

Camp Koolaree AGM 2023

Introducing the "Pop Smilie II"
Camp Koolaree's brand new boat!



Thank you to all of our generous donors
who helped make this happen!

Nov 25, 2023
Castlegar United Church
Castlegar, British Columbia

Camp Koolaree Society President's Report

2023 was a very busy year, I believe the busiest in over a decade, I'm amazed by the number of individuals we reached. We started the year in a good place financially and finished off better. A large part of that was the grants our Fundraising committee was able to secure and support from the Region.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Linn Murray, John Marko, Bill Furey, Natalie Plett, Nicole Cameron, Linda Gregory, Michelle Holm and Josh Mack. Jill Foley and Linda Mae Findlay were present for most of our meetings and brought a fresh set of eyes and questions. It was a diverse 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 would benefit from a Board member chairing the committee and having community members who are interested or have experience in the given group. As our paid staff tends to change from year to year, we need to utilize daily check lists to ensure continuity for the camps. We need to continue to seek different grants and hold fundraisers to help with raising maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships.

This was truly a fulfilling and challenging year because I was blessed to attend four and a half of the camps we ran. This was my 29th 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 Society AGM Minutes
December 10, 2022
Castlegar United Church

Call to order: 1900

Prayer by Robin

Board Members Present: Peter Herd, Michelle Holm, Natalie Plett, John Marko, Robin Murray, Ray Lundquist, Linn Murray, Linda Gregory

Society Members: Eirin Murray, John Pengelly

Motion to adopt previous AGM minutes as amended: Robin moved, Natalie Seconded. **Passed**

President's Report: reviewed aloud by Peter

Treasurer's Report: reviewed aloud by John

Regional Report: reviewed aloud by Robin

Registrar's Report: reviewed aloud by Natalie

Communication and Fundraising Report: reviewed aloud by Nicole

Boats and Maintenance Report: reviewed aloud by Ray

Program and Operation Report: reviewed aloud by Peter

Staffing and Hiring Report: reviewed aloud by Peter

Junior Girls Camp Report: reviewed aloud by Natalie

Teen Camp Report: reviewed aloud by Peter

Junior Boys Camp Report: reviewed aloud by Peter

Novice Camp Report: reviewed aloud by Nicole

Intergenerational Camp Report: reviewed aloud by Peter

2022 Board Members:

Natalie Plett, Ray Lundquist, Nicole Cameron, Michelle Holm, Linn Murray, Robin Murray, Linda Gregory, John Marko, Peter Herd

Jill Foley and Josh Mack have asked to be board members, but per the society constitution and bylaws, article 4.1, as currently only 5 board members are United Church members, we can only have 4 who are not.

Election of Officers and Signing authorities will take place at our next board meeting in January 2022

Benediction: Robin Murray

Ray Moves to adjourn: 20:22

TREASURER'S REPORT

Another busy year for the Treasurer. Here are some financial highlights:

Camper registrations were up again this year netting us almost \$10,000 more than last year, and the Dances of Universal Peace was again our only rental, so that revenue was the same as last year.

We were able to replenish our Campership Fund through donations of over \$13,000, but still fell short of the amount we gave out to needy campers. It appears we will continue to subsidize about 25% of our registration fees for those in need.

With the \$70,000 from the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church (PMR) and an additional \$6,800 from donations, we were able to make the final payment for our new boat. Dubbed the Pop Smiley II after a boat used for many years in the earlier years of the camp, she's in the water and being put to good use.

The PMR gave us a grant of \$40,000 to be used to hire a Camp Manager. We were unable to find someone for that position, so the PMR said we could use it to hire an extra GroundsKeeper, however we couldn't fill that position either. That money will now be used to hire a Camp Manager in 2024.

Our total staffing costs were down by about \$11,000, primarily due to not having received the Canada Summer Jobs grant, so the Recreation Assistant positions (3) we had last year reverted to volunteer Cabin Leader positions. This is the first year I know of that we didn't receive a CSJ grant, and there was no reason given by them. Hopefully we can get one again next year.

Our utilities cost us about \$1,000 more this year, probably due to the increase in campers and inflation.

The Wash House project is still moving along, with the required berm to go in this fall at an estimated cost of \$34,000. Some finishing is still needed in the building, with the grand opening set for the spring of 2024.

And finally, the PMR has hired a real bookkeeper who will be able to keep the books for all five of the United Church camps in B.C. I have been in contact with her, and sent here our records from this fiscal year. We will be working out who does what in the near future! What a relief!

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Marko, Treasurer

CAMP KOOLAREE
2021/2022 BALANCE SHEET

| | <u>October 31,2023</u> | <u>October 31,2022</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
| <u>KSCU Accounts</u> | | |
| Maximizer | \$ 25,441.21 | \$ 21,012.03 |
| Campership | 11.29 | 0.34 |
| Building Fund | 56,129.45 | 106,084.58 |
| Dining Room Pole | 505.50 | 503.75 |
| Reserve Fund | 10,244.29 | 205.56 |
| Boat Fund | 42,601.76 | 91,330.87 |
| Shares | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| | <u>\$134,958.50</u> | <u>\$219,162.13</u> |
| <u>Accts Receivable</u> | | |
| GST | \$ 2,215.26 | \$ 2,311.55 |
| PayPal | 1,993.04 | 1,034.95 |
| Canada Helps | 1,250.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 203.98 | 203.98 |
| | <u>5,662.28</u> | <u>3,550.48</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>\$140,620.78</u> | <u>\$222,712.61</u> |
| <u>LIABILITES</u> | | |
| <u>Accounts Payable</u> | | |
| EI: | \$ - | \$ 118.59 |
| CPP: | - | <u>325.78</u> |
| Taxes: | 0 | 361.05 |
| | <u>0.00</u> | <u>805.42</u> |
| <u>OPERATING EQUITY</u> | | |
| Opening Balance | \$ 221,907.19 | \$ 92,716.57 |
| Current Year | <u>(81,286.41)</u> | <u>129,190.62</u> |
| | <u>140,620.78</u> | <u>221,907.19</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | <u>\$140,620.78</u> | <u>\$222,712.61</u> |

| | 17/18 Actual | 18/19 Actual | 19/20 Actual | 20/21 Actual | 21/22 Actual | 22/23 Budge | 22/23 Actual | 23/24 Budget |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Donations: | | | | | | | | |
| General | \$15,283.17 | \$41,313.71 | \$12,484.33 | \$8,775.00 | \$32,376.66 | \$10,000.00 | \$8,932.85 | \$10,000.00 |
| Camperships | \$2,800.42 | \$8,425.00 | \$6,650.00 | \$4,413.75 | \$3,410.00 | \$8,000.00 | \$13,158.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| Building Fund | \$3,001.28 | \$88,300.00 | \$2,832.00 | \$45,953.83 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$13,276.25 | \$0.00 |
| Dining Rm Pole Fund | \$0.24 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Boat Fund | | | | | \$33,555.99 | \$30,000.00 | \$6,500.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Donations | \$21,085.11 | \$138,038.71 | \$21,966.33 | \$59,142.58 | \$69,342.65 | \$48,000.00 | \$41,867.10 | \$25,000.00 |
| Other Income: | | | | | | | | |
| Camper Registrations | \$30,137.50 | \$28,071.50 | \$2,380.00 | \$36,227.50 | \$46,755.00 | \$50,000.00 | \$56,450.00 | \$60,000.00 |
| Rental Camps | \$5,444.00 | \$7,949.00 | -\$900.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,402.00 | \$8,000.00 | \$4,104.00 | \$8,000.00 |
| Grants | \$0.00 | \$2,541.00 | \$12,890.00 | \$243,866.00 | \$182,563.30 | \$285,000.00 | \$110,000.00 | \$50,000.00 |
| Investment Income | \$7.93 | \$553.06 | \$563.27 | \$159.65 | \$701.96 | \$200.00 | \$1,714.20 | \$600.00 |
| T-Shirt Sales | \$1,505.20 | \$110.00 | \$20.50 | \$0.00 | \$60.00 | \$50.00 | \$140.00 | \$0.00 |
| Fundraisers | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$6,336.50 | \$1,500.00 | \$3,739.35 | \$4,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$0.00 | \$1,900.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2.54 | \$0.00 |
| Total Other Income | \$37,094.63 | \$41,124.56 | \$14,953.77 | \$280,253.15 | \$240,818.76 | \$344,750.00 | \$176,650.09 | \$122,600.00 |
| Less Desiq. Fnd | -\$3,001.52 | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$55,178.22 | \$179,163.27 | \$36,920.10 | \$339,395.73 | \$310,161.41 | \$392,750.00 | \$218,517.19 | \$147,600.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | | |
| Koolaree Camps: | | | | | | | | |
| Canteen | \$319.14 | \$969.42 | \$168.10 | \$780.45 | \$1,359.36 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,234.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Crafts | \$642.66 | \$586.59 | \$2,898.97 | -\$455.57 | \$479.20 | \$700.00 | \$496.09 | \$700.00 |
| Groceries | \$6,954.21 | \$7,379.37 | \$1,651.00 | \$7,161.77 | \$8,604.78 | \$12,000.00 | \$11,940.45 | \$13,200.00 |
| T-Shirts | \$2,300.10 | \$1,218.86 | \$0.00 | \$1,353.50 | \$1,551.17 | \$1,700.00 | \$2,200.95 | \$2,500.00 |
| First Aid | \$69.02 | \$96.48 | \$0.00 | \$182.09 | \$105.79 | \$150.00 | \$135.15 | \$150.00 |
| Total Koolaree Camps | \$10,285.13 | \$10,250.72 | \$4,718.07 | \$9,022.24 | \$12,100.30 | \$16,050.00 | \$16,006.64 | \$18,050.00 |
| Financial Fees: | | | | | | | | |
| KSCU | \$150.00 | \$10.00 | \$3.00 | \$0.00 | \$5.00 | \$0.00 | \$48.32 | \$0.00 |
| Active Works | \$1,023.89 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Paypal | \$68.18 | \$291.53 | \$157.71 | \$134.28 | \$146.33 | \$150.00 | \$86.91 | \$100.00 |
| Benevity | | | \$10.50 | \$43.37 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Canada Helps | | | | | \$81.25 | \$100.00 | \$140.50 | \$150.00 |
| Total Financial Fees | \$1,242.07 | \$301.53 | \$171.21 | \$177.65 | \$232.58 | \$300.00 | \$275.73 | \$250.00 |
| Staffing: | | | | | | | | |
| Wages | \$20,275.84 | \$26,393.12 | \$12,723.68 | \$27,482.01 | \$36,955.92 | \$80,000.00 | \$25,333.38 | \$125,000.00 |
| Penalties | \$0.20 | \$263.58 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,314.57 | \$0.00 |
| Taxes/EI/PPP | \$851.57 | \$1,059.10 | \$624.87 | \$1,936.90 | \$2,776.05 | \$6,000.00 | \$1,965.29 | \$9,700.00 |
| WCB | \$215.76 | \$210.86 | \$266.57 | \$125.96 | \$274.82 | \$300.00 | \$336.30 | \$1,700.00 |
| Total Staffing | \$21,343.37 | \$27,926.66 | \$13,615.12 | \$29,544.87 | \$40,006.79 | \$86,300.00 | \$28,949.54 | \$136,400.00 |
| Utilities: | | | | | | | | |
| Electricity | \$132.31 | \$212.39 | \$173.91 | \$138.79 | \$160.86 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Propane | \$1,171.26 | \$1,758.05 | \$1,399.74 | \$1,159.61 | \$1,157.62 | \$1,300.00 | \$1,660.30 | \$2,000.00 |
| Gasoline | \$342.09 | \$342.09 | \$654.77 | \$136.41 | \$891.48 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,355.82 | \$1,500.00 |
| Telephone | \$221.50 | \$109.50 | \$221.50 | \$109.50 | \$109.50 | \$150.00 | \$312.08 | \$300.00 |
| Waste Disposal | \$200.80 | \$132.00 | \$61.60 | \$171.30 | \$184.60 | \$200.00 | \$172.25 | \$200.00 |
| Total Utilities | \$1,716.87 | \$2,554.03 | \$2,511.52 | \$1,715.61 | \$2,504.06 | \$2,650.00 | \$3,500.45 | \$4,200.00 |
| Operations: | | | | | | | | |
| Maintenance/Construction: | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment Purchases | \$1,052.08 | \$568.55 | \$300.22 | \$8,456.72 | \$508.29 | \$2,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Repairs/Installations | \$622.05 | \$566.83 | \$79.07 | \$1,243.14 | \$3,488.89 | \$1,500.00 | \$228.59 | \$1,500.00 |
| Hardware/Building Supp | \$1,025.51 | \$2,348.31 | \$303.51 | \$1,208.63 | \$357.15 | \$1,500.00 | \$633.67 | \$1,500.00 |
| Misc. Maintenance/Const | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Building Fund Projects | | \$7,255.31 | \$103,697.79 | \$215,171.00 | \$91,312.47 | \$231,000.00 | \$78,941.50 | \$64,000.00 |
| Dining Rm Pole Project | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Maint/Const | \$2,699.64 | \$10,739.00 | \$104,380.59 | \$226,079.49 | \$95,666.80 | \$236,000.00 | \$79,803.76 | \$69,000.00 |
| Cleaning Supplies | \$289.17 | \$105.69 | \$48.99 | \$546.83 | \$68.81 | \$350.00 | \$179.40 | \$200.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$352.27 | \$98.23 | \$66.60 | \$168.31 | \$352.54 | \$350.00 | \$87.60 | \$200.00 |
| Misc. Supplies | \$29.10 | \$520.05 | \$77.33 | \$598.99 | \$625.90 | \$600.00 | \$786.05 | \$700.00 |
| Fundraising | \$20.59 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$83.43 | \$1,779.47 | \$150.00 | \$2,417.84 | \$2,500.00 |
| Advertising | \$211.33 | \$615.29 | \$0.00 | \$120.00 | \$4,451.38 | \$250.00 | \$174.72 | \$200.00 |
| Postage/Shipping | \$143.04 | \$88.93 | \$17.07 | \$66.86 | \$134.73 | \$150.00 | \$11.31 | \$100.00 |
| Fire Equipment | \$0.00 | \$469.42 | \$0.00 | \$1,014.93 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | \$64.06 | \$200.00 |
| Waterfront Equipment | \$0.00 | \$409.92 | \$0.00 | \$232.11 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Misc. Expenses | \$159.60 | \$838.40 | \$473.19 | \$1,749.68 | \$529.13 | \$500.00 | \$2,377.15 | \$1,000.00 |
| Total Operations | \$3,904.74 | \$13,884.93 | \$105,063.77 | \$230,660.63 | \$103,608.76 | \$238,750.00 | \$85,901.89 | \$233,200.00 |
| Taxes/Insurance/Fees: | | | | | | | | |
| BCCA Registration | \$260.00 | \$260.00 | \$260.00 | \$260.00 | \$285.00 | \$285.00 | \$315.00 | \$315.00 |
| Society Registration | \$0.00 | \$80.00 | \$40.00 | \$0.00 | \$80.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 |
| Insurance | \$4,028.81 | \$3,986.60 | \$3,955.99 | \$4,570.74 | \$4,970.52 | \$5,500.00 | \$4,439.49 | \$5,500.00 |
| Water Act Permit | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 |
| Can. Coast Guard | \$102.50 | \$78.75 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Interior Health | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | \$62.50 |
| Total Taxes/Ins./Fees | \$4,603.81 | \$4,507.85 | \$4,358.49 | \$4,983.24 | \$5,448.02 | \$5,987.50 | \$4,906.99 | \$5,917.50 |
| Transportation: | | | | | | | | |
| Fuels/Oils: | | | | | | | | |
| Gasoline | \$937.45 | \$1,254.77 | \$543.99 | \$1,451.54 | \$501.86 | \$500.00 | \$351.84 | \$500.00 |
| Oil | \$8.18 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$62.30 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Outboard Oil | \$84.24 | \$172.06 | \$116.97 | \$33.93 | \$0.00 | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Other Fuels/Oils | \$8.06 | \$65.04 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$439.28 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Fuels/Oils | \$1,037.93 | \$1,491.87 | \$660.96 | \$1,547.77 | \$941.14 | \$900.00 | \$351.84 | \$1,150.00 |
| Boats: | | | | | | | | |
| New Boat | | | | | \$12,975.97 | \$52,000.00 | \$140,141.30 | \$0.00 |
| Motorboat Maintenance | \$2,980.10 | \$641.98 | \$196.61 | \$4,578.82 | \$931.76 | \$2,500.00 | \$848.21 | \$500.00 |
| Other Boat Maintenance | \$8.19 | \$15.31 | \$0.00 | \$119.25 | \$221.92 | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Boat Trailer Fees/Ins. | \$164.60 | \$400.42 | \$327.51 | \$93.00 | \$213.51 | \$250.00 | \$61.00 | \$150.00 |
| Misc. Boats | \$99.58 | \$833.91 | \$211.80 | \$113.23 | \$74.43 | \$250.00 | \$15,956.09 | \$250.00 |
| Total Boats | \$3,252.47 | \$1,891.62 | \$735.92 | \$4,904.30 | \$14,417.59 | \$55,150.00 | \$156,956.58 | \$1,400.00 |
| Mileage | \$1,948.90 | \$1,984.55 | \$1,874.52 | \$1,639.85 | \$1,711.55 | \$2,200.00 | \$2,954.43 | \$4,000.00 |
| Total Transportation | \$6,239.30 | \$5,368.04 | \$3,271.40 | \$8,091.92 | \$17,070.28 | \$57,350.00 | \$160,262.36 | \$7,950.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$49,335.29 | \$64,793.76 | \$133,709.58 | \$284,196.16 | \$180,970.79 | \$407,387.50 | \$299,803.60 | \$247,067.50 |
| PROFIT/LOSS | \$5,842.93 | \$114,369.51 | -\$96,789.48 | \$55,199.57 | \$129,190.62 | -\$14,637.50 | -\$81,286.41 | |

REGION REPORT

Our relationship with the Pacific Mountain Regional Council (PMRC) grows ever stronger. They helped us out this year with the purchase of our new boat and with continued work on the wash house project. PMRC First Third Ministries staff Pamela Evans and Mary Nichol helped us out in February and March by meeting with the Board on Zoom to help with our goal of building a more cohesive Board.

The PMRC General Meeting was held in early June. Unfortunately, no representative for Camp Koolaree was able to attend on our behalf. Rev. Robin Murray was there in her capacity as Minister for Castlegar United Church and was able to report back, but no one was there voting on behalf of the camp.

Fortunately, First Third Ministries held a gathering in October for Board Members of all of the Region Camps and Nicole Cameron was able to go to that on our behalf, along with representatives from Camp Pringle, MacKenzie Camp, Camp Fircom, and Camp Grafton. They shared ideas, strategies, and worked on a vision for how our United Church Camps may cooperate and strengthen one another in the future. We look forward to future such meetings.

Respectfully submitted

Robin Murray

REGISTRAR REPORT

We had a record breaking year for camper registrations, especially in the junior age range (see below chart). Unfortunately, that did not extend to Outpost camp and we ended up canceling outpost due to having only 7 registrants. We ended up opening up a gender-inclusive cabin at Teen camp and most of the campers registered from Outpost ended up attending that camp. With the week of Outpost available and so many Junior Girls campers on the waitlist, we ended up running a second Junior Girls camp during that week which was a great success. Our final numbers were as follows:

Intergenerational: 11

Novice: 29

Jr Boys: 45

Outpost: Canceled - registrants moved to teen camp

Jr Girls: 1st Camp: 46, Supplemental Camp: 15

Teen: 33

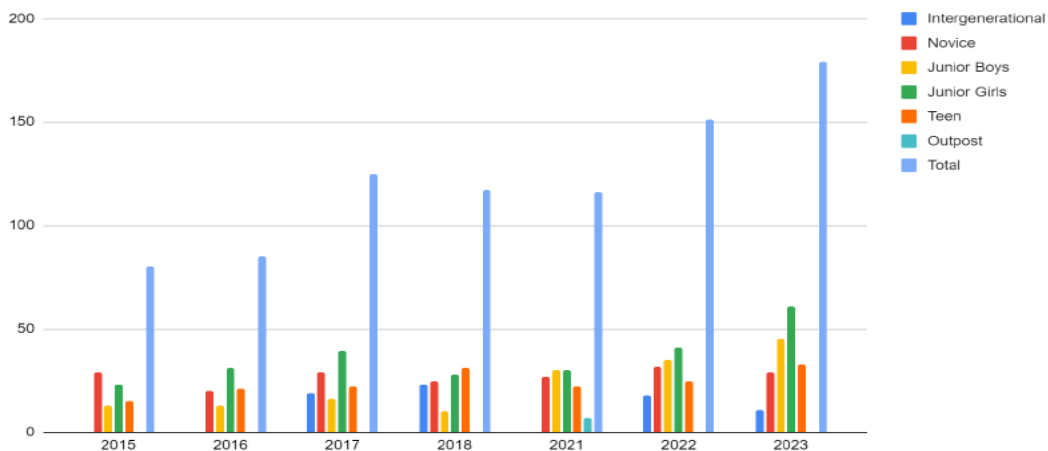
Total: 179

We did also have a record number of Campership applications with around 25% of our campers requiring Campership funding.

Dances of Universal Peace rented the camp again this year. Around 60 campers attended and they had a wonderful time as usual.

Camp Koolaree Registration Numbers Comparison from 2015-2023*

*Data not available for 2019 and overnight camps not running in 2020 due to Covid-19



Respectfully submitted by Michelle Holm, Registrar.

COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING

2023 was a huge year for communications and fundraising. Major projects included the fundraising Pop Smillie II boat, and a renewed push for Campership donations.

The Boat fundraising effort has been an epic one, and we are pleased to call it a resounding success. It is difficult to compile a list of contributors because there are so many people and organizations that deserve our gratitude. Here is a list of just some of the organizations that helped make the boat project a reality:

Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada

Regional District of Central Kootenay

LeRoi Foundation

Trail United Church Women

Trail Rotary Club

Beaver Valley Thrift Shop

Basil Fuller's CanJam

Castlegar United Church

Hamber Foundation

Leanne Children's Foundation

Trail Walmart

Ferraro Foods

The United Church congregations of Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson.

Special thank yous to individual donors: Kim Mattson, Robert Rowlands, Don Ellis, Marvin and Beverly Smith, Lori Laurer, Gordon Swedburg, Linda Hoskin, Jill Foley, Ray Lundquist, Janet Cameron, Joe Woodward, and many more generous folks.

We are delighted to say that this project has been completed with a total of \$110,255.40 raised!

Novel techniques were employed to achieve this year's goals. On June 24th volunteers held a hotdog and baking fundraiser with generous help from Ferraro Foods. Through our ongoing partnership with Ferraro Foods in Trail, we have ordered \$12,000 worth of Ferraro Foods Gift cards in 2023 so far, raising \$600 in funds for camp at the cash register.

While we saw massive registration for Koolaree Camps in 2023, we also saw a predicted upswing in need for financial assistance. Fundraising efforts included Grant Writing, a May bottle drive in Trail, and Camping Sunday celebrations at local churches. In total \$11,407.41 were raised for camperships which made up for 87% of the \$13,050 cost of camperships. Our increasing numbers of campers has resulted in a proportional increase in need for camperships. This underscores the need to continue growing our fundraising efforts for camperships to meet demand. Thanks to donors like local UC congregations, CIBC Wood Gundy, and generous individuals, a record number of kids came to camp who otherwise could not have afforded it.

In the social media department, we saw some growth. Our following on Facebook grew by 124 people (15.4%) while our Instagram gained only 6 new followers (2%). Demographically, the ratio of ¾ of our audience being women holds true on Facebook while close to ½ of our followers identify as male on Instagram according to Meta statistics.

Looking forward to 2024, campership fundraising should remain a priority as demand continues to grow. Additionally, fundraising for a badly needed new kitchen will keep the small but mighty fundraising team more than busy.

BUILDINGS AND BOATS

WINTER

After the December 2022 AGM, everything was quiet for awhile. But we managed to take the new solar equipment from Bill Furey's basement to a storage seacan in Brilliant, and then a couple of months later, moved the same equipment to Don Ellis's shop.

SPRING

During April, we uncovered the Starchief and Don, Bill, and I dismantled the damaged Malibu shelter at Castlegar United and later took the parts to Tim Affolter's so he could display them for sale. We also cleaned up and took a load of miscellaneous junk from the Malibu over to the dump and installed the motor on The Scow.

On May 3 Don Ellis and Keith Merritt went to Koolaree in Keith's boat where they cut off a broken piling near the dock and made some adjustments to the camp's water intake on Eight Mile Creek. That month saw The Scow cleaned and power washed, maintenance done on the Starchief including refastening of the headliner and the installation of a new bilge pump at Kootenay Boat Works. We launched the Starchief at Kokanee Creek Park and I had the pleasure of running it down the lake. It was so much fun that I missed McDonalds Landing and was almost to the Big Orange Bridge when I came to my senses and turned around!

Don and Linn Murray made a trip to Koolaree on May 12 to install the water intake and fill the 1,100 gallon storage tank. Five days later the Starchief was hauled out and taken to Castlegar in hopes of getting the frozen lift/tilt shaft freed up. Castlegar Machine and Chrome had a look and Genelle Marine did some bashing, but in the end we were forced to leave the problem as is.

On June 2, Bill Furey called a special meeting to approve the purchase of a new Quonset hut shelter. When assembled, the building will be used to store our boats in. The next day, Tim Affolter reported that he had sold the shelter frame for the tidy sum of \$200.

The next week while doing maintenance on the Merc 20, we discovered it was leaking oil and the water pump impeller needed replacing. Two huge bags of spruce cones were removed from the Malibu and the Starchief was put back in the lake.

On June 14 Don and I towed both The Scow & the Malibu to Genelle Marine. Ron Giles bought the Malibu for \$500 and promised to check out the Merc 20 as soon as he had time. Before the end of June I had bought a new digital non contact tachometer and checked the idle speed of the Yamaha 50 on the Starchief. Fire extinguishers were recertified and propane cylinders refilled.

SUMMER

July picked up where June left off; there were more propane cylinders to deal with. By mid month the Merc 20 was repaired and The Scow was back in service. Ivan Rukavina, the Health Inspector, visited the camp to check out our water system and the kitchen. His report, which I received on August 2, indicated his concerns with how we determined the chlorine strength of our dishwashing bleach solution, and if we had an emergency response plan for the water system. Fortunately we had chlorine test strips in the water treatment building, so were able to confirm that our dishes were getting properly disinfected. The water system emergency response plan was also easy to provide as it is actually on a page of the water test record sheets and instructs the camp to either boil water or provide bottled drinking water until such time as we get acceptable lab test results.

By early August Bill Furey was still having difficulty finding out how to import our new landing craft into Canada. Nevertheless, early on August 21, he and Don left for the Munson Boat factory in Burlington, Washington using Tim Affolter's heavy-duty GMC truck to pick up the boat. They arrived back in Castlegar the next evening with the shiny new twenty-one foot Munson Packman landing craft in tow. The formalities at the border turned out to be a snap. "Just pay the GST and we'll see ya later." Three days later, the boat trailer was inspected at Canadian Tire and then taken to the Motor Vehicle Office to have the serial number confirmed and a new licence plate issued. It was early September when I received a RIV label to affix to the new boat's trailer. (Registrar of Imported Vehicles)

On August 25, Margaret Ellis faxed the completed vessel registration paperwork to Ottawa. After sending more forms, it was September 9 when I received an email from Transport Canada with a copy of the Packman's new registration number; C35177BC.

During the last week of August, Bill, Don, and I installed the bimini cover on the Packman. I purchased some other items like a flare kit, a set of four fenders, a manual bilge pump, and a few supplies for the first aid kit, and finally we towed the boat to the Esso Cardlock and filled the fuel tank with dyed premium gas. Tim's GMC also got topped up with fuel at the same time, but that was regular taxed gasoline – legal for highway use.

August ended with a bang. Our groundsman, Jacob Plett, sent me a text with a photo showing water gushing from a split in the side of the sand filter at the water treatment building. It looks like we'll have to adjust the water pressure regulator next year as these pool filters are only designed for a maximum of about 40 psi, not twice that which we're getting from our new water intake system. Fortunately, John Marko has kindly offered to give us a surplus sand filter that he no longer has a use for.

FALL

On September 5th I received an email from Vessel Registration in Ottawa saying that I had forgotten to add my title to the application form and that they also needed a builder's certificate. Bill came to my rescue and provided the required certificates that Munson had supplied.

On September 15th I had my first ride in the Packman. Don took me over to Koolaree for a quick look before we hauled out the Starchief and towed it back to Castlegar. He's been parking the new boat at Maglio's dock next to McDonalds Landing where it's under twenty-four hour video surveillance.

Don sent a text saying he'd been to see Bob Hellman regarding repairs to the big red "Peace" canoe. It's too big to handle at Hellman's place and he recommended that Don contact Christoph Vales who sometimes works for Hellman and is an expert with fibreglass.

It was October 17 when Ken Brownlie and I helped Don do some preliminary sanding inside the canoe. A few days later, Bill sent a text with information about a brand new 16 foot utility boat complete with 2024 Merc. 40, electric start and power tilt / trim from a dealer in Vulcan, Alberta for about \$21,000. Bill was ill and would end up spending a few days in hospital.

With a break in the weather forecast for October 23, I phoned Don and we agreed to go to Koolaree early the next morning and winterize what we could. So I had my second ride on the Packman, and much to my delight, Don even let me drive it across the lake! Beginning at the water intake, we drained water lines and added antifreeze to all the things that don't drain.

I went to Don's on November 2nd and helped him remove the Merc 20 off The Scow. The following Tuesday, we built a frame and covered the Starchief with Don's big white tarp.

We had another canoe sanding party at Don's on November 17. Though it was just above freezing, Bill, Don, Ken Brownlie, Gordon Swedburg, John Pengelly, and I managed to keep warm with some enthusiastic sanding. The next morning, in order to get prepared for the berm construction, a large group of volunteers made it out to Koolaree to help move the main

water line and to clear away branches from the trees that were felled by Glenn Erickson. Another work party is scheduled for November 26.

Throughout the year, I was able to take in several interesting webinars concerning small water systems put on by Thompson Rivers University. Finally, I have the decals for the Packman's registration numbers and also a set with the vessel's name; *Pop Smillie II*. Applying those can wait for a nice warm spring day. I'm not sure when, but someone will have to make a trip to Alberta to get our new utility boat.

On behalf of the Buildings and Boats Committee, many thanks to all those people not mentioned who help to keep Camp Koolaree going.

Ray Lundquist November 23, 2023

PROGRAM & OPERATION

This year we welcomed back Juliana Marko, Natalie Plett, Tim and Nancy Totten-Prime, Stephanie Buhler and Josh Mack as Directors for our kids camps. We had one of our busiest years in many and truly rose to the challenge. Unfortunately, we were unable to run our Outpost Camp this year due to low registration, but the majority of those Teens came to Teen camp. Working around construction seems to be getting easier, however we look forward to the days of when all the major projects are done. When the new washrooms are complete, the night time routine will be much faster. Unfortunately, Juliana Marko is stepping away as Director for Teen, but we've already recruited some long-time campers and volunteers to co-direct, Patrick Sanders and Yvie Gregory. We were also able to create a Board manual to help with on-boarding new Directors and clarify roles.

STAFFING

While 2023 brought significant challenges for hiring, we also ended up with an awesome team of staff out at camp this year. Logan Armstrong returned as our lifeguard, and he continues to delight. Another returning member of staff was Chrysaylia Lightburn who took the role of head cook this year. Miguel Pastor was our assistant cook. Bringing new ideas and experience to the kitchen, together they produced delicious meals for a record-high number of campers. Jacob Mack returned as groundskeeper for a 10th year working at camp, while Jill Foley joined as an indispensable volunteer caretaker. Having Jill at camp to coordinate operations throughout the summer proved to be incredibly helpful. The Jacob and Jill team worked very hard, jumping between the daily demands of camp and assisting our ongoing construction projects.

Challenges we faced in 2023 included persistent difficulties in filling staff positions. Despite starting our hiring season much earlier in January instead of April, it was difficult to find qualified candidates. Another difficult pill to swallow was not receiving Canada Summer Jobs grants for any positions this year. We have heard that this was a common experience for many nonprofits in the Kootenays this year. Still, without the grants wages were not as high as they could have been, and the Camp Koolaree Society had to singly bear the costs of 4 full-time summer employees.

Next year, we hope to receive CSJ funding as we have historically and provide stronger wages to employees. Examining how we can better improve staff time-management, salaries, and numbers are also priorities. Hiring a Camp Manager for 2024 will, we hope, also help relieve a lot of the hiring committee's work-load.

Jr. Girls

I know I see this every year but WOW! Jr Girls 2023 was a phenomenal year! I was so lucky to be able to open up girls camp for 2 weeks totaling Campers. I was even more lucky to be supported by one of the best staffs I have ever had. My leaders and counselors were huge supports to me this year and I could not have done it without any of them. Some of my staff were even there for the full 2 weeks with me. I want to give a special Shout out to them, they deserve the world. They did so well and they worked so hard. This year's theme was safari, The campers had fun doing crafts and activities related to animals and adventure. The first week was a small group, so they got to take us through a safari through the bushes, which was super fun. The second group was so large that it would have been hours for us to do that. So we pick some different activities. Both weeks everybody went up on the hike.

And thoroughly enjoyed it. Both weeks went off without a hitch. Both camp's ran phenomenally. And I'm so lucky and so blessed to be able to call myself a director. I want to thank everybody who was involved in junior girls. Especially my adult

staff, without you, I don't know what I would do. Thank you for another great year! I look forward to directing again next year!

Jr Girls Director,
Natalie Plett

Teen Camp

This year 34 teens explored the theme of “Where the Wild Things Are” at the Koolaree Teen Camp. Our theme was woven throughout the week in crafts, service projects, discussions and games. Each group prepared and presented a chapel service lead by our Chaplain Keith Simmonds.

Campers helped start re-construction on the second bridge to the waterfall this year. They also helped clean up brush through the woods and the beach.

This year was our second time offering a gender neutral cabin, and overall I believe it was a success, and that it is a really good way to make everyone feel comfortable coming to camp. I hope to see this grow in the future.

Special events this week included a hike up to the falls, Forrest Fancy Dinner, Be Your Wild Self Dance Party, Water Sports, Monks Night, and Kangaroo Court.

Kangaroo Court saw the leaders dressed as their “Wild Thing”. Closing Ceremonies were made beautiful this year with lit balloons and glowsticks throughout chapel beach by our first aid attendant Don and cabin leader Yvie. We gathered at the Chapel by candlelight and shared stories from the week.

Many thanks to my Assistant: Tim McTeer, the Counselors: Peter Herd and Jill Foley, our First Aider: Don McCauly, the Leaders: Yvie Gregory, Raya Delaire, Aiden Armstrong and Patrick Sanders, our Chaplain: Keith Simmonds and Lifeguard: Logan

I am so thankful to the Camp Koolaree Board for allowing my continued service as Director at Camp! I will miss it.

Sincerely,

Juliana Marko

Jr Boys

My 4th year at the helm of this camp, my biggest group, closest to being fully staffed, and also arguably the best camp I have ever run. Fresh out of Novice camp, I made some heavy decisions. Tradition is less important than fun. With 45 campers, it was not possible to all swim together. This was hard, as traditionally that is a huge time sink each day, and kids want to spend as much time as they can in the waters. I sat down with our adult staff, and made a game plan for the afternoon activity time planned each day. We stuck to a rotation of 4 activities, two of them being going to the lake. This would not last all week.

For the 3rd time in a row, I was left filling the gap of leaders, this time because a new standard says you need an adult (17+) in each cabin, meaning I was once again in a cabin, despite actually having enough staff. By some miracle I got so many new bodies at the camp, our total staff pool had 6 young teenagers in first time leading positions, and 3 adults without camping experience, or at least not having been at the camp for 1 or 2 decades. Our total count was 15 staff. Still a few less than preferred, but the most staffed I have ever been.

I honestly don't have time for all the good things I want to talk about in here, and likely most are just personal experiences that meant a lot to me. With all the new staff, it was a challenge on them to jump right into a position of authority. The first day saw a lot of conflict between campers, not listening to leaders, and general chaos. This is always part of the fun though, and I assured everyone that things would settle. For the most part on Tuesday, they did! As everyone learned expectations, and rules, we were met with the most accepting and open group of junior boys I have ever met. They went feral by Wednesday, as always. This is my favourite part of camp, seeing who everyone becomes, as normal life becomes a memory, and camp life becomes the norm. Thursday and Friday are always busy busy with activities, but honestly, things went smoother than I have ever experienced!

Monday was hardest for me personally. We tried to stick with the normal cabins and teams that I always do, and have always done. Kids were unhappy with group members, not with their friends, wanting more time in the lake, etc. Everyone had a comment to share with me about why I was doing it wrong. Although no one left early, we had a handful of kids who

kept the idea in their heads for several days. We decided after today to scrap groups, and team activities all together after today, and everyone was happier for it.

We decided to try something I had never done before starting Tuesday. We let the kids choose what they wanted to do. Our afternoon activity time became a choose your own adventure, with 4 different activities, each with a requirement of at least trying, and then we let the kids pick where they spent their time! Everyone was calmer and happier with this. It meant our little fish could spend most of the day in the lake, and others spent hours stacking rocks, and hanging out chatting. We also brought out a slackline and many kids spent hours down there over the week.

Wednesday was our hike day, and it was a blast! Definitely intimidating to bring 60 some odd bodies up the mountain at once. A few kids stayed back, as we had a bit of a food fiasco the night before that left them feeling yucky. Don't give kids burritos at campfire! They will all wake up with a sore stomach thinking they are dying, when in fact they all needed a good poop. We continued the theme of freeform activities, and it was a hit! Our adults took turns leading the activities, and our teenagers did the activities with the kids, inter mingling and gaining the respect they needed to gain their respect.

By Thursday, we felt like a real family. We spent the morning at Clam bay, and the kids had so much fun wrestling in the shallows and playing in the mud that we opted to come back a second time the next day! I honestly cannot express enough how respectful, and kind to those around them everyone was. I have never seen boys form a snuggle puddle at a campfire, but there was a huge pile every campfire. It was great to see them freely expressing themselves. This felt very fitting for our loose theme of Patience. It was also some of the most active singing I have had as well! We had Kangaroo Court tonight, something which always sneaks up on us, as we scrambled to figure out what we dress up as, and who gets what punishment. It somehow came together and was one of my favourite performances to do, and we almost kept it on time.

I'd be lying if I said I remembered much of Friday. At nearly two weeks straight of not enough sleep and a constant on state of being, I was dead inside. But full of life on the outside. I feel like camp is a mental battle. It is like being a parent to 45 kids, and you have to make sacrifices to ensure the smooth running of camp, but the end result is always something magical. I always say that it is a weird fever dream that I can't wait to be done with in the moment, and though I don't cry on my way home anymore, I eagerly anticipate the next year. I shuffled a few activities around, as the kids were enamored with rock stacking, so we did it for a 3rd day in a row! We filled the old washroom pad with rocks, and kids spent hours there. Whether they were there for the rocks, or the deep conversations, they were having fun. We played mission impossible tonight! I always use this final game as a reward for good behavior at the camp, although I always play it anyway, this time I feel like they really earned it!

Other than a few kids who left early at their parents requests, we had minimal homesickness, and 43 campers left on the boats Saturday afternoon! It really was a magical year. Of coming together, of trials and tribulations. Not only did I see growth in our campers, but in our leaders as well. I had many a late night chat with staff, talking about the struggles the endured, and their great successes and the displays of chivalry the kids graced us with. My favourite moment, which I was only able to hear about, as I had already headed across the lake was the whole camp coming together hug and wish our youngest goodbye. Despite his many struggles with emotional control, and outbursts, he left feeling like a champion, accepted into his new home where I hope he will return next year.

Novice

This was my first year tackling Novice Camp, but I didn't do it alone. My sister Steph and I co-opted the Directing of Novice Camp this year. We started the week with 32 campers, which is also the biggest camp I have been at the helm of. Our staffing pool was a tricky situation, with a final count of only 10, 4 adults. This meant that to ensure the camp was actually allowed to run, both Steph and I had to direct camp, from within a cabin of kids! In our infinite wisdom we chose cabins on opposite sides of the camp. Note for next year, be closer, and invest in walkie talkies.

I really appreciated having a partner in crime at this camp, as I was a little unprepared for the differences we would encounter from my experience at Junior Boys. I believe we put on a great camp, and all of the kids had fun, even with a few emotional outbursts, and the volunteers got only slightly burnt out, okay very, but I believe that they will be able to look back fondly on what we accomplished, it was a true test of strength.

Monday started off great! I went across the lake to sign in campers, and meet the parents, while Steph stayed back at the camp to organize campers and keep them entertained while we worked the slow trickle of campers moving into camp for the half week. It was obvious pretty early on into activities that there was a new challenge I was unprepared for. Disorganization. Getting 32 7-9 year olds all gathered and ready for the same activity, or making sure they properly did what they were supposed to, was one of the biggest time sinks of the entire week. Our get-to-know-you-games one was scrapped due to falling behind schedule, but our first meals went well! Food was a little scarce, but honestly, these kids were way more food-picky than I was expecting, and the balance worked out for the most part. The kids begrudgingly learned how to do dishes, and after cleaning our cabin we moved into after lunch activities.

At Boys camp, I generally split activities into a couple of groups, who rotate through several stations each day. This would not work at novice camp the way it did there. Our first day we managed to do it, however it put us quite behind on time, and when that happens, kids get grumpy. We lost nearly 20 minutes in between each activity just trying to corral the kids around, and it was obvious this wouldn't work for the week. Kids who had a harder time regulating themselves became pretty apparent though, and we were quick to isolate the issues, and strategize on how to help everyone succeed. Our first campfire, and it was exciting to see kids so into it! I was starting to feel like singing around a campfire was going out of style after a few years at boys camp. We had some issues with boys going to sleep tonight, and Cabin 5 struggled with emotions the next day due to lack of sleep. Steph and I had a long strategy session after we finally got kids to bed, and we decided only doing 2 activities in the afternoon was the way to keep things moving. It unfortunately meant that multiple activities we planned would not have a space. For next year!

Tuesday morning started a little earlier than anyone wanted, with an argument between brothers waking up a good 40% of the camp an hour earlier than anticipated. Once the problem was diffused, many went back to bed, the rest respectfully played outside the cabins with noise at a minimum. We allowed our leaders a few extra hours of grace, after their measly 4 hours of sleep. We pushed through, on the same, of course. Clear rules and expectations would mitigate future issues between the two, as they both learned their place at camp, and empathy for one another, realizing they would also receive it in their time of need. It was around this time one of our youngest found a stump and some train spikes. An activity he will likely look back on as his favourite of camp. He spent multiple hours hammering things into a stump that week.

We went for our hike today, which felt a little blasphemous, as it's normally Wednesday, but alas! It went great, minimal complaining, and every camper made it safely to the top of the mountain! Many even braved the cold, and unusually strong flow of water coming down the mountain. Getting them out was the hard part! Once we returned, again, after much longer than I am used to, we had little time left for afternoon activities, and unfortunately scrapped our plans, instead opting to get back on schedule and just going for a swim before dinner time, Monk's Night! Maybe we did it before they had opened up quite yet, or maybe kids are just more respectful than I anticipated, but honestly it was one of the quietest Monk's dinners I have seen, and it was very welcome for our staff. Eager to give these first time campers (over 25 had never even slept away from home before!!) a proper camp experience, we packed our schedule with traditional activities, which meant it was Kangaroo Court time! We went as fast as we could, but even our scheduled bed time was too hard to achieve on some of our youngest. That on top of the mornings activities meant sleep came quickly for us all.

Wednesday! The light at the end of the tunnel was visible. And at the same time, how was it already almost over? Today was a different, but also very busy day. Emotions were hot, and several kids were tired, and grumpy outside of activity time. One adamantly wanted to go home whenever there was down time. The rest of the kids were bouncing off the walls, eager to move and groove and have fun in the forest! The hard part was all the waiting and traveling between activities. We went swimming at Clam Bay before lunch time, which despite being far out of the way, was a hit for the kids! Many wanted to go back, but it just wasn't possible. A 5 minute walk down for me, was nearly 30 for the group. After lunch we had another crack at activity time rotations, and kids started what we hope to become an epically long painted rock snake behind the lodge! We also designed our T-shirts, we bleach dyed them. Well the kids designed them, and we sprayed the bleach. We had Mystery Utensil night at dinner time, and our head cook got to hand out utensils and she was extra hard on our staff, the kids loved watching us suffer!

Finally it was Thursday! Our extremely homesick kid made a compromise, and left a few hours early as the boat had to make another trip for a camper whose parents requested early pick up. He was so proud of himself for making it through, and cried as he had to leave, begging to stay until everyone else left. We handed out team prizes, we got T-shirts signed, beds packed and the cabin mess organized into bags, and it was time to head out! By this point, Steph and I had perhaps gotten 12 hours of sleep between the two of us, and our staff was feeling the effects of being understaffed. I'd be lying if we weren't all looking desperately at the clock. This day always tends to go too quickly though, and before we knew it everyone was gone! Camp was empty and we were off as well. Horribly overworked, tired, and gleaming with ideas on how to do better next time.

Looking back, this camp was inspiring. As I mentioned, we had 9 total staff. Myself, with consistent experience each year, still was not prepared for the differences. Steph hadn't been to the camp in over a decade, but she has a lot of experience with kids, and history of the camp and its goings on. Other than that, our other adults had never done anything like this. She was a champion of new struggles and being pushed to her limits. Our younger staff all had camp experience, except one, though half of them had never had leadership experience. I won't pretend our team wasn't rag tag, and probably 5 or 6 less people than it should have been. That being said, everyone jumped into their roles like superstars. Steph and I were there to support them through their struggles, and they all found their shine!

Our theme this year was BE-YOU-TIFUL, and though many activities around it got cancelled, we had many chats about the beautifulness that was each and every one of the campers, and I believe everyone left with more confidence, and respect for themselves and those around them. I am excited for next year. This camp had so many things working against us this year, and every kid left with a giant smile, and love in their hearts. Our staff was definitely pushed to the limits. I am so appreciative of each one of them.

Intergenerational

Last year the Intergen camp was the last regular camp of the year, so it was a bit of a change when this year we were the first camp of the year. My co-director Nancy was able to attend in person this year, and once again had organized a tonne of fun crafting activities suitable for all ages.

I'd purchased an inclusive pride flag to raise up at camp for the summer, and then promptly forgot it at home when we left for camp. Fortunately two of my good friends were attending as campers, and were able to pop by my place and grab the flag on their way to camp on Monday morning. Thanks Emma and Josh!

Robin returned as chaplain, and had put together an amazing theme of *love*, built upon the Great Commandment declared by Jesus. As such there was a day dedicated to loving God (or whatever higher power individual campers believe in), another day for loving thy neighbor, and of course a day for what I think is the most difficult of all: loving yourself. Powerful messages!

Nancy and I had in mind to bring back the popular paper bag skits from last year, but we both forgot to prepare paper bags with props ahead of time. So Nancy put together bags with random items she found around the camp. It led to some delightfully random and hilarious skits!

There were the usual special outings, like the hike to the waterfall on Wednesday, and an afternoon at Clam Bay on Thursday (which ended up being even wetter than usual when it decided to rain.)

The only real unexpected challenge we faced was having the assistant cook leave on the first day, which ended up having Linn stay longer than planned, after which my son Gareth volunteered to help head cook Chrysalia keep everyone fed.

Logan once again served double duty as both life-guard and first-aid, and deserves all the kudos for being totally awesome. A giant thanks also needs to go to Jacob and Jill, who are the backbone of the camp, keeping everything running smoothly for the entire summer. The camp would fall apart without their endless hard work. My son Gareth has actually expressed interest in working as a camp caretaker and groundskeeper in the future. While he might not have been doing that this year, he was at every single camp (including the Dances for Universal Peace) in one role or another.

I think camp was a big success, and an awful lot of fun. It marked a special occasion for Josh, who got to be at camp as a camper for the first time since he was a teenager! It was also Emma's first time at Intergen camp, and assuming nothing comes up to prevent it, she has expressed interest in joining us as another co-director in 2024. Whatever happens, and whoever I end up having as co-directors, I'm looking forward to many more wonderful years at camp!

~ Tim Totten