



Recreation for Life

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

ARPA Recognizes Camp Health, Hope & Happiness of Lake Isle for Outstanding Contributions to Recreation and Parks in Alberta

(Edmonton, AB) The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association takes great pride in recognizing Camp Health, Hope and Happiness with the 2004 AABRD Legacy Award! This outstanding organization has made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life of Albertans through recreation and parks services.

When Camp Health, Hope & Happiness opened its doors in 1959, the organizers and founders could not have dreamed how important this facility has become to providing camp experiences for citizens of diverse capacities, both financially and physically.

Today, Camp Health, Hope & Happiness operates on a budget of \$1.3 million. This year-round facility with fully equipped medical center, hotel and dormitory style rooms, commercial kitchen and dining hall provides the wonderful camping experience for citizens who have been faced with physical, systemic or attitudinal barriers. To tailor to campers special needs, the ratio of campers to paid counsellors is amazingly 1:3 (one counsellor for every three campers). This year Camp Health, Hope & Happiness had 796 people with disabilities and those deemed medically fragile to one of their summer camps. Campers ranged in age from 6-101 and traveled from every part of Alberta as well as the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Northern British Columbia.

Program Benefits can only be captured in campers' comments:

"I like coming to Camp because I can do lots of things here that I can't do at home."

- Mackenzie, physically disabled child

"You have no idea how good it feels to be able to sit outside or go for a walk all by yourself."

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