



Camping Association of NS

Spring Newsletter

**Don't Forget
Membership Fees
are DUE
May 31st**

2010 Annual General Meeting

This year our AGM is being held at the beautiful Ross Creek Centre for the Arts.



Ross Creek is located on 186 spectacular acres of farm and forest overlooking the Bay of Fundy, the Centre has facilities and programs designed to serve the artistic and cultural communities of Nova Scotia, Canada and the world.

We will begin at 12:00 noon with a delicious lunch provided by CANS and prepared by the talented cooks at Ross Creek.

At 1:30 the AGM will officially begin.

Topics covered will include Board of Directors nominations; committee reports; awarding of 2010 Program Assistance and Provincial Camping Awards.

For more information on any of the topics being covered at our Annual Meeting please see our website www.campingNS.ca

Inside this issue:

2010 Annual General Meeting	1
CANS Hires New Communications Manager	1
CANS FACEBOOK Group: Social Networking and Camp	2
Program Grants	2
Upcoming Events/ Important Deadlines	3
CANS Wants YOU!	3
Exciting Logo Contest	3
Faith Focus	4

Special points of interest:

- Check out 2010's AGM Poster. Send it to your staff to remind them to attend! (Pp 1)
- Did you know which camp is going to be featured in a national magazine? (Pp2)
- Did you know who the new Health Protection and Promotion employee is? (Pp 3)
- Did you know when Earth Hour is? (Pp4)

If you would like to host next years AGM at your camp or facility please email info@campingNS.ca

CANS Hires Part-Time Communications Manager

The Camping Association of Nova Scotia has hired a new part time employee.

At the March Board of Directors meeting, Patti Sampson was hired for a six-month term as CANS Communications Manager.

Patti is a former board member of the Camping Association and has worked in recreation and

camping for the past 10 years.

"I'm really excited about my new role within the Association; I have big plans for the next 6 months!

One thing I'm really concentrating on is making camp staff more aware of CANS and what we can offer them"

One way Sampson hopes to accomplish this is by visiting

camps during their training period to present a short info session about CANS.

She hopes that by making the Association more visible to front line staff and connecting with them in new ways such as the new Facebook group, volunteerism and membership will improve, allowing CANS to go on supporting NS camps in new and innovative ways.

CANS has a new Facebook Group, do YOU? What Social Networking Sites can do for Camps.



Why would I want to put my camp on Facebook? You may ask. Moreover, what, exactly IS Facebook all about anyway?

Facebook is an online social networking site, where web-based online communities are developed. There are two ways you can create awareness of your camp on Facebook, the first is by creating a Facebook Page and the second is by creating a Facebook Group (you can also use the two simultaneously). The Facebook help center makes this distinction "A Page is for an organization, business, celebrity or band and may only be created by an official representative of that entity. Groups can be created by any user and about any topic, as a space for users to share their opinions and interest in that subject."

The average Facebook user has 130 friends; that's 130 potential campers, counselors, volunteers, and donors that you could be missing out on.!

What that means is that while only an official representative of your camp can create a page, anybody (camper, staff, parent,) can create a group about your camp. Wouldn't you rather be the one in control?

If you are the creator of the group you can control content and maintain your camps image, if a camper creates the site, you can ask nicely that no one write inappropriate things on the page, but you cannot delete those things unless you are the administrator of that page.

Need another reason to use social media?

Utilizing a social networking site is cost effective marketing – it's free!

Facebook gives your camp the ability to maintain year- round connections with campers, staff and parents. This can help increase your staff return rate by keeping them motivated and excited throughout the off-season; it can also boost interest in potential campers, volunteers and staff in a way that a traditional website cannot.

Each time a user becomes a fan of your page, joins your group or comments on something you've posted this is noted in what is called a "news feed" so that all of that person's friends can view what their activities have been, therefore gaining access to your site and your camp. According to the Facebook Press Room the average Facebook user has 130 friends; that is 130 potential campers, counselors, volunteers, and donors that you could be missing out on.

Yet another good reason to make use of Facebook is that it allows staff and campers to communicate without adding each other to their personal pages. Depending on your camp policies and the staff person's page content a staff member adding a camper to his or her private page could be very inappropriate.

It also allows you, the employer, to make informed decisions about potential staff members. Many employers today screen applicants before ever interviewing them by taking a quick glimpse at their personal Facebook page. A persons profile picture and how they speak to their friends online can tell you a lot about whether or not he or she will behave once at camp. In some ways, you can gain more insight about a person with a brief glance at their Facebook page than an interview, where they're on their 'best behavior'.

If you're interested in creating a Facebook page or group, but still uncertain about how to go about it, write to us at info@campingNS.ca and we'll help walk you through it.

Don't forget to join our Facebook Group!

Search for Camping Association of Nova Scotia (CANS)

2010 Program Grants

Wishing you could build a new basketball court, but just don't have it in the budget?

Want to begin an archery program or create a resource library but would have to choose between that and toilet paper?!

Well maybe we can help!

This year CANS is offering four \$750.00 grants to camps who have a fantastic program-



ming idea, but need a little assistance with the cost.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply check out our website

www.campingNS.ca

The deadline is **April 1st**, apply now so you don't miss this great opportunity!

Did you know?

One of our member camps, Camp Tidnish, is featured in the April edition of Readers Digest.

Be sure to pick up a copy!

Upcoming Events / Important Deadlines

March 24	RSVP to Air Quality Health Index presented by Rec. NS with Dept. of Environment
March 26	Air Quality Health Index presented by Recreation Nova Scotia with the Dept. of Environment
March 31	Annual General Meeting RSVP Deadline
April 10	CANS Annual General Meeting
April 1	Program Grant Application Due
May 31	Membership Application/ Renewal Form and Fees Due
May 20	Registration Deadline for New Brunswick Camping Association (NBCA) Canoe School
May 28-30	NBCA Canoe School
May/June	Archery Course presented by Camping Association of NS
May / June	First Aid Courses presented by Camping Association of NS
Final Date TBA	
June 4-6	Canoe/ Kayak NS Canoe School
June 4-6	Canoe / Kayak NS Sea Kayak School
June 11-16	Canoe/ Kayak NS Canoe School

For more details about these events and deadlines please go to our website.

www.campingNS.ca

CANS wants YOU!!

We are currently looking for member camps to host a first aid course in May or June for camps in your area. CANS will cover all program related costs.

- Benefits include:
Extra discount for your camp staff (on top of regular CANS member discount)

- Extra publicity for your camp through photos of event posted on CANS website
- Networking opportunity, meet other camp staff and have them see your beautiful facilities.

If you are interested in this opportunity or would like more information,

please contact the education committee or email info@campingNS.ca

Exciting Logo Contest!!

CANS will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2011.

To mark the occasion we are holding a contest to REDESIGN OUR LOGO!

Who can enter:

This contest is open to all member camps, so be sure to involve each of your campers, staff and even parents! (This contest is closed to CANS Board

of Directors and employees)

Deadline:

December 31st 2010

Prize:

First Place: \$100.00 cash and CANS will use the new logo in all publications.

Second and Third place: honorable mention on our website



For rules and guidelines please visit our website



Current Logo



Your Logo

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We're on the Web!

www.campingNS.ca

*Bringing families, camps, and
leaders together since 1941*



*The Camping Association of
Nova Scotia, or CANS, is a
not-for-profit organization
supported by the provincial
government of Nova Scotia
and is dedicated to support-
ing and serving the residen-
tial camps of Nova Scotia
and Prince Edward Island.*

Don't Forget

Turn off your lights for 1hr starting at
8:30pm on Earth day (March 27th)

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

Faith Focus— Faith Based Camp's Impact on Nature

Faith based camps allow children and young adults to discover and express their spirituality by providing fun, caring role models to guide them on their spiritual journey.

In essence, the nature-based context of residential camps allows staff to intentionally nurture both faith and environmental awareness.

This amalgamation of spirituality and stewardship provides children and youth with a unique opportunity to associate their love and reverence of God with respect and compassion for our planet. By providing children and youth with a basis to develop and grow positive attitudes about themselves, their beliefs and worldview, camps are also present-

ing young people with the tools, inspiration, and strength to take action on behalf of; and live in harmony with; the planet.

Some camps, such as Camp Geddie in New Glasgow NS have beautiful outdoor chapels, which help solidify the important connection between the earth and its creator.

Camp Geddie Executive Director Audrey Cameron describes her experience:

At the end of the day, when we gather in one of our outdoor chapels, I often ask what we have done today, as a camp community, to nurture the faith of our campers and to be a faithful Christian Community. As the sun sets, the birds

sing, the occasional rabbit joins us and the wind rustles the tree branches, our prayers

are offered and songs are sung. And I am reminded and I become very grateful that all creation give thanks and that together, we can be the visible sign of God's love.



Attending a faith-based camp offers a young person a sense of belonging within their camp family, church community and the natural world.

It is through programs like these young people will learn to step lightly on this plant, and that will benefit all of us.

**Do you have an idea for our next CANS Newsletter?
Would you like to volunteer on our Newsletter Committee?**

Contact us at info@campingNS.ca