

Winter/Spring 2016



News and updates from the greatest camp on the planet!!!

The Can-Aqua News

The Turkey Boys



For those who missed out, on the last day of Session #3 this year, after popular demand, a live performance from some of Can-Aqua's most talented kids, took place beside the basketball court. Performing the hit Backstreet Boys tune "I want it that way", the Wild Turkey's blew the crowd away as they reprised their Gold Winning performance from Air Bands earlier in the week. Everyone agrees, these boys are going places!

Thanks for another terrific summer Can-Aqua!

Heading into the winter season, the year round staff team at Can-Aqua are still riding high after a summer season where everything simply "Clicked". In it's wake, it is my hope that every camper who shared in the adventures of camp feel better for the time they have spent with us and have maintained a sense of pride and accomplishment for everything they achieved. With the winter season upon us, I hope everyone will sit with eager anticipation for the arrival of next summer, when we can return to the shores of Beaver Lake and do it all over again.

While perfection is hard to achieve, I relish in the fact that each year we strive to be the very best at camp. The 2015 summer was one where creativity was contagious and adventure abounded. Looking back on it now, I am incredibly proud of our community...the campers, leadership candidates and staff that make up camp each session, for the **passion, adventure and grit**



they demonstrated throughout the summer. Risks were taken, cooperation went viral and at the end of each session, so many kids we're called up to shake the "Golden Hand" ~ Which is our unique way of recognizing the achievements of our campers, leadership candidates and staff members.

Thanks so much for the millions of memories. I am both honoured and humbled for the privilege I am given each year to be the Camp Director of such an inspiring place.

~ Marty

Additions to Camp in 2015.

There was so many reasons to get excited at camp this summer!

1. 8 SUP Boards - After a successful introduction in 2014, we decided to move forward with a full fleet of Stand up Paddle Boards. Our 10 boards provide a perfect activity period for leisure or endurance challenges.
2. Our new Canoe/Kayak Area - With the addition of SUP, our boat beach was crowded. As a result, we have expanded our water front area and added a floating dock and teaching area to the west side of the boat house. The addition was a welcome change to the area.
3. The Mud Pit - 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, our new mud pit became a big part of the Can-Aqua Games, challenges and cabin based programs. Who knew mud would be so much fun?
4. Program Additions to keep kids engaged - This year welcomed the introduction of some exciting new arts programs as we launched Screen Printing and Clay. We also challenged kids in "Fitness" and sparked their creative genius through the use of Lego.
5. Hammock Hang Outs - Creating interesting spaces was a major focus for us in 2015. With the success of our hammock hangouts, campers can look forward to a few more spots popping up in the boys and girls cabin areas. They offered great spaces to to wind down with friends at rest hour or during free time.



The Masters of Malarkey ~The Staff of 2015

In June each year our camp staff return to camp prior to opening and all take part in summer staff training. It is during this week of training that we review camp policies and procedures, as well as program instruction, and counselling skills. In addition to these crucial sessions, a big part of the week focusses on team building and staff dynamic.

In 2015, our theme for staff training week surrounded around the idea of becoming a motorcycle gang. As the week went by, each member was indoctrinated into "The Masters of Malarkey" a gang committed to all things creative, inclusive and unforgettable.

It was clear from the beginning that this summer was going to be something remarkable and our Gang did not disappoint.

Family Camp Weekends Explode

With over 50 families taking part in the Family Camp weekends at Can-Aqua, the family camp programs are here to stay. A great weekend for kids of all ages (that means parents too!) our spring and summer options were a terrific success. Looking towards the summer ahead, we are excited to announce that we will be adding another weekend to the schedule this coming spring. We'd love to see your family there!

02 The Can-Aqua News

The Gyori Health & Wellness Centre Breaks Ground This Spring

A memorial dedication 5 years in the making, we are excited to be engaging our alumni, families and friends in this exciting project in honour of of camp founder, Lou Gyori.

Can-Aqua plans for something remarkable for the health and wellness of our campers.

In memory of our founder, Camp Can-Aqua has committed to move forward on building a new health and wellness centre to commemorate our camp founder, Louis Gyori.

Initially the home and office for Lou as he started to build the camp we now know and love, our health centre is in need up improvements as we continue to strive for excellence in camping.

The decision to build a new health centre in his honour has been a planned and intentional one. Lou lived life to the fullest and was committed to healthy living. Active both on land and water and often seen bare footing across Beaver Lake, Lou had a spark for life. His focus on fitness and nutrition was decades ahead of the curve and his passion to instil a healthy lifestyle in everyday of camp was evident. Situated in the heart of our Camp, the new "Gyori Wellness Centre" will keep the memory of Lou at our core and will ensure his presence continues to be felt.

We hope all who have been touched by Lou will join the effort in building this new health centre. There are many ways to support and we've been blown away



from all the contributions of time, materials and money we have received to date. Full details regarding the fundraising campaign for the Centre have been posted on our website in the "Alumni" section.

Remembered by his staff and campers with love and admiration, one said:
"Louis Gyori is a man that inspired me . . . The world would be a greater place if everyone could be like Louis and although it isn't possible we can all try and try to help others see life like he did."

Mark June 25th on your Calendars...

In addition to the building itself, time and attention is going to be put into the landscape around the building. With an interest in alumni engagement, this work will be taking place over our Alumni weekend in May of 2016.

A ribbon cutting ceremony has been planned for June 25th and all are invited to attend and take part in this very important dedication as we honour the roots of Can-Aqua and the man who started it all.

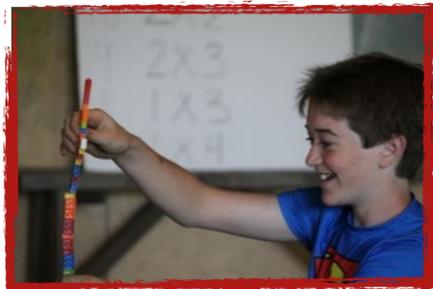


The old health centre was one of the original buildings at Can-Aqua.



If you build it, they will come.

But if you let them build it...the possibilities are endless!



If you built it, they will come...but if you let them build it, the possibilities are endless!

Camp Can-Aqua unveiled its extraordinary new Lego program this year. With over 150,000 colourful pieces of the beloved toy that spans generations, campers were able to construct and create beyond their wildest imaginations. Our Lego program offers an interesting opportunity as an alternate creative outlet for many campers who hesitate to sign up for traditional arts and crafts activities. Lego challenges have also intertwined themselves into other areas of

camp-life; including team-building programs, Cabin Unity events and even as a major competition in the Can-Aqua Games. Lego has also been a huge hit during our spring and fall programs. Every school group that visited camp this year insisted on including our Lego Leadership program into their activity schedule.

This program provides opportunities for kids to participate as individuals or work together as a team, as they work to overcome obstacles in communication, leadership styles and building parameters.



Scott Graham is the Director of Education and Leadership at Camp Can-Aqua.

My Grandson's First Taste of Camp. By: Al King

Not many counsellors . . . I'm thinking none . . . get the opportunity to bring their grandson to camp. But for me, Camp Can-Aqua's oldest activity camp counsellor, that is exactly what happened. Jack turned five in August making him "eligible" for day camp. It was hard to tell who was more excited, Jack or me!

Jack was looking forward to camp for some time, if he had any fears or concerns about the first day, he didn't show it. Of course he had the advantage of having a grandfather, mother and uncle go to Camp Can-Aqua before him and he has heard many stories about camp life.

"Can I go to the Lego Room?" asked Jack, the moment he met Emily, the Day Camp Activity Counsellor. Playing tag, swimming and making maps all came first! When I heard the squeal of kids in the Rec Hall later in the day, I just had to check in on them . . . instead of being engrossed in Legos (that's what I expected) there was a floor hockey game in

progress. Seeing me, Jack stopped, came over and told me "Papa, this is a serious game!" He was easily the smallest and youngest, yet the others treated him like an equal and were making sure he was involved.

In just three days we saw Jack's confidence around the water soar. Alison, his mother, reported how much better he was in the pool and how he 'taught' his younger sister how to swim. The Can-Aqua counsellors Jack encountered made sure he had a great time learning new skills and activities but letting him think he was just having fun!

In preparation for writing this story, I asked Jack what his favorite activity at camp was, again expecting Legos to be high on the list. His answer . . . "playing floor hockey with the other kids."

His one regret, couldn't do the sleep over and stay for the last day.



Al King is a guiding light across all areas of camp. Most notably, he is our AC of Woodwork.

03 The Can-Aqua News

What the Award of Merit Means to me...

By: Sarah Kitching

The summer of 2015 was one of the best that I have ever had at camp. Not only was it my LIT year, which is something I had looked forward since I first started coming to camp, but it was also the year I obtained my "Award of Merit". I remember wondering as a younger camper "how on earth does anyone get the highest awards in four different activities?!!" My answer is simple. Once you find your favourite things to do at camp, earning the awards becomes easy. When you love an activity so much, you want to learn how to do it all. Whether it is dropping a ski or hitting a bullseye in archery, practicing the skills you love and challenging yourself to improve becomes a lifestyle.

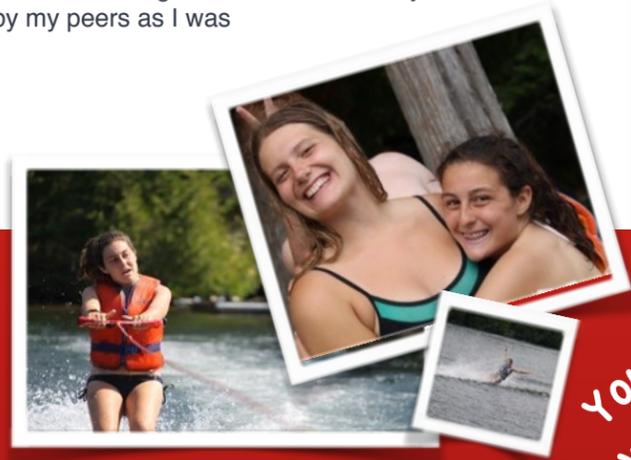
Throughout my years at camp, as I've worked to earn awards in my favourite activities, I have sailed a canoe across the lake with a handmade sail (made by me!). I've learned how to do a one-eighty on trick ski's and cooked (and unfortunately eaten) hotdogs in an underground natural oven. Through it all, I connected with a ton of fellow campers and counsellors with similar interests.

You can get multiple awards in a single summer, but obtaining the highest awards in four activities will take some time. Each award comes with its own excitement. Whether you're working on your first award in Kayak in year one, or your fourth award in Campcraft during your fifth summer, receiving an award card is something to be proud of. When you stick with it and work hard, all those efforts add up and eventually become "Merit". Once you finally earn it, after setting goals and achieving them, I can confirm that without a doubt, it is the best feeling in the world. I actually cried tears of joy ~ no lie. Getting that gorgeous Merit plaque made by AI and being cheered on by my peers as I was recognized was amazing.

Every time I look at the beautiful plaque hanging on my wall it reminds me of all my years of fun memories I've shared with the most spectacular people at Can-Aqua. Those memories are worth every bit of work I put in.

Awards of Merit, Participation & Positivity are a big part of the Can-Aqua experience!

Everyday at camp, kids choose their own adventure. It is a model we are very proud of and one that allows campers the freedom to be actively engaged all day, everyday. At the end of each session, those who have been successful in demonstrating specific skills in all activities are invited to stand and "Shake the Golden Hand". In 2015, we are thrilled to have a record number of award recipients! Skill development...fun...and friendships are the core of the camper experience.



You got it...
Way to go!!!



AWARDS in 2015!!!

Can-Aqua Games Update

It's such a treat to be a part of the enthusiasm and energy of the Can-Aqua Games. Each team should be proud of their efforts. Both the Games and Council were spellbinding in 2015!!!

The session winners are as follows:

- Session 1 - SOLARIS
- Session 2 - TERRUS
- Session 3 - SOLARIS
- Session 4 - SOLARIS

Abbot, Victoria	Bow	Goodman, Zach	Flipper	Kitching, Sarah	Survival, Squall, Gold Basic, Merit	Rachman, Riley	Bow, Dolphin
Acero, Pheonix	Woodsman	Goz, Logan	Stern, Trail Maker	Kurcharic, Avery	Bow	Ralph, Avery	Wanderer
Adamowicz, Matt	Feather	Grant, Perri	Bronze Knee Board	Laporte, Brayden	Woodsman	Ralph, Grace	Scavenger, Wanderer
Adams, Lana	Slalom	Greenwood, Abby	Bow	Laporte, Lauren	Bronze Ski	Rice, Morgan	Woodsman
Brennan-Peeters, Sebastian	Feather	Greenwood, Max	Dolphin	Leahy, Brady	Flipper	Roccio, Patrick	Bronze Wakeboard
Bilodeau, Antoine	Feather	Grierson, Alex	Feather	Loh, Maya	Feather	Santos Burgoa, Andreas	Feather, Flipper
Bird, Devynn	Bow, Stern	Grierson, Dominik	Flipper	Lofthouse, Freddie	Bow	Santos Burgoa, Danielle	Beach Board
Braznick, Jules	Bow	Grist, Nathaniel	Trail Maker	Lock, Jovelle	Hawkeye, Bow	Schooley, Michelle	Wanderer
Brooks, Connor	Otter, Skeg, Golden Skirt	Grist, Shane	Feather	Leaman, Zachary	Feather	Seabrook, Tucker	Rugged
Burnham, Holden	Stern, Flipper, Dolphin	Grothe, Silvia	Wanderer	Lown, Abby	Bow Paddler	Seely, Lilah	Bow
Cassie, Ryan	Bronze Knee Board	Gubarev, Andrey	Bow	Lown, Kate	Scavenger, Wanderer	Somes, Ryan	Bow, Stern, Silver Ski
Cassie, Nathan	Tail Maker	Gunton, Ben	Flipper, Bow, Rugged	Moreau, Nathan	Wet Exit	Tandon, Maxim	Stern, Flipper
Cha, Nic	Bronze Knee Board, Feather, Silver Basic	Gunton, Will	Bow, Rugged	Maddock, Alex	Scanvenger, Trail Maker	Tektunali, Nico	Hawkeye
Champion, Raphael	Trail Maker	Gwozdz, Ben	Feather	Madou, Morgane	Feather	Therrien, Jeremie	Feather
Chan, Cheuk Hei	Feather	Halliday, Colin	Wet Exit, Ranger	Madou, Sarah	Feather	Thomas, Charlotte	Admiral
Chan, Long Him	Feather	Heath, Jayden	Rugged	Maclean, Emma	Wanderer	Thomas, Hannah	Flipper
Crawford, Sarah	Stern, Trail Maker	Heath, Tanner	Rugged	Mandarano, Adam	Bow	Visser, Anne	Wanderer
Davidson, Jack	Trail Maker	Hildebrand, Macrae	Slalom	Marin, Alex	Bronze Ski, Feather, Bow, Sharpshooter	Vogel, John	Sharpshooter
Distefano, Sara	Trail Maker	Heyink, Ayden	Sharpshooter	Maxwell, Patrick	Flipper, Wet Exit	Wakefield, Alex	Chieftain
Distefano, Luke	Woodsman	Hurley, Jenna	Bow	Mackay, Taylor	Bow, Trail Maker	Wakefield, Andrew	Bow, Stern, Pirate, Chieftain, Sharpshooter
Dobrijevic, Isabella	Bow	Huschilt, Kaya	Flipper	Mcallister, Wyatt	Feather	Wakefield, Tom	Pirate
Drolet, Simon	Bow	Hutchinson, Peter	Feather	McEnry, Peter	Trail Maker, Admiral	Wang, Gavin	Trail Maker, Bronze Knee Board, Sharpshooter
Englund, Joel	Stern	Irwin, Hayden	Trail Maker	Myeongjun, James	Feather	Williams, Michael	Trail Maker
Fiorelli, Taylor	Bronze Knee Board, Trail Maker, Feather	Jean, Felix	Silver Ski	Ogren, Samantha	Flipper	Wilson, Aiden	Bow
Forth, Asha	Flipper	Jose, Eric	Flipper, Bow, Rugged	O-Riordan, Jacob	Beach Board	Woodlock, Quinn	Bow, Flipper, Wet Exit
Fowler, Luke	Bow, Stern	Kaplan, Art	Rugged	Pears, Sean	Silver WakeBoard, Trail Maker	Wootton, Mary	Trail Maker
Girard, Sadie	Rugged Award	Kelly, Nikki	Gold Knee Board	Plana, Nil	Feather	Wylie-Kos, Tyrese	Chieftain
Girard, Elliot	Trail Maker	Kepa, Francis	Trail Maker	Poltoranos, Andrew	Trail Maker, Bronze Knee Board	Zelmer, Ethan	Feather
Gilhooly, Brendan	Hawkeye, Pathfinder, Beach Board	Kershaw, Andrew	Rugged	Poltoranos, Derek	Flipper	Zulian, Liam	Woodsman, Otter, Hawkeye, Silver Ski

04 The Can-Aqua News

A Family Affair. To Can-Aqua from Around the World!

I have just come back from my third summer at Can-Aqua. It was my first as a camp counsellor and I can genuinely say I enjoyed every second I spent with staff and campers on beautiful Beaver Lake. My experiences have so deeply affected me that I know Camp will always be a huge part of my life.

My sister Lana and I are the second generation of my family to experience Can-Aqua. In 1987, after taking a waterski course in Northern Ontario, my aunt Edwynna Pickersgill, (now Adams) was offered a job at a promising summer camp that specialized in Waterskiing. Seeing the opportunity to work at camp as an exciting challenge, she quickly fell in love with her job as a ski instructor, so much so, that she recommended it to my Dad, Stuart Adams. In 1989, after a few letters back and forth to Lou, he spent the summer of 1989 on Beaver Lake and then pointed my uncle Brad there 1991. Can-Aqua had become a "family affair".

Growing up my Dad used to tell me stories about his experiences at camp. Life on the lake, skiing everyday and the endless chants and cheering as kids sang in the dining hall at each meal. It was apparent how important that experience was for my Dad. He always told Lou that one day he would bring his kids back to camp to meet him. In the fall of 2010, we received an email informing us that Lou has passed away. I didn't get a chance to meet him.

In the winter of 2011 (summer in Canada) our family went on an overseas holiday and involved a camp session at Can-Aqua. It was exciting to finally be a part of the environment my Dad had



talked about. My sister Lana and I loved it so much that we were lucky enough to be sent back by ourselves in 2012. At the end of that summer, my love of camp was even stronger and I told everyone that I would be back in 3 years as a counsellor. Because the Australian school year runs through the Canadian summer, I needed to finish my last 2 years at high school and a holiday in the middle just wasn't an option. I never forgot the promise I made, and after graduating from high school, I took a gap year, deferred my university studies and got on a plane; I was returning to Can-Aqua as a counsellor. The first day I saw the friends I'd made at camp 3 years earlier was one of the best ever. Time had passed but it was as though we never left off. That experience taught me to never underestimate the power of friendship!

My time as a counsellor at camp this past summer was one of the best experiences of my life. Being

able to experience teaching a sport I love (waterskiing) and seeing kids learn, grow and develop was enormously rewarding. There are so many aspects of camp that shape you as a person in your everyday endeavours and teach you so many great life skills. Camp also gives you the opportunity to make friends from all over the world. I'm incredibly grateful that my Dad was able to share his love of camp with my sister and I and I have no doubt that Lana will follow in my footsteps after she finishes high school. Just remember that no matter how far away you are from somewhere you love and care about, if you work hard enough and want something bad enough, you can always follow your dreams to do the things you love.

**By: Jacob Adams
Counsellor/Instructor**



Congrats to Ella Schoep

We are really proud to share a success story about one of our campers. This past fall, Ella Schoep won an award for a poem she wrote about her experiences at Can-Aqua and on the importance of camp. Way to go Ella!!!

The Alumni Work Weekend

As we work towards getting our alumni re-connected to camp, in 2016 we will be hosting an Alumni & Friends Work Weekend. The weekend is an opportunity for folks to connect to camp, while also helping open Can-Aqua for the year.

This years weekend is scheduled for May 6th - 8th, 2016. With lots to do related to our new Health Centre and camp in general, we'd love to see you there!

In Search of References!

Can-Aqua is looking for parents interested in speaking with other parents who are new to camping and wanting another parents perspective on the Can-Aqua Experience. Interested? Send us an email as we'd love to add you to our list of referees!



Important Dates to Remember:

- **Monday, February 1st, 2016**
Last day of savings, for incentive rate.
- **Sunday, February 14th, 2016**
Shake away your winter blues at the Camp Can-Aqua Club Med Beach Party in Toronto!!!
- **Sunday, May 1st, 2016**
Full fees are due for 2016.
- **June 10th - 12th, 2016**
First Spring Family Camp.
- **June 25th, 2016 - RSVP**
Dedication Ceremony of The Lou Gyori Health and Wellness Centre
- **June 24th - 26th, 2016**
Second Spring Family Camp
- **September 2nd - 5th, 2016**
Summer Family Camp

A special thanks to Camp Can-Aqua's greatest assets...our people!!!

Sure we have a stunning property, remarkable facilities and a private lake fit for Kings and Queens, but those assets are worthless without the passion, dedication and hard work of our staff & volunteers. A very special thanks goes out to them all for their work over this past season. It was truly incredible!

FULL TIME STAFF

Andrew Martin
Mike Somerville
Scott Graham
Al King
Anne Whitehead
Dan Bierworth

SEASONAL STAFF:

Meaghan Kimball
Corinna Lee
Emily Dance
Alida Lacobellis
Sarah Mitchell
Lauren Rosentzveig
Derek Lukosius
Lee Alton
Will Stewart
Eric Schooley

Mello Belanger
Adam Swithinbank
Chris Boulton
Claire Frizelle
Jacob Adams
Kerra Shukster
Joe Comi
Elena Garcia del Rio
Alex Churchill
Eddie Miles
Emilie Moffit
Niki Bayat
Simon Harminc
Jacob Neufang
Heikkila Wootton
Emily Plummer
Michele Curry-Stevens
Jon Nunno
David Phung
Niam Mossop
Robin Corbridge
Rogan Johnston
Jenna Wilcox
Stephen Scanlan
Ben Banfield
Zoe Arcand
Reece Spalding

JRC's of 2015
Nick Maddock
Cam Hamilton

Isaac Lalonde
Quinn Johnston
Jacob Robitaille
Cooper Diemer
Andrew Elder
Quincy Brown
Greg Brooks
Kait Armstrong
Kayleigh Gray
Meghan Gray
Donna Bayat
Jill Merkley
Gillian Playfair
Annie Pier
Royer
Liz Phung
Patti Gomez

