

Moorelands Wilderness Camp: Life Lessons

Six hundred children and youth spent part of this sizzling summer keeping cool and growing stronger at Moorelands Wilderness Camp.

Now, across Toronto, as they start back to school, they will bring the best of their experiences with them, including –

- fantastic camp stories that get better with each telling.
- friendships with people from diverse backgrounds.
- new-found independence that makes it easier to brave unfamiliar teachers and classmates.
- an ability to handle new or difficult situations at home and in the classroom.

These newly acquired skills impact our campers' lives at home and at school, helping them to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

*-Lynda Tilley
Wilderness Camp Director for
11 seasons...and counting*



Ammar Javed The Making of a Leader



In Grade 9, I was too shy to join the Moorelands' Leadership Program, but the next year I felt I could be the sort of person who might take charge of things one day, so I signed up.

I wasn't sure it would work because I didn't know anyone there and we were really different. Marc Garneau's a huge, diverse school, about 1,800 kids, more than half from different countries, and they're pretty cliquey. There are groups from lots of different countries, mostly from Pakistan, all speaking their own languages. It's hard to get to know one another or to develop any kind of trust.

The first exercise we did in our Leadership Program was an ice-breaker. We split into three groups, 4 kids in each and had to work together to help one person put two elbows, a nose, an ear and two legs on the ground at the same time. It helped us become friends. I tried not to miss a single class.

When it was over, I volunteered at Moorelands' City Summer Day Camp, and then every Friday in the winter at Thorncliffe Park's After-school Program.

In Grade 11, when I ran for Student Council, I had to give a speech in the auditorium. I put on a crazy wig and spoke in the third person in a weird accent all about "Ammar," what a great guy he was, how he would improve things. Then I went behind the podium, took off the wig, came back and said, "My name's Ammar, and I approve this message." This year, I'm Council President. I couldn't have done it without Moorelands.

I came to Canada from Pakistan with my Mom and younger brother to join our Dad in 2000. Honestly, I love this country. I joined the Canadian Immigration Council and helped arrange a swearing-in ceremony in Valley Park School so neighbourhood people could watch.

Academically, my average is between 85 and 90. There are doctors in our family, but my parents understand I'm interested in animation or graphic design. They see I'm really good at it. But I don't want just a job. I want a leadership position.

I see Moorelands as the first step to all my leadership ambitions. It was here that I honed my skills, learned what I could and couldn't do, how to interact with people, all kinds of people. It was awesome.

-as told to G.S.

A donation of \$1,080 will sponsor a child to attend a Moorelands Youth Leadership Program for one full year

The Hub and Sports Field Rise Up

It's beginning to look like the great building it will become – the penultimate project in our massive Rebuild Program. The Hub's tall profile cuts a striking silhouette in the forest, all without damaging any trees. We've kept the same footprint while reorienting the building to take advantage of prevailing winds, provide open views of the lake and create much-needed bathrooms at the south end of Camp. Luckily this was a dry summer. By next season the new Hub will fling open its doors.

Now that the season's over, the last major project, improving the sports field and basketball court, proceeds in earnest. Elise Shelley, a landscape architect and Graham Fisher, a geotechnical engineer, are working with Moorelands' staff to improve the ground beneath the field, to add plenty of top soil and to install an effective irrigation system. Poor grass and clouds of dust will be a thing of the past. By next summer it will be built, and they will come.

These important projects have been funded by the Federal-Provincial Infrastructure Stimulus Package; the Jays Care Foundation; Alice Moulton; Stanley Helpert and Elaine Orfus; and a long-time donor who wishes to remain anonymous. (Note: We are still fundraising to finish the interior of the Hub. For more pictures and information check out www.moorelands.ca) - **K.C.**



City Summer Day Camp Because of you...there was laughter

"My son has a lot of stories when he comes home from day camp about all the fun he has there. He tells me all about the games, the exciting trips, the fun he's had at swimming and the new friends he made. He brings his laughter home from camp, and sometimes at night I can hear him laugh in his sleep. In the morning, he tells me that he was dreaming of camp and all the fun that he is having there." -**Connie Tizon**



More Than Just Another Camp Visitors Discover "Intentional Programming"

"You do so much more here than just camping!" exclaimed Pat Brookbank on her tour around the camp site. "I had no idea." Pat and Alan Brookbank came to this year's Visitors' Day by boat. Long-time donors and cottagers on Lake Kawagama, they learned that the 150 campers and staff who live there each week are deeply focused, not only on having fun, but on learning and modeling good character traits - Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship. Every activity at Camp is "intentional," designed to develop these deeper skills and bring out the best in each child.



Red and black symbols all around the grounds look like "No Parking" signs but with a big "D" instead of a "P." They're there to remind everyone not to Demean, Diminish or Disrespect another person.

Even when the Dining Hall was filled with a high-energy (and high-volume) lunchtime chant challenge between the girls' and boys' cabins, the overarching feeling was inclusion, not competition. And when prizes were given out to deserving campers, they went not only for new skills, but for acts of kindness as well. - **D.S./K.C.**

HSBC Bank Canada to the Rescue

Thorncliffe Park After-school Program Safe for Another Year



It's definite: Throughout the school year, after-school laughter and learning will return to T.P.E.S. thanks to a generous \$50,000 contribution from HSBC Bank Canada.

"As 'the world's local bank', we believe in supporting the communities where we have a presence," said Blake Hellam, Senior Vice-President of Retail Branch Network, HSBC Bank

Moorelands Fact

Who lives in Thorncliffe Park?

Of a population of about 20,000, almost half live on low incomes in crowded high-rise towers. One out of 4 are children under 14. About 60% are immigrants, about half from South Asia.

Canada. "We are pleased to donate \$50,000 so that Moorelands is able to offer this valuable After-school program in one of Toronto's under-served neighbourhoods."

Last year, when Moorelands was hit by the recession, this valuable program was cancelled for several months. It was sorely missed, according to Rob Oliphant, Member of Parliament for Don Mills West. He describes what Moorelands does as "an essential service, providing a more seamless day for children whose parents cannot afford costly learning and recreational alternatives." He sees that "the school is filled with highly motivated children and youth new to our country, who, if given the right opportunities, will be leaders in tomorrow's Canada."

By supporting Moorelands programs, HSBC Bank Canada is not only helping young people in need, they are helping build a stronger, safer, more connected city.

- P.J./B.T.

Your donation of \$420 will support a child to attend a Moorelands After-school Program for one year

Back to School at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School

Moorelands Fact

The most remarkable fact about T.P.E.S.?

In Thorncliffe Park Elementary School (JK-5), the largest in North America, there are more than 30 Kindergarten classes.



On September 7, Thorncliffe Park Elementary School welcomed more than 1,800 children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 to their first day of school. Ninety-four percent of them had a primary language other than English.

Susan Mabey, a Grade 2 teacher at the school, knows how difficult the first days can be for these children. "They're in a new country, in a huge school where they don't speak the language. That's incredibly scary."

About a quarter of the kids will not have had breakfast, or not a sufficient one, according to Mabey. "The parents come here for the good of their children, but sometimes the kids don't have enough food or the right clothes for the season."

Mabey sees Moorelands After-school Program at her school (now the HSBC After-school Program) as an important resource. Along with a healthy snack, it provides a supportive and safe place for kids to grow. "They learn positive things they don't learn in the classroom. Otherwise, because there's so much to adjust to at once, many of these kids see themselves as stupid." Moorelands builds their confidence and self-esteem, one child at a time.

- P.J.

Moorelands Fact

Is it true there's been a lot of crime lately in Flemingdon Park?

Four years ago, 17-year-old Omar Wellington was tortured, stabbed and paraded around a Flemingdon Park playground. This summer, Dianthony Evans, 19, one of the youth convicted in Omar's murder, was shot in the head. Then, a 25-year-old man was

stabbed to death in the lobby of his nearby apartment building. When asked how this cycle could be stopped, Carl James, a York University sociology professor, answered, "By offering Flemingdon's vulnerable youth hope and opportunities."

That's what Moorelands does. That's why we're in Thorncliffe Park & Flemingdon Park.

Last-Minute Call to Action



Board member John Offutt will be running himself ragged for Moorelands on September 26, at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. We realize it's short notice, but any last-minute support for his efforts would be much appreciated.

You can sponsor John directly until October 22, 2010 by visiting www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com, clicking on "Charity" and then on "Put a pledge on your favourite runner or walker".

Every bit helps!

- B.T.

David Dorsch

Gearing Up for Moorelands at 100



The Toronto law firm of Hughes, Dorsch, Garland, Coles LLP has a history of Moorelands service starting with Ray Hughes, then Michie Garland, past Board members, and now David Dorsch who joined last winter and slipped easily into the Chair for our 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2012. He's amazed at the enthusiasm of the Moorelands' community, past and present, but recognizes that suggestions are just the beginning. Making them happen will be his job for the next two years."

There are many different objectives," he says, "but we also have to remember fundraising is a big part of it." As a minister's

son, David saw that human effort and generosity were needed to make good things happen. His wife, Patricia Neelands, is a pediatrician with a practice in the diverse community on the Danforth. Their three daughters, 22 to 17, have been instilled with a sense of social responsibility. "I think they enjoy learning what Moorelands does, just as I do."

- G.S.

Check Out www.moorelands.ca

Moorelands' website under construction



What do you think of our new look?
An improvement?
How could it be better?

Please visit us frequently at www.moorelands.ca and send us your feedback, directly from the site, dschroeder@moorelands.ca or call Dagmar at 416-466-9987 ext. 303.

We value your opinion.

- D.S.

Countdown to Christmas



Last year, Moorelands provided hampers laden with toys and gifts to 250 grateful families. If you would like to play Santa's Elf this year, we invite you to Adopt-a-Family, or make a donation. It costs about \$360 to fill a basket to brighten the holidays for a family of four.

Learn more on our website www.moorelands.ca or call Cheryle at 416-466-9987 ext. 300.

- P.J.

Our Mandate

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.

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