

Owen's First Adventures at Camp!

That first-time camp experience is just as memorable for campers as it is for their parents. Pulling up to the Camp Easter Seal grounds, taking in the scenic views while seeing the staff members welcoming everyone with cheerful waves and big smiles during drop-off can bring up a mix of emotions for new families. Excitement often dances with nervousness as parents and caregivers hug their loved ones goodbye for the first time, driving away slowly with tears in their eyes hoping their kids will have a fun experience and won't miss them too much! For campers like ten-year-old Owen, missing mom and dad often gets lost in the newness of meeting soon-to-be best friends, sing-alongs on the bus ride for ice cream, and "cannonball" jumps in the pool!



"Owen lives for the moment," shares mom Glenda with a smile.

"He is joyful, exuberant, and his personality is larger than life."

A fitting description for the ball of positive energy that filled Camp Easter Seal with lots of laughter and playfulness this past summer.

The decision to send Owen to Camp was not a difficult one for his parents. "We started thinking about camps for Owen when he was two and his older sisters went off to camp at Christopher Lake for the first time. It just so happened there was a girl with Down syndrome in their cabin that summer. That really got me thinking about how I wanted Owen to have a camp experience when he's old enough," explains Glenda, noting that she wants for Owen what all parents wish for their children - meaningful milestone moments.

Having already heard of Camp Easter Seal before Owen was eligible, the family didn't feel he was quite ready when he reached his sixth birthday - then came the COVID-19 pandemic. "During those two years everything was shut down, we didn't have to make that decision," recalls Glenda. "When Camp re-opened and Owen was nine it was very clear that he was ready to go and we too were ready and excited for him to attend."

CONTINUE ON OPPOSITE SIDE

Since 1954, Camp Easter Seal has been providing a one-of-a-kind experience for children, youth, and adults experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. The only barrier-free camp of its kind in the province, Camp Easter Seal is not just a special place for campers, it is a trusted place where parents and caregivers can leave their loved ones, knowing they are well taken care of for five full days of unfiltered fun and adventure!



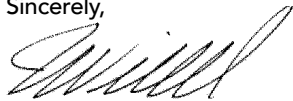
Everyone deserves that first milestone moment of going off to camp. The feeling of independence mixed with the excitement of meeting new friends and the many core memories made – nothing beats that! The best part, YOU can be a part of making that happen for children, youth, and adults experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. Your generous donation ensures no one is left behind this summer from having their first memorable Camp Easter Seal adventures!

CONTINUED FROM OPPOSITE SIDE

Sharing memories of his first adventures at Camp Easter Seal and all his favourite activities, Owen's excitement is palpable! "My favourite things at Camp were going to the swimming pool and spending time in the cabins," says Owen, quickly adding, "Oh, I had a wonderful time in the arts room." Prompted further by his mom, Glenda, about whether he enjoyed making his Camp Easter Seal tie-dye t-shirt on his first day, a very animated Owen responds "YES" with a big smile and bright eyes!

While sharing more exciting adventures of his first summer at Camp Easter Seal, it is very clear Owen can't wait to return to the grounds along Little Manitou Lake, but is Camp ready for Owen? The answer is a huge and resounding YES! "Owen is such a cheerful and fun person who makes friends with everyone around him. He's very inclusive, always wanting to involve everyone. He brings his full energy, curiosity, and playfulness to everything he does, which makes experiencing Camp through Owen's eyes even more magical for all those around him! We are happy his first experience at Camp was a memorable one, from the dips in the pool to the many handmade crafts, and of course, his outstanding performance at the talent show! We sure can't wait to see him back for another great summer," exclaims Camp Easter Seal Manager, Steve Grove.

Sincerely,



Ian Wilkinson,
Executive Director



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**STEVE GROVE
CAMP EASTER SEAL
MANAGER**

Camp Easter Seal is an inclusive sanctuary and supportive environment that offers children, youth, and adults experiencing disability the opportunity to thrive and be themselves while simultaneously providing parents and caregivers much-needed respite time. Your donations are essential in providing first-time and returning campers who flock to the lush green grounds of Camp each year with the best summer ever! The cost of Camp should never be another hurdle campers and their families must face getting access to the programs and services that are vital to their well-being and growth! The cost to host one camper for a week-long adventure is over \$1,900 dollars. That amount can be an overwhelming expense for families who do not have the financial resources to send their loved ones to Camp. Your donations can provide a first-time camper like Owen with the best summer adventures at Camp Easter Seal this summer!