

WOOD BOX



Fall 2022

*Annual magazine for and by
Friends of Silver Lake*





Page 4
Summer 2022



Page 6
Fifth-Year Staff
Work Weekend



Page 7
Outdoor Ed
Celebrates 10 Years!



Page 8
Summer 2023



Page 10
Fundraising





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 be added to this list (or unsubscribe), email fun@slmc.ca with your current contact info.

If you received a duplicate copy of the Woodbox, or are done reading it, please pass along to neighbours or family who may be interested in SLMC programs!

Upcoming ===== ===== Events & Retreats

Jan 13-15	Father and Kids Retreat
Jan 20-22	Winter Snowshoe Hike
Feb 1 @ 7am	Summer camp registration opens!
Feb 3-5	Women's Retreat
Feb 10-12	Couples Retreat
March 3-5	Winter Camp for Grown-Ups
March 14-17	March Break Family Getaway
March 13-17	Day Camp @ FMC in Kitchener
April 28-30	Spring Work Weekend
May 5-7	Newcomer Family Holiday
May 12-14	Grand Paddle, Hike & Bike
May 12-14	Youth Camp
May 19-21	Family Camp
Sep 15-17	Men's Retreat
Oct 27-29	Fall Work Weekend

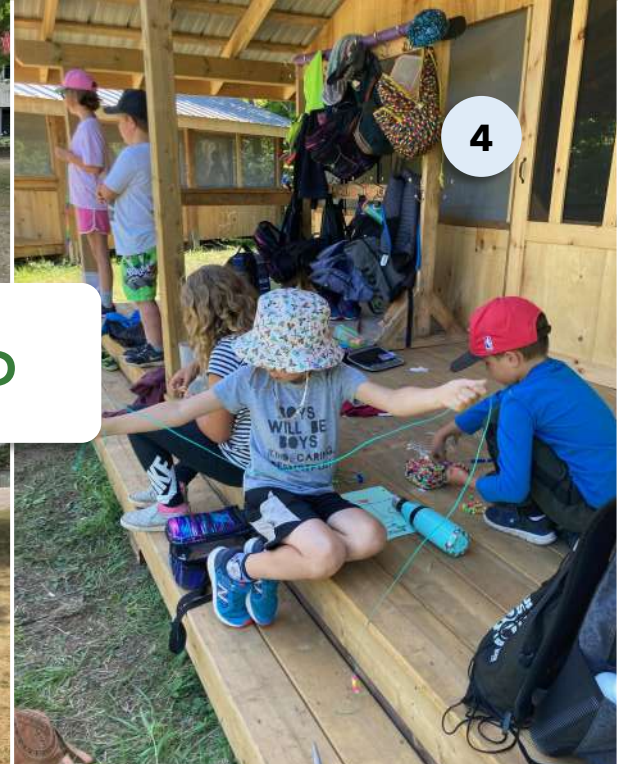
**Register at <https://slmc.ca/retreats/retreats/>
All events subject to change.**

Summer 2022

Despite it being my fifth year on staff, I experienced a lot of personal firsts this summer. I conquered my fear of heights by getting certified to run camp's climbing wall. I lead CILTs and Program for the first time, and held a maintenance role for one week (in which I also lead last-minute crafts and climbing sessions. It was a wild week). In more mundane news, I also mopped the kitchen for the very first time in my five years on staff— which might sound ridiculous, but in my defence, I mostly worked as a counsellor and in the kitchen in my first and second years, and years 3 and 4 were almost entirely online for me.

I was far from the only one gaining new skills this summer. Between the continued launch of the new off-site day camps and a more “back to normal” delivery of overnight/on-site camps and out-trips, it was a summer of much learning, adaptation and positive change. We had a record number of staff and almost certainly a record number of Staff Orientation sessions, which included, for the first time (in my memory at least), designated sessions every day for small groups of staff to practice running resource sessions with each other. For those of us who have been at Silver Lake before, it was amazing what seemingly small and obvious aspects of camp's daily routines needed to be relearned after being mostly away for two years. Simple things like knowing all the tips and tricks to ensure a smooth dishwashing run. Knowing all the words, much less harmonies, to camp-fire songs. Especially in the first couple of weeks, many things come together at the last minute, chaos reigned at times, and silly mistakes happened. Through it all was a definite sense of joy and gratefulness to be back in the wonderful and supportive environment that is Silver Lake, working alongside so many fantastic and talented people. It was a summer filled with learning, for first-year and returning staff alike, and it warms my heart to know that camp is in good hands going forward.

Miranda Vanderkooy, SLMC Staff



4

Day Camp



CILTs



Outtrips



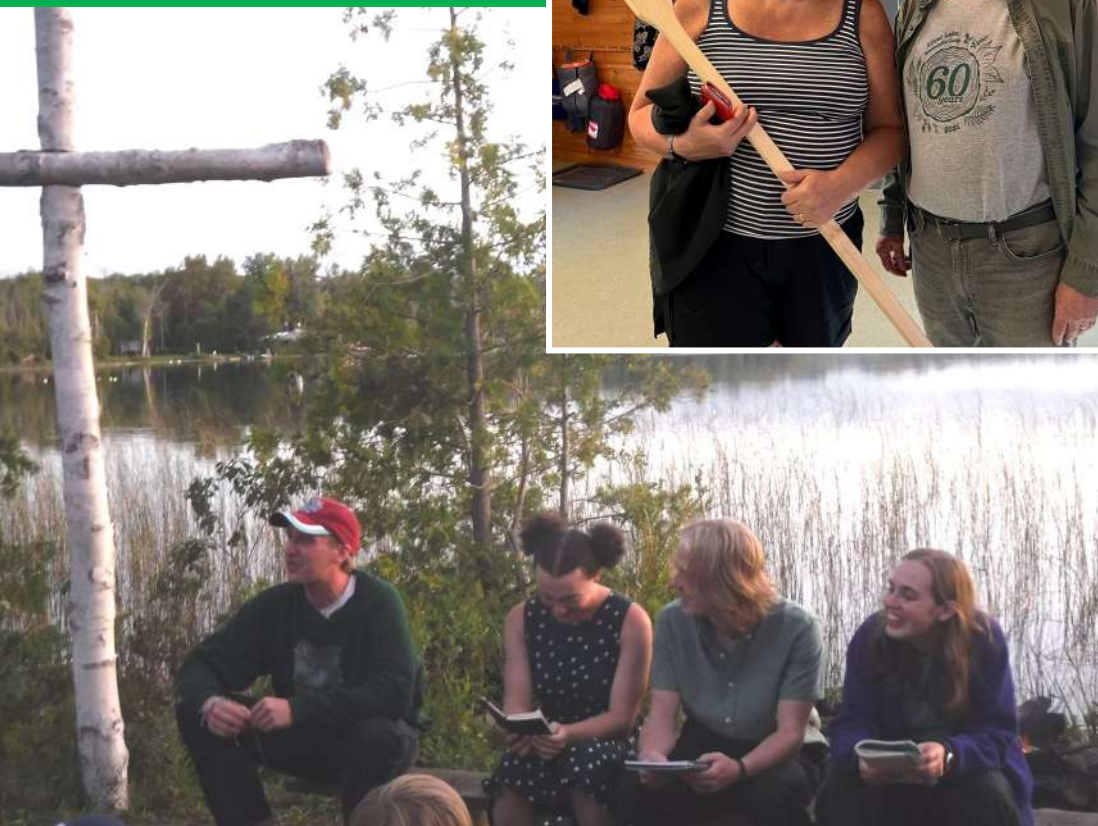
Overnight Camp



Paddles

CONGRATULATIONS
5TH YEARS!

Alexei Derksen Hiebert
Nathan Diller Harder
Miranda Vanderkooy
Imogen Xavier
Elizabeth Klassen



Work Weekends



Outdoor Education Celebrates 10 Years!



Winter 2014



Spring 2016



Spring 2017



Fall 2012

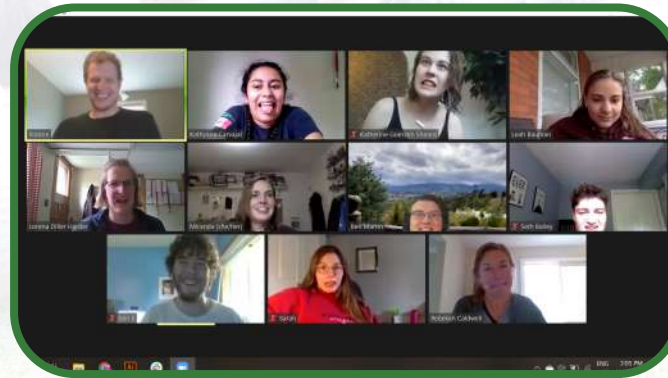


Spring 2019

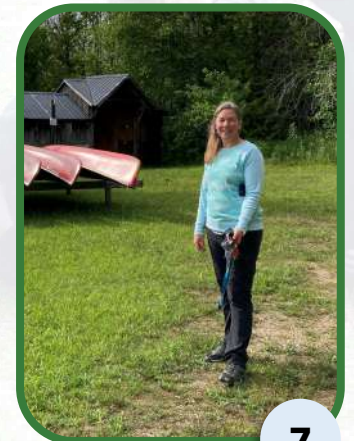
It is hard to believe that school programs have been running consistently for 10 years! Spring/Fall 2012 started small with two school groups and offering programs for existing rental groups. Since 2012, we have grown to close to 30 groups and a variety of retreats throughout the year. School groups have come from Niagara, Brampton, Kitchener, Waterloo, Leamington and Grey Bruce region.

Outdoor Education has allowed for many people to enjoy what Silver Lake has to offer that other wise would not have the opportunity to experience. The year-round programming has provided more work and experience for staff. We are looking forward to continuing to grow the program, bringing more students, teachers and staff to gain more appreciation and the love for the outdoors and Silver lake. Thank you to all those who have supported and encouraged this growth at Silver Lake.

Rebekah Caldwell, Outdoor Education Director



Spring 2020 (Online!)



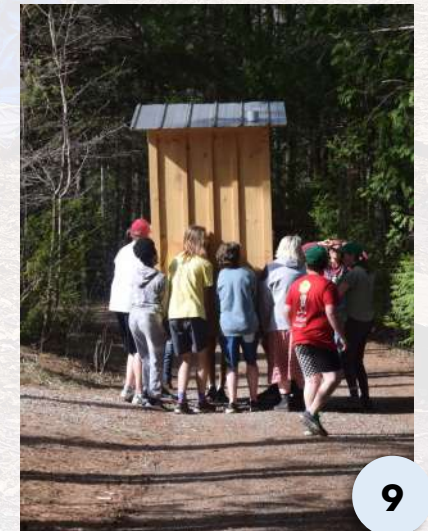
Summer 2023

Registration opens Feb 1 @ 7am
slmc.ca/summer-camp

8

Dates	Week	Overnight Camp	Day Camp (5-12), Mon-Fri	Outtrips	CILTs
July 2-4 & 5-8	1	Mini Camp (6-10) Jr. Camp (6-10)	Onsite, Hanover*, Kitchener A	Young eXplorer Hike (9-12) Young eXplorer Canoe (9-12)	CILT 2A
July 9-13	2	Camp 1 (6-10)	Onsite, Hanover*, Kitchener A		CILT 2A
July 16-22	3	Camp 2A (9-14)	Onsite, Leamington, Kitchener A	Adventure eXplorer Hike (11-14) Adventure eXplorer Canoe (11-14)	CILT 2B
July 23-29	4	Camp 2B (9-14)	Onsite, Leamington, Kitchener A		CILT 2B
July 30-Aug 5	5	Teen Camp A (13-16) Bronze Med/X (13-17)	Onsite, Kitchener A	Teen eXplorer Hike (13-16) Teen eXplorer Canoe (13-16)	CILT 1A
Aug 6-12	6	Teen Camp B (13-16)	Onsite	Québec eXplorer (14-16)	CILT 1A
Aug 13-19	7	Camp 3 (8-12)	Onsite, Kitchener B	Senior eXplorer Hike - 2 weeks (13-16) Senior eXplorer Canoe- 2 weeks (13-16)	CILT 1B
Aug 20-26	8	Boating Camp (9-14) Music Camp (9-14)	Onsite, Kitchener A	Senior eXplorer Hike & Canoe continued	CILT 1B

*Age range for Hanover Canoe Day Camp is 9-12. All other Day Camps = ages 5-12.



Fundraising

The Grand Paddle & Hike raised \$50,142! Thank you to all who over the May 6-8 weekend paddled, hiked and got out to support camp. With a record number of teams (including multiple teams participating internationally!), it was a weekend to remember.



10

Cheque to MCC

Ellie Cressman and Regina Che, two first-year staff, present a cheque to Michelle Brenneman of Mennonite Central Committee Ontario for relief support in Ukraine.



Fundraising Updates!

60 Years. \$60,000. Let's Build a CILT Cabin! New CILT cabins are coming! This spring, construction is set to begin! Thank you to the Pauls family and to all who generously gave to the "60 Years, \$60,000 Let's Build a CILT Cabin" campaign to support young leaders and build for the future of Silver Lake!



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

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/ for more information.



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. Lots of different items to choose from on the Wish List!



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



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!

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

facebook.com/silverlakemennonitecamp

[@silverlakemennonite](https://instagram.com/silverlakemennonite)

*If you received a duplicate copy of the Woodbox or are done reading it,
please pass along this newsletter to neighbours or family who may be
interested in SLMC programs!*



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