



The Ryde Lake News

April 2017

Our mission is to promote growth in mind, body, and spirit.

The Ryde Lake Camp experience fosters respect, and appreciation of self, others, and our natural world within a nurturing, Christian community.

**A SPECIAL
THANK YOU
TO OUR DONORS
AND VOLUNTEERS**

Your hard work and generous contributions keep camp strong!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Work Days in May**
Midweek - days TBD
Contact office for details.
- **Work Days Pre-Camp**
June 16, 17, 18
- **Girls' Camping Sessions**
July 2 to 8
July 9 to 15
July 16 to 22
July 23 to 29
- **Family/Friends Camping**
August 5 to 18
August 21 to 27
- **Anniversary Open House**
September 23 10am - 4pm
- **Fall Work Day** Sept 24
- **Annual Fundraiser!**
Dinner and Silent Auction
November 4 6 pm
Parkwoods United Church

Celebrating 65 years 1952-2017!

Over 65 years ago, a small group of forward-thinking women had a vision and were brave enough to turn it into a reality. That reality became Ryde Lake Camp, which was originally started as a camp for CGIT girls. The legacy and vision of those founding women continues today, stronger than ever, as a camp for all girls to grow in mind, body, and spirit.

A quote from the 1952 dedication: "This was a real venture in faith, as it meant assuming a large mortgage but we felt that it would be justified in the enrichment it would give to hundreds of girls who camp there amid beautiful, natural surroundings."

As we approach the coming summer season, on behalf of the thousands of girls and leaders over the past 65 years, we give thanks to the women who had that faith!

I hope to see you at the Anniversary Open House on September 23!

Franny

**Canoeing * Kayaking * Crafts * Evening Programs * Hiking * Campfires
Cookouts * Discovery Time * Nature * Archery * Swimming * Music**



GIRL'S CAMP SUMMER 2017

For Girls Ages 9 to 16

Session 1 - July 2 to 8 FULL
Session 2 - July 9 to 15 FULL
Session 3 - July 16 to 22 FULL
Session 4 - July 23 to 29 space avail.

Contact the camp office or visit the website for online registration today. Don't be disappointed!

A week at camp has the potential to positively influence the lives of our campers . . . empowering them to become strong, independent, caring and compassionate young women.

WORTH REPEATING . . .

Amazing, beautiful and safe camp for girls to grow in their values, independence, confidence, friendship and adventure! Wish I had gone to a place like this when I was a girl, but happy our daughter goes every summer. This year is her 5th!

2016 Facebook page review, from A.S., camper parent

In Memorium

Dell Canning 1921 - 2016

It is with sadness that we inform you of Dell's passing. Dell was involved in Ryde from the very beginning and was Chair of the Board for many years. She willingly wore many other hats whenever needed. And until recently, she never missed an annual meeting or an event, always there to give her support. Her love of Ryde and the positive impact of the camp experience on so many young girls and women was important to her. How blessed we were to have had her as part of the Ryde family. She is missed!



FAMILY AND FRIENDS CAMPING

AUGUST 5 to 18, 21 to 27, 2017

Have you ever thought how nice it would be to have some time at Ryde, other than dropping off and picking up campers?

How about a few days this August?

No computer, no maids, no room service. But we do have fresh air, quiet misty mornings, hikes through the forest, brilliant stars, awesome sunsets, marshmallows around the campfire and lots of relaxation! Choice of your own cabin and length of stay.

See the website for details or contact Fran at the camp office for remaining availability.

TIME TO CATCH UP ON RYDE HAPPENINGS!

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Erin (Firefly) and Blair Matthews on the birth of Carter Emmett born May 2016. A new family camper!
- **NEW DINING HALL ROOF 2016**
- **QUILT RAFFLE WINNER** was our Asst Director, Kaulitz. No kidding!
- **THANKS TO STROKE**, our camp nurse, for her handiwork and donation of the quilt. \$2500. raised for the Campership Fund.
- **THE CAMBERSHIP FUND** provided assistance for 33 campers in 2016. This fund is supported by the generosity of individuals and Toronto United Church Council.
- **NEW ENLARGED DECKS** on Cabins 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, and Ryde House were completed in Nov 2016
- **NEW STURDY AND ATTRACTIVE SCREEN DOORS** were added to five cabins in 2016
- **UKULELES** were a great addition to the camp program!
- **facebook.com/rydelake** Check it out. No worries for those without a facebook account as this is a public page and can be viewed by all.
- **DINNER/SILENT AUCTION SAT NOV 4** in T.O. This is our annual fundraiser. Never attended? Make this the year! Good times and great food are guaranteed. Tickets available in Sept.

CITS OF 2016

This past summer saw 22 of our senior campers return to take part in the CIT program. What a joy and privilege to have them share their enthusiasm, talents, and love of camp! With future leaders like these girls, camp will be in good hands!
 Congratulations to this special group of individuals: *Aquamarine, Aussie, Buffy, Care Bear, Cashew, Cooper, Domino, Fin, Goose, Gylfie, Gypsy, Jem, Kaleo, Lilo, Malibu, Nano, Peaches, Roosavelt, Samosa, Shimmer, Teddy, and Terezi.*

RYDE TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

1. In 1952, cost of 12 days at camp was \$19.
2. In 1951, the property of 600 acres was bought for \$13,500.
3. The property included the farmhouse, a barn, and 3 log cabins.
4. The farmhouse and 1 of the log cabins (Cabin 7) are still in use today. Cabin 1 was destroyed by the storm of July 2013.
5. The farmhouse was built around 1889 by Louis Norman, an immigrant from England. It had an addition added in 1911.

CAMP IS . . . Unique Friends **Laughter Peace *Smiles* Growth *Safe* Community Nature Spiritual **Exciting****

“NO GIRL LEFT BEHIND” -

Thoughts shared at staff training 2016, by “Treble”, who is returning this summer as one of our Program Heads.

That is my simple motto for camp this summer.

The reason most of us sit here today, whether it is your first or thirtieth time returning as a Ryde staff member, is because of that phrase. At one point or another, there was a counsellor who ensured your inclusion in this community. Many of us have distinct memories of what that means, whether it was a counsellor reaching out to you to teach a camp song or helping you into a canoe for the first time.

It is not only our role but our privilege to help the girls in our care become part of the Ryde family that you see before you today. Amidst bathroom breaks, waterfront time, hopping, or the generally busy schedule we face at camp, it can be so easy to forget the camper experience.

This is why I will carry “No Girl Left Behind” as a rallying cry with me this summer.

I started out as a very quiet camper. The girl that first came to camp and was homesick for the first half of the week is certainly not the same woman you see before you today. Ryde has not only built my confidence, but has changed me as a person. My continual return to camp and the subsequent person I became can be entirely credited to the Ryde family and my very first two counsellors, Kaulitz and Chakoo. They ensured that I, the shy girl who would hardly speak to anyone other than her friend Swiftie, was included in my cabin. I have distinct memories of both of these lovely ladies striking up a conversation with me, when I was too shy to speak to some of the other girls. They didn't have to do that, but it was one small step that ensured I would be coming back to Ryde.

I share this story because it constantly reminds me of the gravity and responsibility of our role. The efforts we take by acknowledging and including the outlier are significant.

I think I can speak on behalf of most, if not all of us, in saying we are so blessed to have this Ryde family. The reason I keep coming back every year is not only because of my own love for the camp, but because I want other girls (perhaps the same girls that will be sitting in these same chairs 10 or 15 years from now) to love and feel as much a part of our camp family as I do.

To allow this to happen we must be staff that constantly create environments that permit self-confidence and community to be built. These two entities are arguably the pillars on which our camp rests. For our camp to ensure that no girl is left behind, we must always go the extra mile, we must give each and every girl the opportunity to flourish.

Bring your family and friends!

See the Fall colours!

Tour the site!

Hike the trails!

Enjoy a paddle on the lake!

And more . . .

YOU'RE INVITED TO . . .

**RYDE'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY
OPEN HOUSE**

Sat September 23, 2017

10 am to 4 pm

Re-dedication ceremony 12:00

Delicious camp-style lunch served at 12:30

RSVP by Sept 18 if joining us for lunch
705-684-9813 or office@rydelakecamp.com

Contact Info

Camp Office:

Fran Sugawara - Camp Director
Box 1120 Gravenhurst ON P1P 1V4

705-684-9813
705-687-2912 (July/August)
office@rydelakecamp.com
www.rydelakecamp.com
facebook.com/rydelake

Board of Directors

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THOUGHTS FROM A SENIOR CAMPER . . .

Throughout my years at camp, Ryde has taught me many things. I learned to take risks, try new things, and most importantly, I learned to be myself.

At Ryde, I am free to be as silly and as strange as I want. I still remember the look on my parents' faces as I belted out camp songs throughout that first ride home. I've made so many new friends and met so many wonderful people. I never have to worry about my appearance or what others think of me.

Ryde has made me a more open-minded person and lets me take a break from social media as well.

Here, I am able to express myself and just be me. Here I am unique. Here I am at home. From all the crazy table songs, to roasted marshmallows by the campfire, to jumping from canoes, Ryde Lake Camp will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you to the Ryde family for making our experience here amazing. Thank you for creating memories that will last forever.

Charlotte M. - Senior camper, Session 2, 2016



RYDE LAKE CAMP IS A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

Donations are an important part of our income and help keep camp strong!

Donations support such areas as the Campership Fund, major renovations, capital expenses, and staff development. Please know that your gift makes a difference!

Donations may be made directly by cheque, e-transfer or through CanadaHelps.org

All donations \$20. and over will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Charitable Registration # 11913-0367 RR0001

Yes, you can count on my support.

Name: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cheques payable to: **Ryde Lake Camp**

Send to: **Ryde Lake Camp Office Box 1120 Gravenhurst ON P1P 1V4**