



Spring 2008

SURVIVOR

Camp BUCKO

Well 2008 is off to a fantastic start! The Skating Party was so much fun. It was great to see everyone who made it and for those that couldn't, please know that you were missed. I am already looking forward to camp this year and have set a goal to make it to the top of the climbing wall.....finally! I have tried every year but can't seem to get any higher than half way before I run out of steam. Now that I have told you, I won't be able to back out. I would like to encourage all of you. campers and volunteers, to set a camp goal for yourself. Don't forget, Pirates of Grey Lake, is the theme for Camp BUCKO 2008 so be prepared to hunt for treasure or you might have to walk the plank! I hope you all enjoy this edition of **SURVIVOR!**

Nancy

My Experience as a VIT 2



This year was my first year in a cabin as a volunteer and it was an amazing experience! I was in the youngest girls' cabin, and they were so much fun! After being a senior camper for so long, and then a VIT separate from it all, it was great to get back in a cabin and see the camp with new eyes. All but one of my campers was new to BUCKO this year, and they were all excited to try all that camp has to offer. While it was tough to be apart from my friends that I've roomed with for years, we got to see lots of each other during activities and open waterfront, and maybe next year we can be volunteers in the same cabin. I'm really happy that I went into the VIT program, because I will be able to come back to BUCKO year after year, and be part of new campers' camp memories!

Allison

2007 Camp Exchange

I would like to express my thanks to the Camp BUCKO family for a great adventure in Fresno, California in June. I met some fantastic people and councilors. Some of the things they had there were cool but they will never replace the outdoors of Bucko. We at Camp BUCKO & other camps are very fortunate to attend a week at these burn camps. Not only are we special, but are fortunate to extend our own family with all at BUCKO. I sincerely thank Nancy and all the other volunteers for their dedication and love to make all this happen. Thanks for an incredible week in California and at Kinark. Hope to see everyone next year!

Holt



IAFF National Camp in Washington

Last Summer Kevin and I had the great opportunity to go join many burn camp members from all over North America down in Washington for the **I**nternational **A**ssociation of **F**ire **F**ighters Burn Camp. We met different burn survivors from places as close as Nova Scotia and as far as Texas. We had a full week filled with visiting all the different memorials and monuments located in the area. We met friends that we will remember all our lives. There was always something fun for everyone to do and the hospitality was excellent. Visiting the White House was a very memorial experience. Although it took quit a long time to get past security it was worth it in the end. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

Andrew



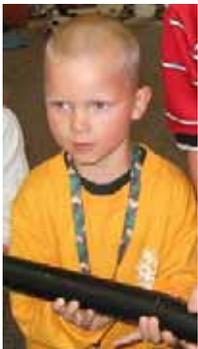
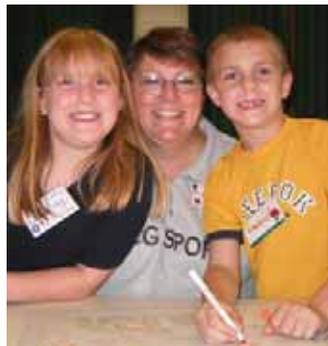
BUCKO Family Camp - October 2007

I can't believe this was our third Family Camp, it seems like yesterday that we were just starting to talk about adding an event for families to our program. I am thrilled to say that Family Camp has been fantastic and this one was no exception. There were 20 families in attendance and as you can see from the pictures below, everyone had a great time. We enjoyed activities that included the climbing wall, arts & crafts, paddle boating, fishing and nightly campfires. We had a special treat one night.....S'MORES! Thanks June, they were so yummy! In addition to the fun, an important part of Family Camp is the time we get to share stories, talk about the struggles of dealing with a burn injury and letting our families connect with each other. I am very happy to say that there will be 2 BUCKO Family Camps in 2008:

Spring - May 17, 18, & 19

Fall - September 26, 27, & 28

Hope you will be able to join in this year. We will be sending out registration information for Spring Family Camp in March.



Camp BUCKO Family Skating Party



On February 9, I went to the Camp BUCKO Family Skating Party in Mississauga. We all had a blast. All the BUCKO friends and families skated, played games and feasted on pizza, cookies and pop. Thanks to the Hershey Centre for donating the ice rink. Everyone had fun. I think it was great to see everybody.

I can't wait for camp!

Val



VIG Grad Trip to the World Burn Congress in Vancouver

This past October, Camp BUCKO gave me (Scuba Steve), Bobbie, Shannel, Tyler, the world famous Janet and everybody's favourite, Nancy, the fantastic opportunity to travel to the Phoenix Society's World Burn Congress, which was held in Vancouver, BC. World Burn is a unique experience where people from all over the world come together. Burn survivors, care givers, burn care professionals and fire fighters all join together to raise awareness of burn injuries and to help heal the emotional scars that burn survivors often deal with on a day to day basis.

After the 5 hour flight which was 5 hours longer then I wanted it to be, we were greeted by the British Columbia Fire Fighters who shuttled us to our hotel. All week long, the BC Fire Fighter drove us anywhere we wanted to go. They were really cool. Since this was my first World Burn, I along with all the other first timers, were given a tiny heart to put on our name- tags. Every time someone noticed your heart, they would give you a giant hug and welcome you to their group. This is just one small piece of the love that is shared here. It has a similar "family" feeling that we share at camp (only not as good as BUCKO, because everybody knows nothing is better than BUCKO).

The conference held many different workshops and activities throughout the week. BUCKO enrolled Bobbie, Shannel, Tyler and I in the young adult expedition. The group focused on how young people face different challenges throughout their life and how to best deal with it. The instructors offered us an opportunity to open up and discuss what's going on deep down inside of us. Through several team building and personal achievement discussions, I believe that everybody involved came out a better person. In the young adults group, I met many new friends, that I will keep in contact with for many years to come. We met new friends the entire week through the conference. We also met old friends. Every day at breakfast, Kevin would sit down at breakfast with us and every night Dennis would show up randomly and show us a good time. Good times

Throughout the week, we all discovered new things about ourselves and our surroundings. Particular events that stood out for myself certainly begin with open mic. Very similar to our own talking stick, World Burn has an open mic. After meals, when the entire conference was all together, the mic would be passed around to anyone who wanted to share their stories and opinions. After I had watched several people share, I decided that I also wanted to. Although my left leg was shaking uncontrollably, and my heart was beating really fast, I stood in front of the 600 plus people and spoke my peace. I told them that I was burned on the back of my legs when I was only ten months old, but I am happy that it happened because it helped me grow into the person I am today. The next day, a gentleman stopped me. He asked me if I was the young man who had talked the day before. He told me that he too had burns on the back of his legs and that what I had said really spoke to him. It was quite the enriching feeling I received, knowing that I had touched someone. Very cool.

One of the greatest nights was when we all went out for dinner. Steak, grilled vegetables, and potatoes... Man it was really good. The top spot is split between a mushroom-covered bruschetta bread and a flourless chocolate cake. If I ever go back, I know what I'm going to eat every night. The meal was extra cool, because the owner of the restaurant came out and hung out with us. Any questions we had, he was more than happy to answer. It was really just a fun night

On the second to last day, the young adult group traveled to a high ropes complex, where we worked on team building exercises, played games and climbed rope ladders that reached the top of the trees (they have big trees in BC). They had this swing where one person sat in a harness, while the rest of the group pulls him back as far as they can and let him go. Tyler went first, and we thought we killed him when he went flying into the trees, but he turned out alright.

The closing of the conference was as much fun as the rest. We were told many stories about survival, and of the love that is shared at the Phoenix Society's World Burn Congress. We were treated to a wonderful banquet dinner followed by a dance were we all dressed to our best. It was a great ending to a great week



Back on the plane, which again took forever, we all talked about the fun we had, until we fell asleep. It's a long flight, so we were all glad when we landed. We all said one final good bye and headed our own ways. Our week of learning, healing and fun had come to a close but that's ok because we all get another week of fun in August. Cant wait to see you all again at BUCKO!!!

Steve