



CAMP OWAISSI

Fall Newsletter

UNPLUGGED AND UNFORGETTABLE

OCTOBER 2011

ISSUE #1

A Message from Our Chair

By Pam Wilson

Dear Valued Camp Owaissi Supporters:

In May, over 140 guests attended the Strawberry Tea held at Camp Owaissi. These guests were greeted in our inspiring Wind Song facility where they were served tea and cake and were entertained by the ever pleasing, Papa Tom. Many visitors took advantage of the opportunity to tour the site and learn about camp life at Owaissi. Donations were given to support a myriad of Owaissi needs, ranging from the camper bursary fund, to supporting maintenance projects, to infrastructure improvements such as the much-needed new two hot water tanks for the kitchen.

Walk Owaissi continues to be a reliable and appreciated source of financial support, this year raising over \$3774 dollars. We have a core of faithful donors and it is our hope to expand this circle of philanthropy for the 2012 season. To reach this objective, we will be ever more reliant upon additional participants and volunteers. Please keep Walk Owaissi in mind when you share with your circle ways in which supporters can help Owaissi.

Our media coverage of Camp Owaissi was given a proverbial "shot-in-the-arm" thanks to Shaw Cable television's visit to the camp this summer. The on-air segment highlighting Owaissi camp life has been captured on a DVD to be available for viewing at the **Annual General Meeting** in November 2011.

"All are welcome and encouraged to support Owaissi at the AGM on Nov 20/11 @ 2:00pm at St. Andrews Anglican church in Kelowna, 4619 Lakeshore Road."

If you are interested to learn more about any of these initiatives, please contact me directly, at pwilson6@telus.net or **Diocesan Office @ 778-478-8310 ext 204**.



A Message from Our Owaissi Chaplin

by Rev Rita Harrison

This summer, Owaissi made use of a camping curriculum (Handle with Care) produced by an ecumenical group of Christian educators, experienced camp leaders, and outdoor enthusiasts. We focused on God's creativity in making the world, and on our responsibility in caring for God's good creation. The chaplains appreciated the suggestions for study, crafts, worship and games provided in the materials. The curriculum allowed the camp to have a unified theme throughout the week. In addition, the materials provided theological background and training suggestions for the staff. We look forward to using curriculum produced by this ecumenical group in the future years.

VISION 2012 CAMP OWAISSI

a) Grow camper registrations to reach Camp capacity. In order to do so, we need to increase our advertising through a variety of media outlets and rely even more on word of mouth. Increasing awareness of Camp Owaissi must happen throughout the community via advertising, social media, attending public fairs, congregation support, and past camper contact.

b) Increase volunteer engagement in projects such as "adopt a cabin" and the maintenance of the gardens and grounds. Recruiting and soliciting will be primarily through advertising in church bulletins and face to face invitations. The Board is hopeful that from the churches, one or more "Owaissi Ambassadors" might self-identify to promote Camp Owaissi within their sphere of influence.

c) Establish a strong donor base by actively seeking a qualified and experienced Fund Development Campaign Volunteer Chair.



d) Expand programming to include formal leadership training for older youth; will need to research leadership programs in and beyond the Diocese.

e) Increase revenues from group and family sites rentals through a variety of means, which include extending the group rental summer dates to include Friday & Saturday night and by designating additional RV rental sites.

f) Elevate Owaissi awareness and market the true camping experience of an 'unplugged and unforgettable' camp. All communications and marketing materials must reinforce this branding.



Adopt a Cabin Program

This summer "Adopt a Cabin" program was renewed at the suggestion of Doris Haycroft. Adopt a cabin program allows individuals to care and nurture our cabins. Many thanks to the following individuals for Adopting Cabins this year:

Cabin #4 and 4.5

(Donna and John Lloyd, Dorothy and Bill Genge, Heather Comba, Diana Brown)

Cabin #5

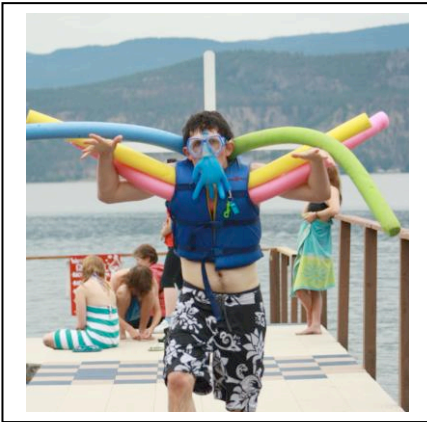
(Anita and Paul Desjardins)

These groups cleaned their cabins, replaced curtains, painted both inside and out, made small repairs and generally kept on top of the condition of their cabin during the year. Many users commented on what a great improvement this program achieved.

Next year we hope to have all cabins adopted. To adopt a cabin contact:

campowaissi@hotmail.com

CAMP OWAISSI AGM
NOV 20/2011 @ 2PM
ST. ANDREWS ANGLICAN
CHURCH 4619 LAKESHORE
ROAD KELOWNA



TESTIMONIALS

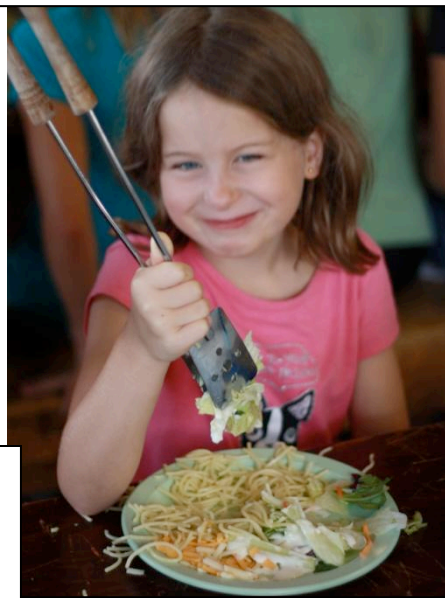
CAMP OWAISSI 2011 TESTIMONIALS



I miss the camp so much, it was an incredible experience!

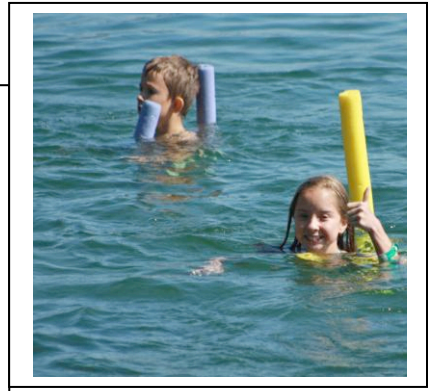


I had an absolute blast during her week and could not stop talking for hours!! Thank you for taking such good care of her!



Hey everyone at Camp OAC! My three kids had the BEST time last week! Thank you so much for making their summer so fun and memorable. They will be back next year!! :)

I am SO excited to go to camp on Monday! Hope the weather clears up!!



Maintenance Activities 2011 Season

Many projects and chores were carried out this year. Falling, clearing and stacking about 30 pine trees, which were affected by pine beetles, was a very time consuming task (thanks to Percy Hills and a group from All Saints in Vernon). Two repairs to downed power lines due to falling trees were carried out. A major maintenance project involved the cleaning out and repair of the septic system. Several improvements were required to support our BC Camping Association Accreditation process (eg. better signage). Major improvement projects included the new deck on Cabin 6 (provided by Don Munro and the Westbank Kinsman), a complete stripping and painting of Dick Birch Hall (by John Lloyd and Jason Zukowski), installation of two new window frames at the Dining Hall (provided by the late Bob Veitch), a new dock Cross (installed by Percy Hills) and a beautiful new entrance archway (designed, built and installed by Daniel Kilchenmann and Percy Hills). New replacement propane fired hot water heaters were installed for the kitchen. Maintenance spending on all these projects was limited to about \$3500 (mostly of the hot water heaters, the septic service, paint for Dick Birch and BC Hydro Service), as all other items, including labor, were donated. Another major volunteer driven initiative was the thorough cleaning of the main house and associated garden. Our major maintenance expense was the salary for our maintenance/Janitorial/renter host contractor. Shawn Greenhalgh. Without Shawn's dedication, the camp would not have operated as well as it did.

Wish List for 2012

To upgrade of the Dining Hall and Kitchen (new windows, doors, flooring and roofs and possibly an upgrade to the water treatment system) remains the highest priority for Camp Owaissi. Other improvement projects on our wish list includes replacement screen doors for most cabins, new flooring for Dick Birch Hall, a regrading of the entrance driveway (using a bobcat), and a replacement of the lighter aluminum rescue boat.

Brian Sunderland

KEEP KIDS AT CAMP CAMPAIGN

By Donna Zukowski

Board of Directors Member

In April, 2011 the Board of Directors sent out an urgent request for donations to **Keep the Kids at Camp**. We give thanks for a total of \$8160 received in donations to this campaign. In addition, with increased awareness, parishes increased their support to \$3183 compared to \$941 the previous year. Walk OAC had a targeted goal of \$3800 and we received \$3774, compared to \$3655 last fiscal year, so we continued to meet our budgeted goal for this fundraiser

This demonstrates we can **Keep Kids at Camp** with your help. A total of 248 kids experienced Owaissi this past summer. Donations were specified as following:

Maintenance/Capital Improvements: \$2000

Dining Hall Upgrade: \$490

Bursaries: \$1170

Where Most Needed: \$4500

The funds for the **Keep the Kids at Camp** Campaign were targeted to be spent on maintenance, program and staffing to implement the faith based summer program or sponsorship/bursaries for kids to go to camp.

Maintenance: \$3500 was spent for: hot water heaters, painting for Dick Birch (labor donated), and repair of the septic service and BC Hydro service. We are currently holding \$490 that will go towards the dining hall upgrade for windows and/or new flooring. Please see Brian Sunderland's report for more details.

Program: \$3496 was spent on program this year. A portion of those costs went towards purchasing a faith based curriculum. Please see the report submitted by Rev. Rita Harrison, Owaissi Chaplain. We are recommending we continue to purchase this curriculum yearly.

Bursaries: We granted \$2010 for kids to go to camp. In addition there were many churches and organizations that identified children in need and fully sponsored them to go to camp. We are thankful for this continuing ministry.

We ended our financial year with a positive balance in the bank account. We invite you to the **AGM** on November 20, 2011 at 2:00pm for more detailed financial reporting. For more information please contact Pam Wilson, Chairperson pwilson6@telus.net if you are unable to attend.

We ask you to give generously to any of the above three identified areas in financial need, (maintenance, programs & bursaries) and support Camp Owaissi's ministry to **Keep Kids at Camp**.

Donations can be sent to Camp Owaissi Box 24031, Kelowna BC V1Y 9H2 or go to www.campoac.com and use our donation button. All donations over \$10 will receive a tax receipt.

Many thanks to Bruce Ganton, Sarah Comba and Kim Paterson for their work with the **Keep the Kids at Camp** Campaign.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE CAMP OWAISSI SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING OUR 2011 SEASON A SUCCESS!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!



CAMP OWAISSI would like to thank **Brian Sunderland** for the picture of the new archway, and a special thanks to **Katie Cornish** for all the wonderful pictures she submitted. Thanks to **Kim Paterson** for designing the Newsletter and big thank you to **Anne Kirkpatrick** for her expert advice.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER!