

# THE Zingette

Spring 2016

## Alumni Reunion



Did you miss it? Don't worry, the next alumni reunion is coming up at the end of May 2017. Mark it on your calendars now so you don't lose out. This reunion will be our 7<sup>th</sup>, making it 10 years since we first started this tradition back in 2007.

Come on out for a weekend of reminiscing and sharing stories and songs by the camp-fire. Hesitant to come because you're not sure if you'll know anyone? It doesn't matter, we're all part of the same camp family. Plus, you have a whole year now to track down your old co-counsellor and cabin mates to get organized and come together. The Alumni Facebook page is a great place to start your search.

Have you attended this event before? Give us some feedback, let us know what you'd like to do on *your* alumni weekend. Do you have something you want to share with other alumni in our next newsletter? A favourite story, song or memory? Or maybe you just want to update us on where you've been and how camp made you the amazing person you are today. Send us a message through our Facebook account for a quick response.

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In our continued effort to maintain our commitment to the environment, we have gone **paperless**. Please ensure that we have your current email address on file. Past issues of the newsletter are always available from the alumni website:

<http://campkawartha.ca/about-us/alumni/>

### Contact us:

[alumni@campkawartha.ca](mailto:alumni@campkawartha.ca)

Camp Kawartha Alumni  
Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/  
groups/173315146017086/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/173315146017086/)

# Summer Camp Report

By Andrew Helsdon (Pêpé)

Summer 2015 was filled with excitement, exuberance, and exhilaration that helped the camp season race by faster than a camper across the playing field after hearing the ever-acclaimed words, “Zingettes are everywhere!”

With ten members of the 2015 Senior Staff team being new to these roles, the summer began vivaciously as each member harnessed their new responsibilities to promote the most enjoyable experience possible for campers, parents, and counsellors, alike. Of particular focus for the Senior Staff was to provide mentorship to the camp’s 25 new counsellors, who demonstrated incredible vigor and tenacity as they became accustomed to the many challenges and responsibilities that face camp counsellors.

This influx of new staff members was matched by an equal amount of creativity and enthusiasm in camp programming. The new members of the team were eager to introduce new ways for campers to have fun in morning classes, interest choices, and evening programs. One of the highlights was the Scooby Doo EP, headed by Marz, Vëgo, and Sanders, which had campers racing across the upper playing field to interview suspects and help the “gang” solve a mystery. Another sight to see was the camp’s new resident kayaker, Kembé, who would frequently use his time outside of the kitchen to teach both campers and staff members how to perform kayak rolls and stern squirts.

Summer 2015 was also characterized by record-breaking numbers of campers attending both sessions A and B. Although many of these campers were too young to participate in the three-week PLC program, they simply could not get enough of the CK atmosphere, viewing it as a quintessential home away from home. This has inspired the creation of a three-week “Intermediates” program, to be introduced this coming summer 2016. This session will provide campers ages 11 and 12 with the opportunity to enjoy classic camp programs along with a new set of activity choices, such as cooking, pottery, and improvisation, to help them develop a new set of skills during their time at CK.

Summer 2015 might have flown by, but the cumulative energy of the staff carried the summer towards being a tremendous success. The excellence of summer 2015 will certainly launch Camp Kawartha forward into a magnificent summer 2016, less than a month away!



## I Used To Be A Camp Counselor

By Laura Combden (Dale)



Sometimes I say that to a crowd of people and it's met with laughter. "Well, that explains it!" Usually it's when we're trying to start a fire, or put up a tarp or play a song on the guitar. All three of which I'm not very good at, because, truthfully, I wasn't a very good camp counselor.

I was only a camper for one year, at 14 years old, because my mom was the camp nurse. Maybe it was my counsellor singing Ani DiFranco songs, staring at the ceiling in my bunk, surrounded by equally entranced young girls that made me want to go back.

Whatever it was, I went back the following year and applied to be a counsellor. But I wasn't your average applicant, as I wore make-up, blow-dried my hair and stole my sister's clothes any chance I got. Somehow though, I got the job.

They named me Dale, after Dale Earnhardt for nearly driving off the road with a car-full of counselors the morning after a staff party. The summer started off well. "Your girls just love you!" "You must be doing something right, the way your kids talk about you!" I think kids are attracted to sensitivity, and I was both highly sensitive and extremely vulnerable at the age of 16. We related. I was still silently terrified, but as my confidence grew, so did theirs.

As the summer went on, I shyly participated in more and more activities, dressed in costumes for skits and even started teaching water activities I knew nothing about. Like the time I filled in as a kayaking teacher, only to be rescued by the kids as the wind carried me down the lake at a terrifying speed.

My camp world began to unravel the night my kids did a skit for talent show. Each of the 6 girls took turns 'playing' me – their counselor. They borrowed my signature cat-ear toque and pretended to be me, sleeping in, napping all afternoon, skipping the morning mandatory health-hustle and polar bear dip, and just generally being a not-so-good counselor. I was mortified. They were revealing all my secrets. They were getting so many laughs – at my expense.

Did I mention I was a very tired (and lazy) teenager?



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My favourite part of the evening was the 30 minute window where the kids would get ready for bed, and we'd go to the office and check e-mail/ICQ/Messenger, whatever it was we did back then. A small group of us would take turns joking around, telling stories about our day, and prank-mailing each other's camp inboxes. I still have some of the 'camp mail' I received, my favourite being a photocopy of Sniper's hand that reads: Big hands I know you're the one.

After our mini office rendezvous we'd run back to the cabin for bedtime, hoping no one noticed our absence. Sometimes the girls would blow my cover by running over to the oldest boy's cabins whose counselor was actually there, and tell him they couldn't find me. But mostly they would just dance around the cabin singing and yelling with the pre-bedtime hyperactive hysteria that always appeared at 8pm. I'm sure if I'd stayed in the cabin during this vulnerable time, it could have been avoided, but hey, I was a kid too.

Once we'd calmed them down, shooed all the boy campers away from the front porch, and got them into their bunks, we'd talk about the day. Usually in Rose and Thorn style. It worked well because everybody got a turn, even the quietest kids who usually couldn't get a word in. Like I said before, these kids were sensitive, so a fun day could really turn sideways if they scraped their knee on a rock in the lake, or a cabin mate put yogurt on their face during breakfast. Talking it out was cathartic for all of us. Often the thorn was how homesick they were, which is not always obvious to a counselor. Camp was often the best part of their summer, and the most difficult, emotionally and socially. I used to take one camper to her little brother's cabin every evening to say goodnight to him and she'd cry the whole walk back to our cabin.

After the girls would go to sleep, I'd run off into the night for an hour or two, talking and flirting and laughing with any counselor that would indulge me, hence the 'tired-lazy-teenager' the next day. I worked at Camp Kawartha for three summers. Although I'd never win a Camp Counselor of the Year Award, the experience helped form me. I like to think I'd be better at it now, at the age of 32, and maybe I would. But I still can't kayak, and I love staying up late.



## Surf 'n Turf

### Dinner and Auction Fundraiser

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the ever-so-famous Camp Kawartha Surf 'n Turf event. The alumni table has made quite the statement over the years as one of the largest groups with more than 20 alumni attending. We have also taken home our fair share of silent auction items and prizes. If you were not able to make it to the alumni reunion last year, this is a great way to catch up with others and give back to the camp.



With the purchase of your ticket, you will be treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres, fresh lobster, steak, salads, and decadent desserts. Plus there is a cash bar that serves beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

If the amazing food was not enough to entice you, there are many live and silent auction items for you to bid on, plus a draw and door prizes.

Purchase your ticket online by visiting the Surf 'n Turf page found under the News and Events section of the website and complete the form to order your tickets and receive your tax receipt. Be sure to put 'Alumni' in the table reservation section, or you may be seated at another table. All the proceeds from this event go directly to support Camp Kawartha's programming year round.



#### **Surf 'n Turf**

Date: Saturday, June 25th, 2016

Time: 4:30 pm – Hors d'oeuvres & Auction viewing  
6:00 pm – Dinner

Cost: \$175/person

\$150/person for Alumni age 25 & under

Visit: <http://campkawartha.ca/event/surf-n-turf-dinner-auction/>



## Change Is Good

There is always something new happening at camp. Check out some of this year's renovations, or better yet, come check them out for yourself at Surf 'n Turf!



New and larger porches for all cabins.

No more cabin cluster big stairs!

Welcome to the new **East Cluster**! This deck connects the former IODE cabin with Oak and is complete with a built in stone fire pit. These cabins will help the camp host two separate groups at once and will be complete with bathrooms and showers in the future.

