

Camp Koolaree AGM 2016



**Nov 26, 2016
Castlegar United Church
Castlegar, BC**

Camp Koolaree Society President's Report

2016 was a blessed year were we reached many individuals. Unfortunately our registration numbers went from 111 to 85 and rentals decreased from 6 groups to 3 from 2015. We started the year in a decent place financially and finished off in the black, thanks to the amazing community that we are surrounded by.

Our total number of camper nights increased from last year. Teen and Jr Girls camps saw an increase, Jr Boys was the same as last year and unfortunately Novice camp saw a decrease, we canceled Intergenerational camp due to lack of registrations. We hope to increase these numbers with improved marketing and word of mouth.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Diana Mack, John Marko, Misty Soukochoff and welcomed Bill Furey. It's an exciting group of people who come with eagerness, passion and a desire to help improve the camp for children.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to grow the numbers and abilities of the board members and continue to try and share the work to ensure burn out is not an issue. The sub-committee's that were implemented need clear job descriptions and a list of expectations, they would benefit from a Board member chairing the committee and having community members who were not necessarily Society members, but have an interest or experience in the given group. As our paid staff tends to change from year to year, we have created job descriptions and need to develop daily check lists to ensure continuity for the camps. We need to seek different grants and hold fundraisers to help with raising maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships.

Personally, this was truly a fulfilling year that was my first to be at all four of the camps we ran. This was my 22nd year at Koolaree I look forward to working with the Board of Directors again and growing the camp. Koolaree has a truly special place in my heart and it would take some soul searching if I didn't have the option of going to this truly amazing place. It's one of the few area's left that one can truly get away from the busy world and enjoy a rustic camp settling. It's nice to have a place to be still and know the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Herd

CAMP KOOLAREE AGM Castlegar United Church November 28, 2015

In Attendance: Peter Herd, John Marko, Ray Lundquist, Juliana Marko, Diana Mack, Robin Murray, Theo Huitema, Chuck Clarke, Irene Furey, Bill Furey, Don Ellis, Gordon Swedburg and Mary Baker.

Call to Order: 1:15

Opening Prayer: Chuck

Welcome and Introductions

Adoption of Agenda: Motion Robin, Seconded by John, All in favour.

Adoption of Previous Minutes as Amended: Motion: Robin, Second by John, All in favour

Overview of Reports: Presidents, Treasurer, Registrar's, Communication and Fundraising, Buildings and Boats and Projects, Programs Operations and Staffing, Presbytery, Novice, Teen, Jr Girls, Jr Boys and Family Camps as laid out in book handed out to all present.

Financial Report: Motion to accept financials as of Oct 31, 2015 as Presented. Motion by John, Seconded by Juliana, All in Favour.

Approval of all Reports as Amended, Motion by Robin, Seconded by Juliana, All in Favour.

Election of Board:

Members staying: Peter Herd, Robin Murray, Ray Lundquist, Chuck (Advisor), John Marko, Diana Mack, Misty Soukochoff.

New: Bill Furey.

Decline: Theo Huitema, Irene Furey, Don Ellis, Gordon Swedburg, Mary Baker.

Leaving: Juliana Marko.

Motion to accept Board by Gordon, Seconded by Robin, All in favour.

Adjournment: 4:11 by Ray

**TREASURER'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 1, 2015 - October 31, 2016**

This year saw me graduate from a pencil and paper bookkeeping system to a spreadsheet. I could not grasp the Quickbooks system, and with it's cost going up 300%, I sought the help of Gordon Swedberg, and succeeded in getting our books balanced with Google Sheets. I have thanked Gordon personally many times over the past few months, but I feel he deserves a big thank you from the Society. He suggested ways to bring the books in line with standard bookkeeping procedures, assisted in setting up the spreadsheet, Balance Sheet, and caught some errors which will save us money now and in the future.

One of the changes which affects last year's Balance Sheet is adding the Building and Pole Funds (\$100 and \$150 respectively) to the Liabilities, and subtracting them from the "Current Year" total on last year's Balance Sheet, changing it from -\$4,333.01 to -\$4,583.01. It leaves the total of \$2,818.23 the same, but more accurately reflects those two accounts as liabilities, as they are not part of our operating budget. It's the -\$4,583.01 which is used as this year's "Opening Balance".

Although our loss for the year was much smaller than last year (\$944.07 as opposed to \$10,073.84), we must find ways of increasing our revenue. We started the year with much less of a cushion than in 2015, and just skimmed by without going into our line of credit. We did very well this year in reducing our staff costs, groceries, maintenance, ads, and propane/gas, but our revenue fell short in rentals, grants and fundraisers. There are several major needs for the camp from boats, washroom, dock and kitchen, to numerous other smaller projects. The need for major grant writing is a must for at least one new boat, and a rebuild for the washroom. A publicity blitz for renters would also be a way to increase revenue with minimal costs.

Continuing to keep Koolaree as the vital community resource it has been for the past 85 years will take an even more concerted effort by the Society this coming year. Enlisting the help of others with specific talents should be an immediate focus by all of us.

Shalom,
John D. Marko, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET
November 1, 2015 - October 31, 2016

Assets:

Current Assets:

KSCU Accounts:

Maximizer:	\$ 979.65	
Campership:	102.45	
Building:	100.00	
DR Pole:	500.22	
Shares:	25.00	<u>\$1,707.32</u>

Accounts Receivable:

GST	\$ 321.50	
Paypal	195.34	<u>516.84</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$2,224.16</u>

Liabilities:

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable - Misc.	\$ 0	
BC Conference:	7,151.24	\$ 7,151.24

Building Fund:		100.00
Pole Fund:		500.22

Operating Fund Balances:

Opening Balance:	\$ (4,583.23)
-------------------------	----------------------

Current Year:	<u>(944.07)</u>	<u>-\$5,527.30</u>
----------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

Total Liabilities and Equity:		<u>\$2,224.16</u>
--------------------------------------	--	--------------------------

Presbytery Report for Camp Koolaree

Kootenay Presbytery continues to be supportive of Camp Koolaree in our efforts by provide a high quality, safe, and sustainable camping ministry. Last spring, the Presbytery Youth Group held a waffle breakfast fundraiser at the Presbytery meeting in support of our campership funds. Presbytery members donated more than enough to send a child to camp at that single event. The United Church in Burton closed, and the congregation there had hoped to be able to send the proceeds from the sale of their building to the camp for the construction of a new Cookhouse and Dining Hall. Unfortunately, the property was part of a BC Hydro easement, and in the end, BC Hydro elected to exercise their right to reclaim the property. Our Conference Minister, Carolyn Rogers, is checking with the other folks at BC Conference as to whether or not there will be any money leftover once all the paperwork is finished,

which is expected to be very soon. We continue in conversation about innovative ways we can support one another in ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Murray, Camp Koolaree Presbytery Representative

Registrar's Report

	Campers	Males	Females
Teen:	21	10	11
Jr Boys:	13	13	0
Jr Girls:	31	0	31
Novice:	20	7	13
Total:	85	30	55

Place of Residence:	Campers	Sponsorship
Castlegar/Robson	18	4
Fruitvale/Trail/Montrose	13	4
Grand Forks	2	0
Nelson/Bonnington	37	12
Rossland	4	0
West Kootenay	7	1
Out of the area	4	0
Total:	85	21

Church Affiliation:	
United	20
Catholic	4
Independent	18
Presbytery	2
Other	10

Private Rentals:

	Term	Camper	Camper	Extra	Invoiced
	(days)	Days	Fees	Trips	Amount
Family/Work Camp	5	86.5	1869	0	1869
Communities in Faith Pastoral Charge	2	23	391	0	391
Dancers of Universal Peace	4	233	3961	40	4001

Prepared by: Misty Soukocoff

Registrar

Camper Fees - \$17 per camper per day (including propane)

Extra boat Usage - \$10 per round trip

Communication & Fundraising

Not provided

BOATS & BUILDINGS TEAM REPORT

BOATS:

Red Starcraft Holiday 18 C24132BC: Though efforts were made to seal leaking rivets, this boat continues to take on water. The plywood that reinforces the transom for the powerful outboard motor is rotten and had to be reinforced to allow the lower motor mounting bolts to be tightened. Once again the boat filled up with water while at the camp dock. The bilge pump was replaced. A sheared flywheel key, mangled shaft, and gears in lower unit cost \$3,200 to repair. The new propeller is badly bent and gouged. This boat looks very beat.

Aroliner Cabinaire C24133BC: Efforts to fix leakage proved insufficient as there is a small crack under a rib in the hull. The 25 H.P. Yamaha motor runs well.

Blue Starcraft Starchief C24134BC: This boat saw minimal use this year. The Teleflex steering cable support pulled away from the transom's plywood backing and had to be reattached so the boat could be manoeuvred.

Starcraft 16' Utility "The Scow" C24135BC: This workhorse saw extensive use. The boat mysteriously disappeared from Koolaree and was found floating in the middle of the lake near Nine Mile

Narrows. I reported this to the Nelson RCMP who said it had been found. The finder, Martyn Le Marquand, contacted me and Don Ellis and helpers were able to retrieve the boat.

Malibu 162 14K35646: Still in storage. This nice boat is for sale. Unfortunately, we have not had time to test it or to display it for viewing.

Old Green Fibreglass Runabout 16K505: I contacted the previous owner, Tom Vernham, in Calgary and after clearing some red tape hurdles, had the trailer registration transferred to Camp Koolaree Society. This old boat and trailer is for sale. It has no engine and has been parked at Chuck Clarke's for a dozen years.

Canoes & Kayak: Usable but could do with some maintenance. The big red canoe is still at Don's waiting to be finished.

Pedal Boats: These have seen better days, have holes in their hulls, and should be scrapped.

Sailboat: Unknown condition. I've never seen it in the water.

BUILDINGS:

Ad Hut: The roofing material is hanging off and it did not get replaced as had been hoped for.

Brick Shed: No work was done this season. Approximately twenty percent of the rotten flooring has been removed and the structure is still open to the void below.

Cabins 1 – 6: Cabin #4 received a fresh coat of stain and trim paint. It looks quite nice. A crew from Nelson covered the leaking roof on Cabin #6 with new metal roofing and it looks much improved.

Guest Hut: Nothing to report

Hospital: John Marko has offered to supply material to re-deck the porch. More siding applied.

Kitchen / Dining: Lumber tarpaulins supplied by Kalesnikoff Lumber Co were secured over top of the layers of previously installed materials that have badly deteriorated and were leaking. Though intended as a temporary solution, so far these tarps have been doing a good job keeping the rain out of the kitchen. However, there are still some leaks in the dining area where tarps were not installed.

Lodge: There are a couple of small leaks in the sheet metal roofing. No more work was done on the fireplace chimney. Some warped floor boards were secured and smoothed out by our groundsman.

Staff Cabin: The attached bathroom was flattened by a falling tree last winter. A nice new building was constructed and equipped with a new toilet and vanity.

Washroom: This building continues to deteriorate. There was a report that some walls separating toilet stalls had toppled over but were somehow secured again. We are now down to four operational showers. The good news is that a new urinal, donated by Andrew Sheret Limited was installed to replace the one that had cracked last year.

Water Treatment: The intake line had to be extended into a more favourable location when the Dances of Universal Peace renters arrived September 1st and discovered there was no water in the camp! Some of the numerous leaks in the retention tanks were patched, however at season's end we still had water spraying from more pinholes. The health inspector requested that a bypass for the Chemilizer bleach injector be removed and that the leaking tanks be fixed. The first issue was easily

accomplished; however, replacement tanks ordered through Andrew Sheret Limited proved to be the wrong type and were returned. We are now awaiting the arrival of the appropriate tanks. All water samples submitted to Interior Health were acceptable showing <1 CFU per 100 mL Total Coliform and E-coli.

Grounds: Danger trees around the camp were marked and later cut down. A great effort has been made to buck up the logs and clean up the debris though there is still a massive amount of firewood to be moved and split. Micah May's L. V. Rogers group built a new bridge over the creek and worked on the trail up the mountain.

Equipment: The camp generator refused to start and was taken out for service. The problem turned out to be some water in the fuel tank. The Homelite weed trimmer also refused to start and it was taken to a couple of local shops who claimed they couldn't get parts for it and wouldn't work on it. A new trimmer is on our want list. The Snapper riding mower suffered a broken steering column and has been brought to Castlegar for repair. Castlegar Rotary Clubs donated \$2,300 for a new Echo Bearcat 22 ton log splitter. This unit received a new hydraulic pump, cylinder, and shuttle valve under warranty after the machine developed overheating problems.

OTHER: I received a Candidate Document Number from Transport Canada and then took and passed the Red Cross Standard First Aid With CPR C course at Selkirk College in Trail in December. Don Ellis also took the course which is a requirement for our boat operators.

It would take many pages to explain how the following groups, individuals, and companies have played a part in keeping Camp Koolaree in operation this past season. All I can say is that we owe you a huge "Thank-you!" And if I've missed anyone, I'm sorry!

Ray Lundquist, director Camp Koolaree Society

Bill Furey, Stu Deverney, Castlegar United Church Men's Group, Castlegar Rotary Clubs, Nelson Rotary Club, John Marko, Chuck Clarke, Jacob and Thomas Mack, Glenn Erickson and Dave Heagy, Len Lippa, Herman Manarin, Deon Miskell, Dr. Brian Gorman, Dr. Don Ellis, Margaret Ellis, Don Danroth, Doug Wagner – Aroliner Fan Club, Dave Ellis, Daniel Ellis, Nick, Mike McIndoe, Jennifer Ahlefeld – Canwest Propane, James McQuibban - Transport Canada Marine Safety, Jim Berrill, Cory Chisham – Environmental Health Officer, Morgan Oliver, Scott McLean - S.A.M. Marine Repair, Martin Kanehl – Specht Canada Inc. Chemilizer, Martyn Le Marquand, Gordon Swedburg, Micah May Class of 2016 Valedictorian & Friends - LV Rogers High School, Kootenay Industrial Supplies, Mike Balahura, Rick Miller, Ken Brownlie, Greg Archibald, Kalesnikoff Lumber Company, Jason Wills, Russ Hearne - Andrew Sheret Limited, Camp Koolaree Board

Program / Operation / Staffing

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our primary Groundsman and camper turned staffer Thomas Plett as our second. David Lundie was able to be our Lifeguard as at the last moment the person we had lined up accepted another job. Cynthia St Thomas, a long time Koolareen recommended and we hired June Hamley as the primary cook. We welcomed another camper turned staffer of Claire Soukochoff

There were challenges at times with some of the staff, but on the overall, they were a welcomed part of the camping season. The lifeguard stepped up and helped with games, outings and first aid. The cooks made all of the meals from scratch and welcomed menus from the camp directors, offering suggestions at times as well.

Our camp directors were Julianna Marko for Teen, Robin Murraray for Jr girls, Peter Herd for Jr Boys and Erica Bergen for Novice. All directors were free to create their own programs and given support when asked for.

All of the staff paid and volunteer would benefit from templates that explain job duties and the expectations of the incumbent positions.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd
Program & Operations Committee and Staffing Committee

Teen Coed

This year 11 girls and 10 boys explored the theme of "Circles" at the Koolaree Teen Coed Camp. We decided to once again enforce a week with no cell phones, and continued to see the difference this made in everyone's experience. The purpose of the Circle theme was to explore how everything is connected. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service lead by our Chaplain Robin Murray. All campers discovered the circular pattern in stories from the New and Old Testament. The theme was intertwined into daily activities which proved to be more stimulating than having a set discussion time.

This year our craft time consisted of creating a nameplate that would hold nickels from each year the camper has attended camp.

Campers completed a few small service projects around camp such as building a beautiful labyrinth, and cleaning up the beach and other parts of the grounds.

We played a ton of games that involved circles, and one of our favorites: Predator VS Prey which is all about the circle of life

Special events included Water Olympics, Hike to the Falls, Canoe trip to McDonalds Landing and back, Clam Bay, Cookout, and Kangaroo Court. Closing Ceremonies were made especially beautiful this year with lit balloons anchored in the water by Don. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week.

There was a bit of tension due to staffing this year, but it turned out to be a great week. Many thanks to my Assistants: Tim McTeer and Keri Bell, the Counselors: Peter Herd, and Laura Hoskins, our First Aider: Don MacAuley, the Leaders: David Szchenkousen, Morgan Oliver, and Natalie Plett, our Chaplain: Robin Murray and Lifeguard: David Lundie.

I am so thankful to the Camp Koolaree Board for allowing my continued service as Director at Camp this year and look forward to next summer!

Sincerely,

Juliana Marko

Jr Girls

Jr. Girls camp 2016 was one of the biggest girls camps we have had in the last 4 years. We had a whopping 32 campers! Which allowed us to do a lot more activities and have a busier week. We had full staff at 6 leaders, our Sr. Leaders were Hannah, Jayne and Paige. The Jr. leaders were Erin, Sarah and Nicole. For adult staff we had our lovely chaplain LJ, councillor and Jr. Director Natalie and the Director Robin. This year we had so much fun. It was the first year in many we were able to have the entire camp

go up to the waterfall. It was so humbling to see 32 campers get along and have such a special experience together. We do a wishing ceremony at the end of the camp and all the girls get to make a wish, some say it out loud and some keep it private but most say that they hope everyone will be back and next year will be just as amazing as this year! Our theme was Get Grounded. We encouraged the girls to realize it's ok to get dirty and it's ok to not follow societies unrealistic standards for young girls. We wanted to stray away from the magazines and what the perfect image is for females now. We really wanted to show them to love themselves and our leaders did an impeccable job showing their self love. Our favorite term of the week was "rub some dirt on it". Because it's ok to get dirty!

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Plett

Jr Boys

My staff included Josh Mack, Morgan Oliver and David Ermacora as Counsellors. My leaders were Darian Johnson, Groundsman turned leader Jacob Plett, Linn Murrury, Cody St Thomas. I directed and guided chapel services that were created by Keith Simmonds and our lifeguard David Lundie assisted with first aid and most of the games.

Registrations were the same as last year with a total of 14 boys this year. The weather was beautiful and made our many swim times in cold Kootenay Lake enjoyable. All of my leaders brought a lot of Koolaree experience and they made sure the kids had fun, with a small group they were able to provide one to one time when needed if someone was home sick.

We had many physical challenges for the boys and brought back an Olympics theme. We also played games like capture the flag, Predator vs Prey and various wide games to channel the energy of the campers. We didn't get to many crafts, but the kids didn't notice.

This was a small size for a camp and makes it easier on me as a director to know where everyone is at all times. Saying that, I miss the organized chaos of years past when we had many more campers and almost didn't have enough staff. In years past, registration jumps in the two weeks before camp starts and unfortunately this didn't happen this year. It is also proving to become more of a challenge to get leaders as my core group now have paying jobs and are unable to attend some years

Thank you for such a rewarding and enlightening experience, I learn something about myself every year. It is always nice at Koolaree to have a place to be still and know the lord. I hope everyone will stay safe so we can enjoy many years to come and grow with the camp.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd

Director

Novice

As usual, Novice camp was an overall success! The campers arrived at the landing with their usual twitterpated anticipation and nerves, and arrived back in the end with their dirty faces and blue Koolaree t-shirts, boasting and squealing with excitement and pride. HAPPY CAMPERS = HAPPY PARENTS.

This year Novice hosted 21 campers. My staff consisted of 3 Sr leaders, 7 Jr leaders, myself and the amazing help of Peter Herd and Mary Audia. I also had the help of "Team Super Plett" and a few other helping hands around camp.

We had a larger number of girls, as we usually do, creating a ratio of 2 to 1. 7 boys and 14 girls. I was able to fit the girls into 2 cabin groups of 7 girls to 1 Sr leader and 2 jr leaders. The boys fit easily into 1 cabin with the same, 7 boys to 2 Jr's and a Sr leader.

I was a little nervous at first with the lack of available and responsible Sr leaders whom usually apply. Although with the help of a few of them helping out between their summer jobs, it all worked out well. I was definitely happy with the camper to leader ratio and felt they were supported adequately. However any more campers would require more Sr and Jr leaders.

Our theme this year was animals and I took a PACK VS PRIDE approach. I worked this through the week in and out group discussions and talked about working together and independent, what it means to be a leader with pride and love and with grace rather than dictating or being bossy. The kids were mixed up into co-ed theme groups and learned facts about their team animal, made team cheers, played games and did group challenges. The campers also enjoyed theme based crafts like animal masks and the favorite secret buddy exchange.

This year was a little bitter sweet for me for a few reasons, but perhaps one of the biggest things was saying goodbye to some of my campers that won't be at novice next year, as they have aged up to Jr Boys and Girls. I feel so blessed to be able to work with all these kids, and over the years as you see them again and again, you end up building little connections with all of them. I am overjoyed to be a part of creating childhood memories and experiences that stick with so many of these kids. I really have enjoyed getting to know each and share in their different talents and personalities.

As usual my leaders were wonderful and led with a Koolaree Heart!! I was beyond grateful for all the help from Peter on all the "Adulging" and was rest assured with the expertise of Mary Audia holding down the "Nurse" role in the hospital. I am happy to report that other than a few scrapes, stings and slivers; the week went without medical incident. The Plett boys were fabulous as usual making sure all the maintenance was up to par and helped out with everything and anything that was asked of them. Despite a few boat and battery issues, the boys were smooth operators.

Despite all the crazy kitchen issues we were able to rise above it. With the help of an amazing team, we pulled it all off with grace and style. I continued to be open and loving in all of my responses and interactions with June throughout camp.

I was happy and excited to work with Peter personally as well as the rest of the Koolaree staff. I look forward to working alongside him, as well as the Board in the future.

I feel there is so much potential for our beloved camp, but fear that without an active, cohesive group of people who are willing to put their time and energy as well as an excited selfless heart, our camp and it's future could be non-existent.

I feel that to be giving the best and safest camp environment we can, we as a community have lots of work to do together. Not only do we need to make some major improvements to our camp facilities and restock throughout. We need to actively communicate within our communities to advocate for our camp and be humble but loving at the same time. Our camp is worth it!! There are so many ways to access

resources and supports that can assist us and help us have a successfully supported forward propelling future.

I know that each of us has busy lives and other responsibilities and roles. I myself am going through much chaos in life as well as re-locating to the Okanagan as my girls have received a scholarship for a private fine arts school. These things will always exist, but I myself am willing to put in whatever I can to make this a solid team and I hope I have lots of team players to have a great time with. I know that by being open to everything can help is get our camper numbers and heart back to how it was when so many of us ourselves were campers. With fully packed cabins and dining hall, where all the staff were like a camp family and the adventures seemed endless.

We need to make a conscious commitment to the children in our communities to provide opportunities to grow and learn through simple life moments, while being supported and safe.

I take great pride in working with these amazing kids, but without change and cohesive team support throughout all our camps, I fret to continue to offer sub par support and opportunities or experiences, as it just isn't who I am. Especially when I know their worth and Koolaree's potential. We don't own this earth; we are borrowing it from our grandkids. These kids deserve to be guided with love and inspiration by all of those who are entrusted to teach them.

I would love to connect to brainstorm and would love to make it to a meeting sometime. Thank you again so very much for the challenges and blessings that this role has brought me and I hope to use any issues, dilemma's or communications as an opportunity myself to grow and guide with a open heart. I also thank all the Board and volunteers who keep our "diamond in the rough" safe and loved.

I am enclosing some receipts for the costs encored while preparing to host camp. I personally donated a bunch of craft supplies ect. And kept conscious mind with budget while trying to keep our overhead to a low or no cost. I am also including the menu plan that I myself made to share with the cook, which isn't consistent with what was served. I feel this sample menu will help give an idea of what I feel it takes to provide for that group of children.

A huge thanks to Peter for being with us this year and our love to Julianna and Kai as we really missed seeing them this year. I hope this report arrives to find everyone well and provides the clear overview you were hoping for.

I look forward to talking soon and truly that you again.

Sincerley Erica Bergen
250-551-1732
ericabergen@gmail.com

Intergenerational

Canceled and ran as a work camp.