



**COASTERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
UNITED FOR A BETTER FUTURE

# 2010 KIDS Summer Camp



Prepared by Jenny Thoms  
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## **Introduction**

Each year the 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 endeavours. 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...)"

Socialization is an important component of a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle. Isolation and a lack of interpersonal skills increase the stress of everyday situations and contribute to negative self-esteem. Therefore, the involvement of a group increases the youth's sense of community and social support, as well as providing an environment in which youth can improve their health and obtain skills that will assist them in their future lives.

## Overview of Project

Jenny Thomas the Youth Camp Coordinator began work on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 through to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 (34 weeks). Some of the duties were:

- Coordinate summer camp program all ready established (5)
- Develop new strategies for registration.
- Plan and prepare camp activities and events
- Visit all the camp sites (5)
- Prepare KIDS Summer Camp Newsletter
- Complete KIDS Summer Camp PowerPoint
- Supervise camp counsellors.
- Oversee the overall working administration for the 2010 camps.

This year (2010) the five (5) camps established were maintained and proved to be a great success.

### *Committees*

#### KIDS Summer Camp Committee

Chevery	La Tabatiere	St. Augustine	St. Paul's River	Blanc Sablon
Ana Osborne	Molly Organ	Lorette 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	Paula Evans	Jacqui Gallibois	Gail Roberts	Jessica Purcell
Marie Anderson				

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 2010 steering committee members:

#### Steering Committee

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

Steering Committee Meetings were held on April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> with another one scheduled for November.

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 2010 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)
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 2010. 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/Youth Centre
St. Augustine	St. Augustine Sports and Leisure Committee (Arena)
St. Paul's River	St. Paul's School
Blanc Sablon	St. Theresa School

### *Reports/Documentation*

An application was submitted to Services Canada for six (6) student camp counsellor positions for eight (8) weeks however, three (3) were accepted.

An application was submitted to Young Canada Works (YCW) for eight (8) student camp counsellor positions, one (1) student animator position to research and create an implementation plan for the French Immersion Teen Camp for ten (10) weeks and one (1) Non Timber Forest Products researcher for ten (10) weeks . Young Canada Works approved nine out of the ten positions, covering 70% of the salary and the remaining funds were covered by the Forum Jeunesse Côte Nord.. Also, housing allowance of \$1.35 per hour was provided by YCW which brought the total salary per hour up to \$10.85, and the travel expenses to and from the camp site to their place of study was also covered.

To date, we have developed many partnerships in helping to make this important initiative a reality. (I.e. Young Canada Works, Services Canada, the North Shore Deanery, QLF, 4H Club of Quebec, Caisse Populaire de Blanc Sablon, Caisse Populaire de Tête à la Baleine, Caisse Populaire de La Tabatiere, Underground Services Limited, Centre Local de Developpement de la Basse-Cote-Nord, Commission Scolaire du Littoral, Municipality de Golfe Saint Laurent/Sports and Leisure, Municipality of St. Augustine/Sports and Leisure, Municipality of Blanc Sablon, Municipality of Bonne Espérance, Municipality of Gros Mecatina, Quebec en Forme, Forum Jeunesse Cote-Nord, YMCA and YWCA ). We are still trying to establish additional financial partnerships that will enable us to achieve our goal.

### 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	Counsellors/Animators Salary	\$23,515.52
Services Canada	Counsellors Salary	\$7,984
Caisse Populaire de Blanc Sablon	Assist w/ Coordinator & Counsellor Salary/Tents	\$4,800
Caisse Populaire de La Tabatiere	Assist w/ Coordinator Salary/Tents	\$1,200
Caisse Populaire de Tête à la Baleine	Tents	\$500
North Shore Deanery	Salaries and Camp Material	\$5,000
Centre de Santé et de Services Sociaux de la Basse-Côte-Nord (CSSSBCN)	Counsellor Salary	\$1,334
Forum Jeunesse Côte Nord	Camp Events/Activities/Material & Counsellors Salary	\$34,017
Centre Local de Developpement de la Basse-Cote-Nord (CLD)	Salaries and Operating costs	\$8,000
Underground Services Limited (USL)	Operating costs and travel/ Coordinator Salary	\$2,500
Municipalities	Camp snacks and material	\$3,389

On behalf of the KIDS Summer Camp, we would like to thank the above mentioned organizations and individuals for their generous financial support as well as, the organizations that provided services in-kind. Their contribution is essential to fulfilling our mission of nurturing youth, to build strong values and an environmental base for tomorrow.

## Outcome of 2010 Camp

The 2010 camp year began on June 28<sup>th</sup> until August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (7 weeks). The theme for the camp was *Green Adventure*, the weekly topics were based on environmental friendly themes such as call of the wild, recycling, park rangers, etc...

The partnership of the Forum Jeunesse Côte Nord this year enabled us to organize weekly outings/activities, such as Days at the Beach, Movies, Visit the Middle Bay Interpretation Centre, Camp Sleepover, Boat Outings, Cooking Classes, Visit other Camp Sites, Robertson Lake Hydro Station Tour, etc...This partnership also permitted the KIDS Camp Coordinator to visit all the five (5) camp sites along the Lower North Shore. Along with the gratitude from the coordinator, the counsellors and kids would also like to thank the Forum Jeunesse Côte Nord for providing the KIDS Summer Camp with this opportunity.

We were also fortunate to participate in a Soccer Camp on July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup> with the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) in the camp sites of Blanc Sablon and St. Paul's River. All the kids really enjoyed and appreciated this event, a huge thank you to the QLF.

The Quebec en Forme, YMCA and YWCA partnerships confirmed that having adults involved in the camps creates extra stability and more structured camps. The additional supervision for the outings was very helpful and these partners ensured the overall success of the camps.

At the end of the 2010 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 2010 camp and states who were hired in each campsite:

Camp Site	Number of Enrolled Youth					Number of Student Camp Counsellors					Student Camp Counsellors (2010)
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Chevery		21	25	21	21		1	1	1	1	Andrea Chislett
La Tabatiere		11	17	6	25		2	2	2	2	Joey Mckinnon/Kendra Yarn

St. Augustine	21	23	19	13	24	3	3	3	2	2	Dana Bateman/Kim Bateman
St. Paul's River	21	30	24	14	17	3	3	3	3	2	Sara Buckle/Tara Nadeau
Blanc Sablon		29	30	14	44		2	3	2	4	Alicia Walsh/Alisha Maurice/Johnny Burke/Laura Joncas
Total	42	114	115	68	132	6	11	12	10	11	

A total of one hundred and thirty-two (132) youth attended the 2010 KIDS Summer Camp in the five (5) camps along the Lower North Shore and eleven (14) student jobs were created.

As you will notice from the above table that the number of youth has increased from the previous camp years, this is due to the fact that a request was made this year to accommodate the age group of 4-12. With having this new age group, a large number of four to five year olds made a huge increase in summer camp enrolment. Due to the fact that the 10 to 12 age group are no longer interested in this type of camp, it was difficult to attract them to this year's camp even with the vast outings organized. They would like to have a camp implemented that is just for their age group and have more outdoor and adventurous activity involved, such as visiting different places, swimming pool, camping, etc... Also the table only shows eleven (11) students hired, the extra students hired didn't work directly in the camp, one (1) 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, one (1) for the French Immersion Teen Camp and one (1) for the Non Timber Forest Products.

### ***Training***

On June 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, 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
Cornella Maurice	Executive Director, 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'.



## Survey of Evaluation

The following is a result of the questionnaire that was distributed to the families who participated in the 2010 camp year.

### **Chevery**

Comments:

- The overall camp was very satisfactory.

### **La Tabatiere**

Comments:

- More structure for the morning activities.
- Will attend next year if its like this year.
- Enjoyed it!!
- Found camp was more fun when the counsellors were alone. Without adult supervision.
- Considering the long days and the large age gap in the children, they did great!!
- In the coming years try to pick counsellors with more energy.
- It would have been better if they were left alone more.
- Will wait to see who will be the counsellors, age group and any other changes.
- Maybe have the children divided into 2 age groups.
- A heads up on upcoming events from week to week. Felt that sometimes the kids missed fun events that they would have liked to have attended, we would have planned vacation (cabin etc..) around it.
- Would like to know from week to week what activities would be going on at camp.
- Camp ages to be put back the same as in the past ages 6-12. People got to remember summer camp is not a Daycare. Ages 4 and 5 is young for all day camp. We want all kids to enjoy camp.
- Maybe notify the parents and children of the weeks plans/activities in advance...obviously knowing that the weather may change the plans.
- Both myself and child enjoyed the kids camp and is looking forward to next year.
- My child enjoyed the camp very much.
- They had a fun summer.
- A lot better than other years.
- Had a lot of fun!
- Had a lot of fun but missed fun activities due to vacation. Feel it was a lot better then last year.
- If there is going to be an adult put in place to help with the camp, if that adult is a parent of one of the campers, he/she has to remember they are a worker not a parent when they are at the camp.

## **St. Augustine**

### Comments:

- My child enjoyed camp so much!! We even went on vacation for 2 weeks and my child kept talking about camp and how she wanted to come back to go there.
- The camp counsellors did an outstanding job this year!! Hats off to you guys!!
- Wonderful individuals able to communicate effectively and efficiently with children.
- My child constantly talks about how she can't wait to go to camp again.
- The camp and counsellors were great. No change!
- Absolutely no change!! What a great summer the children had!
- None; My children "begged" to postpone vacation until camp was over. Fridays was a battleground if I wanted to leave for the island before camp was finished for the day.

## **St. Paul's River**

### Comments:

- My child really enjoyed camp.
- It was fun!!
- The counsellors did an excellent job!!
- Give the counsellors a break for lunch.
- Excellent program, don't know what there is to change.
- Great Work Guys!!!
- Great job done by all of you!!

## **Blanc Sablon**

### Comments:

- Older child would like if groups were separated, as would parent.
- It depends on vacation/counsellors. Older child went to QLF camp and enjoyed it much more.
- If 4 counsellors could separate into 2 groups of children. I am happy there was a lot of outdoor activities.
- In comparison to QLF camp, older child (10) enjoyed speaking about facts and learning about types of marine wildlife in area. Maybe Coaster camp could choose a topic to work on during the summer as well. i.e. Foliage in area, wild life, sports, heritage. Maybe children could choose (vote) on a subject that interests them.
- Thank you for making a camp available to children!!
- All the activities were excellent but the educators were another story.
- The educators in Blanc Sablon were impatient (2 in particular) lazy and didn't seem to want to work except sit around or sun bath. The youngest children were responsible to apply their own sunscreen and fly spray.
- I would definitely allow my child to attend the KIDS Summer Camp again if the educators changed.
- My child really enjoyed everything about the summer camp activities. I wouldn't change anything except maybe monitoring the educators a little more.
- Thanks for everything!!
- My child really enjoyed her summer!!

- Make sure that all the counsellors do their share.
- I believe that there were times where the children weren't supervised enough.
- My child loved it!!!
- Better arrangement for eating their lunches, separate groups 4-7 and 8-12.
- Overall I was very happy, my child really enjoyed it and would love to participate again next year. It was great how there was no headache of having to find a babysitter. I do recommend the camp to take place again next year, Thanks!!
- Well organized, lots and lots of activities. Satisfaction complete!!
- Very well, easy people to talk with. Really good with young children. My child loved each one of them.
- Excellent source of activities, learning well appreciated.
- Great camp!! Keep up the good work!!! Really appreciated it!!
- Better organized than other years. Having a theme for each week was a great idea! Great Job!!!
- I couldn't ask for better. There was so much planned for the kids. Wonderful job!
- I think they were all great and my kid loved them and that's all that counts to me.
- If there was any way possible my child would be first on the list to sign up.
- No changes from me, I think everything was perfect. So why change a good thing.
- We need a camp like this!! Hats off to you guys and keep up the good work.

## **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 2010 the KIDS Summer Camp would not have been possible.

### **Partners**

- North Shore Deanery
- Forum Jeunesse Côte Nord
- Centre Local de Développement de la Basse-Côte-Nord (CLD)
- Underground Services Limited (USL)
- Caisse Populaire de Blanc Sablon, de La Tabatière, and de Tête-a-la-Baleine
- Young Canada Works
- Services Canada
- Commission Scolaire du Littoral (Mecatina School, St. Paul's School, St. Theresa School)
- St. Augustine Sports and Leisure Committee
- Chevery Sports and Leisure
- Municipality of Blanc Sablon
- Municipality de Golfe Saint Laurent
- Municipality of Gros Mecatina
- Municipality de Côte Nord
- Municipality of Bonne Esperance
- Centre de Santé et de Services Sociaux de la Basse-Côte-Nord (CSSSBCN)
- Quebec 4-H
- Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi
- Community Learning Centre's (CLC)
- CEDEC
- Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF)
- Quebec en Forum
- YMCA/YWCA

KIDS Summer Camp Committee Members and Resource people, (see pages 5 & 6), your help was very much appreciated in carrying out the 2010 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 2011 KIDS Summer Camp.

## Recommendations

The 2010 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, part-time from the month of April to the month of October yearly.
- Hold registration a month prior to the beginning of camp. (May)
- The camp hours should be from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, (including lunch hour) leaving half an hour for the counsellors 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 counselors hired by the month of April for Young Canada Works and May for Services Canada.
- Better promotion of the camps.
- Purchase sturdier covered or screen tents to assist with the flies.
- Swimming to be done at a pool, not a lake.
- Continue listing 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.
- Continue to 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.
- Inform the parents prior to the opening of camp that they are responsible for their child if they do not participate in the weekly events.
- Establish criteria for the selection of the student camp counselors by the Community Committee's of camp. There must be 3-5 members that have a child attending camp and 1 resource person who doesn't have a child in the camp.

### 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.
- Have counselors complete YMCA Leadership Training

#### Parents

- All weeks of enrolment would have to be paid in advance of camp.
- Have Community Committee's of key representation in each community to hire motivated students. Also have a parent from the camp site involved in the selection.
- No receipts will be given until the completion of the KIDS Summer Camp Survey

## **Conclusion**

With having the Forum Jeunesse Cote-Nord as a partner this year, we were able to implement adventurous activities into the camps and obtain interest that was otherwise lacking in the previous years. Also, a request was made this year to change the age to 4-12 which increased the number of youth enrolled into this year's summer camp.

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 2010 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....



# KIDS Summer Camp 2010

