



PIONEER PRESS

MANTIOBA PIONEER CAMP NEWSLETTER FALL 2011 EDITION

Stories from the Season

Greetings from the other side of the 2011 camp season at Manitoba Pioneer Camp.

Throughout the season it has been encouraging to hear comments like “This has been the best ____ ever!” Whether it was a delicious meal, a rousing song time in the dining hall, an adventure-filled canoe trip, or an inspiring chapel service, children, staff, and guests had a safe, fun and transformative summer.

Of course, the weather helped a lot as we enjoyed one of the sunniest, hottest summers on the shores of Shoal Lake. Children had a good time and were well cared for. For many campers it was also their first time hearing about the love of Christ. For others it was a growing time in their walk with Jesus. Our staff rose to meet the challenges that come with intense community living on a wilderness island and served very well.

Thanks again to all the amazing volunteers, many who traveled great distances to come and serve as a crucial support for our operations team this summer.

In this fall edition of the Pioneer Press, we would like to share stories from the season and celebrate together the good things God has done in our lives through this amazing opportunity and ministry that is Manitoba Pioneer Camp.

Chris “Tattoo” Berghuis
General Director

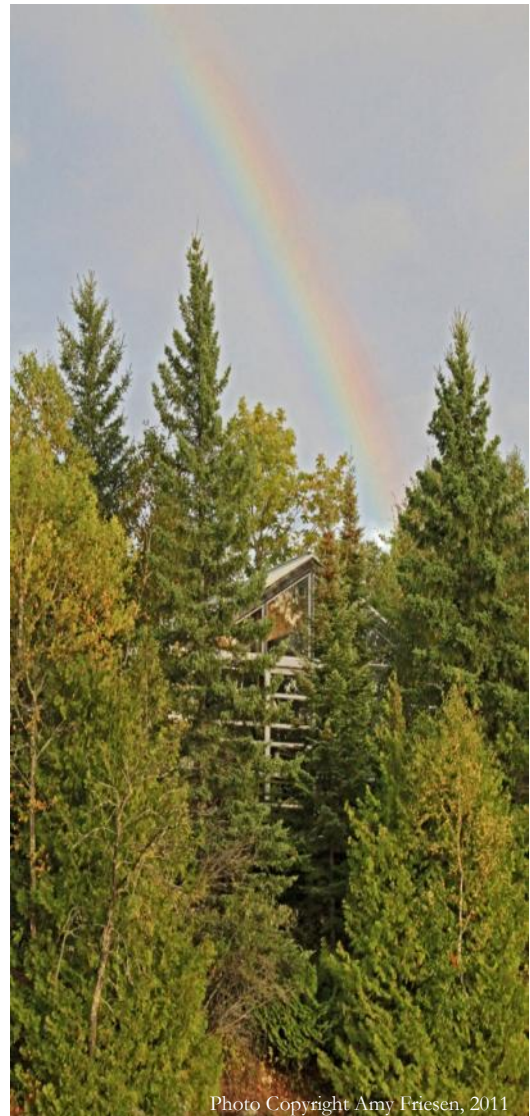


Photo Copyright Amy Friesen, 2011



**Celebrate the season! Catch all the action!
Visit www.manitobapioneer.com to
see our Summer 2011 videos.**

**Thank-you Jamie Enns for your hard work
and outstanding videography!**

Motivated by the love of Jesus and led by the Spirit...

Manitoba Pioneer Camp guides individuals into communities in the wilderness: children into adventure, young adults into servant leaders - all toward wholeness in relationship and an encounter with the wildness and warmth of God.



“So Liz! How did it go?” an interview with Liz Haacke, MPC Director of Program

The MPC year-round staff welcomed Liz Haacke to our team this past spring. After five intense months as Director of Program, Liz shares some thoughts on her transition from life in Boston to the camp world.

What really clicked in your area of responsibility this season?

We had a great Outdoor Education program this spring. The program team received really good feedback from the schools, and we worked well together. Also I would estimate 90% of the summer staff were either junior leaders or older staff in new positions. Everyone seemed to step up into their roles and serve well. I am very excited to see this group of staff grow and develop as leaders over the next few years.

What were some of your biggest challenges?

Starting to work for camp in May only two weeks before the season began was not ideal. It was a big transition to move and then jump right into the middle of things. Based on what I wanted to finish in Boston, I couldn't have moved earlier. But it will be nice next summer to have had all winter to prepare. I also found it challenging in July to be both the Girls Camp Director and the overall Director of Program. I need to figure out ways to effectively support programs that are running simultaneously, as well as still schedule much needed time off!

One thing that made you laugh out loud this summer was:

There are so many unpredictable situations when it comes to working in a job like this and my first response is usually to laugh! One memory that comes to mind was on the first night of Girls 2 we had to make some decisions about switching a couple of campers into other cabins. I found myself racing all around the site that night trying to get the okay from everyone involved in the decision-making process. At one point, I remember running down the back path with a couple of leaders, all of us madly punching the air around our faces to try and avoid being hit in the face by bats!



Photo Copyright Stephanie Sutton, 2011

If you had one story from this season, it would be about...

There was a young junior camper at Girls 2, who, early in the session, anytime her cabin prayed together she would get quite restless. When one of her cabin leaders asked her what was going on she replied that she didn't understand prayer. But when asked if she wanted to learn about it she said yes and specifically asked to talk to me about it. So one night after dinner, she and I sat down by the water and talked about how praying was talking to God, and how it could be a time to be thankful or even to ask some hard questions and request help for something. At the end of our talk we prayed together, and from then on, she would pray out loud with the rest of her cabin. On the last day of camp, I asked all the girls if they wanted a Bible to take home. This girl's face lit up and for the rest of the morning she was constantly reading it.



Photo Copyright Stephanie Sutton, 2011

How can people pray for you specifically this winter?

I am transitioning to life in Winnipeg which just takes time, but I guess my biggest prayer with that is that I can start to feel a real sense of community and that I can really connect with people here. Also that I can find things in the city that excite me. Another prayer request is that our year-round team can continue to work together well. During the summer we are running in so many different directions that we see each other but we aren't working together as closely as we do in the office over the winter.

Friends of Pioneer Weekend (September 3rd to 4th, 2011)

Young and old folks alike braved the chilly Labour Day weather for the 7th annual Friends of Pioneer Weekend. This time was a chance to re-connect and reminisce with friends from past years, as well as to learn about the current work and exciting opportunities for Manitoba Pioneer Camp.

The chapel speaker was Dietrich Desmarais, pastor of Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship, who returned to MPC after almost 3 decades, and uniquely spoke to the needs at camp as well as offered a time of personal prayer with people. His message and ministry was a blessing! The alumni fundraising project, "Boats, Water, and Benches," was also introduced, to help raise funds for some practical operational needs at camp.

Throughout the weekend, people enjoyed meals together, hiking, paddling, games, and of course, the annual Friends of Pioneer coffee bar. There was even a glimmer of sunshine on Sunday afternoon that was the perfect ending to a really great weekend together.

Special thanks to the kitchen team, Janet, Pauline, Guylaine, Catharine, and Cindy, and all other volunteers who pitched in with enthusiasm throughout the weekend. Thanks to Amy Friesen for taking great pictures! Thanks also to the Friends of Pioneer committee for another great alumni weekend. See you in 2012!



Photos Copyright Amy Friesen, 2011



View from the Canoe by Chris Milne, Director of Outtrip

“This is the best canoe class I’ve ever had!” said the boy as we lay on our stomachs on an overturned canoe. About 15 minutes into our first lesson, I had realized that this camper didn’t need advice about how to perfect his J-stroke or pointers on learning power turns. He needed someone to listen about his brother, his parents and things in general. So that’s what I did. We only spent two minutes of the class sitting in the canoe and the rest of our time experimenting with different ways of how to get back in. When we weren’t flipping the canoe over and over we were resting on its back, talking about life. This was really awesome for me because I don’t get to interact with campers very much during the year. As it turns out, it was probably the best canoe class that I’ve ever had too.

Mark Your Calendars...Important MPC Dates to Remember:

October 22nd—All Camp Reunion at Academy Lanes (394 Academy Road) from 1-3pm. RSVP: lhaacke@pioneercamp.com

November 14th—*Snapshots of the Growing Kingdom* an IVCF Fundraising event. 7-9:30pm at The Meeting Place (139 Smith) Cost: \$10 to be paid at the door. RSVP: Kelly Milne at 788.1070 or mpc@pioneercamp.com

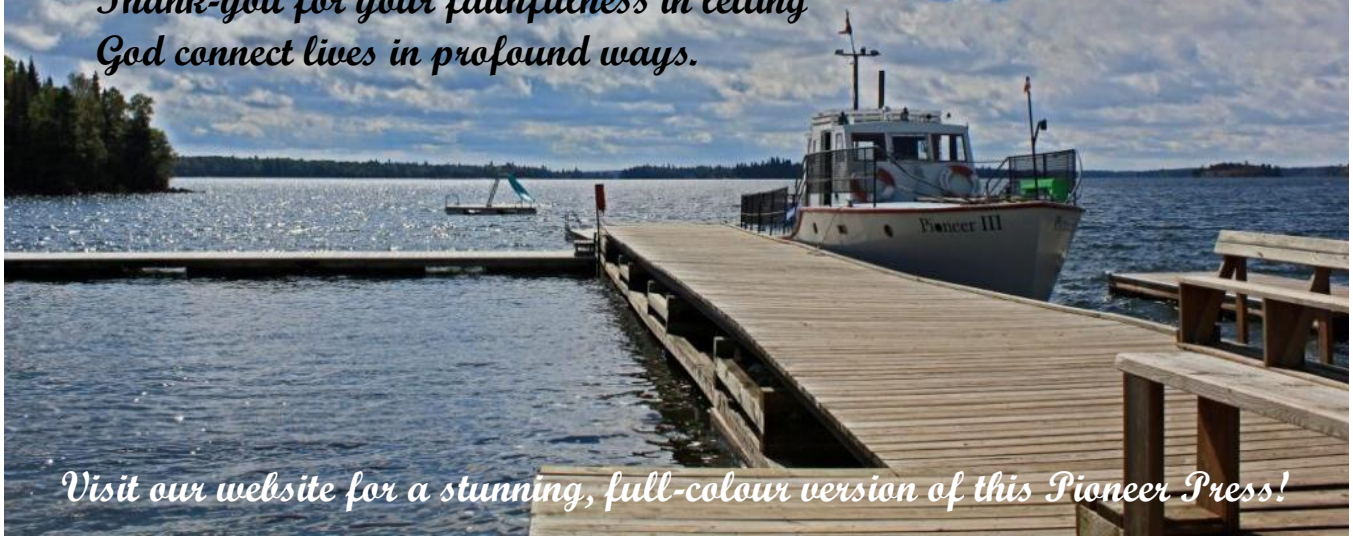
November 14th—MPC 2012 Camp On-line Registration opens!!! Register now for camp at www.manitobapioneer.com

November 21st—MPC “Annual General Meeting” Location: Church of the Way (450 Lilac Street) from 7:30-9pm. RSVP: Kelly Milne at 788.1070 or mpc@pioneercamp.com

December 26th, 2011 to January 2nd, 2012—Camp Office closed for the holidays



Sincere thanks to the amazing volunteers who came to help at camp this summer! Many travelled great distances and brought their unique skills to bless the camp community at exactly the right time! Thank-you for your faithfulness in letting God connect lives in profound ways.



Visit our website for a stunning, full-colour version of this Pioneer Press!

Manitoba Pioneer Camp is a ministry of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

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