

Mill Stream Buzzz...



WINTER 2010

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

Winter finally arrived at Omeme on December 9th with almost 15cm of snow which is still hanging around even after our rainy Christmas.

We hope you had a great Christmas break celebrating Christ's birthday and connecting with family and friends.

Summer Camp...I can hardly wait!

With the change in the provincial tax system we need to inform you what it means for camper fees.



The Ontario Provincial Government announced that there will be a Harmonized Tax (HST) introduced as of July 1st, 2010. Our current fee rates include a 3% provincial sales tax (PST accommodation tax) and a 5% federal goods and sales tax (GST). This harmonized tax will combine these

two taxes but at a new higher rate of 13% on camper fees. This tax rate change will create a 5% increase in overall fees.

As a result of this change, we have raised our rates very little to ease the financial effect of this increase. Here, however, is a way to save on the large increase. **The OCA (Ontario Camps Association) received notice that if camper fees were paid before May 1st, 2010 even though the campers come after July 1st, 2010, the new HST is not applicable.**

Take advantage of the Earlybird Discount which means up to \$26 in savings...register now at www.millstream.ws!

For more details on this tax change you can go to the Ontario Ministry of Revenue website at www.rev.gov.on.ca/en/notices/hst/03.html.

Winter Updates

It has not slowed down at camp at all. We are deep into our Nelson Lodge renovations, planning summer 2010, and getting ready to hit the road to promote this year's camp.

First the Lodge:

This is the second largest project that we have been involved with (next to the Gym/Dining Hall/Kitchen complex) in the past 10 years.

Here is where we're at:

- * continue to work with the two fire safety companies to meet required codes;
- * volunteers worked on this project for the past 3 months and have completed all the plumbing and framing;
- * architect's report, alarm plans and fire plan completed and approved;
- * building and electrical inspectors approved rough framing and wiring;
- * fire alarm and emergency lighting equipment arrived and preliminary wiring completed;
- * fire doors on order and arriving mid-January;
- * drywall installation has begun but is a slow and labour intensive process.



While discussing an alternative plan to hire drywall contractors (which enables our volunteers to focus on the many smaller parts of the project), a Christian building contractor has offered the use of his sub-contractors to complete the work and is willing to cover the labour costs! **PRAISE GOD!** We never know how or who God

will send to provide the resources to complete a project when we are in need.



We are now looking for volunteers who like to paint and clean.

While the costs of these changes are like a moving target as we discover more requirements, we are estimating the price will be between \$22,000 to \$26,000. We have received approximately \$10,000 in donations so far.

We are starting to book groups in for the middle of February into March.

Thank you for your continued prayers. Please keep praying that God will continue to meet all the needs of this camp ministry by providing the finances, personnel and wisdom to continue to move forward. **(Cont. ⇨)**

Winter Updates (continued)

Secondly Summer 2010:

Campers: Plans are underway for summer 2010 with some new activities and themes.

In July we will offer 3 weeks of Trekkin' Camp. August offers one week of Trekkin' Camp, one week of Handi*Camp, one week of Trailblazin' Camp and one session of Beginnin' Camp.

Staff: Applications are now being received for summer staff. Visit our website at www.MillStream.ws/opportunities for details.



Our 2009 LTP Team

LTP Camp (Leadership Training Program)

Last summer's LTP Camp was the most successful ever having a full class.

If you are 14 or 15 years old by July 1st and are interested in becoming

involved in Mill Stream you need to apply soon. Applications are available online at www.millstream.ws/ltpcamp.html. We hope to see you here.

[God] has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8/NIV

Argo Real Deal Day

On November 7th several of our campers and staff headed down to Rogers Centre. To see a fantastic short video of the event go to our website at www.MillStream.ws/realdeal.html and click on the video to see what you missed.



Mill Stream Alumni Group

We need YOU to be part of an exciting new team!

We continue to look for past and present staff and past campers for our alumni committee.



The Very First Camp - 1946 - Greenwood

If you are interested in being a part of this group, we need to hear from you so we can move on these projects involving communications, events, historical cataloguing and research and initiating a new alumni web site and facebook page.

Please contact us at alumni@millstream.ws to get involved with this exciting team.

facebook



Speaking of facebook, we are currently initiating a facebook group page for alumni, staff and supporters of Mill Stream and Crusaders. You will need to make a request and be accepted, as this group will be restricted to past and present staff members and adult supporters. Just type in search "Mill Stream Bible Camp & Retreat Centre" and click on the group link. A camper page is coming in the future.

Projects

While the Nelson Lodge is currently the primary project that we are involved with at the camp, many other projects are still needing attention. Please pray with us in asking God to provide for the many financial needs of the camp and how you and others can partner with us.

Winter Motel—Repairs to meet fire code—\$1,000

Kitchen—Stand-up freezers—\$4,000

Pool Repairs—\$35,000

Mill Stream Buzz is a camp ministry newsletter for Campers, Parents, Staff and Supporters of Mill Stream from the desks of Larry (LarryBoy) & Cindy (Aunt Sid) Chupa



Please contact us for additional copies or if you wish to be added to our mailing list, or visit www.MillStream.ws/newsletter/campnewsletter.html for an on-line colour version.

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