



Sparrow Lake United Church Camp is a caring, inclusive Christian community providing a quality outdoor camping experience for children, youth and families in a natural environment.



Campers, Alumni and Friends of Sparrow Lake Camp,

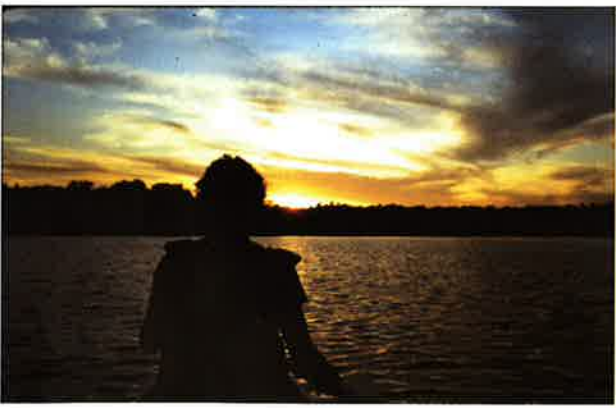
Sparrow Lake Camp does indeed have a rich history to celebrate!

The Masseys were one of Canada's earliest and most generous philanthropic families. Hart House, Massey College and Massey Hall are gifts they gave to Canada more than a century ago, which are still an essential part of lifeblood of the City of Toronto.

There's one gift from the Massey family you may not be aware of – back in 1912 the Masseys donated an 85 acre parcel of land, which had been their family's summer estate, to the Methodist Church. The land was to be used as a camp for disadvantaged children from Toronto. The Massey's generous donation gave birth to Sparrow Lake Camp, one hundred years ago.

On behalf of the Sparrow Lake Camp Board of Directors, we want to congratulate the camp on reaching its centennial milestone. It is amazing to realize that United Church camp programs have been offered on this property for one hundred years. The plaques in the dining hall give us a glimpse into the camp's past. They tell us how the camp has interacted with the historical and social events of the time. They show us that Sparrow Lake Camp has been a refuge for young people and families to retreat from the world, share fellowship in a natural setting, make friends, have fun, and go back into the world better prepared to take an active role in society.

In all of those years, some things have stayed the same, while others have changed. Many of the buildings and the site itself remain unchanged. The camp's stated mission of being a caring, inclusive Christian community which provides a quality outdoor camping experience for children, youth and families in a natural environment, has been consistent through the years.



However, as the role of the United Church changes in our society, the role of the camp changes as well. We are reflecting on and updating our programs all the time to meet the needs of today's campers and their families. Our facilities have to be updated to meet modern standards. We are now offering outdoor education and leadership programs in the spring and the fall to maximize the use of our facility.

Sparrow Lake Camp is embarking on a fundraising campaign that will provide an endowment fund to ensure that Sparrow Lake Camp will continue to provide youth and families with an opportunity to be a part of its wonderful legacy, and to have Sparrow Lake Camp become a part of who they are.

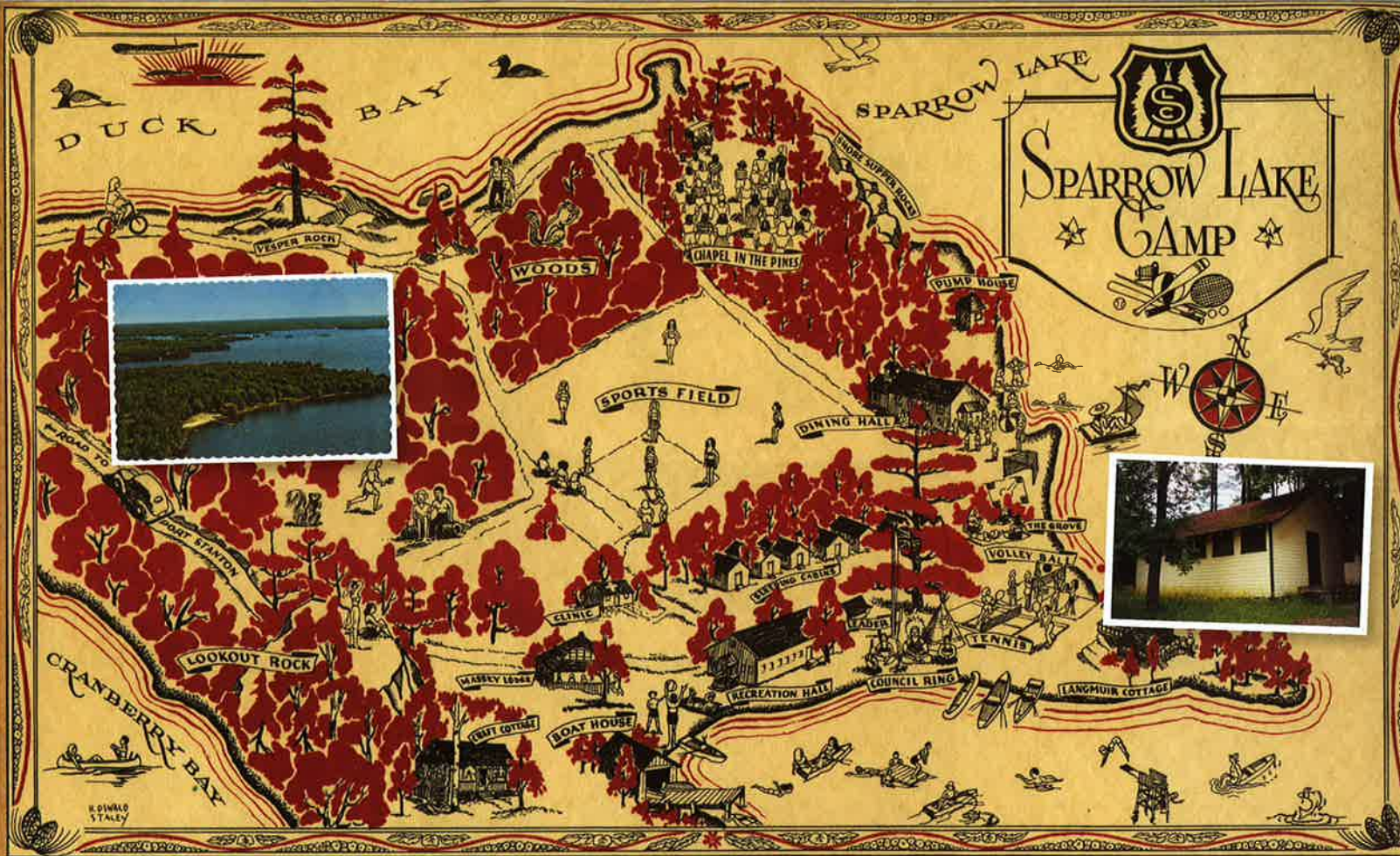
We invite you to share with us in our celebration of one hundred years of Sparrow Lake Camp in the many events planned to celebrate the camp's centennial anniversary.

Please, join us in our commitment to the next hundred years of camping excellence.

Yours, in the spirit of camping,

The Sparrow Lake Camp Board of Directors





Sparrow Lake Camp is situated on the southern-most tip of the majestic Canadian Shield. The site is known to have been a camp ground for bands of the Huron people prior to the arrival of the Europeans. It is considered highly probable that Samuel de Champlain, the first European to explore Huronia, spent a night on this site in the 17th Century.

1875: Tom Stanton cleared some land on Shanty bay Point (today, Sparrow Lake Camp), and built a pine log home where he and his family called "home".

1892: Toronto's renowned Massey family selected this property as the location for their family resort. The property was purchased in 1892 from pioneer Captain Thomas Stanton.

It was about 85 acres and was used by various branches of the Massey Family. There was a main lodge, dining room, and cottages. Among those to visit the camp was Vincent Massey, the former Governor-General of Canada.

For 20 years the site was used as a family resort and made available for a retreat for the Young Men's Bible League of the Central Methodist Church.

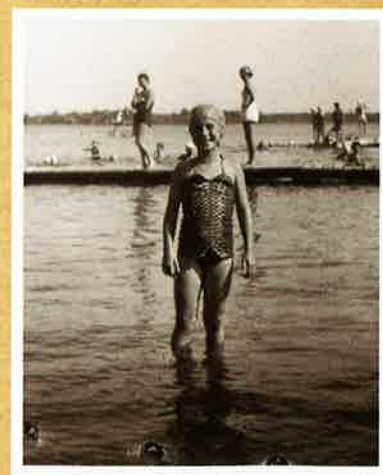
1905: The Massey family abandoned their luxurious estate and allowed the Methodist ministers to use the site for family vacations.

1907: As train service expanded north of Toronto, a "Sparrow Lake" station along with a post office called "Port Stanton" was built. It was operated by Frank Stanton.

1912: The Masseys decided to donate the property to the Central Methodist Church for use as a camp site for disadvantaged boys from Toronto. Sparrow Lake Camp had come into existence.

1916: Girls were included in the summer program. Boys attended in July and the girls attended in August.

1925: The camp, together with its sister camp, Camp Scugog, became United Church camps at the time of the church union.





SPARROW LAKE CAMP

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



1926: The Langmuir's Point property was adjacent to Sparrow Lake Camp and was purchased by the Toronto Home Missions Council. This enlarged the Camp from 85 acres to about 130 acres, making it one of the largest camps in the United Church. The present camp buildings were constructed. The camp was led by Reverend Neal of the Toronto Home Mission Council for the first twenty-eight years of its operation.

1940s: A dedicated United Church lay person, Morgan Crockford, organized a joint Sparrow Lake-Scugog Management Committee. In the same year, Dr. Clifford Torrance succeeded Rev. Neal as President of the Toronto Home Mission Council and thus assumed leadership of the camp which he maintained until his retirement in 1968.

1940s: The Upper Playing Field was cleared for Games Day activities.

1968: The present system of a 'camp director' with a paid staff was instituted at the camp. Prior to this point all staff at Sparrow Lake had worked on a volunteer basis.

1977: Scugog and Sparrow Lake boards created a new Management Committee for each camp.

1982: A 'Pee-Wee' camp was introduced for children aged 5-7.

1998: A Challenge Ropes Course was built in the trees of the Upper Playing Field.

1999: Our Counsellor In Training Program became a co-ed program.





Today - after 100 years of camping excellence, Sparrow Lake Camp is still a thriving camp program that campers, staff and alumni continue to call "home"!



2002: Due to changes in United Church Policy the camp became an Incorporated Ministry of the church and is now managed by a Board of Directors. The camp's official name is Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc.

2006: The camp introduced a Family Camp Weekend. The Peewee camp becomes integrated into the regular camp sessions and 1 week camping sessions are offered.

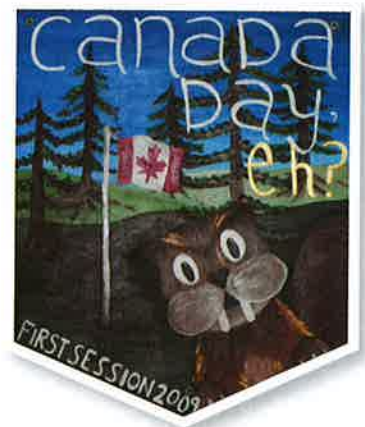
2008: A 2 year leadership program was created. The LIT (15 year olds) program offers hard skill training in areas of swimming, canoeing, sailing and leadership. The CIT (16 year olds) program offers an introduction to counselling skills.

2009: A new 3 season leadership building was constructed to house the L.I.T. and C.I.T. participants.

2010: Sparrow Lake Camp becomes part of South West Presbytery of the Toronto United Church Conference.

2011: Outdoor Education Experiences are created for students to participate during spring and fall!

2011: Starting in the summer of 2011 L.I.T.s and C.I.T.s have the option of obtaining an Ontario High School credit while attending S.L.C.



ALUMNI MESSAGES

Whether your Sparrow Lake Camp experiences were last summer or more than a few decades ago, please send us an e-mail or drop us a line at 100years@sparrowlakecamp.com to share:

- a funny story about something that happened at camp
- a fond remembrance of a camp experience
- kudos to a camper or a staff member who made a difference to your camp experience
- what effect Sparrow Lake Camp has had on you
- a picture or piece of memorabilia (did you save the letters you sent home from camp?) that we could display at the Centennial Celebration.

As part of preparations for our Centennial Celebrations we are updating our Alumni information.

If you would like to be included on our list and receive notices of upcoming centennial events please email us at 100years@sparrowlakecamp.com. Be sure to include your name (indicate former surname if applicable so that you can be identified by campers and staffers of your era), approximately when you were at camp and whether you were a camper and/or what staff positions you held.

Keep up to date by checking www.sparrowlakecamp.com for news of our Centennial Celebrations and how to order your Centennial Sparrow Lake Camp clothing and souvenirs!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

"By the Dining Hall was a huge metal triangle hanging on a rope. When it was time to change activities someone swung a large metal pipe around the inside of the triangle. The noise made by this triangle could be heard anywhere on the camp grounds"
- Camper, 1940s

"Meals always began with a sung grace (I do recall singing "For health and strength and daily food we praise thy name Oh Lord"). Meals always ended with a rousing singsong."
- Camper, 1940s

"Warm Fuzzies in the Craft Hut!"
- Camper, 1980s

"My favourite memory was the counselors bringing us Peanut Butter and Jam sandwiches back to the cabin at bed time... I was at SLC 1974 - 1976... I remember having an awesome time!"
- Camper, 1975

"My cabin did "Solitudes" on the night of a meteor shower - a gorgeous and amazing experience"
- Camper, 1990s

"S'mores pie + outtrip = Best camp memory ever!"
- Camper 2004

