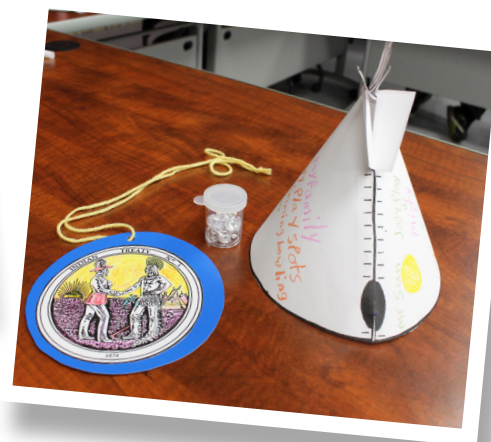


# SPLASH

**SaskAbilities**  
ConnectAbilities

**Easter Seals**  
Saskatchewan

## First Nations and Treaty Education for Summer Fun and SLYP-Out




It was an exciting day of learning, sing-alongs and activities on Monday, August 15th as Elaine Sutherland, Director of Treaty Education from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) visited the Summer Fun and SLYP-Out groups in Regina. Elaine created an exciting and engaging environment full of teachings about treaties, First Nations culture and ways of life.

"I completely loved my time at SaskAbilities," exclaimed Elaine, "I was inspired by participants willingness to learn about First Nations people and treaty education. My hope in doing these presentations is to help people not only learn the truth about First Nations people, treaty education, and breaches of treaty, but also to dispel the myths and misconceptions that are out there. During our time together I did my best to

create a safe space where meaningful dialogue could take place. As always, my goal is for people to leave with clear knowledge and a better understanding of everything learned and discussed and to bridge any knowledge gaps. For those participants who took away some new knowledge, they can turn around and share that knowledge with family and friends."

The interactive session had participants engaged as they learned through storytelling and visual components about First Nations peoples' ways of life before settlers arrived and what the treaties represented. "The presentations were a great opportunity for participants to learn about the treaties here in Saskatchewan. We are so grateful that Elaine was able to offer this information in a fun and interactive way. She answered all the participants' questions. We have never had an opportunity like this before and I think that it was a learning experience for everyone present," explained Sarah Sweet, Youth Program Facilitator.

As a reminder of Elaine's teachings, Summer Fun and SLYP-Out participants were able to colour their own treaty medal and also design and create their own tipi to take home. "Each individual took something different from the session. The impact of the knowledge shared was unique to each participant, and I can say that the stories and first-person perspective were important and very meaningful. It was obvious that participants were engaged throughout the sessions, singing along in both English and Cree, asking questions, recalling information when asked, and of course making their own personalized treaty medal and tipi. Elaine did such a great job of captivating the audience despite the wide age gaps. We all really appreciated her time spent with us and I am hopeful we will continue to have such important presentations and conversations facilitated by the OTC at SaskAbilities," said Sweet of future collaborations and learning opportunities. 





# RETURNING TO CAMP EASTER SEAL

**By Steve Grove,  
Camp Manager, Camp Easter Seal**

The task of reopening Camp after two years of a virtual experience is somewhat daunting. Hiring more than 35 seasonal staff members, cleaning buildings and trying to start vehicles that have sat unused for almost three years was a challenge. Discovering that the lake has dropped a metre or so in the intervening time created other issues and barriers. But you know what? I was able to reap what others have sown. I discovered that Camp Easter Seal at Little Manitou Lake has deep roots, deep enough to survive through the toughest of difficulties that time can throw at us. Roots that have nurtured the best summer ever.

As this camp season started, first with staff training and then campers arriving, it became a resounding success. I took a picture of the first camper to show up – the launch of many eager participants wanting to experience all that Camp Easter Seal has to offer, many for the first time.

Activities included arts & crafts, sports, music, drama, and, of course, the pool, which has been recently renovated. There were talent shows, banquets, and dances. The new addition to Camp, the tree house, was a unique experience for campers, as was the shade provided by a canopy strung with lights on our patio.


I would often sit in my office immersed in the music, the sounds and sights of fun, and the laughter as the dunk tank emptied on yet another staff member or camper. I loved to participate in the last night party on the patio. Here a staff member was twirling a camper to lively music, there a dance-off starting with wild moves to end with wilder ones.

A sea of hands went up in unison to a song known by most while a staff member and camper sat smiling at all the movement going on. Fancy dresses, sparkly shirts, cowboy hats, tie-dyes – we had it all.

By week's end, staff would put on sunglasses to hide their tears, while many campers openly let them fall. Each week

we met strangers who by Friday, left as friends, discovering that there was indeed a time for everything under the sun. In the end, we continued what so many others have done since 1954. The campers went home with memories to last. Staff members were stretched, many beyond what they considered possible, proving again and again that they are the heart of Camp Easter Seal.

The ethos of Camp is that magic happens here – and I witnessed that this summer. I was so proud of the staff members – the challenge was before them, and they picked up the gauntlet thrown down by the pandemic and stood tall, shoulder to shoulder, to support individuals to have the experience of a lifetime.

Many thanks to the dedicated community groups and individuals who fundraise and volunteer to make Camp Easter Seal happen. Your contributions do indeed make a huge impact on who we are and you are just as much a part of the Camp Easter Seal team as everyone here. 



# The famous Arts & Crafts program at Camp Easter Seal

When Liz Guest's mom signed her up for her first year at Camp Easter Seal – she was NOT excited to go. "To be honest, I just wanted to stay home. I was bullied a lot when I was growing up and I thought Camp would just be one more place where this would happen. I also thought that since I required a little help doing certain things – no one would help me because they wouldn't like me," admits Liz, Recreation Program Leader of the Arts & Crafts program at Camp Easter Seal. In the end, Liz did make it to Little Manitou Lake that summer...and many summers after that! "I soon learned people weren't there to judge me, they were there to accept me. Already, by my first day of Camp I didn't want to leave and after seven years as a camper and many years in the role I am in today – I still don't want to leave!"

Starting off working in the administration office in 2008, Liz realized her passion was interacting with campers and took a position in the Arts & Crafts program in 2009. "As a program staff member, I feel it's where I shine. My current position as Recreation Program Leader allows me the freedom to think outside the box and create unique projects based on what campers are interested in," explains Liz of her passion for creativity and working with campers of all ages.


Admitting she has always had a creative flair, something passed down to her by her own mother and fostered in elementary school, Liz, with the help of local artist Michael Gaudet has over the years transformed the Arts & Crafts pavilion into its own evolving and dynamic art project. "The building is WAY more inviting and encourages creativity with the addition of beautiful artwork all around," explains Liz. "In the summer of 2012, Manitou Beach artist Michael Gaudet was commissioned by me and approved by SaskAbilities to help design and paint a colourful 'montage' style mural. This mural highlights the activities of campers and staff members and was permanently installed over the large door at the apex of the east-facing wall and is visible from a great

distance." Another eye-catching feature of the pavilion is the artwork on the windows. "Michael and I designed the tall flanking windows around the perimeter of the pavilion. These colourful renderings show some of the activities that make Camp Easter Seal such a wonderful place to experience."

Aside from the colourful artwork outside of the building – Liz has also made a point of continuing the creative extravaganza on the inside of the pavilion with weekly or annual signed cabinets by staff and campers, Waldo artwork (who was given a refresh this summer), Sponge Bob floor rendering (created to cover up a yellow paint blob), and Patrick (Sponge Bob needed a friend). "Various staff members over the years have had a hand in helping with this additional artwork," confesses Liz, happily!

As for the future of the Arts & Crafts program at Camp Easter Seal...Liz is hopeful it continues to be a camper favourite! "My hope is that it will continue to be an amazing part and experience for the campers and staff members alike. It allows campers to enjoy making a 'mess' while

having fun creating their projects. Not only does it give campers an experience they might never have had before but it also provides a physical memento of camp – something to take home and share with family and friends. Something to look at and remember their time spent with us," shares Liz of her desire to see the continuation of the Arts & Crafts program flourish for many years to come.

With Liz continuing her role as Recreation Program Leader – we are sure to see more exciting artwork happening in and on the famous Arts & Crafts pavilion at Camp Easter Seal. 



## DONATION FORM

Yes, I would like to support Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan with a gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ I prefer to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name .....

Address.....

City/Town..... Postal Code .....

E-mail.....

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ I have enclosed a cheque payable to: Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan

☐ Please charge my: ☐  ☐  ☐ 

Credit No. ....

Expiry Date .....

Signature .....

PLEASE MAIL TO:

**EASTER SEALS™  
SASKATCHEWAN**

**2310 Louise Avenue,  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7**

We do not sell or trade our names.  
Your information is kept confidential.  
Tax receipts will be issued for  
donations of \$10 or more.

**Charitable Registration  
#107955221 RR0001**

### ADDITIONAL GIFT GIVING OPTIONS

ONLINE – Please visit [saskabilities.ca](http://saskabilities.ca)  
and click on DONATE

TELEPHONE – Please call us at 306.374.4448



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Board of Directors

Bruce Acton	Saskatoon
Brenda Bancescu	Regina
Paul Blackstock	Saskatoon
Bonnie Cherewyk	Saskatoon
Kyle Christ	Saskatoon
Henri de La Garde	Saskatoon
Michelle Hunter	Regina
Stan Lautsch	Swift Current
Andy Livingston	Saskatoon
Nicole Onufrechuk	Saskatoon
Sandra Ruff	Yorkton
William Schwarz	Regina
Tom Spence	Saskatoon
Jonathan Tremblay	Regina

**President:** Michelle Hunter  
**Executive Director:** Ian Wilkinson

ConnectAbilities is published three times a year, including the summer edition called SPLASH, and distributed free of charge to members of SaskAbilities. Articles printed in the newsletter may be reproduced with written permission from SaskAbilities. For more information on our programs, products and services, please contact one of our offices located across the province:

Regina	(306) 569-9048
Swift Current	(833) 526-5299
Yorkton	(833) 444-4126
Prince Albert	(306) 922-0225
Moose Jaw	(306) 693-3020
Saskatoon:	
Kilburn	(306) 653-1694
Provincial Services	(306) 374-4448

We welcome your comments.

**SaskAbilities**  
 2310 Louise Avenue  
 Saskatoon SK S7J 2C7



E-MAIL:  
[communications@saskabilities.ca](mailto:communications@saskabilities.ca)

ONLINE:  
[saskabilities.ca](http://saskabilities.ca)

Publication Mail Agreement No.  
 40069020 Return Undeliverable  
 Canadian Addresses to:  
**SaskAbilities**  
 2310 Louise Avenue  
 Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

# REPRESENTATION MATTERS! Inclusive Puppets at Camp Easter Seal...



When Carrie McComber, Director of Rehabilitation Services reached out to Camp Easter Seal staff to inquire about items needed to make this first summer back extra special, she wasn't quite sure what they might want. "As a team we decided we wanted to support Camp in a meaningful way and do something we hadn't done in the past," explains Carrie.

Jennifer Christian, Office Administrator at Camp Easter Seal, explains her excitement at the opportunity: "During Camp Connected we utilized smaller animal puppets to create storylines and activities on the grounds as a replacement for staff members during the pandemic. They were fun and interactive and well received by campers virtually but were small and not that exciting to play with in person. When we started to think about campers returning and expanding the dramatic arts program, we did a search online and found this amazing drama troupe of people puppets. We immediately thought about how cool it would be to have larger scale puppets that represent campers."

Camp staff sent their puppet ideas to Carrie and left the rest to her. "The staff in Rehabilitation Services really came through on this one. I sent a request for support and within a couple of weeks we had the money raised to purchase the puppets," explains Carrie who notes there is a special relationship between Camp and Rehabilitation Services. "We are big supporters of Camp. We have staff members in Rehabilitation Services now that used to work at Camp Easter Seal too. We also see many clients each year that have either been to Camp or still go and we know how much they enjoy it."

"We sourced a wheelchair that would fit the puppets and it's just so awesome to see campers feel represented in that way. These puppets have been involved in talent shows, plays, music and singing... it's been a really great investment," ensures Jennifer who also notes the puppets won't be taking any holidays during Camp's offseason – instead they will be used for programs and activities at the Saskatoon Branch. 