the first time in 2023.

We also continue to work:

- towards winter shutdown and thank the volunteers who helped to keep us running this summer and those who help to prepare the site for the winter;
- to plan for next summer, in our Children and Youth camps and beyond we strive to take the lessons learned and make each year better than the last one; and
- to find the right ways to steward this camp to be a light for those who need it.

Last but not least, we pray for God to raise up the people needed to join the staff, volunteers and donors needed for Gracefield to continue to grow and fulfil our mission.

Grace & Peace,
Mark Hamilton
Managing Director

