

Camp Koolaree AGM 2017



**November 25, 2017
Castlegar United Church
Castlegar, BC**

Camp Koolaree Society President's Report

2017 was truly a gift of a year where we reached many individuals of various ages. Fortunately our registration numbers went from 85 to 125 which was amazing and then unfortunately rentals decreased from 3 groups to 2. 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.

All camps saw an increase from last year with Teen only increasing by 1 and Boys by 3. We were thoroughly excited to run Intergenerational camp this summer with 19 campers. We hope to increase numbers with improved marketing and word of mouth.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Diana Mack, John Marko, Bill Furey, Glen Johnson and a late addition of Christine Price. It's an exciting group of people who come with eagerness, passion and a desire to help improve the camp for all.

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. We have invited guests to the AGM with hopes of sparking an interest to join the Board. 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 second to be at four camps. This was my 23rd year at Koolaree I look forward to working with the Board of Directors again and growing the camp and as an individual. 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 November 26, 2016 Castlegar United Church

Present: Robin Murray, Ray Lundquist, Bill Furey, Irene Furey, Gordon Swedburg, Morgan Oliver, Peter Herd, John Marko, Misty Soukchoff, Jacob Plett, Diana Mack

Call to order 1:00 pm

Opening Prayer – Robin

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda (as from previous minutes): n/a

John Moves to extend voting rights to everyone in attendance. Robin seconds.

Approval of Minutes – motioned by Robin, seconded by John

Correspondence

- Nothing outstanding to note.

Overview of Reports

- President report, Registrar report, financial report, individual committee reports, camp director reports.
- Motion to accept the Chairperson report in its entirety, made by Robin, seconded by Misty. Carried.

Financial Report

- Motion to accept financial report as submitted made by John, seconded by Bill. Carried.

Election of Board:

- Members staying: Peter Herd, John Marko, Misty Soukochoff, Robin Murray, Ray Lundquist, Bill Furey, Diana Mack. Motion to accept – Made by Misty, seconded by John

Open question period:

- Jacob was asked his opinion of daily/weekly camp tasks & log book. He will help design a checklist. Need to find out reporting requirements (bound? Daily tasks?)
- Gord suggested/reminded us to contact Rock Lake for funding assistance, as it has been offered to us in the past.
- Need someone to help us with grant writing.

Adjourned 2:32pm by Ray

Next Meeting TBD by new board members

Respectfully submitted,

Misty Soukochoff
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Financially, the 2016 - 2017 year was successful in that we spent less than we took in, our camper registrations were up significantly, BC Conference forgave our debt (\$7,151.24 on our books), and we didn't require any large repairs or equipment purchases. Plans are in the works for the washroom roof for the spring of 2018, and it looks like we may have the materials donated for the brick floor replacement.

On the down side, we were unable to do any significant fundraising or grant proposals, we only had two rental groups, and we made no headway on the boat replacement, and kitchen/dining hall renovation. These are all major cost items requiring a concerted effort to raise funds. The Board is asking anyone with grant writing experience and some extra time to step forward and help Camp Koolaree get to that next level of security and viability.

Respectfully, John D. Marko, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET
October 31, 2017

Assets:

Current Assets:

KSCU Accounts:

Maximizer:	\$ 9,016.52	
Campership:	2.66	
Building:	1,100.21	
Dining Rm. Pole:	500.46	
Shares:	25.00	<u>\$10,644.85</u>

Accounts Receivable:

GST	274.41	
Paypal	<u>53.26</u>	<u>327.67</u>

Total Assets **\$10,972.52**

Liabilities:

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable - Misc.	\$	0
BC Conference:	\$	0

Building Fund: **\$1,100.21**

Pole Fund: **500.46**

Operating Fund Balances:

Opening Balance:	\$ (5,527.30)	
BC Conf. Debt Forgiven	7,151.24	
Current YTD:	<u>7,747.91</u>	<u>9,371.85</u>

Total Liabilities and Equity: **\$ 10,972.52**

Profit/Loss Statement

		14/15 ACTUAL	15/16 ACTUAL	16/17 ACTUAL	Budget 17/18
Income					
Donations:					
General		\$12,054.44	\$13,043.95	\$13,404.01	
Camperships		\$2,240.00	\$1,600.00	\$2,500.21	
Building Fund		\$100.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.21	
Pole Fund		\$150.00	\$350.00	\$0.24	
Total Donations		\$14,544.44	\$14,993.95	\$16,904.67	
Other Income:					

Misc. Income			\$469.53	\$0.00	
Camper Registrations		\$20,460.50	\$21,865.00	\$28,655.20	
Rental Camps		\$10,862.51	\$3,726.40	\$3,759.00	
Grants		\$2,091.00	\$580.00	\$0.00	
Investment Income		\$3.33	\$2.80	\$3.38	
T-Shirt Sales		\$155.00	\$455.00	\$100.00	
Fundraisers		\$3,284.75	\$2,159.00	\$80.25	
Misc. Refunds		\$429.00	\$79.37	\$57.22	
Total Other Income		\$37,286.09	\$29,337.10	\$32,655.05	
Less Designated Funds			-\$350.00	-\$1,000.45	
TOTAL INCOME		\$51,830.53	\$43,981.05	\$48,559.27	
EXPENSES					
Koolaree Camps:					
Canteen		\$932.17	\$587.84	\$751.54	
Crafts		\$542.78	\$80.97	\$406.06	
Groceries		\$8,371.29	\$5,830.28	\$6,563.26	
T-Shirts		\$1,304.73	\$1,278.38	\$1,287.47	
First Aid		\$99.94	\$5.62	\$0.00	
Total Koolaree Camps		\$11,250.91	\$7,783.09	\$9,008.33	
Financial Fees:					
KSCU		\$160.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	
Active Works		\$551.02	\$674.83	\$927.74	
Paypal		\$81.74	\$14.63	\$28.84	
Total Financial Fees		\$792.76	\$839.46	\$1,106.58	
Staffing:					
Wages		\$21,631.05	\$14,598.48	\$14,933.24	
Penalties		\$95.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Taxes		\$4,419.49	\$1,262.06	\$0.00	
WCB		\$341.29	\$282.78	\$166.42	
Total Staffing		\$26,487	\$16,143.32	\$15,099.66	
Utilities:					
Electricity		\$211.50	\$253.55	\$117.01	
Propane		\$1,829.00	\$1,220.56	\$1,096.14	
Gasoline			\$162.74	\$0.00	
Telephone		\$224.00	\$265.50	\$109.77	
Waste Disposal		\$119.00	\$44.60	\$132.60	
Total Utilities		\$2,383.50	\$1,946.95	\$1,455.52	
Operations:					
Maintenance/Construction:					
Equipment Purchases		\$4,003.46	\$3,347.13	\$2,608.92	
Repairs/Installations		\$2,203.96	\$403.50	\$374.21	
Hardware/Building Supplies		\$958.18	\$323.53	\$1,629.20	

Misc. Maintenance/Construction		\$341.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Maint/Const		\$7,507.46	\$4,074.16	\$4,612.33	
Cleaning Supplies		\$190.86	\$192.56	\$340.85	
Office Supplies		\$173.35	\$228.43	\$142.75	
Misc. Supplies		\$596.36	\$103.38	\$384.04	
Fundraising		\$813.43	\$948.08	\$30.00	
Advertising		\$940.50	\$288.58	\$413.64	
Postage/Shipping		\$54.04	\$111.77	\$176.63	
Fire Equipment		\$67.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Waterfront Equipment		\$780.17	\$0.00	\$16.72	
Misc. Expenses			\$51.53	\$276.37	
Total Operations		\$11,123.27	\$5,998.49	\$6,393.33	
Taxes/Insurance/Fees:					
BCCA Registration			\$520.00	\$260.00	
Society Registration		\$25.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	
Insurance		\$4,024.00	\$4,024.00	\$3,690.77	
Property Tax		\$1,078.37	\$1,104.99	\$0.00	
Water Act Permit		\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Can. Coast Guard			\$102.50	\$105.00	
Interior Health				\$37.50	
Total Tax/Ins/Fees		\$5,202.37	\$5,776.49	\$4,108.27	
Transportation:					
Fuels/Oils:					
Gasoline		\$1,359.59	\$803.71	\$818.38	
Oil		\$133.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Outboard Oil		\$67.08	\$153.25	\$34.10	
Other Fuels/Oils			\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Fuels/Oils		\$1,560.53	\$956.96	\$852.48	
Boats:					
Motorboat Maintenance		\$1,436.53	\$3,314.16	\$665.66	
Other Boat Maintenance		\$46.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Boat Trailer Fees/Ins.		\$368.00	\$197.33	\$325.31	
Misc. Boats		\$128.07	\$612.32	\$29.55	
Total Boats		\$1,979.02	\$4,123.81	\$1,020.52	
Mileage		\$1,539.66	\$1,356.55	\$1,766.67	
Total Transportation		\$5,079.21	\$5,480.36	\$3,639.67	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$62,318.85	\$44,925.12	\$40,811.36	
PROFIT/LOSS		-\$10,488.32	-\$944.07	\$7,747.91	

Presbytery Representative Report

This year saw greater involvement of Kootenay Presbytery in the oversight of both Camp Koolaree and Rock Lake Camp. Jody Dudley from the Admin and Finance and Stewardship Team of Presbytery visited the site during Family Camp and seemed quite pleased with how the camp was operating.

Presbytery continues to encourage the Camp Board to pursue building renovations, repairs and replacements. They also want to remind us that we have one year left to bring our Constitution and Bylaws into compliance with changes to the BC Societies Act, which happened just after we finished revising them to be in compliance with the United Church of Canada. The joys of administrative bureaucracies never cease!

Of concern moving forward are the administrative structures changes happening within the United Church of Canada, which will see the elimination of Presbytery as we know it in January 2019. The details of the changes have not been completely determined yet, however there is a team of people at the General Council level called the Remit Implementation Task Group who are accepting questions, concerns and feedback. I have expressed my personal concern to them for continued local consultation on property decisions and asked about changes to the supervision of Incorporated Ministries. Greg Powell, chair of Kootenay Presbytery, expressed his concern to that team as well, that Presbytery desires to make sure our camps continue. Questions/comments/concerns can be sent to remits@united-church.ca and you can also find regular updates at <http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation>.

With just a little over a year left before these changes happen, the Outdoor Ministry and Youth Team of Kootenay Presbytery has adopted the attitude of "lets see how much work we can get done and how much positive change we can initiate while we still can." Currently, the team is working on a couple of different plans to network youth across the Kootenays and beyond both electronically and in-person, looking to our camps as locations for gathering people together. While we could wait for others to make changes and then react to them, we feel that being proactive in making sure rural voices are heard and our camps are recognized as the vital ministries they are, seems to be a better approach to the coming restructure of the United Church of Canada governance system.

Respectfully submitted,
 Robin Murray
 Camp Koolaree Representative to Kootenay Presbytery

Registrar's Report

Coming in as registrar mid-season was a bit overwhelming and chaotic, but I knew that someone needed to take on the position so I was happy to help. The below report may not be 100% accurate as a couple of camps were missing registrations. I've included the dollar amount for each of each of the rentals.

KOOLAREE CAMPS:

CAMP	BOYS	GIRLS	CAMPERSHIPS	TOTAL PAID	TOTAL
NOVICE	12	17	3	26	29
TEEN	13	9	6	16	22
JR BOYS	16	-	3	13	16
JR GIRLS	-	39	11	28	39
FAMILY	9	10	10+Berg Family	5	19

RENTALS:

Claire Soukochoff: \$255

DUPS: \$3464

Communications and Fundraising

Our focus has been mainly on getting the word out about Camp Koolaree. Different volunteers attended booths at community events in the spring and summer in Trail, Castlegar and Nelson, as well as delivered brochures to School Districts 8 and 20. Camping Sunday services were conducted by Juliana Marko at Communities in Faith in Rossland, and by Robin Murray at Nelson United Church in Nelson. Our main communications remain printed brochures, our website and our Facebook page. We also printed some postcards this year, for any mail communications such as thank-yous and invitations.

Our fundraising efforts have been limited, mainly by lack of volunteer time. A spaghetti dinner was suggested, using the leftover pasta from this summer season, however so far no one has stepped up to do the necessary organizing. Research for the costs associated with our Wash House project are ongoing, so once the budget is ready for that, we can seek grant funding. Robin has recently been trained in how to use Presbytery's Zoom meeting platform, so fundraising and Board meetings and communications in the future should be much easier and more effective.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Murray

BUILDINGS & BOATS

In November and December of 2016, Don Ellis, Bill Furey, and I spent a couple of days splitting wood at Gorman's in Pass Creek. That is where we have been storing boats each winter, so we thought it would be appreciated. One final job was completed when Don had the broken steering shaft on the Snapper riding mower welded.

In the spring of the New Year, Don, Bill and Larry Brown began working on floorboards for The Scow and these turned out to be an excellent addition to the boat. With a fourth coat of varnish on the seats, the old boat was looking quite sharp.

On April 15 Bill, Don, Thea Eppich, Marvin Smith, and I loaded trucks and trailers with firewood at Gorman's and headed for Deer Park. Unfortunately a slide had blocked the road so we had to go back to town and make the trip a couple of days later. That month we received the new retention tanks for the water treatment plant, bought a new garden mesh cart, and started working on the Aroliner.

At the beginning of May, we brought the red Starcraft to Don's for maintenance. We filled the bilge with water to the floorboards, crawled underneath, and marked a number of leaking rivets on the hull. These were then covered with sealant. Another job completed was the replacement of a broken side window on the Aroliner. Thanks to Speedy Glass for a nice job at the right price. That month the old retention tanks were removed from the water treatment plant, taken to the dump, and the new ones installed. It was a blustery day, but eleven helpers came out to Koolaree on May 13. Robin Murray, Peter Herd, and others helped clean up the kitchen and washroom. Graham Jamin bucked up some fallen trees and David Ermacora used his drone to do some filming around the camp. At day's end, Don cleaned up the parking lot and removed junk and even a rusty old radial arm saw that someone had tossed over the bank. The following Saturday we had another big work party and the teens from L. V. Rogers Secondary School did a splendid job clearing away tons of cut wood.

On June 5 Don drove us to Nelson where we got the transfer and registration done for the utility trailer that had been donated by Dr. Bill Saliken. We spent many hours over the next six weeks stripping rust off the frame and then painting it and installing new flooring and sides. Mitchell Supply in Castlegar had generously donated those materials for the project, and when finished, the trailer looked very nice. That month we hauled out the log splitter, the repaired Snapper riding mower, and eleven sheets of plywood slated for repairs to the roof of the Ad Hut craft area.

In July I hauled marked gasoline, propane and the new Husqvarna grass trimmer to the camp. Due to the hot dry weather, the whole Southern Interior was put on an open fire ban and a forest fire about ten kilometres away in the Harrop Creek watershed filled the valley with smoke.

I received a text from Thomas saying one of the old propane fridges was not working, so we ended up buying two good used ones. Thomas sent another text with more bad news; the Aroliner was leaking badly and he had pulled it up on the beach in hopes of somehow patching it. They say that bad news comes in threes, and next I had a text from Peter saying that something had struck the windshield of the red Starcraft and broken it.

Even more bad news came near the end of July when I received a message from Interior Health saying we had 6 E coli and 22 total coliform in our water sample. The problem turned out to be that our Chemilizer was not pumping bleach because of a tiny broken o-ring. Fortunately, I had a spare part at home and the problem was fixed that day. In case of a breakdown in the future, we spent \$570 and bought a complete new Chemilizer as a spare.

August brought more problems. I received a note from Peter that had been sent by the RDCK regarding properties along The West Arm doing unpermitted work and the dire consequences if discovered. Fortunately, it didn't apply to us though the camp was apparently inspected.

I had another call from Interior Health regarding our drinking water. They said that our last water sample had been too long in transit, which meant we were still on a boil water notice. We believe that the sample had been incorrectly dated and so rejected by the testing lab in Vancouver.

A stuck gas valve on the washroom hot water tank resulted in a girl getting her arm scalded. For the rest of the summer, the campers were left with cold water only as the propane had to be shut off and we were not able to get repairs done before the season was over.

September started with a bang when a connecting rod broke and went through the side of the engine block of the 125 horsepower motor on the red Starcraft. Standing on the dock, we watched helplessly as the boat drifted down the lake. Thanks to some passing boaters, the stricken craft was towed back to Koolaree. The Scow was then used to ferry the last of the Dancers of Universal Peace across the lake. We made one final trip across in the Aroliner and got it loaded on its trailer.

It was September 5 when Don and I went to Koolaree and towed the dead Starcraft across to Nichawa with The Scow. Along with the boat, we also brought out a load of garbage and the new camp utility trailer that day.

Koolaree looked very neat and tidy on September 23 when Don and I went out there to drain and winterize the water system and preserve any remaining fuel in the equipment. With help from Bill and Nick, we went back to the camp a couple of days later with a load of planks, posts, and concrete blocks

that had been salvaged at Christina Lake by Don , Ken Brownlie, Herman Manarin, and Terry Fleet. When that was done, we hauled out The Scow and brought it to Castlegar.

At the September board meeting we decided to just put the red Starcraft away for now as the estimate to repair the motor was over \$6,800 and so on September 27 that boat was taken to Pass Creek. On the last day of the month I picked up the camp's old Sears generator at Don's and dropped it off in Trail as a gift for Thomas to work on if he wished.

On October 19 Don and I towed the Aroliner to J.L. Crowe Secondary School as Thomas said he would try to repair the cracked hull as a shop project. We returned on November 6 as he had riveted and sealed an aluminum patch on the hull. We will see next summer if the patch job was a success.

Over the summer months I hauled out over 730 litres of gasoline and 1,100 pounds of propane for the camp. Many people helped out on work parties and special projects; the L.V.R. kids, Jacob, Thomas, Josh, Don, Herman, Bill, Graham, Norm, Nick, Peter, Margaret, Sandra, Daniel, Ken, Terry, Don McCauley, and others too. I'm sure I've forgotten some, and for that, I apologize. Many thanks to everyone, named or not, who pitched in to keep the camp running.

Ray Lundquist

Program / Operation / Staffing

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our primary Groundsman and Thomas Plett as our second. We had 3 different lifeguards; Wren Shaman, Riley Major and Troy Bingham. Each guard was great and would be more than welcome back. Our cooks were Claire Soukochoff and Linn Murray; we had three days during Teen camp that the amazing program staff covered while Claire was off. Intergenerational camp, Linn stepped up and cooked with the assistance of Jacob St Thomas and some of the campers.

All of our paid staff exceled at their roles and we would love to have any or all of them back. 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 Juliana Marko for Teen, Robin Murraray and Natalie Plett for Jr girls, Peter Herd for Jr Boys and Erica Bergen and Cynthia St Thomas 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 9 girls and 13 boys explored the theme of "Amazing Race" 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. This was the first year I had to confiscate food from campers. I think that this rule needs to be kept throughout the entire summer so there is no confusion. The purpose of the Amazing Race theme was to explore team-work and learn about things around the world. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service lead by our Chaplain Keith Simmonds.

The beginning of the week was a bit of a challenge, with our volunteer staff taking shifts in the kitchen, but we made it work.

This year's theme was woven through everyday activities, including craft, service project, water sports, our hike, clam bay and our canoe ride across the lake.

With the incredible help of Peter, Don, Keith and Dave the campers were all able to help us complete the new backstop at the end of the field.

Kangaroo Court saw the leaders dressed in garb from each of their own heritage. Closing Ceremonies were made especially beautiful this year with lit balloons all throughout chapel beach by Don. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week.

At the end of each year I always ask the campers and staff to write down their likes/dislikes and what they want more of. Unfortunately my theme did not fare very well with the campers overall. Many of them did not like that the theme was woven into our regular special events, which in hindsight I completely understand. This is why we get input from the campers. It will make things better for next year.

Many thanks to my Assistant: Tim McTeer, the Counselors: Peter Herd, and Toni McKellar, our First Aider: Don McCauley, the Leaders: David Szchenkhousen, Hannah Sanders, Kim Button and, our Chaplain: Keith Simmonds and Lifeguard: Wren Shaman.

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

Let me just start off with a WOW! Jr. Girls camp 2017 was an insane, amazing, fun and inspiring year! 39 campers! I never imagined to have 2 amazing years in a row and I'm excited for next year to come. This year we had an amazing staff! We had 9 leaders. We tried something new this year where we had a male leader Jake. He stayed in one of the Lodge rooms. I was very impressed with his willingness to participate and his respectfulness towards all of my leaders and myself and Robin. Our senior leaders were Hannah, Jayne, Sarah, and Payton and our Juniors were Yvie, Alena, Mariah, and Eirin. Our senior staff we had 2 lovely councillors switch out halfway through the week Paige, and Kimberley. The co-directors this year Natalie and Robin (who also doubled as chaplain). Then we had Peter as our nurse. This year has been my favorite camp I have ever experienced. 39 campers is a lot to work with! We had a blast! The theme we had for this year was Into The Woods. We did many activities to encourage being one with nature! A few of them being nature walks where we reached the girls about different plants, service projects to help clean up camp and help the camp progress. Once again this year the entire camp (minus 1 leader because of medical reasoning and by default myself) went up for the hike and everyone made it to the top! The girls came down with a positive attitude and a new sense of comradery. Closing ceremonies this year were very touching. Almost all of the girls had something to say about coming back next year or seeing the camp grow in numbers and most importantly seeing all of their friends come back. Overall camp this year was unlike any other. I'm so proud of each and every one of my staff who came and volunteered. The volunteers are truly the people who make camp possible. I hope for another amazing year next year.

Natalie Plett

Jr Boys

My staff included Josh Mack, Patrick Sanders and David Ermacora as Counsellors. My leaders were Aiden Armstrong and Stevie McCulloch. I had to have my Counsellors stay in cabins to maintain ratios. I directed and guided the chapel services that were created by Keith Simmonds and our lifeguard Wren Shaman assisted with first aid.

Registrations were roughly the same as last year with a total of 16 boys this year. The weather was beautiful and made our many swim times in cold Kootenay Lake more enjoyable. Aiden was a past camper turned leader for the first time and Stevie was brand new to Koolaree. They made sure the kids had fun and we avoided any serious homesickness. With a small group they were able to provide one to one time when needed.

We had many physical challenges for the boys and brought back Senses 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. David Ermacora shot a video throughout the week; it has now been shared on our Facebook page.

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. This year I really struggled to get enough staff, thank God for my last minute leaders. It is proving to become more and 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

Another camp season has come and gone. It was another great year at Novice Camp with beautiful sunny weather that allowed for plenty of fun, even if we had to imagine the campfire burning while we sang. Camp was full to the brim with campers with a waitlist that we were able to accommodate so that no kids were left behind. Thanks goes out to the new young leaders that stepped up with our veteran leaders and adult helpers to make it an enjoyable week for all.

The theme for Novice Camp this year was Olympics. Even in a non-Olympic year, the groups were enthusiastic and had a great time. The colours of the Olympic rings were used to split each group into groups and assigned a country to represent their region. There were team flags made, an opening ceremony complete with torches (tissue paper flames only) and the Olympic theme song playing in the background. Pool noodle hockey, swimming events and lawn bowling were all hits with both campers and leaders alike.

We had 12 male campers and 17 female campers that were split evenly among 5 cabins. With the young group we have at novice, we do try to keep the camper to leader ratio relatively low to ensure we are able to meet the needs of each child. This age group tends to need more help with basics such as bedtime routines, night time bathroom visits, dishes, chores and learning about camp life. We assigned 2 leaders to each of the boy's cabins and 2-3 leaders to each of the girl's cabins. We chose to assign the

dining tables and kitchen duties in our mixed activity groups to give campers and leaders to work together with as many different people as possible. With some creative thinking, the dining tables were rearranged a little to allow good traffic flow and enough seating for us all.

Thanks goes out to our incredible staff this year. Even though we were scrambling last minute for a life guard, she was a pleasure to have at camp. The cooks were amazing as well, accommodating slight adjustments in the schedule and keeping as all well fed. The campers enjoyed everything they ate and certainly didn't complain of being hungry. Our groundskeepers, as always, kept things running smoothly and were always willing to jump in and lend a hand wherever they were needed. Our camp nurse kept everyone bandaged up and healthy. We can't speak for other camps, but always imagine that our budget for bandaids might be a little bigger for Novice than it is for other camps. Our cabin leaders were kept busy with many new young campers but they rose to the challenge. We had a few new young leaders as recruitment for some of our experienced leaders was a bit tougher than normal. One suggestion we would like to make is to try and host a leader's weekend at camp before all of the camps start. This might allow for some leader sharing and possible recruitment for all of our camps. It would be a great way to do leader training and share ideas that work at each camp.

Last of all we would like to thank the board, without all of the hard work you do throughout the year, promoting, fundraising and keeping the all-important details going on behind the seasons, Camp Koolaree would not be possible. Camp is an experience that all kids should be able to have. The laughter (and sometimes tears) along with the dirty smiling faces and stories shared are what has kept our family returning for 4 generations. Koolaree is more than a place. It is a part of our hearts. Let's keep that heartbeat going for many more years to come.

Respectfully,
Cynthia St. Thomas & Erica Bergen (co-directors)

Intergenerational Family Camp

It was a privilege to direct Intergenerational Family Camp from August 14 to 19, 2017. We had a diverse group of eighteen campers for the week including eight children. Our group included a volunteer Chaplain, Bill of Calgary.

The average daily high temperature for the week was about 28 degrees with sunny and partly cloudy conditions each day. This year the camp experienced some smoke from nearby forest fires.

Intergenerational Family Camp followed the usual camp routine from flag raising to campfire each day. Early morning coffee and hot chocolate at the lodge was a popular activity with campers. Some campers also enjoyed the Polar Bear swim each day.

We tried to do something unique and special at each lunch and supper like a game or fun notes with jokes at each place setting.

Campfire still happened despite the fire ban. Thank you to whomever provided the propane campfire. At campfires, kitchen staff brought much appreciated and enjoyed snacks.

This year's camp focused on daily themes and a weeklong chapel theme of 'Jesus Loves Me':

'Magnificent Monday' - Everyone settled into their cabins and routine on Monday. Campers worked on glow in the dark bugs and other craft projects.

'Terrific Tuesday'. - On the first full day of camp, we talked about The Creation Story of Genesis during chapel.

On Tuesday, we made jersey shopping bags while some of our younger campers decorated tshirts.

'Wonderful Wacky Wednesday' - On Wednesday, our chapel lesson was on The Woman At The Well.

Part of our group hiked to the falls at lunch time. We made sock puppets and our own superhero costumes! We decorated the dining hall with a space theme and had a superhero supper. Campers were given lanyards to create and display their own 'super hero' name. Even staff members made their own costumes, adding to the fun.

'Throwback Thursday' - The chapel lesson on Thursday was Jesus Heals A Man Born Blind.

To celebrate throwback Thursday, the youngest campers literally played a game seeing how many Cheetos we could throw onto one another's heads.

We moved our final camp ceremony to Thursday instead of Friday as a number of people left Friday and we wanted to make sure everyone was able to participate in celebration of the week. We used battery powered tea lights as we walked to the chapel and had a touching chapel service where we served each other communion. We then went to campfire.

'Fiesta Friday' - Friday's scripture lesson at chapel was on The Fruit of the Spirit.

We had canteen at Clam Bay on Friday after lunch. Young campers enjoyed a water balloon fight after Clam Bay. We decorated the dining hall for supper in a fiesta theme and even had a short toast with pop to conclude the week. Campers even got party beads to celebrate. A number of campers left after supper on Friday.

'See Ya Later Saturday' - Saturday morning campers left camp.

Throughout the week, we used a large visual schedule posted at the Adhut to communicate the daily and weekly activities at the camp. E.g. Week Craft Schedule, Week Chapel Schedule, and Community Chore Schedule. Campers gave feedback in particular they like having the posted schedules.

The weekly plan for the camp included more activities than we needed like games and other fun activities. We simply went into the box to try a new activity or did a favourite activity. We were able to keep a structured schedule and still have flexibility in our routine.

This year we had campers with different expertise with some activities. For example, we offered a formal meditation time where people could learn how to meditate or participate in their own meditation practice. There was even a yoga practice on one day.

The Lifeguard for Intergenerational Family Camp did an excellent job. His professional experience and positive attitude really added to the camp experience. We are grateful for his willingness to help with other activities outside of swim times.

We appreciate the hard work of the Camp Cook and Groundskeepers. The camp staff had positive attitudes and were terrific to interact with. For a couple of days, a couple volunteers helped in the kitchen. The volunteer help was very much appreciated.

The total cost of supplies for the camp including craft, party, poster making and other supplies totalled around \$100.00. Costs were kept low by shopping for deals at liquidation and dollar stores.

Some campers requested other craft activities like felting and soapstone carving for next year. Overall, campers seemed happy with the camp experience.

On a personal note, it was amazing to experience Koolaree as camper, cabin leader, counsellor and now director. I would welcome the chance to serve the camp as director again as it was so much fun! Whether or not we help with the camp again, our family enjoyed the camp very much and we look forward to going to Koolaree again next summer.

Kind regards,

Terri Berg