

# Oldest privately-run day camp in country opens for 50th summer

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

A Stouffville-area camp which holds the distinction of being Canada's oldest privately-run day camp, is preparing to open its doors for the 50th time this summer. Camp Robin Hood, located on Tenth Line S. south of

Stouffville Rd., operates during July and August each summer, offering an activity program designed to promote a positive sense of self for individual campers.

Originally located in Toronto, the camp made the move to its current Stouffville site in 1964. Since then it has continued to thrive while adapting to the changing expectations of parents who choose to send their children to summer day camps.

"Originally, parents were just looking for a program to occupy their

kids," said camp owner-director Larry Bell, who has been involved with the camp for 35 years. "Today, they want a program that will be full and meaningful for the kids."

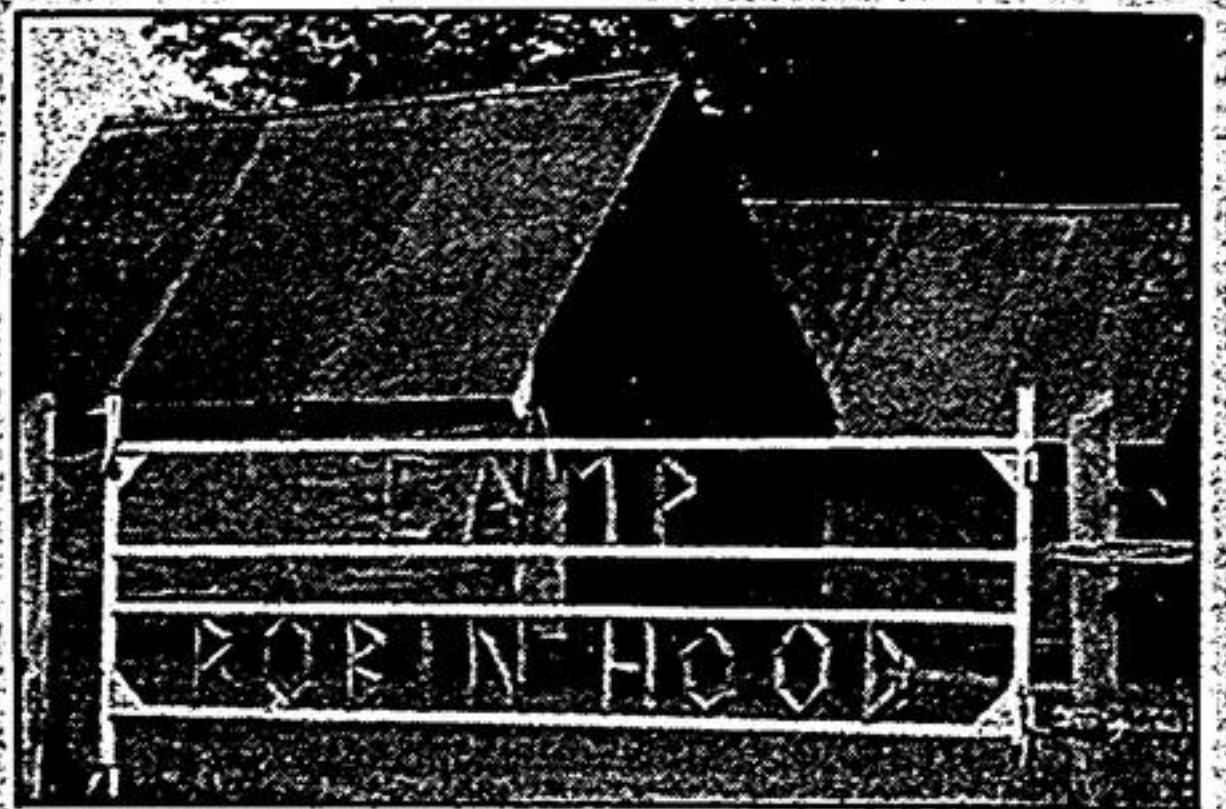
Bell, who is past president of the Ontario Camping Association, said the camp setting offers the chance to learn and develop skills without the constraints sometimes associated with going to school.

"We develop self-esteem and a wide variety of skills to learn without the pressures the kids have at school. In camp, it's important that the kids satisfy themselves. That's something we've been very conscious of developing. No one fails and competition is cooperative."

The camp offers an instructional swim program, with campers enjoying the benefit of four pools and 18 qualified instructors. Other activities include music and drama, arts and crafts, canoeing on the camp pond, computers and fitness.

In all, there are 210 on staff, with most leaders either teachers or education students. Campers range in age from four through 15. For the past seven years, the camp has been affiliated with the MVP Baseball Academy located next door. The academy has an enrollment of 125 young people.

Camp Robin Hood was founded in




Camp Robin Hood celebrates 50 years this summer. Photo: JOERD WITTEVEN

Toronto in 1946 by a trio of faculty of education students looking for a way of earning tuition money. It was given its name because of its location in Sherwood Park. At the time, the only other existing day camps in Canada were being run by the YMCA.

The camp moved to various locations before eventually setting up in its present site. Enrollment has grown from 250 the first year at the Tenth Line property to 850 children for the month of July alone this summer.

Bell said the camp has a large percentage of returnees staffs and campers each summer. "From 80 to 85 per cent of our staff are back each year. Many of them were campers here themselves at one time. Seventy per cent of the kids are returnees. It's like a family."

Those wishing further information on Camp Robin Hood should call (416) 736-4443.



**Markham Stouffville Hospital**

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL will be held on **Tuesday, June 20, 1995 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Auditorium of **MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL** 381 Church Street Markham, Ontario

Amendments to By-Laws will be presented for ratification. Marilyn J. Bruner Secretary

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**Nurses saluted**

The Nursing Class of '34 was saluted in grand style at a Markham restaurant on Friday. Three nurses, all graduates of the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital nursing program, got together at Peter's Steak and Seafood Restaurant in Markham to talk about the good old days when a nurse made \$1 a day. It's been 61 years since these women earned their (nursing) caps. Attending the reunion lunch were, from left, Jessie Goodwin (nee Broughton) of Toronto, Blanche Cook (nee Toppin) of Lemonville, Anne Prentice (nee White) of Markham.

Photo: JOERD WITTEVEN

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**STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
A Fellowship Church  
6173 Main Street  
Pastor: Rev. Gordon Bickle

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11th**  
Bible class for all ages - 9:45 a.m.  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
**SPECIAL GUEST**  
Rev. Wm. Finney  
**MUSIC**  
The Wright Family  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Prayer & Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.  
Until we see our sin, we will not see our need for a Saviour.

*Join us for Worship*

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N.  
640-1163  
Rev. Wayne Reed

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11th, 1995**  
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship  
Sunday School from Baby Fold to the grade 8 level

Everyone Welcome

**BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH**  
13660 Ninth Line  
(South of Bloomington Rd.)  
Rev. Bryan Coker 640-4364

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11th, 1995**  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
6:30 p.m. - Evening Service

ALL WELCOME

**VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
473-3543  
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.  
Pastor Robert Okum  
Holding forth the doctrines of grace

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service

Everyone is Welcome

**ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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STOUFFVILLE  
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Weekdays: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 7:30 p.m.

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Gormley - Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
Pastor Rev. Bob Flemming  
Associate Pastor Rev. Byron Stewart  
887-5651

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11th**  
9:45 a.m. - Bible School  
11:00 a.m. - Induction Service for Brian Simcoe - Pastors Flemming & Stewart speaking  
6:00 p.m. - Sunshine Kids Concert  
**TUESDAY**  
7:30 p.m. - College & Careers  
**WEDNESDAY**  
7:00 p.m. - Adult Bible Study & Prayer

For more info, call Church Office 887-5651  
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**WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH**  
10530 Hwy. 48 - North of Major Mackenzie  
Phone: 640-219  
Pastor Lawrence Burkholder 294-0649

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11th**  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship  
Pastor Lawrence  
No evening service in favour of the Billy Graham Crusade

Everyone Welcome

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
254 Sunset Blvd. Stouffville  
The Rev. Robert A. Shields  
640-1461

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11th**  
Trinity Sunday  
8:30 a.m. - Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist with Sunday School and Nursery