

HILLS OF PEACE CAMPGROUND (HOP)

Board Report 2023

1.0 New Caretakers

The year started on a positive note with the signing of a contract with Lena and Anthony Jenkins as Caretakers of Hills of Peace. Lena is a qualified carpenter and Anthony is an active member of the Canadian Military, currently posted on a mission in Latvia. Anthony is very familiar with the camp as he has attended for years. Our thanks to John Johnson, previous caretaker, for providing information about the running of the camp.

2.0 June Cleanup weekend

The first week of June was clean up time. Numerous people attended; cleaned flies, got rid of mice, cleaned all the cabins, dorms and other buildings. Marian spent time cleaning and organizing the office. The chefs, Dave Symington and Christine Ungstad supplied everyone with great food. Our thanks to all the people that attended, cleaned, repaired or cleaned bird houses. It was a successful enjoyable work camp.

3.0 Board Activity

Thanks to current Board members and the executive for the work that they do volunteering. The Board held many meetings online at different times and the entire board got involved with events. A Water Policy was developed to help with keeping the water safe for everyone. Succession planning: Three board members terms are up. New members are needed.

4.0 Rentals

The second-year rental to the Lord of the Nations church group from Wainwright was successful.

5.0 Repairs/Maintenance

Thanks to Keith Williams for his work on the lawn mower. The siding was finished on the boy's dorm, broken step was fixed, and potholes were filled with sand on the road. Still trying to fix mouse problems. Buildings need new ongoing maintenance, steps and stairs repaired to cabins, roofing Maintenance – varies year to year. Old items were hauled to the dump.

6.0 Challenges

Getting operations back working each year as well as getting staff is difficult, such as lifeguards, cooks or volunteers. Registrations and interest in the programs are difficult to rebuild and retain following COVID. June is HOP fund raising month.

Maintenance - Challenge is the weather and cleaning of buildings, furnace going off, and maintenance needs to happens all year. Capital projects such as flooring for chapel, cabin up grade, repairs to the kitchen and dining room are ideas for future, however they require financing.

7.0 Financial Report Stephen Thompson

HOP was purchased for \$806.00 in 1956. Cash reserves have decreased, investments and capital assets are the same. The Insurance is \$23, 000 per year. Other expenses are also up. Cash for HOP is not in a good position. Last year fund raising results in “June is Hills of Peace Month” was \$5,000. We encourage individuals and congregations to consider generously supporting Hills of Peace. Without improvements in donations and revenues from all sources we will need to have serious discussions about the future of Hills of Peace in the next 2 to 3 years. Donations of just under \$2,500.00 during Family Camp was appreciated.

8.0 HOP Family Camp

Unfortunately, youth programs and the men’s retreat were cancelled. Thank you to Marian Thompson, and the cooks Dave Symington and Christine Ungstad for all the work that they did to make Family Camp so successful. A lifeguard was hired the day before Family camp with thanks to Cheryl Donnachie for her recruiting efforts. Having camp starting on the long weekend was very successful, as families came for the weekend. The baptism on Sunday brought people to camp for the day. Marian sent thank you cards to all the people who volunteered. They were appreciated.

9.0 What we enjoyed in HOP 2023? (Only some of the things were mentioned)

- Even though attendance was lower, people and children were happy to be there and participated in the programs and services. Increasing attendance from COVID will take a few years.
- Listening to the children’s delightful laughs as Chef Dave helped them decorate their cookies. Some cookies had “GLOBS “of icing but it did not matter. The adults enjoyed eating them and the children were proud of their decorated cookies.
- Watching the children play soccer with their soccer T shirts and soccer balls-another plus
- Walking around the peaceful holy trails- knowing that God is with us.
- Sharing our stories with friends
- Becky who saw the mouse in the office, picked it up by it’s tail and threw it outside. You could tell she is a farm lady.
- Edith’s smile and others enjoying the rides on the Golf Cart.
- The delightful presentation and evening workshop by Kristen Douglas from World Accord and Brenda buying the World Accord Birdhouse (made by George Cook) for \$100.00
- Prayer Shawls from Chilliwack and prayers from Gwyn.
- Visiting with each other and many other things.
- The lifeguard who told the kids that they could push her off in the water on the last day and they did.

Thank you to everyone who came to Family Camp, volunteered, donated, or supported all the events. We look forward to HOP Camps in 2024, a time when we can get together and enjoy Hills of Peace in person.

Have a good year and remember to continue to support Hills of Peace

Hills of Peace Campground Board