

## **REPORT OF THE CANTERBURY HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Fiftieth anniversaries generate a lot of attention these days. Couples receive congratulatory letters from the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Premier of the province and many other dignitaries. As the Summer Camping Program at Canterbury Hills passes its fiftieth milestone I am reminded of the original vision of the church leaders who established the program to be a place where people could "gain new knowledge and new experience of Christian living ... see God's purpose related to nature ... and develop respect for individual worth". Recognition for fifty years of the Summer Camping Program at Canterbury Hills comes not from letters and plaques but from smiles on children's faces, the commitment of staff, and seeing past campers becoming today's leaders in the church and in the wider community. It is the recognition that, to the advantaged and the disadvantaged alike; to those from Niagara Falls or from Oakville; to those from Reach for the Rainbow or St. Matthew's House, Canterbury Hills is a place to be and be known as a child of God.

Continuing the summer camping ministry has been challenging. This year, because of the changing financial situation, we reduced the number of campers in the overnight program. Both the overnight and day camp programs operated at virtually full capacity.

The Board of Directors continues the process of moving the Summer Camping Program towards financial self-sufficiency as support from the diocese is withdrawn. Fees have been increased. We have started an Individual Sustaining Sponsor program, which has been generously supported by a significant number of individuals. Now, as the next stage of our funding program, we are seeking corporate support from companies in the area. If you would like to add your support to the Summer Camping Program at Canterbury Hills, visit the website ([www.canterburyhills.ca](http://www.canterburyhills.ca)) and click on the Special Camp Appeal button or contact the Canterbury Hills office directly. If you have corporate contacts that we could be in touch with, please let us know.

2012 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the operation of the Canterbury Hills Conference Centre. For five decades the Conference Centre has provided retreat space for parishes, hosted Diocesan programs and events, and provided a ministry of hospitality to a wide-ranging number of groups.

The past year has had its challenges as our regular clients struggle with tight budgets amidst and uncertain economy. Despite these challenges the Conference Centre continues to be a favoured location for a large number of non-profit, education and community groups.

More than its physical beauty in a Carolinian forest setting, which is indeed very beautiful and special, it is the people of Canterbury Hills that make a difference. The Board of Directors thanks the Reverend Canon David Linn, Executive Director, the staff of the Conference Centre, and the staff of the Summer Camp for their dedication and service to the mission and ministry of Canterbury Hills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. Greg Murray  
on behalf of the Canterbury Hills Board of Directors