



Camp Menesetung

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CAMP MENESETUNG ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

2019 was an important year of transition for Camp Menesetung as we learned to grow within a new organizational model with many new roles for our board and staff team, developing our own 'in-house' 1:1 camper support integration program, and an exciting move into choice-based programming for our summer camp programs. Supported by the leadership of Executive Director Clayton Peters, Summer Camp Director Jessica Tenhor, and a team of 29 passionate youth leaders, 5 weeks of school outdoor-education field trips, 6 weeks of United Church summer camp programs, and many shoulder season weekend retreats were our opportunities for us to seek to build community and facilitate growth as our campers took steps towards independence, self-confidence, and healthy social skills in our outdoor refuge.

Like every summer, 2019 at Menesetung was a place where the leaders of tomorrow learned to: overcome challenges, clean up after themselves, tie their shoes, make friends, no-trace camping in the wilderness, be silly, and live in community without technology. They learned that there are people who are able to care about them more than they care about themselves, and to be comfortable being themselves in new situations; all within the context of an outdoor environment grounded in Christian morality.

Looking at the numbers we continue to be encouraged: our school field trip program took a huge leap this spring, growing by 50% and allowing us to inspire nearly 1,100 students throughout May & June, our summer camp registrations were up by 11%, stepping in the right direction and leaving several of our weeks full – yet still with room to grow! While all of our rates are subsidized, of our 347 summer campers, 1 out of 6 came from a family that was not able to afford a week at camp and we were honoured to be able to provide support through our donor-maintained bursary funding, grant funding, and our partnerships with community support agencies. On behalf of these very grateful families THANK YOU to all who support Menesetung, individuals, UCW groups, congregations, and community organizations, either financially or through your volunteer efforts – a week at summer camp can be a lifechanging experience, and providing these opportunities to those who need it most is a big part of why we exist.

We continue to strive to improve the programs we offer each year with 2019 bringing us an 'extended school field trip' pilot project, a growth in our 'OLS Outtrip' camping programs, and 'M.A.D. Talent Production' specialty camps. Our big summer takeaway was the value of 'choice-based' programming – campers chose what they wanted to do with each day and this led to happier campers, higher quality programming, and a reduction in misbehaviour. As always, what we do is not nearly as important as the people who come here – without question, the community and support that our staff team create are the reason 100% of our camper families surveyed say they hope to return next summer. Camp Menesetung is a small camp filled with great people and that remains our top priority and strongest asset.

A special thank you goes out to Emmanuel United Church in Sebringville, while we are sincerely saddened by the closure of any United Church, we are truly grateful to be the recipient of a generous donation which contributed towards our new dining hall floor, tables, refurbished kitchen, and safely taking down over 40 dead Ash trees which had become a hazard around our property. Our Capital Project for 2020 is a back-up power generator and the beginning of our *Revitalize Menesetung* campaign as we embark on a journey to re-think and renovate our oldest buildings and cabins in our 86-year-old paradise.

Learn more about us! www.campmenesetung.ca

To working hard for the right reasons,

Clayton Peters | Executive Director | Camp Menesetung

CAMP BIMINI

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that Camp Bimini is a place where God's creation comes together with respect for each other and the environment. It is our goal to give every child and youth a camping experience where they feel loved and valued for who they are. We strive to be welcoming and inclusive of each individual and provide a safe and nurturing place where campers may experience nature, grow spiritually and create lifelong friendships.

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Through our school program in June, approximately 1000 students came to Bimini. It is a time for games, pool, nature studies, crafts and camp life for a day. It is a great way to connect with many kids about the many blessings of camp and of the great outdoors. Our summer program had over 700 campers registered. We all sang lots, saw lots, created lots, ran lots, discovered lots and danced lots. Our themes throughout the summer were: Time Warped, Once upon a Time, There's no Place Like Bimini, Uh Oh!, Let the Games Begin, Good Enough to Eat, Seuss on the Loose, What's your Thing. Many of our campers come from within 45 minutes of Bimini with some coming from more than 5 hours away. The end of June we held our annual Leadership camp for teens in grade 8. It was a good weekend to help teens discover their leadership skills for leading in their families, school, communities, and perhaps even at Camp Bimini in the future. We continued the Gift of Camp program which helps families who find the cost of camp to be a challenge. We helped many families this year. 37 campers (\$10,000+). Every kid deserves a week at camp.

Our staff of 2019 was again great—a staff committed to the campers and each other. We offer full-time and part-time positions to our paid staff which has proven to be a benefit to both the camp and to the staff members. In 2019, Kendra Rhynard and Hannah Minler filled the position of Program Team to lead our program and staff.

We continued our social justice weekend to our programming in September. Ujima—an African word meaning collective work and responsibility—created awareness and education about poverty in a local setting. It's shaping up to be a great weekend.

In October, we had our annual Women's Day Retreat on October 19th. It was a fabulous day of community and time away. Our Women's Circle continued this year which invites women to gather for an evening four times throughout the year to focus on mind, body, spirit.

We are very pleased to welcome Susan Campbell as our new administrator. This part-time position will help improve our office efficiency, including registration and treasurer responsibilities and general administration duties for the camp. The administrator will also help Camp Bimini have more of a social media presence with the hopes of helping Camp Bimini to continue to grow and thrive. Susan is no stranger to us as a parent of former campers and staff members and as a cook herself. Susan is very friendly and brings many skills and many years of experience in many areas. She will begin January 1st, 2020. Welcome Susan! We thank the board members who held these various positions previously.

Our rentals this past year brings many groups to Bimini all in the spring and fall. This is a great way for us to have the camp in use during our non-summer program time.

Our latest capital project was completed in June 2018—it was the construction of a new cooks and CE leader cabin with washrooms and safe barbecue area. This was much overdue. In 2019, we replaced the pool liner and winter cover (an overdue project) at a cost of \$15,000. These projects have left us with a bank loan of approximately \$56,000.

We continue to hold fundraisers to support the camp—a Blue Jays game bus trip and a Signs & Designs sign painting night lead those endeavours.

Creating a legacy through a bequest in your will or other planned gift such as a charitable annuity or a gift of life insurance is a simple and thoughtful act that reflects your commitment to Camp Bimini, your concern for future generations, and your love for the camping world. The best part of planned giving is that you have the comfort of knowing that you have provided for the future of something you care about very dearly. A successful planned giving program can help to fulfill our inherent desire to give. One of the real blessings of planned giving is that it benefits both the giver and the recipient. For more information, please contact the camp.

St Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." That's how we feel called to be the church: to live each day showing God's love and being God's love...to everyone and everything we come into contact with—even and especially when it's difficult.

We are blessed to have a great community around us—people like you. We thank every one of our supporters: those who support us physically, spiritually, emotionally and financially. Your support is important and invaluable. It was with this strong support that we were able to strengthen our ministry this past year.

Carol Young, Camp Bimini Coordinator

Experience Nature, Grow Spiritually, Create Lifelong Friendships

January 16, 2020

Christian Resource Centre

29 Ontario Road, Box 760, Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0

Annual Report for 2019

The Christian Resource Centre would like to thank all of you for your continued support. We are grateful to each and every one of you for all that you do and continue to do within and around the United Church of Canada and our world.

As we go forward, we would ask that you hold the Resource Centre – volunteer board of directors, volunteers and staff in your thoughts and prayers as we find new ways to minister to and support our family within the new structure of the United Church of Canada.

We ask that you consider us as you decide where your local mission donations are being allocated. We want to be here for you as long as we possibly can and anything you can do is very much appreciated.

Let us know if there is a way that we can serve you – maybe you are having a ministerial meeting or a church event. We can provide you with a book display geared to whatever your theme is – just let us know where, when, number attending and theme – if we are able to be there, we will be there.

This year, we set up displays at Regional meetings, UCW events as well as many other church functions. Thank you all for thinking of us and inviting us to be there with you!

We have received many positive comments on the amazing selection of gifts for baptism, confirmation, graduation and weddings. We also have individual cards, boxed cards and books for everyone and loads of resources. We have a **great lending library** of Christian fiction as well as DVD's.

We have been blessed by ministry folks who have **donated** many books to the Resource Centre – we have all of these resources in a **separate** area in our lending library. Since they are not part of the lending library – we invite all of you to come and have a look at these – **these are ALL free**- take what you like and if you like, you can pass it on to someone else when you are finished. These are gifts that keep on giving!!

We also have a cozy little room in the back of the Resource Centre were 3 or 4 folks can meet – consider that when you are planning to meet with folks that are travelling from different places.

We maintain an in-store selection of church supplies including bulletin covers, baptism and confirmation certificates, baptism candles, and candles for Advent and Lent, Christ Candles, baptism, marriage and burial record books and communion supplies. We have new crest lapel pins, key chains, embroidered badges and window decals as well as many other United Church items. We have vendors who can

provide us with candlestick holders, vestments, communion trays and many other items for your sanctuary. What we do not have we can get for you, just ask and we will do the research for you.

We are able to order Sunday school curriculum for each season of the church year. Tell us what your needs are, we will do some digging for you and then hook you up!!

As a non-profit ministry within the United Church, we attempt to provide for all your needs at a reasonable price. If you are unable to pick up your order, we will arrange for you to get it – one way or another.

You are **ALWAYS** welcome to visit us at 29 Main Street, Mitchell (Box 760) NOK 1N0 – we are snuggled between the TD bank and the Hub restaurant on the corner of highway 23 and highway 8 – coming from Goderich, follow highway 8 and we are on the left hand side right after you go through the lights in Mitchell. Our hours are 10 – 4 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 9 – 5 on Wednesdays (and by appointment if necessary).

Our website address is www.wowresourcecentre.ca, our email address is hprrc@quadro.net and our phone number is 1-519-348-9261. We also have a Facebook page – Christian Resource Centre – like us and share our postings please and thank you.

We are here to serve you – bless you for all that you do!!

With sincere thanks,

The Christian Resource Centre, 29 Ontario Road, Box 760, Mitchell, ON NOK 1N0

Volunteer Board of Directors and Staff