



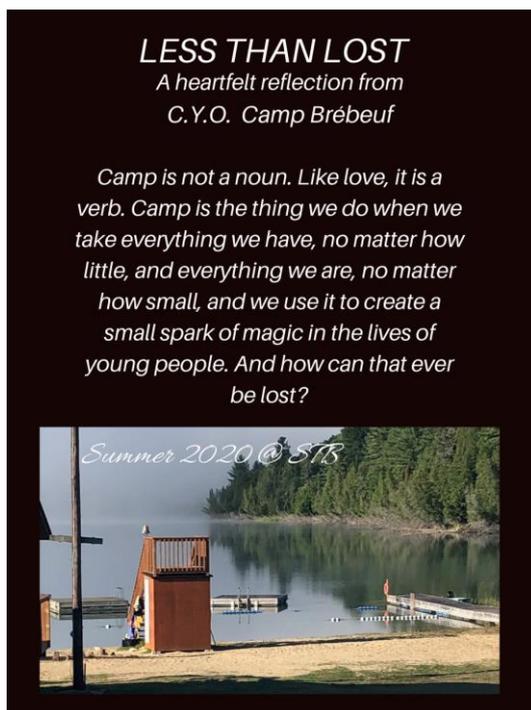
## Greetings from St. Brigid's Camp 2020 Wrap Up Newsletter

### **Camp Director Report:**

Camp is now closed for the winter. Summer 2020 has come and gone calm and tranquil instead of the traditional excitement, laughter and joyful noises of the children and staff enjoying the great outdoors on Lake Manitou.

Although we cannot predict what next summer will look like at this time, we are exploring various ways of keeping camp on people's minds both in our schools and in our community. We all know how camp provides "a home away from home" for so many of our youth. We know that "there is a tremendous amount of love" out there for camp so finding creative ways to stay connected with our camp community is what we are working on.

We missed you, remember camp people are strong, creative and caring. Take it one day at a time...tough times don't last, tough teams do! Thanks to Camp Brebeuf for sharing such a heartfelt reflection on their website.



Camp is a spark of magic that cannot be lost! Many thanks for your well wishes and support throughout the summer.

Joanne Cooke

## Work Projects 2020



- Re shingling of 13 buildings by volunteers over the course of 2 weekends in September
- Staining of 4 beach houses at the end of July and replacing some rotten boards on those buildings
- First coat of stain applied to red deck, lifeguard stand, Director's cottage deck and front of 3 outhouses
- Staining of 4 campfire bleachers



- Painting of window frames in the dining hall and cleaning of all windows
- Replacing board and batten on the back of the dining hall and along the washroom wall
- Windows were inspected by Verdun and we were given proper maintenance upkeep
- Window plaques from Window Sponsorship Fundraiser were all mounted



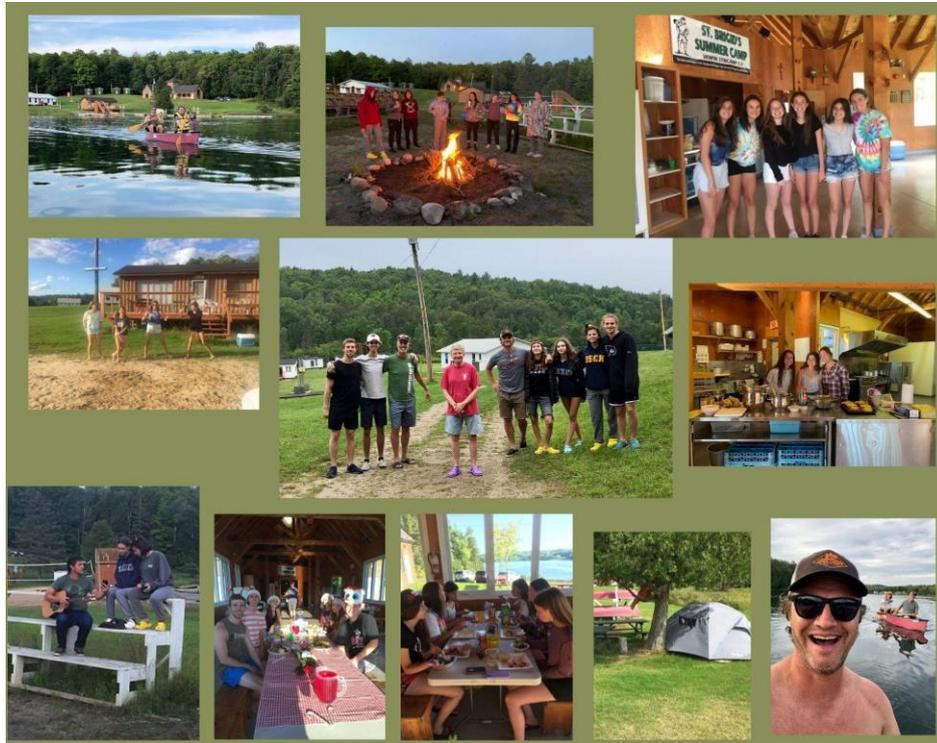
- Varnishing of some of benches in dining hall
- Replacement of broken light holding fixtures in the dining hall
- Installation of new hot water tank
- Installation of new convection oven and new hook up of propane line to bring us up to safety code
- Plumbing upgrades in dining hall



- Foundational work was done on the Director's cottage and trench was dug in November to redirect the water from gathering under the cottage
- Fallen trees were sawed up and grass was mowed on regular basis



## Alumni Family Camping and More:



In August we had a few of our Alumni Families from the same social bubble book a staycation at STB. They enjoyed time on the beach, canoeing, playing games, theme meals and campfire fun.

We also had a group Societe Quebecoise De Speleologie in September who rented the facility. They pitched tents and studied caves in the Low area.

## **Fundraising Projects/Donations and Volunteers**

### **Thank you to our donors, supporters and volunteers**

- Many thanks to our Appeal Letter donors, families and alumni for their generous donations that helped with some of our infrastructure projects this summer.
- OCSB Virtual Trivia Nights in May and June, more to come in the New Year. Thanks to Scott Lamarche and Kim Figura for organizing these events.
- Grade six donations from some of our OCSB schools at the end of June 2020
- Community Foundation Grant---for new Convection Oven and Propane line upgrade
- Fergus Foundation---for a new Hot Water Tank
- PC Children's Charity Community fund grant
- Thanks to the two Gov't of Canada Grants (CEBA and CEWS) for supporting us with grants to help pay for staff this season
- Other community and business groups---Columbus Club-Council 485 Charitable Foundation, Canon John Burke Council, Matt Foundation, Canada Helps, Export Development (thanks James Lawlor) and Friends on Maritime Way, Benevity, United Way of Ottawa and Canada Helps
- Shingles---Chris Smith at CDG Roofing
- Thanks to Cheryl McCleary for reaching out to Chris for shingles and for getting donations from alumni to cover most of the cost of the shingles
- Volunteer roofers (many teachers and more)---Bill Barrett, Damien Brown-Graham and his son Will, Yvan Moise, Randy Baird, Chris Gauthier, John Pert, Nick Brisson, Nick and Theo (two of Damien's former students), Steve Tierney, Glenn Carr, Liam McAlea (KOC St. George), Marc Bourbonniere, Alex Bourbonniere, Richard Hilz (KOC St. George). Thanks also to Mary Jane Bourbonniere for organizing the dumpster, pick up of shingles and food. Thanks to Marianne Bourbonniere for preparing meals for the roofers and doing the clean up.

- Special thanks to Marc Bourbonniere for all of his work at camp this season. Marc assisted Kieran with a lot of the maintenance jobs including staining/painting, plumbing/electrical and picking up maintenance supplies in Ottawa.
- Thanks to all those who sponsored “Our window sponsorship fundraiser”. So far we have 54 windows sponsored and still have 32 to be sponsored
- We appreciate all those who purchased a special STB 2020 t-shirt as one of our fundraisers
- Wine Survivor fundraiser in December. Many thanks to all of our supporters----hope you stay on the nice list. Thanks Scott Lamarche and Suzanne Baird for organizing this event.
- **A huge thanks to our Board of Directors and Advisory Members for all of their support this season!**

## STB TESTIMONIALS

From Campers, LITs, Staff, Alumni and Parent

**Becky Zentner-Barrett** (former CIT, counsellor, LIT Director and now member or Advisory Board)

My experiences at St. Brigid’s played an important role in shaping the person that I am today. I spent five summers working at the camp, first as a CIT, then a counselor and then as the director of the LIT program. I met some amazing and inspiring people along the way; campers who taught me important lessons and fellow staff members who became my closest friends.

I was shy and reserved as a kid and remember being too afraid to go to summer camp as a camper. I am so grateful that I decided to give it a try when I was a bit older because the summers I spent working at the camp were the best ones I’ve ever had. Getting to spend my days outside in a beautiful setting with my favorite people... I often think back on how lucky I was to have had this experience. Working at camp also made me

more confident in myself and my abilities, allowed me to discover and develop my leadership style and gave me exposure to a tremendous group of people that are my closest friends and most important role models. The relationships I built at camp during my formative years continue to shape me and how I move through the world.

The skills I developed at camp (leadership, public speaking, problem solving, group facilitation, service to others, responsibility) have served me well in the jobs I've had since my summers working at camp. These skills are so important for young people to develop and incredibly transferable. I attribute a lot of the success I have had in other jobs to my experiences at St. Brigid's.

I carry all of the things that St. Brigid's gave me and will always feel connected to the camp. I think the camp experience is so important and want to help facilitate that experience for as many people as possible. I owe St. Brigid's so much and I am so grateful for the time I spent at the camp.

**Owen Bellefeuille** (former LIT, counsellor and Head Counsellor, Supporter)

Camp has done so many things to shape me into the man I am today.

The biggest life lessons I have learned have come from camp. Camp gave me the confidence to become a leader and to not shy away. The confidence earned from my experience has made me a more outgoing individual and to have self confidence.

Camp has also taught me the values and virtues of patience and gratitude.

**Stella Leblanc** (camper)

"Camp is by far the part of my summers I look forward to the most. From the mudpit, to our campfires and all of the amazing activities we do throughout the day, it is an experience that I will carry with me throughout my life, the incredible memories I've made are everlasting. My first year at camp I was very nervous because you have to meet so many people and live with strangers for a week. But when I got there my nerves faded completely. STB radiates warm energy and I instantly feel at home whenever I arrive. Every year I am lucky enough to make new friends and meet so many amazing people who become my

second family. Anyone who says Disneyland is the happiest place on earth clearly has never been to STB".

**Julia Leblanc** (camper, LIT graduate)

"I have been coming to camp for 5 years now, and to me this is the STB experience. I notice that all social status melts away when you're at camp. There's no pressure to maintain cliques and other factors you might care about, or find that others care about. Everybody is just nice to one another no questions asked, and it's easy to get along with people who may not be so nice to you in a school setting. People from all over the Ottawa area that wouldn't have met all come to this place as strangers and leave as friends. Everything that you deal with in your home life is put on pause for a week, as you play Klondike, sing at campfire, freeze during the polar bear swim, a smile on your face the whole time. You remember your new friends and experiences long after the bus ride home, and it's all the fun you had that makes it so hard to say goodbye when the week comes to an end. Those happy memories keep you missing camp the entire rest of the year, and ultimately convince you to keep coming back for as long as you can".

**Regan Moncrieff** (camper)

After going to STB camp five years in a row I was really disappointed when I couldn't go last summer especially since it was my last year as a camper which I was really looking forward to. Going to STB camp is my favourite part of summer and I always look forward to going and playing some of my favourite games like Klondike and Celt Attack. The days at camp are always filled with creative and fun games, swimming and campfires at the end of the day which are one of my favourite parts of camp. I love going to camp with my friends every year and my favourite memories with them are always the memories from camp. I am already looking forward to next year of camp when I will be attending as an LIT!

**Courtney Arnold** (parent, former Medical Administrator, camper, and CIT)

I was a St. Brigid camper at 8 years old for the first time in 1991. My childhood at home was miles away from perfect and camp was the only thing I looked forward to for the entire year from my last day of camp right till the night before I was set to go again. Camp gave me the opportunity to play outside freely which was something I was unable to do at home because I grew up in what would be labelled a bad neighbourhood. Camp gave me a space to truly be me,

where at home I hid away to ensure I was not attracting attention. Camp was a place to make new friends who did not know where I came from, or what I was going through at home, and could not judge me. Camp gave me counsellors that I looked up to and wanted to emulate. Camp helped to shape who I am today, even if it took a few more years than I would have liked. I am so blessed to be an RPN.

I continued to attend STB until my final year at age 15 as a CIT (counsellor in training back in the day) and I had the amazing opportunity to return as a Medical administrator for three seasons from 2014-2016. during this time, I was a mature adult learner who returned to school to become a Registered Practical Nurse. This is where I gained so much confidence in what I do now. I was able to work alongside another wonderful seasoned nurse and camp staff who took the extra time to even help me with my studies. I met and worked with an amazing camp staff of university and college students who were destined to make big changes in the world.

I have two children aged 16, and 14. They have both been faithful campers since age 8. My son had the opportunity in 2019 to participate in the Leader in training program and was excited to return home and chat still, about all the wonderful people he had met along with the experiences it afforded him. He had applied for a counsellor position for the 2020 year but unfortunately the world had different plans. 2020 would have been my daughter's final camper year and to say this was a hard summer for her doesn't even begin to describe her feelings of losing a major moment in her life. During tears, we discussed how the world had different plans and that with enough hope we are planning that 2021 will bring her to her LIT year, so she can move up the ranks and become a counsellor as well.

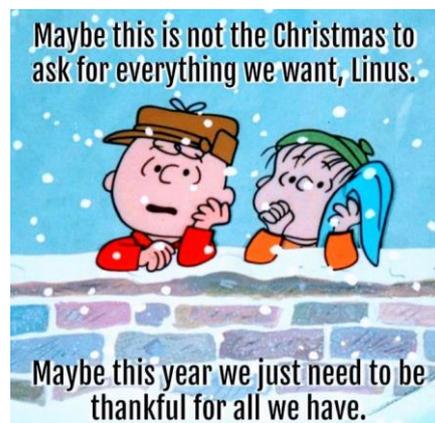
I had the opportunity to see the counsellors I had as a camper become productive members of society and family people, people of their community. As a returning staff a decade and a half later I am still watching those counsellors I worked alongside now do the same things with their lives, and I want that for my children. I want that for all children.

**Sienna and Taylor Ala** (camper and LIT graduate)

St. Brigid's Summer Camp is a very enjoyable and special place to be. Whether we were hanging out by the campfire, participating in fun camp games or swimming in Lake Manitou, we always had a smile on our faces. The

wonderful staff and organizers helped us to form new relationships and made sure everyone always felt included. We've been going since a very young age, and we were always excited to return the following year. Being away from technology and your busy life can seem difficult, but it is actually really refreshing to be away from your phone and focusing more on the amazing people around you. All in all, this place has been home to a lot of our most hilarious and memorable moments.

### Words of wisdom from Charlie Brown



“One ought, every day at least to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words”.

By---Johqnn Wolfgang Goethe

Thank You for supporting St. Brigid’s Summer Camp

From our family to yours,

Happy Holidays and all the best in 2021!

Your STB Team: BOD members, Mary Jane, Joanne, Bill, Alex, Marianne and Cheryl