



Moorelands Kids

myMoorelands

Our Vision: We Empower Kids to Transform their Lives



Fall 2022

Reflecting on Camp: A Camper's Journey

As we enter another school year, we reflect back on a summer filled with exciting activities, fun friendships and new skills at *Moorelands Camp*.

This summer, we followed a camper's journey toward community and leadership – from meeting the camper, who goes by her camp name, “Frisbee,” to the excitement of starting another summer at Moorelands as she experienced new opportunities and became an assistant counsellor.

“I’ve been going to *Moorelands Camp* for a couple of years now and it’s honestly been one of the most life changing experiences I’ve ever had,” says Frisbee. “I’ve met so many people that I didn’t think I would meet in my life. I’ve done crazy things like canoeing to an island in the middle of nowhere – I never thought that was something I could do.”

Frisbee started off her summer as a *STEP* participant where she had the opportunity to practise leadership and learn new skills to use when she returned home.

“I feel like Moorelands is a place where I’m allowed to thrive. It’s one of my favourite places to be in the summer.”

Like most of us, Frisbee missed in-person camp over the past two years. “*Moorelands Camp* not only has amazing people and amazing food, but it’s also a break from reality – from the stresses of school, community and home. *Moorelands Camp* is a place where you can unwind and learn more about yourself and other people. Summers were very lonely without camp. You feel that absence.”

Frisbee always looks forward to going back to camp in the summer, and she was excited to be back again in 2022 – and after a week of being a *STEP* camper, Frisbee embraced a new role as assistant camp counsellor.

In this role, she passed along the Habits & Qualities she’s learned at Moorelands to the younger campers.

“I’ve been able to set an example of how to interact with others in a nice way,” says Frisbee.



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To follow along with the rest of our camper’s journey or check out more highlights from camp, visit our Instagram, Facebook or YouTube, @moorelandskids

Starry Summer Night 2022

Thank you for another great summer!



After a successful swim, participants put on their matching Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association (KCLA) t-shirts for a photo

AquaHug 2022: Swimming for SAK

After a successful and fun AquaHug in 2021, the Starry Summer Night committee returned for the third annual relay swim, setting out to raise a goal of \$10,000 for the Moorelands Kids Send a Kid to Camp Campaign.

On August 6th, 33 participants between the ages of 4 and 66 took part in a socially distanced swim around the perimeter of Moorelands Camp, a distance of exactly 2 kilometres. Each swimmer chose a distance they were comfortable with and together they swam clockwise to form an "Aqua Hug" around the campground.

Sixteen swimmers chose to start their own fundraisers in support of the Send a Kid to Camp AquaHug, and together received over 150 donations, raising a total of more than \$14,850 – 50% higher than the original fundraising goal and enough to send nine kids to camp next year!

The Legend of the Swashbuckler...



Moorelands Kids and the Starry Summer Night committee hosted the second annual "SSN Swashbuckler" on August 20th with 29 boats participating. All monies raised from this event will go towards Sending a Kid to Camp next summer.

"We wanted to do something to involve the entire lake," says Lesley Paul, who has supported Moorelands Kids since 2017 and now sits on the Starry Summer Night Committee. "The purpose of the Swashbuckler is to raise funds for the camp, but it's also to raise awareness and create a sense of community," says Lesley. "In conversation with people on the lake or at the grocery store, not everyone knows what the camp does or why they're there. Through the Swashbuckler, we want to bring recognition and help the community understand what Moorelands Camp is all about."

This year, committee members incorporated fun and informative challenges to the Swashbuckler, focusing on camp and the Moorelands Kids Habits & Qualities. From trivia questions and riddles to singing Aretha Franklin's "Respect", each boat (or pirate ship, as we like to call them), raised money while learning about the mission and positive impact of Moorelands Camp.



Staff Spotlight: Dio



Dio has been part of the Moorelands Kids family since 2017, working in roles from Program Leader to Site Coordinator. This past summer, Dio became a Program Experience Leader and Head of Creative Arts at Moorelands Camp. "No matter what I did, I always felt supported," she says. "I love the community I have at Moorelands."

What has your experience been like leading and teaching the Moorelands Kids' Habits & Qualities (HQs)?

The kids are fun to be around, of course, but working in after-school programs and seeing their growth throughout the year is really rewarding. I like being a part of that growth.

I think the best part of teaching the HQs to the kids is the moment they discover they are using them. For example, when we see someone caring for others, we will tell them, "Hey, did you see how you just modelled caring? You weren't just thinking about yourself, you were thinking about other people, too." When we point it out to them, they see it isn't hard and that it's something they can do.

What is an important lesson that you think Moorelands teaches our kids?

No D's – demeaning, disrespecting and diminishing. We call these out whenever we see them to make the kids aware and show how to find a different way of responding.

Self D's are common, too. This is when kids say things like "I suck at this," or "I can't do this." At Moorelands, we teach them to redirect that mindset to say "We can do this, we just have to think of a different way to do it." Then we problem solve around it together so they don't diminish themselves or feel they are less than what they are.

What is your favourite memory of working at Moorelands?

One year, we had a leadership retreat with the LED kids and a few VITAL kids. We planned to take them up to camp for a weekend. For many of them, Moorelands was new and it was a culture they weren't used to. It was hard for them to adapt, so each week we implemented the HQs and encouraged them along so we could take them on the trip.

By the end of the 10 weeks, we took quite a few of them to camp. Seeing the growth just within that 10 weeks was amazing.

What message would you give the kids as they head back to school this year?

We want to create a safe space for the kids. We're coming back after two and a half years of Covid, doing a full day of school plus after-school programs, and it might be difficult for some kids. I want them to know that Moorelands is here to work through it together. We're going to try and adapt, meet them where they're at and go from there.



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VITAL: Reaching Youth Online and In Person

Moorelands Kids' VITAL program equips youth with the skills they need to become leaders in their community. This year, the program is back with a new online and in person hybrid model for high school students.

The new model, comprised of 32 weeks of core leadership programming of the Moorelands Kids Habits & Qualities, offers:

- The opportunity for youth to gain up to 20 community volunteer hours and practise community engagement.
- Five in-person meet-ups to connect throughout the year and practise leadership skills while building community through shared experiences.
- Two leadership retreats – an introductory fall retreat and a spring retreat.
- Four job-skills preparedness workshops.

In 2021, **80% of VITAL participants said they made positive connections with peers in the program.** Now, the hybrid model will offer the same weekly group mentoring that encourages these positive social connections between peers and staff role models, with open and interactive conversations that help build trust and stronger collaboration.



Stay in the loop!

Moorelands Kids creates fun and educational videos and posts for our community across our social media platforms. **FOLLOW, LIKE and SUBSCRIBE** to take part in the fun. Get all the latest information, from program updates and upcoming events to stories from our kids. Check us out @moorelandskids.



We're now on Tik Tok!

1912 Club - Your Legacy, Our Future



Planned Gifts are an important part of the giving tradition at Moorelands Kids. When you choose to make a planned gift, you become part of *our* legacy.

The *1912 Club*, previously known as the *Canon Moore Society*, named in honour of Canon R. J. Moore who founded Moorelands back in 1912 – is a place for those who choose to leave a legacy gift with us as friends and supporters in our mission.

Legacy donors have helped shape and support Moorelands Kids for over a century, and for this we are truly grateful. YOUR legacy gift can create a future for so many more marginalized kids and youth to achieve their full potential through our programs and supports.

For more information about leaving a legacy gift, please contact **Colette Halferty**, Director of Development and Communications, chalferty@moorelands.ca.

"Legacy giving is proactive philanthropy. It is thoughtful and deliberate, designed not to fix something, but to make things possible."

– John Shelly, Donor, Planned Giving Chair



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