



# Newsletter

June 2009

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



Playing "meet a tree" at FUN Camps 2008

## A FUN Update

Well, FUN Society has had an eventful, exciting and challenging year. We successfully completed a full summer of camps in 2008, were asked to run after-school programs and spring break camp for Kerrisdale Community Centre at the beginning of 2009, achieved charitable status in record-time and are now heading into our second summer, with a new camp being piloted in Victoria. And all of this through a major economic downturn. (Which can be translated to mean that we didn't receive any of the funding that we applied for, but are plowing ahead anyhow!!)



A scholarship recipient leads a game at Spring Break Camp 2009.

## Camps to run in Victoria, BC!

FUN Camps will be running three pilot-weeks through Recreation Oak Bay this summer. The first camp begins August 17th, and two more weeks will follow. These camps are open for kids ages 6-12 and will be held at the Windsor Pavilion in Oak Bay. The cost is \$195/week and registration is currently open through Oak Bay Rec. Phone 250 595 SWIM to register!



Tidepool exploration at Lighthouse Park during Spring Break Camp.

## FUN Camps Scholarship Program

We have had almost all of our funding cut this year, and while we have still gone ahead and volunteered our time to be able to run camps again this summer, we do not have funds to continue our scholarship program, which was a huge highlight of last year's program. The scholarship program enables at-risk youth the opportunity to be part of an incredible leadership-building and learning experience. We found that the scholarship program had a significantly positive impact on the participants last year. The cost to send a child to camp for a week is \$200.00. Tax receipts are available. If \$200.00 is too much to contribute, consider teaming up with friends or colleagues to send a child to camp! Thank you so much!



Kids and volunteers at FUN After School Program.

## Peer Leader Program for youth 13-16

The Peer Leader Program is a new aspect of FUN Camps - for fun-loving 13-16 year olds. Youth will act as leaders at the camp and will be responsible for leading some activities and will work towards leading a workshop on the Friday. They will receive a training manual and workbook that will guide them through the week, and will receive special training sessions during the week at camp. Youth can experience being a camp leader and learn valuable leadership skills while making new friends! Register the normal way, but indicate Peer Leader Program in the comments!



## Volunteer with FUN Camps!

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 couldn't do it without them. We would like to thank those who have been involved over the past year - Jonanne Gage, Jay Wade, Peter Hartwick, Andrew Stern, Frances DeMontigny, Beth Rogers, Zoe Oppenheimer, Amber Church, Caroline Lee, Lisa Pearlman, Camille McRae, Rob DeMontigny, Hailey Froese, Alexis Fefer, Robin Kroeker, Laura Ramsden, Cecilia Tao, Sasha Mills, Eleanor Maclean and Jamie Pozer.

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers, so if you'd like to help out with some camps this summer, or would be interested in helping out with any other aspect of the organization, please do let us know!

## Meet the 2009 Vancouver FUN Camps Staff!



James Hutt is the Vancouver Program Coordinator. He loves working with youth, getting lost in the woods and learning more and more about nature. He studies International Development and Spanish at Dalhousie University, in Halifax. After spending a year travelling abroad, he saw the need to change the way we view and use our environment. More than anything though, he recognized the importance of educating others and working together. Since then he has strived to become more aware of his own impact and how to reduce it. In and outside of school he has hosted workshops on energy security, and energy alternatives, and has been an active (and vocal) member of his school's Sustainability Office. For the last 3 years, he has worked with youth from different backgrounds teaching creative writing, leadership skills, and photography. This experience taught him that we're not all doomed. All we need is a little bit of hope and a lot of inspirational youth. He is ecstatic about spending his first summer in Vancouver, but is afraid that he might have to come back for many more.



Melissa Gerrard is the Vancouver Program Leader. She is passionate about sharing her love of nature and the outdoors with kids and youth. Inspired by her family's love for the outdoors, Melissa applied to the Trek Outdoor Education Program in grade 10. Trek is a program that combines traditional schooling, with leadership training, practical outdoor education and environmental education. During this amazing experience, her eyes were opened to the environmental problems we face today as well as solutions and actions that we can take to combat the global crisis. She believes that education is one of the most important steps towards saving our environment and society. As an energetic youth she is always ready and eager to pass on her knowledge and love of this earth. As well as working for FUN Society, Melissa spends her time being a full-time student, participating in her school's Sustainable Action Committee, volunteering at First United Church on the downtown eastside, dancing up a storm, and living life to the fullest every moment.

## Quote of the Month

There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.  
~Walt Streightiff