



Spring 2010

# SURVIVOR

## Incredible Opportunities

I can't believe we are into March of 2010 already. So much is going on for Camp BUCKO that the time is just flying by. In December 5 or our campers ran in the Olympic Torch Relay. This incredible opportunity was given to our campers from RBC Insurance. On behalf of Camp BUCKO and our torch bearers, I want to thank RBC Insurance for giving this once in a lifetime chance to our campers and making them part of a team that was representing our country. Please be sure to visit our website and find out about fundraising events that are happening for Camp BUCKO on the upcoming events page. There may be something happening in your community. 160 days 'til camp...can't wait!

*Nancy*

## BUCKO Family Camp - September 2009

What a beautiful Fall weekend. The weather was warm and we had lots of sunshine. We welcomed 2 new families to BUCKO Family Camp and it looks like they enjoyed the weekend along with all of our other BUCKO families. This was by far the warmest weather we have had for a Family Camp and some of our campers even went swimming! It was great to see everyone, thanks for joining us at Family Camp!



# International Association of Fire Fighters

## Burn Camp

Austen and I were the representatives of Camp BUCKO in September 2009 at the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Burn Foundation's International Burn Camp. On our flight down I had thought that this would be a very different kind of adventure. We were headed for the United States Capital to visit lots of attractions including the Air and Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Natural History Museum and The Whitehouse. From the minute we landed and located our luggage we were treated to great hospitality, firefighters carried our luggage to waiting buses and we were off to visit one of the many fire stations we would see that week, as we waited for other counselors and camper that were also flying in from all over North America, all together there was ninety-eight of us, Each day we got up and had breakfast, loaded onto buses for a fun filled day. There were so many things planed that there was very little time to be spent at any one attraction and I would have liked to spend more time at them. We also had little time to ourselves, but we still met new friends and exchanged stories about the different camps there were, the different states and provinces we were from and jokes about our Canadian accent. This turned out to be a great group, lots of laughing, playing games and seeing wonderful places. The week went by far too quickly and before we new it we were having the closing ceremony and packing our luggage for our flight back home. I have many memories; I got to know Austen better and met other firefighters. nurses and care givers and great kids. On our return flight I realized that really this was not that much different then Camp BUCKO a large group of people with things in common getting together for a week of fun, friendship, games and adventures and not wanting it to end. I am looking forward to Camp BUCKO 2010 and seeing you all again

*Tom*



*Austen and Tom at the US Capital Building*



*Tom and Austen with the Washington Monument in the background*

In September I had the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. I flew to D.C. with my counselor, Tom Ford. Once we landed in Washington we were picked up along with other campers. We headed to the airport's fire department and had lunch and met some more campers. We stayed there until our buses arrived to take us to the college we would be staying in for the week. We arrived at the college to meet members of the IAFF. They were very kind and funny people.

We started touring the very next day and didn't stop until the end of the week. There was lots of interesting once in a lifetime things to see. We saw the White House, Capital Building, and the Vietnam Memorial, just to name a few.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to go on this trip, to see lots of things and meet lots of great people. I was lucky to have such a nice guy to travel with. Tom and I made lots of great memories on this trip and it was the best!

I will keep in touch with the friends I made in Washington. This trip was absolutely the best! Thank you very much for this great memory!

*Austen*

## Camp BUCKO Olympic Torch Relay Runners



I didn't really know what to expect that day but I knew it was going to be exciting. I didn't expect the adventure I had in just getting there. My day started at 5:30 am. My mom had to drive me across town to where my part of the relay was going to be. We had to be at the meeting place by 6:30am. After the meeting all the torchbearers got on a bus. There was music blaring and we all started to get really excited and nervous! As soon as I stepped off the bus for my part of the relay, I was over-whelmed by how many people were there shouting my name and wanting a picture of me. The rest of the experience happened so fast. As I was lighting my torch all I could think was 'Wow! This flame came from Greece'. Then I was off and running and because the adrenalin had kicked in, I was running. My dad was running beside me trying to tape it and he said he had a hard time keeping up I was running so fast! All I could think about when I was running was 'Don't fall! Don't fall!' Before I knew it I was passing on the flame to the next runner and my flame was being put out. What an amazing experience and a day I will never forget. Thank you RBC Insurance and Camp BUCKO!!

*Tatiana*



When I was told that I was going to represent Camp BUCKO for this relay, I felt so ecstatic and anxious! Reality hit me the day before I was going to run and when the vice principal announced it to the whole school. I saw that coming; I just didn't want that to be real. Two hours before the relay, all torchbearers for that day were to get on this bus (it was so cool in there!). We were shown a video of different torchbearers running with the torches from previous years. After the video, we were asked to share our stories about how we were given this chance to represent Canada as a torchbearer. I think my story about representing Camp BUCKO touched all the other 9 torchbearers. My nerves were getting the best of me when it was almost my turn to shine. I was nervous that maybe my daddy or one of my best friends couldn't find a place to park and watch me run. But as the bus was about to stop, not only did I see my daddy and my best friend, but Kimie and Nancy were there too! I was no longer nervous and was excited again. The 300m went by quick. I waved, I smiled and of course, I ran. My heart was beating so fast that I could actually hear it (normally I don't!). I just can't believe that I had this opportunity! It was far from what I had expected - EVER! I just wanted to thank Nancy, Camp BUCKO, and RBC Insurance for giving me this chance! I love you guys, A LOT!

*Maggie*

It all started one day in August when my Mom once again volunteered me to do something again. This time it was a chance of a lifetime! Nancy had called and asked if I was interested in carrying the Olympic Torch. Well boy was I ever! RBC Insurance had graciously donated 10 of their corporate spots to two Charities—Peel Children's Aid and Camp BUCKO. There were several activities before the torch run itself. We were invited to a party in Mississauga, where I met a former Canadian Olympian, and the CEO of RBC Insurance. They both are really tall. I also attended a community celebration here in London. I met another Canadian Olympian, and held a Beijing silver medal. Oh what an honour!! I ran in Virgil, up near Niagara Falls. Did you know that the Olympic flame is the largest peace symbol in the world, and for 300 metres I was responsible for it as I held it in my hands. We went by convoy and they dropped me off at my leg. It had begun! First, came the Coke truck, and the RBC Insurance truck. They were both giving away free stuff! The Olympic flag came next; it was taped to a hockey stick—how Canadian. Next came the RCMP to turn my torch on. Finally the flame was on its way. When I was actually carrying the Olympic flame it felt like I carried it less than the 300 metres I did. I did not really want to give it to the next person. It went too fast. After, I was driven back to the winery. The flame was put into a

lantern and carried by horse and buggy to the next little town. At the winery we met with friends and family. Everyone wanted autographs and pictures; I was a celebrity. Saying I enjoyed every minute of the day seems so mundane compared to the life changing experience it actually was. I would not have gotten the opportunity if it was not for RBC Insurance donating their 5 spots to Camp BUCKO and for Camp BUCKO for choosing me as a torch bearer. Thank you for making this possible.

*Val*



## Camp BUCKO Olympic Torch Relay Runners



My Olympic torch experience was by far the most exciting and fun event that I have ever participated in! I am still extremely honoured and very thankful to have had the opportunity to bring the flame that started in Greece, to Vancouver, Canada for the 2010 Winter Olympics. So many people look forward to the Olympic Games and the people who participate in it work for several years to be able to compete at such high levels of athletics. It is truly a huge event that brings all countries together and spreads unity and peace amongst us all. For my fellow campers and I, to have had the chance to show our spirit and awareness towards the Olympic Games this year was an awesome ride. People were looking up to us that day that each of us ran and I am so, so, happy that I could bring that joy, that spirit,

that happiness, and that excitement;( the list goes on and on) upon all of those people. Thank you to Suzanne Martyn-Jones of RBC Insurance and Nancy who supported my run in Welland. Most importantly thanks to Camp BUCKO for being an amazing camp and selecting me for this honourable duty. I am proud to be apart of Camp BUCKO and most importantly I am proud to be a Canadian! Thank you everyone!

*Kristina*



The torch run was a great experience! When you run it feels great because all the people are cheering you on. The people from Orangeville were so nice; it's an amazing town to run in. I felt great to represent Camp BUCKO and to be part of Olympic history. I could never tell you what it felt like to hold history in my hands. I still look at the torch and smile... its was so fun. Thank you RBC Insurance and Camp BUCKO.

*Dustin*

## Camp BUCKO Skating Party

All in all, the camp BUCKO skating party was AMAZING!!! I would first like to thank everybody who helped and even came to the event to make it so special for everyone. It all started off by everyone meeting up, greeting each other and asking about the holidays. Then we hit the ice (well some of us). After an awesome lunch (pizza and snacks) we had a very inspiring speech from Rowan Barrett. Mr. Barrett is a retired Canadian basketball player who played on the 2002 Canadian Olympic Basketball team. Mr. Barrett always had problems that set him back through out his entire life. The most memorable thing that he said, in my opinion of course, is to never let anyone tell you that you can't do anything. Always pursue and go for your dreams, whether it be, being a hockey player or basketball player, a doctor or lawyer, etc. Back to the actual party, well after this we all decided to get on the ice this time. Janet brought out her Olympic Torch so that we could all touch part of the dream, amazing! In the end we drew prize winners and Julia won like 4 of them!!!! Anyways, it was a great day and it's too bad for some of you that had to miss it.

*Tyler*

