



# Ryde Lake News

December 2010

## Contact Info

Season's Greetings from Ryde  
May the spirit of Christmas be  
With you throughout the year



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### Reflections . . .

The first blanket of snow fell on Ryde this past week. The site was quiet and still. But even so, the busy summer months were still very much alive in my mind.

Time to look back on a great summer! Over 200 girls experienced community living, learning new skills, and living close to nature at camp sessions in July, eight senior campers completed the CIT program, many folks enjoyed time at family/friends camping in August.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE . . . the greatest staff, the many individuals and groups that support us financially, and the volunteers who help at work weekends and many other behind-the-scene jobs.

"Franny"

### Thoughts of a New Camper

Ryde Lake Camp has been a blast this week for me, full of laughter and fun. This is the first time I have been at overnight camp and staff and campers have helped me feel like it was home.

It made me feel like I was at home even if I couldn't put my elbows on the table. I had so much fun that this week went by very fast.

Doing the different interest groups helped me learn new things such as yoga and kayaking and I got to learn many new table songs.

I also learned that we accept each other for who we are and we have our own talents that God gave us. We are each individually special.

Thank you for helping me have fun on my first week at Ryde Lake Camp.

by Sophie R., age 12

### Summer Dates 2011

- \* Girls' Camping
  - One-week sessions
  - July 3 to 9
  - July 10 to 16
  - July 17 to 23
  - July 24 to 30
- \* Family/Friends Camping
  - August 2 to 19, 22 to 28

### Winner of the Stained Glass Raffle!

The winning ticket was drawn by Dorothy Amos at the fundraiser dinner/silent auction on November 6.

The lucky winner was ANITA EGDEN, a Ryde family camper!

Anita is now the thrilled owner of a beautiful

stained glass picture of the Ryde dining hall, surrounded by the rocks, trees, and water, as viewed from across the river.

Our most heartfelt thanks goes to Barb Kishimoto (aka Bker), one of our long-time camp leaders, for cre-

ating such a wonderful piece of art and donating it to Ryde as a fundraiser.

\$900.00 was raised through ticket sales throughout the summer.

*Thanks to all who purchased tickets!*

## What's New?



- The archery program, started in 2009, was complemented with the purchase of four smaller bows, specially sized for our smaller campers
- Four inflatable tubes were added to the waterfront equipment, increasing the total to 10, enough for a fun cabin activity of tubing!
- A labyrinth (for use with a meditative walk activity) was created in the open area in front of the Infirmary and

Directors cabins.  
Thanks to Meddie and Bud for their expertise!

- The fall hike-a-thon and the dinner/silent auction evening raised \$2,000. and \$5,000. respectively for the general fund. Great examples of how a little can add up!  
Thanks to all who supported these events.
- 52 staff took part in an on-line training program chock full of info to help in providing the

best camper experience possible.

- A new design for the 2010 camper t-shirt was created by "Poe", depicting a canoe/paddles with the slogan "A Home Away From Home". The words spoke to all of us! Thanks "Poe".
- Thanks to Gary Grisdale for the construction and donation of two sturdy picnic tables.
- 23 campers received help from the Campership Fund, making camp possible for them!

## Unexpected Costs of the New Well / Safe Drinking Water

This past summer Ryde was faced with the unexpected cost of drilling a new well, to a depth of 600 feet. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, and the Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O.Reg. 170/03), owners and operators of drinking water systems that supply water to the public have responsibilities to ensure the water is safe to drink.

To continue to be in compliance with this regulation was becoming more of a challenge every summer due to the

dark colour of our water and the gradual degradation of the lake over the last few years.

This past summer was the greatest challenge of all. While our water quality was never compromised, the cost of ensuring safe drinking water became prohibitive in terms of expense, time, and labour. Thus the decision was made to convert to well water.

The drilling, pumping tests, pump installation, lab, engineering and plumbing fees have resulted in costs of over \$24,000.

We are hoping to raise this amount over and above our regular donations, so as to not impact the areas that are funded by regular donations.

***Please consider a special gift to help in meeting these costs.***

(See page 4 for donor information)

**Providing safe drinking water is an absolute priority.**

## 2010 CIT Program

Congratulations to the following enthusiastic and talented girls on completion of Ryde's CIT program:

- Robyn Conway - "Buttons"
- Catherine Humphreys - "Kitty"
- Rachel Kitchen - "Moonlight"
- Abbie McLean - "Soleil"
- Rebecca Moe - "Zoboo"
- Jessie Norman - "Jesse James"
- Skyler Sheridan - "Beach Baby"
- Megan Sullivan - "Bee"

The CIT program is a two-week session that provides the opportunity to develop leadership skills and personal growth. Canoe trip, sleeping in tents on the George site, theory sessions,



outdoor cooking, assisting with campers, and late nights in the f.c., these girls did it all and did it well!  
Way to go, CIT's!

## Gift Ideas



Limited quantities, call today!

**2010 T-shirts - \$10.**  
Adult large, red or gold  
New design, screened with canoe and "A Home Away From Home"

**Plaid Flannel Lounge Pants - \$20.**

## Thoughts From A Leader - "What Ryde Means To Me" by "Toad"

I can't believe the time has come where I am now considered an "old" leader. I remember sitting at the banquet my first year as a camper, feeling amazed that these women still kept coming to Ryde even though they were grownup - wasn't camp a kid thing?!

While I wished that I would be like them when I grew up, I couldn't imagine that I'd still be coming to camp as an adult!

Well, it's been exactly 20 years since then and this is my 14th summer.

My days as a leader have been spent jumping around to many different roles - but I can say that camp nurse is my favorite!

Even though my role may change, along with faces and songs, and I've

missed a few summers along the way, some things always stay the same. There is a spirit at Ryde that can't be found anywhere else - a special connection that spans the years. Even though you may only see each other at camp, the bond that is made lasts forever.

There are people here that have watched me grow up and go through different life stages. Now, there are people I've been able to watch grow up and move from camper to leader.

The love and support that you get here is constant, no matter what stage you're at.

For me, coming back after some time away, I've been reminded of all of these things and it's perhaps allowed me to see Ryde with fresh eyes.

Because of this I've been able to reflect on what Ryde means to me:

**Ryde is safe** - somewhere I can come and always know I'll be accepted and cared for.

**Ryde is a challenge** - I know that I'll always be faced with experiences that will force me to grow and change as a leader.

**Ryde is inspiration** - I am surrounded by amazing women who in-

spire me with their love, dedication, caring and wisdom - a group of people who have been life-changing for me over the years.

**Ryde is a reminder that God is near** and has a plan that reflects his love . . . even though I may find it hard to believe sometimes.

And finally, **Ryde is strength** - Ryde gives me strength to keep going and live my life in a way that puts love, respect and kindness at the forefront.

We as a Ryde family are strong.

Together we can go into the world spreading the Ryde spirit and make a difference.

My wish for all of you is that you may experience the things that I have experienced at Ryde, in your own special way.

When you go home tomorrow, take a piece of Ryde with you and hold onto it really tight. In the coming year, no matter where life takes you, remember that you'll always have a place here at Ryde . . . your "home away from home".

**From the "Old" leader speech given by "Toad" at the last-night banquet of session 1, 2010.**

### BLACK FLIES

Black flies, I hate them so dearly, they are the one creature that drives me insane. Sometimes I think I should squash them but something inside me says no no yet, not yet, not yet . . .

by Else Sather, age 10,  
camper session 2, 2010

(sung to the tune of Black Socks)

## Congratulations to Our 2010 Five-Year Campers!

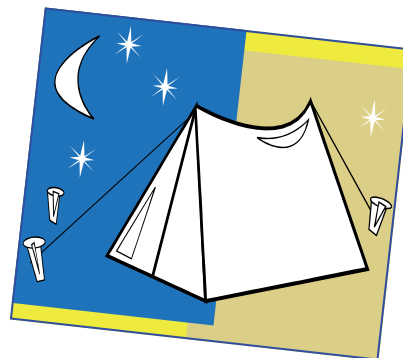
This past summer, twenty-four campers celebrated their fifth year at Ryde.

We were pleased to present each camper with a framed Ryde photo at the last-night banquet of each of their sessions and add their names to the plaque which hangs in the dining hall.

Congratulations to the following girls:

Paige Ashdown, Britany Chorley,  
Emily Clancey, Natalie Conway,

Robyn Conway, Lauren Demoe,  
Paige Demoe, Mary Ellen Fraser,  
Jacqueline Geldart, Shelby Gillard,  
Amy Hasselman, Rachel Hasselman,  
Catherine Humphries, Alyssa Loney,  
Chloe Longuet, Jessica Meadows,  
Nicole Meadows, Michelle McCulloch,  
Jessie Norman, Maddie Ritchie,  
Amber-Lynn Roe, Skyler Sheridan,  
Megan Sullivan, and Niamh Wilson.



## Contact Info

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Charitable Registration Number  
11913-0367 RR0001

Visit the website at  
[www.rydelakecamp.com](http://www.rydelakecamp.com)

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.

Making a Difference in the Lives of  
Individuals Since 1952

## Ryde Needs Your Help!

**Please consider a donation to our General Fund. Your gift will make a difference!**

Donations are an important part of Ryde's income. Without the generosity of our donors, camp would not be possible.

Donations support our Campership fund, site improvements, programming, staff development and more. This year your help is needed more than ever due to the unexpected cost of drilling a new 600 ft well and the farmhouse roofing project.

Yes, you can count on my support. Please find my enclosed donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques may be made payable to Ryde Lake Camp and sent to: **Ryde Lake Camp Office**  
**Box 100, Washago ON L0K 2B0**

All donations will be acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes. Charitable # 11913-0367 RR0001