

# Kawkawa Summer Camps 2019

'Looking forward to what is ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race!'  
Philippians 3:14



[www.kawkawa.com](http://www.kawkawa.com)

September 2019

## Upcoming event: Ladies' Craft Weekend 2019

Every fall, during the Remembrance Day long weekend, we offer a 3-night Ladies' craft getaway. This year the dates are November 8th - 11th.



Whether you are a chronic crafter or just need a weekend retreat, come and enjoy some relaxation, make some new friends, cosy up by the fireplace with a book and a blanket or craft the day away.

We offer some optional craft classes for those who are interested in learning something new. All meals are prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff, so you can sit and relax at meal times and enjoy the company of other ladies. For more information call us on **1-866-545-9359** or visit: <https://www.kawkawa.com/ladies-craft-weekend/>



## Summer 2019: Forgetting What is Behind and Straining Towards What is Ahead

This summer our theme verse was Philippians 3:13b *“Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead.”* As summer started we wanted this to be a new summer where we were not held by the experiences of previous summers or the programming from the past but rather be open to freshness. Amongst the staff we discussed the idea of not limiting God by our own expectations of what we thought he should do. From a very early stage of the summer there was a very real sense that God was at work in the lives of campers, Work Crew, Leaders in Training and staff.

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Transform Lives, Build Leaders, Impact the World....For CHRIST!

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Each week from the start of the year there was a steady flow of registrations and by the end of the summer we had a total of 670 campers. 10 different groups, as well as a number of individuals, were responsible for sending 193 of these campers to Kawkawa on full or partial scholarship. What a tremendous blessing it was to see kids being able to experience camp because an organisation or an individual made it possible for them. As a camp we want to extend our thanks to all who organised or contributed to concerts or other fundraising events or who dug deep into their pockets to provide scholarships. Many parents have contacted us to express their appreciation. One mom emailed us, *"I want to thank you for giving a sponsorship to my daughter to go to your camp this year. I am a single mom on disability welfare and I don't have the money to send her to camp and she just had a blast.....I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting her go."*

In addition to camp places filling up quickly the LIT Program and Work Crew Program became even more popular choices this summer. By the end of January, the LIT program was completely full. Had we the ability we could have filled the program three times over. Our Work Crew Program, which is often the first step young people take towards leadership training at Kawkawa, was also extremely popular with most camps being full of keen young people, many of whom expressed deep interest in applying for the LIT program next year. In total this summer there were 114 Work Crew members.

During staff training week one of our speakers encouraged us to embrace surprises. By this point the camp had already encountered a surprise in terms of a financial challenge. For the 10 previous summers Kawkawa had been the recipient of summer jobs grants which helped to cover the significant staffing costs.



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Last summer Kawkawa received in excess of \$25,000 in Canada Summer Jobs grants. Early in 2019 we made a strong application once again for the grants. In May we were informed that our application had been declined as Kawkawa did not qualify. It was a great surprise to us and presented a financial challenge to the camp, but it wasn't a challenge that surprised God nor was it too much for him. Within a month of Kawkawa receiving confirmation of our application being declined we had received \$30,000 in donations towards the staff fund. Where government, grants and other applications can be fickle and uncertain, our God is steadfast and faithful!

The evening before Youth Camp #1 I received a phone call from our speaker for the week. He had been invited to share a meal with some families at a casual gathering. At the meal he met an Iranian Muslim family who had two children. Through their conversation it became clear that this family would love to send their children to camp. It just happened that the following day he would be the speaker at Youth Camp #1. This camp was for the exact age of the two children.

At the time of our conversation it was clear that God had orchestrated these events and it was a great opportunity to have these young people at camp, however, we were also aware that the camp was full that week. After giving the situation some thought we decided we should tell the family to send their kids and we would make the arrangements to house them. Unsure of how our plan would actually work we waited on the Sunday night for campers to register. As registration concluded, we realised that two campers, a boy and a girl, had not shown up,

freeing up beds for this brother and sister. God knew exactly what we needed and clearly wanted these kids here.

Throughout the week, these two siblings participated in all the activities and listened attentively to the chapel and campfire messages, singing along and doing the actions for all the worship songs. On the last night of camp, a strong Gospel message was presented with an invitation to respond. Both these campers indicated that they wanted to follow Christ. Praise the Lord! God certainly had a plan for these children being at camp that week. Incidentally, due to the nature of the introduction to them our speaker is appropriately positioned to continue pursuing that relationship with the children and their family.

During our second camp of the summer we heard concerning news that our speaker for the next camp had some health problems and would be unable to attend. Finding speakers for camp is not always an easy task but finding someone who could fill in for 5 evening campfires and 5 morning chapels adds another dimension to the challenge! Despite this immense challenge, God gave us an incredible sense of peace that he is faithful and would provide for our needs. Our staff became engaged in finding a solution and within 24 hours two speakers came forward and offered their services for the week. In the end God provided more than what we needed and we ended up asking a pastor who had planned to go on vacation that week but had his plans fall through, come and speak to the campers. God provided exactly what the campers and what we needed!

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One of the highlights of the summer was Senior Teens week. Throughout the week our speakers had been discussing the masks that we wear that are detrimental to our spiritual growth. During the summer some of our volunteers had worked very hard in preparing a place on the hill behind the kitchen. The idea was to create a sacred space (the area has officially been named 'The Mount'). The area consists of some meandering trails, three separate areas with benches carved out of logs and a beautiful flat stone area. The volunteers built three wooden crosses which were approximately 12-14 feet in height. On the last night of camp as part of the evening campfire, campers lined the trails to the flat rock and staff members carried the crosses to the rock where they were fixed. The campers then had the opportunity to symbolically lay their mask and their burdens at the foot of the cross. This experience proved to be a very deep and meaningful event for both campers and staff alike.

Throughout the summer God was very much at work constantly challenging our faith, but it was apparent that he was also working in the lives of campers. In total 13 young people committed their lives to Christ and 20 rededicated their lives.

It is often difficult to fully assess the impact of a summer of camp but during family camp this summer at least three parents indicated that the reason they had brought their family was because as a child they had experienced camp at Kawkawa and it was so significant for them

that they wanted to be able to bless their family with a similar experience.

It is such a blessing to be engaged in the front line of ministry where lives are changed radically and it is also a blessing to have our own lives challenged. As many of our staff journeyed with us this summer through the challenges and as they saw very clear answers to prayer and God very much at work, their lives too were transformed. Few of our staff, if any, finished the summer the same person they were at the beginning of the summer. Many of our staff gave up better opportunities financially to serve at camp because they wanted to see God at work. Many of them had served at Kawkawa previously and were expectant. Through their faith and in God's faithfulness and goodness he did immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine.

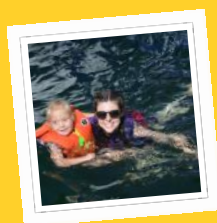
As our supporters and prayer warriors, we want to thank all who volunteered, prayed, donated or supported in any way this summer. Throughout the summer there was a real sense of support and encouragement from the prayers of God's people.

As we close off summer camp for another year and focus on off-season retreats as well as planning for summer 2020 we do so with confidence that God is still at work in the lives of all the campers, Work Crew, LIT and staff members, as Philippians 1:6 reminds us, *".....he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

*Dave Murphy*

Program Director

"Going to Kawkawa changed my daughter's life. They truly invest in the lives of kids that go there. So thankful we found this place!"



"Highly recommend this camp! My kids have been going for 8+ years and the connection they have with the staff & leaders and the experience leaves them inspired & eagerly awaiting the following year. Every child should have this experience!"



# Make a Donation Today:

## STEP 1 I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TOWARD:

- Monthly Donation** Sign up online with CanadaHelps at [www.kawkawa.com/donate](http://www.kawkawa.com/donate)  
Each month I will give:    \$30    \$50    \$100    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsor a Kid to Camp** Total of Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- One-Time General Fund Donation** Total of Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2 PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive newsletter updates from Camp Kawkawa (please check)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 3 PAYMENT INFORMATION

- I have enclosed a cheque
- I am paying by Credit Card:    Visa    Mastercard

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

EXP DATE (MM/YY) \_ \_ / \_ \_

3/4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE \_ \_ \_ \_

NAME ON CARD (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

- I will sign up online [www.kawkawa.com/donate](http://www.kawkawa.com/donate)

Select 'general fund' and specify donation type in message box



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