

## THE VISION

Two years ago, the YMCA launched an intensive long term planning process with the help of volunteers, staff and outside consultants in order to determine the future vision for Kanawana and what facility improvements and additions would be needed in order to achieve this vision.

This vision includes an ecological mandate – a way in which Kanawana can do more for the environment through sustainable infrastructures, practices and education.

## YOUR FEEDBACK

As we began looking to make this vision a reality, it was also important to look at the feedback being given by you, our current campers and parents. While your feedback on a whole is very positive, the biggest concern expressed by you & our staff was the condition of the sanitary facilities. So, that's where we decided to begin.

### THE VISION + YOUR FEEDBACK = 2 NEW 'GREEN' CENTRALIZED SANITARY FACILITIES!!

**One of the two new sanitary buildings for a total of 32 showers, sinks and toilets.**



In the spirit of promoting sustainable development among campers and staff, the new facilities boast the following ecological features:

- Sinks and showers are low flow.
- Showers will feature power pipes to recuperate heat from waste water.
- Two high efficiency wood boilers to heat water for showers and sinks using wood selectively cut from the Kanawana site for a healthy forest.
- Composting toilets that will reduce overall water consumption and waste water generation by at least 40%.
- Skylights & windows to favour natural ventilation & light.

We also have:

- Added a new artesian well, new potable water treatment and distribution systems, and a new waste water distribution system.
- Made some adjustments and repairs to our artificial marsh ecological waste water treatment system in preparation for its 2<sup>nd</sup> season.

### MORE THAN JUST THE TOILETS – IT'S A WAY OF LIFE...

YMCA Kanawana is also launching other initiatives to introduce campers, parents and staff to ecological and fair trade practices. These include:

- The development of a composting system for fruit and vegetable waste from the camp kitchen
- An organic vegetable garden in partnership with Pointe-Saint-Charles YMCA
- New Tuck Shop & Dining Hall purchasing practices.
  - Tuck Shop: Fair trade tuck (chocolate), staff and camper t-shirts, and biodegradable soaps & shampoos.
  - Dining Hall: As much as possible, responsible buying of fair trade sugar, coffee and hot chocolate and biodegradable cleaning products.

# TOILET TALK – Answering your questions

## WHAT EXACTLY IS A COMPOSTING TOILET?

A common misconception is thinking of a composting toilet as one of those unpleasant pit toilets found in primitive campgrounds. In truth, today's composting toilets (including Kanawana's) look much like traditional toilets. Composting toilets are toilet systems which treat human waste by composting and dehydrating to produce a useable end-product that is a valuable soil additive.

## HOW DO THEY WORK?

The composting toilet process is not much different than your average garden compost pile. A biological process (aerobic composting) occurs that relies upon micro-organisms naturally present in human waste (blackwater). These microbes process waste material 10-20 times faster than anaerobic bacteria at work in a septic system. For more details on our new composting toilets, please visit [www.clivusmultrum.com](http://www.clivusmultrum.com).

## DO COMPOSTING TOILETS SMELL?

No, they don't. The composting process is virtually odourless, and furthermore, the composting toilets have very efficient ventilation systems.

## WHAT ABOUT THE SHOWERS – DOES THIS MEAN MY CHILD WILL BE SHOWERING LESS OFTEN?

No, it doesn't mean your child will be showering less often. It does mean, however, that the temperature and length of showers will be regulated. This helps encourage greater awareness of water & energy waste.

## DO GIRLS AND BOYS USE THE SAME FACILITIES?

We have 2 sanitary facilities, both of which are divided into 2 sections, one for girls and one for boys. Because each building is divided into 2 sections, with showers & toilets in each section, girls will be in one area and boys in the other.

However, the new washrooms are setup for the future location of the new cabins and tent-platforms we hope to construct very soon. Currently, one sanitary facility is located near the current junior boys section and the other is located near the senior boys section (see map right). This means that the new facilities are located further from the current junior girls & senior girls sections.

## DOES THIS MEAN MY DAUGHTER WILL HAVE TO WALK FAR TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AT NIGHT?

No. In order to prevent long walks to the bathroom at night for the girls' sections, we will be installing temporary remote toilets close to their sections for this summer.

## HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY CHILD'S EXPERIENCE AT KANAWANA?

Well, first and foremost, it means your child will be using brand new bathroom and shower facilities!! It also means your child will be gaining much more than the skills acquired from kayaking and rock climbing (also very important!), he or she will be learning how we can all live more lightly on the Earth. However, it's important to realize that, at times, living in a more "green" way, means less of the conveniences that we are accustomed to. Instead of having washrooms spread throughout camp, the 2 centralized washroom/shower units will mean that campers may need to walk further distances to access the washrooms. Campers will also be shown how to efficiently use the facilities (i.e. toilets require equal usage in order to ensure proper composting). All of these adjustments and their purpose will be explained to your child.



**We hope you're as excited as we are about these new facilities and the new steps YMCA Kanawana is taking towards greener summers!**

For more details, visit the Development Project page (in the "About Kanawana" section) on our website at: [www.ymcaKanawana.ca](http://www.ymcaKanawana.ca)

**If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:**  
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