



*** A Place Set Apart ***

www.campwendake.org

director@campwendake.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring is finally here and so is planning for Camp Wendake 2008. (The glacier in my front yard is shrinking but not gone!! It better be gone by the time you read this!)

We have two teams for the 12th Camp – the governing board is working on the over all strategy to be able to provide more Camps and opportunities for campers and volunteer staff to experience Camp Wendake. The organizing team for this year's camp has looked at the comments and suggestions from the previous camps and is busy with the planning for another great year.

Dayle Allan and Becca Skibinski are

organizing the volunteer staff and would be glad to hear from you if you know of someone who is interested in volunteering this year. Mel Dupuis, as the registrar, has been working with Paul to prepare the camper applications. Elise Chambers, Program Director, and Greg Smith, Spiritual Director, are also putting together the program for camp. I am thankful for such a great team and know that any one of us would be glad to hear from you if there is some way that you would like to contribute to the planning for camp this year. Planning Camp Wendake is just one way that the community spirit moves throughout the year between camps. We are looking

forward to our Gala in a few weeks and in September we will be part of the Walk for Life in London with the AIDS Committee of London and John Gordon Home. The support, donations, gifts and prayers of so many individuals and organizations help me appreciate how many lives are touched by Camp Wendake every year.

On a personal level I cherish the memories and gifts that Camp Wendake has given me and look forward to being part of creating another great Camp this year.

Peace, Prosperity, Perspective,
Matthew

The Annual Wendake Gala Fundraising Event is Here Again!

Hello Camp Wendake Gala Event Supporters!

We are really excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our 5th Annual Camp Wendake Gala Event called **"Broadway Lights & Hot Summer Nights"** happening this year on May 10th, at the Hilton London!

This year promises to be another incredible event with Rick Kish & Natalie Howard-Grant taking us on a musical journey through the history of Broadway in New York City! Join us as our guests on the RED CARPET, with a fabulous silent auction, a tasty buffet dinner, a musical production called "Broadway Lights & Hot Summer Nights" and a chance to win a trip for two to New York City! Be warned though-the paparazzi will likely be out to catch a glimpse of the Tony Award Presentations that will be taking place through the night!

Tickets for this memorable event are \$55 per person or tables of 10 for \$500. \$20 individual tax receipts are available. Tickets can be purchased at the Grand Theatre box office by calling 519-672-8800 or by going online to www.grandtheatre.com

Please pass this on to all friends and family who may be interested in coming out for a wonderful night of entertainment while supporting this amazing camp for children and adults affected by HIV/AIDS. Thank you again for your support in the past and we look forward to seeing you this year on Broadway!!

Respectfully Yours,
Camp Wendake Gala Committee

CAMP WENDAKE PRESENTS

www.campwendake.org

Camp WENDAKE

5TH ANNUAL GALA EVENING

MAY 10, 2008 6 PM - 12 AM

HILTON LONDON

"Tony Awards Show" and Musical Walk through Broadway History featuring Rick Kish, Natalie Howard-Grant & The Broadway Kids

BUFFET DINNER
SILENT AUCTION
Win a Trip to New York City!

BROADWAY LIGHTS & hot summer nights

TICKETS \$55, TABLE OF 10 \$500

AVAILABLE AT THE GRAND THEATRE BOX OFFICE 519-672-8800
or online at www.grandtheatre.ca \$20 Tax Receipts available/ticket

Sponsored by:

Camper Registration information for 2008—Registrar Mel Dupuis

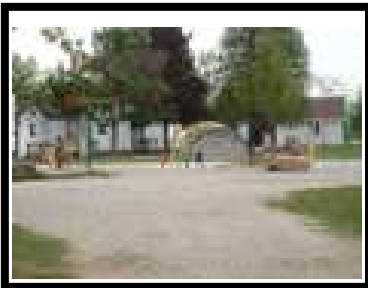
Hello Campers!!! Well the time is fast approaching to register for Camp Wendake 2008! The application forms will be available after May 1, 2008 through various methods:

1. You can download the application off the Camp Wendake website: www.campwendake.org
2. You can request an application from your case manager at your local AIDS service organization.
3. You can contact (me) Mel Dupuis at 519-301-6398 or by mail at Camp Wendake, c/o P.O. Box 21024 Stratford, Ont., N5A 7V4 Attn: Mel Dupuis

My First Wendake- Last year was my first camp Wendake, in fact, it was my first time ever at a summer camp. Many of my expectations were met but some were surpassed by a long shot, and it is these things I wish to share, especially with new volunteers. The support of fellow staff and camp administration was incredible. I felt so completely heard and seen regardless of the conversation or issue being presented. I also witnessed staff at every level handle a myriad of situations with ease and efficiency, although many of these situations were not easy. When I had a concern to put before the group, I offered my input and suggestions, and then stood back and watched the process unfold in remarkable fashion. I formed some wonderful connections with staff and campers, some of which I've maintained in one form or another throughout the year. Whether through meeting for coffee or continued volunteering, there exists a bond which was cemented in the fellowship of the camp experience. Let me not forget the whole reason for my attending camp in the first place, to support PHAs in an experience of fun, friendship and respite. I learned a great deal about the disease of HIV/AIDS from campers and staff alike. I know for a fact that some campers were relieved and honoured to share their stories without the judgment or prejudice to which they were accustomed, and I was blessed to receive the gift of their sharing. And so I laughed, I worked, I played and I cried. I cried for the depth of connection that I experienced, and the gravity of the illness that I witnessed. Would I do it again? I just mailed my application this week. Shalom, Tom



**RMT's are needed
August 26, 27, 28**



A Camp Wendake experience, by Spencer, RMT

Last summer, when the first Wendake camper on my massage table told me that his son's name was Spencer, I knew that the Universe had positioned me exactly where I was supposed to be in that Precious Now. When my second camper shared with me stories of her childhood in Malindi, Kenya, birthplace of my beloved wooden animal collection and site of my longest surfboard ride, that correctness was confirmed.

Volunteering as a Massage Therapist at Camp Wendake touches my heart. The privilege of massaging Wendake campers brings many rewards: smiles of gratitude, thankful hugs and inspirational stories. Research shows significant elevation in immune system status (CD4+ lymphocytes) after massage therapy. I do not need that proof to

validate the positive impact of massage for Wendake campers. Their gratefulness, so genuinely expressed, proves to me that their wellness has been enhanced by the experience. In return, my body is flooded by "feel-good" endorphins that enhance my wellness. Is my volunteering altruistic?—not exactly. It is a wonderful win-win situation that I hope to share with more campers and with an expanding group of Massage Therapists. I encourage other RMT's to consider volunteering for this amazing experience.

RMT's are needed August 26, 27, 28.

Please contact Spencer :

by e-mail: molarmitch@rogers.com

by phone: 519-474-4362

Kids' Program— fun, fun, and more fun!!!

Children will be able to swim, do crafts, play on the splash pad, canoe and hike during supervised morning and afternoon programs. This provides parents with time to participate in the day time adult activities and know their children are well cared for. We look forward to meeting old and new friends in Kids' program.



For many years I have referred clients who access ACOL services to a special camp called Camp Wendake. I had difficulty describing Camp Wendake to curious clients because I had not experienced it myself. Last year I decided to attend Camp. I had never been camping and was grateful for the preparation that seasoned campers and staff offered me. My Wendake

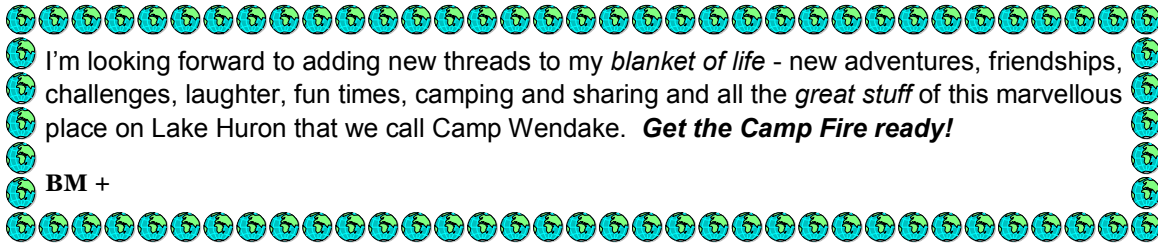
experience last summer has brought me closer to the clients we serve daily, and for this reason I feel truly blessed.

but the whole year I have thoroughly enjoyed sitting on the Board of Camp Wendake

One of my fondest memories from Camp is Talent Night, surrounded by a summer storm, musical talent, comedians and much more. I quickly became interested in Board level activity, wanting to surround myself with Camp Wendake energy not only for one week of the year,

Due to time commitments and, fingers crossed, a trip to Mexico for the International AIDS Conference, I will not be attending Camp in 2008. I hope to join everyone in 2009.

Ryan Campbell



I'm looking forward to adding new threads to my *blanket of life* - new adventures, friendships, challenges, laughter, fun times, camping and sharing and all the *great stuff* of this marvellous place on Lake Huron that we call Camp Wendake. **Get the Camp Fire ready!**

BM +



Report from the Staff Director

"Plans for Camp Wendake 2008 are under way! We look forward to having a great week this summer and staff always contribute so much to that week! We currently have positions open in all areas so get your applications in soon. The Children's Program is a popular place for volunteer staff and Cabin Leaders are always needed! So think about joining us! Application packages can be downloaded from our website which is www.campwendake.org. Staff training will take place at Huron Church Camp on June 6th and 7th so please mark those dates in your calendars. I look forward to seeing you!

Dayle

Hi! I'm Mel, the new Registrar.

I first came to camp three years ago. I had only been HIV+ for a year at that point. I was very excited! That is, until the day to arrive at camp!! After my diagnosis, my biggest fear became, "what if someone finds out?" On the drive to camp, I was obsessed with thoughts that someone from my community would be there and I would be "found out". It was also really, really far outside my comfort zone to arrive somewhere I have never been before surrounded by people who are HIV+ or may have AIDS. I didn't know how I would feel if I saw someone who was very sick. I was really scared.

Then, I walked into the dining hall to register and I met Paul. Paul's open, caring persona helped me remove my shoulders from around my ears. We chatted and he gave me all the goodies in our welcome bags. His sparkly eyes and warm, comforting smile made me feel welcome and most of all, safe. His gentle voice said " why don't you stay tonight and see how it goes. If you don't want to stay after that we will make sure you get home." That was all I needed, a bite size piece of information that I could digest and gave me a way out, if it was just too much for me to handle.

When Paul stepped down, I thought to myself, "who is going to be that friendly, caring, gentle person for first time campers?" and I realized, it had to be me!

I look forward to meeting all of you in this new role. I look forward to reconnecting with old friends and reaching out to new ones!!

Blessings, Mel



We're hoping to see you at Camp 2008!

Volunteers: Please send your applications in ASAP as jobs are filling up.

Campers: Send in your application as soon as it is available on our website, to secure your spot in camp this year.