



# Fall Newsletter 2014

Dear Alumni:

We've had our first snowfall and the chill in the air makes outdoor vespers and bonfires a distant memory. The 2014 annual meeting was a very difficult one for me. A motion had been forwarded by your Board and at the meeting was amended to read "to consider closing the camp and dissolving the Board". Carried by a one-vote margin, this contentious motion has resulted in the Board operating in a disconnected state with dissenting opinions. How do we consider closing when some are working to grow a camping program and others see the reality of fewer volunteers and fewer campers? We all struggle with the demise of our beloved history and tradition whether it be this year or sometime in the far off future. It is a dilemma that becomes more profound with each meeting. At one meeting we agree to re-assess our progress in May; at the next meeting we determine an end date in 2015. We want to move forward yet we currently have no Secretary or Treasurer. Portfolios are being decimated by Board members who can take on some but not all of the responsibilities.

We have consulted the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches and Maritime Conference and both have agreed to terminate our lease at any time. It has been made clear that it is our decision to make and that they will support whatever is decided. How do we decide? Do we decide based on statistics? Do we decide based on sentiment and emotion? Do we decide based on what we think is right and good? We know the value of faith formation through camping programs. At our first Board meeting someone asked us if we prayed. Like you, our supporters, we've been praying, questioning, and discerning for at least 10 years however we all seem to be getting different answers.

So again I ask how do we decide the future of a Christian camp that has been a forerunner of ecumenicism? A camp rooted in over nine decades of love, life, and laughter hangs in the balance. Where do you stand? Camp Wegesegum can provide many more years of memories but it is time for a new model. Many new opportunities are possible under new leadership. Come celebrate "moving on" with us on August 22, 2015. The AGM will be held at 2:00 pm amid activities planned by the Heritage Committee.

Yours in Camping,

Wendy Cornfield, Chair

Camp Wegesegum Inc.

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Do you have old memories to share at the Celebration of Thanksgiving and Closure in August?

Send old slides of past Wegie days to Eric Storr at 44 Mt.Pleasant Blvd, Truro, NS, B2N3N7

## 2015 Camp Wegesegum Membership Form

Please sign me up as a voting member of Camp Wegesegum Inc. for the year 2015. I have enclosed a Charitable Donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (cheque or cash) to Camp Wegesegum Inc.

(Donations of \$10 or more will entitle the donor to be a member of Camp Wegesegum Inc. and to receive a Charitable Donation Receipt that can be used for Income Tax purposes.)

### **My contact information is:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please return this form with your donation to:**

George Richardson  
Membership Chair, Camp Wegesegum  
2 Fisherman's Lane,  
Saint John, NB  
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506-635-4122  
george@nb.sympatico.ca



**The Heritage Committee of Camp Wegesegum, Inc. invites you to a Celebration of Thanksgiving and Closure of Camp Wegesegum, Inc. to be held Aug.21 -23,2015. The AGM will be held on Aug.22.**

**Program and personnel details will be sent to the Alumni in early 2015**

## Good Things Happening at Wegesegum

The 2014 camping season has had its surprises but many positive things have happened. Among these was the construction and completion of a new pool house built with a solid concrete floor. We were also pleased to obtain two grants which enabled us to hire Robyn Hickey as life-guard and Matt Vandenborre as Maintenance person.

The arrival of Hurricane Arthur on July 5th provided a number of challenges just as the Junior Co-ed Camp was finishing up. Credit is due to Camp Directors Janet Balsom and Jenifer Niles who made arrangements to get the campers and staff off the campsite and through the maze of fallen trees and downed wires that covered the road to the camp. The waterski camp that came in the a week later was able to obtain large generators that kept power on at the camp until NB power completed their repairs about five days later. The three weeks of waterski camps went ahead as scheduled and reports indicate that they were very successful.

Wegesegum benefitted by having a Maintenance Person this summer as there was much to do after the hurricane. Matt & I worked quickly to get the worst of the mess cleaned up as quickly as possible. We had great help from the Village of Chipman which supplied a chipper and four men to chip up the debris. Matt was a big help in getting many cabins painted along with completing a wide range of other maintenance and general camp tasks.

A big thank you is extended to the 16 people from Chipman and elsewhere who formed a work crew on October 4th while our Board of Directors met in the main lodge. They came with chain saws to chunk up fallen trees and used my wood-splitter to split a large amount of wood that was hauled to the wood-pile area. Volunteers with an ATV and trailer shoveled and hauled a big quantity of wood chips to spread on trails. We now have tons of firewood for years to come.

We appreciate having two people volunteer to do a complete assessment of work needing to be done on our two dozen buildings. Their completed evaluations will be a great asset for those who pick up property responsibilities in the spring of 2015. A number of people have said the camp is “looking great”. Much of the credit for this goes to Matt, our maintenance guy, to Jim & Barb Brewster who kept our grass cut and to the many volunteers who have worked hard – sometimes in the rain.

At the Annual Meeting on August 9th, several Wegesegum alumni volunteered to direct board-sponsored and rental camps and the membership was notified that one more church would be requesting to hold a waterski camp. This appeared to be very positive for the future of Camp Wegesegum in the light of the motion approved at the AGM which stated that the Board of Directors is considering turning the camp back to the Baptist and United Conventions.

Camp Wegesegum is fortunate to have alumni, actively involved in rental and board camps, putting their names forward to serve on the Board of Directors. Two such new Board Members are Holly Myers who has been involved for a number of years in waterski camps and Rev. Betty-Jean Friedman who has extensive experience in organizing and directing Day Camps.

Our final camp for the 2014 season was the Minto Baptist Youth Camp arranged through Pastor Phil Styles for October 8 to 9. Their leaders expressed to me how taken they were with the beauty of Camp Wegesegum and everyone seemed to have a very good camping experience. I appreciated the help from the youth in getting mattresses stacked in the main lodge for the winter. Hopefully, people from the Minto area will want to make greater use of the camp in the future.

Merry Christmas to all and stay well through the winter season,

George Richardson  
Membership Chair



# Summer 2014

## Leadership Training Weekend

Despite a late change of dates, we had 20 teens come to learn how to be counsellors. Janet Balsom and Jen Niles co-directed. Sarah Arsenault assisted with program and Randy Michael Leavitt led canoeing. Jean Clark cooked and attended activities. They led sessions on policy, how to lead games, and how to lead vespers and campfire. Janet made use of the Peace Talks curriculum rented from the United Church. We also had crafts, canoeing, and games. It was a wonderful weekend with special teens.

## Junior Coed

Thirty-five paid campers for Junior Coed. Jen Niles and Janet Balsom co-directed. Anne Scott led Bible Study, Morning Watch, and facilitated camper-led Vespers. Leadership of Canoeing was shared by Janet, Matt Vandenborre and Doug Fearn. Crafts were shared by Jen, me and Melissa Bennett. Dee Chambers was our cook. Lauren Vandenborre, Shaqayeq Mezbani and Noah Smith helped in the kitchen. Jean Clark, James Nimmo and Michael Balsom were all up for a day or two helped in the kitchen as well. The United Church's summer student, Lindsay, helped for three days as well. Our counselors were Matt Vandenborre, Gabby Fournier, Jamieson Hay, Connor Ryan, and Courtney Crawford. Our CITs were Tyler Northrup, Mike Goodine, Noah Smith, Anaka Founier, and Emma D'Coste. Anne created her own Faith Formation curriculum this year, titled Make a Difference. It incorporated the multiculturalism and inclusiveness characteristic of the other curriculums the United Church has rented to us in the past. It was a hot but fun week.

## Day Camp

Betty Jean Friedman and Tyler Lawless co-directed a busy, high-energy week. The camp used the Peace Talks curriculum supplied by the Maritime Conference of the United Church. The Lieutenant Governor Graydon Nicholas and his wife Beth visited Thursday. The camp was run by an army of teen and adult volunteers from Chipman and surrounding neighbourhoods. The community really came together to create a terrific week for the kids.

Are you seeing this in print and wishing you had colour? Send an email address to [janetbalsom@gmail.com](mailto:janetbalsom@gmail.com)

