



THE HERON NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2005 EDITION

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

INSIDE !!

Kanawana News
Upcoming Events
Calling All Alumni
Summer 2004
A contest or two!



Lake Kanawana in November

See us on our **NEW** website
www.ymcaKanawana.com

Coming Soon!

Welcome to our first Heron of the “off-season” and this New Year! What busy months these have been since camp ended and we look forward to sharing with you what’s happening in the pages that follow and in our subsequent issues in **2005**. First and foremost, thank you campers and staff for an amazing summer. We were constantly amazed by the amount of spirit and fun that kept reverberating around our camp even with the challenges sent our way by the inconsistent weather! You are indeed troopers and nothing will stand in your way of having your time at camp be all it can be. Speaking of all that we can be, much of our fall has been immersed in development planning for Kanawana. **The YMCA of Greater Montreal** has identified Kanawana as one of its redevelopment priorities for the next several years and we are embarking on **Phase One** of what we hope will be many phases that will build on all that is wonderful about what we do and how we do it. Some of the things we are working on now are improving our facilities, tweaking our programs and services and exploring ways to make the Kanawana experience more accessible and attractive to the diverse community that we have served and will serve in the future. More updates to come as this exciting process unfolds!

Other fall events saw an awesome **Alumni Reunion** held on Saturday, September 11, 2004!!! The weather was spectacular and Kanawana spirit

was strong and in abundance. Thanks to those of you who attended and assisted in the planning of this special day – and we missed those who were not able to join us and apologize if we did not reach you in time (thus the alumni reconnect effort!!). It really was a great opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of just over 100 Kanawadians past, present and future, many with their children who had heard Mom and/or Dad going on about Kanawana without having ever visited. The consensus certainly is that we will be seeing several alumni offspring among our eager campers next year. Not to worry, the **2nd Annual Alumni event** will be held next September 9-11th, 2005! Mark your calendars and power up those PalmPilots - we would love to see all of our alumni and families for a great weekend of fun and great Kanawana spirit!

Enjoy the Heron and as always, we love to hear from you and welcome ALL suggestions! Drop into the office or drop an email! A big Kanawana hug to all and best wishes for 2005 from us all!

On behalf of the Kanawana Staff -
Sean Day, Katherine Day and
Claude Beaulieu

Arleen Boyer,
Executive Director

arleen.boyer@ymcamontreal.qc.ca



Chief's Corner



Fall Splendour at Kanawana

Thanks to you the campers and staff, the summer of 2004 was a huge success, filled with laughter, cheers, new friendships and old. The summer of 2004 saw us persevere despite what may have been the coldest first session ever, and the rainiest second session ever. Joe, our Junior Boy Section director even pleaded with Prime Minister Martin to do something about the weather. You may be surprised to know that the Prime Minister's Office did respond to our request... in September.... in a longwinded, good-natured letter which essentially said.... we will look into it!

The summer was filled with tons of wonderful memories too numerous to mention. Your spirit, kindness and enthusiasm are what make Kamp so special. I feel lucky to be a part of such a special place.

Though we are already looking forward to the summer of 2005, don't forget to mark our upcoming events on your

calendar. Please note that I may not be able to attend the **Winter Wonderland** day as I am expecting another *baby* - the due date is February 4th! But fear not, there will be ample familiar Kanawana faces to greet you!

Non Nobis Solum,
Sean Day
 Summer Kamp Director
 Aka Chief

sean.day@ymcamontreal.qc.ca

Unscramble the letters in the following phrases to find **places and things** you might see around Kanawana. Answers may be one word or two.

The **prize** is a Kanawana Water bottle!

1. **WON A RACE**
2. **SERENE TIP**
3. **HANG DILL IN**
4. **WAR BOOT**
5. **CRUEL LOONS**
6. **BELOW FIR**
7. **IN SLOW LEAK**
8. **RAINY FIRM**
9. **FLOWER LACKER**
10. **BIG GLEE: NAPS!**
11. **VEAU Y GROS**

For example, *Gross Fobs* is Frogs Bog
 Send in a separate sheet of paper with your answers, name and address to:

YMCA Kanawana 1435 Drummond St.,
 4th floor Montreal, Quebec H3G 1W3

Or **email** your answers to our office (make sure you tell us your name!) at: kamp.kanawana@ymcamontreal.qc.ca



Two muffins are baking in an oven. First muffin says to the second muffin, "Hey, it sure is hot in here." Then the second muffin says: "Ahh! A talking muffin!"
A Guzzo joke

An International Experience By Jose Armando Gonzalez Perez

"I think that living in another country helps you to see your own culture in a more positive way."

With a little effort, we can change our life from the ordinary to extraordinary... The first time I was in the Atizapan Community Development Centre (CDC in Spanish) of the Mexico City YMCA, I never thought I would be writing an article from Kamp Kanawana in Quebec.

In order to obtain a university

degree in Mexico, you have to complete 480 hours of social service. My friend Aidee Zamoprano Gonzalez and I chose to do our community service in the Atizapan CDC. One day a group of people from the YMCA of Greater Montreal came to our CDC and saw one of our dance classes. CONTINUED...



An International Experience *continued ...*

Thanks to that visit, and with the help of Berenice Acosta, of the Mexico City YMCA, a partnership between Montreal and Mexico City started. Aidee and I are volunteering again, but this time with the YMCA of Greater Montreal.

When we arrived in Montreal and at Kanawana, Aidee and I saw a totally new world. Every body at the YMCA Montreal received us in a wonderful way. They make us feel at home though we are thousands of miles away from our home.

In my opinion, I experienced culture shock in a very positive way. I think that living in another country helps you to see your own culture in a more positive way.

My goal in life is, now more than ever, to make change in the land of my roots. To change the place that gave me my spirit, my values and identity as a person and as a world

citizen and make it a better place to live. The Mexican economic and cultural weaknesses are tragic...but a better world is possible.

*Para que todos sean uno.
That we all may be one.*

International Exchanges

We always enjoy having the company of campers who enhance the diversity at Kanawana. This summer saw campers and staff from South Korea, Mexico, France, Italy, Guadeloupe, Peru, Spain, United Arab Emirates, and England.

We also had three volunteers from our International YMCA family who worked closely with our staff - Aidee & Armando from Mexico, and Joann from Haiti - Kanawana's International partner!



Calling out for t-Shirt designs! Our Summer 2005 shirts need a fun picture on the front!! Bonus: you get to see your design all over kamp next summer!! Deadline for submissions: Feb 25th.

Email or call Kath at the downtown office:

kamp.kanawana@ymcamontreal.qc.ca

(514) 849-5331, ext 224



Upcoming Kanawana Stuff

Summer 2005 Registration!

Watch your mailbox as Registration packages are sent out in mid-January! Info also on our NEW soon to be launched website: www.ymckanawana.com

Kanawana's "Jive in 2005" Dance

Saturday, January 29th, 2005 - 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Westmount YMCA Gym - 4585 Sherbrooke St. West

Spring Break Camp

Monday, February 28- Thursday, March 3, 2005
See enclosed brochure for all the details - Register Soon! Space is limited!



Kanawana Winter Wonderland Day

February 12th 10:00-4:00 pm - Come see Kanawana during the winter! Skating, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and tobogganing fun for all! Limited equipment (cross country skis and snowshoes) available to rent for a modest fee. Bring a lunch and we'll supply the hot chocolate!
RSVP : (514) 849-5331 ext 224

Calling All Alumni!!

We're currently in the process of reconnecting with our Kanawana Alumni and our first goal is to track down as many alumni as we can! Former campers over the age of 15, staff of the past and present, and any volunteers that have been involved in Kanawana are included...and we'd love to hear from all of you!

Please e-mail or telephone us with an update of your contact information, (Address, Phone #, E-mail Address, Specific Years Attended, other Family members who attended), as well as any info you may have for friends & family that once attended YMCA Kanawana. We have a list of about 3000 names so far, but it's far from complete and every bit of information you have helps!

We are also looking to start up an Alumni Reconnect Committee as soon as possible, so please let us know if you would like to be actively involved in keeping the spirit of Kanawana alive!

Sincerely,
Wendy Khan
(514) 849-5331 ext. 224
kanawana.alumni@ymcamontreal.qc.ca

YMCA OF GREATER MONTREAL NEWS

New Registration Software!

The YMCA of Greater Montreal will be upgrading all its centers to a new registration software program called "Class".

YMCA Kanawana is thrilled to be selected as the first branch to change over to this much improved registration /accounting system.

We are very excited to be able to improve the customer service we provide you. We do ask for your patience as we get used to the new system...

YMCA KANAWANA CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone:
514-849-5331 ext 224
Fax :
514-849-5863
Email:
kamp.kanawana@ymcamontreal.qc.ca

Youth Festival

On May 7th, 2005 there will be a Youth Festival at the Corona Theatre. This multidisciplinary show is presently created by youth, for youth.

We are always looking for dynamic and enthusiastic people to perform an act or to participate in the show's creation. For more information, give me a call.

Audrey Fontaine
Youth Development sector stagiaire
YMCA of Greater Montreal
(514) 849-8393 ext. 756
Audrey.fontaine@ymcamontreal.qc.ca