

Moorelands Wants to Connect with Alumni!

Calling all Moorelanders!

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Alumni page: <http://www.moorelands.ca/moorelands-alumni/>. Whether you were a participant or staff in our programs, we'd love for you to fill out the online form and connect with us...just like John de Visser did. – M.L.



John de Visser

John was a junior camper in the late 1970s, and began a long-standing and rich connection with Moorelands that has lasted to this day. Here's his story:

"My mother, Helen de Visser, was a senior social worker at Big Brothers of Metro Toronto for 35 years, and sent hundreds of kids to camp. Her friendship with Mark Cote, the camp director from the late 70s – early 90s, led me to my first two years at Moorelands in 1978 and 1979.

To this day, I remember fondly my first overnight canoe trip as a junior camper. The feeling of dread about the unknown... but the excitement of my counsellors and the trippers was contagious, so I happily went along with it all.

After a few years away, I was finally able to return to the island — as a Leader In Training! I was so excited!! The two-week canoe trip made up for any trepidation I had about a month sleeping in tents. I couldn't wait.

Next year I was a Counsellor In Training,

then two years as a counsellor, three years on Boating and Tripping (B&T), and my last year was on summer maintenance.

One summer on B&T, I went on 15 canoe trips, including a 2-week staff trip, a 2-week CIT trip, and a 2-week after-camp fun trip.

There is no time in my life that I look back on with as much fondness and satisfaction, than my years at Moorelands, on Lake Kawagama. The friendships I made are just as strong now as when they were first made. And after the 25-year reunion

that I organized last summer, my future with Moorelands looks pretty great too!"



Connect with Moorelands' alumni page on the web, and read more alum stories like John's.



Keeping Our Connection and Community Strong

We are a couple of months into 2015. As we plan for the year ahead we look to our community, those who gather round us, supporting us in so many ways; the children and youth we serve and our truly dedicated staff. When we think of community, we think of a place to belong and to grow with a group of people who have a common purpose. In the Moorelands community, we focus on one goal: to create connections to help children and youth build confidence, gain competence and develop character. We are helping future leaders grow.

Our community experienced change late in 2014. After providing guidance to Moorelands and overseeing operations for 15 years, Patricia Jacobs, Executive Director, moved on to another community agency. We are grateful for her work, her energy and her commitment to developing leaders. We wish her well in this new endeavor.

There has been a change in leadership but our focus remains the same. Whether at the city programs or the wilderness camp, through our intentional community, we are helping leaders grow. We've proved it over and over; being part of a community promotes growth. It creates connections and helps youth build confidence, gain competence and develop character. As leaders in our community, we see so much significant growth in the youth we are privileged to serve.

There are many opportunities to connect with us during the year; by attending the Annual General Meeting, donating, volunteering, visiting programs, signing up for our echo newsletter, and following us on Twitter and Facebook. Thank you for being part of our community – let's keep our connection and community strong!

– Lynda Tilley, Acting Executive Director

LAUGH OUT LOUD in LEASIDE ACT #6 . . . **SOLD OUT** Get your tickets now!

Laugh Out Loud in Leaside Act #6 (LOL#6) is coming February 27th, spearheaded by the tireless efforts and infectious enthusiasm of Charlene Kalia, a local real estate agent and Leaside resident. Charlene and her team have again proven that truly great things are possible when minds and hearts come together to achieve a common goal.

For four years, a community united by a goal, laid the foundation, raised the funds and executed the plan to ultimately unveil a new ice pad in Leaside. One of the hallmarks of this fundraising campaign has been "Laugh Out Loud in Leaside", an annual comedy night, which raised over \$130,000 for the rink project. This special evening of laughs and entertainment has become a hit, quickly selling-out each year.

This year, proceeds from the event will go directly to Moorelands Community Services for our Budding Leaders After-School Teams.



Children attending Moorelands are faced with many pressures both at home and among their peers. BLAST provides a safe, secure, fun and enriching environment where children build positive character traits, while practising new skills through physical literacy, play, art, science projects, drama, literacy skills and homework help.

LOL#6 is proud to have returning sponsors Lexus On The Park, Grilltime, Pepsico, De la mar, Neal Brothers Foods, and Amsterdam Brewery. The evening includes an oyster bar, a silent and live auction, Yuk Yuk's comedy and live music. Tickets went quickly for this fabulous night of fun, laughter, networking and great food! For more details or rush tickets, please contact Charlene Kalia at charlene@charlenekalia.com or 416-925-9191.

Together, we can continue this success story, neighbours helping neighbours, building our community. – C.K.



Moorelands' Baby Bundles Build Community



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Baby Bundles program in 2014! Because of you, Moorelands provided vital supplies to 151 newborns born to mothers in need. Our Bundles help provide infants' immediate needs of warmth and cleanliness. They also ensure that important connections are made between Toronto mothers living in insufficiency, their children and a caring community of public health workers and community support groups.

The importance of this was not lost on Kamal Gautam and the team at Oliver Wyman who donated to our program this Christmas...

"Donating to the Baby Bundles programs is not only fun, it's also worthwhile, because the impact is so widespread. A newborn gets the blanket they need, the mother gets the community support and education she needs. And then the family finds out about other Moorelands' programs; perhaps an older brother enters BLAST after-school program or a sister goes to Moorelands Wilderness Camp. Moorelands becomes a lifeline for them as well. Moorelands Baby Bundles is so far-reaching and that's why it's so special."

In 2015, we hope to be able to support up to 250 newborns. We depend on you, as part of our Moorelands' community, for the items in our Baby Bundles' Needs List. This list changes from time to time, so please do check back frequently:

- ✓ Undershirts
- ✓ Sleepers
- ✓ Receiving Blankets
- ✓ Bibs
- ✓ Baby Wash Cloths
- ✓ Bath Towels
- ✓ Crib Blankets
- ✓ Newborn Diapers
- ✓ Diapers (size 1)
- ✓ Petroleum Jelly 357g
- ✓ Zinc Oxide Cream 50g
- ✓ Baby Lotion 444ml
- ✓ Baby Soap
- ✓ Baby Wipes
- ✓ Sweater & Bonnet Sets
- ✓ Soft Toys or Cloth/Board Books



– H.G.

Change Starts with You 'Crispy' tells us why being a monthly, Sustaining Donor at Moorelands matters

Hi. My name is Joey and my camp name is Crispy. I just wanted to tell you all a little bit about my experiences at Moorelands and the things that I took from it. First off, thanks to everyone for donating to this great place. Without you, none of this would be possible.

All right, so seven years ago was my first year at Moorelands. I was a ten-year-old and scared of being away from my mom. But through that first week, I learned to be more respectful and responsible. Before that year at Moorelands, I wasn't the popular kid. I got bullied and so did my friend, but I stayed with him and defended him after my camp experience. Moorelands taught me that bullying isn't right and that we should respect everybody. Also, the year after that, I learned how to deal with the anger I had. I was way better off after that.



'Crispy' (Joey) as a junior camper

Every single summer I went back to Moorelands Wilderness Camp, meeting new friends and learning new things. It was the thing I looked forward to the most through the year. Seven years later, this summer, I accomplished my childhood dream of being a counsellor at Moorelands. I got to ride in the gold cart and the Kubota, and I got to really connect with kids. For some of the kids that come here, it is the only thing that they have to look forward to in the year. Some of them come from nothing, and it really helps them to go to Moorelands every year. Moorelands is the greatest! And I speak from experience. I owe soooo much to this place, my best childhood experiences, and a lot of life lessons. I wouldn't be who I am today without Moorelands. This has been crispy, getting to say "thank you."

Please consider making your next gift to Moorelands the start of a monthly, sustaining donation. Monthly giving allows us to plan ahead for other kids like Joey, and to make your gift stretch farther. When you look at your donation card this month, consider ticking off our monthly, Sustaining Donor's box. – M.L.



'Crispy' (Joey) age 17 leading a music activity



Please join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM),

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, AGM, 5:30 – 7:30pm

invitations to follow or please call 416-466-9989 ext 300 for more details.

In late March you can read a review of 'Moorelands 2014' by clicking on our 2014 Annual Report on the web site. As we sum up the year in review, we reflect on how important community is, in allowing us all to thrive. We are looking forward to what 2015 will bring. Thank you for being a part of our community. **– M.L.**



AT Moorelands

We provide opportunities for kids to develop and practise critical thinking and decision making; emotional intelligence; and interpersonal skills, including: communication, conflict resolution, creative problem solving, strategic thinking, influencing skills and teamwork.



AT Moorelands

At Moorelands, we bridge the opportunity gap and help our children shape brighter futures.

AT Moorelands We build community.

A donation of \$480 will send a child to Moorelands Budding Leaders After-School Teams (BLAST) for a full school year.



Community

That's a Wrap

We've just wrapped up another great Christmas Sharing season. Your creativity and generosity made Christmas special for 217 families. Here's a special call out to Grace Anglican Church, Markham for their support of all 140 Budding Leaders After-School Team (BLAST) participants. We are so grateful to all the individuals, families, workplace groups and churches who partner with us in this great endeavour. Without you, we could not make Christmas wishes come true, and meet the very real needs of our families. **– L.T.**



Shhhhh! Sneak Preview

Moorelands will soon be announcing a special, upcoming gala event taking place late in May 2015.

Check back on Moorelands Community Hub at Moorelands.ca for updates soon!

OUR MANDATE

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

Patron

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D. Governor General of Canada

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Helping kids shape brighter futures

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