

Come, Discover, Experience.

www.pinelakechristiancamp.com

We are excited to share this issue of the Pine Lake Cricket with you, as there are many new and exciting things going on at the camp! Some of the highlights of this issue include news on a brand new program director, a new camp president, and a five year facility development plan. So take a look! And we will see you at camp!

Meet Our Program Director

Tyler Fraser



There is a road in central Alberta. It is dirt and gravel. Farmer's fields line either side of the road as you begin to drive east. Thirty foot trees cast shade on the loose gravel as your tires begin to kick up dust. A small hill ahead is capped by the wooden frame of an open metal gate. You drive up and over the hill, a recently made sign lets you know that the maximum speed is 8 km per hour. A maintenance road branches to the left leading to a two story house. Through the trees to your right you see a field, a large white baseball

backstop leading out across the green space up to the beach volleyball court. Straight ahead the brown walls and beige shingles of the mess hall bring memories flooding back. The tether ball is being tossed by a 5 year old boy, on the other side his 3 year old sister decides it is safer to dodge than try to tether this ball. As you park your car a figure in a maroon track suit with long hair and an unkempt beard walks around the corner of the mess hall. This image is not something that is familiar. But it is not all together unwelcome. He smiles and jogs towards you. He trips on the edge

of the walk and tears a hole in the right knee of his track pants. He gets up, wipes the dirt free and gives a small bow to his tether ball witnesses then waves at you. His name you will learn is Tyler Fraser. He is the new program director at PLCC and he is having a tough time describing how excited he is about the opportunity that he just wrote a short story about the dirt road which for him led to so many great memories.

I, Tyler, hope that you come out to PLCC this summer and take the short drive down that road. It is going to be a great summer.

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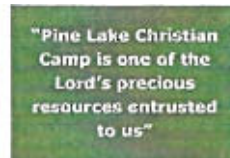
Thoughts From Our New President

Milton Clark

Pine Lake Christian Camp (PLCC) is one of the Lord's precious resources entrusted to us, Christ's Church, for our edification of all who seek Him. Many lives have been blessed over the 64 years the camp ministry has existed. I am convinced that we have only begun to tap the potential of the property in terms of maximizing its use and effectiveness for the Kingdom of God.

As PLCC joins the Alberta

Camping Association, we can anticipate enhanced exposure and credibility in the eyes of the larger community.



Camp Directors are committed to improving the quality of the camping experience through intentional programming and upgrading the infra-

structure to promote multi-purpose use over an extended camping season.

I'm excited about working alongside and encouraging our gifted and dedicated camp facilitators, camp directors, camp staff, and the hundreds of brethren who contribute their time and resources to the camp. May many more seekers come to know Christ and grow in Him through the PLCC ministry.

Summer Service 2006

Rob Nutting

My name is Rob Nutting, and I worked on the Pine Lake team this summer alongside Mandy Duplessie, Twila Shields, and Ryan McCullough.

As a counselor you have to give. You have to give on an emotional level. You listen to what campers have to say, you help them to walk through problems. You have to give on physical level. You have to help them clean up, you have to play games, you have to stay up late with them. And you have to give on a spiritual level. You have to pray for them, you have to worship with them. At the end of the day, after all this giving you are worn out.

Now I hope, and I can't guarantee that this is true, but I hope that much of what campers do is receive. They receive our love and care and our listening ears. They eat the food we (well, the cooks really) give, play the games we play with them and sleep in the cabins we've (and sometimes they've) cleaned. They hear the verses we read, sing our songs about God, and even hear a little about our walk with Jesus. At the end of the day they go to sleep knowing that their new counselor friend is looking out for them. You see, what was and is meaningful about my summer is that I got to do life with some young people.

I got to experience everything they did - we did life together. I got to watch them, and get to know them, and hear about life from them. They got to watch me and see how I responded to circumstances, and what it means for me to be a follower of Christ. To be honest, we don't get that opportunity on a Sunday morning. There isn't that space of walking through life together there. And that is what camp meant for me. I am changed because of the time that I spent with these young people, and that is rewarding. I hope that the same is true for them.

Reflection on the Past Six Years

Gail Myers

Most of the past six years I served on the Facilities and Kitchen Committee's and the last year I was President of Pine Lake Christian Camp, and was part of the Executive Committee. I've enjoyed my term as a Director at Pine Lake and I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their dedication and hard work for the Camp.

It's been a mission of Pine Lake Christian Camp that we do our best to heighten our emphasis on changing lives of our children to be followers of Jesus Christ.

My guess would be that just about everyone that reads this article would have had this experience at either Pine Lake Christian Camp or another Christian Camp.

It is the mandate of the Board of

Directors to make Pine Lake Christian Camp an affordable and a practical camp for the children of this province. It has been the duty of Pine Lake Christian Camp Board of Directors and specifically the Education Committee to find the best possible people to dean these camps and to ensure that the message of Christ be taught at each camp.

I've accepted the responsibility of helping coordinate the construction of new cabins and upgrading the washhouse. The washhouse would be our first priority followed by the cooks cabin and then another heated cabin within the next two years if finances allow. If you want to be involved in the labor of the above projects you can call me directly at 403-295-2254 or if you want to support the Camp

financially you can send your donations directly to Pine Lake Christian Camp, Box 41, Pine Lake, AB T0M 1S0.



Gail Myers, Former President

Words From a Dean

Cal Hultgren

My passion for being a dean at Bible camp stems from attending Bible camp in High School. Few places gave me the intensive confidence boost, healthy atmosphere, spiritual challenges and concentrated leadership training, as did Bible camp. I realize there is a danger to idolize the past and circumstances are different. However, those previous experiences opened my eyes to the potential of how great camp can be.

There are three values I try to keep at camp: growth in God, new friendships and growth in self-understanding. Fun becomes a by-product if these values are lived out well. If a camper can answer the question, "Did you have fun?" but not answer the more important question, "What did you learn?" I have failed as a dean.

Camp is one of those rare places where I can spend long periods of time with teens away from computers, PlayStations, cell phones, and TV. These are not bad things but they are often distractions to real spiritual development and friendship making.

The role of dean can be daunting, thinking about the responsibility one has over the welfare of people's children and the team of volunteers. Also, the pressure to create the kind of positive and winsome experience for the kids that strikes the balance between challenging but not overwhelming, and risky but not reckless, is there. However, the rewards far surpass the fear of failure.

By far the best rewards come from seeing campers transformed towards Christ-likeness. This only happens when we allow campers to take responsibility for their faith. Spoon-feeding people Bible lessons and prayer will only raise teenage spiritual infants (what a scary thought). One rewarding event stands out. It was a prayer time at the end of one of our formal lesson times. We leaders thought a short prayer time afterwards would be appropriate — for any who wanted prayer. I thought a couple of minutes, and then we would go on to the next thing. What turned out was

something I can only credit God for. The prayer for the youth grew into a prayer time for each person as they made their way to the centre of a mob of their peers. Fears, hurts and joys flowed as each camper shared feelings and memories that had been pent up for years. Tears and love poured down. Healing began. And the campers, not the leaders, determined the length of the prayer time. We prayed for so long campers were losing feeling in their legs and needing to sit down — and they still prayed on.

I am not naive enough to think that the transformation a camper experiences during one week of camp will translate into a life-long transformation. We are more complex than that. However, many of us who went to camp remember those experiences more readily than our times during Sunday Worship services and Sunday School. The long-lasting power of camp comes in our vivid remembrances of what we were becoming during those weeks — our potential in the hands of God.

Why I Love Camp

Kellie Anderson

Pine Lake Camp is one of my favorite places. There is lots of fun stuff to do there. Last year there was the funniest talent show ever. My cousin was in it and made everyone laugh. Carly and I were in it too.

My favorite activities are tuck and swimming. Tuck is when you choose your favorite snack, usually pop, chips, or chocolate bars. At swimming, we can go canoeing, or swim, or jump off the dock. When the life guard unknits the rope, we get to float away. After swimming, I love being hosed down with cold water. Recreation is where we play games and exercise.

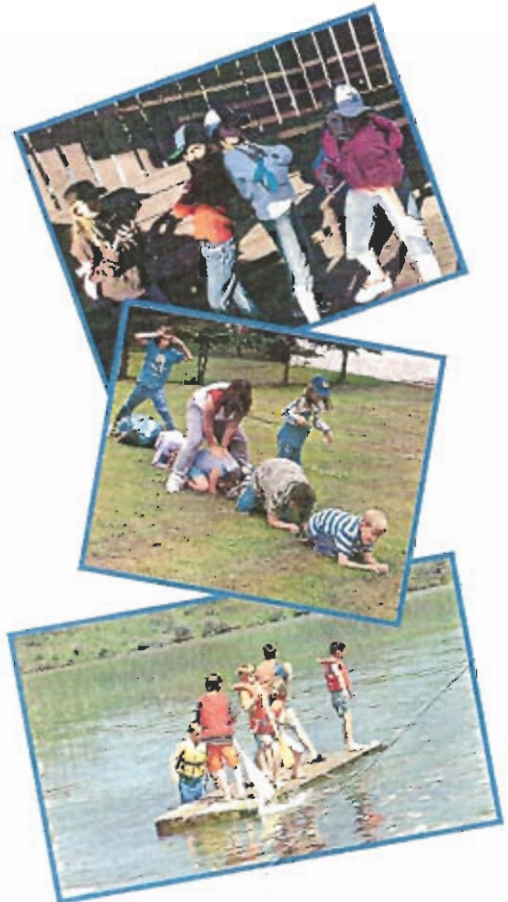
The big bell tells us to wake up, eat or go to campfire. I purposely put

my elbows on the table, so others will sing and make me run around the mess hall. I love campfire because we sing songs. Campfire is in a tipi or right beside the lake. If it is cold, we go in the tipi, which is my favorite.

"We also have bible study, sing songs, and watch movies about God and Jesus."

There are a lot of different camps like Jr. July, Rookies, LIT, and Jr. August. We sleep in old and gross cabins with spiders, or the few new ones which I like better. We also have bible study, sing songs, and watch movies about God and Jesus.

You don't have to be a Christian, but you have to want to learn about God. Well that's all so I hope you go because it's the funniest camp ever.



Rainbow Camp Testimonials

"People here always have time to listen, to share. There's an amazing sense of community that stems from the people and the camp."

"I'm unsure of where my journey will take me. What I do know is the peace I find here is something to be cherished. You all do wonderful work and have amazing gifts to share - thank you for that. I liked the Christianity 101 - an opportunity to question and learn in a safe environment. A good addition to the week."

"Thanks to you all for the time, energy and love you so graciously gave during our time at Pine Lake. My boys were reluctant to sing at camp yet this morning on our bike ride we were all singing at the top of our lungs their 3 favorite campfire songs and the Rainbows song. So, I know the week positively impacted our lives and will continue to impact those around us. (so wear your earplugs if you're out on the Bow River pathway!) Overall we left encouraged, our lives made richer from the people we met and experiences shared. Bringing us closer to God. May God Bless you and yours and future endeavors to further his kingdom. What you are doing impacts lives and is proof of God's love."

"We had such an amazing time. We are all still talking about it. I didn't want to come back to reality. I think as a family we became closer to each other and to God that week. It was such a peaceful, relaxing time for all of us. I came home with new hope and a promise to my kids that we will make more time for God in our lives each day. . . . Rainbows is a true blessing in our lives. . . . We want to attend camp again next year. The kids have already made me "promise" we can go!"

There's Nothing Like Team Work!

Brad Herman

When I was asked five years ago to dean Rainbows Camp I had heard little of it and knew even less about being a "Dean". So, of course I said yes. Summer of 2003 came, so did the five campers?! I was ready, full of optimism and energy and I quickly learned I was going to need more than that... I needed help. That's when God provided "The Team".

October of 2003 I ran into Linda Anderson (Bow Valley Christian Church) and Dennis Sanders (then with Rainbows Organization) at a grieving seminar (yes, camp had gone that bad).

We ran into each other at the lunch buffet table and within twenty minutes we had a vision, a team, a plan... and lunch... I was already seeing the fruit of efficiency with this team.

The rest is history. God has been faithful and has blessed us. Camp this past summer reached capacity with 103 people. Before you read the few testimonies let me say that the high caliber of staff at Pine Lake continues to be an integral part of the team and what we do. There's nothing like team work!

Our camp is primarily for single parent families and

families who have suffered a loss be it through death, divorce, separation, brain injury etc. We are sharpened by whom God sends us every summer, whether they are seekers, believers, non-believers or indifferent. It has been an amazing story of transformation and kingdom glory.



Cook's Corner

Jim Edwards

For those of you who enjoy numbers, last summer during the summer camping season we served 5453 meals, along with 84 trays of fresh fruit and 120 trays of fresh raw veggies. Yes mom your children have good appetites and they do like broccoli. One of their favourite lunch meals is Pizza Buns.

Instructions to build the best Pizza Buns.

Count on 2 to 3 per camper depending on age group.

For the base use half of hamburger bun or pita bread.

Spread on a generous amount of pizza sauce.

Add a variety of meats, pineapple, and veggies.

Cover with mozzarella cheese.

Bake in oven for 10 to 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Serve hot and watch them disappear.

If you would like to spend some time at the Camp this summer in the kitchen, you can contact us through our web site.

Ladies Retreat

Monelle Fraser

RETREAT - a place to get away to when the place we're in has worn us out; a retreat from anxiety, and a place that is dedicated to renewal.

From the moment we arrive we are altered for the better. Retreat is where we go to replace the hum of technology with the buzzing of insects, where cyberspace is out of place, where a mouse still has two ears and four legs. It is a simple, sacred place, where food tastes better, where music sounds brighter, where sleep is deep (we hope!) and dawn is fresh. -- (paraphrased from Cabin written by David and Jeannie Styles)

Ladies Retreat is one of the places that I go when the 'place' I'm in has worn me out. From Friday evening dinner until Sunday brunch the time is dedicated to retreat and renewal - a luxury and a precious gift. I have always gone home with so much more than what I came with. Speakers have fed and challenged, visits with friends have warmed and encouraged, and time alone to pray and ponder has sharpened my focus on what is important.

As a member of the planning committee for this year's retreat I would like to invite you to set aside the

weekend of June 8, 9 and 10 to 'come away' to Pine Lake.

During the weekend speakers will share how God has been there for them in both dramatic and ordinary ways. Sometimes it takes looking back to see God's hand in the past to have confidence to go where He wants us to be tomorrow.

Our prayer is that God will use this year's retreat and that all who come will feel His presence more strongly and will accept His desires for us as our own.



Refresh

Laura McKenzie

Every year, after I've finished those grueling exams that effectively turn my brain into mush, I have only one place to turn to for recovery—camp. To me this is what the Christian life should be all the time. Everything in life suddenly becomes a little clearer and I can't help but think that I could change my high school, even the world, with the passion that I come out with. I can remember one high school camp where we worshipped in the teepee until 2 am and it still felt like we'd just begun. Of course that particular atmosphere could have never

occurred without the relationships that are built over the course of the week. At the start of the week I always feel a little shy, like I'm back at 'square one' with all the people there. Then, gradually through out the week, because of the amount of time that I have to spend with each person and the way they structure the games and activities, those old relationships and the new ones just seem to generate themselves. Just this last year in the week after high school camp I came out for a day to volunteer in the kitchen because I had already started to

miss the close friendships that I had gained. This was despite the fact that I was still very much sleep deprived! I have so many fond memories of Pine Lake that it is really impossible to describe it to you without multiple hand gestures, so I will do as a friend suggested and keep it 'short and sweet'.



Five Year Development Plan

Jim Edwards

The Board of Directors has developed a plan to modernize the Camp over the next five years. This will include the renovation of the washhouse, construction of new cabins, and removal of older ones.

Everyone knows why the washhouse must be renovated and this will be the first priority for 2007. It is planned to have this done before the summer camping season opens. The first cabin to be taken down will be the bungalow, as this building has not been useable for the last five years.

Under new construction the priority is a cabin to house the infirmary and quarters for the kitchen staff. This may seem like an odd priority but we must have an infirmary to comply with the Alberta Camping Association Standards. The operational deadline for this is July 2008. The kitchens staff will require year round accommodations to handle the expected increase in rentals during non-summer months.

We also plan to build four accommodation cabins, two will be heated with plumbing, one of these will be wheel chair accessible, and the other two will be for summer use only without heat or plumbing.

The following is the planned schedule for this development:

- Renovate washhouse; remove bungalow; construct the infirmary/cooks quarters; construct one heated cabin to house 24 campers.
- 2008-2009** Complete the works started in 2007; construct one summer use cabin to house 30 campers and remove 2 to 4 older cabins.
- 2009-2010** Complete works started in 2008; construct the second heated cabin to house 24 campers and remove 2 older cabins.
- 2010-2011** Complete works started in 2009; construct the second summer cabin to house 30 campers and remove remaining old cabins.
- 2011-2012** Complete all unfinished construction projects.
- 2012** and beyond, enjoy the Camp.

As you can see this is a very aggressive program especially for 2007.

Where do you fit in? I am glad you asked as we plan to use as much volunteer help as possible to keep the construction cost down. Be prepared to spend some time at the Camp during the next few years to help out with this worthy cause.

No Minerva!

Janice Berard

It is mid-afternoon. The sun is shining, the snow is melting and I need to get out for a walk.

I grab my camera bag because I am going on a hunt for Minerva.

Gil has spotted Minerva twice this week, once at the Bergman cabin and once behind the ball diamond.

Minerva paid me a visit one dull November afternoon. As a matter of fact she and her adolescent offspring tarried long enough for me to take some pictures.

Since then, Minerva has been elusive....until this week.

What better excuse to get out on such a day than to hunt for Minerva.

My hiking boots leave a soft impression in the snow as I make my way along the road to the nature path that takes me past the "lagoon".

I stop, and listen.

Chickadees are calling to each other across the blue sky.

No Minerva.

My boots are buried deep in the snow as I "wade" my way along the path.

At the obstacle course,

I stop.

An owl silently lifts off as it effortlessly makes its way to a less conspicuous limb.

No Minerva.

My boots are soaked and my socks are beginning to feel damp as I travel past the cabins.

Water drops stream from the roofs as their snowy caps melt.

I stop.

No Minerva.

My jeans are heavy and have turned deep blue from the knee down, drenched in the melting remnants of winter.

I hear dogs barking in the distance.

I stop, to take a picture of Minerva's footprint left in the snow. The large, cloven impression is unmistakable.

No Minerva.

I follow her footprints along the nature trail that leads me back to the house.

Today,

No Minerva.



PINE LAKE PHOTO CONTEST!!



Be sure to watch for details on the camp website for the upcoming Summer Photo Contest! You could be the winner!

Laugh a Little!

Jokes Submitted by Alison Uma

One day a group of eminent scientists got together and decided that mankind had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need You. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't You just retire?"

God listened very patiently to the man and then said, "Very well, but first, how about this: Let's have a Man-making contest."

To which the scientist replied, "Okay, great!" But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no, go get your own dirt!"



*Why do ducks have webbed feet?
To put out fires.
Why do elephants have flat feet?
To put out burning ducks!*

SUPPORT PLAN

I would like to become a member of the Monthly Support Plan. I pledge my ongoing support to help provide a camping experience for our children in the amount: (please circle) \$10.00 per Month \$25.00 per month \$100.00 per month Other _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Method of Payment:(please circle) Twelve(12) Post-dated Cheques Visa Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____ Signature: _____

I am unable to join the Plan at this time, but here is a single contribution of \$ _____

Please send this information to: Pine Lake Christian Camp, Box 41 Pine Lake AB. T0M-1S0

You may change or cancel your Pine lake Support Plan at any time. All info will remind private and confidential. Thank you for your support.

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**Check out Pine Lake's updated
website!!**

www.pinelakechristiancamp.com

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Map to Pine Lake:

