

# Grand re-opening of Kamp Tanner celebrated



The Stratford Kinsmen Club's 'Kamp Tanner' was officially re-opened Sunday, June 8 following \$150,000 worth of renovations and improvements. The camp was named in honour of Bill Tanner, a dynamic Kinsmen Club member who died of cancer. Bill Tanner's son Dan, above, spoke at the dedication ceremony as did his mother, as well as Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, Stratford Mayor Karen Haslam, Sheila Simpson from the Trillium Foundation, Sheila Greason, representing United Churches of Oxford Presbytery, and several Kinsmen Club members.

The grand re-opening of Kamp Tanner, Line 31 Zorra Township near Harrington took place on Sunday, June 8.

The Bill Tanner Memorial Kinsmen Camp is owned by the Kinsmen Club of Stratford.

The official welcome was given by James Ritchie of the Kinsmen Camp Committee. Greetings from the Province of Ontario were delivered by Ernie Hardeman MPP and in letter by Bert Johnson MPP.

Karen Haslam, Mayor of Stratford offered congratulations from the City.

Rosemary, Michael, Daniel, Lea and Rob Tanner were present. Daniel, Bill's son, and Rosemary, Bill's wife, spoke on behalf of the family. The camp is named in honour of Tanner, who died tragically at a young age.

Sheila Simpson, Regional Program Manager of the Trillium Foundation, spoke briefly about the Trillium funds that helped with the

camp improvements. MPP Hardeman presented a Trillium plaque to Kinsmen Club members.

Sheila Greason spoke on behalf of the Oxford Presbytery Camping Committee and expressed appreciation to the Kinsmen, the United Churches of Oxford Presbytery and the many individuals who had so generously contributed time and money to support the work at the camp.

A tree-planting ceremony

marking the past, present and future was held. Representing the past were K-40 Members John and Emma Carruthers; the present Steve Hubbard and Bob Walters and the future Corey and Katlyn Serf. Sheila Greason represented the visitors and friends of Kamp Tanner.

Barbecued hot dogs and hot popcorn were served throughout the afternoon. Tours of the camp were provided.

Recent improvements to the camp, at a cost of more than \$150,000, include a new kitchen, a meeting room, and renovations to the swimming pool. Eight cabins, a new craft cabin, camp bell, camp sign, renovations to the senior staff building, and to the program directors' office have been provided by the Oxford Presbytery United Churches and friends of Camp Tanner.

The Kinsmen purchased the property in 1968.