

WOOD BOX

2023

***Annual magazine for and by
Friends of Silver Lake***





PAGE 3
Events



PAGE 4
Summer 2023



PAGE 7
Spring 2023



PAGE 8
Summer 2024



PAGE 10
Fundraising



PAGE 12
Volunteers





Friends of Silver Lake

The Friends of Silver Lake are donors, volunteers, staff, alumni, camper parents, and anyone wanting to hear what's happening at SLMC. This emailing list shares camp news, fundraising initiatives, work weekends, retreats, and more. This Woodbox newsletter is the only paper mailing per year. If you would like to be added to this list (or unsubscribe), email fun@slmc.ca with your current contact information.

Please pass along to neighbours or family who may be interested in SLMC programs!

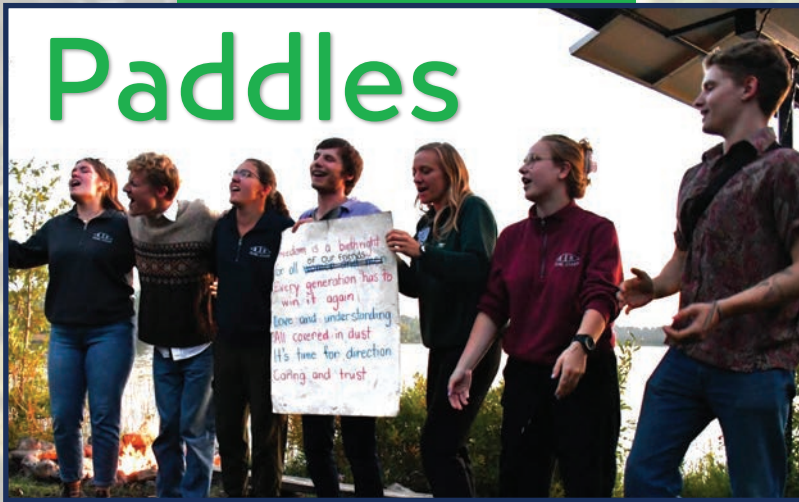
Upcoming Events & Retreats

Jan 19-21	Fathers and Kids
Feb 1 @ 7am	Registration for summer camp opens! (December 1 registration opens for outtrips and retreats)
Feb 2-4	Women's Retreat
Feb 9-11	Valentine's Day Getaway
Mar 1-3	Winter Camp for Grown-Ups
April 19-21	Music Retreat
April 22	Indigenous Learning Retreat
April 26-28	Spring Work Weekend
May 3-5	Newcomer Family Holiday
May 10-12	Grand Paddle & Hike Fundraiser
May 10-12	Spring Youth Camp
May 17-19	Family Camp
Sept 13-15	Men's Retreat
Sept 16-19	Bruce Trail Hike
Sept 27-29	Fall Hike Retreat
Nov 1-3	Fall Work Weekend

Check out slmc.ca/retreats for registration, updates and more info!
All events subject to change.

The camp is also available for rentals from early September to late June. For more information on rentals and pricing, please contact fun@slmc.ca.

Paddles



Congratulations, Fifth Years!

Noah Baret
Jonathan Cressman
Anya Fieguth
Maia Hadden
Tessa Hedrick
Annika Kap
David MacGregor



Summer '23



I had an incredible final year at camp this past summer. From the kids I met to the various positions I held, I feel like everything I had on my "Silver Lake Bucket List" has been checked off. I had the privilege of leading CILTs this year and that will go down as an all-time camp highlight. I started at Silver Lake as a CILT 2 myself, and getting to facilitate the memory making like Michael Born and Emma Pauls did for me was a wonderful, full-circle moment. These CILTs had so much passion for camp and are going to be incredible counsellors in the summers to come.

The relationships built with campers will always be the most valuable gift of camp to me. Some of these kids I've had the pleasure of seeing for five summers now, and the various inside jokes and memories we've crafted over the years bring me so much joy. A bunch of these campers found out it would be my last summer and wrote me some notes. They're currently pinned up on my bulletin board and will stay there for the foreseeable future. Whenever I need to smile I just give them a read.

The creative side of camp has always been near and dear to me. This summer, alongside Tim Shantz, I helped plan both a Scooby-Doo skit and a Diary of a Wimpy Kid travelling campfire. I'm continually amazed by the Oscar-worthy performances that a bunch of camp counsellors can pull off on such little sleep... I'm pretty sure Nick Heide was nominated for Best Actor for his Greg Heffley performance. Campfire skits and songs are a crucial part of the camp experience and when we're around that campfire circle enjoying them together is when I feel most a part of a community.

I can't reflect on my summer without thinking of how grateful I am for the connections I've made on staff. I have nothing but good things to say about my Silver Lake co-workers; they are easily the most supportive and kind-hearted people I have had the pleasure of working with. I like them so much I've even moved in with some! Forming these incredible connections every summer will be one of the aspects of Silver Lake I'll miss the most... if this is really goodbye.

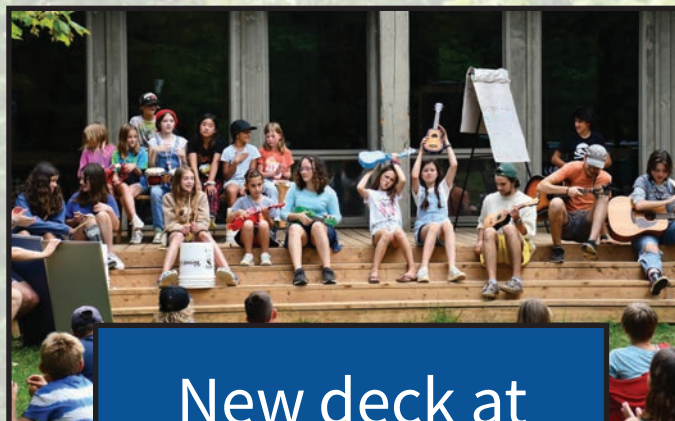
David MacGregor, fifth-year staff

Quest

This year's theme for Quest and the summer as a whole was ***Rooted in Connection: Spirituality is a Relationship!***

Drawing inspiration from mycorrhizal networks that allow forests of trees to communicate and share resources (known as The Wood Wide Web), the theme is based on the idea that spirituality is inherently about relationships. About developing a relationship with God, with creation, with the people around you, and with yourself. When we engage authentically with one another, we come to recognize that person's inherent dignity and open the door for compassionate interaction. When we open ourselves to experiencing nature as part of an interconnected network, we are inclined to care for the earth and recognize our dependence on it. When we reflect on who we are and what we're feeling and treat ourselves with the respect we deserve, we learn to love ourselves and recognize our unique selfhood. By approaching God relationally, we discover a faith that is truly meaningful and an authentic understanding of the more-than-human world.

Thomas Beech, staff



New deck at
the Pines!



Thank you, Hamilton Mennonite Church!

Spring 2023



Indigenous Youth
Land-based Learning
Program Graduates



Work Weekend



Outdoor Education

Summer 2024

	Week	Overnight Camp
June 30 - July 2	1	Mini Camp (6-10)
July 2-6	1	Camp 1 (6-10)
July 7-13	2	Camp 2A (9-14)
July 14-20	3	Camp 2B (9-14)
July 21-27	4	Camp 2C (9-14)
July 28 - August 3	5	Teen Camp (13-16) Bronze Medallion/Cross
August 4-10	6	Sports Camp (8-12)
August 11-17	7	Camp 3 (8-12)
August 18-24	8	Boating OR Music (9-14)



Registration for outtrips opens Dec 1 – Get \$100 off before Feb 1
Registration for overnight & day camps opens Feb 1 at 7am
slmc.ca/summer-camp

Day Camp	Hike & Canoe Outtrips	CILTs
Sauble Beach, Hanover, Kitchener		CILT 2A
Sauble Beach, Hanover, Kitchener		CILT 2A
Sauble Beach, Kitchener	Young X – 2 nights (9-12)	CILT 2A
Sauble Beach, Leamington, Kitchener		CILT 2B
Sauble Beach, Hanover, Kitchener	Adventure X – 3 nights (11-14)	CILT 2B
Sauble Beach, Kitchener		CILT 1A
Sauble Beach	Teen X – 4 nights (13-16) Outtrip to Quebec (14-16)	CILT 1A
Sauble Beach, Kitchener		CILT 1B
Sauble Beach, Kitchener		CILT 1B



Fundraising

The Grand Paddle & Hike raised \$67,030! Thank you to the record-number teams and participants who paddled, hiked, biked, and danced on the weekend of May 12-14 to support camp. What an unforgettable time celebrating SLMC together!

Thank you to this year's sponsors:

Kindred Credit Union
Green Acre Park
Martin's Bus Service
Herrle's Country Farm Market
Display Ontario



CILT CABINS

This year's CILTs were the first to stay in the brand new CILT cabins!

Thank you to Nancy and all the Pauls family, who have an incredible legacy with Silver Lake and whose generosity made this CILT cabin possible. And thank you to all Silver Lakers who contributed to making cabin #2 possible!

Mark your calendars for a CILT Cabin dedication service at Spring Work Weekend.

Fun at Camp Campaign

Help bring a multisport court and treehouse slide to SLMC!

Excitement is in the air at Silver Lake as the camp prepares to add a multisport court and treehouse slide in time for Summer 2024. The multisport court will be the heart of SLMC's Sport Camp from Aug. 4-10, allowing campers to try a wide range of different activities. Meanwhile, on the other side of camp beside the Enchanted Forest, a slide through the trees would not only be fun but would also permit more programming at the treehouse, including sleepovers, as a slide enables a second exit. To read more about these projects and why they are important to camp, visit our Fun at Camp webpage at slmc.ca/fun-at-camp.



To make these projects happen, SLMC needs a total of \$160,000 in donations and pledges.

TO DONATE:

- E-transfer fun@slmc.ca
- Donate online at slmc.ca/donate
- Mail a cheque to address on next page

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Campfire Builders are Silver Lake's monthly donors. The campfire circle is the heart of camp, and the consistent, regular contributions keep the fire burning and the heart-beat strong. Monthly donations of any amount make a huge difference over time. Visit slmc.ca/donate to join this impactful group. **Thank you to this year's builders!**



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

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



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

facebook.com/silverlakemennonitecamp

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

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



#209 50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener, ON
N2G 3R1