

Always Thankful for the Gifts We Receive



Cam and Cody from the WSD Maintenance Department, dropped in to our BBQ for a hot dog and left a cheque for \$5,500, raised at their annual golf tournament.



Red River Mutual Altona raised \$2,000 for the Sunshine Fund at their Community BBQ.



Thankful for the experience and guidance shown by a dedicated group of board members.

Sunshine FUND

Board Members

Wayne Eisbrenner - President
Amber Allan - Vice President
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Chris Chesham - Director
Shawn Feely - Director
Audrey Hicks - Director
Jeff Liba - Director
Andrew Sevigny - Director
Danial Sprintz - Director
Jared Clarke - Past President



Joe Kupfer of Auto Show Winnipeg stopped by the office and left a donation of \$500.

CAMP = LIFE

Learn Respect
Improve self-confidence
Feel a sense of community
Enjoy a new experience

First MCA Community BBQ Sizzles

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to our BBQ on June 12. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$750 that was used to send children to camp. a very big thank you goes out to @pepsico, @safewaycanada, @fritolay and Pratts Wholesale for the drinks, buns, chips and hotdogs. Our 2019 Community BBQ is June 12.



mbcamping.ca

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Concord Projects Foundation Kicks Off \$8000 Matching Gift Challenge on Giving Tuesday

This November, the **Manitoba Camping Association/Sunshine Fund** are thrilled to partner with the **Concord Projects Foundation** in a Matching Gift Challenge. Between GivingTuesday, November 27 and December 31, 2018, the Concord Projects Foundation will match all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$8000. Friends and donors have the opportunity to double their donations by participating in this special fundraising opportunity. This will benefit the **Sunshine Fund**, enabling the youth in our local communities whose families face financial barriers to attend an accredited summer camp in 2019.

“This matching gift challenge is the first in our Giving Tuesday endeavours,” said Dana Moroz, Sunshine Fund Program Manager. “I’m grateful our compassionate friends at the Concord Projects Foundation are supporting our critical work in helping children in our communities and throughout the province.”



Donations made to the Sunshine fund before year-end are eligible to be matched, including contributions online, over the phone, or by mail. For new and existing monthly donors, any scheduled contributions will also be matched up to \$8,000.

“We are so appreciative of our donors’ commitment and look forward to meeting this challenge,” said Kim Scherger, Executive Director of the Manitoba Camping Association. “Giving children opportunities to make new friends, enjoy new learning experiences, and grow their self-esteem and self-confidence while being in the great outdoors is what makes the Sunshine Fund so important. GivingTuesday is a great way to double our donors’ gifts this year.”

Ted Paetkau, founder of Concord Projects and the Concord Projects Foundation, knows the importance of giving children an opportunity like a summer camp experience. “We’re happy to play a part in helping the Sunshine Fund provide summer camp opportunities to kids in Manitoba. Camp is a special experience with positive impacts that last far beyond the time at camp.”

Gifts can also be mailed to:
Unit F - 1215 Henderson Hwy,
Winnipeg, MB
R2G 1L8



GIVINGTUESDAY™
DONATE ON #GIVINGTUESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2018



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Entering its seventh year, #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Most people know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday ... now we have GivingTuesday. The “opening day of the giving season,” it’s a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for favourite causes. In the same way that retailers take part in Black Friday, the giving community has come together for GivingTuesday.





Continuing the Family Tradition at Camp Wannakumbac

When Mitch and Sarah-Anne Gusdal moved to Victoria, B.C., the plan was to stay a few years and then return to Winnipeg. That plan changed when Mitch's dad, Darren passed away after a short battle with cancer, a week before the 2014 season started at Camp Wannakumbac.

"We came back because of mom," Mitch said. "She and dad had run camp together for as long as I can remember."

Mitch and Sarah-Anne returned to Manitoba and immediately set out helping his mom Janet get prepared for camp.

"Mom took over and figured things out," Mitch said. "People in the area helped out with the heavy stuff."

It got to the point where Janet felt she wasn't enjoying the job as much as she wanted but she didn't want to leave camp in a bad situation.

In the winter of 2018, the younger Gusdals were chosen to take over, with Janet staying on as CFO. With Janet's help Mitch and Sarah-Anne plan on taking over that role too in 2019.

As a kid, Mitch lived at camp year-round, having the run of the camp for two months each summer.

"It was a great place to grow up. I always looked up to the staff and counsellors," he said.

But when he took part in the camps he tried to avoid telling the other campers his last name.

"I wanted to experience camp as the other campers did."

Mitch has a few plans as the camp moves into the new generation.

"We're upgrading our facilities" he said. "That's where some of the grant work comes in. We're doing the best we can."



Mitch enjoying a paddle with his dad Darren

Koinonia Community Joins Together to Keep Camp Viable

Experiencing homesickness as a child camper didn't deter Matthew Heide from eventually falling in love with camping. The call to camp for Matt started in the early 90s, when he spent the first part of the decade volunteering as a summer counsellor at Camp Koinonia. In the summer of 1997, while working maintenance at Koino, Matt met his future wife Heather. The couple married in 1999 and after feeling the call, took over operation of the camp: Matt in a management position and Heather in charge of food services.

"People who work at camp become leaders."

"We were in our late twenties when we got the position," he said. "We raised our kids there. Natasha was one when we started and Andrew was born while we were there."

The call back to the farm came in 2010. Matt said he needed to spend some time with one of his other loves.

"I love feeding animals," he said.

But Camp Koinonia struggled keeping managers in place after the Heides left.

Mennonite Church Manitoba decided to sell the camp but there were no real takers.

"A group that cared about camp; that wanted a place for kids in the area to go to camp, got together and started negotiating with Mennonite Church Manitoba," he said.

The groups were able to organize a deal that would help both sides.

"We created a self-appointed group, one made up of people who cared about camp and were willing to be involved," he said. "The Mennonite Church would rent the camp back, at cost, for six or seven weeks each summer and our group could rent it out the rest of the time."

Camp Koinonia Inc was incorporated as a not-for-profit in November 2017.



The Heide family sharing the Camp Koinonia story

Your Donations Make a Huge Difference in Children's Lives

This year, through the **Sunshine Fund**, we were able to help 614 children enjoy a summer camp experience. Sadly, due to limited funds we were unable to send 48 children through the Sunshine Fund. We were able to find funding elsewhere for the majority of these children through working with local community groups and using camps' internal campership programs. Over \$213,000 was spent on Sunshine Fund camperships in 2018.



Celebrating Donors Luncheon

The Manitoba Camping Association would like to say thank you to our donors for your generous support in sending youth to camp through the Sunshine Fund. We are hosting our second annual donors luncheon on Thursday, March 14. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information. Details will be released as we finalize them.

Tis the Season Drop-in at the MCA Office

Join us at the MCA Office December 6, 2018 between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm for an opportunity to catch up with the staff, meet other donors and people who run the camps where the Sunshine Fund sends campers. You can sample some of our apple cider, coffee & treats. (camps and donors invited)

Donate Now

Simply go to our website: www.manitobacamping.ca, find the fun little icon, click on it and follow the instructions. You will be taken directly to our CanadaHelps page, where you can make a one-time donation or set up monthly giving. Find other ways to contribute on our website: www.manitobacamping.ca



MCA Welcomes New Team Member

Manitoba Camping Association would like to thank the **Winnipeg Foundation** for supplying a grant that will provide us with a Communications and Marketing Coordinator for 15 months.

Rick Scherger brings to the position over 12 years of experience working and volunteering for various media and not-for-profit organizations.

Send Rick an email at: rickscherger@manitobacamping.ca



Photo by: viapratama (pexels.com)

Photo by: Pixabay (pexels.com)