

# BRIGADOON

VILLAGE

DONOR IMPACT

2022





**"Camp means long-lasting friendships and freedom to be a kid..."**

~ 2022 Brigadoon Camper

# THANKS TO YOU!

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**GIVING EXTRAORDINARY KIDS A CHANCE TO BE ORDINARY**

# BEST YEAR EVER

Thanks to our generous community of donors, we were able to complete the expansion of our Village on time and within budget - no small feat during a pandemic and soaring inflation rates.

With keys in hand, we cut the ribbon on our new site and eagerly waited for our campers to arrive for our very first camp to begin. But can we tell you a secret? We were just as nervous as we were on opening day in 2011. Would COVID stay at bay so that we could safely operate? Would returning campers love the new site just as much as they did before? Would new campers form special friendships and feel at home in the new space? Would our counsellors learn how to use the latest programming spaces in time to enrich our campers' lives?

To our delight, the summer of 2022 will go down in history (according to our campers) as a resounding 'best year ever.' Without you, this simply would not have been possible. Please allow us to offer you a glimpse of just how magical this year has been - thanks to you!

## WEEK ONE

**Camp Silly-Yak**  
*Celiac Disease*

## WEEK TWO

**Camp See-Ya**  
*Blind or Visually Impaired*  
**Camp Carpe Diem**  
*Epilepsy*

## WEEK THREE

**Camp JoinTogether**  
*Arthritis*

## WEEK FOUR

**Camp Kedooopse**  
*Family Bereavement*  
**Camp BELIEVE**  
*Parental Mental Illness*

## WEEK FIVE

**Camp Lots-a-Wata**  
*Kidney Disease*  
**Camp Whatcha Say**  
*Deaf or Hard of Hearing*  
**Maritime Adventures Camp**  
*Bleeding Disorders*

## WEEK SIX

**Camp Guts & Glory**  
*IBD, Ostomy, Cecostomy*  
**Camp Treasure Chest**  
*Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Lung Conditions*

## WEEK SEVEN

**Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtimes**  
*Living with or Beyond Cancer*

## WEEK EIGHT

**Camp Braveheart**  
*Heart Conditions*  
**Camp Brainiac**  
*Neurosurgery Conditions*  
**Camp Trailblazers**  
*Craniofacial Differences*

# HIGHLIGHTS

420  
SLICES OF  
WOOD-FIRED  
PIZZA

54  
SUNSETS

925  
COOKIES

27 COUNSELLORS

8 WEEKS

15 CAMPS  
96 BOAT RIDES

474  
SERVINGS OF  
MAC 'N  
CHEESE

64  
CAMP  
FIRES

372  
S'MORES

8,640  
ARROWS

575  
PAPER PLATE  
AWARDS

173  
TALENT  
SHOW  
PERFORMANCES

297  
CAMP  
FIRE  
SONGS



# TOP 5 MAGIC MOMENTS



## 1. A Touching Good-Bye

Each year, we have to say 'briga-see-ya' to a few campers who graduate from our program, and it's always bittersweet. This year, a graduating camper chose to sing the Brigadoon Anthem at her last ever campfire as a camper as her way of saying goodbye to her fellow campmates and the camp itself. It was an emotional moment felt by everyone. All of the campers ran up after she was done and gave her a huge group hug. There were lots of happy tears!

## 2. Introducing the Challenge Course

This summer at Brigadoon was our first time using our new, fully accessible climbing wall and high ropes course. It was by far one of the most exciting things for campers to try out, and it helped all campers push past their comfort zones to reach new confidence levels. They got to try new things and push themselves, but they were able to leave the challenge course with an immense sense of accomplishment from their experience and, perhaps best of all, have an intense feeling of ownership over their knowledge of challenges, growth and accomplishment, and to see their ability to overcome challenges. The most profound moment was when Gabi, a Carpe Diem camper with epilepsy and cerebral palsy who uses a wheelchair, climbed to the top of the climbing tower while her cabin mates cheered her on. Gabi is undoubtedly an extraordinary kid, but she got to be just like any other kid on that day.



## 3. The Power of Connection

During the Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtimes (for kids living with or beyond cancer), there was a beautiful moment of connection when a group of campers bonded after discovering they all had the same scar on their bodies from having a port-a-cath (a small medical device installed beneath the skin and used to deliver fluids intravenously). Together, they noticed the unique sensation and feeling the scars that they still have after their cancer treatments are long finished. Being able to bond over something so specific to their experience as a child living beyond cancer was incredibly special & healing.



## 4. Welcome Back, Camp Silly-Yak!

This year was the long-awaited return of Camp Silly-Yak (for kids with Celiac disease) after not being able to host these campers for two years during the pandemic. Our Silly-Yak campers loved taking part in cooking lessons in our new outdoor kitchen (with an oven just for gluten-free pizza!) Because of the added safety features this kitchen provides, campers have complete confidence to enjoy food without fear of cross-contamination. One camper made and ate a cinnamon bun for the first time in her life!



## 5. Learning to Grieve Out Loud

At the end of Camp Kedooopse (a camp for kids who are grieving the loss of a family member), there's a special ceremony called the Cairn Ceremony. It combines music, reflection, and ritual to create space for campers to express their grief and any of the emotions or thoughts that define their grief for them. This year, when we invited campers to share, two of the youngest (and bravest!) campers volunteered to go first, sharing who in their life died and the circumstances around how they died. This courage made it safe for other campers to follow suit and volunteer to share their stories and feelings. Campers supported and comforted each other; no one sat alone. When someone happened to be apart from others, campers filled in spaces and closed gaps so that no one felt adrift while sitting and feeling their grief.

# IN OUR CAMPERS' WORDS



"At camp, I feel like I can just be **me!**"

"Brigadoon is a **safe place** where I'm surrounded by the most amazing people who **support me** through everything I do."

"The best part about camp is **not feeling alone** with my disease."

"It's like going back to my second **home**, where so many of my **best memories** have been made."

"Camp is a place where I can be myself and I feel like I **belong.**"

# MAGIC MAKERS



Brigadoon will always have a special place in my heart. The people, culture, and philosophy all came together to create a camp that helped shape who I am today. Not only did I learn that I was more capable than I thought, but I also learned my limits and the true meaning of self-care. I was taught the importance of self-advocacy and that the compassion I extend outwards to others should also extend to myself.

Each summer, I left with tools to help me navigate life's challenges and contribute positively to the people and places around me. The campers inspired me every day and taught me valuable life lessons, which I will bring into my future occupational therapist career. I now feel equipped to ensure my prospective clients feel heard, valued, and essential. I can also better understand where they are coming from and empower them to reach their goals.

From my time at camp, I am proud to say I grew in self-confidence and my ability to be myself. I am so grateful I got the life-changing opportunity to work at Brigadoon.

Jade Frazer  
Brigadoon Counsellor



For eleven years, Brigadoon has been a part of my life. I volunteered as a camp counsellor during their first camp in 2011. Since then, I've had the opportunity to return multiple times as a counsellor, a volunteer, a nurse, and now as a new mother.

I've watched kids become adults and campers become staff throughout the years. Watching how this camp positively impacts, alters, and brings joy to the lives of the campers keeps me coming back each time.

This summer, without hesitation, they graciously accepted my ten-month-old daughter to join me in experiencing the magic of camp. It was a magical, happy-tear-filled summer that I'll remember forever. Not only was I able to provide nursing care to our summer campers during three separate weeks of camp, but I was able to watch the staff and campers embrace my daughter and allow her to make an impact on the camper's time at camp.

This place is simply magic. The experiences that I've had there and the friendships that have been formed will last a lifetime. Brigadoon will forever hold a special place in my heart and has positively impacted how I nurse and even mother. It's had a lasting imprint on my heart, and I hope to be able to return and linger a little longer each time.

Chantal, RN  
Volunteer at Brigadoon Medical Centre

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE



## McHappy Day

**Bob & Justin Smith**

Bob and Justin Smith with their families at the Grand Re-Opening of Brigadoon Village on June 11, 2022. Thanks to Bob, Justin and everyone at McDonald's for their ongoing commitment to getting kids to camp so they can experience the everyday joy of Brigadoon. McHappy Day continues to be an important fundraiser for us! Thank you!

## Pizza Oven **Shaw Group**

All of us at The Shaw Group take great pride in developing communities and we understand the importance of bringing people together. We were thrilled to provide the materials for the new pizza oven, the campfire circle firepit and outdoor amphitheatre. We even took the opportunity to spend a day at camp as a team and build the Shaw Group Pizza Oven!

We know these will be the places where children, families and staff will come together to build new and lasting friendships.



## Dave's Place **Community Donors**

Our late founder, Dave McKeage, knew that art = medicine. When he dreamed of Brigadoon, he envisioned campers having a space to create; to compose music with new friends, to jam together during grief sessions, to cover walls in glitter and paint, to express hard-to-say-out-loud feelings through drawing, to learn how to mold clay, and to bring a vision to life with their own bare hands. Our new art & culture hub, Dave's Place, is exactly that. Thank you to our community of donors who brought this vision to life for Dave & for our campers.



## Challenge Course

**Community Donors**

Our new Challenge and High Ropes Course is 100% accessible and 1000% fun. Campers pushed beyond their comfort zones this summer to reach new heights and gained confidence with each step. They worked together as a team to conquer obstacles to gain resiliency, and had the experience of achieving goals while being cheered on by a group of their peers below. Thanks to the community of donors who made this new programming element possible.



## Messy Arts Program **BMO**

BMO Financial Group is pleased to support the Brigadoon Village Messy Arts program as they continue to build confidence in young children, test their limits, all while developing new skills. One of BMO's many priorities is to improve people's lives in tangible ways, as seen every day in the work happening at Brigadoon.



## Campfire Circle **John & Carol Young**

Campfire is the heart of camp for the kids who attend our programs and easily everyone's favorite time of the day. Campers gather 'round the fire nightly to sing silly songs, enjoy fun skits – and, of course – eat s'mores! For their final night of camp, it's also a place where campers come together to reflect on magic camp moments, the friends they've made, and how they've grown as individuals.

Thanks to the generosity of John and Carol Young, we recently built a new campfire with amphitheatre seating so campers can comfortably take in the evening's shenanigans together. Our new campfire will be warming hearts and sparking friendships for many years to come.





THANK  
you!

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[brigadoonvillage.org](http://brigadoonvillage.org)

