



November 2024

Wow, what a year! That is the general feeling among staff and volunteers that took part in our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the year of rental guests and campers. The year started with lots of winter fun. From hosting Ice Cap in January (Scouts annual weekend) and our annual Fishing Derby in February, to enjoying winter activities with schools and weekend groups. We hosted our third annual open house where many kids signed up for camp. We enjoyed meeting new people from our community that had never been to camp before. Thankfully the spring turnover was uneventful. We jumped into summer activities a bit early and had high ropes and zipline going in beautiful spring weather.

Then summer camp arrived! What an amazing transition it is to experience the buses pulling in with kids excited to be at camp. Some new kids with nerves and apprehension in their eyes, but by the end of the week there are new lifelong friendships made, new focus on Christ, and new eagerness for the future. We grew from 500 kids last year to over 700 this year. A healthy increase that allowed us to maintain our 6 campers to 1 cabin lead ratio. With strong Christian role models and great lesson plans, we saw many kids give their lives to Jesus, and some asking to be baptised in the lake. With lots of coordination with parents and churches we were able to host 7 baptisms this summer, 5 campers and 2 cabin leads. We were also blessed to invite and host church groups towards the end of summer – running family camps.

Transitioning out of summer camp, we jumped into preparing for the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration. And what a time it was! The board did an incredible job inviting guests and planning and organizing the event. We all felt the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the weekend. Friday night was a concert in the field at camp with the Christian band - Bread We Break. It was a beautiful calm evening and a full moon rising over the lake as Alexander Grant took the stage to speak to us between music sets. It was a glorious evening that only God could have supplied. Then Sunday! We held our 75<sup>th</sup> banquet with such a fantastic blend of alumni and young people. We set up a museum filled with pictures, documents and memories. The stories between friends and families were wonderful to hear! The day honoured the past and eagerly looked to the future. It was an incredible event. Thank you to all that worked hard to make the event happen and to donate to camp. Please check out some highlights online.

Will there be another 75 years? I believe the answer is YES.

Since reopening we have started a Bike Program that has grown each year. The young staff taking care of this program are very committed to seeing it grow. We now have animals in the barn that are staying year-round. We have two American Mini's and just recently two full size horses have arrived at camp. The horses and feed have been donated so it allows us to get back into a version of Horsemanship without the overhead. We continue to explore other summer camp programs such as Golf and wilderness camping. Summer camp continues to be the core of Camp Arnes.

The future depends on Gods grace and provision and on the prayer and financial support that you, our donor base, choose to give. In order to keep camper fees and rental fees as low as possible, we need your ongoing support for operations, maintenance and capital costs. Our goal for this fundraising season is \$250,000. We hope that you can help. We would like to encourage monthly giving and would ask that some of you consider this an option.

We are very grateful for the new relationships with our community including Hutterite communities, government, farmers, developers, retailers and contractors who donate food, supplies, equipment, money and volunteer time at camp. We are thankful for the faithful and steadfast supporters over many decades including donors, cottagers, volunteers and board members who give so much of their time, expertise and resources. We are so thankful to our summer and fulltime staff that faithfully serve each other and the community as we serve to God's honour and glory. We look forward to new and ongoing partnerships with many churches for camp leadership and possible new church camp during the summer.

Currently our camper ratio is approximately 65% inner city kids that need some form of financial support. We are so thankful to Sunshine Fund, Union Gospel Mission and a generous donor that help with partial camperships. We are continuously reminded that we are a mission field. Doing God's work as he has asked us.

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"**

Philippians 4:6-7

This verse and many like it have sustained us. The future can be worrying if we turn our eyes away from Jesus and dwell on the unknown. And yet we have seen camp growing steadily since we reopened in the spring of 2022. We recognize that the re-growth has not kept pace with the cost of running camp. We must pivot, retool and rebuild, and only spend what we receive. For this reason, some staff have been impacted and we will go through the winter with a minimum number of staff. We want to continue to be good stewards of the funds you share with us.

Each year we reach out to you, our supporters. We pray that this year you can choose to be extra generous to Camp Arnes. Our capital projects such as the pool renovations will need 1.2 million, which will also help improve our long-term revenues. We are actively pursuing donations and financing options to facilitate the re-opening of the pool and will prayerfully wait upon the Lord to see how He will provide.

The activities we undertake at camp may change, but the mission of camp remains unchanged: to let campers know they are loved by Jesus and us and that there is eternal benefit for kids hearing about the hope of Jesus love for us. Camp is possible because you care. 75 years ago, the prayer was to establish an outdoor space that was safe and exciting for young people. That prayer has not changed. And our mission has not wavered.

*To lead young people to a growing, meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ through adventure in creation.*

Please help us build the youth of today for a brighter tomorrow.

God Bless you as we enter the Christmas season. May the Glory of the Lord be upon you.

**Jim Croy**

*Executive Director*

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Four ways to give.

#### **Mail in Check**

Attention: Camp Arnes

Box 28009, RPO North Kildonan

Winnipeg, MB, R2G 4E9

**Online Giving** <https://camparnes.campbraingiving.com>

**e-transfer to** [accounting@camparnes.com](mailto:accounting@camparnes.com)

#### **Shares – Publicly traded securities**

Contact: John Wiens-BMO Nesbitt Burns

204-981-5676 cell [john.wiens@nbpcd.com](mailto:john.wiens@nbpcd.com)

Capital gains savings and a tax receipt. Camp Arnes will immediately sell donated shares and convert to money.