

2019 ANNUAL REPORT GEORGE PRINGLE MEMORIAL CAMP SOCIETY “Camp Pringle”

The George Pringle Memorial Camp Society is proudly accredited by the British Columbia Camps Association, the Canadian Camping Association and the United Church of Canada.

The George Pringle Memorial Camp Society acknowledges with respect and gratitude our presence on the unceded, traditional territory of the Malahat and Cowichan First Nations

The annual report was prepared by Claire Friedrich, Camp Director and presented at the annual general meeting held Sunday, June 21, 2020

Camp Pringle Mission Statement

We provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and identities to experience God's love in a close relationship with other people and the natural environment.

(Last reviewed September 2019)

Camp Pringle Vision Statement

Grounded in United Church values:

- Lives are transformed through inclusive, fun and educational programming and comfortable facilities in nature;
- Young people are equipped with skills and values to develop confidence, maturity, and social and environmental awareness for shared leadership and life in God's world.

(Last reviewed September 2019)

G.P.M.C. 2019 Board of Directors

David Nicolson - Chair

Jane Kiltnei – Vice Chair

Mimi Zuyderduyn – Secretary

Melanie Fugard – Treasurer *(appointed October 2019)*

David Prestwich *(appointed September 2019)*

Sheila Service *(appointed November 2019)*

Leighton Mellestrand *(appointed November 2019)*

Maggie Enright *(resigned September 2019)*

Sarah Prestwich *(resigned October 2019)*

Ian Fraser – Ex-Officio & Representative of the Pacific Mountain Region

G.P.M.C. 2019 Volunteers

Too many to list individually – thank you to all our wonderful CITs and Volunteers!

G.P.M.C. 2019 Staff

Year-Round Staff

Camp Director	Kezia Cowtan (January 1 - June 30) Claire Friedrich (July 1 - December 31)
Camp Minister	Rev. Katherine Brittain
Camp Coordinator & Childcare Manager	Claire Friedrich (January 1-June 30)
Residential Caretaker	Dan Orr
Head Cooks	Sean Lee & Duncan Whiskin
Kitchen Assistants	Louise Payne, Daniel Blasé, Olivia Knoester & Rachel W.
Licensed Childcare	Yumiko Hamai, Linda Onassis, Daniel Blasé, Marah Nicolson & Casey Jones

Seasonal Staff

Chaplain	Lia Collis
Assistant Camp Coordinator	Connor Pickles
Medic	Nate LaBine
Waterfront Director	Rebecca Huellstrung
Lifeguards	Katy Berglund & Diana Peraza
Teen Program Leaders	Fei Ge & Nate LaBine
Cabin Leaders	Abigail Andiel, Casey Jones, Mitchell Beauvais, Ari Liu, Kalia Zickmantel, Olivia Copeland, Molly Robson, Cassidy Marat, Ryan Dubney, SarahRose Smith & Ethan Ko
Inclusion Facilitators	Marah Nicolson, Taryn Brebant & Melinda Douglas

Operations Overview

2019 was a year of growth in all our operations including in our summer camps, our licensed childcare program and year-round private rentals.

Summer Camps – In 2019 we held 6 weeks of camp for children and youth ages 5-17. We offered overnight camps, day camps and multi-week leadership programs for teens. We also hosted our first annual gender inclusion camp! Championing the UCC value of radical inclusion we offered 1 week of traditional overnight summer camp in a gender inclusive environment. Campers were sorted into cabins based on age, regardless of their gender identity. There was 1 female identifying and 1 male identifying leader in each cabin. We celebrated kids being kids without the stress of labels. Our campers and staff loved this weeklong session and we look forward to offering it again in 2020. Our camper numbers in 2019 totalled 570 participants spread over 6 weeks of camping programs. This was an increase from 530 participants in the summer of 2018. Around 40% of campers were new to Camp Pringle and 60% returning. Around 50% of our summer campers came from the Greater Victoria area. The Cowichan Valley represented approximately 35% of the summer registrations. About 10% of campers came from the Mid/north Island, 4% came from the lower mainland and 1% attended from outside BC.

Camp Goodtimes – In 2019 we completed the 2nd summer of a successful partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society's "Camp Goodtimes" program. Camp Goodtimes is a specialized summer camp program for children, teens and families affected by cancer. Our Camp Pringle staff work in

tandem with the Cancer Society's team of staff and volunteers to deliver two weeks of summer programming. We look forward to hosting this amazing program again in 2020.

Licensed Childcare – In 2019, we increased our licensed childcare program adding additional staff members and 12 additional registration spaces. We had 52 children enrolled in our out of school care attending after school care at camp. We have enrolment from 4 local elementary schools and the children were provided bus transportation to Camp Pringle through the School District 79 transportation department.

Private Rentals – In 2019 we hosted 65 rental groups at camp including 4 weddings, 28 school groups, 13 churches and a variety of other not for profit organizations. During May-June our program staff facilitated outdoor adventure programming for 16 year-end school trips for students in elementary and middle school. We even had a feature film produced at camp in early September that will air on the Disney Family channel in the summer of 2020!

Personnel Overview

After 4.5 years of service as Camp Director, Kezia Cowtan resigned from her post at Camp Pringle on June 30th. The board of directors appointed Camp Coordinator, Claire Friedrich, as interim Director for the summer season and after an open call for applications in the fall the board announced Claire Friedrich as their choice to continue to serve as the Camp Director. Camp Pringle maintained a full time year-round staff team of 3 members along with 4 part-time childcare staff and the quarter time Camp Minister shared as part of our partnership with Sylvan United Church. With assistance from the Canada Summer Jobs grant we employed 22 seasonal staff positions during the camping season.

After the 2019 summer season we reviewed our seasonal staffing model and re-imagined 2 summer positions to better suit a new staff framework for 2020. From December-February we interviewed 26 candidates and from those interviews were able to hire our 22 summer positions for 2020!

Sylvan United Church Partnership Overview

In September of 2018 the George Pringle Memorial Camp Society and Sylvan United Church began a 2-year partnership by hiring a shared United Church Minister. The minister works 25% for Camp Pringle and 75% for Sylvan United Church. Below, Rev. Katherine Brittain reflects on her role in 2019:

This past year I focused on the priorities of connecting with the wider United Church community, establishing and building a senior staff leadership team in collaboration with the new Director. I have been working to clarify and integrate the role of Camp Minister while strengthening the values of the United Church of Canada at Camp Pringle.

I worked on connecting with the wider United Church community through facilitating the mid-Island cluster hosting the Theological Banquet event at Pringle in March. I also wrote, a blog post about our Gender Inclusion Week for the national United Church Round the Table blog, which was published on March 10th. It can be found at <https://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/gender-inclusion-week-camp-pringle>.

I have been focusing on connecting with the wider local community by working with the Director to re-imagine new ways of doing so. For example, ideas such as the weekend rentals, the week-night events we hope to offer to the community, and “camp on the wheels” – some of which may or may not be feasible in this time of health and financial restrictions. We have successfully blended a long-time congregation’s rental weekend and family camp, and I will be running the faith programming for that weekend, including the Sunday morning service,

which will be live-streamed for Sylvan United. If we were not living under a pandemic, many of the Sylvan congregation would be looking forward to participating in the camp and the worship service in the outdoor Chapel, which is a good testament to the enthusiasm the congregation has for this partnership. Sadly events such as the LGBTQ2S+ family camp and the retreat for clergy and their families were not able to be held, partially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This also meant that we did not continue the much anticipated practice of having Sylvan worship service at camp.

Most of the fall and winter was taken up with developing staff job descriptions that worked toward the goal of creating a positive, enthusiastic staff team for the upcoming spring and summer season. Once the job descriptions were crafted, the Director and I spent an incredible number of hours conducting interviews with potential returning and new staff from all over the country and the world. We worked hard to assemble a team that balanced personalities, experience and skill, with a nice mix of new and returning staff. We were excited about the team we had assembled – and then worked frantically as COVID-19 travel and Public Health restrictions meant many of the staff couldn't come for the summer, or didn't have the necessary qualifications for the roles to which they were hired. We have since been working to craft a team that maintains balance and complementary skills and are blessed that we are one of the few outdoor ministries who are able to offer day-camp programming.

After consultations this spring, I have discerned some more clarity around the intentions behind the role of "Camp Minister", with particular emphasis on being the person who offers faith formation and leadership development, for children, youth and young adults, in camp, congregation and community. In this light, I have been working to establish a leadership skills program for our summer staff that will see the staff members identifying the life or professional skills they may want to learn or strengthen, develop a plan with each to work on these, and a time for evaluation of what worked, what didn't and what they'd like to do the same or differently next time. I have also crafted the faith program to be more integrated throughout the entire camp day, instead of segregated in one activity or class. This means our staff are also learning some language of and comfort with spirituality as well offering this to the campers this summer. It will be an important part of the staff training week and the ongoing work through the summer.

Looking ahead, I am anticipating further clarification of the role of Camp Minister, clearer articulation between Sylvan and Pringle about their hopes for this partnership, and the tools and strategies that will be necessary to make this partnership vital and healthy for all participants in it. I am looking forward to building on the work that has already been done, and while we learn to "be the church" and "be the camp" in a time of a global pandemic, and helping bring about the healthy and creative changes that will see this Camp thrive in the future.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Katherine Brittain*

Property Overview

In 2019 the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada funded the construction of additional washroom facilities in lower Spencer Hall for use by our Licensed Childcare programs. This renovation took place from June-August of 2019 to ensure its availability when childcare programming resumed in September. We also completed the first part of a two-phase massive refurbishment project to our high and low ropes courses. We received a generous grant from the United Church of Canada Foundation to support us in completing the required repairs and recommended improvements to keep our courses in safe operation during our camping sessions. A key objective in our revitalization project is to increase accessibility for campers with mobility challenges. Phase two of repairs will be completed by June of 2020.

Planned property improvements for 2020 include constructing a new water building for our water

treatment, purchasing new mattresses for Branter Lodge and purchasing an additional generator for Spencer Hall. We are looking to acquire new or gently used household appliances for Branter Lodge, Pendray Cottage and the Executive Suite including a front-load washing machine, a refrigerator and 2 four burner electric stoves.

Bursaries, Donations & Fundraising Overview

Camp Pringle awarded \$5,547 in camper bursaries to 34 campers in 2019. Three campers received additional bursary funding from their local United Church and 7 additional children were sponsored through the *Jump Start* and *Kamps for Kids* programs. Our Camp Pringle bursary fund is quickly being depleted and in September of 2019 we held a fundraiser for our bursary program at camp to ensure the sustainability of our camperships. In 2019 we received \$3,487 in bursary donations, \$8,080 in general donations and \$27,453 in grant funding for our Ropes Course revitalization project and staffing support grants through the Clements Centre and the Canada Summer Jobs program. In 2020 we aim to increase our fundraising capacity and are marketing a 70th anniversary campaign!

Financial Overview

We ended 2019 in a position of financial stability. Some changes with our bookkeeping and banking led to increased administrative expenses and our summer camp and licensed childcare revenue was lower than budgeted. Thankfully with some additional income in private rentals in the fall season and increased grant funding we ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$27,212. This surplus will cover a deficit of \$15,449 from 2018, which leaves us in a place of financial health as we move into 2020. Please see the attached 2019 financial reports prepared by CPCM & Co.

Objectives for 2020

We hope 2020 will be a year of continued growth in participant numbers in our camps and licensed childcare programs. We hope to grow our United Church rental base and will be hosting several United Church events put on by the Pacific Mountain Region's LeaderShift and YAYA teams. We are eager to enter into our second full year of the pilot partnership project with Sylvan United Church and we hope to increase engagement with the Vancouver Island United Churches and build relationships with United Church camps within our region and across Canada. We hope to boost our society membership and continue our mission work of radical welcome for people of all ages, abilities and identities.

**** Since the writing of this report, several changes to the 2020 operations and budget have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All facility operations March 20th-May 31st were cancelled. All overnight summer camps have been cancelled including the Canadian Cancer Society's two-week "Camp Goodtimes" program. Our Licensed Childcare program was closed April-May but re-opened on June 1st. For the summer of 2020 we will be offering day camps for kids and teens as well as weekend family vacation rentals in our summer cabins! We regret that our seasonal summer staff team has decreased from 22 to 15 members due to COVID-19 health guidelines and travel restrictions.*