



Bike Camp Breakthrough!

Bike Camp has a new face and a developing identity as an Eco-friendly week of fun.

Donald Gillmore has dedicated his life to the preservation of the environment and brings that passion to Bike Camp. Donald ran his first Bike Camp in 2013 and will be back for 2014 and hopefully many years into the future. What this means is that campers can learn that their bikes are a viable mode of transportation; that they can enjoy a week fully un-plugged; that camping in tents is fun; and a whole lot more.

Donald is working hard to make this camp as "green" as possible and as such will be using his bike trailer, shown below, to haul all of the campers' provisions including all the food so that the camp won't have to supply a support vehicle.



The Pringle Staff ... 2013

The Personnel Committee had a hard time this year...we had so many great staff applicants to choose from. After lots of thoughts and discussions we got the team together and it was great. Camp Pringle attempts to find strong leaders with the enthusiasm and energy to add to the entire staff, while having a willingness to pitch in to support the entire camp. The Camp philosophy is EXTREME FUN but with EXTREME SAFETY, which the staff all subscribe to. Pringle Staff have such diverse skill sets. There are the NLS certified waterfront team to ensure all waterfront activities are safe and fun, but most have hidden talents in other areas such as music, art or acting. Our ropes leaders are all certified at ACCT and higher standards to ensure that all regulations are enforced and safety stressed while team-

work is developed. Any person who engages in the low ropes at 18 inches from the ground to those that brave 30 FEET above the ground in the high ropes course will have multiple safety checks starting with asking the rope leader if the climber may begin the activity.

This summer a new bike leader, Don Gillmore, led a group of enthusiastic youth who traveled the Cowichan Valley, while the food and camping gear were driven to the next camp site. While this camp is only on the Camp Pringle site for a short time, the spirit and support of the main camp is always in the background.

Another critical group that help run the camp, are the Crew/CIT campers. These wonderful teen helpers (they actually do the dishes!!) also work hard on property projects while gaining valuable instruction on leadership, which is provided by our Crew/CIT adult staff members. These leaders are chosen for their interest and ability with teens and show great ability to mentor while subtly directing.

The heart of any Camp is the Cabin leaders who are the front line leaders of our most important component of Pringle, the campers. They have to possess levels of enthusiasm, energy and flexibility (not to mention doing it on minimal sleep). Often these leaders will follow later careers in Education or other kid centered fields. Two areas that always cause great discussion and soul searching are for the positions of Program Director and Chaplain. Each job requires great skill in organization and leadership. The Program Director is the go-to person for implementing the summer activities while the Chaplain is the faith resource and general soul and spirit booster for the camp.

There is a reason for the old adage; "an army survives on its food". Camp Pringle Chef Bob's kitchen crew is the producers of an array of kid favourites for all the campers. What is great is that he is also able to accommodate special dietary needs...not sure if he would agree to a chocolate only diet!!!

Mary Jean Krawciw—Personnel Chair

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR WINTER
BREAK-OUT CAMP! MARCH 16—20**

CALL 250-472-6877

NURSE/MEDIC

CAMP PARENT

CABIN LEADERS

CRAFT LEADER

LIFEGUARD

OFFICE ASSISTANT

**Camp Pringle Board
and Staff
wish you
and yours a
very Merry
Christmas!**





Pringle Story Exchange Contest

Camp Pringle wants to hear your stories - tell us about your week at camp, best experiences, embarrassing moments, a story about a memory from camp your parent would love to hear (but you don't want to tell them directly), why did you want to come to camp, or work at camp, what are you looking forward to next summer, a fear you conquered, a friend you met, a skill you learned, a time your group rented camp and why you come back year-after-year, the special community that is the summer staff, something you built while on crew that is still there...anything related to Camp Pringle.

Stories can be a couple of lines to a couple of paragraphs long. You can either post them to the Camp Pringle Facebook site <https://m.facebook.com/pringlecamp> or e-mail them to PringleStories@gmail.com. Deadline for this prize contest is Dec 31, 2013 (although we'd love to get your stories any time).

We'll select one entry at random to be awarded a Camp Pringle hoodie, and we'll place a couple of stories in our spring newsletter. We are looking forward to hearing your stories about Camp. Here's a couple to get your started.

During the late 1980s I was working as waterfront staff at Camp. During a senior youth camp every morning we would host a polar bear swim, with only a couple of hardy participants. I challenged the campers for one morning that if 80% of them got their heads wet, I would shave off 1/2 my beard for the day. On my way to the waterfront the next morning I was feeling fairly confident I would be keeping my beard; low-and-behold, the campers met my challenge. Turns out all you need to motivate teenagers is to offer to embarrass yourself for a day.

Dave Nicolson, Waterfront Staff 1987-1989.

My first time in a sailboat was as a pre-teen at Camp Pringle in the 1970's. What a great sense of freedom and pride to be given the reigns of your own vessel, and to be forgiven when the winds pushed us into the reeds or worse yet flipped the boat. I'm sure our actions had nothing to do with that! Another fond memory is the canoe trips to Memory Island. I'm sure I still have some of the special bottle caps we dove for in the gaps between the islands. I'm as thankful my parents let me go to camp as I'm sure they were having a week of their own vacation.

Dave Nicolson, camper 1970's.

How Can I help?

Supporting Camp Pringle can come in many forms. We always need volunteers for work parties, administrative support, to serve as a board member, to promote the camp, to attend our booth at events, to take on roles in the summer. If you want to volunteer, please contact our Victoria Office at 250-472-6877 and talk to Ashley. You can also support the camp financially.



Camp Pringle would like to thank Harry Prior and all our other generous donors for their continued support of the Camp.

Making donations to camp is easy, you can send a cheque or credit card number in the return envelope, call our office, click on the CanadaHelps link on our website or target your United Way donation to the camp. Did you know you can also make donations of stocks, leave a legacy to camp in your will, or rent the camp for a large group event like a family reunion? You can also donate items of quality that would be useful at camp like road worthy mountain bikes, fiberglass canoes, sailboats, paddles, a log splitter, a truck, digital video equipment and so much more. We purchase the item, and then you make a donation and get a tax receipt. For more information, please call the Victoria Office or email

director@camppringle.com.

Going Green

Camp Pringle staff have decided that it is time to move away from paper mailings in order to reduce our environmental footprint. This mailing used over 6,000 envelopes and 22 reams of paper. Please return the quick survey to let us know if you would like to receive future mailings by email or continue to receive paper copies. We appreciate your support of camp.

New Website Launch!

The board and staff is working on an all new website, to be launched in 2014. We are also simplifying our online registration process for next spring and summer. We are very excited to see these improvements on how we interact with you come into effect, so watch for the new site early in the New Year.

A WEEK THAT LASTS A LIFETIME!

Camp Pringle is all about life skill development in children and youth. In all our programs we work to develop confidence, team work, responsibility, community and spiritual grounding. In our Junior camps (8-11) the emphasis is on confidence, celebration of self and others in community. We also teach communication that helps reduce bullying, and general hygiene to promote health. The Intermediate age camps (12-15) begin to focus more on team building and community while nurturing the skills they learned in the Junior Camps. At 15-16 our Crew Programs begin leadership development which is followed up in our CIT level which can ultimately lead to a position on staff. The child you trust to our care for a week will often return home a more responsible and caring person. The best part is they think they are simply having fun!