

# THE DORION DIGEST 2009



*That's My Camp!*



## *In this issue*

- **IMPACT 2009**  
*A note from Keith Adams, the Director of Ministries.*
- **2009 FEEDBACK**  
*Comments from various parents that had campers at DBC during the summer.*
- **IMPORTANT DATES**  
*Looking ahead to 2010.*
- **LOOKING BACK**  
*Article by Bram Kamerman.*

## IMPACT 2009

by Keith Adams, Ministry Director

I just finished my 11th summer here as a full time staff member and my second summer as the ministry director. Year after year, as I interact with both past and present parents, campers and staff, a common thread in comments made to me has to do with impact. People have come out to DBC and they have had more than just a time away from home. They have come here and had their lives impacted. People come here out of the busyness of their everyday lives and step into beautiful surroundings where they enjoy the 'camp experience'. I see campers coming here and being impacted over the course of one week with us. I see them meeting new people and making new friendships that carry on beyond their time here. Many have never spent a night away from home before and are nervous about coming here. By the end of the week they don't want to go home! There is opportunity for them to learn new skills and to be challenged and to grow while here. I also see the summer staff come and they are impacted by their volunteering experience. To give of one's time to serve others impacts tremendously. For many teens, this is their first job and they gain great work experience here. There is opportunity to lead others and this not only impacts the one being led, it impacts the one that gets to do the leading and we all benefit from it. This was DBC's 63rd summer and over that time thousands of people have enjoyed coming here and being a part of the DBC family. Many campers are here because their parents, and their parent's parents went here. Time and again people share with me of their fond memories of DBC. It is great to see the DBC tradition carry on in these newer generations! I too have been impacted here. There is something to be said about being a part of something bigger than yourself. I have formed relationships with many new people; I have been challenged to lead and I have grown so much because of this place. Summer 2009 was one where we saw 325 campers come. The majority of these are campers who do not attend church on a regular basis and who may have no knowledge of the Bible. While here we share some things that will shape the thinking and moral direction of our campers and staff. In an unthreatening environment we encourage our campers and staff to explore the claims of Christ and we hope that each person's time here will have eternal significance. Already plans are underway for summer 2010 and I'm excited about the impact that is going to take place here!

*"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:16*

## 2009 FEEDBACK

### ALISON

*As parent, I want my daughter to experience things that will help her grow into a positive, kind, well rounded person. Of the things that are important to me is having a great group of friends, friends for every moment in your life. I knew if I sent my child to Bible camp she would learn more about God and develop many new friendships that will help her grow! I have to admit also, that when I was a child, I always wanted to go to Dorion Bible Camp. In 2007, my daughter turned 7 and I was lucky enough to have a couple of my friends also want to send their girls to DBC, it is easier to send a new camper with a buddy. The girls were excited and nervous, as were the Moms, but what happy and memorable experience they had! The girls came back talking about the activities, friends and Christianity. During the last few weeks of school in 2008, the talk of going to DBC again was brought up by my daughter, she couldn't wait to go. This time, the girls brought along a new friend to share the fun of going to camp with, again coming home with stories, an appreciation of Christianity, and memories to last a lifetime. I know when spring rolls around in 2010, the talk of DBC will begin again.*

*Thank you for providing such a rewarding experience for the children!*

### SHELLEY HEAVENS

*I grew up with fond memories of attending bible camp near my home town during my childhood years. Looking back fondly of memories of faith, new friendships, and experiences to last a lifetime. I wanted my daughter Grace to experience those same things in her childhood.*

*Grace just recently spent her 4th summer at DBC and is already planning a two week stay next year for her 5th season with her peers. When I pick her up from her weeks stay, she shares many stories that keeps the vehicle radio off till we return back to Marathon.*

*Our 2 hour drive home is filled with stories, laughter and songs that were sung from their week at camp. DBC is the highlight of my daughters summer holiday. Thank you DBC!*

*continued on page two...*



**PHILIP & KEIKO HICKS**

My wife and I'd just moved to Thunder Bay from Ottawa and were looking for some interesting activities for our 14-year-old son, Brian, to use to while away the final hours of his summer vacation. A new colleague of mine suggested he try out Dorion Bible Camp, so we quickly got him registered and paid up for that. He'd been to a Bible camp the previous summer in Southern Ontario and had had a great time playing games, learning about camping, making friends and what not. There was hardly any focus on religion other than perhaps saying grace before meals and one or two religion-centred activities throughout the entire two weeks there. Imagine our surprise then, to find out after collecting Brian from camp this year,

that he'd had a complete conversion to Christianity while at Dorion: to the extent that some of the first words out of his mouth after entering the car were: "Dad and Mom, you really ought to think more seriously about becoming real, practising Christians".

Now, he attends church regularly and seems like he is trying to live according to true Christian principles. Wow, Dorion Camp: what an impact you've made!

**STEPHANIE SHERLOCK**

As a Thunder Bay native, I will always consider Northwestern Ontario home. Each summer my two daughters spend 5 weeks there visiting their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

This past year was the first time my eldest daughter Lucy went to Dorion Bible Camp with her cousins Emma and Alyson. It was her first experience at sleep away camp and every part of it, from choosing her activities when she registered to actually spending the time in Dorion was wonderful for her! She enjoys sharing what she has learned with others and has already started planning for next year's adventure! It warms my heart when I think that even though my family lives on the West Coast, my girls will always have such a marvelous connection to North-western Ontario! My youngest daughter Piper can't wait until she is old enough to attend! Thank you so much!!

**DID YOU KNOW?** 

DBC is a part of CSSM Ministries.

CSSM Ministries has 43 Bible camps across Canada as well as kids clubs, VBS, and church plants.

Check them out at [www.cssm.ca](http://www.cssm.ca)!

## IMPORTANT DATES | SUMMER 2010

SCHEDULED	DATES	AGE GROUP
Staff Orientation	June 28-July 2	Staff
The Quest	July 4-9	13-15
On The Edge	July 11-16	11-13
GPS	July 18-23	9-12
In The Zone	July 25-30	9-12
Activate	Aug 1-6	7-9
All 4 Him	Aug 8-13	14-18
Paddle 2 the C	Aug 22-28	14-18

**DORION FUNDRAISING DINNER**

**Friday  
March 26, 2010  
Redwood Church**

**Email:  
[info@campdorion.com](mailto:info@campdorion.com)  
for information  
on how to get tickets**

### TEAMWORK by Kevin Pollock

This past summer was my forty-third being involved at DBC. This summer was special for me as God taught me about teamwork! It took a team effort to win the Wilson Cup and to clean our cabin to win the Golden Broom! Every year I attend Dorion Bible Camp I am reminded by the summer staff, that it takes a team to bring the gospel to the campers! We are all winners as we team up with God and He adds the increase and rewards us for our efforts! 1 Corinthians 6-8.

### CABINS LOOK GREAT!

Summer 2009 saw the exterior of all the boys cabins spruced up with a nice coat of stain. This contribution to the beauty of DBC was done by a team called VICS (Volunteers in Christ's Service) This is a group of people who are retired who want to benefit CSSM camps in Ontario. The project for summer 2010 will be painting the interior of the camper cabins. If you'd like to be involved with this the VICS will be at DBC June 7-25. Come help give the cabins a fresh new look! Please contact Howard McLeod to be involved [mchoward@shaw.ca](mailto:mchoward@shaw.ca)

### BEAUTIFUL LAWNS

We were fortunate to be able to purchase a new zero-turn lawnmower this year. The old John Deere mower has just not been able to keep up after so many years of service. This new Kubota mower cuts great and cuts faster and keeps the many acres of grass looking well manicured.

### MAILING LIST

Know anyone who would be interested in getting the Dorion Digest? If they email us at [info@campdorion.com](mailto:info@campdorion.com) and let us know, we'll add them to the list!

## LOOKING BACK

by "Out-Going" Board Member, Bram Kamerman

It was an early, blustery Saturday morning in January 2004 as I drove, with another board member to Dorion Bible Camp for my first meeting as a board member. I remember wondering if it was the road conditions, or my "sacrifice" of a precious Saturday, or the briefing I was receiving about the issues and matters facing the ministry, or maybe a combination of all three that had me seriously questioning why I had said, "yes" to the invitation to join the Dorion Bible Camp board. It is now, almost 6 years later and, as per camp constitutional guidelines, I am taking a "sabbatical" from serving on the board... and consequently feeling reflective. Outside of marriage and family very few things have impacted and shaped me in my adult life, like that of being involved in the ministry of Dorion Bible Camp.

Repeatedly I have recognized (and had to be reminded) that, to quote Psalm 127:1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it." In the midst of learning to apply that truth, there have been opportunities to complete what I trust was God ordained and God blessed "labour". For those of you who know the ministry of Dorion Bible Camp, you know that there is no shortage of "hats" that one can wear. Having tried on a number of the "hats" of responsibility, I have continually been drawn back to the truth of Psalm 127:1, thankful that God would use this ministry to not only to point children to Christ, but also to radically work in the lives of those who labour in the ministry. Often I have wondered if what God does through this ministry, in the lives of those serving there has "greater" significance than what He is doing in the lives of those campers who are the "recipients" of the service.

At a board and staff level it has been a time of change, most significantly as we bid farewell to Charlie Wilson as ministry director and welcomed Keith Adams to that position. Leading up to that change and then following it, considerable energy has gone into defining and redefining the mission of Dorion Bible Camp. Continually we have come back to these crucial (and affirmed) aspects of the ministry; Dorion Bible Camp is about presenting Christ to children and discipling those who are already in a relationship with Christ, as they come to serve in the ministry. Reaching these conclusions is not trivial; the camp has long enjoyed the support of many of you from all over Northwestern Ontario and beyond and yet ministry sustainability is constantly on our minds. What will a healthy, vibrant, sustainable ministry look like if it is to enjoy as many and more years of fruitful mission ahead as the 60 plus years that are behind it? At this point it would appear that exciting changes as well as difficult decisions will become the norm facing the Christian camping industry. Our ongoing prayer should be that Christian camping in Northwestern Ontario would flourish and that supporters and staff/directors of Dorion Bible Camp would continue to seek God's passion and direction for this ministry. Would it be that we could, in the midst of times that often seem unsettling, live sacrificially and yet recklessly to serve our King, for our good and His glory. Thank you for reading this and other accounts of God at work at Dorion Bible Camp and thank you for your support of this most significant ministry.

Dorion Bible Camp is a non-profit charitable organization that relies on donations, along with camper fees in order to run camp. If you would like to contribute towards this very important ministry you can fill out the donor card and mail it to:

