



Reportage

President of CHOM, MIX 96 and CJAD

9 Summers as a camper

I spent 9 summers at camp Kanawana, learning about myself, others and our natural environment. I learned to swim, to canoe, to build a fire, to recognize plants and stars. I made friends I would not have made in the city, and learned to appreciate our differences and how a group is made up of the strengths and weaknesses of each one. Together, my campmates and I faced new challenges, going out into the wilderness with nothing but our sleeping bags, a few matches, our imagination, our stories and our songs. Camp was a place where each person was appreciated and respected, no matter their race, language or background. Free from our parents, the constraints and pressures of the city, we felt free to grow and develop in new ways. Our counsellors encouraged us to test our limits, face our fears, celebrate our strengths and talents. We all knew and felt that each camper

had something important and unique to bring to the group. My time at camp culminated in one of the most challenging weeks of my life. In 1967, at age 14, myself, 6 other boys and our counsellor made a week-long voyage from Camp Kanawana in Saint-Sauveur to Ottawa. As we re-traced the 150 miles of the original east-west fur trade route between Deep River and Ottawa, we faced rapids, high waves and long portages. Some of us were ill, and we often canoed until 8:00 at night. There were moments where we thought we would not make it, and the joy and pride we felt the day we arrived in Ottawa will remain indelibly marked in my memory. My time at camp gave me the confidence that I could accomplish anything I set my mind to, and a sense of connection to others and to nature. These gifts made me who I am and continue to serve me everyday.

I hope your child will have the opportunity to live a similar experience!

Le président de CHOM, MIX 96 et CJAD

Campeur durant 9 étés

Les souvenirs que je conserve de mes neuf étés passés au camp Kanawana sont impérissables! J'y ai noué plusieurs amitiés et, mes camarades et moi, avons appris à accepter nos différences et à relever ensemble de nouveaux défis. Je m'y suis senti apprécié et respecté, sans distinction de race, de langue et de classe sociale. Les multiples expériences vécues au camp Kanawana, dont je retire une immense fierté, m'ont permis de croire en mes moyens et de développer des habiletés qui me sont utiles encore aujourd'hui.

Je souhaite que votre enfant puisse vivre lui aussi une telle expérience!

Rob Braide
Président
Standard Broadcasting Corporation



Photo: Camp YMCA Kanawana



Le feu : un moment magique dans la vie de camp