

West Haven United Church Camp Inc.

West Haven Camp faced a number of challenges in 2020. Our camp manager and head cook Beverly Wright retired at the end of the 2019 camping season after 20 years with us. COVID-19 forced us to adapt to keep our campers, volunteers and staff safe. There was a break-in onsite and West Haven lost important equipment. Our aging facilities are always a cause of stress and concern.

The 2020 camping season looked much different than any in our history. We modified our program to run as a day camp. We offered 5 week-long camps for youth ages 6 to 13. Approximately 125 youth attended. We had 10 volunteer CITs aged 14-16, 10 adult volunteers and employed 7 wonderful young people for 7 weeks.

Following provincial guidelines, we established 3 separate cohorts of no more than 15 people. These cohorts distanced from other groups and participated in different activities. While camp looked a little different, campers were still able to canoe, swim, explore nature, make crafts and learn how to love and grow and have fun as God's beloved children.

Due to the break-in, we were forced to replace our walkie talkies and first aid kits, a considerable cost but required to run camp safely. We also thought it best to change all the locks on the doors to make the buildings more secure.

We used grant money to add new metal roofs to the registration and dining buildings. In the near future, the craft and bunk houses will need new roofs as well. Also, interior and exterior painting hasn't been done in a number of years and our mattresses are old and in need of replacing.

This summer, camp will look a lot like it did last summer. It is still not safe or practical to have overnight camps. Keeping campers, staff and volunteers safe is our number one priority. There will be 5 camps again this summer. We currently have 5 grants and are hoping to receive a few more before July.

Your prayers, time and financial assistance is always appreciated. Thank you for the support you have always shown us in the past and will continue to do in the future.

Tonya Stuckless
Program Chair