



Newsletter

July 2008

www.funcamps.ca
 info@funcamps.ca
 778 231 5921

A FUN Update

FUN Camps has been off and running now for three weeks! It has been an absolutely amazing summer so far, and both the staff and the participants have been having a great time! As with any pilot project, it is always a bit of a nerve-racking mystery how everything will end up, and whether it will be a success or not. I can safely say that FUN Camps has already succeeded, and now has a solid foundation to build from.

In the past three weeks the leaders have spent time inspiring and being inspired by more than 30 youth. They have spent days in the woods and on the beach, they have built and raced solar cars, they have hunted the forest for ecological footprints of many countries and have played riveting games of "capture the water". They have learned some of the most important ecological concepts of our world and society through these games as well as workshops and other activities. The campers have played so many games, done so many crafts and even created a 3-D model of their ideal city.

Amidst all of this fun, they have also managed to brainstorm and come up with ideas for amazing projects that will help their communities and schools. These project ideas range from animal rights campaigns to community gardens to action on climate change.

The feedback on the camp has been fantastic so far, which is largely thanks to the leaders, but also because of the campers that we have had. As one camper commented, it was the feeling of family that he really liked, and every participant has been a part of making that family feeling. We have been lucky to have had such amazing young people participating in our programs so far. I can't wait to see what the next few weeks will bring!



Volunteer naturalist puts a slug on her face!



An energetic running game in our favourite field: Maya's Meadow.



Creating their solar ovens so that we can go heat delicious brownies.



Sophie and Sophia prepare their ears for listening to woods



Ricki poses with her leaf-printed FUN Camps shirt



Meet the FUN Camps Staff Shoshanah, Maia and Maya!

Thank you to the Radical Foundation!



The Radical foundation is based on the idea that strategic philanthropy – giving that is guided by focused research, creative planning and thoughtful execution – is the most effective way to achieve meaningful results. FUN Camps is honored to have been recognized by them as a program that enhances not only the natural world, but provides invaluable leadership skills to today's youth. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Iain Ross and the Radical Foundation for providing us with funding to make this year's program a reality and a huge success!

Meet two new FUN Camps Staff!



Shoshanah Waxman is a program leader for FUN Camps. She has been working to create the world she wants to live in since she was a youngster. Immediately after university, she embarked upon what amounted to summer camp on two wheels: a social and environmental education bike tour across eastern Canada with the Otesha Project. She has years of experience working with youth of all ages, in such diverse settings as elementary and high schools to camps.

Believing that summer camp offers a unique way of engaging youth, Shoshanah is thrilled to be transferring her experiences and knowledge of sustainable, intentional, inclusive and inspirational living to a summer camp setting! Her joys in life include swimming and dancing, and dreaming of ways to make the world a better place. She is also remarkable at "finding stuff" and cooking!



Lyda Salatian has come on board as our volunteer Development Director. We are excited that Lyda Salatian will be volunteering with FUN Camps on a regular basis. She is primarily responsible for fundraising, developing FUN's strategic direction, and assisting in building FUN from the ground up. Lyda holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies and she has experience working in non-profit environmental organizations including Evergreen Foundation and Earth Day Canada. She is also a photographer, an avid hiker and an entrepreneur. Lyda brings creativity, a can-do attitude and a bundle of energy to her role at FUN Camps. Lyda has been a lifesaver since the moment she first began volunteering for FUN. The future of FUN is in good hands with Lyda on board, and we are eternally grateful for the time that she is putting in!

FUN Camps Scholarship Program



The FUN Camps Scholarship Program has been a huge success this year. Over 20 youth have been able to experience camp this summer who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend. This experience has been a hugely positive experience for the kids, and has made a particularly large impact on some of them. I have met some absolutely amazing kids through this program, who have so much potential and will go amazing places with the right nudging and nurturing. This program wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations of the following organizations and people: Climate Action Secretariat of BC, Paul Harder and Jutta Kaffanke, Cheryl Alexander and Dave Green, The Reynolds Family, The Neville Family, Bruce Elkin, Mike Newson and the W. 4th branch of VanCity. Thank you so much to all of you for making this a reality!

Volunteers



Our program has been enhanced by the volunteers who have given up their time to put towards our program, and it wouldn't be the same without them. They add their own expertise and personality to the program, and we would like to thank them so much for the time and the work that they have put in. A special thanks goes out to Lyda Salatian, Elisa Lee, Kate McNair, Jonnane Gage, Jay Wade, Melissa Gerrard and Justine Lee.

Quote of the Month

"The greatest achievement of our flight to the moon is the picture of the earth, a living blue-green planet whirling in the dark endless void of space, and the realization that this is home."

- Sigurd F. Olson