



YMCA CAMP
KITCHIKEWANA



SOUP STRAINER

2022

Message from Gord Dunlop, General Manager, Camping & Outdoor Education

Greetings Kitchikewana Community,

The summer of 2022 welcomed many new campers and welcomed back so many of our past campers and staff, most of whom had not been at camp since 2019 - we were delighted overnight camp was open again! Camp is an incredibly special place, and the adversity that the world has faced over the past few years has helped to make this even more clear. Opening our summer camp for the first time in three years was not without challenges, but the incredible Camp Kitchikewana community rallied to ensure our campers had fun, made friends, and enjoyed their time at camp.

In reaching the end of our 2022 season, I am overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude for so many people in our camp community that contributed towards making it a wonderful summer for our campers:

- Thank you to the staff of summer 2022, who worked incredibly hard, putting passion and care into everything they did while being role models for our campers.
- Thank you to the medical volunteers, who spent their vacation time at camp providing excellent care to our campers, all while working harder than ever before.
- Thank you to the alumni who volunteered their time in so many different ways. Whether it was through a volunteer work weekend, leading sessions during staff training, helping in the kitchen, serving on the alumni advisory committee, fundraising, or in countless other ways, the support of the alumni community truly makes Camp Kitchikewana a special place.
- Thank you to the parents and guardians of our campers for putting your trust in our staff team to care for your children. It is a tremendous responsibility, and one that we do not take lightly.
- Thank you to all our campers who bring the fun, laughter, energy and joy along with them to camp, and who make camp what it is.

As we look towards 2023, we are busy reviewing your feedback and ideas from last summer and planning for an even bigger summer on Beausoleil Island next year!

With gratitude,
Gord Dunlop

Message from Alex Barron, Seasonal Assistant Director, Summer 2022

This summer, I had the utmost honour and privilege of being the Seasonal Assistant Director at camp! It was a position I had never imagined being in, but with the superb support of the YMCA, alumni, and amazing staff, we persevered to create a magical experience for the campers and staff alike.

The summer of 2022, being as good as it was, did present challenges in a form that not a single staff member had experienced before. Being the first traditional summer since 2019 and the emergence of COVID-19, camp had a substantial change in staff, and many adjustments to the functions of camp due to COVID-19 protocols and public health guidance. Although these challenges were apparent in many forms, they provided opportunities for the junior and senior staff to exhibit a level of leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving to deliver the traditional fun, growth, and spirit camp offers.

The 2021 SDP (Staff Development Program) were remarkable in their various senior staff and counselling positions. The program proved to be successful, as this was their first year working during a traditional summer, and it was quickly evident how confident and capable they were in their respective positions. Part of this success was one of the reasons why we implemented another SDP program for the month of August. We had 11 incredible SDP staff who gained experience in counselling, programming, kitchen and maintenance, exhibiting immense passion and responsibility in making sessions 3 & 4 memorable for all campers. Two claps for the SDP!

The Kitchikewana magic and spirit have been reignited after a 2-year break, and that is because of the genuine passion and love that the staff team had working together in this historic summer. It brings me happiness and contentment to see our younger staff care for campers and each other in such an authentic way. Their love for the people and the place is the same as anyone who has ever been/worked at camp before, and seeing them grow as leaders makes me confident for the future growth of all who step on Kitchikewana sands again. Thank you so much for your dedication, leadership, and love that you brought this summer, ensuring the sunset colours ne'er shall fade away.

Sincerely,
Alex Barron



We are excited to share that Dylan Lalande will be our next Camp Director! Dylan is a familiar face at Camp Kitchikewana, and we are thrilled with the wealth of experience and passion for camp that Dylan will bring as he returns to the role at the end of November.

Message from Dylan Lalande, Camp Director, Summer 2023

Hi Everyone,

My name is Dylan, and I will be Kitchikewana's new Camp Director. For anyone that doesn't know me, I worked at Kitchikewana from 2015 to 2018 as Assistant Director and Director. I am beyond excited to be returning to a place I call home. I have worked 11 summers in the camping world, 7 of those being with the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

Kitchikewana is a very special place to me. It is where I have met lifelong friends, where I have had the pleasure of working with countless young staff, and it is also where my wife and I got married earlier this year.

I look forward to seeing some old faces and to greet new ones to Kitchikewana sands in the new year.

Take care,
Dylan Lalande

The Dr. Bill Bryant Memorial Fund

It was with great sadness that we learned in December of the death of a great friend and Camp Kitchikewana Alumnus, Dr. Bill Bryant. The Bryant boys and other friends from Kirkland Lake began their Kitchikewana experience in 1949. Bill first attended Kitchikewana as a nine year old, moved through the camper phase to counsellor, and then excelled as an instructor on the waterfront and an Intermediate Section Director. Bill's last camp year was in 1958. Though Smitty (renowned Camp Director) was a role model for all, his staff payment of \$25 per month was not enough to finance Bill's medical school objectives.

“Therefore, the objective of the campaign would be to provide updated enhancements to the now twenty-year-old Kitchikewana Wellness Centre.”

In the late nineties a much needed renewal program for Kitchikewana was undertaken to help fund major kitchen renovations, upgrade water and septic facilities, replace dining hall tables and benches, and acquire new Camp boats. The transformative campaign raised much needed funds for all of the projects and the rebuilding of new cabins and bunks, as well as the construction of new leadership cabin facilities. John Lister, Scott Sweatman, and Paul Lawrence among many others played key roles in that significant Kitchikewana rebuild.

It was also acknowledged that there was a great need to completely rebuild the outdated medical facility. The new Wellness Centre would provide living accommodations and office space for professional medical staff. Increased capacity for those with special needs and isolated care

rooms had become much needed objectives. Bill agreed to head the successful Wellness Centre Campaign in 2003. Bill was a proud sponsor of Reach For The Rainbow, an inclusion support program for children with disabilities implemented at Camp Kitchikewana. The video of Kitchikewana including aerial shots and the spectacular collection of detailed Camp photo albums that he undertook are archive treasures.

After his passing, during discussions with Trudy (Bill's wife), and family members, it was agreed that we proceed with developing a Dr. Bill Bryant Memorial Fund. Bill himself had expressed concerns to me about the Camp's challenge to meet new and growing medical requirements in the years ahead. Therefore, the objective of the campaign would be to provide updated enhancements to the now twenty-year-old Kitchikewana Wellness Centre. Detailed meetings and discussions with Camp officials, including prior medical staff and professional trade reps, would identify the limited projects and related costs to form the base targets for the campaign.

Various discussions took place with a number of senior Kitchikewana alumni and the Kitchikewana Advisory Committee Chair. All were most supportive. A proposal was then sent to Mr. Brian Shelly, then V.P. of Development for the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka. His correspondence of January 27, 2022 confirmed the YMCA's agreement and support for establishing “The Dr. Bill Bryant Memorial Fund.” Laura Kelly was designated as the head of the Y's Development Team and the proposed Memorial Fund.

The following points were noted:

Fund Raising:

Identified Alumni/friends would direct their

donations to “The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka”; Donors would specify that their gift was for the “Dr. Bill Bryant Memorial Fund”.

To make a donation, please visit the website: www.ymcasm.ca/BryantMemorial, or contact the Y’s Philanthropy Department at (249) 733-4155. Cheques can be mailed to: Philanthropy Department (RE Dr. Bill Bryant Memorial Campaign), YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, 1-7315 Yonge St. Innisfil, ON L9S 4V7.

Processing of Gifts:

The Y’s Fund Development Team would manage the (donated) funds, issue charitable receipts, and acknowledgement letters.

Use of Funds:

The Camp’s Management Team would work with Jim Wilgar, on behalf of the Bryant Family and other approved designates, ie alumni/Fund reps, to determine Wellness Centre improvements. A portion of the funds raised would be used at an appropriate time to plan a commemorative event. (target, September 2023). Ed Bridge has agreed to draft wording for the plaque to be hung in the Wellness Centre.

Now that targeted enhancements to the Wellness Centre have been identified at our October 13, 2022 meeting, and a campaign goal of \$60,000.00 from Alumni has been agreed upon, it is time to complete the Campaign Team structure. A Campaign Chair and Committee will be identified in the very near future. That team, working closely with individuals from the YMCA Simcoe/Muskoka Philanthropy Team, will compile lists of prospective donors and seek to distribute those names for contact and hopeful donation.

As Bill mentions in the chapter on Kitchikewana in his book, It Is As It Is, “Words cannot describe the overwhelming spirit and

profound gratitude... experienced during this historical (reunion) event!” Our beloved Camp Kitchikewana is well equipped and ready for the next 100 years.” Now that COVID shutdowns have hopefully come to an end, it is time to bring the active Kitchikewana Spirit to life again with in person initiatives, and renewed infrastructures such as enhancements to The Wellness Centre.

On we go....

Oh Beausoleil, we pledge ourselves forever....

Sincerely,

Jim Wilgar,

Camp Kitchikewana Camper, Counsellor,
Staff, Alumnus, Friend, Interim Chair



Dr. Bill

By Jim Wilgar

With great sadness, the Kitchikewana community learned of Bill Bryant's death on December 5, 2021. Friends mourn the loss of a friend but are consoled by reflecting on a life lived well, and for Bill's Kitchikewana friends, that is especially true, because Bill's life was one especially well lived. We remember, as Bill did in his memoir, the joy of his being with us for the warmth of renewed friendships and rich memories at the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Dr. Bill Bryant (1940 -2021) was the epitome of the Kitchikewana Spirit. His contemporaries remember him as the guy who was always there, ready to pitch in and do more than his fair share. He contributed at four times in his eventful life -- as a camper, as a staffer, as camp doc, and as a leader in the rebuilding campaign of the 90's and the 2000's.

Bill's memoir, *It Is As It Is: Chronicles From a Lifetime Journey*, was published shortly before his passing. The book's second chapter is on Bill at Kitchikewana, and tells how the camp experience set an undergirding tone for the many achievements of the rest of his life. The memoir's story of a nine-year-old's long car ride from the isolated northern mining town of Kirkland Lake, to a world of new experiences at camp, is an apt emblem of passage from childhood to a broader world, and to a life well-lived – boarding school, medical school, finding a lifelong love, forming a family, medical practice, leadership in the profession, community service, world travel.

In the memoir, Bill reflected, "At the time, of course, we had no idea how the beauty of nature and the wealth of companionship

might influence our lives." At camp, mastery of the skills of outdoor life, and of swimming, lifesaving, canoeing, sailing, and athletics were a child's first experience of the feeling, "Hey, I really am capable of some stuff" - in later life, more mastery of more things follows. Kitchikewana camping sows the seeds for success. Of the rich tapestry of camp experiences that Bill's book recounts, two stand out. First, "Win Smith, affectionately known as Smitty, was always a hero." Smitty's leadership was quiet, unassuming even, but with real strength. By example more than by precept, Smitty showed Bill and his Kitchikewana friends how living up to the camp motto, "I'm third", could lead to a later life flourishing, and fulfilled by being a life of service to others. Secondly, learning to love classical music at Kitchikewana began something that enriched Bill's life (he served some years on the Board of Directors of the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony). "It was our compulsory Sunday evening attendance at

"His contemporaries remember him as the guy who was always there, ready to pitch in and do more than his fair share."

classical music concerts in the main pavilion that spawned my love for great music. Sitting on a hard bench after an active day, my head resting on my crossed arms at a dining table, I would absorb the exquisite sounds from Mr. Grunsky's cello." Music at Kitchikewana was not all serious, though; Bill's memoir also recalls rousing after-dinner singsongs and the fun, in girls' camp, of a Broadway musical like *The King and I*.

Every little junior, perhaps within moments of arriving, or after a day or two, or certainly before the end of the first summer, looks at the counsellors and staff and thinks, "I want

to become like those guys." In time, Bill took his place as a well-loved leader – on the waterfront and then as Intermediate Section leader. His time on staff prefigured his later service as camp doc, as a leader every Kitchikewana camper knew was working for them to have the very best time at camp they possibly could. Sometimes Bill's leadership boiled down to being super-amusing as when, in girls' camp, he would help the Intermediate Section Leader quiet down the cabins at lights-out. The first cabin to be quiet was promised a visit from Bill to do a dramatic rendering, with his rich, deep voice, of a love story from one of the "true romance" magazines that circulated among them – a little embarrassing perhaps, but then again not too steamy. The time was, after all, the fifties. In the end, only the need to respond to the rigours of medical education took Bill away from his summers as a Kitchikewana staffer.

Years later when he had semi-retired from family practice, Bill returned to Kitchikewana as camp doc and did all he could to make sure that an injury, illness, or disability would not spoil a child's time at camp. As a caring doctor, he was even able to support the most homesick camper - mom and dad would still be missed, but the crying would have stopped and the camping would have begun.

When the time came for rebuilding, Bill Bryant was there, pitching in as a senior the way he had pitched in as a boy and as a young man. Bill was a regular presence at the Alumni Work Weekends. Fittingly, on one of the weekends, he and his younger brothers, Bob and Tom, who had followed him to Kitchikewana when they were boys, were the crew completing the siding on the Wellness Centre that the Midland Builders had not had time to complete.

Bill Bryant's Kitchikewana friends remember the long history of how he contributed to their lives and how he contributed to the camp. They can no longer enjoy his presence among them, except in memory, but what a rich memory that is.

Thank you, Dr. Bill!



**William H. Bryant, M. D.,
1940 - 2021**

Rest in Peace

Endowment Fund Update

By Matt Ladner & Sean Weaser

It's hard to believe that 8 years have passed since Sean Weaser and Brian Shelley reached out to ask me about my interest and willingness to "co-chair" a new endowment campaign that was being considered to support Camp Kitchikewana. As many of you are aware, the YMCA Camp Kitchikewana 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund was founded to celebrate the Camp's 100th year of operation in 2019. The fund's purpose is to enhance the "camper experience", and all projects are approved by the camp's Alumni Advisory Committee to ensure that they are in the spirit of the fund.

Both Sean and I would like to extend a personal thank you to the hundreds of Friends of Camp Kitchikewana who have contributed to the 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund. To date, we have raised over \$1,200,000 in our efforts to build a strong and sustainable foundation, to ensure that Camp Kitchikewana continues to serve children and youth for generations to come.

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who have assisted with making calls, promoting the campaign, making donations, and assisting with connecting us to alumni and friends of Kitchikewana.

Finally, a huge thank you to our matching donor, Paul Lawrence, who has matched all gifts throughout the endowment campaign. This kind of leadership is critical to the success of fundraising efforts of this size and scale. Paul's commitment to Camp Kitchikewana's success has been unwavering over the past three decades through his involvement in the original capital campaign, the kitchen renovations, building bunks at his offices, and everything in between. Thank you, Paul.

It is with great pleasure that Sean and I would like to announce that we are passing the "co-chair" reigns over to two highly qualified Kitchikewana alumni, who have kindly agreed to continue with leading the endowment campaign. Sean and I are proud to endorse and introduce everyone to Sarah Nielsen (2003-2016) and Alison Hardman (1978-1985). Both Sarah and Alison bring professional fundraising training to the endowment and are looking forward to the task. Watch for some announcements in 2023!

As a reminder, the endowment fund has been designed to enrich the Camp Kitchikewana "camper experience" with investments focused on new initiatives, program equipment, and non-capital expenses. Each year, camp management will recommend a project or projects that meet the criteria of the fund. The Camp Kitchikewana Alumni Advisory Committee will approve the project to ensure that the interest generated by the endowment is allocated in the spirit of the fund.

The 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund is truly a "game changer" for YMCA Camp Kitchikewana.

Gifts can be in the form of one-time cash gifts, multi-year pledges, transfer of stock/securities, or a planned gift in the form of a bequest or life insurance policy. If you would like to learn more about the fund, or if you are interested in making a gift of your own, please email melanie.pockaj@sm.ymca.ca. Note that one time cash donations can be made online at www.ymcasm.ca/KitchikewanaEndowment. Thank you for considering supporting this project - we really can't think of a greater way to celebrate 100 years of Kitchikewana camping than by making an investment in the next 100.

Musical Memories

By Ross Breithaupt

Oliver Sacks, in his book *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*, tells of the “extraordinary tenacity of musical memory: so much of what is heard during one’s early years may be ‘engraved’ on the brain for the rest of one’s life.”

I have found this to be true. It is amazing how a song can take you right back to the minutest details of a place and a time. For me, this anchoring of music to memory is at its strongest for songs I first experienced at Kitchikewana.

To this day, when I hear the song “King of the Road” by Roger Miller, for example, I am beamed directly back to the Kitchikewana dining hall. It is after lunch and the smell of grilled cheese and soapy table scraps linger in the air. I am in Junior Five, my first year at camp, and the sonorous vocals and rhythmic guitar strumming of Garry Bard are making me vaguely homesick. The clink-clank of cutlery and plastic plates from the kitchen provide a background percussion. But then we get to the end of the first verse and we all shout with youthful glee: “I ain’t got no cigarettes!” I am surprised, every time, at how loud it gets and then how suddenly we all settle back into the quiet, perky sway of the song.

Here is a much more personal memory from that first season at camp. It is the middle of the night and I’m the only one in my cabin who is still awake. At least I think so. My counsellor, Karl, had left his transistor radio on quietly, as he does every night, and the sound of “Afternoon Delight” (a big hit that summer) is coming in and out of the static. I feel goosebumps over my whole body.

And here is a later memory. I’m a counsellor myself now. My brother Jeff is chugging away at the camp piano, doing his best Billy Joel

take, sibilantly spitting out the lines “filling out forms, standing in line”, single-handedly, and, against all odds, making the song “Allentown” a Kitchikewana standard for the early-eighties crowd.

One last one: it is August of 1985. My first, and only, experience of Girls’ Camp is just about done. My friends Sue Fraser and John McConnell and I have enjoyed our month as canoe trippers. Everyone is gathered around the closing campfire at Champlain’s/Sunset. I have forgotten what my brother told me about Girls’ Camp closing campfire, so I am not prepared for the chorus of wails and the deluge of tears that ensue when Joe Vetro (more than up for the challenge of emulating John Denver’s heady tenor) gets through only the first line of the song – “Well my bags are packed and I’m ready to go...”. It is a display of frantic, raw emotion that does not let up until the last boatload of campers has left the following morning.

Do you ever wonder about the songs that came before, and the ones that came after your experience of camp? Do you ever wonder what unexpected songs have become Kitchikewana standards, and, even more interestingly, how they become standards? Soup Strainer readers are encouraged to submit stories of the songs that, after all these years (or, in some cases, just a few months) beam you back reliably to the “Isle of Beausoleil”.

soupstrainerinfo@gmail.com



Kitchikewana Programming Back in Full Swing- with a combination of tradition and new!

By Matt Martin

After two gloomy years without traditional kids' camp, preparing for summer 2022 was a magical couple months for the spring staff, but also a time when the pressure was on – to get the unused site back up and running, and to have programs planned that would bring campers back to what they love about Kitchikewana, and live up to hype created by two summers away. In the face of this pressure and the many challenges that arose throughout the summer, our staff team persevered and remained dedicated to the campers; the resulting summer gave campers all that camp has to offer - the friendships, lasting memories of fun, and excitement for next summer!

The majority of senior and junior staff this year were able to come up to camp in 2021 for the Staff Development and Leadership Programs, respectively. The Alumni Committee wisely recognized the need to help bridge the transition to staff positions during these unique times and established the programs with support of the endowment fund. The programs not only offered training and/or practical experience in counselling and childcare, sites and kitchen work, programming design, and teaching skills like swimming and sailing; they also allowed participants and supervising staff to forge a more personal connection with the island as there were less people around, and games that were played "after-work" (like a summer long staff Survivor competition), or throughout the day as leadership led to many lasting connections between the 2021 group. For me, and I'm pretty sure everyone else who was there, that summer brought the passion for camp up to 11 and got everyone ready for any challenge 2022 could throw our way.

I was lucky to be at camp these past two summers – as a Staff Development Program (SDP) trainer in 2021, Head Programmer/Waterfront Coordinator (and briefly, Staff Development Coordinator for session one) in 2022 – to develop as a staff myself, see those I trained in the SDP shine on senior staff, and host fun and sprawling games. I specifically felt lucky as Head Programmer since my job was basically to plan fun for the entire camp – something I found pretty fun in and of itself. Getting to work with some of my former SDP now in the positions of boating (Pat Nightingale), aquatics (Maddie Berman), and sailing (Sophie Sharpe) area heads was also really special, and with the great additions of Emmy Ducic and Luke Nye as land areas heads made for some good planning sessions and entertaining (very) late night judging on weekend all camp games.

I read a book early in the spring by former Kitchikewana camper and staff member, Jack Pearse, and a line from his program philosophy came back to me when I moved into the Head Programmer position – "program is anything and everything that goes on in camp – from cabin clean-up to meal times to bedtime, every stage of the day can become a fun-filled experience". While sticking with the classic programs which make up the structure of camp and that campers anticipate each year, the 2022 programming team aimed to integrate Pearse's philosophy back into Kitchikewana by optimizing fun at every point in the day.

The most significant program introduced to accomplish this was The Cabin Cup – akin to Harry Potter's house cup - cabins would earn points for various activities throughout the activities throughout the for the trophy. This kept camper spirit high during games to earn as many points as possible, and motivated them to get more involved in other camp programming as points were awarded for things

like cabin clean-up and morning dip.

An SDP in 2021, Jack Serré, developed this idea as part of the program and worked to implement it with the 2022 programming team. Theme days had been successful at camp in past summers, so our team tried to have a unique theme for each day to make it seem special for campers. Some day's theme just required a costume (like minion, Disney, and twin days), while others added unique programming – big sibling day had senior and junior campers doing some activities together, backwards day had dinner for breakfast and breakfast for dinner, and puzzle day had a scavenger hunt around camp that could be completed by campers throughout the day.

Scheduling adjustments were also made – section games were moved into the morning after cabin choice, allowing an all-camp game to be played as every evening program. This opened up the opportunity for the programming team to create memorable games the whole camp played at once – we stuck to the classics like Colours, Infinity Wars, and Capture the Flag, but added in new themes and game mechanics to keep campers engaged. The three most successful games coming out of the summer were Zombieland, which reversed the mechanics of Colors, Despicable Me, styled like Catan in which campers gathered resources from around camp to build a rocket ship to “steal the moon”, and Jurassic Park, which had campers running around trying to capture leadership dressed as dinosaurs.

Alumnus Paul Gifford inspired me to incorporate programs which promote curiosity and build a sense of safety around the nighttime rather than fear. The program team facilitated activities like stargazing at the rock, dining hall karaoke, and extended campfires with marshmallow roasting and got tons of demands from campers to do more stuff at night. While these programs were occasional in 2022, knowledge from the summer

will hopefully lead to successful full implementation in 2023.

For anyone invested in the results of weekend all-camp competitions, my personal favorite part of programming, I'll give a brief update to close out. The 2022 Lumbermen and Voyageurs weekend upped the hype by including a senior

“The most significant program introduced to accomplish this was The Cabin Cup.”

staff as fifth captains of each team, and ended in probably the closest scores in history (exact discrepancy undisclosed), with the Lumbermen taking the victory. Harvesters and Explorers featured in session 3 resulted in a victory for the farmer, butcher, gardener, and fisherman. Finally, session 4 got the chance to introduce a new all camp theme – the multiverse Olympics – featuring camper's favorite movie deities like Thor, Percy Jackson, and Aquaman as team captains. While session 4 all-camps usually change each year – in the vast multiverse of possibilities, anything could happen.

I want to thank the alumni community for inspiring the program team to bring back some of the past camp activities – songs like “Momma Don't Allow” were brought back to the campfire, “Kitchi-Kitchi” was adapted as the new camp anthem, the corn roast is being planned for future years, and island-wide capture the flag was used as a staff game. And, in Austin Matthews' tradition, Jack Serré and Jared DeWinter brought back the morning sports updates with the now famous “Sports Corner”. Special thanks to Paul Gifford, Matt Ladner, Kerry Sommerset, Katie Kirkpatrick, Joe Szolopiak, Julian Swinkin and my mom, Britta Martin, for helping with program training and inspiration this spring and summer! Thanks for the time campers!

**Until next summer,
Matt Martin**



We are proud and excited to share the following news about two of our talented alumni:

Suzan Fraser

On May 18, 2022, Suzan Fraser was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in Newmarket. In 2000, after practicing in a small firm, Justice Fraser founded Fraser Advocacy, a public law practice with an emphasis on mental health law and enhancing the rights of vulnerable persons. She has appeared at all levels of court in Canada and before the Ontario Review Board and other tribunals. She was privileged to represent families, Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, and organizations at many coroner's inquests. She acted for families and organizations at several public inquiries, including the Gillese Inquiry into the Safety and Security of Residents in the Long-Term Care Homes System in Ontario, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Suzan was a Kitchikewana camper from 1977-1981; CIT in 1982; Counsellor in 1983-1984, and Tripper in 1985. She has kept up her Kitchikewana connections, and has been a valuable member on the Alumni Board. Her three children have all attended Kitchikewana as well.

Leigh Chapman

On August 23, 2022, the federal government officially reinstated the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Canada and appointed Leigh Chapman to the role. The CNO role will strengthen Canada's health system by providing strategic policy expert advice from a nursing lens in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of health system policy initiatives. Leigh's nursing career has spanned almost 20 years. She is a registered nurse and received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto's Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing. Most recently, she was the Director of Clinical Services with Inner City Health Associates in Toronto. Her work there encompassed strategic, operational, and clinical oversight of the nursing program for the care of people experiencing homelessness who were affected by COVID-19 in Toronto. Leigh was a Kitchikewana camper from 1982-1985, and returned to volunteer as camp nurse from 2015-2019. Leigh continues the Kitchikewana tradition with her family – her son, Liam, is a Kitchikewana camper and they often participate in Kitchikewana work weekends together.

We want to hear from you. Do you have personal news, a special memory or camp related story?

The Soup Strainer wants to know!

Please reach out to us at **soupstrainerinfo@gmail.com** with your contributions for future editions. We look forward to hearing from you.



Important Upcoming Dates:

- Registration is open as of December 3, 2022 at 9:00am EST
ymcacampkitchikewana.ca
- Spring Volunteer Work Weekend - May 12-14, 2023
- Women's Wellness Weekend - September 15-17, 2023