

PIONEER PRESS

INTERVARSITY PIONEER CAMP MANITOBA NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2019/2020





THE DIRECTOR'S REFLECTION

From the head of the canoe parade, Neil Steward, Director

It has been exciting to get back to the city office after another great season. This is a time of year that provides great encouragement as we meet with supporters and coworkers from our camp and nationally with colleagues, debriefing the summer and working on ideas for next year. It feels like I have heard from so many people how the community of camp has positively affected them and how they have grown through their experience of being themselves and feeling like they have contributed to the lives of others. I thank the Lord for all the people that make camp happen, from our amazing directors and leaders, to the staff we did not know were coming and could not imagine camp happening without them.

This season continued to be one of change with the Generation to Generation project moving forward in leaps and bounds. Camper Cabin 2 was renovated

and we now only have two camper cabins left (what a journey it has been seeing those cabins redone). We continue to see campers coming back year over year and bringing their friends. Our Camper-in-Training session was the first to fill up this year and seeing those excited 6-8 year old children loving camp and growing in faith just makes you excited for what God has in store for the future, knowing that even at that age He is growing up our camp's future leaders or directors.

In a world where it is easy to find a negative take on children and on the future, I am excited to be a small part of a place that brings out the best in people of all ages. Thank you to everyone who helps make this happen year over year. Your partnerships and investment into this ministry have heavenly impacts that cannot be measured.

OFFICE TEAM

Report from Nathan Driedger

This summer was a great season at camp for the office department. We had a great team that cooperated with the other departments well and got a lot of work done. Being my second summer on the island, it was very good to go into the season knowing both my job, as well as the people I was working with. In spring we had some fantastic people who ensured that the administrative side of camp ran well, and we also successfully completed another Manitoba Camping Association Accreditation.

Once again, over the summer months I got the pleasure of organizing and running the tuck shop, which meant that I got to interact with nearly every camper who attended a session. It always felt great to see all the campers lining up after lunch, excited to spend their credit on items and candy. It sure was a lot of candy!

It was also great to get to spend time working with some of the younger, short-term staff who expressed interest in what I was doing, be it in the office, tuck shop, or elsewhere. It was exciting to see those young people interested in the way camp works from the office perspective, and then asking to help with things like talking to boats on the radio, or simply counting candy in the tuck shop.

I am looking forward to seeing who God has planned to join me for the office team of 2020!



A THANK YOU: TO HANNAH & HER FAMILY!

In case you haven't heard, Hannah Mailloux decided it was time to leave her ministry position with MPC in October.

Hannah started volunteering in leadership roles in the summer of 2013 and joined our year-round staff team in 2016. Over these 7 years Hannah provided strong and effective leadership to our summer camp program, particularly Girls Camp and our LIT programs. Hannah also handled booking and communicating with Outdoor Education school rentals and managed the summer staff HR file.

But more than these roles, Hannah's presence and impact was felt in all areas of camp life as we live in community from May till Sept.

Hannah, you have left very large shoes to fill, your impact will live on in so many of the campers' lives, you will be missed, you are welcome to contribute in any way in the future, we wish you all of God's blessings, we want to say a heartfelt thank you.

Join with us in thanking Hannah for her years of ministry and service at MPC.

THE MINISTRY OF OPERATING CAMP

From Sharon Steward

This year, my eyes continued to be opened wider to the impact of our ministry on our staff and volunteers. As I saw people flourish in community, it was apparent that God brings the right people at the right time, both for camp, and for them personally. With builders and project volunteers who had never been to MacKinnon before (or since they were a camper themselves 30 years prior), it took them only a day or two to tell us that they were excited to be a part of what we do as a community. The hope for the future is clear, even to strangers when they experience being welcomed and cared for well.

I am in awe of God's provisions. We cannot do our jobs without some seriously committed people who come in the form of 4-month staff. This community is a space that has cultivated this generation of

leaders, and while there are cycles in our staff and volunteers' lives, what they do impacts more than just work accomplished, it changes lives forever. For example, this year nearly all young staff and volunteers could only remember camp with our family as a part of it. While this was our 8th season with InterVarsity, all we can do is praise God for how our work has shaped the young people who are eager and energized for service at camp. Our example of being like Christ has visibly rubbed off onto this generation, and it is thrilling to know what that means for our special community as we earnestly seek, plan and look to the future.

As my role changes over the seasons, during the summer months I oversee the three traditional departments of the operations: kitchen, childcare, and site. Many working in these areas are young people who are extremely committed to camp and our community. They have grown up as campers and want to be a part of the continuation of the steps we foster within our leaders as they transition from campers to Jr. Leaders and to Leaders. Others who come are adults who have had a lifetime of being a part of camp and possibly went through the stages of leadership, while others are brand new to camp and are eager to be a part of what their children have or are experiencing within our community.

This is why I see Culinary Ministry as so integral to what we do. While comradery bonds people together in the kitchen, we all are contributing to successful (and amazing btw) foodservice. The servant leadership displayed so naturally in this environment is contagious, and when I see my team members apply this to other aspects of life at camp and beyond, I know that God does truly multiply what we sow. While the food we provide fuels the work, the fun, and the learning that we all experience at camp, doing it well and with purpose, caring for each other so intentionally, this is setting us up for success in our ministry.



DIGGING INTO CAMP MINISTRY

Program report from Graham MacFarlane

This summer we began offering two-month contracts for about \$500 for summer staff who agree to spend the whole of July and August at camp. We gave out 15 two-month contracts, and we are very happy with the results. It meant that we had a much more consistent team over the course of the summer. This relieved some pressure of recruiting for staff from week to week, but more importantly it meant that the staff team is more experienced, better trained, more cohesive, and contributes to a culture of shared commitment.

Almost two thirds of our summer campers go on canoe trips as part of their experience at Pioneer. This means that staff training in the areas of tripping skills, as well as water rescue and first aid, remain a top priority. This season we stepped up our offerings of staff training trips by running three trips in the spring, two on the Manigotagan and one extended Long Circuit, which allowed every four-month staff the option of going on a training trip. We also included an overnight in our staff training week at the beginning of the July and ran JL trips for first-time leaders at Girls and Boys Camps.

Our camper numbers have held steady around the 600 mark for the last few seasons; this summer we had 594 campers, and these are good numbers related to our capacity.

The most important thing about this summer, though, is not what is particular to it, but what is common to every summer at Pioneer. We welcomed kids to the island and communicated the good news of Jesus Christ to them in an environment that is safe, fun, accepting, exciting, and challenging. We have done this for nearly eight decades, and this singular focus has neither wavered nor waned. And the real work involved in creating and sustaining such an environment falls on cabin leaders, who are teenagers and young adults. They are amazing. That doesn't change from year to year or decade to decade. Every summer, they pour themselves into the work, and the impact is incalculable.



COOKING FOR A COMMUNITY

Project report from Sharon Steward | *Project website www.volumecookbook.com*

As we celebrate two years since printing our camp cookbook, there is much to celebrate in this project which has reached to homes and other places around the globe. I am thankful to say that we have new listings and partnerships on a monthly basis, and I encourage you to log onto the cookbook's website to sign up for my Chef's Note email every month or so.

We continue to need your partnership raising awareness about this project that both raises funds which supports camp and raises awareness of this important ministry. Proceeds from the sales all go towards the culinary ministry at Pioneer Manitoba. Copies are \$35 online at www.volumecookbook.com or \$40 in stores around the country.





A SITE RENEWAL PROJECT

SITE RENEWAL UPDATE

Project report from Pete Dearborn, Generation to Generation Director

Project website: www.pioneercampmanitoba.ca/give/generation-to-generation

I am glad for the opportunity to bring you up to date on Phase 1 of our Generation to Generation site renewal plan in this edition of the Pioneer Press.

As you know, Phase 1 is a new build on the site of what was the Bunny Point Staff Lounge. This new building will be a Leadership Center, a very multi-purpose building for staff and rental groups. We have been working on site from the time the ice melted in early May until the first weekend in November when Shoal Lake froze again, in order to get as far as possible.

By many measures, we have made very impressive progress. When our spring staff team arrived in early May, we started by removing the old Staff Lounge before we could begin on the new. This included sorting and hauling away most of the old material. On the day the site was clear of the old building material, we started laying the concrete piles for the new. The Leadership Training Center is completed to the point that the next steps include installing windows, doors, and siding. It is fully closed in for the winter with a completed and insulated roof and openings covered. Our hope is to continue work as soon as the lake ice is ready to drive over.

We would like to have the building completed prior to summer next year.

Funding for the building is 85% in, with the total goal being \$250,000. We are eager to complete this project with both funding and the physical work. Plans for Phase 2 of Generation to Generation will be posted soon on the project's webpage. These are exciting times for MPC for sure!

Thanks to all who have contributed financial resources, volunteered to work, prayed for safety and provision, and have cooked for the workers. Much gratitude to the people who have provided professional skills. All of you have partnered together to make this feature building for MPC a reality. A special thanks to Herb Enns our architect, who has volunteered many hours of professional work. He has designed a building that communicates loudly so much about camp, our community, the future, and especially about Ralph Bueckert, as it is in his memory. When you see it, you surely will catch our vision for the future as we plan and renew the site to best serve the mission of camp. I personally, and all at Pioneer Camp Manitoba want to say a heartfelt thanks to all.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Early Registration
is now open, through
January 30!!**

January 17
Community Winter
Coffeehouse

March 21
Spring Celebration
Annual Fundraiser

Being shaped by God's word and led by the Holy Spirit, the purpose of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada is the transformation of youth, students and graduates, in all their ethnic diversity, into fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.

Are you following us on Social Media? Follow Pioneer Camp Manitoba, Generation to Generation, and Volume Cookbook on Facebook and Instagram where we share with our community the work that God is doing in our ministries.

*Photo credits: Aiden Ware (cover), Sharon Steward, Emily Stark
Editor: Sharon Steward
Designer: Thomas Murphy*

InterVarsity Pioneer Camp Manitoba is a ministry of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada.

PMB# 321, 30-360 Main St, Unit 13B
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3Z8
P: 204-788-1070
E: mpc@pioneercamp.ca
www.pioneercampmanitoba.ca

INTERVARSITY
PIONEER CAMP
MANITOBA 

THE
WINNIPEG
FOUNDATION 
For Good. Forever.

