

PRESENTATION TO PARKLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
September 3, 2013 @ 10:30 a.m. in Council Chambers

Camp He Ho Ha wishes to speak in support of its
pending application with Parkland County for a
Funding for Non-Profit Organizations Grant
and to answer any questions Council members may have.

Presented by: Ellen Green, Fund Development, Camp Health, Hope and
Happiness

Phone: 780-429-3277, Ext. 224

Email: ellen@camphehoha.com

On Behalf Of: Camp Health, Hope and Happiness

53537 Range Road 55

Box 182

Seba Beach, AB T0E 2B0

Executive

Director: Joan Nielsen

Telephone: 780-429-3277, Ext. 222

Email: joan@camphehoha.com

Fax: 780-797-3812

Status: Registered Charity: 11882 7229 RR0001

Established: June 1960

Website: www.camphehoha.com (website meets international
Bobbi Level 1 standards for web accessibility for the
disabled).

Mission: To provide adapted recreational week-long summer camps
to approximately **725 children and adults living with
physical and/or mental disabilities** at its fully modern,

barrier-free facility located 90 kms. West of Edmonton on Lake Isle.

Funding

History: Total combined cash donations received from Parkland County as at August 4, 2013: \$6,340.00. Included in this amount is a *Funding for Non-profit Organizations* Grant received February 2013 in the amount of \$4500.00. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of Camp He Ho Ha. It is sincerely appreciated!



Camp He Ho Ha - 1962

HISTORICAL

Camp He Ho Ha was established in June 1960 to address the recreational needs of children with disabilities. Originally open two weeks in the summer and consisting of a collection of donated skid shacks accessible by boat only, Camp He Ho Ha is now a year-round, completely barrier free facility welcoming thousands of Albertans of *all*

abilities through its adapted week-long recreational summer camp program and its successful year-round Facility Rental Program.

Camp He Ho Ha is Alberta's **first** summer camp for people with disabilities and the **only** facility of its kind in the province that **does not discriminate** on the basis of the type or degree of disability. As a result Camp welcomes individuals with multiple disabilities as well as those who are medically fragile, many of whom would be denied a recreational opportunity at other facilities.

By Board motion, no one is denied a camping experience due to an inability to pay. Little wonder then that Camp He Ho Ha is affectionately known as "the last chance camp."

Our Campers range in age from **6 to 105** and come to us from communities large and small across Alberta. Our fully staffed and equipped onsite medical centre allows us to safeguard the health of campers during their week-long stay and enables us to welcome individuals living with a variety of physical and mental disabilities including, but not limited to: asthma, autism, attention deficit disorder, amputation, Alzheimer's, arthritis, burn injuries, brain injuries, cancer, cerebral palsy, Diabetes, Down's Syndrome, epilepsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, global developmental delay, hearing impairments, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, oppositional defiance disorder, obsessive/compulsive disorder, paraplegia, quadriplegia, spina bifida, stroke, Tourettes and visual impairments, to name a few.

Each year Camp He Ho Ha provides ten week-long adapted recreational summer camps designed to encourage independence and integration for children and adults living with every type and degree of disability. At Camp Albertans with disabilities have an opportunity to engage in creative expression, to experience success, to compete individually and

as part of a team, to engage in positive and rewarding social interactions, to explore nature, to acquire or enhance a variety of skills and to challenge themselves in order to achieve their maximum potential.

By providing a safe and supportive environment, Camp enables people with disabilities to participate more fully in community life. Caregivers also benefit from our summer camp program and appreciate the opportunity to take a much-needed pause from the demands of looking after a family member with a disability. The results? People with disabilities live fuller, more rewarding lives and their families find the strength they need to meet the unique challenges they face.

Each year we hire, train and supervise approximately **38 post-secondary students** to serve as Camp Counsellors, Team Leaders and Resource Coordinators. In addition we hire **two registered nurses** who staff our onsite Medical Centre on a 24/7 basis when camps are in session. Our nurses administer prescription and PRN medications, maintain physiotherapy regimens, provide tube feedings, monitor respirators and IV solutions, provide emergency treatment, liaise with campers' physicians, work with Kitchen staff to ensure appropriate meal and snack

selections and transport campers to medical facilities for additional treatment and care as required. We also hire a **qualified lifeguard** to supervise our indoor heated swimming pool. Because of the vulnerable nature of our clientele, we maintain a **1:3 counsellor/camper ratio** for enhanced safety and to provide opportunities for positive social interactions which are critical in combating the loneliness and isolation experienced by many. Summer camps that do not provide inclusive programming for people with disabilities typically have staffing ratios of 1:8 – 1:12 or higher.



The Summit – Climbing Wall, High Ropes and Zip Line

Camp He Ho Ha encourages people with disabilities to live a healthy, active lifestyle. We challenge our campers physically and mentally. Our target audience is known to experience higher than average levels of inactivity and consequently, a sedentary lifestyle. In Canada, the most popular recreational activity reported by people with disabilities (or their caregivers on their behalf) is watching television (including video gaming, music videos and movie DVDs, etc.). This is followed by: being on the computer, being on a cell phone or land line, listening to music and visiting friends and family.

We are also committed to encouraging Albertans with disabilities to make healthy food choices. Our Kitchen work in cooperation with nursing staff to prepare foods based on the dietary and special needs of each camper including: Diabetic meals and snacks, gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan, allergy-free, low carb, high carb, liquid diet, pureed diet, minced diet, etc. With the help of our creative Kitchen staff, Albertans with disabilities enjoy healthy meals and snacks that score high on taste and appeal.

Our year-round Facility Rental Program maximizes the benefit of this unique facility for **Albertans of all abilities**. We are the facility of choice for many groups seeking adapted recreational facilities, equipment and supplies in a barrier-free environment – groups like Kids with Cancer, Camp Freedom (Spina Bifida Association), MS Society (couples weekends),

Huntington's Society (week-long adult camps), etc. We also welcome scrapbooking groups, family reunions, corporate retreats, quilting groups, school bands, C00L groups, weddings, etc. Approximately 8,000 Albertans of all abilities participate in an amazing outdoor recreational "break out" session at this unique rural Parkland County facility each year.

ISSUES

We're An Aging Facility

Camp He Ho Ha is an aging facility and the costs for repairs, upgrades, and replacements are both significant and ongoing. Regulatory changes have also resulted in additional costs to our organization in order to achieve compliance.

Historically, most of the construction here at Camp was undertaken in the 1980s with funding coming from service clubs and the old Teleramas. In the last five years we have completed the following projects: replaced the 1920s barn used as a Maintenance Shop with a modern, energy efficient shop, installed automatic door openers on exterior doors, installed a video security system, replaced the wooden Friendship II multi-level play structure and replaced our 40-year old sewage treatment plant with a new state-of-the-art plant. Currently we have contractors on site who are working on a \$400,000 infrastructure project which will see all flooring in cabins replaced, installation of new asphalt and concrete roads and walkways, electronic signage, new roof for the Archery shed, replacement of existing garage, upgrade of Camp's water filtration system, new black dirt pad, etc. This work is to be completed by March 2014.

While it is true that we have been very successful in obtaining capital grant funds, it should be noted that the uniqueness of our facility, the specialized nature of our recreational programs, the under-served and often disadvantaged nature of our clientele and the province-wide impact of our programs all serve to make a strong and compelling case for support.

Government grant programs require a non-profit to provide 50% of project costs in matching funds. For this reason Camp He Ho Ha maintains a Board-governed Reserve Fund in order to capitalize on available Federal and provincial funding opportunities in a timely manner and to cover any funding shortfalls that may occur. For only the second time in our history we have been able to attract Federal Government financial investment into this facility to offset some of the costs for improvements and renovations. To date the Federal government has invested over \$300,000 in Camp He Ho Ha capital improvements.

Capital repairs and improvements in this facility, which really began in earnest about ten years ago, are designed to:

(1) Protect over 53-years of ongoing financial and volunteer investment in this facility on the part of Albertans from all walks of life. Financial investment in Camp He Ho Ha over the years has been substantial, such that Camp He Ho Ha now has an appraised insurance value, excluding land, of over \$19M.

(2) Ensure that we provide the best possible adapted recreational summer camp programs to the greatest number of people at the lowest possible cost. These ongoing capital investments allow us to preserve this facility to the standards Albertans have come to expect. And by obtaining grant funding for these capital projects we ensure that our summer camp programs remain affordable and accessible for our campers and their families. Grant funding for capital projects is critical because we recognize that many people with disabilities and their caregivers face significant financial barriers to participation and have

little to no ability to offset the costs of capital improvement and renovation projects in the form of higher camper fees.

Camper Fees

A recent report prepared for the Alberta Government noted that families in Alberta living with a disabled family member earn, on average, **\$20,000 less** than other families. Reasons for this disparity include: caregivers obtaining hourly wage employment which offers greater schedule flexibility, one parent choosing to remain at home to care for a disabled family member and frequent work absences to attend doctor appointment's, etc.

Because we recognize that people with disabilities and their families often have a reduced capacity to cope with fee increases, we strive to keep camper fees as low as possible. ***In addition, we offer a fee subsidy to each and every camper valued at 55% of actual camp cost.*** We fundraise in order to provide these subsidies.

This year Camp He Ho Ha has an operating budget of \$2.35M. Our successful year-round facility rental program allows us to offset general operating costs so that ***100% of charitable donations raised go to support our adapted recreational summer camps.*** Grants and donations help to ensure quality programming and offset the cost of providing camper fee subsidies. This year the actual cost of a week-long camp is \$1260.00, the camper fee is \$600 and the camper fee subsidy is about \$660.00. For residents of Parkland County, including Spruce Grove and Stony Plain, these camper subsidies translate into ***\$46,200 in direct savings for the 70 campers from Parkland County who attended Camp this year.***

In summary, Camp He Ho Ha is currently struggling to keep up with expensive but necessary repairs, replacements and renovations to Camp's aging infrastructure while trying to ensure that our summer camps remain accessible and affordable for disabled children and adults who often face significant financial barriers to participation. The recent Alberta budget has added to the current challenges facing Camp by:

- Creating uncertainty among caregivers and campers as to current and future funding levels for people living with disabilities and their families.
- Cancelling, suspending or reducing funding for provincial government grant programs designed to support the work of the charitable sector in providing critical programs and services
- Reducing and/or reallocating programs and services for persons with disabilities and related family supports.

To date we have been successful in shielding our campers and their families from rising summer camp costs (food, counsellor wages, utilities, insurance, etc.) and from the substantial costs associated with critical Camp repairs and upgrades. Fees from our Facility Rental Program cover general operating expenses and overheads, while the generous support of corporations, foundations, service clubs, allied community groups, all

levels of government and rank and file Albertans enable high quality programming, optimal staffing ratios and the continuation of camper fee subsidies. We believe that philanthropy is a choice, not an amount, and for us there are no "small" or insignificant donations.

We continue to raise funds for this organization as we did back in 1960 – one dollar at a time. Your financial support of Camp He Ho Ha ensures

equality of access and opportunity for disabled Parkland County residents by helping to address rising summer camp costs and keeping summer camp fees affordable.

As an organization we recognize there never has been, and never will be, *equality of ability* but there can and must be *equality of opportunity*. Funding support from Parkland County provides a direct benefit to disabled County residents and their caregivers, enabling them to participate in programs on par with that enjoyed by able-bodied Albertans.

Our Board of Directors are the stewards of this unique facility, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of current users while looking to the future in order to preserve this facility for the enjoyment and benefit of the future generations. This stewardship continues to benefit the residents of Parkland County and the province as a whole. I believe Camp He Ho Ha's success as a non-profit organization, its commitment to investment in the future and its significant and ongoing positive impact on local residents makes Camp He Ho Ha worthy of serious consideration for the maximum level of funding Parkland County is able to provide.

On behalf of Camp He Ho Ha and the thousands of people who benefit from our programs and services each year, please accept our sincere thanks for your past support and for your consideration of this case for support.

If you have the opportunity, please visit www.camphehoha.com. There you will find a copy of our current newsletter, a photo gallery, summer camp information and so much more.

Camp Health, Hope and Happiness
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU CARE!

