

# **Camp Koolaree AGM 2018**



**Nov 19, 2018  
Castlegar United Church  
Castlegar, BC**

## **Camp Koolaree Society President's Report**

2018 was a very blessed year where we were able to reach more individuals. We were fortunate to go from 85 campers to 119. We started the year in a good place financially and finished off better, a large part of that was the grant for our lifeguard.

Our total number of campers increased from last year. Teen and Novice camps saw an increase, Jr Boys and Jr Girls unfortunately saw decreases, Intergenerational camp had enough campers to run and Outpost camp was canceled due to lack of registrations. We hope to increase these numbers with improved marketing and word of mouth for 2019.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Diana Mack, John Marko, Bill Furey and 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 workload 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 started check lists for the Groundsman this year which proved very effective. 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 fulfilling and I was blessed to attend four of the camps we ran. This was my 24<sup>th</sup> 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 deep soul searching if I didn't have the option of going to this truly amazing place. It's one of the few areas 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 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 25, 2017**

Present: Peter Herd, Robin Murray, Bill Furey, Irene Furey, Ray Lundquist, Gordon Swedberg, Jody Dudley, Juliana Marko, John Marko.

Peter called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Robin opened the meeting with prayer.

Peter welcomed everyone, and we all introduced ourselves and our involvement with Koolaree.

Robin moved, Bill seconded that the minutes of the November 26, 2016 AGM be accepted as amended to change Roth Lake to Rock Lake. Carried

Robin moved, John seconded that we extend voting privileges to all present. Carried.

The reports in the AGM booklet were reviewed with the following comments/issues arising discussed:

President's Report: Peter reviewed his report.

Financial report: Gordon asked why we didn't pay property tax last year. John assumes that now that we have a lease agreement with BC Conference, as our Landlord, they will be paying the Property Tax. Gordon suggested John call David Nance to confirm this. John will check our lease agreement first. Gordon also pointed out that had 22 campers requiring financial assistance, we only had donations for 8 camperships, and that we should be pursuing funding sources to cover these campers.

Presbytery: Robin reported that the UCC restructuring may have repercussions for UC Camps, and suggested we express our concerns/suggestions to [remits@united church.ca](mailto:remits@united church.ca). She also reminded us that the changes to the Societies Act will require a review/revision of our Constitution and Bylaws. Ray has attended a workshop on the changes and can make the material available to the Board.

Registrar: Juliana filled in last year as Registrar and will continue in that role this coming year.

Communications/Fundraising&Grants: Robin reported that camper registrations were up likely due to the communication through Facebook and our website. Fundraising and grants were down this past year. We urgently need someone to help us submit grant proposals.

Building/Boats: Ray reviewed his report. He and Bill raised concerns that putting a roof over the washrooms without gutting the inside might be a mistake. It may be better to do it all in one fell swoop, pending funding.

Program/Operations/Staffing: Peter reviewed his report.

Teen Co-Ed: Juliana reviewed her report.

Junior Girls: Robin Reviewed her report.

Junior Boys: Peter reviewed his report.

Novice: Peter reviewed the report noting there were 29 Novice campers.

Intergenerational: John and Juliana commented on what a success this camp was.

Robin moved, Ray seconded that the reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

Election of Board Members: Christine Price notified Peter that she wishes to remain on the Board. Peter Herd, Robin Murray, Bill Furey, Ray Lundquist, and John Marko all agreed to remain on the Board for the coming year. Juliana Marko volunteered to rejoin the Board this year. Peter will be approaching a number of others regarding joining the Board and will bring the names of those volunteering to the January meeting.

Open Forum: Nothing.

Ray moved the meeting be adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Marko, Secretary/Treasurer

## TREASURER'S REPORT

This year saw the Camp Koolaree come through in the black for the second year in a row. As of October 31, 2018 we have assets totaling \$19,816.97. We had more donations and Camper and Rental income, but we had significant increases in staffing costs. We did receive approval for a Canada Summer Jobs Grant, which we will receive in November, bringing us back closer to last year's staffing expenses, but still about \$3,700 over. Increases in the minimum wage was the major factor in the added staffing expense.

We spent about \$2,000 less on maintenance and construction than last year, but still have all the major renovation projects on hold while awaiting Grant funding. We are exploring other ways to have campers register and pay, as the current system cost us over \$1,000 last year. Although going to a new system may be more work for the Registrar and Treasurer, it could save us quite a bit of cash.

Respectfully submitted, John D. Marko, Treasurer

### BALANCE SHEET

October 31, 2018

#### Assets:

##### Current Assets:

##### KSCU Accounts:

Maximizer:	\$	14,559.37	
Campership:		3.08	
Building:		4,101.49	
Dining Rm. Pole:		500.70	
Shares:		25.00	\$19,189.64

##### Accounts Receivable:

GST	\$	327.05	
Paypal		300.28	627.33

Total Assets \$19,816.97

#### Liabilities:

##### Current Liabilities:

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

Building Fund: 4,101.49

Pole Fund: 500.70

##### Operating Fund Balances:

OpeningBalance:	\$9,371.85	
Current YTD:	5,842.93	\$ 15,214.78

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$ 19,816.97

		15/16 Actual	16/17 Actual	17/18 Actual	18/19 Budget
<b>Income</b>					
<b>Donations:</b>					
General		\$13,043.95	\$13,404.01	\$15,283.17	
Camperships		\$1,600.00	\$2,500.21	\$2,800.42	
Building Fund		\$0.00	\$1,000.21	\$3,001.28	
Pole Fund		\$350.00	\$0.24	\$0.24	
<b>Total Donations</b>		<b>\$14,993.95</b>	<b>\$16,904.67</b>	<b>\$21,085.11</b>	
<b>Other Income:</b>					
Camper Registrations		\$21,865.00	\$28,655.20	\$30,137.50	
Rental Camps		\$3,726.40	\$3,759.00	\$5,444.00	
Grants		\$580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Investment Income		\$2.80	<b>\$3.38</b>	<b>\$7.93</b>	
T-Shirt Sales		\$455.00	\$100.00	\$1,505.20	
Fundraisers		\$2,159.00	\$80.25	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous		\$548.90	<b>\$57.22</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>\$29,337.10</b>	<b>\$32,655.05</b>	<b>\$37,094.63</b>	
<b>Less Desig. Fnd</b>		<b>-\$350.00</b>	<b>-\$1,000.45</b>	<b>-\$3,001.52</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$43,981.05</b>	<b>\$48,559.27</b>	<b>\$55,178.22</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Koolaree Camps:</b>					
Canteen		\$587.84	\$751.54	\$319.14	
Crafts		\$80.97	\$406.06	\$642.66	
Groceries		\$5,830.28	\$6,563.26	\$6,954.21	
T-Shirts		\$1,278.38	\$1,287.47	\$2,300.10	
First Aid		\$5.62	\$0.00	\$69.02	
<b>Total Koolaree Camps</b>		<b>\$7,783.09</b>	<b>\$9,008.33</b>	<b>\$10,285.13</b>	
<b>Financial Fees:</b>					
KSCU		\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	
Active Works		\$674.83	\$927.74	\$1,023.89	
Paypal		\$14.63	\$28.84	\$68.18	
<b>Total Financial Fees</b>		<b>\$839.46</b>	<b>\$1,106.58</b>	<b>\$1,242.07</b>	
<b>Staffing:</b>					
<b>Wages</b>		\$14,598.48	\$15,099.66	\$20,275.84	
<b>Penalties</b>		\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	
<b>Taxes/EI/PPP</b>		\$1,262.06	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$851.57</b>	
<b>WCB</b>		\$282.78	<b>\$166.42</b>	<b>\$215.76</b>	
<b>Total Staffing</b>		<b>\$16,143.32</b>	<b>\$15,099.66</b>	<b>\$21,343.37</b>	
<b>Utilities:</b>					

Electricity		\$253.55	\$117.01	\$132.31	
Propane		\$1,220.56	\$1,096.14	\$1,171.26	
Telephone		\$265.50	\$109.77	\$221.50	
Waste Disposal		\$44.60	\$132.60	\$200.80	
<b>Total Utilities</b>		<b>\$1,784.21</b>	<b>\$1,455.52</b>	<b>\$1,716.87</b>	
<b>Operations:</b>					
<b>Maintenance/Construction</b>					
Equipment Purchases		\$3,347.13	\$2,608.92	\$1,052.08	
Repairs/Installations		\$403.50	\$347.21	\$622.05	
Hardware/Building Supplies		\$323.53	\$1,629.20	\$1,025.51	
Misc. Maintenance/Construction		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Maint/Const</b>		<b>\$4,074.16</b>	<b>\$4,612.33</b>	<b>\$2,699.64</b>	
Cleaning Supplies		\$192.56	\$340.85	\$289.17	
Office Supplies		\$228.43	\$142.75	\$352.27	
Misc. Supplies		\$103.38	\$348.04	\$29.10	
Fundraising		\$948.08	\$30.00	\$20.59	
Advertising		\$288.58	\$413.64	\$211.33	
Postage/Shipping		\$111.77	\$176.63	\$143.04	
Fire Equipment		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Waterfront Equipment		\$0.00	\$17.72	\$0.00	
Misc. Expenses		\$51.53	\$276.37	\$159.60	
<b>Total Operations</b>		<b>\$5,998.49</b>	<b>\$6,393.33</b>	<b>\$3,904.74</b>	
<b>Taxes/Insurance/Fees:</b>					
BCCA Registration		<b>\$520.00</b>	\$260.00	\$260.00	
Society Registration		\$25.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	
Insurance		\$4,024.00	\$3,690.77	\$4,028.81	
Property Tax		\$1,104.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Water Act Permit		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	
Can. Coast Guard		\$102.50	\$105.00	\$102.50	
Interior Health		\$0.00	\$37.50	\$62.50	
<b>Total Taxes/Ins./Fees</b>		<b>\$5,776.49</b>	<b>\$4,108.27</b>	<b>\$4,603.81</b>	
<b>Transportation:</b>					
<b>Fuels/Oils:</b>					
Gasoline		\$966.45	\$818.38	\$937.45	
Oil		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.18	
Outboard Oil		\$153.25	\$34.10	\$84.24	
Other Fuels/Oils		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$8.06</b>	
<b>Total Fuels/Oils</b>		<b>\$1,119.70</b>	<b>\$852.48</b>	<b>\$1,037.93</b>	
Boats:					

Motorboat Maintenance		\$3,314.16	\$665.66	\$2,980.10	
Other Boat Maintenance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.19	
Boat Trailer Fees/Ins.		\$197.33	\$325.31	\$164.60	
Misc. Boats		\$612.32	\$29.55	\$99.58	
<b>Total Boats</b>		\$4,123.81	\$1,020.52	\$3,252.47	
Mileage		\$1,356.55	\$1,766.67	\$1,948.90	
<b>Total Transportation</b>		<b>\$6,600.06</b>	<b>\$3,639.67</b>	<b>\$6,239.30</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$44,925.12</b>	<b>\$40,811.36</b>	<b>\$49,335.29</b>	
<b>PROFIT/LOSS</b>		<b>-\$944.07</b>	<b>\$7,747.91</b>	<b>\$5,842.93</b>	

### PRESBYTERY REPORT

Presbytery met Oct 12-14, 2018 at Trinity United Church in Creston. This was the final presbytery meeting as all presbyteries are to disband this fall. Beginning January 1, 2019, we will now be part of the Pacific Mountain Region. This includes the current BC Conference, plus Whitehorse United and Rundle Memorial United in Banff. The First General Meeting will be held May 30-June 2, 2019.

Discussions on allocations to each camp were determined by the number of United Church camping weeks held by each respective camp for the year 2018. Camp Koolaree held Five (5) weeks of United Church camping.

Kootenay Presbytery moved to allocate Five Thousand Dollars (\$5000) to Camp Koolaree.

Respectfully Submitted

Toni McKellar

### REGISTRAR'S REPORT

CAMP	BOYS	GIRLS	Other	Sustainable Fee	Online	Paper	TOTAL CAMPERS
NOVICE	12	13		0	20	3	25
TEEN	10	19	1	2	24	7	31
JR BOYS	8	0		0	8	2	10
JR GIRLS	0	28		3	27	1	28
FAMILY	4	5		2	5	7	23

<b>ALL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>117</b>
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**RENTALS:**

- Wink Wink Events - 2 nights
- Castlegar United - 2 nights
- Dances of Universal Peace - 4 nights
- Trail Clubhouse - Cancelled due to smoke

**COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING**

Team members: Robin Murray, Natalie Plett and Muriel Walton

**Grants**

We were happy to be selected for a LeRoi Community Foundation grant of \$1500 for a solar lighting system in the Brick Shed. Earlier in the year, we received a sizeable lumber donation from the Proctor-Harrop Community Forest to repair the floor in that building. Once all repairs are complete and the lighting system installed, the Brick Shed will once again be the central workshop for camp maintenance projects.

We requested funds from the closing of Kootenay Presbytery and were pleased to receive \$5000.

We requested other funding for capital improvements from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), however were turned down. The folks there were very helpful and identified the primary barrier to receiving CBT as being a lack of capital contributions from the legal property owner, which is BC Conference of the United Church of Canada.

**Capital Campaign**

The Team has been working on plans for an ambitious Capital Campaign which would span the next five years and raise a total of \$1.5 million for improvements to the camp facilities. The improvements would begin project by project as funds become available and would not wait for the entire campaign amount. Money will be sought from individuals, groups, businesses, foundations, and the United Church of Canada. This would all be donations made in addition to our regular campership fund raising.

The proposed capital improvements to the facility will allow us to lengthen the summer season to include some weeks in May and September, which could draw in some school user groups and allow us to increase the number of camp programming weeks, without decreasing the number of weeks available for community rental. Benefits would include an increase in rental revenue, a decrease in our reliance on fossil fuels, and most importantly, an increase in the number of people, especially children and youth, who would get to come to Koolaree and participate in transformative camp experiences.

**Volunteer Hours**

In order to better keep track of the abundant in-kind contributions for potential funders, the Board endeavored to keep better track of volunteer hours.

- Program volunteers during summer camps put in an estimated 3300 hours
- Maintenance Volunteers put in an estimated 400 hours
- Other Team and Board volunteers put in an estimated 300 hours

We have only just begun to track volunteer hours and these estimates are probably on the low side.

**Communications**



In addition to the production and distribution of camp brochures, we have had video production work by Dave Ermacora and Linn Murray, as well as a radio interview last spring by Troy Bingham and Juliana Marko.

## **BOATS & BUILDINGS TEAM REPORT**

**MARCH:** It was March 16 when Don, Margaret, and I put The Scow on Don's trailer and installed the Merc 20 and floorboards. After some extensive research, I concluded that The Scow is actually a Starcraft Seafarer.

Peter sent photos taken on a hike out to Koolaree that showed that some lumber wrap had slid off the kitchen along with a large pile of snow. The roofing on the Ad Hut patio was also a mess.

Bill Furey returned from Mexico and brought the welcome news that CIBC Wood Gundy had approved a grant in the amount of \$1,000.

**APRIL:** Even with about three inches of wet snow on the ground Don, Bill, Jacob, Thomas and I made a trip over to Koolaree on April 2 after launching The Scow at Nichawa. We noted that the RDCK had laid down a layer of crushed gravel on the road to the parking lot and dock at McDonalds Landing. The huge car swallowing pothole at the top of the road was gone – at least for now. A string of lights were hung in The Brick Shed and the generator fired up to check if they worked. Jacob had a problem with the Merc 20 that day and had to back over to Nichawa when it wouldn't go into reverse!

Saturday April 28 was a day with the odd shower, but that didn't stop a hard working crew headed by Mo Barry replacing the tattered asphalt roofing on the Ad Hut patio with heavy plywood and coated steel. After work, many of the workers enjoyed a spaghetti supper at Nelson United Church.

Two days later, a crew of volunteers cleared out The Brick Shed and ripped up the rotten planks that had covered half of the floor. A large bonfire consumed most of the debris.

**MAY:** Bill Furey arranged a deal with Harrop-Procter Forest Products. They would donate all the lumber needed to replace The Brick Shed floor. Mo Barry then did some sweet talking and through his x-son-in-law got a promise that the CPR will take the donated lumber out to Koolaree.

We had a work party at Don's to get the blue Starcraft Starchief and the Aroliner cleaned up and some paddles and oars sanded and re-varnished. Bill, Don, and I went to Rock Island RV to look at pontoon boats but found that they were on order but not expected for months due to flooding at the factory in Indiana .

On May 25 I towed the Starchief to Nelson and launched it so Jacob could run it up to McDonalds Landing. The lake level was about twelve inches below the red triangles on the pilings at Koolaree. Jacob put the water line intake into the creek while I got the water treatment system ready. Unfortunately, I had forgotten to bring the Chemilizer from home where it had been stored for the winter.

The next day an eight man crew hauled a massive amount of junk that had been in The Brick Shed down to the dock and across the lake where it was loaded onto trucks and the utility trailer. It was all taken to the dump later. A lack of water pressure was traced to a burst pipe under The Hospital. It had not been drained last fall and had split from one side of the building to the other.

**JUNE:** We were planning to have a group of students from LV Rogers Secondary School come out to Koolaree and do some work, but in the end it didn't happen. Jacob and I went out to Koolaree on June 8 to elevate the retention tanks in the water treatment building and to repair the broken water line under The Hospital. We ran into problems with both jobs and weren't able to complete the repairs that day. On June 26, Don and I took the Aroliner to Koolaree with enough pipe and fittings to complete the repair jobs at both locations. On Friday June 29, Jacob and I got the Aroliner from Don's and went over to Koolaree. After dealing with some minor issues over the weekend, Jacob had the water system in operation – leak free.

**JULY:** On the 5<sup>th</sup> I helped Don assemble the modified canoe hauler. A couple of days later Bill informed me that he and Mo Barry and moved the lumber from the sawmill at Harrop to the Nelson Ready Mix yard in the city. Don and I got the Starchief cleaned out and ready to go on July 8 and the next day launched it at Lakeside Park. It was July 27 when the huge load of lumber arrived by rail and was unloaded beside the tracks at Koolaree. The next day I obtained a small propane freezer and took that out to McDonalds Landing where it was loaded into The Scow. Josh and Jacob told me that two bears had walked along the camp's shoreline and that the conservation officer had provided two locking bins for use at the camp. Don and I retrieved the broken down red Starcraft and left it in the camp's parking lot as the Gorman's had put their property in Pass Creek up for sale and we would not have the use of the big shelter there.

**AUGUST:** The kids at Teen Camp did an amazing job of moving all the heavy unplanned lumber from where it had been left near the tracks to beside Cabin #6, close to where it will be used. Jacob and Josh moved and installed the big plastic water tank near the creek where it would provide a substantial amount of storage now that Eight Mile Creek had slowed to a trickle. After sitting unused for many years, this was great news. On August 20, Don and I cleaned up the Malibu 162 boat and started the 7.5 Evinrude. We had the Evinrude 48 running for a few seconds, but it quit and wouldn't restart. Don called Scott McLean who would have a look at it later. We discovered that the camp's battery charger was no longer working, so I bought a new one and took that out on August 26 when Castlegar UC were having a Sunday service at Koolaree.

**SEPTEMBER:** On September 4 Scott McLean called to say that he'd worked on the Evinrude 48 and it was now running fine. He did some other work on the Malibu while he was at it. Peter and Jacob helped haul out the Aroliner at McDonalds Landing on September 6. We noticed that someone had left an unlicensed EZ-Loader boat trailer in the camp parking lot. A work party was planned for September 29-30 to do the work in The Brick Shed, but this was cancelled due to Mo Barry suffering a medical issue. Don and I launched the Malibu at Syringa Creek Park and took it for a nice test run. Instead of selling it, we likely will be using it at Koolaree next season in place of the Aroliner.

**OCTOBER:** As the Gorman's property had not been sold, it was taken off the market for the winter. We had permission to use the large shelter there again to store the boats under. On October 16 Don, Jacob, and I went to Koolaree to drain and winterize the water system, and power equipment such as the lawn mowers, log splitter, and fire pump. We hauled out the Starchief at Nelson and the next day it was taken to Pass Creek and put under cover.

**THANKS:** To all who helped out this year, somehow we managed to keep things going at Koolaree. Special mention to Don, Bill, Jacob, Josh, Mo, Peter, and the Teen Camp Kids. To all the fellows who showed up for the work parties – you also deserve a huge thank-you. Thanks to Mike from the CPR and to Tony at NRM. Thanks also to Robin and her helpers for the nice meal you provided after the workers

finished the Ad Hut roof – that was much appreciated. Thanks to the folks at Harrop-Procter Forest Products, to Jim Berrill of JEMS Propane, and to Scott McLean of S.A.M. Marine. I have probably missed other people who also pitched in in some way to do whatever had to be done, and your efforts also deserve thanks. To those who graciously made special financial donations to Koolaree, thank-you so much. We have to pay to have professional help at times and the extra funds make that possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Lundquist

### **PROGRAM / OPERATION / STAFFING**

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our primary Groundsman and longtime Koolarean Josh Mack as our second. Riley Major, who was a lifeguard for us 1 week last year returned for the full summer. Linn Murray took the plunge this summer and became the head cook, after being the assistant last year. Jonah Turton was the assistant cook for the bulk of the summer and was replaced by Thomas Plett for the last week.

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 Juliana Marko for Teen, Robin Murray and Natalie Plett for Jr girls, Peter Herd for Jr Boys, Terri Berg and Nancy Totten-Prime for Intergenerational and Julie Popoff for Novice. Troy Bingham was set to direct Outpost camp, but it was canceled with only 3 registrants. 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 20 girls and 11 boys explored the theme of "Footprints" at the Koolaree Teen 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. Our theme was woven throughout the week in crafts, service projects, discussions and games. We concentrated more on the footprint we leave on the environment. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service lead by our Chaplain Keith Simmonds.

Campers helped move all of the lumber for the brick shed floor as part of their service project this year, and also made cement handprint stones that lined the path to chapel beach. They also enjoyed being able to tie-dye their camp t-shirts this year which added another level of fun!

Special events this week included a hike up to the falls, an afternoon at Clam Bay, Water Sports, Monks Night, and Kangaroo Court.

Kangaroo Court saw the leaders dressed as the elements. Closing Ceremonies were made beautiful this year with lit balloons and glowsticks throughout chapel beach by guest Toni, Dave, Peter and Keith. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week.

Many thanks to my Assistant: Tim McTeer, the Counselors: Dave Szchenkhousen, Natalie Plett, our First Aider: Peter Herd, the Leaders: Matt Campbell, Patrick Sanders, Kim Button, our Chaplain: Keith Simmonds.

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**

Here we go again!! Jr. Girls 2018 HOLY GUACAMOLE!! What a year! I know I say this every year but WOW! We had quite a bit of a drop in camper registration this year because half the girls moved up to CO ED. However that didn't change the dynamic of the camp! This year we had 28? Campers we had 6 Leaders. We decided this year we would give it another try with having a male leader. Liam Stayed in cabin 2 separated from the campers and we were very impressed with his willingness to participate however by the end of the camp I think he realized that girls camp was NOT for him! The Senior Leaders were Mariah, Tessa, Charley, Mandolin and our Jr was Melina. We had mainly senior as everyone was over the age of 16. For our Adult Staff we had 2 councillors Paige and Crystal. The Co-Directors were Natalie and Robin (who doubled as chaplain) and Peter as the nurse. This year we really tried to focus on the negative/positive impact we as humans leave on our water systems/ the ocean. Our theme was Go Deep. Last year we focused on earth so this year we decided we would focus on water. We did many activities to promote water, such as, we had a guest speaker in, (Allyssa?) she talked about some of the negative things we are doing that effecting the water and did a few experiments with the campers. We had a very positive feedback from that. For the first time in what seems like forever, EVERYONE went up the hike this year!!! We had an excellent team of leaders who were encouraging and helpful to everyone!! Closing ceremony was as touching as always. We had mostly new campers so it wasn't as tearful as it always is but it was still beautiful. I am so very proud of my team and the way camp was run this year! I know I say this every year but this was the best year by far! I am so excited to see what new journeys we take next year!!

Natalie Plett

### **JR BOYS**

My staff included Josh Mack, Matt Campbell and David Ermacora as Counsellors. My leaders were Linn Murray, Aiden Armstrong and Stevie McCulloch. I directed and guided chapel services that were created by Girls camp Director Robin Murray. And our lifeguard was Riley Major who also assisted with first aid and some of the games.

Registrations were lower than last year with only 10 boys this year. The weather was smoky and hot, but that never deterred our many swim times in cold Kootenay Lake. All of my leaders brought Koolaree experience of different levels 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 and channel some of the "extra" energy.

We had many physical challenges for the boys and I even create a new Pirates theme at the Leaders request. We used sidewalk chalk and turned the outside of our cabins into ships, created flags on our first day and went on treasure hunts. 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 do many crafts, but the kids didn't mind.

This was a very small group and makes it easier on me as a director to know where everyone is always. Saying that, I miss the organized chaos of years past when we had 30-40 campers and almost didn't have enough staff. Saying that though, this was the highest percentage of kids I have lost through the week in all my years of Directing, one to home sickness and one after sustaining a concussion. It has become more challenging to get leaders as my core group now have paying jobs and are unable to attend most 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**  
**2018 Novice Camp, July 16-19**  
by Julie Popoff, Director

Cabin Leaders:

Boys: Josh Plett  
Thomas Plett

Cooks:

Linn and Noah

Girls: Jayne Johnson & Payton Shrieves  
Sloane Martens & Shanti Hamely

Lifeguard:

Riley

Counsellors:

Peter Herd (and Camp Nurse)  
Mary Audia

Moral Support:

Mary Clarke

Kids:

12 boys

13 girls

When John asked if I would consider directing Novice Camp a nervous excitement welled-up within; a wondering as to whether I had the capacity to take this on and an eagerness to 'try' Koolaree again. It seemed like a perfect opportunity since it was a shorter camp, I do enjoy working with kids and there was a tinge of desire to renew the fondness I have for Koolaree. Healthwise, I wasn't sure if I could muster the energy and mindfulness needed to plan and run the camp.

I would say Novice Camp was the experience I hoped for and more. In the weeks prior I started getting inspirations on camp theme and activities/ chapels to go with it. The theme became: "What do you see"; providing an opportunity to open up our eyes and discover the wonders of the world around us and the wonders of who we are individually. Our theme song was "What a Wonderful World."

It was a joy and honour to run the camp and work with a staff and team of leaders who were so incredible! Peter and Mary were an invaluable support: so pleasantly ready and willing to take charge when needed and both so gifted at being there for myself, the leaders and campers. They were both a great resource! Riley was the most enthusiastically involved lifeguard I've worked with there. The kids

thoroughly enjoyed him. Again, always ready, willing and available to help. Another huge joy was to work with the Plett boys. It is such a blessing to see those guys love Koolaree like they do. They were brilliant with the kids and very invested; excellent cabin leaders, providing a perfect amount of fun and firmness for the boys. Jacob took care of the camp like it was his own, always on hand if needed and it was nice to see him interact with all. The leaders for the girls were a little more on the quieter side, but seemed to do well at maintaining peace and managing the needs of the girls.

The cooks were terrific! It was nice to see them fully enjoying and embracing their job and providing us with well-made plentiful nutritious meals. Linn and Noah seemed a great team and were great to work with. I also valued the ease with which they interacted with all.

As for the camp itself, it was nice to see it being so cared for by the Plett boys. The camp did look more cared for. There are a couple of concerns I had. I do struggle with the idea and evidence that mice are walking all over the plates and cutlery, etc that we eat and cook with. I wish there was a way to better enclose/seal off dishes, pots, etc. I am thankful for the ready available spray bottles of bleach water to spray down tables and counters. Also, the bats in the cabins remain an issue with some campers. I know there were bat houses made or partially made a few years ago, is it possible to get those put up? I know there were solar lights at one time on the bathroom pathway, is it possible to have those put up again? I think it would help the kids not be so afraid to go to bathroom at night if needed.

As for camp injuries, we had a miraculous week with very few slivers and wasp stings considering the high amount of wasps this year and kids relentlessly forgetting to put on their shoes! We had all the kids choose to do the hike with only one minor injury. I was pretty relieved! As well, we had the hottest weather (36C) and yet I don't remember a single sunburned/heat stroked child. I feel I owe a lot to my Mom's prayers!

We did have one camper go home from homesickness when her parents showed up to say hello. Apparently, she was the same one who went home last year. And I think only one bedwetter. Thomas, his leader, was very gracious and patient. It was probably good that he had the smaller amount of campers in his cabin. That being said, this boy seemed a little too under the age of majority and made for a big difference!

All in all, I think camp was a success in staff/leader teamwork, kids being impacted by the beauty of Koolaree and feeling cared for/having fun, feeding well the masses, few injuries, great weather,... Being new to Novice camp, it was a bit of a learning curve coming with new ideas and still respecting the 'way it's always been done'. I think we managed and I learned for next year. I am open to suggestions/feedback on improving camp for next year if I were to come back. It was a pleasure directing the camp and am open to taking it on again. Thank you for asking me!

## **INTERGENERATIONAL**

Camp Koolaree hosted 23 campers at Intergenerational Family Camp from July 23 to 28, 2018. The theme of the camp was 'Wonders, Mysteries, and Riddles'. The weather was quite warm and dry with the average daily temperature of around 32 degrees Celsius.

Each day had a theme: Mystery Monday, True Detective Tuesday, Who Dunnit Wednesday, Thriller Thursday and Hawaii Five-O Friday. To further explore the theme, the campers were given a daily riddle and Latin phrase to figure out by campfire.

In chapel, we explored mysteries and wonders through readings from the bible and mini-devotions about God and science. (The books we used were The Jesus Storybook Bible. 2007. Sally Lloyd-Jones, Jago. Zonderkids. and Indescribable: 100 Devotions About God and Science. Louie Giglio, Nicola Anderson.

Tommy K Nelson.) Campers participated by reading the passages chosen for each day. Thank you to Tim for leading chapel on Wednesday.

Craft time was popular among campers. We did our best to provide craft opportunities for various age groups and abilities. Crafts included a tic-tac-toe mini game, parachute bracelets, blanket ponchos, light switch plate decorating, t-shirt graffiti and ty-dye t-shirts. On Wednesday, a number of campers did the hike up to the falls. For those people who chose not to hike, the craft was Mandala making and colouring.

Swimming and canteen were very popular as expected. Family Camp also had a swim time after supper due to the hot weather conditions. Thank you to the lifeguards who made swimming safe and fun!

Each night the camp had a special activity for supper. On Tuesday night, for example, there was a mystery ordering supper. Campers ordered items from a coded menu. One person received mashed potatoes and gravy with no utensils. On Wednesday night there was a secret agent supper where campers were encouraged to dress up as a secret agent and use a silly secret agent name.

Thursday was a busy day with a STEM challenge, water balloon fight and an Escape Room Type Challenge. Family camp had a hot dog roast (just ahead of the campfire ban starting at noon) at Chapel Beach and then went to Clam Bay. After Clam Bay, campers participated in a Science Technology Engineering and Math activity where they made a boat with everyday items were provided in a package. After their boats were built they tried them out during swim time. Campers then had a water balloon fight.

On Thursday evening there was no swimming as there was no lifeguard. No lifeguard – no problem! All the children and youth at the camp completed the escape room challenges and tasks and found the 'golden egg'. Literally a golden plastic egg filled with medals. The activity appeared popular and at least one camper said this activity was a highlight of the week.

On Friday, Family Camp had a Luau supper where campers were encouraged to dress up tropical style. Campers enjoyed the lodge for the closing ceremonies for Intergenerational Family Camp 2018 and were invited to share about favourite moments during the week. Each camper was given a copy of the Gospel of Mark and a handmade souvenir with stars and the lyrics from the song 'Linger'.

There were two bear sightings during Family Camp 2018. The bear or bears were observed near the water and did not appear interested in the buildings at the camp.

One child needed medical evaluation during the camp on Wednesday but was given all clear and returned to camp the next day.

A very special 'thank you' to the groundskeepers, cooks, and lifeguards for always being so helpful and available to play along with family camp fun. Thank you!

In particular, I would like to thank Nancy Totten-Prime for her hard work as Assistant Director at Intergenerational Family Camp 2018. Nancy's tireless energy, drive and creative thinking made the camp successful. Nancy brings a wealth of Koolaree camping knowledge. I am proud to have worked along side Nancy to make the camp happen. Thank you, Nancy!

It was a privilege to direct Intergenerational Family Camp 2018. As a young person, Koolaree was a place to have fun and grow. I now appreciate how much Camp Koolaree influenced my life for the better. It is an honour to give back to Koolaree and community in this small way as a camp director.

Terri Berg  
For Intergenerational Family Camp 2018

### **Outpost**

Canceled to due lack of registration.

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