



## News from the Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp - 2006

Everyone is welcome to join the Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp, a group of volunteers who care about the future of Sparrow Lake Camp.

Did you know...

- that Sparrow Lake Camp is operated by the United Church of Canada and accredited by the Ontario Camping Association.
- for 94 years our program has prided itself in offering a safe, fun-filled Christian atmosphere for children and youth.

### HISTORY OF SPARROW LAKE CAMP:

The Massey Family purchased an 85 acre property on Sparrow Lake from pioneer Captain Thomas Stanton in 1892. The Masseys used the property, which included a main lodge, a dining room and cottages as a "summer getaway" until 1912 when they donated it to the Methodist Union of Toronto. The Methodist Union started what we now know as Sparrow Lake Camp, by sending a group of disadvantaged boys from the Fred Victor Mission. Girls were included in 1916. At the end of World War 1, the current Recreation Hall was relocated to the camp from its original site in Toronto, where it had served as military barracks. In 1925, at the time of the Church Union, the camp became the responsibility of the Toronto Home Mission Council. In 1926 the Langmuir property, an adjacent 41 acres at the north end of the point was purchased and the current dining hall and 13 cabins were built.

### MISSION STATEMENT:

Sparrow Lake United Church Camp is a caring, inclusive Christian community providing a quality outdoor camping experience for children and youth in a pristine natural environment.

### SPARROW LAKE CAMP NEEDS YOU.....

Whether your Sparrow Lake experiences were last summer or more than a decade ago, please send us an e-mail or drop us a line to share one or all of the following:

- a) a funny story about something that happened at camp
- b) a fond remembrance of a camp experience
- c) kudos to a camper or a staff member who made a difference to your camp experience
- d) what affect Sparrow Lake Camp has had on you

We would like you to include your name (indicate former surname if applicable so that you can be identified by campers and staffers of your era), approximately when you were at camp and whether you were a camper and/or what staff positions you held. A selection of submissions will be added to our website and may be published at some point in the future.

Here is some feedback that we have received:

*"Sparrow Lake Camp has been for me a place of true growth – spiritually and emotionally. As a former camper and staff member, I have had experiences and learned lessons that I've carried with me into every aspect of my personal and professional life. I'm very proud to now be able to donate my time to the camp as part of a wonderfully dedicated Board of Directors whose goal is to ensure all our future campers and staff have the opportunity for their own growth – having fun and meeting lifelong friends along the way."*

Shannon (Sloan) Rich – camper 1984, staff 1987 – 1989 and 1991, SLC Board of Directors 1998 - present.

*"Sparrow Lake Camp offers a safe environment where both campers and staff can learn to work together. This unique microcosm of society is ideal for life skills and work skills development. Young people get to actively take part in community building during each session and each summer at camp. Through my time as a camper and my 10 + years on staff at SLC I have been fortunate to learn from some truly remarkable people. My experiences at camp put me well ahead of my peers when it came time to head out into the real world of work. I never shy away from relating to employers and co-workers the benefits of having worked at camp".*

Peter McFarland, camper 1988-1991, staff 1991-2002, board member 2004 - present.

*"In an article in the Observer Rev. Orville James wrote "At camp we are in a community of Christ and our spirits feel a sense of belonging and being valued. Each person is unique, but at camp we fit in, like few other places we'll ever experience." This is exactly how I feel about camp – it truly is a special place. It is the place of some of my proudest moments, my most treasured memories and where I feel most connected to the natural world."*

Carolyn – camper 1989 - 1991, staff 1992 - 1994, SLC Board of Directors 2001 - present.

## **FRIENDS OF SPARROW LAKE CAMP PLANNED EVENTS:**

### **Camp Clean Up – Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Twice a year (before camp starts and in the fall) we work together at camp to paint, do yard work, clean, pack and unpack items to and from storage areas, and have a lot of fun in the process! Arrive by 9 a.m. on the scheduled camp clean up work days and stay until after an evening campfire program, or stay overnight in a camper cabin if that suits you better. To enable us to plan for meals, please let us know if you will be attending. E-mail [friends@sparrowlakecamp.com](mailto:friends@sparrowlakecamp.com) or call us at (416)283-1267.

### **FUNDRAISER AUCTION SALE SCHEDULED – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006**

Location: Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Avenue (just south of Lawrence Avenue)

Time: Viewing of live and silent auction items 1:30 p.m. Live auction commences at 2:00 p.m. Silent auction closes at 3:30 p.m.

**If you would like to donate an item to be auctioned, please let us know and we would be pleased to arrange for it to be picked up well in advance of the event..... and mark your calendar to attend. Refreshments will be available. A special "kids only" table will provide the opportunity for kids to do some unique gift shopping.**

### **SPARROW LAKE CAMP CENTENNIAL FUND:**

In 2012 Sparrow Lake Camp will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! The Board of Directors for Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc. has started a SLC Centennial Fund. The objective of the fund is to accumulate monies, earmarked to provide for site and capital work that will need to be done at Sparrow Lake Camp over the next few years. Improvements that can be supported by the SLC Centennial Fund will be completed in time for our Centennial celebrations in 2012. If you would like to contribute to the Fund, or if you would like additional information, please contact us. Charitable donation receipts will be issued for contributions to the Fund.

Donors will be acknowledged in the following categories

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Contributor	up to \$500.
Supporter	\$500. to \$5,000.
Cabin Builder	\$5,001 to \$10,000.
Memorial or Benefactor	over \$10,000.

The names of Supporters and Cabin Builders will be listed on a large plaque to be placed in an appropriate location at Camp.

Donations of Memorials or Benefactors will be acknowledged individually with provision for acknowledgement "In Memory of" or other designation at the donor's request.

If you wish to have more information or would like to have a presentation made to your group, please contact:

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