

PACKING LIST 2006

- Clothes for both warm days & cool nights
- Rainy day gear (raincoat, extra shoes)
- Hat, beach towel, bathing suit
- Sleeping bag or bed roll, pillow, extra blankets
- Personal toiletries: shampoo, soap, tooth brush and toothpaste, bath towel
- A lawn chair (if you can manage it!!!)
- Bug spray (with deet)
- Sunscreen
- Costumes & musical instruments
- Your meds for the week

**DO NOT bring:
pets, alcohol,
recreational drugs, or
the kitchen sink**

**Phone Number at
camp: (collect and
calling-card only): 519-
565-2822**

What Camp Wendake Means to Me

Going to Camp Wendake sounded like a nice pleasant relaxing week at the lake. Lots of fun things to do and the food is famous. So, I thought "why not give it a shot". As the time approached to go, I became severely anxious and concerned about exposing myself as an HIV+ person. What if there were people there I knew from my town? Would it be weird? Would it be weird when we got back home? What if there are people there that are really sick and I can't handle it? I almost cancelled my reserved spot several times, fortunately I didn't know who to call!

Once I arrived I was terrified. That may sound strange ... going to a lovely camp, beautiful surroundings, beach, lake, sun how could this be a problem. Well, you see being HIV+ is a scary thing for me, I am so afraid of stigma and judgment that my family doesn't even know my status. Only a very select handful of friends know and now, I was standing outside the dining hall, people everywhere that would know as soon as they realized I was a camper, that I was positive. That was terrifying!! To this day, I don't know how I did it, how I managed to stay?!

The first person I saw was my friend Carol, who volunteers at camp. She told me about camp and encouraged me to come. That was extremely helpful! Then, I went into the dining hall and "registered" with Paul. He was the kindest, sweetest person. His wonderful smiling face told me I was safe and it was okay to be a little scared. He became a person I looked for everyday to remind me that I was okay.

That evening after dinner I met several other people who where "first time campers" too. There was an instant bond, as we were all feeling "way out of our comfort zones". By

then I had started to relax and began to see that I was in a safe place. It was okay to be open and HIV+ ... I still am overcome by that feeling of being completely open and completely safe from fears of ridicule, judgment, stigma and ostracization. It was really okay it didn't matter!!

By lunch time, I had enveloped the freedom. Absolute freedom. To be all of me ... my whole self. People the I met and became fast friends with got to know the whole me that little piece, that little secret that weighed like the rocks of Gibraltar around my neck on a daily basis was let go. I felt like a butterfly that spread its wings for the first time. Like I had instantly lost thousands of pounds and I had ... I lost the weight of a secret.

I found the most incredible people at camp who have become my lifeline in being able to have that camp connection in my everyday world that doesn't allow for openness on this level. I hoped with all my heart that I would make life long friends. When camp was winding up and I collected addresses, phone numbers and emails, I wondered if all of this magic and these wonderful, wonderful people would eventually fade away as we threw ourselves back into the real world and began to cocoon into our safe secretive places.

My first day home, Sunday, I was wandering aimlessly around my apartment not wanting to go outside for fear of loosing the weightless freedom I had gained when the phone rang. It was M from camp. He called to say "I will always be your friend and I love you". I was stunned and cried like a baby when I hung up the phone. I knew

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From the Staff Director

Greetings Everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. Camp Wendake has been fortunate to have in the past a great group of staff and this year is no exception. We have 13 new staff and 37 returning staff.. In total, 50 dedicated people have given up a week of their holidays to volunteer. Their generosity is awesome.

We will have kitchen staff, children's programme staff, therapy providers, a chef, kitchen support staff, cabin group leaders, lifeguards, bus driver, maintenance crew, arts and craft people, nurses, and administration staff. It is wonderful!

Again we will be blessed with Karen the kitchen wench, who cannot pronounce a "w", and who comes from Denver, and Arlean, the cabin group leader with pizzazz who comes from New York city. We will also have Lise who is the director of the Snowy Owl Foundation and Mike who is traveling all the way from Ireland! Pam and Sylvia are back as are our 4 famous nurses & Brent & Adam and the list goes on. It will be a great week. Staff Training was held on a weekend in early June and it was, in my opinion, the best ever.

A reminder to staff who have not sent their police records check that I need it asap.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon
Lynne

What Camp Wendake Means *continued*

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then, these friends would be life long friends I would have forever and would see often. There has not been a single week since camp that I have not shared emails, telephone calls or chatted online with my friends. Even better still there has not been a single month go by that we have not seen each other face to face.

Camp Wendake gives a fun week at the lake but what it really gives is your full life back. It has given me the inspiration to be the board chair at my local aids organization. It has given me the freedom and the knowledge

of knowing I have a full life to lead and am not counting the days til I die. I am living fully with a flourishing garden so full of joyous friends its overwhelming. There are not words to truly adequate to articulate all that Camp Wendake gives, this is my humble effort.

So, you people that are here to support this incredible place, a place set apart, do it joyfully, support to your fullest ability, giving us, the people of Wendake the wings of freedom and the weightlessness to fly.

With eternal gratitude,
Mel

Greetings from the Registrar

Hello everyone! Well time draws even closer for camp again. Please note the travel information included with this newsletter. If you have any questions please contact me to clarify.

If for any reason you find that you need to withdraw from camp, please notify me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. There are many people on our waiting list that we could offer a place to.

If you received a letter informing you that

you are on a waiting list, please note you may be offered a position closer to the week of camp.

If you are driving to camp please note that registration/cabin assignments will be available in the cabin area. (Not the dining hall as before). If you are traveling on the school bus you will automatically be taken to the correct location to report in to camp.

Ciao, for now,
Paul McCarty-Johnston



Greeting from CLUB MEDS

The nurses at Club Meds (Jill, Norm, Andre and Pam) are looking forward to renewing old friendships and meeting new friends.

For those who have not been to camp before, don't forget your bedding, towels and personal hygiene products. Please bring your medications in a dossette that we will keep at Club Meds (Nurses Cabin). You can have access to your meds whenever needed.

Remember to bring extra pain medications as you will probably be quite busy.

Please **remember**, the medical use of marijuana will only be allowed upon receiving a copy of the appropriate certification that proves your use. Legitimate medical users are invited to a meeting with the Camp Director and Nursing Director after lunch on day one.

Camp is always an awesome experience for campers and staff and Camp 2006 is getting closer. This is our 10th anniversary and it is shaping up to be one of the best camps ever.

Shalom everyone
from Club Meds, Pam

Creative and Crafty at Wendake 2006

Welcome to all the new folks and welcome back to returning campers!

Paul McCarty-Johnston and Pam Hill are planning arts and crafts activities for you to enjoy. Express yourself, find a hidden talent, maybe just relax and play! We will offer some traditional camp craft opportunities and hopefully some new things you haven't seen before.

We want to use as many natural and recycled materials as possible to celebrate and to be kind to the Earth!

If you would like to participate in the Tye Dying – please bring some small 100% cotton item (T shirt or pillow case – OK

maybe some jockeys). Polyester doesn't accept the dye. It doesn't need to be new, but white is best.

If you have a talent you'd like to share – skills of painting or drawing, or teaching others a craft or art – please feel free to come and share. Or bring your crocheting, beading, quilting project and just hang around with the other artsies and wannabe artsies!

ATTENTION STAFF – donations of used buttons, beads, old jewelry and other delicious crafty tidbits are most welcome!

We're gluin' it for you!
--Pam and Paul

KID'S PROGRAM!

Welcome from Kids' Program to campers new and "old". We are very excited this year to have new and "old" among our staff too.

Elise Chambers is back this year with all her expertise and we welcome Falon Demelo and Lise Turpin, as well as several high school volunteers who will support the program.

All of us are already having fun planning along with the waterfront folks, Jenn Smith and Jay Mater, to provide the kids with some engaging times at the waterfront, on the new splash pad, with canoeing and hiking, and with crafts.

The program will be run each morning with a lunch break and we will gather again in the afternoon. We will be looking forward to meeting all the parents when you arrive to discuss the routines of the program and your child's needs. At that time we can answer any of your questions.

We look forward to meeting you and spending an excellent week with your children.

--Betsy Reilly

Are you ready?! Program Details for 2006!

The camp program is getting ready for you to have fun, create, relax, express, participate. All the activities, events, and sessions that make up the program are prepared by campers and staff and others sharing their talent, passion, and enthusiasm. There will be arts, music, sports, reiki, meditation, theatre, and all for us to make it a great week. How you participate and what you do during camp will be just right for you.

What do you need to bring? Something for talent night (CD, props, costumes(?)), pyjamas for breakfast, musical instrument, your story, a song. This year we have a new hairstylist coming for a day, Jeff Pommer, who works out of London and Stratford and is excited to be part of camp this year. There is a new splash pad, so not all the water activity will be at the beach.

If you have something that you would like in the program let me know. If you have something you would like to offer as part of the program let me know. **519-272-1050 Matthew**





WENDAKE SPIRIT

I hope that all of you have had a reasonably sane winter. Every year it seems that the summers are shorter and winter (the other season) just gets longer. It is especially so when Wendake is just around the corner, waiting to come into being once again.

Huron Church Camp is full now, with the children that come before us, setting the stage with their laughter and songs. The chill is off the lake and the grasses and wild flowers are getting high.

Before we know it the Wendake banners will be raised in the dining hall, the Club Med sign tacked up over the nurses station and the place set apart will once more emerge for us walk, play and dance for yet another week.

This year, because of an injury, I will not be on site for the whole week. I do hope to come for a couple of days during the week. There are always plenty of people to walk or to sit and talk with at Wendake and Brother Mark will be doing most of the organizational work of Spiritual Director. We are all so grateful for his ability and willingness to take on that role. I still look forward to the summer and its best week.

Many Blessings,
Michelle

“Please Sir, May I Have Some More?”

Always! is the Wendake Kitchens reply. You can be reassured that we will have three generous, wholesome, and satisfying meals each day. Best of all, campers and staff don't have to do the shopping and the meals will be prepared for you by a caring and fun loving group whose pleasure it is to pamper your taste buds.

Better yet, the campers don't have to do the dishes! Between meals, fresh fruit and hot and cold beverages are always available. Also, a late evening snack will be provided to ensure sweet dreams for all. How will I know when mealtimes are? As with most

activities while we are at camp the infamous bell will ring three times daily at 8:30, 12:15, and 5:30 to announce it is time to head for the dining hall.

Let the fun begin! Thanks to a generous donation of a large barbeque from one of our very own kitchen queens, wenches, you'll figure it out, our thoughtful chef Rick is currently recreating the menu to maximize our outdoor culinary experience.

From all of us queens and wenches not long to wait now!!

--Jan

‘What Happens in Vegas’ Fundraiser Huge Success

The 3rd annual Camp Wendake gala fundraiser was held at the Grand Theatre on May 6th, bringing in record numbers of people and money to support the camp!! We celebrated the 10th anniversary of Camp Wendake by honouring our founding members with the presentation of a personalized plaque of Linda Peach's poem called “I Have AIDS”, and raising our glasses with a champagne toast!! We also had a commemorative display honouring family members and friends who have passed on that were supportive in our continued fight against HIV/AIDS. 10 years is an amazing milestone to celebrate, and that we did!

We continued the evening with a fantastic retro 1950's Las Vegas style show called “What Happens in Vegas...”! The crowd was *wowed* by the talents that Bluewater Summer Playhouse Artistic Director, Rick Kish was able to pull together to create this original production. Las Vegas Showgirls including “Marilyn Monroe”, wonderful



musicians, a cheeky comedian-this show had it all!! An enormous thank you is extended to all who were involved, volunteering their time and energy to make this year's gala event something to talk about!!

Each year our event gains more momentum, and this year was no exception! With the amazing support of Rick and his friends, the individuals on my fundraising committee and all who were committed to selling tickets, spreading the word about the event, and of course our community business partners who gave donations of items for the silent auctions or financial contributions, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for helping to make “What Happens in Vegas...a sold out event. Our goal was to reach \$10,000 this year....we made \$10,500 after all expenses were paid!!

Please check the Camp Wendake website at www.campwendake.org to find out more about other upcoming events that help support our “Place Set Apart”.

--Tracey Jones

Please offer your support to our generous major sponsors!

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