

Moorelands' History is Missing *Your* Story

What Became of these Likely Lads?



Look at these boys! They'd be men in their sixties today. We'd love to know what became of them and the tens of thousands of children and families served by Moorelands over the course of the last century.

In three short months Moorelands will turn 100. Ours is a rich and fascinating history and with your help we can add more detail and colour to the portrait of this resilient organization.

If you've been touched by DCA/ Moorelands, worked or volunteered for this venerable institution or have supported its work we'd love to hear from you. And please help spread the word, Moorelands' history is missing your story.

Help us build our guest list for the big birthday bash:

- Call us at 416-466-9987 x303
- email dschroeder@moorelands.ca
- sign up on our website at www.moorelands.ca
- follow us on facebook

-D.S.

Lovina...Welcome Back to After-School!

The "go home" bell rings and Lovina Nyarko is excited. Excited because soon she will be meeting students with whom she can play games, enjoy activities, do crafts, eat snacks and sing songs. Lovina has been looking forward to this all summer.

You might be surprised to learn that Lovina isn't one of Moorelands' After-school program participants. Lovina is one of Moorelands' After-school program leaders.

This will be Lovina's third year at Moorelands; her second in the After-school program. Lovina keeps coming back to Moorelands because she grew up in Flemingdon Park and she wants to give back to her community; to the kids who live there. She finds that working at Moorelands provides her with opportunities to learn and to grow personally - and to learn from the kids. Lovina says staff training is always fresh and new; that Moorelands is always looking for ways to improve programming and that trainees always feel included and valued in this process.

Lovina loves to see how the children grow and learn in the After-school program. She fondly remembers a young boy who refused to do dishes because it was "a girl thing" and "guys don't do it" who, by the end of the year, was the first one to offer to wash up - without even being asked!

Like Lovina, the children are looking forward to returning to Moorelands' After-school programs. Your donation will help us to continue to provide the quality programming they so eagerly await.

-N.S.



Your donation of \$420 will allow a child to learn and grow in our After-school program all year long.

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO WORK FOR MOORELANDS



How do you measure success? At Moorelands City Summer Day Camp in Flemingdon Park, we knew we had done a good job when "Group 4" (campers aged 10-12) stood up to present at the talent show the last day of camp. They pretended to be counsellors, each camper emulating one of our staff members. Their message: With creative thinking, teamwork and cooperation, any problem can be solved!

Next year they want to join our leadership program LEAP, and when they grow up they want to work for Moorelands. It's called "building capacity", and it reflects one of Moorelands' long-term goals of engaging young people to become involved in their communities. Our new leadership pilot, LEAP, is a case in point:

The 24 youth in this pilot program attended one of two 2-week sessions. During this time they participated in activities to fine-tune their leadership skills which included planning and leading a themed activity with the younger campers. They also made a video and participated in activities and workshops that challenged them as individuals and helped them bond as a group. Ten of our LEAP campers enjoyed camp so much that they stayed on as volunteers for the rest of the summer!

Next year we'll offer 42 leadership spaces in addition to the 448 day camp spaces for kids aged 6-12.

There's never a dull moment at Moorelands City Day Camp, the schedule's brimming with activities that are fun and enriching and offer opportunities for growth. One camp highlight was the spontaneous sing-along at the Toronto Ferry Docks. As 64 campers waited for the ferry, one Moorelands group after another started singing and, pretty soon, our campers were getting requests from the "audience". As 10-year-old Sangavi said, "I would have never done that on my own, but as a whole camp ... we were totally AWESOME!"

Karen Bruno,
Day Camp Director



"Mishu and Kensi are the BESTEST leaders ever!! When I'm 16 I'm going to be a Moorelands leader just like them!"
Shakeera, age 13

watch our video at
www.moorelands.ca



THIS CAMP CHANGED MY LIFE!

This summer, a 13-year-old boy, a first timer and a new Canadian, arrived at camp. He was small for his age, pale, very quiet and from the start, he was very, very homesick. He wanted to leave camp and go home.

During the first night campfire I called his mom to learn from her how we could best support him. His mom was amazing. She really wanted her son to have this experience; to grow, to be independent, and to succeed at camp. Then she told me how much he liked to perform.

With support from mom and this new information, the cabin leaders began to work with him and pull out his strengths. He may have been small in stature, but when he performed at the boys campfire, he grew; he seemed so much bigger! This was one of his strengths and the boys thought he was so funny.



Being a senior boy, he and his cabin-mates participated in a teamwork-based program called "Senior Challenge". He was recognized as a strong member of his team. He was accepted; he had a place amongst his peers. Part of the challenge was to write a poem or reflective piece about their camp experience. He took the first turn and speaking to the whole camp, the first words out of his mouth were, "This camp changed my life."

I have to be honest and say, my life was changed that day as well. I had the privilege to see the transformation in this child; to know that he had gained so much at camp. From the small, teary boy on the fringe when he arrived to the confident young man who read a wonderful poem on the stage in front the entire camp, I agree, "This camp changed my life!"

Lynda Tilley
Wilderness Camp Director

I found my strength at Moorelands

*I came here blind; not ready to seek the light, yet I stayed along and saw, and understood
And pondered that I should have kept my eyes open just a bit.
I opened them and saw paths, ways, opportunities, connections....
And great people too were there; together we all stood up to an experience, Adventure.
A sleep under the stars, and a refreshing feeling of a breeze touching your cold forehead
A great challenge shook up greatly, yet we stood....
To test the strength of our connections, the depths of our wits...
I came here blind, yet by the time I finished, I could see.*



"I made new friends and have grown as a person and have more respect – from a tree frog to a human, I have learned that everything has value and we should respect it no matter what. This was also a break for me as there was no drama and I felt good about myself." Shawn, age 11



Thumbs up for ECHO



Thanks to your fantastic participation in a donor survey we conducted over the summer, we received valuable feedback on our communication tools (ECHO, website and annual report). We got high marks for both our newsletter and annual report but learned that only 20% of you visit our website. If you have access, we invite you to come and explore www.moorelands.ca more often – a wealth of information awaits you. **-D.S.**



Support Moorelands' Walk of the Century

On October 16, at this year's Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, we want people to know that Moorelands is about to turn 100! Board members, staff, friends and family will "wear" our long history, dressing up in early 20th century garb while walking and raising funds and awareness for Moorelands.

Please help us reach our ambitious goal of \$20,000 by sponsoring our team, the Moorelands City Slickers, either by cheque to our office, or online by visiting our home page www.moorelands.ca or by searching for us on the marathon website at www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com Every little bit helps and is much appreciated. **-D.S.**



Nancy Stewart: Making a Difference in her Community

When Nancy Stewart joined the Board of Directors in 2006, she already knew a lot about Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park and the young people Moorelands serves there through its various City Programs. A Guidance Counsellor at Valley Park Middle School in Thorncliffe Park, Nancy has worked at the school for more than 22 years. "I've taught every subject over the years, except instrumental music and industrial arts", Nancy jokes. She also grew up in the neighbourhood and lived there for 25 ½ years.

Nancy describes her students as great, hardworking kids who want to do their best but who are limited by their parents' incomes. "Many don't have the means to afford post-secondary education or the enriching opportunities wealthier students get to enjoy. So many parents are under-employed, working in jobs

well below their professional training. They've come here to have a better life for their kids, but find they can't afford it," she explains.

Nancy works closely with the Moorelands team delivering LED Leadership programs at her school. "The kids love the Leadership Program. Moorelands offers intentional programming – there is a purpose to everything done and they offer our students opportunities they could not otherwise experience, including the opportunity to spend a weekend at Moorelands Wilderness Camp."

Nancy, who is also an avid curler and a chorister with the Chancel Choir at Leaside United Church, says she agreed to join the Moorelands Board because, "I see the value in what Moorelands is doing and I also get to serve my community. How could I not be a part of that?"

-P.J.

Countdown to Christmas

Last year, with your help, Moorelands provided Christmas boxes laden with toys and gifts to 250 grateful low-income families. If you would like to play Santa's Elf this year, we invite you to Adopt-a-Family or to make a donation. It costs between \$300 and \$360 to make Christmas dreams come true for a family of four. For details visit our website at 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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