



Spring 2007

# SURVIVOR

## Camp BUCKO, Our Family is Growing

So much has happened since camp last year, we had our first Family Camp in October and our Skating Party in January. It is awesome that our Family and Friends can spend time at BUCKO events. The more we can share our stories and support one another, the stronger we get! Plans are underway for another Family Camp this May and of course we are already planning Camp BUCKO 2007. Hope to see you there!

*Nancy*

## 2006 BUCKO Challenge Cup Winners



### STEVE'S PUZZLE SOLUTION

Fill the 3 litre bucket and dump it into the 5 litre bucket. Fill the 3 litre bucket again. From the 3 litre bucket, pour water into the 5 litre bucket until it is full. Now empty the 5 litre bucket. At the moment you have an empty 5 litre bucket and 1 litre of water in the 3 litre bucket. Pour the 1 litre of water into the 5 litre bucket. Fill the 3 litre bucket again and pour it into the 5 litre bucket. You now have 4 litres of water in the 5 litre bucket!

***You stumped us Steve!***



## Camp is the Best!

Camp BUCKO to me means freedom. As soon as I step on the bus I realize that I have no more concerns in the world. Everything to do with me from then on is to do with camp. And anything to do with camp rocks! There is always something to do at camp. Whether it's taking a leisurely stroll up to the mess hall to get a snack or sitting on top of the high ropes gazing out across the lake. Camp also has so many new and different experiences. One time last year, the guys woke me up about 1 in the morning and we all sat outside looking at the stars and talking. We stayed up all night. Camp always has a lot of neat thing to take part in. Every year we do something different, like one year we went go-karting and another we went to a fair. There are always the BUCKO challenge cup events to take part in every year too. We try as hard as we can but the cup is always just out of reach. Camp also has lots of down time to take advantage of. Every year we bring music and sit outside and play cards listening to all the different kinds of music we all bring. Camp truly is the best experience of my life. Everywhere I look at camp I am surrounded by one of my family. I will always and forever be a part of camp and I know you all feel the same. Now for me I look forward to the VIP experience. I no longer am a camper, but now I look forward to new memories as a camp volunteer.

*Will, Camp BUCKO Camper for 9 Great Years*

# International Association of Fire Fighters

After Camp BUCKO this year I was given the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Burn Camp. I was a little apprehensive at first, but as I learned more and more about the organization and the program they have set up I became excited. I was told that I would be traveling with Patrick, the BUCKO cabin leader from the Otter's cabin. Patrick and I arranged a meeting before the trip to D.C., we had dinner while we swapped stories and got to know each other a little better.

Upon our arrival in the States we were greeted by the airport firefighters with lunch and a tour. We were then transported to the campus where we stayed for the week.

For the next six days Pat and I were treated to a first class tour of Washington, D.C. and a lot of its highlights. My favourite monument was the Thomas Jefferson Memorial because of its size and colour, but all of them were amazing in one way or another. I also really enjoyed the tour of the Canadian Embassy and meeting our Ambassador to the USA. We also went to Benihanna's Restaurant, the Hardrock Cafe, Union Station and Adventure Park USA.

It was fun meeting new people and hearing stories from the different camps and areas our fellow campers came from. Every morning our alarm clock was a bagpiper in the hallways, we saw deer grazing on the campus grounds and we had a great time getting to know each other.

We were also honoured to hear some awesome speakers. It was inspiring to hear about the obstacles they triumphed over and how they lead very successful and rewarding lives.

Everyone was having fun and the week went off with little or no problems. The staff was awesome especially the bus drivers. I'd like to thank the week's coordinators, Tonas, Linda, Margaret and Kip for their hard work in bringing everything together. I'd like to thank Patrick for making the week as great as it was, being an awesome traveling companion and demonstrating such excellent belly flopping skills! Thanks to my family and friends for their support and encouragement. And last but certainly not least I would like to thank everyone from my BUCKO Family involved with sending us to Washington. It was a fantastic trip and one that I will never forget.

With love, *Andrew*

In September of 2006, Camp BUCKO had 2 of their own represent the camp down at the IAFF Camp in Washington, D.C. Andrew and myself were fortunate to be those representatives. The IAFF Camp is a different type of camp than BUCKO in terms of activities and accommodations, but the spirit and enthusiasm is the same with all the campers making new friends and having fun with all the activities that are on the schedule.

From the airport we were driven to our accommodations, which were not the rustic cabins of BUCKO, but a National Labour Residence (which I think is an American term for..."hotel"). Once we got checked into our rooms and met our 'roomies' for the week, Andrew and I participated in a game of football with our American cousins and I must say we both represented our Canadian brand of football very well.

The pace and scale of the camp is something that one has to experience to realize how much walking and bus riding is involved. Tours of the Washington Monument, The Whitehouse, The International Spy Museum, Fort Myers, Arlington National Cemetary, and the Museum of natural History leave one marveling at all of the things that we had just seen. George Washington's house at Mount Vernon was an interesting tour which was beautiful and informative. We were treated like "Rock Stars" at the Hardrock Cafe in Washington, complete with dancing and souvenirs. I would say that a highlight of the trip was the visit to the Vietnam War Memorial as well as the Korea War Memorial. Andrew and I were fortunate enough along with the other Canadian camp reps to have a visit to the Canadian Embassy where we met our Ambassador, Michael Wilson and were given a tour of his office and an amazing view of the city.

I have to say that everybody at the camp was absolutely amazing, the people Andrew and I met were so gracious and supportive that it made the trip very enjoyable. As our campers read this they should know that no matter where in the world they go, they will realize that burn survivors are all the same, they are incredible people who live everyday like everybody else and are remembered for their actions and their hearts. I would like to thank Andrew for being such a great guy. I had many chaperones approach me and comment on his behaviour and attitude, he made everything so easy for me...thanks Andrew! I would also like to thank everyone involved with BUCKO for letting me go on this trip, I truly felt privileged. I also wanted to let all of our BUCKO Family know that even with this being a great chance to see another camp, it made us realize that BUCKO is unmatched as far as camps go...we rock! Thanks again to everybody and I look forward to seeing all of our BUCKO Family again in August.

*Patrick*

## IAFF - Pictures from Washington



## BUCKO Family Camp - October 2006

We are thankful for the great time we had at BUCKO Family Camp in October. The Camp BUCKO Volunteers and the Kinark Staff are wonderful, caring people and it really shows. We found the weekend not only fun but informative. Not only did Shannen meet some new friends but we felt that we had also met some great people who share many things in common with our family. Shannen is now looking forward to going to camp this year.

### *The Doyle Family*



The minute the word arrived that there might be a BUCKO Family Camp it was a given we were going. To say that Camp BUCKO is the highlight of Andrew Paul's summer is truly an understatement. Sadly, due to other family commitments, only Andrew Paul and I could attend but to quote Andrew Paul, "BUCKO Family Camp was awesome this year at the Kinark Outdoor Centre - not rain nor snow could keep us down!" We were able to interact with other families who have had and are still having similar challenges. We had a great weekend sharing survivor stories, exploring support groups, and forging new friendships while hiking, fishing, singing by the fire or dangling on a high rope. These sorts of events are truly valuable for us as parents to grow and to see our children be able to be themselves and to see that they are not alone with their burns. It is even more powerful to see children and families accepting each other - truly a world beyond the physical scars. What really moved me was the closing ceremony when we built a web, which connected all of us through understanding, compassion and love. Andrew Paul got up and handed the web to a firefighter, Kevin, whom he called his "Den Mother" exemplifying the Family spirit of Camp BUCKO. Thank you somehow does not seem enough.

*Colleen and Andrew Paul Rafton*

## Camp BUCKO Family Skating Party

The skating party was a lot of fun. There were lots of things to do like go-chart racing, staking on the ice and carnival games. It was a time to meet up with your friends from camp. Thank you to the firefighters who bought the pizza for the day. I know that I had a fun time with the prizes and the games.

*Valerie*



## Looking Forward to Seeing Y'all in 2007

What else is there to say except Camp BUCKO rocks! Chris, Tom, and myself had such an incredible experience at camp last year. Who says you can't find Southern hospitality in the North. I can't even begin to explain how awesome of a week we had meeting everyone. Even though we were miles away from home everyone made us feel like we had never left. We will never forget the wonderful new friends we made, and I hope everyone is able to return to Camp BUCKO in '07'.

Activities at Camp BUCKO consisted of: relaxing moments, team building experiences, daily dares. I have to admit that Beezer's Corner holds some of my most calming memories. I found myself at ease here fellowshipping with friends or designing my own necklace. My favorite team building experience had to be the Rocket building. I really enjoyed working as a group and designing our own rocket. The daily dares.....I have one thing to say, I can't wait for BUCKO campers to try our Southern delicacy of collard greens and maple syrup.



Our experiences at Camp BUCKO will never be forgotten, and I hope to have plenty more. Everyone made us feel like we were part of the BUCKO family, and I can not tell you how much we appreciate it.. People say the hardest part of leaving camp is parting from your new friends, but I believe this was even more difficult because I was leaving friends that were more like family. I just want to thank you again and I can't wait to see everyone in August '07'. As we say in the South "See Y'all later".

*Tony*, from Camp Oo-U-La in Georgia