

Overnight/Day Summer Camp | Outdoor Ed. Centre | Retreat Rental Facility

CAMP MENESETUNG

Where we wonder & adventure, create & celebrate! Since 1933

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Camp Menesetung April 2021 Spring & Summer Update

April 14, 2021

Hello Camp Menesetung Community! Please find below an update on where we are at with our Spring and the Summer plans in the hopes of offering some degree of clarity in this fog of uncertainty that we find ourselves in.

[Watch the update of the information below presented in video format by Clayton Peters here.](#)

Summer 2021 Planning

When planning for the summer it is important for us at camp to recognize what is within our control and what is outside our control. Since last summer we have been working to plan for Summer 2021 knowing that what we can offer depended on 3 things:

- Our ability to keep campers safe by working with Public Health
- Our ability to exceed all COVID-19 safety requirements while ensuring that our campers have an amazing experience
- Government Restrictions

Knowing that, we created 3 scenarios that we can pivot to dependent on where Ontario is at with the Pandemic come late Spring. In all 3 scenarios camp is possible, the format is what changes. **At the moment all the signs indicate that some form of adapted in-person camp will be possible.** Here is why we think this:

We are a summer camp accredited by the Ontario Camping Association. Since last fall the OCA has been working with Ontario Public Health, and SickKids hospital to develop COVID-safe overnight camp and day camp guidelines. These guidelines have been made, these guidelines have been vetted and approved by SickKids, and these guidelines are currently in the hands of Ontario Public Health undergoing revisions and to be made into law, which we eagerly look for in the coming weeks.

Based on the good work of the OCA, Colleen our Summer Director, our Board of Directors and volunteers. **We are confident that IF the Pandemic subsides this Spring; as the lockdown, vaccine rollout, and the modelling suggest; we will be ready to offer adapted Overnight Camp, Day Camp, and Bridge Camp this summer.**

Our Plan B is to run as a large Day Camp only, redesigned from our typical day camp program to be great for our older as well as younger campers. **Based on Huron County's track record with COVID-19 we are very confident that at minimum running a safe and fun in-person Day Camp will be possible.** We have the guidelines & protocols, and we know that Day Camps are allowed to be open in the grey-zone of the [Ontario COVID-19 Response Framework](#) - though we hope we are nowhere near there in 3 months time. We do also have a plan C, but at this point consider it unlikely that we will need to use it: It involves a combination of in-person family camp, family cabin rentals, and our awesome virtual camp programs for campers that we refined last summer.

We have an advantage here at Camp Menesetung. Summer camps are uniquely suited to adapting to COVID-19 prevention guidance:

- Controlled environment with excellent staff:camper ratios giving us great ability to control what happens here, and conduct effective screening.
- The majority of what we do here already happens outside, and we recently purchased a collection of tent rain/shade shelters to give us even more outdoor flexibility for things like eating and playing.
- Here at Menesetung we are fortunate to have an abundance of bathrooms/sinks. Every cabin has a bathroom inside, or a few steps away.
- 24 hour onsite Health Care Provider. We are excited to work with our amazing Nursing School graduate writing her RN exams this June.
- Most of all, we have an adaptable team of creative planners working hard to fine tune our schedule to include things like staggered meal-times, cohorting, creating opportunity for choice etc.
- As a Camp community we have had more than a year to get used to COVID-19 safety protocols, and have learned much about how to effectively adapt.

Here are some things you should know:

- **We have hired the majority of our core team!** With 20 positions filled, we are still seeking a 3-Season Property Manager, Head Lifeguard, and Canoe Program Lead - [more information on our website.](#)
- **Registration is open with a COVID-Scenario Guarantee.** Early bird discount before May 1st, sibling discount 5%. Capacity is reduced due to the protocols - I encourage you to reserve your spot!
- **Bursary Funding:** Because of people who believe in the value of summer camp for every camper, especially in a year like this. We have bursary funding available for families to help cover our subsidized rates. Please reach out if you need financial assistance or know someone who does. director@campmenesetung.ca

**Summer Camp is the reward that we get
for doing our part to stop the spread this Spring.**

Stay tuned to our [social media and mailing list](#) for an update in May and June about our official scenario decision made by our Board of Directors following government/public health recommendations.

Spring 2021 Planning:

As will be no surprise we will not be running School Field Trip programs again this spring. Leaving us with a beautiful site and we would like for you to be able to use it! **This May & June we are excited to open up like a campground or private park for your family to book time during the day, or rent a cabin for a few; use our sports equipment, bathrooms, explore our trails and beach.** [Find out more and book your time on our rentals webpage!](#)

If you have a group looking for a safe outdoor space to be late in May or June, whether you are a church, club, business, or family, reach out and we are happy to connect with you to help facilitate a safe private event!

How your can support Camp:

If you would like to support camp, we are currently seeking donations of PPE (sanitizer, masks etc.), and Canoes/Canoe equipment. We also have an [amazon wishlist](#), and our sincere gratitude goes out to those interested in joining our [Menesetung Champion Circle](#).

Take care, and I hope to see you this summer!

Clayton

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