

The Brookside Connexion

A publication of
Brookside Outdoor Center

Winnie's Kitchen

8th Edition

January 2010

Mission Statement

Brookside Outdoor Center is a Christian camp whose mission is to present the gospel of Jesus Christ through the camping experience by spending time in God's Word, building relationships and sharing adventures.

Grief is a funny thing. It creeps up on you at the times you least expect it. I have sat down half a dozen times to write a funny and heart-warming epistle for what was supposed to be our Christmas newsletter, but every sentence leads to the inevitability of loss. In mid-December, God called Brian's mother home after a long battle with diabetes, heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's disease. And from the midst of that loss an overwhelming paralysis rose, holding us firmly in its grip. Nothing is as it should be, not for Brian or me, nor for our children.



This school year has seen a number of good-byes for us. Most of you will be aware that we moved to Kingston, Ontario for the school year, so that I could pursue the completion of my nursing degree at

Queen's University. We said good-bye to friends, to Quebec Lodge where Brian and I had met and married, and to the house we had brought our babies home to. We said good-bye to Brian's family and hometown of Fitch Bay. Kingston has been a series of new experiences and adjustments for all of us, both wonderful and difficult.

Now suddenly, on the heels of all of these good-byes comes this great good-bye of life, seeming almost more than we can bear. And it is only now that I know I can't possibly handle something that is so much bigger and so much more infinite than I am. I know that all of my life,



God has been leading me to this understanding: that we cannot move forward without Him. It is only in His strength that we can rise in the morning and live as He wants us to live. It is God that gives us the strength to put one foot in front of the other and yeah, even smile.

It is funny how death makes us re-evaluate our own lives to try to make sense of what a life should be. My mother-in-law was one of the most beautiful women I have ever met. Her kitchen was always open for tea anytime of day or night to whoever happened to need a reassuring hand on their shoulder. She taught me a lot about who I want to be. She taught me that love hurts and that God is the only one who can help us slug through that hurt and still stay open to love despite the pain. She lived a quiet life (despite the Grand Central kitchen) in a quiet town, raised her children and worked hard with her husband to keep the family fed and clothed and inspired. And I think she lived that life with greatness and grace. She lived her life to the glory of God and that is a life well-lived.

And I think through all of our striving to direct Brookside in a way that would honour God, that that is truly God's intent for us: to cultivate the kind of kitchen in which campers and staff alike can always find a cup of tea and a reassuring hand in times of trouble. We all need a mother's kitchen but many of us don't have that haven. The love we found in Winnie's kitchen was unconditional and unchanging, a reflection of the Father's love for us.



Brookside will change as all things do over time. Camps change, programs change, staff come and go, and campers grow up to be splendid individuals God created them to be. But one thing will remain: the love of God for all children and teens in the hearts of Brian and myself, whether it is expressed through a late night cup of tea in our kitchen or through the unequivocal acceptance found at Brookside's camps.

Heather

Our Plans

Yes, it's true, we have moved to Kingston, Ontario. But remember it's only for the school year. Due to the circumstances, we are a bit behind schedule but working hard on this summer's brochure. We will be sending it to you hot off the press so that you can include Brookside in your summer plans!



Quebec Lodge Day Camp



During the week of July 20 to 24, Quebec Lodge ran a very successful day camp. As you are aware, Quebec Lodge has been closed since November of 2005. Since 2005, the Board of Directors has been dedicated to re-imagining the valuable ministry that Quebec Lodge offered to young people. Last spring, the Board decided to launch a day camp and asked us if Brookside Outdoor Center would be interested in running the program for them. We were very pleased to



once again see Quebec Lodge overflowing with young people.

The Brookside Outdoor Center staff team ran an amazing one week day camp for children ages 4 to 14 years. The theme for the week was HOLIDAZE! Each day, a different holiday of the year was highlighted. Activities included a Valentine's Day cookie-baking day, an Easter egg hunt, a Christmas ham dinner as well as lots of camp games, swimming, canoeing, chapel, campfire songs and a plethora of crafts.

When planning first began for the day camp, we hoped to register twenty children for the week. By mid-week (other-wise known as Valentine's Day in our crazy Holidaze world!), Quebec



Lodge Day Camp had thirty campers in attendance and three wonderful helpers from the community. Much to everyone's pleasure and surprise, thirty became forty laughing children celebrating Christmas Day on Friday. Once again, Quebec Lodge was alive with laughter and joy.



The feedback from parents and campers has been extraordinarily positive. The support from the community and neighbors for Quebec Lodge and the day camp was overwhelming. Best of all, they are all asking what our plans for next year are!

Recipes

Okay, you guys are all so-o-o lucky because I am finally going to share my ultimate chocolate chip cookie recipe, given to me by my beloved Aunt Mia, the best cookie-maker I know!

Are you ready??? (Flip the page)

Messages from the staff

To everyone who came to camp last summer, I miss you all so much! Everyday I'm looking forward to camp this summer. Every time I think of camp it brings a smile to my face and all this is because of the great summer I had with all of you. Hope that all your Christmas wishes came true and may this winter be full of fun, excitement and SNOW!

Robert

Hey guys!
I'm glad we got snow for Christmas... not only rain! We've had enough of rain, right? Hope your holidays were a lot of fun with your family and whatnot, all those fun holiday things!

Rachel

"Loving Father, Help us all to remember the birth of Jesus. When your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity, you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. Amen. "
Best wishes to all and I hope to see you all next summer!

Ruth

The Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

2/3 cup margarine or butter
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla
1 egg
1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp baking soda
1 regular package of chocolate chips

Cream margarine and sugars, then beat in egg and vanilla. Combine together flour, salt, and baking soda before adding the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture. Add chocolate chips. Drop balls of dough onto ungreased cookie sheet one-inch apart. Bake in 325°F oven for 8-10 minutes, or until golden brown on edges. Cool on racks &

savour!

