

## From Participant to Leader

Bushra Nabi's first contact with Moorelands came as a Grade 4 student in Flemingdon Park's Grenoble Public School. Since then she's participated in every program Moorelands offers and this summer, after completing her second year at U of T, she's returning for a third season as a Day Camp counsellor. To people who suggest that Moorelands is just fun and games she argues that "Games are competitions where there are winners and losers and I make sure kids understand that they can learn more from their losses than their wins." To see her is to understand why she's an effective role model for campers from all backgrounds. Her clothes of bright blues and sunshine yellows with matching headscarves signal the confidence that lets her turn around disruptive behaviour. "I try to pick out the best quality of each kid and work with that." Last summer, when one camper refused to pay attention, Bushra asked, "Why don't you help me lead the next activity?" She explained that it usually took five minutes to get the kids organized, then asked, "Do you think you could do it any faster?" It was a challenge, and it worked. - G.S.



In the centre, Bushra Nabi

## Growing Up at Moorelands



Carrington Murtha and friend

For the last 10 years, Moorelands Wilderness Camp has been the summer home for Carrington Murtha, first as a camper and last year as a counsellor. A rake-thin 18-year-old, he's known for wearing a black-and-white Norwegian wool hat, earflaps down, whatever the weather, and for his skill on trombone, guitar and double bass, instruments he studies at Riverdale Collegiate. He hopes to go to university and become a high school music teacher. Here, in his own words, is his Moorelands story. "The first year at camp was sort of scary, but by the time I left I was really crying because I thought I was leaving forever! You know how it is at that age, everything is extremes. Even today camp is something I look forward to all year.

The camp itself is breathtaking. Before Moorelands I'd never seen a lake other than Lake Ontario.

"In my third year there, when things weren't so good for me, my counsellor named 'Q-tip' took me aside. He brought strips of plastic we call gimp. We talked and he showed me how to make these great bracelets. I know now he was trying to get me to be more outgoing and he did bring me out of myself, although I'm still pretty shy. "When camp starts they don't tell you much about the kids you're going to get in your cabin, any special problems. Everyone starts with a clean slate which is good because you don't have any biases. If there are problems you might do a little research to see if there's anything you can do that can make their experience better. Last year I brought my acoustic guitar and found playing it had a calming effect on the kids. If they get into fights, my co-worker and I each take one kid and tell them, 'We just don't do that at Moorelands.'

"For myself, I see things differently now. When I was a youngster I was a bit of trouble as a student, but camp taught me how to react to situations in school. I see things more from the perspective of the teacher.

"I don't know how long I'll be going to Moorelands. Maybe all through university. I'd like that."

- G.S.

**It costs \$840 to send a kid to Moorelands Wilderness Camp.**  
To find out more go to [www.sendmetocamp.ca](http://www.sendmetocamp.ca)

## FUN Kitchen Facts



- Last summer 7,875 meals were served at camp.
- On Pizza Day, the kitchen makes 750 slices of pizza.
- On Fish and Chips Day, the kitchen goes through 200 pounds of french fries.
- The dishwasher washes 3,240 items every day.

## Sparkles and the Night Sky



"We waited a long time at the Huntsville hospital for the 10-year-old boy to have his cast put on. Finally, at 1:00 a.m., we headed back to Moorelands Camp. He sat beside me, looking out the window at the sky. It was a cold, clear night and the awesome sky was filled with brilliant stars. After about twenty minutes I asked, 'What are you staring at?' Without taking his eyes off the sky, he asked 'Are those street lights?' He'd never seen stars before. He was mesmerized. And then as a bonus, while we crossed Lake Kawagama, we watched the Northern Lights dance across the sky."

- *Cheryle Pollock aka 'Sparkles', camp nurse*

## The Climbing Wall

While campers are harnessed and clipped in and wearing helmets to keep them safe, they will usually face struggles as they attempt to succeed in climbing to the top of the wall. With different routes to the top and different levels of difficulty it's a muscle and mind stretching exercise. A lot like life!

- *L.T.*



## Wilderness Camp Facts

Location:	On Lake Kawagama near Dorset
Total staff:	68
Sessions:	6
Length of each session:	8 days
Parents pay:	\$25 minimum
Actual cost per camper:	\$840
Bus transportation costs:	\$36,000
Food costs:	\$112,000



## Wilderness Camper Facts

Total campers: 600  
 Ages: 8 - 14  
 Returning: 40% - 60%  
 Home areas: All parts of Toronto, including Regent Park, Jane & Finch, Lawrence Heights, North Etobicoke, Malvern.  
 Many campers live in single-parent families.

55% of all camper families have total annual incomes of \$16,000 or less. 74% of all camper families have total annual incomes of \$24,000 or less. Families hear about camp through schools, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Children's Aid Societies, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Social Services, word of mouth.



## Melvin Herzog - "Dr. Canoe"

When Mel Herzog, a 68-year-old Toronto physician, heard about an upcoming reunion of old Kawagamites at Moorelands Wilderness

Camp in 2006, he knew he had to be there. The new camp was built on the site of the old, a place he'd loved as a camper and later as a sailing instructor. While meandering along old paths, Mel knew that he



had to come back, and he did. This year will be his third as a volunteer for two sessions teaching canoeing and earning the trust of scores of youngsters. "You know you've made a connection when a kid just wants to hang around and talk." His nickname is 'Jacques', "about as far away from who I am in the rest of my life as I can imagine." Mel didn't want to return as a camp doctor.

"If I can help, I do, but I wanted to do something completely different from any other part of my life, to add a new dimension." To him the kids seem pretty much the same as they always were, geared up to have fun. "It's true that they come from different social and economic worlds, but I'm impressed by how much they enjoy the place." As for canoeing, most of the kids have never even seen a canoe. "At first they might not realize how much skill they need to make it do what they want." That takes time and patience. "They learn that fun comes from learning skills and you need skills to accomplish anything. The kids who can figure that out will succeed in life."

- G.S.



S AND  
AFTS



## Wilderness Camp Map

POINT

# City Summer Day Camp Facts

When:	July & August
Where:	Grenoble Public School, Flemingdon Park
Serves:	Thorncliffe Park & Flemingdon Park
Ages:	6 - 12
Sessions:	7
Spaces:	448
Program:	Co-operative games and team sports, arts & crafts, drama, musicals, literacy-based activities, theme days, cooking, science & environmental education and activities, frequent visits to parks and pools as well as other attractions in the GTA.
Food Provided:	Breakfast & snacks
Features:	Extra support to children new to Canada. Activities celebrate diversity, suited to children learning English.
Parents pay:	\$10 - \$60 per child per week
Actual Cost:	\$230 per child per week

**\$230 will send a child to Moorelands City Summer Day Camp for 1 full session**

## Looking Back

"To the Glory of God  
And the Memory of  
**Charles Hutchison Sparrow**  
Aged 23 years  
Lieutenant 47th Battalion  
Killed at Vimy Ridge  
31st March 1917

While carrying a wounded comrade to safety."



Out of their sorrow grew the first Moorelands Camp, a sun-filled bungalow on Lake Simcoe near Beaverton, where poor children and their mothers could find relief from the sweltering city. It was a gift to the future from the families of young men already dead in the Great War that was still raging. Today, in our administration office, these plaques hang surrounded by photographs of today's Moorelands campers, full of life. **-G.S.**

## Looking Ahead

### Our Century Forest Takes Root

The first saplings and trees for the Century Forest will be planted at Moorelands Camp this spring. The forest will honour members of Moorelands Century Club – the almost 400 donors and benefactors who have supported us for at least 20 years. This group has made Moorelands and the Wilderness Camp their priority – and we say Thank You! In time, the forest will grow large and provide shade, a hospitable environment for birds and squirrels and a powerful monument to the dedication and commitment of our Century Club members. The forest will be planted in several phases, starting this spring, and the first results can be seen during our annual Visitors' Day on July 25th. **- R.T.**

### Visitors' Day: Your Chance to be a Camper Again

Many of you have your own vivid memories of summers spent at camp. The fleeting days of summer camp are not gone forever – not while Moorelands has anything to do with it. You can relive old memories and admire the changes at Moorelands Wilderness Camp during our annual **Visitors' Day, Saturday, July 25th** – a blast from the past, a whiff of the future. To register and arrange transportation, call us at 416-466-9987 ext. 300. We look forward to seeing you there! **- R.T.**

## Mission Statement

At Moorelands, we recognize the inherent value of all children and youth. We work with Toronto children and youth affected by poverty, to provide them with positive and fun experiences to help strengthen their confidence, competence and character.

## Board of Directors

Laura BOWES  
President

Drummond BRODEUR  
Vice-President & Secretary

Robert BLACK  
Kyra CLARKSON  
Barney COLVEY  
Patricia ELIA  
Gail MACNAUGHTON  
John OFFUTT  
Shiraz SATCHU  
Geraldine SHERMAN  
Nancy STEWART  
Barbara TURNBULL  
Carolyn WATSON

## Editorial Team

Kyra CLARKSON  
Patricia JACOBS  
Geraldine SHERMAN  
Steven STONER  
Barbara TURNBULL

  
Helping kids shape brighter futures

250 Merton Street, Suite 501  
Toronto, Ontario, M4S 1B1  
T 416-466-9987 F 416-466-0727  
www.moorelands.ca

Charitable Registration No.  
11923 0241 RR0001