

# A Note from the Camp Chair



Dear friends of Cultus Lake United Church Camp:

When I think of the camp at this time each year, it reminds me of all the people that give of their time each year to ensure that each child who attends one (or more) of our four camps in the summer, will go home with great memories. Our 2006 children's camp had a record number of campers - we had 94% attendance which gave Cultus Lake United Church Camp the best attendance since the camp began back in 1930 at this location (the camp originally began at the north end of the lake in the late 1920's).

**Nancy Walker**, Executive Director directed our staff, councilors and crew for 2006. Nancy is a well-organized young lady, and she maintained perfect camp records, and during our accreditation visit by the BC Camping Association it was recorded by them Nancy's excellent work. We thank Nancy for a job well done!

It is with great pleasure that **Tawnie Hildebrandt** has accepted the position of Executive Director for the 2007 camping season. Tawnie has been with the camp for 7 years. Tawnie and her friend Erin Lillcrap developed the camping program by which the camp follows each year.

There is a very kind and generous gentleman – **Graham Wainwright** - who gives of his time each year to ensure that the camp staff have a adult that they may ask for advice and guidance, ensures that all campers receive their camper's T-shirt on registration day, helps to keep the ground lawns cut each week during the

summer, manages the camp when Karen & Don are away, and always helps on Fall & Spring Cleanups. We extended our heartfelt thanks to Graham for his 10 + years of service to the camp!

We have another outstanding gentleman, along with his friends from Rosedale United Church, who has been volunteering his time to the camp for 50 plus years. Remember that the camp has been in operation for approximately 77 years in this location. Mr. "CULTUS LAKE" **Don Rutley** has generously provided his knowledge and skills to the camp, the camp board of directors, and represents the camp at Fraser Presbytery Council. Don's love for the camp inspires everyone he comes in contact with to look and enjoy the beautiful and natural setting that God has given to us. Don from everyone at the camp, we say THANK YOU!

Anyone who has come to the camp over the last 5 years has always commented on how well the campgrounds and the buildings have been maintained - the cleanness of the dining hall, washrooms, the hospital and the cabins, the excellent shape that the campgrounds are maintained and the cleanliness of the waterfront. There is always a supply of chopped wood available for campfires, and there is always time to show new visitors around our beautiful campgrounds. **Karen Corbett**, Camp Manager accepted the position five years ago this November 2007 along with her husband **Don Corbett**, (Camp Manager, Vice President and Volunteer) to manage and care for the camp. Both Karen and Don give on the average of about 70 hours per week,

which is *far* more than they are paid for. They both have a strong love for the camp and its well being. Both Karen & Don were also responsible for the camp receiving full camp accreditation this past summer. Don has been involved with the camp for over 20 years and has held the position of Chairperson in the past. It is with sadness that I must tell everyone that Karen and Don will be retiring from both positions in the fall, after our Summer Camps have completed. Karen and Don will begin a new lifestyle traveling in their new camper van. They both have a passion for the outdoors and want to visit many of the sites that they have read about. Karen and Don, on behalf of the Camp Board of Directors - and all that have come in contact with both of you over the past 5 years - we THANK YOU for ALL THE HARD WORK, LONG HOURS and the LOVE that you have given the camp. May you enjoy a long and healthy retirement! There will be a bench placed near the waterfront in honor of your dedication to the camp.

The weather has presented our Camp with many challenges this past year – but **BE ASSURED** that we're **UP** and **RUNNING** and **READY to welcome all our campers for a Fun and Memory-Filled Camping Season at CULTUS LAKE UNITED CHURCH CAMP!!!** Our enthusiastic, energetic and dedicated staff and volunteers are very excited about the kids program for 2007~ ~ ~ we look forward to seeing you and your children very soon!

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 604.534.3427.

*Respectfully submitted -  
Dale Laycock, Chairperson  
Cultus Lake United Church Camp*



## Cultus Lake United Church Camp

*Creating friends and memories one child at a time.*

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2007

### Registrar's Report



Summer 2007 Camp is only a few short months away and we hope that your children (just like my own

daughter) are excited!! For my daughter Meaghan and her friend Maia, this is one of **the very best parts** of summer – coming for a week of fun at Cultus Lake United Church Camp!! When I asked Meaghan what she looked forward to most about camp, her answer was - - Cartoon Breakfast, Swimming in the Lake, Campfire and Making New Friends! When I asked Maia the same question, her reply included "At camp I really liked going swimming, doing scavenger-hunts, having a pajama day and that time when we had quiet time! Also it would be cool to have 2 more days at camp, to give

us more time to make stuff and get to know more people for friends". Wow – when kids don't want to go home and want to stay on at camp – you know they're in the right camp!!

My husband Dale and I have been involved with the camp for over 5 years now, and we truly believe that every child should have the opportunity to attend Cultus Lake United Church Camp each summer. It's a chance to "just have fun" – nothing to study, nothing to worry about, just a week to run, swim, climb, create, sing, dance, laugh, see old friends and make new ones! If you ever attended camp as a child yourself, you will know how the memories stay with you forever! Our Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers all work very hard to put into place a camp that your child will remember and talk about all year – and want to return to the next year as well!!

Parents often ask me "what if my child doesn't know anyone going to camp?" – don't worry one smidgen about that – I can assure you that by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> day your child will have made at least 7 new friends and be happy and smiling like crazy!! If your child does want to come with a friend, that's great too and we will do everything we can to put them in the same cabin.

For those kids in the age range of 9 – 12, there is an opportunity to attend Cultus Lake Camp twice each summer as we offer 2 Junior Camps – July 9-13 and July 22 – 27. We have several children who do this each summer . . . something to think about!

Have a fantastic summer and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

*Blessings,  
Naomi Laycock, Registrar*

# Counting the Days Until CLUCC 2007!!

Another camp season is quickly approaching and I couldn't be more excited! After being involved with the camp for the past seven years I'm excited to be taking on the new job of being this summer's Executive Director.

Camp is probably my favourite place in the whole world (and I've travelled to a number of far-off places) and I can't wait to share it not only with returning campers, but new ones as well. Last summer our camp had a record number of campers and it resulted in an absolutely fantastic camp experience for everyone involved. I can't wait to meet and get to know all of the campers who are going to be lucky enough to join us this summer at CLUCC.

While camp only lasts for a month, our program staff is already hard at work thinking up fun and creative weekly themes and especially new theme dinners! We're busy planning activities for a wide array of program areas including games, swimming, drama, canoeing and kayaking, arts & crafts and many, many more sessions that we'll save as a surprise for now.

We look forward to welcoming all of our campers to our daily Christian Education program where

campers will be treated to a wide array of activities including plays, games, crafts - all within our outdoor chapel.

And of course - camp wouldn't be camp without campfire! I can't wait to see and hear all of the campers joining in on classics like "Princess Pat" and "Boogaloo" and of course the huge camp favourite "Pharoah! Pharoah!" Also remember to brush up on those hidden talents you have, because we love to see campers share their unique gifts with us each week at the Talent Show!

After thinking about all these awesome activities I'm looking forward to a camping season that will be full of laughter, adventures and friendships. Can't wait to see you there!

*Tawnie Hildebrandt,  
Executive Director 2007*



## Personnel Report

Summer 2006 was a fabulous success! Or staff went above and beyond the call of duty all through the summer which was greatly appreciated and made for an excellent camp experience for all the children. I heard many positive comments about how our staff really worked well together to encourage and enhance each others skills and talents.

For 2007 Children's Camp, we are pleased to announce that Tawnie Hildebrandt will be our Executive Director. Tawnie is a school teacher and has been with the camp for seven plus years. Tawnie's staff will be the following personnel:

**Program Director**, Lisie Rathgeber  
**Asst. Program Dir.**, Kirstin Autio  
**Games**, Adam Dyble  
**Kayak/Canoes**, Cole VanDerHelm  
**Arts & Crafts**, Brittany Neufeld  
**Waterfront Dir.**, Laura Hall  
**Asst. Waterfront Dir.**, Amelia Stegman  
**Music Dir.**, Shannon Dyble

The camp still requires the following personnel: Cabin councilors, Crew, Cook's helper, Head Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cook & Registered Nurses (3). If you would like to apply for any of the positions listed, visit our web page [www3.telus.net/clucc](http://www3.telus.net/clucc) or contact myself (604-798-0254).

*Yours in camping, Kelly Corbett*

## Managers' Message

The wonderful warm and sunny 2006 year made it nice for the rental campers. We had a few less groups but some larger groups so the numbers of people here were more than the 2005 year.

### Some of the highlights were:

A new roof, floor and painted walls on Dogwood Cabin (thanks to Carman United who had adopted this cabin)

A new Greenhouse tent that everyone loved as it was so bright and gave a great dry area to gather in

Very successful Summer Youth Camps where many young people had a wonderful experience of church camping.

### Some of the challenges were:

The fire on May 3/06 where the Recreation Hall burned down, due to a chimney fault. The process of going through the loops of rebuilding has been a huge challenge that hopefully will be overcome soon. We look forward to a new Recreation Hall in 2007.

November 15/06 brought the first of many **WIND STORMS** that have caused a lot of damage around camp and lots of cleanup needed. The new greenhouse tent had 2 maples trees come down on it, tree damage to the roof of Chum's cabin and the Pump house plus tree damage to a skylight over the women's washroom. More trees or parts of trees came down all around



the camp. Our driveway, into the camp, was blocked by 8 trees after a bad wind storm.

The chainsaw has been our best-used tool this fall and winter. We look forward to getting a couple more roofs re-shingled this spring.

Donations of money or time to the camp are so appreciated to help with some of these extra expenses this year. Blessings to you all.

*In camping...  
Karen & Don Corbett, Managers*

## CAMP PROGRAM

The camp program includes such activities as crafts, hiking, swimming, canoeing, outdoor games, campfire, singing and worship and may include overnight hikes and/or water-skiing. Activities are designed to take advantage of our beautiful waterfront setting.

We hope that the camping experience develops friendships, appreciation for nature and the understanding of God in the world.

The program for each camp session is designed around age appropriate activities.

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Cultus Lake United Church Camp offers a dynamic training program for those aged 16 years and over who would like to volunteer at camp. Participants are trained in leadership skills and the responsibilities of being a volunteer. Leaders for our summer program are selected on the basis of camp needs and maturity.



(Please note that participation in the Leadership Training Program does not guarantee that you will be chosen to lead.)

## Our Mission Statement

- *To provide an opportunity for campers to develop physically, emotionally, and spiritually in a safe and Christian environment.*
- *To enable campers to have fun and adventure in a setting of nature, God's creation.*
- *To further the outdoor ministry of the United Church of Canada.*

# 2006 Summer Camp Report

The Board of Directors has been asked to report on “the ministry of the camp and the spiritual nature of the program” as well as to evaluate “the spiritual health of the camp” for those attending this summer.

Overall we, the Board of Directors, believe that this summer’s camp was one of the best and that the spiritual health of the camp is excellent and getting better every year.

We would like to organize our report by looking at how well this summer fulfilled our Camp Mission Statement:

*To provide an opportunity for campers to develop physically, emotionally, and spiritually in a safe and Christian environment*

*To enable campers to have fun and adventure in a setting of nature, God’s creation*

*To further the outdoor ministry of the United Church of Canada.*

We believe that the corner stone to a healthy camp for campers is a well-prepared and dedicated staff that run the camp and take care of the campers. We have included the weekly plans for the five weeks of the camp in order to show the thoroughness of preparation and creative vision that goes into the planning for the camp.

We are truly blessed with Nancy Walker, Executive Camp Director, Tawnie Hildebrandt, Program Director and Elisa Rathgebar,

Assistant Program Director. These three women worked many hours before camp began to set up the framework for this summer’s camp.

**Training Week** was an essential week for all the staff to come together, get to know each other, and build trust that together they could “survive” whatever presents itself to them. This was an intense week to cover all the topics indicated in the Training Week Session List. This summer was a special challenge in that there were many new counselors this year who were not familiar with the camp.

The main purpose of this week was to help the staff find within them their own strengths and weakness; their own sacredness. Kirstin Autio and Sarah Callander, the Christian Education leaders focused on “how to overcome anxiety and worries about being a counselor by using God, teamwork, and faith. This week laid the foundation for the four weeks which followed.

Each week of camp is organized in the same way. There is an overall theme through which Christian education (EDGE), daily sessions of games, boats, drama, waterfront, arts and crafts, and all other activities are developed. Kristin and Sarah prepared the EDGE programs and worked with the other activity directors to integrate each week’s theme into the camp program. This year’s themes were fantastic.

**Week 1** was Junior Camp with (60) 9 to 12 year olds. The theme for the week was “The Amazing Race” or “Amazing Grace”. The theme was explored in EDGE held (9:00 to 10:00 am) each morning. Kirstin and Sarah chose the concept of teamwork. They talked with the campers not only about their teams with friends/family/ etc., but also about God being on their team. They reported that the: “campers really seemed to enjoy all of the activities, games, and crafts that were provided during sessions and many of them visibly improved their teamwork skills throughout the week”. In addition, the campers’ singing this week was absolutely amazing!

**Week 2** was Primary Camp with (50) 6 to 9 year olds. The theme was “It’s a Jungle in Here!” During EDGE, the first half of the week focused on Moses and his journey and then the second half of the week focused on Jonah and his journey. The main idea was how sometimes our adventure might be tough but God is there, how everyone’s adventure is unique, and how we learn lessons from our adventures. One of the highlights was a skit of Jonah and the whale performed on the water by the staff. The campers learned that coming to camp is a new adventure where they can have fun and learn many new skills.

**Week 3** was Junior 2 Camp with (65) 9 to 12 year olds. The theme was “Out of this World!” The focus for this week for EDGE was miracles and miraculous events in the bible. The staff performed some skits such as breaking open a paper maché rock filled with water to show water from the rock, walking on a frozen tub of water to show walking on water etc. The campers really understood the theme and were enthusiastic about the activities. The campers were encouraged to see miracles in everyday life around them. This week helped the campers think in ways they don’t normally think and to appreciate God’s wonders.

**Week 4** was Teen Camp with (64) 13 to 18 year olds. The theme for this week was “Back to the Future”. The campers were taken on a journey into the past to see where and whom we come from, then into the future to see where we are going, and finally to the present to remember to stay in the now. The staff modified the program as they found the campers were not ready to participate in some of the Spiritual Practices Stations that were originally planned. The Agape Meal and Secret Friends activities were highlights.

The **Overnight Out Trip** in Junior 2 and Teen Week was a highlight for many campers. They hiked up to the Boy Scout Camp, cooked

their food over an open fire, shared a campfire, and slept under the stars. This was experiencing God’s beauty at its best. Adam Dyble did a great job of running the two out trips this summer.

These few notes only hint at the many ways that the campers developed physically, emotionally and spiritually in the beautiful setting of Cultus Lake. We hope that many of these campers will return each year and then take on the responsibilities of leading the next generation of campers as their counselors and the staff has done for them. In this way the outdoor ministry of the United Church of Canada will continue to grow.

## OVER 50 YEARS OF THIS AND THAT

Don Rutley has been closely connected with Cultus Lake United Church Camp for over fifty years. One of his earliest memories is going up to the camp for a day to cut the summer’s firewood for the camp from the grove of Alder trees by the lake where the lone apple tree now stands.

For several summers in the early 50s, Don and his wife, Nell, and other members of the Rosedale Church rented a bus and took the children up to the camp for a day. Over the years this evolved into the Rosedale-Agassiz congregations renting the camp for a full week. Grandchildren are now enjoying this special week at camp with their parents and grandparents.

Over the years Don and various work crews have worked on many projects to keep the camp running. The beautiful Alder Cabin is a result of the Rosedale congregation adopting this cabin to fix up. Roof repairs, stump clearing, and general maintenance have all been part of the on-going work.

Don joined the Camp Board over twenty years ago and was involved in staffing, the writing-up of job descriptions and the first camp manual. He is currently the Board representative at Fraser Presbytery. In his modest and sincere way, Don has been an integral part of the enduring success of the camp.

Last August a garden and bench were dedicated to Don in recognition and appreciation for over fifty years of commitment to Cultus Lake United Church Camp.

