



2020/21 WINTER VIEWS

Seasonal news and stories
from Camp Outlook

OUTLOOK GEAR SEARCHING FOR A NEW HOME!

Do you have a spare, **free storage space** in or around Kingston?

Would you love another opportunity to support your favorite organization?

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We would love to hear from you!



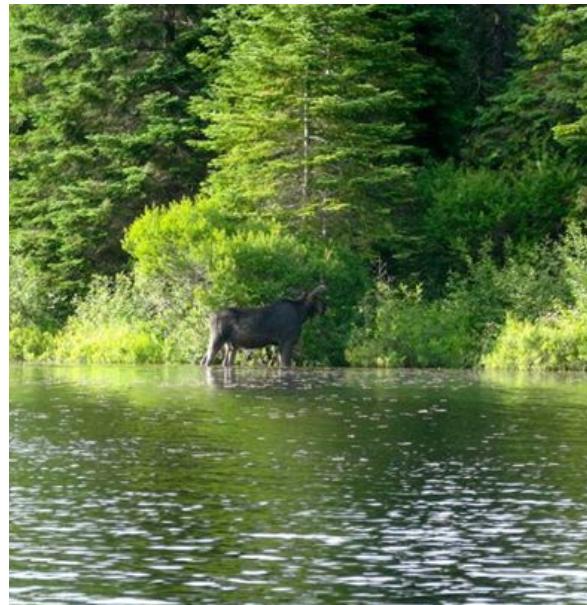
A summer like no other...

Being a summer director for Camp Outlook in 2020 has been an immensely humbling learning experience with its own unique challenges.

Merely one year ago, none of us expected to have to plan a summer camp around a global pandemic, and yet that is exactly where we found ourselves. Plan A quickly became plans B, C, and so on down the alphabet. A number of volunteer applicants dropped out due to concerns surrounding the virus, while others were prevented from joining us due to travel restrictions. Essential volunteer training such as swimming certifications became a greater and greater headache to organize. Policy had to be revisited, doctors had to be consulted, and the ever-evolving logistics of running trips in a post-COVID world had to be refined down to a T.

While we weren't able to see our personal visions for Outlook come to fruition in the way we had originally planned, we were able to do something perhaps even more meaningful. We proved that as an organization, we were capable of developing the same sense of resilience and strength in the face of misfortune and hardship that we try to instill in our campers. We are both extremely grateful to have had nearly 50 years of director knowledge passed down to us, as well as an incredibly supportive and knowledgeable Board of Directors at our disposal. We know wholeheartedly that as 2021 approaches — come what may — Outlook will continue to strive towards greater heights as it always has

Vlad and Kyle - your 2020 Summer Directors



Fall/Winter Update: Things are looking up!

The current global pandemic introduced unique challenges to our Winter Outlook Program. With the summer program being cancelled, we, along with the board of directors, were eager to restart some abridged form of our programming and safely reacquaint our youth with the outdoors. Ontario's COVID-19 rules and regulations currently prohibit any overnight camps for child/adolescent programs. Therefore, instead of backcountry camping, we have been leading day hikes at Frontenac park and local conservation areas. As of October 24th, we have led four successful day trips. We also hosted a pumpkin carving event on Halloween for staff and youth. This year more than ever, we are impressed by the dedication of the Outlook staff and board of directors who have worked tirelessly to make these trips happen while keeping everyone safe. It has been so rewarding to work alongside such a committed group of volunteers.



We have also been taking this year as an opportunity to strengthen our social media presence, build rapport with local youth organizations, and tackle general housekeeping duties. Our wonderful executive member Emma Willoughby has taken on the responsibility of maintaining our social media pages, while also helping to engage and create interpersonal connections between our staff. Thank you Emma for all the hard work you do!



Perspective: Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

By Cole Robertson, 2020/2021 Winter Co-director

Upheaval is seldom comfortable, but the tension that it brings can inspire positive change.

This year we have seen the effect that a common hurdle has placed on our society. Its effect, while perhaps felt disproportionately, has been an unrelenting storm. Some of us are weathering it out on the front lines, some are hunkering down in tents, and others cozying up by their mantle as a log crackles away. Yet despite the disparity, the weather remains common to us all.

Miraculously, despite the universal darkness of our storm, we have all gotten to see glimpses of light. It had been inspiring to observe our collective resilience as communities found new ways to stay together, while kept apart. People shared music in the streets, artists provided free online concerts, and we met Zoom. Communities redefined 'together' and adapted to our new world. At Outlook we came 'together' to determine our path forward.

With our eligible campers slowly (but surely) aging out, our recruitment team, led by Claire Wright and Joanna Znotins this year, has begun the necessary work of reaching out to and connecting with schools and agencies to find new campers who would benefit from the experience of an Outlook trip. So much effort has been put into curating a list of potential contacts, which will be helpful in the years to come.

Lastly, we hope to focus our attention on the various tasks that often get put on the back burner during typical Winter Outlook seasons. This has included updating the camper databases and creating a thorough catalogue of winter and summer gear. We are committed to taking the time this year to ensure the success of future seasons.

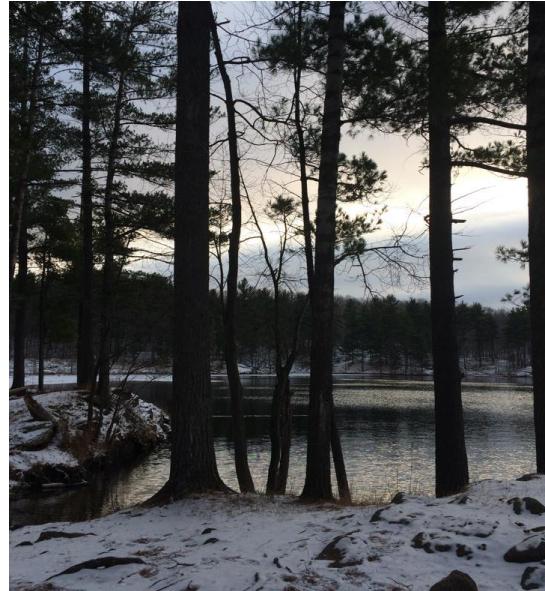
One thing is for certain, 2020 really threw us all for a loop. Yet this year has truly exemplified Outlook's resiliency, dedication, and spirit. We have been thrilled to offer outdoor adventures for our participating youth. Seeing many familiar faces (albeit under masks) has been incredible! As we move into 20201, we aim to offer more day trips and wintery activities while closely following municipal and provincial guidelines. We also plan to run some more outreach and fundraising activities, including contributing to local newspapers and organizing a gear drive. With such an amazing group of Outlook volunteers and youth, the future's looking pretty bright.

Joanna Semrau, 2020/2021 Winter Co-director



Early on Outlook remained uncertain for which path forward was best. We acknowledged our role in the community but needed first to understand the risks that lay ahead. We knew our program provided a change of scenery and occasionally provided sanctuary but also knew that unprepared, the storm was too dangerous. This meant far more work than our normal preseason preparation. Sadly, this led us to conclude we had too much to learn and understand to safely head out on our regular summer adventures. We chose instead of adapting our summer program to the storm – to pause. We needed the time to listen, learn, understand and change so we could adapt appropriately. So, listening to those in the community around us as our storm developed, we morphed too. In those four months, we restructured our policies and prepared for every imaginable scenario. After a summer of learning and discussion we finally felt ready to relaunch our winter program.

While summer Outlook had to batten down the hatches, winter Outlook has put on our oilskins and Sou'westers to safely bare the rain. This year we might not be able to head out on overnight trips, but we can still appreciate what we have around us. Our predicament has led us to explore what we may have missed while stuck in our old habits. Staying closer to home we have gotten to explore with our local communities' youth: Parrots Bay, Lemoines Point, Frontenac park and our city parks too. Enrollment in our day trip program – despite the new hurdles – stays strong. Just like slowing down, staying local has helped us see more of the finer detail around us. It has also reminded us of lessons learned in past periods of change.



In 2016, Winter Outlook shifted away from an exclusively overnight program to one also including more local day trip activities. This exposed several unconsidered barriers. As Outlook strives to bring our passion for the outdoors to those less fortunate, this means working to break down barriers of access. Traditionally Outlook has worked to bring down the monetary barrier, but we know that many other blockades exist. While we work to remove as many barriers as possible, we have missed others. The day trips of 2016's Winter Outlook exposed that for some of our community's youth, over night camping is not an option – be it for religious or medical reasons. This shift away from a purely overnight backcountry camp – something Outlook perhaps considered an identity – showed us that there is so much more to sharing the Outdoors than endeavoring in grueling backcountry expeditions.

While camping remains a part of Outlook, we are always growing. Learning who and where we are in this world is a never-ending journey. There will always be new challenges that lay ahead, we remain eager to approach them with a resilient attitude to learn, understand and adapt. For now, we appreciate that we can find a silver lining as the clouds start to part.



Our storm might be COVID-19, but Outlook's resiliency remains poised to assess our challenges and head out appropriately informed; prepared for any storm that may come our way.

Our New Project: Canoe Building!

This past summer, an Outlook donor gave us an unusual gift: a pair of fiberglass canoe molds, the structures used to make canoes. We thought it would be a cool idea to put them to good use, by starting an Outlook canoe-building program for youth that would take place in the fall of 2021. The molds are for making two types of fiberglass canoe: a 15-foot single keel boat and a 16-foot prospector, which would be a good tripping canoe.



The plan is to apply for a grant that would cover the costs of the program, and to work with canoe-making companies who can either supply the expertise and materials, or at least point us in the right direction. We already have some in-house expertise in the person of our Winter co-director Cole Robertson, and we're looking forward to building on that.

Nothing will replace our beloved fleet of Grummans, which still have many years of tripping in them, but we're hoping that a canoe-building program could be a complement to our regular activities, and engage staff and youth in a new creative venture and a fun learning experience

The 50th Reunion:

As you all know, we reluctantly had to postpone our 50th Outlook Reunion this year due to Covid-19.

The new dates for the reunion are August 28-29, 2021 in Kingston, and chances are good this time it will actually happen. Much depends on where we are with the pandemic next summer, but with vaccines on the way we think there's cause for optimism.



The reunion committee - Zoe Keefer, Zoe Kerstens, Harold Yuen, Janet Brenchley-Krug, Barbara Parker, Cheryl Ng and Greg Gransden - reconvenes this month to start planning and organizing.

One of the ideas we'll be exploring is holding a virtual reunion in parallel to the in-person one. We'd also like to find a way to share the Outlook photo archives online with past Outlook staff, in a way that's easy to access. We have hundreds of amazing pix dating back to the early 1970s that we'd love to share with the people who are in them.

Assuming the reunion goes ahead, we'd like to rent a house somewhere in Kingston or Wolf Island that could serve as an Outlook House for the weekend, where Outlookers can come stay, couch surf or set up a tent and have a place to hang out. If anyone has any thoughts on where we can find one, please let us know!

Thank you for all your donations and stories



The article on Camp Outlook published in the Queen's Alumni Review this past spring brought an outpouring of support and some wonderful messages and stories from Queen's alumni, which touched us all deeply.

A Queen's MBA graduate ('73) donated the price of a new Grumman canoe in honor of his black Labrador Buck, who had recently passed away. We promised to name the new canoe (which we hope to acquire soon!) in Buck's honour.

"I think Buck would have been a wonderful addition to your staff," he wrote to us. "He loved the outdoors, especially anything to do with water. More importantly, he was an amazing 'therapist.' He had an infallible sense of people and provided emotional support, mostly by just being there when needed."

"I am forever grateful for the experience of Camp Outlook, attending quite a few trips from about 1992 until 1995. I only wish I had gone on more. I feel it changed the direction of my life," wrote one former volunteer.

"Love that you're treating the kids as people and not statistics!" was a comment we loved to hear, as it touches on the ideas that inspired Ron Kimberley.

One of the donations we received was in memory of the late Dr Hui Lee (Queen's Meds '89 and Outlook staffer '86), a beloved member of the medical community in Sault Ste. Marie.

"I graduated from Queen's in Meds '71 and love to canoe and more recently to kayak. One of my children suffered from severe mental illness and I would have loved him to have the experience," wrote another doctor.

"I haven't thought much about my year with Outlook in the mid 1980's for quite a while. It did change me," wrote another former volunteer. "I went from a guy with a dream for camping but not an ounce of experience to a seasoned tripper over the summer."



A Note from the Board of Directors

Hello Outlook friends and community members,

We hope that this edition of the winter views is finding you well and safe despite the difficulties that 2020 has presented. Like everyone around the globe, we at Camp Outlook found ourselves in rough and uncharted waters this year, trying to make sense of a worldwide pandemic and what it meant for our approaching summer season. It was with very heavy hearts, and many carefully crafted contingency plans later, that we ultimately had to cancel our summer programming.

Despite this disappointment, this year has been a heartwarming reminder of just how many supportive people are standing behind this wonderful organization. We extend a huge thanks to our 2020 summer directors, Vlad and Kyle, for working tirelessly with the Board of Directors as we attempted to adapt our programming to the new and uncertain realities of the pandemic. As well, we are incredibly appreciative of this year's 2020/2021 winter directors, Cole and Joanna, and their continued efforts in rolling with these new and dynamic circumstances. We are stoked to be back in action with physically distanced winter programming while we keep a close eye on all safety developments and public health updates. What's more, we had our first 100% virtual Annual General Meeting this October and were so happy to see all the faces that could join us.

Going forward, we are much more confident in our ability to adapt our programming, and despite ongoing COVID uncertainties, we are committed to running a fun and safe Camp Outlook summer experience, in some shape or form! Also coming up in the new year is our virtual Town Hall where we will be discussing our new stability fund and financial philosophies of Camp Outlook. We would love to hear what you have to say, so stay tuned for event details.

Once again, a huge thank you to you, our community, for your consistent support, and for standing by us through thick and thin. We sincerely appreciate all of your generous donations, as they truly are what keep us going year after year. As always, if you would like to make a donation, or become a monthly donor, please visit campoutlook.ca/donate. There is still time to donate this tax season and we very much appreciate your support!

Take good care this holiday season,

Mariana, Marc, Greg, Laura S., Vlad, Steph, and Alana

