



"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

In this issue:

Director's Message
Notice of Annual General Meeting, Nov 26th
President's Message
Fundraising Opportunities
Steak Night Nov 5th!
2011 Program Highlights
Buildings and Facilities Update
Continuing the Journey

St. John Bosco Camp Association, Fall 2011

The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is hard writing the Director's message. How can a person communicate one topic that will bring satisfaction to the many souls involved with Bosco? What one idea will unite and interest us all? There is only one theme I can dream up that fits. That theme is **you**.

Bosco has existed for over half a century, and gained quite an interesting history. At times it has flourished, at others it has struggled. Today, Bosco prospers thanks to you.

Your involvement with Bosco has made a difference. In fact, it wouldn't be the same without you. Thanks to you, and others like you, camp is looking great, programs are being enhanced, staff is of superb quality, the Board has strong vision and campers continue to be the highlight of Bosco's existence. The energy surrounding camp right now is infectious, and rightly so.

Keep involved. Every person plays a role in the growth of Bosco. In the words of H.E. Luccock, "*No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it*". You are central in the continuation of camp. Carry this load lightly; Bosco will always give you back more than you give it.

It is easy to be passionate for Bosco. Thanks to all of you who are involved.

David Plemel

Outgoing Camp Director, 2011

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 26, 2011 at 1:00 PM

Lower Level, St. Joseph's Parish Hall (Corner of 8th Street & Broadway Ave, Saskatoon)

Please contact the camp office if you wish to be placed on the agenda.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the sun sets on another season at St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp I am inspired and moved by the generosity and dedication of all those involved with our organization.

Even though we had a bumpy start to the year with the cancellation of our spring camping session, the end result was nothing short of amazing. We have a staff that I am honored to be involved with, a Board of Directors that is tireless and passionate, and countless volunteers that pour hours of time into keeping Bosco running smoothly.

Our newly formed Bosco Promo group, an inspirational group of young people, did an amazing job of spreading the word. The result was a rise in camper numbers that was remarkable. They will continue to spread the word, so look for new and exciting things coming from this group in the off season.

I cannot express adequately how I feel about our staff. What an incredible group of men and women. Under the leadership of David Plemel these people went above and beyond in making the experience our campers take home unforgettable. As well we added some extra duties to their work load this summer and asked them to help us rebuild and renew the programs we have all come to expect at Bosco. Please look for exciting things for next summer.

The sun may be setting on this season, but there is much to do before the sun comes up for the summer of 2012. There will be bingos to work, steak nights to attend and other fundraisers happening. You have an opportunity to give us a hand as well as earn some Bosco Bucks to use towards the next camping season. Keep an eye on the Bosco web page for upcoming events.

Bosco is many things to many people. It is a non-profit organization and a place to send children for a camping experience. But, even more importantly, it is a family. So, thank you to all the "family" members who gave of their time and energy to make the summer of 2011 such a success. God bless and see you next year.

Cheryl Kirzinger
President, SJBWC Board of Directors

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Come on our and earn **Bosco Bucks** to use towards 2012 camper fees and canteen!

We have bingos coming up on October 22, November 19, December 17, January 21, and February 18. All of these bingos are on Saturdays from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm. We need workers for whole shifts as well as partial shifts.

If you can spare a few hours to help out, we'll throw some **Bosco Bucks** your way! For more information, please contact Lynn at lynn@johnboscocamp.com or phone (306) 978-0019.

We have also been the lucky recipients of two donated candy machines to use in our fundraising. However, we still need a great place to put them! If anybody is willing to donate space in their business to host a machine, or knows someone who might, please get in touch!

STEAK NIGHT!

Come join us in Saskatoon for a fundraising steak night!

Saturday November 5th at 6:00 pm

David's Lounge & Restaurant, 294 Venture Cr

All ages are welcome! The cost is \$15 for your choice of steak (with garlic toast, Caesar salad and fries) or a vegetarian stir fry. A kid's meal (chicken fingers and fries) is also available for \$8 for those aged 8 and under.

This promises to be a fun night with prizes, a silent auction and good Bosco cheer! We are in need of door prizes and silent auction items, so if you can help us out please get in touch!

This event is advance ticket only so get your tickets early by contacting any Board member or the camp office at johnboscocamp@sasktel.net or phone (306) 978-0019.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Spring programming was quiet this year as a result of the uncertainty surrounding the teachers's strike. However, Spring 2012 is filling up already and we are looking forward to welcoming back familiar faces and to having new organizations come experience the Bosco wilderness!

Summer camper numbers jumped again this year due to the hard work of our amazing Promo group and our PR Coordinator Alanna Carlson. This summer saw 230 campers join us for our three 10-day July and August sessions (75 first camp, 85 second camp, 76 third camp). We welcomed 39 junior campers, a whopping 103 intermediate campers, 67 senior campers, and 21 ALE campers.

We received generous financial support from the City of Saskatoon, sponsorship from the St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus in Prince Albert, and from money donated at Lorna Plemel's retirement party which allowed us to sponsor 14 low-income and new Canadian campers this summer. We also received funding from the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA) and Sask Lotteries to assist with our Naturelore programming.

Planning is now underway for the 2012 camping season! Stay tuned to www.johnboscocamp.com, our Facebook group (search "St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp"), and Twitter (@johnboscocamp) for 2012 camping dates, program updates, and other news!



Photos courtesy of Miquel Kreiser

BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

Thanks to our many volunteers, staff and sponsors, camp is looking better all the time. We received \$5000 from the Lorne and Evelyn Johnson foundation to put towards the purchase of three new stoves, which will be installed over the winter.

Knights of Columbus from St. Joseph's and St. Michael's councils joined us in May, kindly offering their time and labour on a variety of projects. They replaced the lights in the mess hall and installed six new pole lights outside, generously donating the materials as well. They also did some painting, finished building the step on the new staff accommodations, and started work on the lean-to behind the kitchen.

Other major projects completed over the summer included re-topping the stage in the chapel, finishing and painting the nurses's station, residing and painting the bottom half of the mess hall, and digging a new mud pit!

Work on the "West Side Spa" - our new low-flush toilet facility - and our long-awaited new shower facility will commence in spring 2012. The bathrooms will be ready for summer 2012, with the showers slated for completion by fall.

VOTE FOR BOSCO!

Bosco has applied to the Aviva Community Fund for funding to sponsor low-income and new Canadian campers. But we need your votes to win!

Vote for our idea at <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acfl1549>

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

At the end of each season we must all leave camp for a few months, or a few years, or maybe even longer. But although the cool breeze and the changing leaves force us out of Zeden Lake and away from our tents, camp doesn't feel the same need to leave us. Come October each year, I always feel that the summer I just spent up north was the totally unforgettable highlight of my life and each previous summer was only a warm-up to that. But if you're like me, and Facebook doesn't compare to face-to-face, it's tough to get that connected feeling with your friends from summers past.

Last winter forced me a little bit further south than usual; all the way to New Zealand. Traveling alone in a foreign hemisphere really brought me out of my comfort zone. I was meeting new people, I was having fresh adventures every day, I was having to cook for myself using less than ideal ingredients and prep spaces. Yeah, the challenges that I faced down there really reminded me of my ALE experiences as a camper.

By chance I was able to meet up with former camp director Brad Harasymchuk and his wife Catherine Tatarniuk. Or as I knew them: my ALE camp counsellor and the lifeguard for our canoe trip. Even after not having seen them for nearly a decade they still embodied the Bosco Spirit in so much of their lives. And in the time I spent with them I felt more at home than I did anywhere else in my seven month journey.

I guess what I am trying to say is that no matter where in the world you are, no matter how much time has passed, if you have love for Bosco in your heart and a bunch of good memories in your brain, you are never really alone.

Martin Plemel



Photo courtesy of Martin Plemel



Photo courtesy of Miguel Kreiser



Join us on Twitter!
@johnboscocamp

CONTACT ST. JOHN BOSCO CAMP



Box 3002, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S9
Ph: (306) 978-0019
Fax: (306) 978-0037
Email: johnboscocamp@sasktel.net
Web: www.johnboscocamp.com

THANK YOU!

We are blessed with a long list of generous people and organizations to thank. So many, in fact, that we've had to move the list to our website! Visit us at www.johnboscocamp.com and click on the "Thank You!" button.

We are a non-profit corporation and a registered charity. Camper fees do not come close to covering the cost of operating camp. Therefore we rely on volunteer labour, grants and donations to help us offer our unique wilderness experience at a reasonable cost. St. John Bosco Camp would not be the camp that it is without the grants and sponsorships that we receive from our sponsors, or the time and effort of our tireless volunteers. If you are interested in making a monetary donation or volunteering in any way to help at camp or with other activities throughout the year please contact us.

