



CAMP MCGOVERN

Campfire News

Visit us at:

RR#1 River Road
Elmwood, ON N0G 1S0

Mailing Address:

PO Box 20029
HANOVER, ON N4N 3T1

Winter Update, 2020:

A YEAR TO RECHARGE: PREPARING FOR SUMMER 2021

Most of us are happy to say **goodbye to 2020**. For McGovern, it will be remembered as the year we had no campers, and we sincerely hope that will never happen again. At this point, we really can't predict how the **summer of 2021** will look, but we are determined to do what it takes to offer **a camp program of some description** and to make it an exciting summer. **Stay tuned** for updates!

One goodbye we are sad about is the **departure of our Camp Director, Heather Thompson**, who has decided to pursue a teaching career. Heather will be working towards her Masters of Education qualification, and we are delighted for her. She has promised to stay in touch and help out as needed. We look forward to welcoming her back to camp as a visitor! **Thank you very much, Heather, for your enthusiasm and dedication** to all that McGovern stands for, and the very best to you in your new career path.

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTORS

With all the uncertainty surrounding Covid 19 pandemic restrictions, the board of directors has decided to try a **new staffing model** and move away from having a full-time camp director. This decision was made in part to accommodate the availability of **Bradley Gaasenbeek** and his fiancée, **Madison Kerr**, to act jointly as **part time directors**.

Brad and Madi live in Hanover, so are close to the camp. They both work as teachers for the local school board. Brad **has worked at McGovern** for 2 years, as Assistant Director, as well as being a huge help to us with property maintenance. His connection to the camp goes back much farther, as he took part in the annual tree planting efforts of the Hanover Scouts each Arbour Day. We'd like you to extend **a very warm welcome** to Brad and Madi as they face the unknown challenges of 2021 and beyond.



CURLING FOR CAMPERS

Curling for Campers continues to be a successful fundraising event for the Camp, the most recent of which was held on February 28, 2020. Less than three weeks later marked the start of a very different year. While 2021 brings new hope, Curling for Campers will be postponed this year but please **mark your calendars for February 26, 2022**.

For those who have donated, rest assured that **your donations have been set aside** and will be used towards sending underprivileged children to camp. While we don't know what 2021 will bring, our hope is to have some programming in place for this summer.

Camp McGovern continues to be in a good financial position as most of the maintenance of the camp is done by dedicated board members and volunteers.

ANNUAL POKER RUN

Our **2020 Poker Run** was modified to comply with Covid restrictions, and despite being offered as a **'Thank You' to our supporters**, the event still raised an **impressive \$15,000**.

Nobody seemed to mind that there was no breakfast, no prizes and no stops along the way, but for a drive through of the Pike Lake trailer park. The parade of cars were warmly welcomed by members of the **Pike Lake-Minto Lions Club**, and many park residents who came out to view the classic vehicles and cheer on the drivers. Instead, everyone enjoyed an individually packaged lunch outside in the glorious sunshine, as well as a fly fishing demonstration thanks to **Jeff Parks of Calmwater**, walks around the property and for many families, tubing along the Saugeen river.

It was wonderful to see the camp being enjoyed by children again, as it should be. Here's hoping many more kids will get to enjoy the Camp McGovern experience in 2021. Wishing a very **Happy New Year** to all our supporters!

ADDRESS

Update

With our camp directors being in Hanover, it seems appropriate to **change our mailing address** to a local one. Please note that with immediate effect, our address will be as shown at the top of page one. There is no change to our telephone number and email address.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: LAIRD NELSON



From the time McGovern moved to its current location near Hanover, we have been blessed to have the assistance of a **forestry management expert**, Laird Nelson. Despite living in Eastern Ontario, he makes an annual visit to the camp and advises on pruning, new planting, harvesting wood, as well as management of the river bank, all of which help us be better stewards of our beautiful property. He is a font of knowledge on flora and fauna and is always happy to lead an insightful nature walk and share fascinating facts and a joke or two. **Thank you, Laird, for all the years of support and assistance.**

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