

Alumni of Camp Glenburn Plan Fundraiser

By Jane Barry, The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

On a panoramic stretch of natural beauty off the St. John River on Belleisle Bay is a spot which is indelibly etched into the childhood memories of hundreds of children and adults. The camaraderie and fun of summer camp form experiences and impressions which last a lifetime and bring out the best in the five hundred or so fortunate young people heading to the YM-YWCA's Camp Glenburn each summer.

The impact is so strong that a group of former campers and staff call themselves "Alumni" and are volunteering to re-create the experience for today's and future generations of kids. It's not unusual for campers to be second generation, whose parents may now reside around the world but keep their ties to New Brunswick strong by having their children go to Glenburn. The Greater Saint John Community Foundation has been a long-standing financial supporter of the Y and its Campership Programs.



Camp Glenburn staff member Matt Beckett, volunteer Sherry Golding and Glenburn staff members Adam Godlewski and Brittany Clifford are part of a group of the Y's Camp Glenburn Alumni that is promoting A Night at the Disco fundraiser for the camp's Strong Kids Campership Program. The party will be held on Saturday, May 14, at the Marco Polo Cruise Ship Terminal.

Sherry Golding, Vice Principal at Saint John High School, is indicative of the kind of loyalty Glenburn Alumni have developed. She is heading up a team of volunteers to raise funds at a Disco Night in support of Camp Glenburn on May 14.

"I am honoured to be the Chair of this event. I am involved because I owe this camp a great deal. The leadership skills I learned at Glenburn are the same ones I rely upon every day. I have been blessed with many opportunities but nothing I have done has been as

challenging or rewarding as working at Glenburn. I believe in this cause because I know countless people of all ages who have been touched by this place called Camp Glenburn and I know that the money raised will enable the Saint John Y to continue to offer amazing programs that develop leaders in our community" she states.

Other members of the committee include: Vice Chair Anne Sedgwick, Diane Heustis, Penny Milligan, Sandra Barrett, Anne Wheelock, Kim Peer, Dennis Oland, Sydney Peacock, Laura Ritchie, Alison Eustace, Erika Jones, Peter Turnbull and Howard Stanley.

The Camp Glenburn Alumni, in partnership with the Saint John Y, are hosting a "Night at the Disco" on Saturday, May 14th, 8:00 - 12:00 midnight at the Marco Polo Cruise Ship Terminal. In addition to music and dancing, there will be silent and live auctions featuring volunteer "auctioneer" Rodney Weston. The Hilton is catering and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are \$60. It will be a time to reminisce with lots of stories, photos and laughs. Sponsors include: Telegraph Journal, 97.3 The Wave, CIBC Wood Gundy, Hilton, Jani King, Select Printing, Atlantic Superstore, Global Convention Services and the Saint John Port Authority.

Proceeds will go toward the expansion of the High Ropes Adventure Program at Camp Glenburn. It will enable the Y to increase the camp's use for leadership and personal development programs for both youth and corporate groups. "Breathing new life into the Glenburn Adventure Program at Camp Glenburn is today's number one priority of the Camp Glenburn Alumni. The new High Ropes / Climbing Wall equipment, will allow the children of our region to challenge themselves in a safe environment while exploring and enhancing their cognitive, emotional, physical and social connections to the world around them" add the alumni.

Parents making summer plans for their youngsters should be aware that Camp Glenburn is the only residential Y camp in the province and the oldest YWCA camp in Canada, operating over 80 years. Children can come in 3 day, one or two week blocks from Sunday to Friday for the traditional outdoor camp experiences including swimming, hiking, outdoor sleepovers, canoeing and campfires. The Y's leadership team of trained leaders, senior counsellors and counsellors in training is committed to improving health and wellness for our community, at home and abroad. It provides programs, services and support to develop mind, spirit and body. All Y summer camp staff are trained in safety, First Aid/CPR. Emergency Procedures , water-related activities and have a criminal record check. A health professional is part of the team. Their Strong Kids Campership Program makes it possible for anybody to have a chance to go to Camp Glenburn, regardless of financial ability.

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Community Profile is a weekly column highlighting community causes and work done by non-profit organizations in the Greater Saint John area. It is contributed by Jane Barry, executive director of The Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Contact the foundation at 506-672-8880, sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com To view other Community Profiles go to www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca