



Camp Tawingo

2024
UNPLUGGED,
SUMMER FUN
in Muskoka Ontario,
Canada



CAMP TAWINGO WELCOMES CAMPERS 7-16 YEARS OF AGE TO PICTURESQUE LAKE VERNON IN MUSKOKA

An Ideal Summer Climate with warm sunny days, refreshing cool nights, and clean pollen-free air.

A 270 Acre Site which is secluded and private with: evergreen, elm, maple, oak, cherry, and white birch trees which surround the cabins and border the shores; lots of open field space for sports, wide games, and free-play, a sandy beach with a gradual entry into the swimming and boating areas; creeks and streams beckoning adventure; established hiking trails; and a junior mountain from which the view is spectacular. The area invites a recreational and ecological approach to the out-of-doors. The environment of a swamp to that of an open meadow presents many living things to explore and enjoy. From a tiny frog in hand to the sight of a Great Blue Heron, a positive attitude is engendered toward nature awareness and appreciation.

Comfortable Living Accommodations that are permanent, well-spaced, well-maintained cabins with electricity, cross ventilation, screens, sinks, hot and cold running water, and a washroom and shower in each. There are 7 or 8 campers and one counsellor to a cabin. The Waterfront; Pop Pearse Lodge/Dining Hall; Costume Room; Music and Drama Room; Nature Lodge; Crafts Building; Woodcrafts Building; Campcraft and Outtripping Building; Health Centre; Laughton Hall; and an expansive Sportsfield are all centrally located on Camp's Ring Road – easy to get to from anywhere!

Food that Campers Rave About: A well-balanced diet with delicious, nutritious meals is

pre-planned and pretested to meet immediate and enormous camper approval. Even the pickiest eaters find something to like at each meal. Camp Tawingo does not own nor use a deep fryer and is a nut-aware facility.

Adherence to the Highest Standards, approved by the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and accredited by the Ontario Camps Association. Health and safety protocols, water, food, sanitation, cleanliness, and leadership are fully up-to-date and under regular inspection.

The Pop Pearse Lodge includes a bright, spacious Dining Hall for all campers and staff, a bright, clean, modern Kitchen, three regularly cleaned bathrooms, two Recreation Rooms, two fireplaces, a Library (with books, games, and puzzles), and a Costume Room; as well as the very latest ideas in food service and sanitation, all wrapped in a colourful, clean, modern design.

The Camp Tawingo Staff consists of outstanding people in the field of camping, the vast majority of whom have been campers at Tawingo and graduated from Tawingo's Leadership Course. Teachers and students from excellent Canadian and International Universities and High Schools comprise a fine group of qualified, mature, dedicated leaders whose primary aim is the safety, care, and growth of Camp Tawingo's campers. More detailed information about staff can be found on the next set of pages.



WELCOME TO CAMP TAWINGO

We have fun building GREAT kids!

In 1961, Jack and Helen Pearse co-founded Camp Tawingo with a vision of creating a summer oasis of wholesome, intentional, camper-centred fun for all children. This they did – and then some – for over four decades. Today, Michael and Tia Pearse, with an unparalleled team of staff, lovingly and faithfully dedicate themselves to that same vision, and to the preservation of the important camping traditions set by Jack and Helen over 60 years ago. Together we warmly welcome you to explore the magic, beauty, and community of Camp Tawingo.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Camp Tawingo is committed to providing each of our campers with the best possible Camp experience – helping them to learn to live in harmony with each other and in the out-of-doors. Competent, conscientious, and caring leaders keep



Tia and Michael Pearse with sons, Christopher, Tyler, and Carson.

campers at the centre of what they think, say, and do, every day at Camp. With so much freedom of choice in Tawingo's program each day, campers are encouraged to take initiative and make decisions for themselves with support from their counsellors and other staff. Every opportunity is provided for self-expression and self-discovery in the safe space of Camp. All campers, no matter their interests or strengths are

welcome and celebrated at Camp Tawingo. As campers experience the respect, encouragement, and support - to be themselves and do the things they wish to do - their self-esteem, self-confidence and sense of independence develop to the point where they are able to find success and reach their potential in and beyond the community of Camp. Camp Tawingo is all about fun, adventure, inclusivity, kindness, cooperation, inspiration, friendship, leadership, and citizenship. It is about helping children be the best version of themselves.

To this we are committed!

Mike & Tia Pearse

OUR LEADERSHIP... OUR COMMUNITY



MICHAEL PEARSE

MICHAEL PEARSE is the Co-owner and Managing Director of Camp Tawingo. He has spent 52 years at Camp Tawingo in various capacities: Camper, Counsellor, Section Director, Waterfront Director, Co-ordinator of Leadership Development, Wilderness Canoe Trip Leader, Director of Leadership and, for the past 22 summers, the Camp Director. Mike graduated with the Gold Medal in Psychology from the University of Western Ontario and received the Chancellor's Award for the highest graduating average in the Social Sciences Faculty. He attained his Bachelor of Education from Althouse Teachers' College, and taught at Oakridge Secondary School for 10 years, where he received numerous teaching awards, including the city-wide Bishop Townsend Award for Teaching Excellence. Mike is a motivational speaker and conducts Leadership and Camp workshops for Student Leaders and Camp Professionals across the country and around the world. For four years Mike co-directed The Original Kids Theatre Day Camp in London with his wife, Tia. Mike and Tia live at Camp year-round. Their sons Christopher, Tyler, and Carson each contributes significantly to Tawingo's leadership and program.



TIA PEARSE

TIA PEARSE is the Co-owner and Co-director of Camp Tawingo. In addition, she was the Principal of Tawingo College for 8 years. Tia has an Honours B.A. in English from The University of Western Ontario and a B.Ed. from The University of Toronto. Prior to starting a family, Tia taught English and History at Laurier Secondary School in London, where she choreographed the school musicals, coached Cheerleading and Boys' Soccer, and advised the Students' Council. For four years, she was Director, Office Manager, and Registrar for the Original Kids Summer Theatre Day Camp in London. Locally, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Huntsville Festival of the Arts and was recognized with a YMCA Women of Distinction Award for "Mentorship". Tia is past co-Chair of two Ontario Camps Association Conferences for Directors and Senior Staff, past-Chair of the Public Awareness Committee on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Camps Association, and is a past board member of the OCA Health Care Committee.



TAWINGO'S STAFF MODEL & MISSION

Aside from a stunning site and facility, our greatest single resource is our staff! Our expectations of our staff at Tawingo are exceedingly high and they see it as their responsibility (and privilege – and a fun one!) to meet and exceed those expectations.

If you ask any Tawingo Staff member what they are doing for the summer, they will say, "I am in the construction business!" And if you ask what they build, they will say, "Great kids!" Such is their/our purpose...and passion.

A shortlist of Tawingo Staff Facts:

- 100% of our staff are subject to police/background checks.
- 90-95% of our staff began as campers with us.
- 80-85% of staff return each summer.
- Our program staff represent Universities and Colleges from across the province, the country, and around the world. Many are in grad school. Many of those are studying to become teachers or to work with young people in some capacity.
- Many staff each summer are Alumni who have chosen to come back, as professionals, to give back to Camp and its campers.
- The Staff to Camper ratio at Tawingo is 1:3.



The Counsellors: Well over 90% of Tawingo's Counsellors were hand-selected to take (and pass!) our summer-long Leadership Course before becoming counsellors. They are extensively & intentionally trained to work with and program for all ages of children. While education and personal achievement are important in choosing our counsellors, we place the greatest emphasis on character - counsellors who love children, are completely camper-centred and want to build great kids, set a good example in their choices, are youthful in spirit yet mature in judgement, are skilled in all areas of outdoor living, and who are **FUN!**

The Program Staff makes certain that activities truly reflect the age, needs, and interests of campers. Activities change and develop as campers grow in skill and maturity. What never changes, however, is the limitless creativity in the development of each program and the intentionality behind each program. These things ensure full participation, boat loads of fun and learning and the fostering of respect for self, others, and the site...and of enduring friendships. We employ experienced specialists in swimming, canoeing, sailing, outtripping, campcraft, nature lore, crafts, woodcrafts, athletics, music, and leadership training...but – as with counsellors – begin by hiring those of exemplary character. If asked what they teach, they will say, "We teach the **camper**" – before saying, "We teach canoeing".

The Health Care Team consists of 4 to 5 RNs who are at Camp throughout each session. Most are also parents. Many have been coming to Tawingo for years. As is true with all staff, the campers and their health, safety, and well-being are at the centre of all they think, say, and do. There is a doctor on call and a modern Hospital approximately 12 kms away, in Huntsville. At Camp,



there is a clean, well-equipped, well-stocked Health Centre with triage and treatment rooms and dorms for those who may need to stay overnight. Our nurses are on call 24-7 while Camp is in session.

The Kitchen Team is headed by Ian Hunwicks (Red-Seal certified Executive Chef) and Gloria Lovo (Food Service Director) – both of whom have been at Tawingo for close to a decade. All Kitchen Staff are trained in Safe Food Handling and are committed to producing fresh, nutritious, and delicious food and to keeping their workspace sanitized, safe, friendly, and welcoming. Campers and staff rave about Tawingo's food.

A Tawingo Camper has fun while learning to live in harmony with others and the out-of-doors. Camp Tawingo celebrates all campers offering each one every possible opportunity for choice, for free-play, for creative expression, for forming lifelong friendships, for the development of life skills in problem solving, responsibility, perseverance, compassion, inclusion, initiative, and leadership...and for **FUN!** While predominantly hailing from Ontario, many of our campers come from across Canada and around the world – adding a fun flare to the Camp culture and community.



- 1 To engender happiness in our campers by making the camping experience FUN.
- 2 To give our campers a sense of responsibility by encouraging them to do things for themselves and others.
- 3 To teach cooperation while playing, working, and planning with others.
- 4 To give our campers the experience of adventure in the out-of-doors, and to provide inspiration with values from nature itself.
- 5 To create a healthy atmosphere with a balanced diet, wholesome outdoor activities, and restful sleep.



CAMP TAWINGO PROMISES

We have fun building GREAT kids!

At present, campers live in either "Boys" (now called, "Lakeside") or "Girls" (now called, "Pine Ridge") Camp – depending on where they would feel most comfortable. While located in separate areas of Camp, and while those who live in each often experience activities as separate groups, all campers are in the same Camp and experience a healthy family relationship and many Camp programs together.



- 6 To build self-confidence through acquiring new skills, accomplishments, and insights.
- 7 To teach good citizenship in an environment of collaborative group living.
- 8 To take a personal interest in each of our campers, to give ample opportunity for self-expression in a well-balanced, varied program.
- 9 To instill awareness and appreciation for the natural environment.
- 10 To create and sustain a positive, safe space so that our campers feel comfortable being or becoming, themselves.

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP TAWINGO

There is no weekly repeat of programming.



7:00am Pre-Breakfast Activities for those who wish: Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross, Jogging, a Morning Dip or Paddle



7:55am A non-religious, inspirational "Thought-For-The-Day" in the Joan West Memorial Chapel



8:10am Two-course Breakfast to start the day, plus FUN announcements



9:15am Cabin Clean-up – even cleaning the cabin is a Program!

9:45am to 11:15am Supervised Free Time. General Swim, Sports Activities and Tournaments, Crafts, Woodcrafts, Library Activities and Tournaments, Musical rehearsals, Daily Delights, and opportunities to improve Camp skills



11:15am Supervised Free Time. General Swim, Sports Activities and Tournaments, Crafts, Woodcrafts, Library Tournaments, Special Programs, and opportunities to improve Camp skills

12:30pm Lunch



2:45pm to 4:15pm

Afternoon Program: An outstanding variety of themed recreational activities enjoyed by a cabin group, an age group, an "All-Boys" or "All-Girls" group, or the entire Camp planned by our creative staff... programs form the basis of most campers' favourite Camp memories.



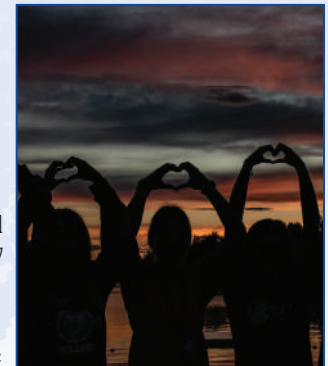
4:15pm Supervised Free Time. General Swim, Sports Activities and Tournaments, Crafts, Woodcrafts, Library Activities and Tournaments, Musical rehearsals, Daily Delights, and opportunities to improve Camp skills



6:30pm Supervised Free Time. Boating, Fishing, Sports, Library Tournaments, special cabin activities



5:30pm Flag Lowering, announcements, and Supper



7:30pm Evening Program: A variety of themed recreational activities enjoyed by a cabin group, an age group, an "All-Boys" or "All-Girls" group, or the entire Camp planned by our creative staff.

Programs include: Sports Programs, Wide Games, Running Games, Campfires, Musical Productions, Carnivals, Night at the Races, Tawingo Stock Exchange, Commandos, Night Hikes, among many others.

8:30pm Lights out for youngest campers

9:00pm Lights out for intermediate campers

9:30pm Lights out for oldest campers



THE TURTLE, FOX, & EAGLE CRESTS

Symbols of Achievement in Outdoor Living Skills & Life Skills

It is our firm belief that fun and learning can and do take place, together, every day at Camp. This blend of recreation and education is evident in our skills instruction delivered primarily during our Interest Groups portion of a Typical Camp Day. For Interest Groups, campers plan with their counsellors and then choose the specific skill they wish to learn, each day, in the areas of Swimming (e.g., front crawl, rescue breathing), Canoeing (e.g., the J-Stroke), Nature (e.g., animals and plants), Campcraft (e.g., knots and fires), and leadership. These skills are designed to instill positive attitudes toward living

OUR CAMP SKILLS PROGRAM



comfortably with one another and in the out-of-doors and are offered at three specific levels: Turtle, Fox, and Eagle, with the completion of each level accompanied by the presentation of a Turtle, Fox, or Eagle Crest!

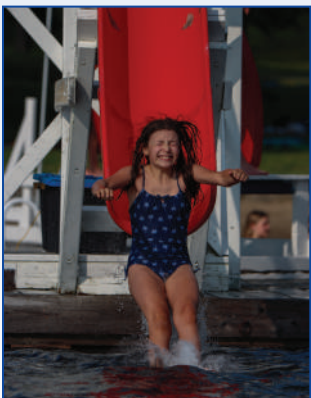
The **Turtle Crest** is an introductory skill level crest. It is primarily experiential and is designed to engage campers in a wide range of outdoor and leadership skills through fun and activity. In most cases active participation at this level is all that is required to complete each skill.

The **Fox Crest** blends the activity of the Turtle Crest with some knowledge in the 'what', 'how' and 'why' of outdoor and leadership skills. Campers might learn some weather theory or examine the specific mechanics of a paddle stroke in order to improve their skills. The Fox Crest is also a steppingstone to some other special programs at Camp. (See the section titled, "**Our Leadership Program**".)



The **Eagle Crest** challenges the camper with some independent learning, integrated activities from different skills areas, higher order knowledge and skill development, and leadership opportunities which involve greater initiative and responsibility. It represents the pinnacle of Tawingo's Camp Skills achievement; although, we firmly believe learning never needs end.





WATERFRONT SWIMMING

SENSATIONAL, SAFE SWIMMING – All campers must perform a swim assessment on the first day to determine where they may safely swim. In the warm, clear waters of Lake Vernon, from qualified instructors, campers then learn to improve their swim strokes, as well as learn rescue techniques, first aid and endurance swimming. Life Saving Society Courses are also offered to age-appropriate groups. General recreational swimming is offered twice to three times daily. Clean, sandy beaches provide a gradual entry into the water. A giant waterslide, diving boards, inner tubes, a water mat, water (and beach) volleyball and water basketball round out a superb recreational Swimming Program. Lake Vernon is at the head of a chain of Muskoka lakes with clean, clear, soft water with an average summer temperature of 22°C. All Tawingo Waterfront Staff have current National Lifeguard Service Certification

WATERFRONT BOATING

OUTSTANDING BOATING – Camp Tawingo has a pristine fleet of watercraft that includes over 65 cedar strip canoes (1-3 paddlers), 12 freighter canoes (6-10 paddlers), over a dozen Kayaks and sailboats (e.g., a Laser C420 and Hoby-Catamaran), and several rowboats.

Engendering a lifelong joy of paddling a canoe is a cornerstone of Tawingo's boating program. Campers learn the care and handling of paddle and canoe, straight line travel techniques, sudden turns, canoe over canoe rescue, solo strokes, and portaging. Kayak and Sailing instruction are also offered as well as recreational use of all watercraft.



OUR CAMPCRAFT PROGRAM

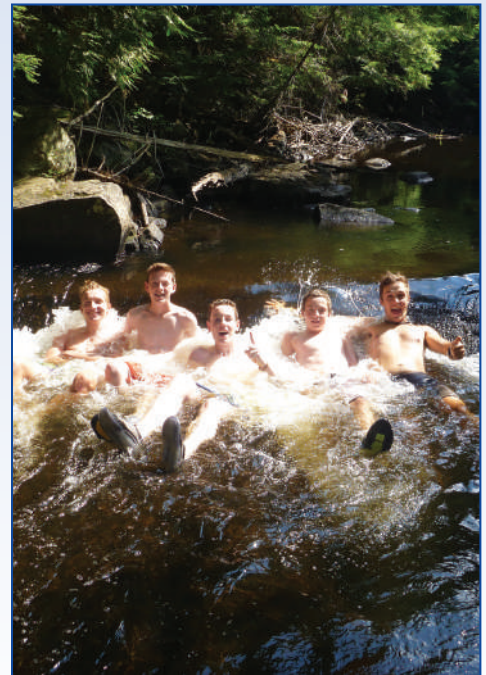


CRESTWOOD - HOME OF OUR CAMPCRAFT PROGRAM. Campers learn skills in knot tying, fire building, map & compass, "Woody Wisdom", tent and tarp set-up, outdoor cooking, and enjoy special campcraft activities, such as sleeping in one of our three treehouses, making rope, ice cream, bannock, banana boats, "krispie klusters", and/or candy apples. New in 2023: "Where in the World" - a special Camp Craft puzzle program.



AN OUTTRIPPING EXPERIENCE - During each Regular Session, every camper participates in an overnight outdoor experience (from 1 to 3 nights depending on age). Campers learn the steps to a safe, fun, and minimal impact outtrip from planning through to clean-up. Campcraft skills are put to use as campers take some responsibility for route navigation, site set-up, fire-building, cooking, washing, and program activities. Many Tawingo campers relate that the outtrip is their favourite Camp memory.

OUR OUTTRIPPING PROGRAM





OUR NATURE PROGRAM



SWAMP LODGE - HOME OF OUR NATURE PROGRAM. Under the titles of **Stars, Weather, Animals, Minerals, Plants, and Ecology**, campers learn about astronomy and constellations, plants and trees, animals and animal habitats, rocks and minerals, weather instruments, patterns and prediction, ecology, organic gardening, and enjoy many special nature activities and programs such as "Animal Survival", "Cycles", Night Hikes, Herbal Tea, "Magic Mud", Volcanoes and the "D'Juno", among many others.



OUR CRAFTS AND WOODCRAFTS PROGRAM

JORGI JUNCTION – HOME OF OUR CRAFTS PROGRAM. Under guidance and supervision from staff, campers can make all kinds of crafts from natural and synthetic materials: soap stone carvings, mini paddles, origami, tie dye clothing, glass mosaics, calligraphy, dream catchers, gimp and friendship bracelets, jewellery trees, "fuzzle" friends, and much, much more... there is no limit to craft creativity at Camp!

LOON LODGE – HOME OF OUR WOODCRAFTS PROGRAM. Under guidance and supervision from trained staff, campers learn to safely use hammers, nails, saws, clamps, wood burning pencils, and glue to build all manner of wood projects – some using pre-cut wood and instructions, some using scraps of wood and their own imagination!



OUR SPORTS PROGRAM



THE SPORTSFIELD - HOME OF OUR SPORTS PROGRAM.
SPORTS RECREATION AND INSTRUCTION - Archery, Badminton, Ball Hockey, Baseball, Basketball, Ga-Ga Ball, Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Low Ropes Course, Mini-putt, Nine-Square, Soccer, Stilts, Ping Pong, Tennis, Tetherball, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, Initiative Games, Tournaments of all kinds (e.g., tennis, volleyball, basketball; soccer, mini-putt, ball hockey, dodgeball).



As part of our regular Camp Skills Program (Turtle, Fox, Eagle), campers take a leadership role in Cabin or Circle campfires and programs by helping with set-up and clean-up, teaching games or activities, leading singing, or creating their own new programs. In addition to this, Camp Tawingo offers two special leadership programs for campers:

THE VOYAGEUR ADVENTURE AND WILDERNESS JOURNEY are optional 15-day canoe trips to Central-Western Quebec for campers who have attained a Fox or Eagle Crest and who are 14-16 years of age. Campers with these pre-requisites are invited to apply for these "trip-of-a-lifetime" wilderness experiences that are the culmination of the outdoor skills and attitudes learned during summers at Camp Tawingo. The memories and friendships formed on these trips endure forever...

THE TAWINGO LEADERSHIP COURSE (TLC) is a full summer leadership program designed for campers who are 16 years of age, at least, and who have obtained a Fox or Eagle Crest. Its purpose is to train those selected for it, for the very important role of counselling Tawingo's campers. Participants hone their outdoor living skills, learn to teach these same skills to

OUR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

campers, help with the leadership and program of campers, experience their own canoe trip, and attend leadership workshops that provide lifelong leadership skills. Opportunities to apply to the TLC are extended to campers who meet the above criteria. The TLC is an integral part of Tawingo's staffing and leadership model.



Each Regular session offers a variety of Special Programs in addition to the creative cabin and circle activities planned by our staff and campers.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



All Camp Programs



2023 Musicals – “High School Musical”; “Hercules”



LARPing Program



Celebrating Camper Birthdays



Banquet Sing-Song



BBQs on the terrace



Cookout suppers around the fire

The Ray Marinko Relay - An All Camp land and water relay race (in Second Session & Session 2A only)



Skit Night



“Lakeside” Program



“Splashfest”



THE ACE: All Camp Evening!

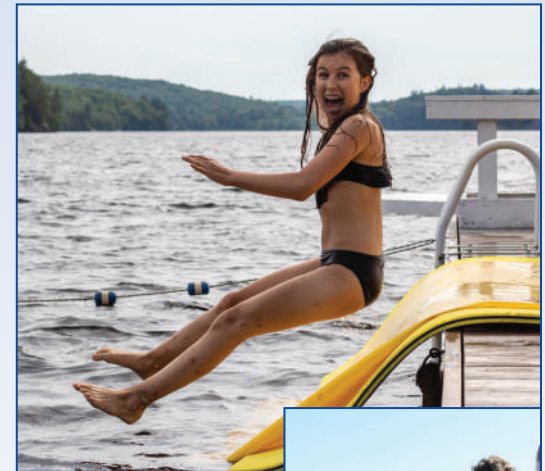


“Pine Ridge” Program



And Many More...

MORE CAMP LIFE



OUR SITE

Here's where we have fun building great kids!



GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates - 1st Session: Tuesday July 3 – Friday July 20.
Session 1A: Tuesday July 3 – Saturday July 14.
Session 1B: Sunday July 15 – Friday July 20.
2nd Session: Sunday July 22 – Friday August 10.
Session 2A: Sunday July 22 – Saturday August 4.
Session 2B: Sunday August 5 – Friday August 10.
3rd Session: Sunday August 12 – Monday August 27.
Session 3A: Sunday August 12 – Saturday August 18.
Session 3B: Sunday August 19 – Monday August 27.
Note: Camp fees vary with the length of each session.

“Tawingo Time” - Throughout the summer, Camp operates on “Tawingo Time”, which is one hour behind Daylight Saving Time. When it is 8:00 a.m. at Camp, it is 9:00 a.m. in most parts of Ontario.

Further Information - Once you register for Camp, we will send to you, at some point in the spring, detailed information about equipment purchases, laundry service, clothing lists, and other pertinent items that will contribute to a happy, healthy, and comfortable Camp experience for your camper(s).

COVID-19: The health and safety of every camper and staff member is of primary importance at Camp Tawingo. To that end, we follow what is required and directed by such bodies as the Ministry of Health and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and will do so prior to and during summer 2024 to take care of our campers and staff. Additionally, please note: While we do not have a vaccine mandate in place at this time for Summer 2024, this may change, at any time prior to or during the summer, based on the most current COVID-19 safety protocols and COVID-19 vaccine protocols and our wish to keep Camp safe for everyone, as may Session dates/rates, policies, programs, and procedures.

CAMP TAWINGO
1844 Ravenscliffe Rd.,
Huntsville, Ontario P1H 2N2
705-789-5612 Fax: 705-789-6624

tawingo.net
facebook.com/CampTawingo
instagram.com/camptawingo

summer@tawingo.net
Diana Smith-Jones
Camp Registrar



IT IS EASY
TO FIND US

OTHER TAWINGO
PROGRAMS



Tawingo Outdoor Centre

Camp Tawingo is an ideal site for camping, outdoor education, outdoor recreation, leadership training, conferences and retreats, and offers each of these through the Tawingo Outdoor Centre (Spring and Fall). School groups, leadership groups, families, and conference delegates have been coming to the Tawingo Outdoor Centre since 1970. For more information call our office 705-789-5612 or email us at outdoors@tawingo.net.

Summer Day Camps: Camp Tawingo operates a Day Camp Program for the local community, cottagers, and vacationers as a complement to our Overnight Camp. The same site, facility, and top-notch staff are used; and the program, while of the same high quality as that of the Overnight Camp, runs separately from it. We run six highly successful one-week Day Camp sessions throughout the summer. For more information contact us at our Office or at daycamp@tawingo.net.



LAUGHTON HALL
offers classrooms
and conference
rooms.



CAMP TAWINGO - is located West of Highway No. 11 at Huntsville, Ontario on the North side of Lake Vernon. The Camp is approximately 8 kilometres West on Muskoka Road No. 2 West, also known as Ravenscliffe Rd. Pass through the Community of Ravenscliffe to the Camp Tawingo gate and big, yellow sign which is on the south (left) side of Ravenscliffe Rd. You can also find us on Google Maps.

Transportation - There is a paved road to the Camp gate. Public Bus Services travel to Huntsville from Southern and Northern Ontario. Chartered Buses are also available to transport campers between Ottawa and Tawingo and between Toronto and Tawingo, each session.

BUILDING GREAT KIDS SINCE 1961...

