

# THE WINTER VIEWS

2022/23 EDITION



"There should be a clear demarcation between wider society and canoe tripping society, a clear signal to the camper that he is entering into something different, where his success or failure will not be judged by his past behavior in wider society."

Ron Kimberley

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| BOD MESSAGE.....                               | 2 |
| ADVISORY BOARD IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS..... | 2 |
| MESSAGE FROM WINTER DIRECTORS.....             | 3 |
| A WORD ABOUT OUR SUMMER PROGRAM.....           | 4 |
| REUNION NEWS.....                              | 8 |



## HELP US FIND NEW VOLUNTEERS!

We need your help recruiting new summer canoe trip leaders! Do you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering with us? If you read the summer update in The Views you'll see that we had very limited volunteer numbers in 2022 and we weren't able to send some campers on trip who wanted to go because we didn't have enough space for them. Help us get more campers on trip in 2023 and spread the word! Applications are already available now at

[campoutlook.ca/volunteers](https://campoutlook.ca/volunteers)

## ADVISORY BOARD CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS

Are you a doctor or an accountant, or have professional experience or other skills that you think could benefit Camp Outlook? Outlook's Advisory Board, which provides the board of directors with advice and guidance on a range of issues, is looking for new members!

The Advisory Board meets by video conference, so members can participate from all over Canada and internationally. Advisory Board members are not required to be former staff. If you or someone you know are interested in helping Outlook through a role on the Advisory Board, email us at [bod@campoutlook.ca](mailto:bod@campoutlook.ca) for more information.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

Another canoe tripping season is behind us, the fall hiking season is well under way, and the new Camp Outlook board is hard at work and looking ahead to 2023, which looks to be shaping up to be a very busy year.

Our current priority is to hire new summer directors for summer 2023, which we hope to have in place by the end of this month so that the new team can hit the ground running in the New Year. Staff hiring was a major challenge this past year (see article below), and the new summer camp directors will be tackling it as their first priority. Among the board's other projects is a revamp of the summer trip leader training program, as well as finalizing our new bylaws.

We're finally planning to hold our long-delayed 50th Reunion next year, during the last weekend of summer (see p 8). The Outlook community has grown and grown and grown over the years, but many Outlookers only get to know the staff from their own year. We think it will be awesome to bring together five decades of Outlookers for the first time ever and see what happens.

James, Joanna, Gord, John, Greg and James (the other James).



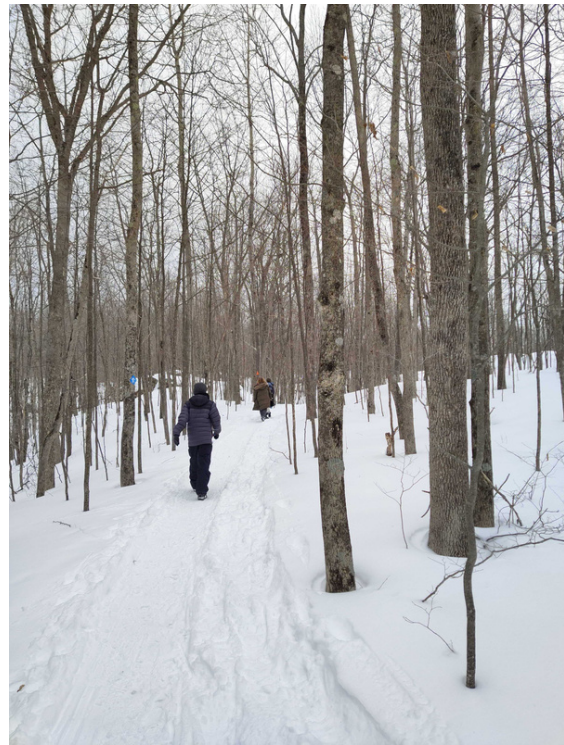


# WINTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Last year's Winter season for Outlook saw many ups and downs as we continued to navigate ever-changing public health regulations. While our team was considerably smaller than it was in past years (10 staff, executives, and directors compared to 15-20), we were all motivated to make the most of the year and organize as many trips as we could.



The Fall season started out strong with a successful training weekend at the Queen's University Biological Station. Despite our small team, we managed to run weekly overnight camping trips at Frontenac Park



Late November brought in extremely cold temperatures last year. A lack of interest in overnight trips from our youth led us to pivot and offer day hiking trips.

By 2022, Ontario was yet again plunged into a lockdown. We focused our efforts on connecting with past referrers, schools, and social agencies, strengthening our relationship with these organizations for future years. Our outreach initiatives helped to recruit over 100 new youth, replenishing our dwindling list of potential campers to contact for future trips. We also wrote a number of thank-you postcards to past referrers as part of our end-of-year social event. This led to warm and fuzzy feelings all around! I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to co-direct Winter Outlook once more with a strong team of trip leaders and executives. Abby Shore, my co-director, was an exceptional and reliable team member. Last year would not have been as successful if it weren't for our small yet dedicated group. All our recruitment efforts will also benefit Outlook for years to come!

Joanna Semrau and Abby Shore  
Winter Outlook Directors 2021/2022



# A WORD ABOUT OUR SUMMER PROGRAM

Here at Camp Outlook, we were looking forward to having a normal summer of canoe tripping after most public health restrictions were eased in the spring of 2022.

And in many ways it was. We sent 62 campers on trip this summer – double the number from the previous year. Most of them were new campers, which is even more impressive! The weather was great, Algonquin Park was spectacular as ever and evacs were thankfully few and far between.

Seen in the photo at right: our 2022 summer trip leaders in training on Lake Ontario.



Our summer directors Reina Habesch, Mackenzie Bishop and Laura Abbatangelo ran a tight ship at the Outlook house on Nelson Street. Trip leader training was extended from 5 weeks to 6, volunteers were given one day off a week and the training day was rarely longer than five hours. New in our training program this year was ASIST, a 2-day training program for dealing with people who are at risk of suicidal behavior, thinking and attempts.





The big challenge this summer was staff recruitment and retention. We started the summer with 13 trip leaders, which is unusually low. In pre-Covid times, we normally had 16 to 18. Was it because of the pandemic? We've heard that other camps had trouble recruiting staff this year, so we're not alone. It was very frustrating.

On the plus side, we were able to hold our Advanced Wilderness First Aid training in our favorite scout cabin in Frontenac Park, with our favorite first aid instructor, Steve Tripp, seen in the centre of the photo at right.



The staff situation got worse over the course of the summer. Several staff dropped out during training and one had to be let go, with the result that we only had 7 full-time trip leaders for the rest of the summer.

That meant calling up past staff to work as trip leaders and cutting trips that we couldn't staff. The result was 35 campers on our waiting list who never got out on trip and some very frustrated guardians and referring agencies.





The situation with bus drivers was even more challenging. We had so few drivers that one of our summer directors was pulling heroically long shifts at the wheel, even sleeping overnight on the bus in the Opeongo parking lot.



One bright spot was the new camping equipment we purchased this past spring, thanks to a generous donation by a former trip leader. This included brand new tumps, seen here being put through their paces by our summer directors.

We bought them from Recreational Barrel Works, a small outdoor equipment company based in Peterborough. Let's hope they're as durable as the legendary red canvas packs we used for so many years.





Another bright spot this year was a partnership we established with Warrior Adventures Canada, a charity that runs wilderness trips for military veterans and first responders with PTSD.

We took a group of four teens from military families on a 9 day trip in Algonquin Park, which turned into a 5 day trip when one of the trip leaders was injured. Still, it was a super fun trip! We're looking forward to doing another one with WAC next year.



All in all, despite the challenges, it was a great summer. Our small but mighty staff of trip leaders accomplished miracles in getting campers out into the wilderness, across kilometers of lakes and portages, through medical emergencies and wildlife encounters and day-to-day frustrations and bad weather and Outlook food, and safely back home. It was a summer of new friendships and unforgettable memories. In other words... a typical Outlook summer!



# OUTLOOK REUNION NEWS

We're really looking forward to Outlook's 50th Reunion (well, actually 53rd) next year in Kingston!

Save the dates: Aug 25 to 27, 2023, the last weekend of summer. In the coming months we'll be sending out details of the schedule for the weekend, as well as accommodations, activities and ways to reconnect with old friends and fellow staff.

In the lead up to the in-person reunion, we'll be holding a series of Zoom reunions for each decade of Outlook. We had Zoom reunions last year for 1970s, 80s and 90s Outlookers and they were great fun! We'll be doing it all over again next year, as well as organizing reunions for the 2000s and the 2010s.

Here are the dates for upcoming Zoom reunions:

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>1970 - 1979</b> | March 19, 2023 |
| <b>1980 - 1989</b> | April 16, 2023 |
| <b>1990 - 1999</b> | April 30, 2023 |
| <b>2000 - 2009</b> | May 7, 2023    |
| <b>2010 - 2019</b> | May 28, 2023   |

We'll be in touch by email before each Zoom reunion with links and instructions on how to join. See you all in the New Year!







Featured photo from the archive: Outlook 1993

***UNTIL NEXT  
TIME...***