



WE ARE CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!

A tiny white throated sparrow was startled. The immense quiet of the forest erupted into whoops and shouts as 57 small children came running and skipping down the single track road. He fluffed his feathers and flew up to a tall spruce tree to see what was going on.

It was summer of 1949 and these were the very first campers of this bold new enterprise called Camp Arnes. These brave little campers slept in tents and snacked on cookies sent by church ladies. They swam in the frothing waves, separately, of course, and played baseball in the huge meadow. These same children are now ready for retirement. Many of them made their first step of faith in the little white chapel and have lived a life of service and commitment to God.

That small chapel has been repurposed to an activity centre, the winding road has been widened to accommodate buses, vans and SUV's. The little plywood cabins though still in use, have given way to beautiful chalets and the efficient multi use Poplar Grove. The dining hall went from a screened wood floor building perched on the edge of the lake to an ultra modern gleaming dining hall. And so **THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.**

Perhaps the greatest shift has been in the clientele that calls Camp Arnes the place to be. From 98% German Mennonite to a multi cultural diverse group of campers and school groups, the camp has evolved to adapt and embrace all who desire an experience that takes them to the edge.

Although the outward form of the camp has changed, adapted and grown, the foundation and the values that govern that purpose have remained as bedrock. The same hope expressed in the tiny chapel in 1949 is the same theme in 2009 - "Be still and know that I am God". The expression and programming has undergone a huge change- from horseshoes and baseball to zip lines and paintball but the same guiding principle holds true. Camp Arnes was built to be a place to grow- in all aspects of life but most significantly in the heart toward God.

A magnificent red crested woodpecker concentrated on a tiny hole in the old spruce tree. He startled as something zinged past his tree. Kids flying through the air. He flapped his wings indignantly and flew up higher. Really, what will they think of next...

Irene Loewen, 60th Anniversary Committee Chair

Winnipeg Office • 1151 Henderson Hwy. • Winnipeg, MB R2G 1L5 • Ph. 204.338.4647 • www.camparnes.com
On Site Office • Box 40 • Arnes, MB R0C 0C0 • Ph. 1.888.642.7618 • arnes@camparnes.com



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



Who are the people in this picture?

Scott Kroeker, his wife **Donna (Labun)** and their three children ages 8, 10 and 12. They currently attend Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg.

Camp Resume

1987 - maintenance

1988 - Waterfront Staff

1989-1990 - Follow Up Program

Where are you now?

Scott is currently an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Manitoba, where he studies materials used for nuclear waste disposal, advanced batteries and artificial bone. His career has allowed him and his family to live and study in Halifax at Dalhousie, in California at Stanford and in the UK at Cambridge. Scott and his family continue to spend time in the summer at camp, staying in the cottage built by his great-grandfather, camp co-founder A.A. Kroeker.

Lasting Memory from Camp Arnes

“ The summer working on the waterfront led to close friendships that cannot spring up just anywhere. Living and working with a relatively small group of people in a fairly remote location enabled a depth and intimacy that is seldom encountered in adult life. People were simply accepted for who they were, and there was little need for posturing and maintaining personae. It was a unique opportunity to “simply be”, and build friendships with others who were discovering the same simplicity of being. ”

Who are the people in this picture?

Larry Kimber, his wife **Mieko** and their two sons **Zachary** and **Jacob**. They currently attend a small international church called Meinohama Christian Center.

Camp Resume

1985 - Counselor

1986 - CWP

1987 - Counselor

Where are you now?

After spending 2 months in Japan teaching English in 1988, Larry knew that he would someday have to return. Some years later, Larry returned and has been calling Japan home for the last 14 years. He is currently working at Fukuoka University teaching English as a Second Language.

Lasting Memory from Camp Arnes

“ I have many good memories of my three summers at Camp Arnes. One in particular is playing drums in the wigwam together with other members of the music team as the campers sang along to the lively praise and worship songs. The music during chapel times at Camp Arnes was always uplifting and I enjoyed contributing even though I wasn't that good. I still play the drums whenever there is an opportunity, and hope to always use whatever talents I have in serving the Lord. ”



Who are the people in this picture?

Gavin MacBeath, his wife **Michele (Waters)** and their three children **Andrew (9)**, **Heather (7)**, and **Meghan (5)**. They currently attend Hope Christian Church in Boston.

Camp Resume

1987 - 1991 - Counselor, Camp Seton, Follow Up Program, Outdoor Education, canoe trips, musical rides, vaulting shows, lifeguard, canoeing & kayaking instructor, Camp Craft, and archery.

Where are you now?

In 1992 Gavin and Michele headed off to California where Gavin received a PhD in Chemistry from Scripps Research Institute and Michele received a Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from San Diego State University. Currently Gavin is now an associate professor at Harvard University nearing the end of the tenure process and Michele works part time as a Speech Pathologist and homeschools their children.

Lasting Memory from Camp Arnes

“ Gavin's first response to this question was “my wife!” But I think that our time at Arnes has definitely shaped our involvement at our church, the activities we choose to do with our family, and the interests we pursue together. It was a time that helped us to develop and deepen our faith and learn to share it with others. There are moments that come up where we'll comment “Lily would be proud” (usually some outdoor skills task!) or relate it to some experience at Arnes. Because camp is where we met, and got engaged, Arnes will always hold a special place in our hearts. ”



THE YEAR-END APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to all those who helped make the Camp Arnes year-end appeal a success. Your generosity raised \$46,000 for operational expenses and \$50,000 for needed capital projects. Thanks to your support, Camp Arnes was able to eliminate a \$9,000 deficit, from the 2007 year. This deficit was part of a larger \$107,000 deficit; which was created from loss of revenue due to a human rights complaint in 2003. Since then we have been chipping away at this substantial financial challenge. We praise God for your support and His blessing on the camp! We also look forward to witnessing the impact your support will have in the lives of many campers.

William Wear, Executive Director



SUMMER STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Often times we forget about all the different ways that God is working at camp. It is really easy to see how camp impacts the lives of kids age 6-17, but there is a whole group of individuals whose lives are changed and impacted just as much. Our spring/summer staff also grow and change. Every year it is exciting to watch and see how God will move and work in the lives of our staff. Here is just one example of how spending a summer at camp impacts lives.

“ For me the summer at Camp Arnes was amazing! I had a lot of fun and I was blessed to get to know many wonderful people. I’ve never seen such a team spirit in a Christian community, supported by a common cheer and a great theme song.

But the things that made this summer precious were my experiences and adventures with just God and me. Never before had I felt his presence so near, where ever I went I could feel He was there with me. From the farthest point you could walk on the beach, back to the never ending path through the forest behind the Maintenance Shack, to the big field where I slept one night on a picnic table, to the new Chalet where I fell down the stairs while visiting the construction site on a dark weekend’s evening and even on the jogging path next to the highway. I could tell lots of stories about every little place at camp and write down every memory that comes to my mind. I have already written many pages of everything that I learned and what God did through and in me during this summer and I am still learning new things.

My internship at Camp Arnes made me different in a positive way. What I took back to Austria was a happy and thankful heart. I totally grew in my faith, self-confidence, adventurousness and I improved my cooking skills which later turned out to be essential at my first cooking exam in this school term. Thanks to everyone who worked at Camp Arnes, you all together made this summer so exciting! I really want to come back to work at camp again one day, although I don’t know when that day will be. ”

Simon Ehn, 2008 Summer Staff from Austria



NEW STAFF



We would like to welcome **Ang Ramsden** and **Nate & Julie Martin** to our camp family. Ang is joining us from BC and is serving as our Resource Coordinator. Nate & Julie come to us from Virginia. Nate is serving as our Horsemanship Director. We are excited to have these new faces at camp.

Mark your 2009 Calendars

- February 16 Work & Play
- March 28 Work & Play
- April 26 Wigwam in the City - Camper Style
- May 15-18 Homecoming Weekend
- May 21 is the 13th Annual Camp Arnes Golf Classic.
- May 30 Work & Play
- June 6 Clean & Green

Do you have a large appliance you are looking to donate? We are looking for well functioning & working Refrigerators, Stoves, and Washer & Dryers. If you have one you would like to donate please contact Zenon at 204-642-4269. Tax receipts will be given for your donation.

Join our Mailing List

Email:

If you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter, just log on to our website, look for the blue bubble and enter your email address. This is a great way to keep updated on what is going on at camp!

Campers age 11-15 don't forget to mark your calendars for Wigwam in the City - Camper Style on April 25, 2009. Check out our website for more details.

Come up to camp for a **Work & Play Family Day** on February 16, March 28 & May 30. This is a great time to get out of the city and work a little and play a little! Come for one or come for them all! Visit our website for more details.

Camp Arnes **Senior High Week** for ages 15-17 will be the last week of the summer August 24-28. We are looking forward to an awesome week. Look for registrations in the mail or call the camp office for more information.

YES! I would like to help continue the ministry of Camp Arnes!

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I have enclosed a gift of \$_____ to support Camp Arnes.

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