

Steeprock Bay Bible Camp

Box 3107, Swan River MB RoL 1Zo info@steeprockministries.com

Vision:

Knowing the love of Jesus and following Him together

Values:

- Hope in Christ
- Respect for All
- Truth of God's Word
- Learning in Community

Mission:

Steeprock Bay Bible Camp is an interdenominational camp that teaches the Word of God and principles of Christian life so that children in this area may know Jesus- "The Way, the Truth and the Life" John 14:6

Annual General Meeting Package

November 25, 2023

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Minutes of last AGM November 27, 2021
- 3) Director's Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- 5) Audit Report
- 6) Chairperson's Report
- 7) Thrift Shop Report



SBBC Board Members – when term ends

Katie Kroeker – 2023

James Brown, Bethany Matejka – 2024

Ferlin Abrahamson, Kendra Crowley – 2025



Agenda: Steeprock Bay Bible Camp Annual General Meeting

November 25, 2023 at Swan River, MB

Camp Director: Logan Bueckert

Chair: Ferlin Abrahamson

Secretary: Bethany Matejka

Call to Order: 6 PM

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Minutes of AGM November 26, 2022
- 3) Nominations
- 4) Reports
- 5) Election
- 6) Budget 2024: \$90,604 income/\$92,550 expense

Next Annual General Meeting November 23, 2024

Adjournment: 9 PM

AGM November 26th, 2022 at CBF

People present: 45

Chair: Ferlin Abrahamson

Recording Secretary: Kendra Crowley

Meeting called to order at 6:13 PM, quorum being present

Motion to adopt agenda as presented

Kelsey Friesen/Mike Plett m/s/c

Motion to adopt minutes of AGM November 27, 2021 as read

Kendra Crowley/James Brown m/s/c

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Brad Muller

Director's Report presented by Logan Bueckert

Thrift Shop Report by Marilyn Reimer

Chair Report by Ferlin Abrahamson

Motion to adopt reports as presented

Vlad Matejka/Randy Plett m/s/c

Nominations/Elections

Election by acclamation:

Kendra Crowley – unanimous

Ferlin Abrahamson – unanimous

Budget

Motion to approve budget 2023 with \$76,650 income/expenses

Mike Plett/Darlene Brown m/s/c

Motion that we adjourn at 8:20 PM

Jackie Snell/Elizabeth Abrahamson m/s

Next AGM November 25, 2023



Director's Report

Saved by Grace through faith. I still remember praying for God to give us a theme idea for the summer and before I said amen, the words "saved by grace" popped into my head. (Eph. 2:8) I knew right away that God had answered my prayer. It seems that even though we usually choose a theme intending to teach it to the campers, God intends to use it to teach us in the process.

There was no shortage of opportunities to extend grace at camp as we hosted many campers who misbehave as a way of crying out for love and attention. One stands out in my mind. It had been a very challenging week with this boy, and his cabin leaders were at their wits end trying to get him to the cabin for bed. After multiple attempts to get the boy to bed, Alicia suggested we offer to play a game with him. He accepted so we relieved the cabin leaders of the struggle and took him to the dining hall to play Sorry. We treated him to a night snack and drink of his choice. He happily played the game with us, smiling and commenting on how nice we were. Getting him to bed after that was much less of a challenge. These are the times I'm reminded that I'm often that defiant camper who the Lord shakes his head at but still chooses to love me, bless me and use me. God's grace is very humbling.

The summer began with God showering us with blessings. Ephesians 3:20-21 reads "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" this was a verse that came to mind as we received a van, trailer, boat and various other donations. How great is it to serve a Lord who provides for all our needs, but also provides more than we need. If you want to know more about that please read our newsletter.

For the last three years we've had a big desire to see the Waymaker program functioning again. We love to see young people from the First Nations communities stepping up as leaders and being trained in the scriptures and spiritual growth. This summer we saw that happen. Steve and Bethany did a fantastic job of leading the waymakers and even went above and beyond, such as to go to Sap to recruit more waymakers. The program ran for the last two weeks of camp and each week we had 7 students. In total 10 people took part, 5 of which we have asked to consider coming back next year as cabin leaders. This year we removed the requirement for the waymakers to have accepted Christ before they come. This opened it up for those who were seeking to take the next step. All the ones who had not accepted Christ before hand made that decision by the time they left. One even asked to be baptized and his dad came to witness that very special moment.

For the past few years we have been without a lifeguard. This year, not only did God send us a lifeguard all the way from Vancouver Island but he sent an NCEM missionary family, Timothy and Laura Block and their 5 kids. What a blessing it was to have them join our team for the last two weeks of camp and pack up week.

Our camper attendance was 153 this year which is up from 133 last year. It is exciting to see that number climbing even though it has been slow since covid.

We were once again grateful to our faithful staff from Morden who staffed a significant portion of the summer. We had an energy boost when a group of 7 people from Saskatchewan who are associated with Big River Bible Camp came to cabin lead for week 5. There were also a number of local people who volunteered in various ways. Many were in the kitchen for a few days or a week at a time. 57 people in

total were on staff in some capacity throughout the summer. It really is a team effort, right from the hands on work of the summer staff, to the board, to those who support prayerfully and financially.



It has been a year now since Alicia and I have Joined NCEM. This has allowed me to switch to 4 day weeks at the farm where I work. My Fridays are often spent working on camp administration or travelling for board meetings. As we look ahead, we are prayerfully pursuing full time ministry with a focus on the communities that Steepprock serves. Next week we are planning to visit some of the communities that sent campers this summer and deliver the Christmas cards that the cabin leaders wrote to their campers.

We were asked by a Christian school in Winnipeg if we could facilitate a trip to a reserve to do day camps with their ministry team during spring break. We're currently working on plans for this trip and look forward to the opportunity for outreach and follow up as well as the relationship that might come from this.

God has been so good and when we look at how He has sustained us through the challenges of the last year, we look forward to what He will do in the year ahead.

- Logan Bueckert, Director

Waymaker Report 2023

When Logan asked us to come back to lead the Waymaker program this past summer we were unsure how things were going to look. We were excited to lead this program because we firmly believe that SBBC's ministry will benefit from more staff coming from the same communities that the campers come from. Not only is it beneficial for campers to be led by staff they know, they culturally understand each other, and hopefully natural follow-up can occur after camp.

Even though the Waymaker program hadn't run in a few years, we felt God preparing us for something amazing to take place. Monday afternoon rolled around and we had three teenagers show up alongside the younger campers for the week. However, one of the teenagers was from Sapotaweyak. She said that she had a cousin that was maybe going to come to camp, but she didn't have a ride. She phoned her cousin, and found out that she wanted to come, so we said we could come pick her up. Logan told us there was another guy who had come to teen camp earlier in the summer who had expressed interest in being a Waymaker as well, but he hadn't showed up yet. We had no address or contact info for him. But we were able to get ahold of one of his cousins. We asked this cousin to try to find the guy and tell him to pack a bag for camp, and we would meet him at the town office.

We had enough seats in our own minivan to take the three waymakers we had, take our kids, and have one open seat to pick up the cousin of the teenager we knew that wanted to come. But we decided to step out in faith and take the full-size camp van so we had more seats. Before we left, we prayed that we find this other guy whose cousin was looking for him to tell him about camp.

We drove down the road to the reserve and picked up girl's cousin as planned. Then to kill time for the fifth waymaker to make it to the town office, the teens gave us a tour of the reserve. As we were driving around, we see two young guys walking down a road. Sure enough, one of them was the guy we were hoping to find! After a brief conversation, both him and his friend wanted to come to camp. So we took them to their houses to pack. One of them lived with another teenager, who also wanted to come to camp. And even the second week, they brought another friend too! It was very cool to see how God answered our prayers and brought these teens to the camp.



Over the two weeks, we had our ups and downs. However, it was amazing to see God working in the lives of these Waymakers! There are many stories that could be shared, but they would all be overshadowed by the fact that we had the absolute privilege of having 10 waymakers come over the course of the two weeks! Four of whom had never accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. After the first week, one of them had accepted Christ! During the second week, two more accepted Christ. One of the teens who had been a Christian for a few years expressed a desire to be baptized. We had the honor of baptizing him on the last day of camp, and through the events of the baptism, the final teen accepted Christ!

We hope and pray that the seeds that were sown this past summer will reap a bountiful harvest, even though many of the participants have gone back to lives that are far from easy. Join us in praying for these Waymakers. We thank God that they all took steps of faith this past summer. Let's pray that the enemy will not be able to choke out their convictions, and even more: that these 10 would each be raised up through the power of the Holy Spirit to lead peers and family members in their communities to the transforming love of Jesus!

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” – Ephesians 3:20-21

- Steve & Bethany Buhler, Waymaker Leaders

Treasurer's Report

November 16, 2022-November 15, 2023

	Budget Item Line	2021-2022 Budget	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget
I N C O M E	Camper Fees	\$23,500.00	\$15,769.50	\$22,500.00	\$14,090.00	\$21,075.00
	Thrift Shop Sales	\$6,000.00	\$6,755.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,315.00	\$6,500.00
	Donations	\$41,000.00	\$45,811.57	\$42,000.00	\$91,044.25	\$45,000.00
	Other (Interest, Merchandise)	\$1,150.00	\$3,983.25	\$2,650.00	\$4,687.76	\$4,150.00
	Grants				\$11,379.00	\$11,379.00
	Capital Giving	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$2,500.00	\$0	\$2,500.00
	TOTAL	\$76,650.00	\$72,319.32	\$76,650.00	\$128,516.01	\$90,604.00
E X P E N S E	General Operating Expenses	-\$41,150.00 \$42,300.00	-\$45,350.06	-\$48,400.00	-\$62,816.55	-\$57,300.00
	Maintenance	-\$4,500.00	-\$4,493.73	-\$3,500.00	-\$5,727.27	-\$4,500.00
	Staff, Bursary, Gifts	-\$26,000.00	-\$18,171.04	-\$22,250.00	-\$29,334.26	-\$25,250.00
	Capital Projects	-\$5,000.00	-\$506.17	-\$2,500.00	-\$22,202.34	-\$5,500.00
	TOTAL	-\$76,650.00	-\$68,521.00	-\$76,650.00	-\$120,080.42	-\$92,550.00
	NET	\$0	\$3,798.32	\$0	\$8,435.59	-\$1,946.00

Total Fluid Assets as of November 15, 2021 = \$24,792.70

Total Fluid Assets as of November 15, 2022 = \$23,481.77

Total Fluid Assets as of November 15, 2023 = \$36,667.27



Audit Report

Brad Muller, Steeprock Bay Bible Camp
Treasurer. Documents presented to
N B Johnston. All checked over
with Brad via Zoom meeting
Thursday 23 November 2023.
All in order!

N B Johnston



From the Chair

Heraclitus was a Greek philosopher living in Ephesus about 500 years before Jesus walked this Earth. He was very impacted by the transience of life and viewed the world around him as always becoming and never being. He was known as “the weeping philosopher” due to his melancholic way of seeing the world. One of his most remembered quotes is *“No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man. There is nothing permanent except change.”* This past week, a friend of mine from Winnipeg told me that he can hardly wait to retire since the rate of change has accelerated so much that he just cannot keep up.

Steepprock Bay Bible Camp celebrates the things in life that are constant. The promises of God, His love for the world, and our need of Him are things that do not change. But many things can and do change.

For the first 30 years of my involvement with SBBC I felt assurance that the location was secure and where SBBC started is where it would always be. This was significant to me since I have been involved in a few other camps where relocation was necessary. The process of getting that assurance formalized has not worked out the way we hoped. After multiple meetings and negotiations, the conclusion of Sapotawayak Cree Nation is that they will not be giving approval to any camp permit expansion. Not having permit clarification means that there can be no building permits granted, and all plans for long term rejuvenation of camp buildings are on hold, perhaps indefinitely.

Throughout much of the life of SBBC, finding campers has been relatively easy and finding registration money has been difficult. The last few years those two facts have inverted. Bands and agencies are quite happy to provide the funding, but camper numbers are down significantly. While still hopeful that the ‘pandemic dip’ will be overcome and camper numbers will return to normal, the difficult decision to offer less camps has needed to be faced.

The camper cabins at SBBC have never been luxurious, but they have adequately served the purpose they were designed for. Due to changing rules and best practices, it has now become apparent that it would be beneficial for the cabins to have more bed space per cabin and more privacy for change room space within the cabin. More work needs to be done to decide the best way to proceed, but ‘status quo’ will not be sufficient.

Ever increasing administrative demands for privacy, insurance, safety protocol, and other areas has led to the need for more staff to keep up with all that. One of the ‘regular’ SBBC characteristics has been difficulty attracting sufficient staff. Increased staffing needs has not made that job easier. But change is real and backing up cannot happen. As Gandhi put it, “the wheels of time have ratchets.”

For all the years I have been a part of SBBC, there has been a consistent desire to have the director and staff able to be more actively involved in follow-up activity outside of camp. There has also been a great concern about overstretching the camp by attempting any kind of year-round ministry. When Logan and Alicia joined NCEM as part-time missionaries, and even more now as they prepare to move to full-time status in the new year, the opportunity to embrace change presents itself again.

I’m very thankful for our camp director and their ability to navigate these changing and challenging times. I’m thankful for a resilient board who do good work in both the governance and the hands on sides of SBBC. There is need for more board members to take up the task and the challenge and the change. If you are interested in that please contact a board member.



After a number of years as board chair, I will be stepping out of that role going forward. May our unchanging God continue to guide this incredible ministry as we move forward in the midst of a world that never stays the same.

- Ferlin Abrahamson, Board Chair



Thrift Shop Report

Praise God for another fun and productive year!! There have been a lot of donations again and also a lot of sales. Many weeks my trips to Swan River include picking up donations somewhere in town or along the way, which I am happy to do. Just last Friday I was asked to pick up boxes at Formo Motors and I had to figure out how I'd still have room to get groceries in my vehicle. I should probably add that Wayne also picks up a lot of the donations since he makes more trips to Swan than I do.

Something that's been enjoyable this past year is getting to know a young family that has moved into Birch River from Chile. The young lady loves to come shop most weeks and has now been bringing along her mother-in-law who is visiting them from Chile. She doesn't speak English so we have been having fun teaching each other our languages! Last week the three of us - Macarena and Belen and myself spent a long time separating a big chunk of tangled up jewelry. We never know what a day will hold!!

Something that was both a surprise and an encouragement this year was when I got to the Thrift Shop to open one Thursday and opened the drop off bin there was a big box of new Bibles from Lifelight Ministries. When I called the office in Winnipeg to thank them no one really seemed to know how they had found their way to Birch River. But Praise God!! Because they are very well received!! Please continue to pray for the people (of all ages) who have been taking these Bibles into their homes. Pray that they will desire to read them and the Holy Spirit will help them to understand.

Once again, thank you for supporting the Thrift Shop and I also ask that you remember to pray for us who spend time there. Pray for our safety and also that we would have a genuine interest in the people who come there each week. There are some who are definitely sad and hurting and need to talk and so please pray that we would be sensitive to those needs.

- Marilyn Reimer, Thrift Shop Coordinator

Katrina Brown and her mom Katharina Neufeld have very willingly driven to Birch occasionally to work on a Thursday and this report is by Katrina:

I think it's always interesting and enjoyable, you meet people you maybe wouldn't otherwise and it's good! Some of our customers from the pharmacy recognize me there and they seem confused and say "where DO you work?" I always enjoy when I can help out and usually use it as an opportunity to shop for myself!! Always great deals to find. Everyone should go at least a couple of times in the year!

- Katrina Brown