

Nova Scotia Firefighters' Burn Treatment Society

Adults, children learn from each other at camp

Influenced by the QEII and the IWK burn centres to establish a camp where adult and child survivors of burns could come together, the Nova Scotia Firefighters' Burn Treatment Society started a camp four years ago and it has been a great success ever since.

"Children see adults living their lives with families and they realize that life goes on after having been burned," says David Collier, who was instrumental in starting the summer camps and acts as the camp director and counselor.



"Adults tend to open up more around the children," he says, "and the camp gives both children and adults the chance to meet others like themselves. They don't have to worry about their burns. Scars aren't an issue. Everyone has scars to some degree or another at the camp."

"The primary purpose is to provide an opportunity for previous burn patients to come together in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoy some time

together. It's also an opportunity for the campers to discuss issues that only survivors can talk about."

Amazingly, there is no cost to any camp participant or their guest as all expenses are paid by the Nova Scotia Firefighters' Burn Treatment Society.

The first camp was held at Sherbrooke Village and campers stayed in old houses and dressed in period costumes, says Mr. Collier. Participants made toys of the period and lived in history.

"The only problem was," says Mr. Collier, "the adults had to stay at hotels and the children at the Village because there wasn't enough room for everyone."

The next year, campers went to Camp Kidston in Musquodoboit and it was perfect for children but not the adults even though everyone had a great time and it was a success.

Last year, the camp was held at Scotian Glen Camp and it will be again this year.

"We've found Scotian Glen Camp to be beautiful and perfect," says Mr. Collier. "We'd like to make it our home if they'll have us."

The Society tries to provide the typical camp stuff like swimming, canoeing, log rolling, crafts, and campfires but along with these some practical activities are offered to learn and take home.

This year someone will do a demo on derma-blend makeup for adults and teens; a touch



Counselors and campers at The Burn Treatment Society's year 2000 camp

therapist will be available; a doctor of holistic medicine will talk about pain relief; an IWK child life specialist will talk about image building; the RCMP canine department will be there; and maybe the Shriners will send along some of their clowns.

"We'll have special programming for children, for adults, and for children and adults together," says Mr. Collier.

"We like to make the days fun so we might have a New Year's dance in August with a dinner and awards, a backwards meal, a meal without cutlery, or a breakfast in pj's."

The camp was so much fun and helped one young lady so much that she wrote about it. Linda Peters says in her letter to the Nova Scotia Firefighters' Burn Treatment Society, "I wasn't sure how I felt about going at first...I wrote about

how I felt about my burns, the camp and the group. I really started to open up...I wore shorts and T-shirts all the time; I was always talking and sharing, laughing and joking around, and showing my sense of humour. I went in a canoe for the first time...and I did a skit with five other people.

"I was being me, the real me, and I don't believe it could have happened without the help of others and all the things that happened at camp..."

Everyone who works at the camp volunteers his or her time according to Mr. Collier.

"We have firefighters, nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and others who volunteer their time. No one is paid to do so. Volunteers can achieve great things. They're the required ingredient in the recipe for a successful camp."



Canoeing on Sutherlands River



Counselors dressed for formal dinner

MOFFATT'S PHARMACY

home health care specialists

3 Nurses on Staff
Free Housecalls & Delivery
SALES – SERVICE – RENTALS

184 Portland Street
Downtown Dartmouth
466-2345

277 Pleasant Street
Professional Center
463-7651



Pleased to support the
**N.S. Firefighters
Burn Treatment
Society**

Dr. Jim Smith MLA
Dartmouth East



supports the
Nova Scotia Firefighters Burn Treatment Society
in their efforts to improve the lives of burn victims
and their families throughout Nova Scotia.

THE DAILY NEWS

Safety Training on Demand

The Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association (NSCSA) offers all of its training courses "on demand." If your group would like to have a NSCSA course delivered at the time and location of your choice*, call the NSCSA at 1-800-971-3888 to find out more.

Demand Courses include:

- Basic Fire Awareness
- Fall Protection (I-II-III)
- Confined Space (I-II)
- Hazard Identification & Control
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Accident Investigation
- Construction Safety Supervisor
- **All NSCSA courses**

1-800-971-3888
www.nscsa.org

*Some Restrictions Apply

