



COASTERS
ASSOCIATION
UNITED FOR A BETTER FUTURE

2009

KIDS Summer Camp Report



Prepared by Jenny Thomas

October 2009

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Introduction

Each year KIDS Summer Camps accommodates the youth and parents in five (5) municipalities across the Lower North Shore (Blanc Sablon, St. Paul's River, St. Augustine, La Tabatiere and the Eau-Naturelle Discovery Camp in Chevery). These camps provide a safe and happy environment, a unique learning experience for all those involved, as well as assist the camp counsellors with leadership skills that will help them in their future endeavors. It is a place where youth can interact with other youth in an adventurous, natural and spiritual environment. Therefore, the continuation and expansion of the KIDS Summer Camp is an important service to the population of the Lower North Shore.

The mission of the KIDS Summer Camp is "To nurture and develop a safe and healthy environment in which youth can improve their health and obtain skills that will assist them in their future lives, through physical activities (baseball, track-n-field, soccer, etc...), mental development (leadership training, mentoring, etc...), artistic growth (music, art, dance, etc...), environment awareness (greenhouse, composting, nature watching, etc...) and community/family participation (volunteers, family/community events, etc...)"

This year's theme for KIDS Summer Camp 2009 was ***Going Green*** some of the activities included were water games, nature walks, recycling crafts, beach clean up, camp out, outdoor/indoor sports and flower planting, etc. These activities gave the kids an idea on what "Going Green" actually meant. Ideas such as; awareness of dangers to our environment, skills to aid in a greener lifestyle, appreciation for the environment, learn team leadership and communication skills, learn the benefits of a green lifestyle, and experience a healthier lifestyle through sports and arts activities. Thus, this theme will provide the children with a greater point of view of how and why taking care of the environment is important.

Overview of Project

Jenny Thomas was hired as the new Youth Camp Coordinator and began work on May 4th, 2009 through to October 25th, 2009 (21 weeks). Some of the duties were:

- Coordinate summer camp program all ready established (5)
- Implement (1) new summer camp (Old Fort Bay).
- Develop new strategies for registration.
- Supervise camp counsellors.
- Oversee the overall working administration for the 2009 camps.

This year (2009) the five (5) camps already established were maintained and an additional camp was initiated but was unsuccessful due to lack of interest and participation from the parents in Old Fort Bay.

Committees

KIDS Summer Camp Committee

Chevery	La Tabatiere	St. Augustine	St. Paul's River	Blanc Sablon
Ana Osborne	Paula Evans	Laurette Gallibois	Kimberly Buffitt	Tania Edmonds
Pam Anderson	Terry Bobbitt	Judy Robertson	Shannon Keats	Shelly Jones
Belinda Rowsell	Adeline Anderson	Jolene Beaudion	Trina Roberts	Kimberly Buckle
Shanna Lavallee		Jacqui Gallibois	Gail Roberts	Jessica Purcell
Marie Anderson		Marsha Chubbs		

The steering committee was comprised of one (1) person from each KIDS Summer Camp Committee, as well as Jenny Thomas, Youth Coordinator. The following is a list of the 2009 steering committee members:

Steering Committee

Member	Camp Site
Ana Osborne	Chevery
Paula Evans	La Tabatiere
Laurette Gallibois	St. Augustine
Kimberly Buffitt	St. Paul's River
Tania Edmonds	Lourdes de Blanc Sablon
Jenny Thomas (non-voting member)	St. Paul's River

Each year a list of resource persons is established consisting of representatives from various organizations along the Lower North Shore. The following is the list of the 2009 resource members:

Resource Persons

Member	Organization
Cornella Maurice (Executive Director)	Coasters Association
Melissa Lawless	Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi (CJE)
Vicki Driscoll	Community Economic Development Employability Committee (CEDEC)
Patrishia Nash	Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF)
Caroline Mullin	Quebec Anglican Church
Lorelei Muller	Quebec 4-H
Jenny Thomas (Coordinator)	Coasters Association

Partnerships

Agreements were formed with local municipalities, sports committee's and governing boards to use their facilities (free of charge) to operate the program. We are proud to say that these partnerships were continued in 2009. Without the generous support from the following organizations the KIDS Summer Camp would not have been possible.

Camp Site	Organization
Chevery	Municipalité de Golfe Saint Laurent
La Tabatiere	Mecatina School
St. Augustine	St. Augustine Sports and Leisure Committee (Arena)
St. Paul's River	St. Paul's School
Lourdes de Blanc Sablon	Corporation of Development of Blanc Sablon (Arena)

Reports/Documentation

An application was submitted to Services Canada for five (5) student camp counsellor positions (one per camp site) for eight (8) weeks, which was accepted.

An application was submitted to Young Canada Works for seven (7) student camp counsellor positions (one per camp site) and one (1) student animator position to research and create an implement plan for the French Immersion Teen Camp for ten (10) weeks. Young Canada Works approved all eight positions, covering 70% of the salary and the remaining funds were covered by the inscription fees from each camp site. Also, housing allowance of \$1.35 per hour was provided which brought the total salary per hour up to

\$10.35, and the travel expenses to and from the camp site (to their place of study) was also covered.

Contributions of Partners

The KIDS Summer Camp requires funding from a variety of sources. Through the commitment and support from organizations and businesses on and off the coast the necessary funding was secured to maintain the four (4) camps established, as well as continue supporting the Eau Naturelle Discover camp in Chevery. The following is a list of the funding partners:

Organization	Category	Funding Received
Young Canada Works	Counsellor/Animator Salary	\$19,505
Services Canada	Counsellor Salary	\$11,836
Caisse Populaire de Blanc Sablon	Assist with Coordinator Salary	\$1,800
Caisse Populaire de La Tabatiere	Assist with Coordinator Salary	\$1,800
Caisse Populaire de Tête à la Baleine	Snacks	\$1,000
North Shore Deanery	Salaries and Camp Material	\$4,000
Anglican Church Diocese	Coordinator/Counsellor Salary	\$6,000
Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) Bob Bryan	Camp Material	\$2,000
Centre Local de Developpement de la Basse-Cote-Nord (CLD)	Salaries and Operating costs	\$8,470
Underground Services Limited (USL)	Operating costs and travel	\$2,500

On behalf of the KIDS Summer Camp, we would like to thank the above mentioned organizations and individuals for their generous financial support. Their contribution is essential to fulfilling out mission of nurturing youth, to build strong values and an environmental base for tomorrow.

Outcome of 2009 Camp

The 2009 camp year began on June 29th until August 14th, 2009 (7 weeks). The theme for the camp was **Going Green**, the weekly topics were based on environmental friendly themes such as horticulture, recycling, clean air, etc.

At the end of the 2009 camp year an evaluation questionnaire was dispersed to the families who participated in this year's camp. The questionnaire will be utilized to improve the quality of the services offered and determine the feasibility of the continuation and expansion of the camps in the years to come. The results of the questionnaire has been compiled and disseminated, and are included in this report.

Youth/Counsellors

The number of counsellors hired each year is determined by the number of youth who are pre-registered. Camp rules stipulate that there must be one (1) student camp counsellor per seven (7) youth. The table below indicates the number of youth registered for the 2009 camp and states who were hired in each campsite:

Camp Site	Number of Enrolled Youth				Number of Student Camp Counsellors				Student Camp Counsellors (2009)
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Chevery		21	25	21	1	1	1		Eric Anderson
La Tabatiere		11	17	6	2	2	2		Bailey Buffitt/Danielle Robertson
St. Augustine	21	23	19	13	3	3	3	2	Holly Driscoll/Decasta Driscoll
St. Paul's River	21	30	24	14	3	3	3	3	Emily Griffin/Sara Buckle/Mitchell Mason
Blanc Sablon		29	30	14	2	3	2		Alicia Walsh/Joshua Beaudion
Total	42	114	115	68	6	11	12	10	

A total of sixty-eight (68) youth attended the 2009 KIDS Summer Camp in the five (5) camps along the Lower North Shore and eleven (11) student jobs were created.

As you will notice from the above table that the number of youth has declined from the 2008 camp year, this is due to the fact that the ten (10) to twelve (12) age group are no longer interested in this type of camp. They would like to have a camp implemented that has more outdoor and adventurous activity involved such as visiting different places, swimming pool, camping etc.. Also the table only shows ten (10) students hired, the extra student hired didn't work directly in the camp but as an assistant to the youth coordinator. The duties consisted of aiding with the set up of all camps as well as helping with the development of the weekly schedules.

Training

On June 22nd to the 26th, training was held through video conferencing for the eleven (11) student camp counsellors. The curriculum included information about the work schedule, policies/procedures/responsibilities, camp rules and regulations, camp goals, camp daily operations, safety, salary and pay check, administration, camp behaviour management, communication, disciplinary actions, purchasing requirements and lines of communication, and the first aid guide. The training was carried out by the following persons:

Name	Organization
James Buckle	Finance Officer, Coasters Association
Kimberly Buffitt	HSSNPI Agent, Coasters Association
Jenny Thomas	Youth Coordinator, Coasters Association

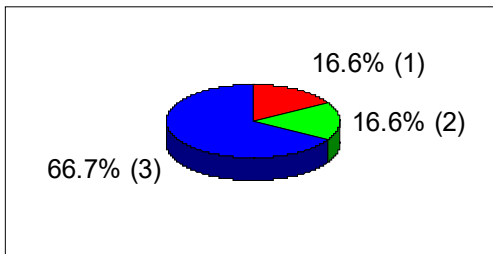
This training provided the counsellors with the resources needed in order to successfully complete their task as student camp counsellors. It also provided them with valuable skills that will assist them in their future endeavours’.

Evaluation

The following is a result of the questionnaire that was distributed to the families who participated in the 2009 camp year. (1) Excellent/Yes (2) Good/Unsure (3) Unknown (didn't return survey)

La Tabatiere

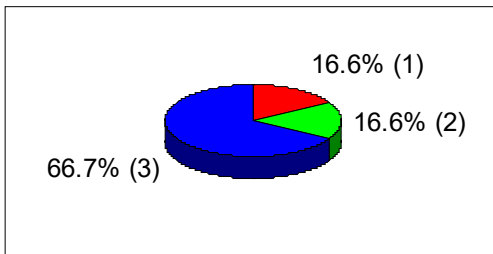
Question #1: Rate your overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- It was not excellent, but room for a lot of improvement to make it more fun. On average it was more boring days than fun days.

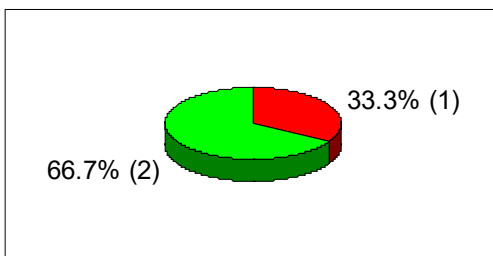
Question #2: Rate your child's overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- No Comments

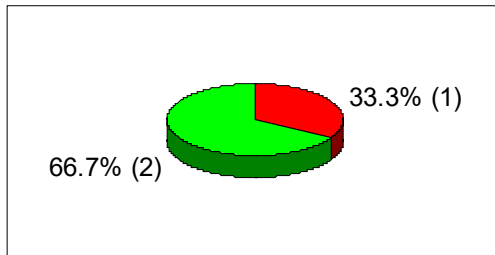
Question #3: Rate your overall satisfaction with the student camp counsellors.



Comments:

- Very poor interest in doing the job. Counsellors publicly showing and expressing non-interest in job. Lack of experience and public relation.
- In the coming years try to pick counsellors with more energy.

Question #4: Would your child consider attending the KIDS Summer Camp again next year (if available)?



Comments:

- Some major changes will have to take place.
- Wait to see who the counsellors are and see how many kids it would be.

Question #5: What changes, if any, would you like to see implemented for the upcoming year?

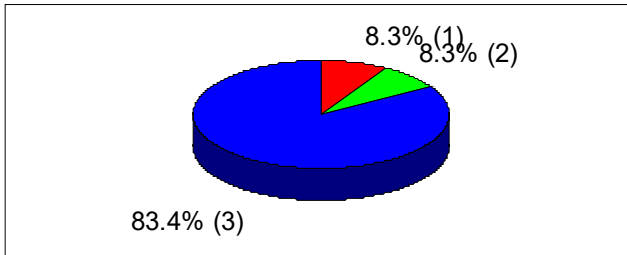
- More screening for counsellors, set up a panel -parents, coasters, other public person (mayor) for hiring.
- Be more organized and informative about what is going on both with the camp and through coasters.
- Try to get a male counsellor, more outside activities, let the kids give more feedback and less time in the gym.

Question #6: Other suggestions and/or comments

- The camp was poorly organized this past year; there wasn't even a registration day.
- With only 3-4 students enrolled it seemed that this is a great waste of funds. This should indicate to Coasters Association that something is wrong. And while the camp is a great idea the whole concept needs to be promoted more successfully and better organized. If this was done more participation would be seen.
- It might be a good idea to check with parents before hiring any counsellors.

St. Augustine

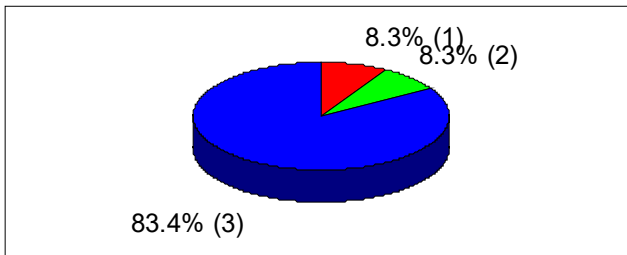
Question #1: Rate your overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- My child attended maybe 7 days all summer. She said it was boring and the counsellors did not participate in any games with them.

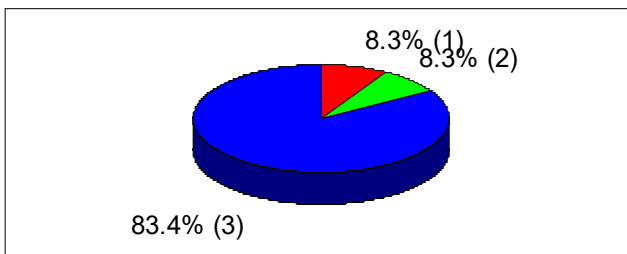
Question #2: Rate your child's overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- No comments.

Question #3: Rate your overall satisfaction with the student camp counsellors.



Comments:

- Was not impressed with their organizational skills for entertaining the children, very unprofessional.

Question #4: Would your child consider attending the KIDS Summer Camp again next year (if available)?

- My child clearly stated to me that she will not go back next year.
- They are looking forward to it.

Question #5: What changes, if any, would you like to see implemented for the upcoming year?

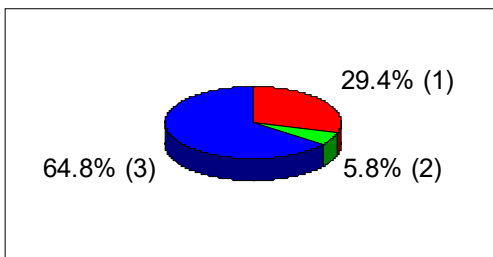
- I would like to see counsellors actually interested in the camp and children. I think an adult should be one of the people hired for the summer weeks.
- More outings
- Maybe supply a covered tent to ward off the flies.

Question #6: Other suggestions and/or comments.

- An adult should be involved with another student in running the summer camp.
- It is a great thing to have every summer for the children and it is a shame that this year was ultimately one of the worst years.
- It seemed that the student counsellors are just there for the pay and not the interest of the children.
- They need to prepare more activities and participate with the children a lot more.
- At the end of the summer camp there were maybe 3 children left. Very disappointed this year, hopefully next year will be a better one.
- The price is great, camp is wonderful.
- Maybe camp can be a little less structured.

St. Paul's River

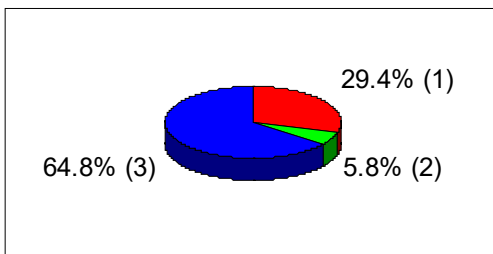
Question #1: Please rate your overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- Our community doesn't have much to offer children during summer periods. The summer camp is wonderful.

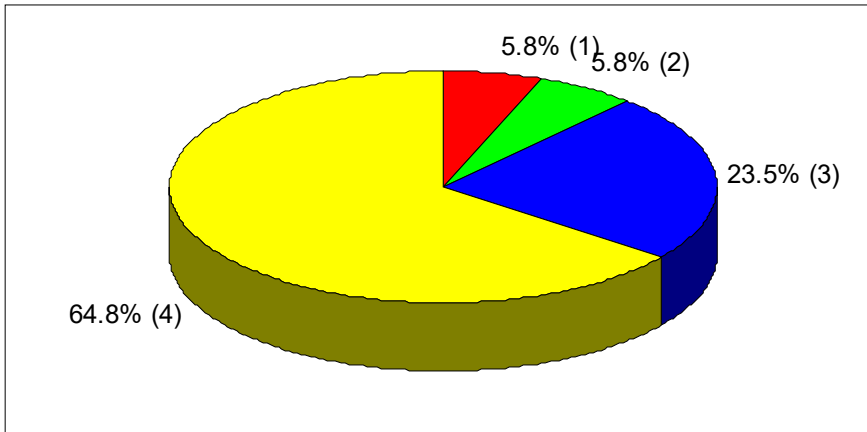
Question #2: Please rate your child's overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

My child was bored and did not want to go.

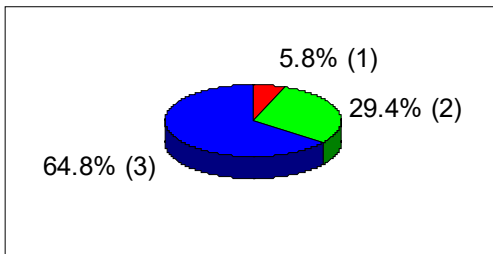
Question #3: Please rate your overall satisfaction with the student camp counsellors.



Comments:

- My child mentioned the fact that the counsellors sometimes were not disciplining children when needed.

Question #4: Would your child consider attending the KIDS Summer Camp next year (if available)?



Comments:

- Only if changes were made.

Question #5: What changes, if any, would you like to see implemented for the upcoming year?

- More activities and keep to the schedule.
- Maybe a 9-4 day, a variety of sports not the same thing everyday.
- None; it was great for me. I worked from 9-4 and she went to camp 9-5, I was home when she came home.
- A screened tent outside so children could do some activities even when the flies are bad, or to use as a place to just sit and draw or read in the fresh air.

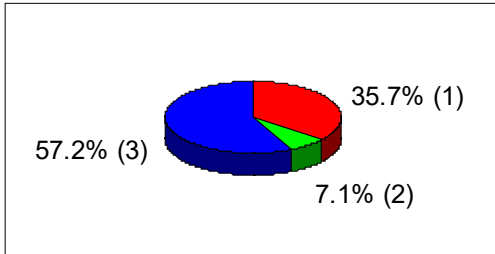
Question #6: Other suggestions and/or comments.

- Maybe afternoons snack, if not already done.
- My child liked going to camp. She liked playing with her friends and going swimming.
- With respect to the coordinator I would wish that he/she be available to the counsellors at all times Monday to Friday (pm).

- The counsellors didn't seem to be provided with a daily or weekly list of who (children) were attending or any telephone numbers of contacts for the children.
- The telephone system was really bad, the cord was broken and it was hard to hear my child when she called.
- You done a great job, she had a wonderful time.

Blanc Sablon

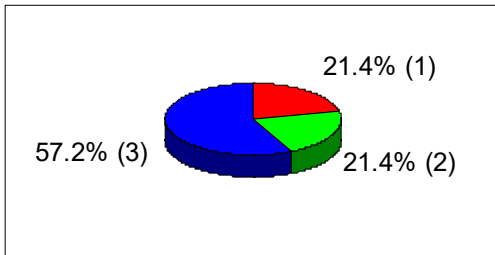
Question #1: Please rate your overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- Excellent camp when Alicia was there.
- Well organized lots of activities, kids looked forward to the days Alicia was there,
- The days Alicia was absent it seemed to be very little structure to the day.
- Very satisfied with all the activities and outings, well organized.
- She enjoyed it very much.

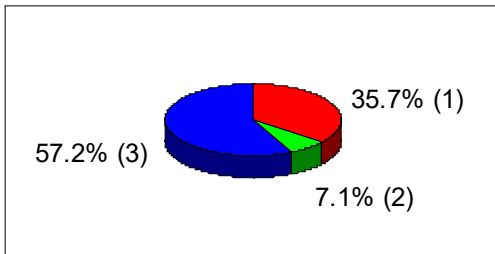
Question #2: Please rate your child's overall satisfaction with the KIDS Summer Camp.



Comments:

- No comments.

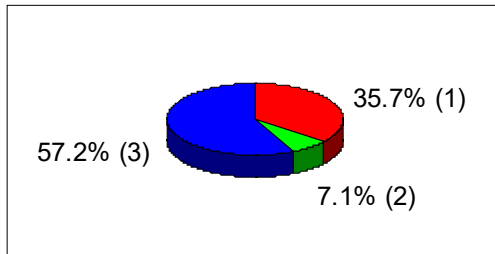
Question #3: Please rate your overall satisfaction with the student camp counsellors.



Comments:

- Alicia was excellent.
- My child's nickname and a few detailed stories told to my child should have been avoided but other than that, no complaints.
- Very friendly and responsible.
- They were really great with the kids.

Question #4: Would your child consider attending the KIDS Summer Camp next year (if available)?



Comments:

- If the organization remained the same for the entire camp.
- The people chosen make all the difference, unless activities are planned for each day for the counsellors to follow.
- She looked forward to going each day.

Question #5: What changes, if any, would you like to see implemented for the upcoming year?

- I don't see any changes that need to be made, everyone did a great job!
- More outings, visit different places.
- That the swimming would be at the pool instead of a lake.
- The students be there everyday, with small children consistency is important.
- Maybe some sort of schedule for daily activities for the whole week so we know how to dress the kids and provide extra clothes if necessary, and where to find the group if we need them.

Question #6: Other suggestions and/or comments.

- She was really impressed with the way it was from the previous year and so was I. Keep up the good work! You feel good about sending your kid when you know they enjoy it. Thank you!
- Keep up the good work!
- Maybe to have your weeks planned, and then if one of the students is unable to attend the structure of the camp wouldn't change for one person. Thank you, great job!
- Some organization for certain activities could have been a bit better but overall my child enjoyed the camp and I think the counsellors did an excellent job. A big thank you!

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the KIDS Summer Camp, the Coasters Association would like to thank everyone for assisting in achieving our goal of maintaining the five (5) camps along the Lower North Shore. Without your contributions in 2009 the KIDS Summer Camp would not have been possible.

Partners

- North Shore Deanery
- Anglican Church Diocese
- Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) Bob Bryan
- Centre Local de Developpement de la Basse-Cote-Nord (CLD)
- Underground Services Limited (USL)
- Caisse Populaire de Blanc Sablon, de La Tabatiere, and de Tete-a-la-Baleine
- Young Canada Works
- Services Canada
- Municipality de Golfe Saint Laurent
- Commission Scolaire du Littoral (Mecatina School and St. Paul's School)
- St. Augustine Sports and Leisure Committee
- Corporation of Development of Blanc Sablon
- Quebec 4-H
- Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi
- CEDEC

KIDS Summer Camp Committee Members and Resource people, (see pages 5 & 6), your help was very much appreciated in carrying out the 2009 KIDS Summer Camp.

A special thanks to all the parents and youth who participated in this year's camp. Your input to the evaluations will be taken into consideration in developing and implementing the 2010 KIDS Summer Camp.

Recommendations

The 2009 camp year has been a very rewarding experience and the majority of the youth enjoyed their camping experience but as with every endeavour each year is an opportunity to learn new ways to improve the quality of the KIDS Summer Camp and ways to operate more efficiently.

Listed below are recommendations for the upcoming 2010 camp:

Coordinator

- Have a full time KIDS Summer Camp Coordinator. If not, hire part-time from the month of April to the month of October yearly.
- Hold registration a month prior to the beginning of camp.
- The camp hours should be from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, (including lunch hour) leaving half an hour for the counselors to clean and prepare for the next day.
- The KIDS Summer Camp theme and weekly binders be completed by the month of May.
- Having a budget for the Camp Coordinator to visit ALL five (5) camp sites at least once during the seven (7) weeks of camp.
- A survey developed and completed to gather information on what communities and children are interested in attending the KIDS Summer Camp before the end of April.
- Have the student counsellors hired by the month of April for Young Canada Works and May for Services Canada.
- Better promotion of the camps.
- Purchase covered or screen tents to assist with the flies.
- Swimming to be done at a pool, not a lake.
- List children attending each day.
- Maintain partnerships and establish new partners for the continuation and expansion of the KIDS Summer Camps, as well as to implement new activities and better accommodate ages 10-12.
- Provide parents with the weekly schedule of activities to prepare their child for each day.
- Having at least fourteen (14) kids enrolled before the opening of the camp.
- Provide counselors with daily activities to be better prepared and structured.

Counsellors

- Have one (1) male counselor hired per camp if possible.
- Hire one (1) adult counselor to be head counselor in each camp site instead of hiring all student counselors. (Ex: Quebec En-forme, YMCA, YWCA)
- The counselors level of education shouldn't be the main factor in hiring, it should be based on personality and interests as well.
- Students to be more professional on the job.

Parents

- All weeks of enrollment would have to be paid in advance of camp.
- Establish a Selection Committee of key representation in each community to hire motivated students. Also have a parent from the camp site involved in the selection.

Conclusion

In 2010 we will attempt to open an additional camp. A survey will be conducted in early winter to research the interest and number of children in the communities along the Lower North Shore who would want to participate in the KIDS Summer Camp. The results of this survey will identify the location of the communities to implement the camps for the summer of 2010.

The continuation and expansion of the KIDS Summer Camp to all communities along the Lower North is vital to the youth on the Lower North Shore and it is a worthwhile initiative, one that I am proud to be apart of.

The KIDS Summer Camp is a special place where the youth are set apart from the pace of everyday life and the student camp counsellors nurture the potential in them through their abundant curiosity and capacity for learning.

On behalf of the KIDS Summer Camp, The Coasters Association would like to thank everyone for assisting in achieving our goal of maintaining the five (5) camps along the Lower North Shore. Without your contributions the 2009 KIDS Summer Camp would not have been possible.

Having said that, it is crucial that the partners continue to support the KIDS Summer Camp and new partnerships are formed, otherwise it will be impossible for the Coasters Association to continue the implementation of the camps.

Impact of the Camps:

- Kids are more active.
- Develop the skills of our youth.
- Kids do better in school in the upcoming year.
- Accommodates the working families, also parents who are absent from the community.
- Creates student employment.
- And etc....

