

WOOD BOX

60 Years!

Annual magazine for and by
Friends of Silver Lake
December 2021





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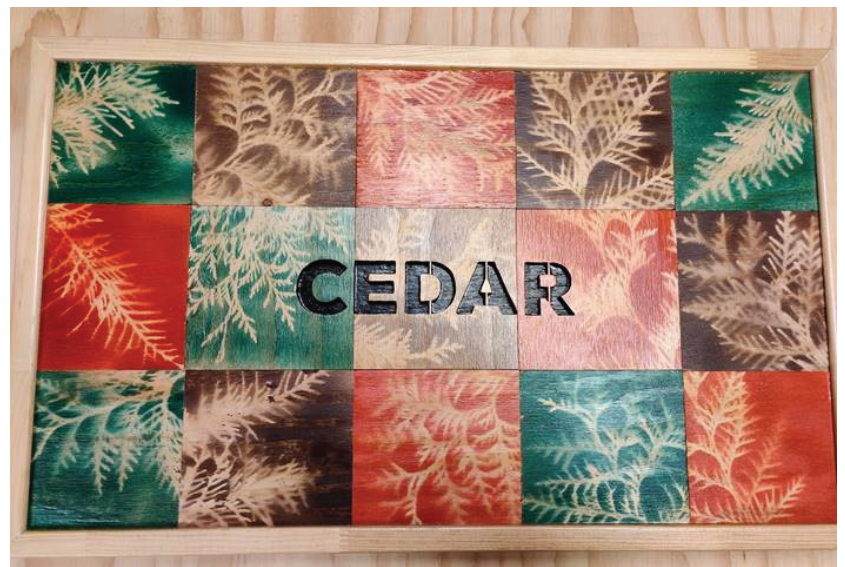
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Thank you Joel Becker for the beautiful "tree art" in the cabins.
Check it out next time you're at camp!



Friends of Silver Lake

Who are the **Friends of Silver Lake**? Donors, volunteers, staff alumni, camper parents, and others who want to stay in touch with Silver Lake. *The Friends of Silver Lake* emailing list shares communication about camp news, fundraising initiatives, work weekends, retreats, etc... there is only one paper mailing per year — the Woodbox newsletter. If you would like to join and get updates from camp, email fun@slmc.ca with your current contact info OR fill out the **Contact Form** located on the website slmc.ca.

If you would like to be taken off this list and no longer receive updates, please email fun@slmc.ca.



Upcoming Events & Retreats

Jan. 14-16	Dads and Kids
Jan. 21-23	Winter Snowshoe
Feb. 1	Summer Camp Registration Opens at 7am!
Feb. 4-6	Women's Retreat
Feb. 11-13	Couples Retreat
April 29-May 1	Spring Work Weekend
May 1	Andrew Rourke Tribute Service
May 7	Grand Paddle & Hike
May 20-22	Family Camp
May 31-June 4	NL Certification Course
Sept. 16-18	Men's Retreat
Oct. 1	Day Hike
Oct. 21-23	Contemplative Retreat (hiking and/or photography)
Oct. 28-30	Fall Work Weekend

Check <https://slmc.ca/retreats/retreats/> for updates and to register.

All events subject to change.

Paddles



Congratulations 5th years!

Leah Bauman
Kathyana Carvajal
Katie Goerzen Sheard
Ben Martin
Elora Neufeld
Ben Schwartzentruber
Saskia Snyder-Penner



Summer 2021



Summer 2021

Going into the summer of 2021 none of us fully knew what to expect. Not being able to run in person camps since 2019 left all of us on staff missing camp in a big way so, after learning that in-person camp could resume this summer, all of us jumped at the opportunity to return to Silver Lake.

No year at camp is ever a simple affair and 2021 was of course no exception. With prioritizing health and safety while also trying to deliver the best possible experience for the campers, staff this year definitely had their hands full. But watching everyone on staff, and everyone in the community, come together and show so much attention and care for this place that we all love made this summer one to remember.

For me, the highlight was leading the campers in leadership training, or CILT, program. The memories I have from my own CILT experience are some of the fondest memories I have from Silver Lake and getting to be on the otherside of that was an amazing privilege. I think its a testament to the adaptability of the camp community and staff that, despite all the changes that had to happen to our usual programming, the CILT experience was still a massive success. Seeing new leaders come together after a year away from camp and form such a close community makes me very hopeful for Silver Lake's future.

Alexei Derksen Hiebert: current staff

Work Weekend



Pizza!

In 2012 the “Pizza Project” took place at Silver Lake, and the pizza oven was born. Barb, Lydia, Annika and Tim Dyck measured the hole for the base of the oven, carried stones up from the waterfront, prepared the fire bricks and stomped the clay/straw mixture. The family has grown and was back at the pizza oven this past Thanksgiving, sharing delicious pizza! Hard to say how many pizzas have been in that oven but they’ve all been delicious and the oven has made great memories!



60th Anniversary



Nicholas Dick at campfire.

Leaving for Camp in 1968.

I grew up in Toronto and attended Toronto United Mennonite Church. Our family has been involved with Silver Lake from the start. Our father, Nicholas Dick, was a Director in 1964 with Ingrid Neufeld and Jim Reusser. After being a camper in the 60's, I was a canoe leader and CILT leader in the early 70's. My brother Paul is still involved along with my nieces Esther, Sarah and Hannah.



Nate Dick: former staff

What has camp meant to me? Ever since I was six years old, I would attend camp every summer. No matter what else was going on going to Silver Lake would always be the highlight. I loved campfires, nature sessions, Quest (time for campers to learn about Christian faith and big questions) and canoeing. Not only did camp reinforce things I loved, but it was a space that encouraged me to try new things, and expand beyond my comfort zone. Soon, evening games and initiatives would become a favourite, even though I did not enjoy gym class at school.

When I was old enough, I became a CILT and did my practicum. I ended up counselling for two years. Much in the world had changed between my time as a camper and a counsellor. Kids were spending more time online than ever and I was no exception to that. Going to camp was a great break from much of the noise that we pay so much attention to. Whether it was leading songs, talking to the shyer campers, dressing up for a camp game, I can't stress enough how impactful being a staff

member has been. It has made me more comfortable with spontaneity and being a little less serious. It has made me realize the importance of a lifelong community of friends, and a faith community that allows space for asking questions.

When you first arrive at Silver Lake the smell of the pine overwhelms your senses. The first thing that many of us do is rush to the bulletin board in the parking lot to see who is working at camp. There we might see a friend or two, and be inundated with hugs. Silver Lake staff were committed to ensuring that campers have the best time participating in camp activities and experience God's beautiful creation. As COVID-19 pandemic ravages the world, the love that the staff have provided fellow campers and staff reminds me of the kind of energy that the world needs now. Loving one another in the face of uncertainty is one of the strongest things we as human beings can do, and I am thankful that Silver Lake has taught me this.

Kate Strathdee: current staff



Summer 2022

Registration opens February 1, 2022 @ 7:00am

DATES	OVERNIGHT CAMP	ONSITE DAY CAMP
July 3-5 6-9	Mini Camp Jr. Camp AGES 6-10	Week 1
July 10-14	Camp 1 AGES 6-10	Week 2
July 17-23	Camp 2A AGES 9-14	Week 3
July 24-30	Camp 2B AGES 9-14	Week 4
July 31- Aug 6	Teen Camp A AGES 13-16	Week 5
	Bronze Med / Cross AGES 13-16	
Aug 7-13	Teen Camp B AGES 13-16	Week 6
Aug 14-20	Camp 5A AGES 8-12	Week 7
Aug 21-27	Camp 5B AGES 8-12	Week 8



slmc.ca/summer-camp

OFFSITE DAY CAMP	HIKE & CANOE OUTTRIPS	CILTS
Hanover / Kitchener	Young eXplore (2 night) AGES 9-12	CILT 2A
Hanover / Kitchener		CILT 2A
Leamington / Kitchener	Adventure eXplore (3 night) AGES 11-14	CILT 2B
Leamington / Kitchener		CILT 2B
	Teen eXplore (4 night) AGES 13-16	CILT 1A
Waterloo		CILT 1A
Waterloo	Senior eXplore (8 night) AGES 13-16	CILT 1B
Waterloo	Senior eXplore Continues	CILT 1B



Fundraising

Consider supporting Silver Lake as part of seasonal giving. Visit the **Ways to Give** page at slmc.ca. Check out the Silver Lake Wish List there where you can purchase kitchen items, camping & sporting equipment and other needed items. Lot of different items to choose from on the Wish List!



The Grand Paddle & Hike raised \$54,000! Thank you to all who over the May 7-9 weekend paddled, hiked and got out to support camp. With a record number of donations and teams it was a beautiful celebration of 60 years!



Sending off the The Grand Paddle & Hike fundraising teams at the AGM!



**60 Years.
\$60,000.**

Let's Build a CILT Cabin!

The first fundraising campaign of 2021 was greeted with much enthusiasm from the Silver Lake community. The Camper in Leadership Training program (CILT) has been a cornerstone of the Silver Lake experience and many enjoyed reminiscing about their own CILT years and supporting this Anniversary project. Be sure to visit the CILT Cabin campaign page on our website to see other CILT group photos from the past!

On April 7, a generous donation of \$60,000 was announced, made on behalf of the **Henry & Nancy Pauls Family**, to go towards a second CILT cabin. This tribute fittingly honours Henry's legacy and years of service at Silver Lake.

Fundraiser Update: Thanks to the generosity of many donors, **\$52,545** has been raised towards rebuilding the CILT cabins and rejuvenating the CILT area. The campaign fund will remain open for now as COVID affects building costs and the total cost may be higher than the original estimate. It's not too late to contribute to this important project!

Building Update: Fall of 2022 has tentatively been set to begin construction on the new CILT cabins.



The **Campfire Builders** goal is to enlist 60 monthly donors in honour of Silver Lake's Anniversary. Almost halfway there!

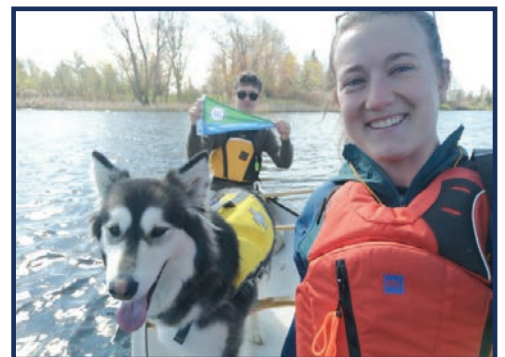
The campfire circle is the heart of Silver Lake and this steady support helps that heart beat strongly. Your regular contribution, big or small, will have a significant impact over time.

Visit slmc.ca/donate/ to join this amazing group!

Thank you to these Campfire Builders!!

Mark Weber & Sheri Wideman
Quinn Klassen & Matt Madigan
Wendy Janzen & Chip Bender
Janet & Trevor Bauman
Dan Pauls & Treena Pauls
Ed & Jo-Anne Harder
Leepoy-Brown Family
Ingrid & Henry Heinrichs Pauls
Mark & Rachel Diller Harder
David Bergen & Deborah Kehler
Paul Fieguth & Betty Pries
Ron & Kaye Rempel
Rachel Harder & Matt Snider
Hannah Fransen & Joel Morrissey

Dylan Siebert
Anonymous
Beth Wasylyk
Nathan Kruger
Bornyi Family
Paul Boers
Nancy & Ernie Regehr
Akio Saito
John & Ruth Dyck
Peter & Ella Pauls
Tara & Todd O'Donnell
Tim & Tammy Isaak
Christine & Don Weber





In the Beginning... 1960

“The first directors of The Corporation to be **William Dick, Frederick Neufeld, George Schartner, Peter Lepp, Abe Lepp, John William Neufeld, Rudolph Williams, John Wall and Willie Dick.**” And so began the story of Silver Lake. We thank God for the inspiration, dedication, vision and skill with which the first directors led camp — and 60 years later, Silver Lake is going strong! Friends of Silver Lake form a strong and vibrant community. Thank you from Silver Lake!



Follow SLMC on Facebook and Instagram for updates and fun content from camp!

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WAYS TO DONATE

To donate **online***, visit: slmc.ca/donate

To donate by **mail**, please send cheques to:
209-50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener, ON, N2G 3R1

**this is our preferred method and tax receipt gets sent immediately!*



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