

REPORT OF THE CANTERBURY HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Canterbury Hills Conference Centre is nestled in the Dundas Valley, surrounded by the natural beauty of a Carolinian forest. It is a place for conferencing, for learning, for retreat, reflection, relaxation, and recreation. It is home to the Diocesan Summer Camp Program, which this summer celebrated its' 50th anniversary! The unique setting; the friendly staff; and the flexibility of the facility contribute to the success of the ministry of hospitality at Canterbury Hills.

The conference centre is used consistently by church, community, health care and education groups for meetings, training, and conferences. Weekend use of the facility has always been very strong. Over the past two years there has been increased weekday use of the facility, especially by one client who has found Canterbury Hills to be an ideal location for their programs which they offer multiple times during the year.

The summer camping program focuses on spirituality, experiential learning and environmental awareness. Campers engage in a variety of activities to capture the imagination, build friendships and develop self-confidence. This year we were able to offer six residential camping sessions and eight day camp sessions. Registration for all the sessions was very strong so that over the summer we were able to operate at almost full capacity for all the sessions. The summer camping program is successful because of the leadership, energy, enthusiasm and creativity of the staff. Being a staff member at the summer camp is an exceptional leadership training opportunity for our young people.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations the summer camping staff alumni organized a very successful reunion event. Those attending represented each decade of the camp's history. The alumni continue to actively support the summer camping program each year. We are very thankful for their assistance with registration at each camp session, site work, and their financial support of the camping program.

Part of our current reality is that the Diocese is finding it very difficult to continue to financially support the summer camping program. The Board of Directors of Canterbury Hills is responding to this financial challenge in several ways. Camping fees have been increased. An additional camping session was added to both the residential and day camp. We are starting a campaign to increase individual and corporate support for the summer camping program. The plan is to eliminate the diocesan financial support of the summer camping program over the next three years. This will make the summer camping program totally self sustaining. It also indicates the strong support and desire of the Board of Directors for the summer camping program to remain an essential element of the life of Canterbury Hills.

Canterbury Hills is a facility of the diocese. It is a not-for profit-organization managed by an Executive Director and a volunteer board of directors. The facilities at Canterbury Hills can be thought of as having two parts: the conference centre buildings, and the summer camp facilities. All these buildings require constant maintenance to keep them in good repair and appealing to our clients. This task has become particularly challenging in the last two years as the diocesan capital maintenance support of the facility has also decreased. With so many buildings there are many roofs to be shingled and exterior and interior elements to be repaired. Refrigeration and heating equipment needs to be maintained. Health and safety regulations need to be met. All of this has put a strain on the budget. Thanks to excellent management the staff has risen to this challenge.

REPORT OF THE CANTERBURY HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (continued)

Canterbury Hills is also changing the way it does things in order to be more environmentally friendly. We are purchasing environmentally friendly cleaning products. Suppliers are being asked to provide greener, alternative products. Parts of Bagnall Lodge were retrofitted with more energy efficient lighting systems. Solar heating panels are being installed at the pool. This is not only better for the environment, but provides cost savings as well.

Canterbury Hills is an environmental jewel. It is a living place where the beauty of God's creation surrounds and inspires its guests. On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank the talented, dedicated staff who nurture and care for the place and the guests and indeed practice a Ministry of Christian Hospitality in harmony with nature.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Greg Murray
Chair, Board of Directors