



SPRING 2009

SURVIVOR

We are so LUCKY!

This year is off to a great start for Camp BUCKO! We held our first Teen Retreat for our senior campers and you can read about it and see pictures in this edition of **SURVIVOR**. We are lucky to get the loyal and generous support of donors who understand how important the Camp BUCKO programs are to young burn survivors. We couldn't do it without them.

Nancy

BUCKO Family Camp

Dear Camp BUCKO

Well we had a great weekend and I wanted to write a letter of thanks to everyone for it! Our visit to Camp BUCKO had to be the most eye-opening, life-changing thing we have done as a family since Jordan's burn accident. It was really nice to be in a place where every family has been through or is going through what you are, to share stories of the sadness and to see the kids play as friends with no regard to the way that they looked despite sometimes horribly disfiguring injuries was so bittersweet. We were welcomed as old friends to a place where we had never been before by families who had never met us simply because we all share that one common bond, our burn survivor children. So many sad stories but yet it was a joyful weekend! The most wonderful thing of all is my kids all treated every child there with full respect and didn't even seem to notice their injuries which I didn't doubt they would but they have never seen injuries like Jordan's on other parts of people's bodies and the incredible damage it can do.

Camp itself was great, the KOC where it is held is breathtaking with acres of unspoiled wilderness surrounding a beautiful small lake full of fish. We canoed to watch beavers living at one end of the lake and we all got to fish for bass, Jordan caught 2 of them! We hiked the trails and we learned to use a bow, Jordan loved that and was a natural at it. The kids also did the climbing wall and the high ropes.

The kids loved the food and that there was a hot chocolate machine that made instant hot chocolate all day long with the push of a button. Parting was so sad as no one wanted to leave and now we eagerly wait for spring for the next camp to get here.

As there is always a need for donations, Gregg, my husband, and I have decided that all of our fund-raising efforts will go to Camp BUCKO since it will play such a big role in our son's and many other children's lives as they learn to live with the scars left by their accidents. What a truly wonderful place!

I thank all who are involved with this program for giving all of these children a safe haven where they can experience life as a kid away from the unfortunate cruelty that exists in our world today.



Cyndi canoeing with her family.

Cyndie Baker



Jordan learning to shoot an arrow!



BUCKO Family Camp September 2008



BUCKO Family Camp

We are excited to tell you that there will be 2 Family Camps this year.

May 16, 17, & 18
September 18, 19, & 20

IAFF National Camp

In the fall of 2008, I along with Branden had the incredible opportunity to attend the IAFF National Burn Camp in Washington DC as representatives of Camp BUCKO. It was an honour to be selected to attend and a wonderful experience traveling to Washington DC to meet burn survivors and IAFF counsellors from all over Canada and the United States. The opportunity to exchange information and ideas on our camps was invaluable. However, what will stick with me the most from the experience are the memories of the wonderful people we met. The campers, counsellors, camp directors, host firefighters and military personnel we met were all great. It turns out, that Branden knew a few of the people from his exchange a few years ago, and a former exchange camper to BUCKO, Chewy, was also there. The discussion I had with other counsellors and campers were definitely a highlight of the trip. Some of the challenges that campers have, or are in the process of overcoming were huge and to see and hear from them how much their local burn camp and firefighters have meant to them as they grow up was inspiring. I found it was very interesting to see Washington first hand and learn about US politics and history as so much of what we know about the USA we read in the news and see on television. It also led to great conversations. We exchanged opinions and ideas on many subjects including burn camps, politics, language (y'all and eh?) departmental issues, hobbies, - and even Canadian Football!



Steve and Branden in front of the US Capital Building in DC.

It was also nice to hear from so many people, from so many places, that they had heard great things about Camp BUCKO. Of course, it was nice to tell them even more great things about the camp and to learn about theirs.

The selection of camper Branden was a fine choice. He advised me that he has a very positive experience on the trip and he conducted himself exceptionally well during the course of the week in Washington. It was an honour to spend the week with him at the National Burn Camp.

I sincerely appreciate and thank the Camp BUCKO board of directors and all those involved in the decision to send Branden and I to the IAFF National Burn Camp. It was an experience I will never forget. Both in terms of what I enjoyed while at camp and also in terms of reflecting upon how fortunate I am in my life, family, career and my involvement in Camp BUCKO.

Thanks again for providing such a wonderful opportunity to meet campers and counsellors from across Canada and the USA.

Steve Fowlds

Camp BUCKO Skating Party



Happy Birthday Will!

Camp BUCKO 2009 Teen Retreat



The first Camp BUCKO Teen Retreat was held at Kinark, February 13th - 16th. This winter program was offered to our 2009 senior campers, ages 16 & 17. The weekend was a blast! There was so much snow around camp, it looked very different than it does in the summer. The weekend started with some team-building exercises, tubing and a sensory night hike. The snow was packed down and ice-covered so tubing was fast and exciting! On the night hike we learned to see in the dark with our night vision goggles and learned some fascinating things about the abilities of the human eye. We got to taste an asteroid and watch flashes of light appear as we chewed the crunchy pieces.

On Saturday, Jen gave us lessons in cross-country skiing. It was fun gliding across the field but making our way up the hill was kind of hard. We all took turns skiing down the hill and some of us managed to stay upright! The Frost Festival was taking place in Haliburton, so that afternoon we went into town to check it out. Andrew, Indhu, Chris and Heather did some snowshoe races while the rest of us cheered them on. We got to eat beaver tails, walk out on the frozen lake, and watch some exciting dog sled races. Back at Kinark, Kimberly taught us about the winter night-sky and we went outside to stargaze and identify some of the constellations we had learned about. We went inside for some hot chocolate and spent some time talking about different issues that we face as burn survivors and some of the uncomfortable things each of us has dealt with. We watched a video, *You Can Do It!*, that was filmed at the burn camp in Colorado and featured some of their senior campers talking about how they have coped with staring and questions as well as other issues.

Sunday we went snow shoeing in the woods and saw lots of deer tracks. It was hard to remember we were at camp, it felt like a winter wonderland with everything covered in snow and it was so peaceful. That afternoon we went bowling in Minden. It was so much fun! It was so cool when they turned off the lights and we bowled under strings of Christmas lights. Sunday night, the last night, we had a special guest, Baza, who introduced us to different musical instruments and had us creating music and experimenting with sound. The drum circle was awesome and we got to express ourselves musically. We all had a great time at the Camp BUCKO Teen Retreat!

