



A YEAR-ROUND CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION

Camp Tawingo

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March 31, 2021

Dear Tawingo Day Camp Family,

Warmest greetings to you from the shores of a still frozen Lake Vernon!

For us, 1997 was a year of celebration...after 36 seasons of offering overnight camp experiences to children from all over the world, we opened, for its first, exciting season, Tawingo Day Camp. Indeed, had we not been closed last summer, this summer - 2021 - would mark our 25th Day Camp summer...another cause for celebration. Truthfully, that celebration centres on you - the 100s of families and 1000s of campers, from across Muskoka and around the world, who have supported and support Tawingo's Day Camp.

We would like to apologize for the length of time it has taken us to be in touch with many of you about the summer ahead. We hope you know and trust that time has been spent looking at every possible aspect and angle of Tawingo's program, procedures, policies, and property as they relate to an ever-evolving pandemic and with a view to preserving what we can of this place for the children who call it home for a time each summer...and especially for this coming summer.

With that in mind, it is with a heavy heart that we have decided, **at this time**, to not operate the Tawingo Day Camp this summer. Please read on...

In order for Tawingo to have and secure a future, we must, for the present, focus on the opening and operation of our Overnight Program. In order for us to do that in the safest manner possible, under the current COVID protocols expected of us, we must "bubble" as a Camp. Essentially, we must do all we can to ensure that once our overnight staff and campers arrive on site, and a bubble has been established, there is minimal coming and going until the campers' departure. Any coming and going risks the integrity of the bubble and therefore the safety of the entire Camp community. Given the size of our Overnight Camp - the number of staff and campers, and given that the two Camps - Day and Overnight - share the same spaces and resources and staff, having a group of campers arrive and depart each day presents a great risk to the integrity of the bubble.

We are terribly, terribly sorry about this. Our hope had been that the pandemic and its demands would have, by this time, permitted us to operate both our Day and Overnight Programs simultaneously this summer. Very sadly, that has not proved to be the case.

It has been a difficult year, we know - a year of loss for so many...and for children that loss has come in many forms, not the least of which has been a sense of connection and community, the very kind that we know Camp provides. We know, as well, that many of you look

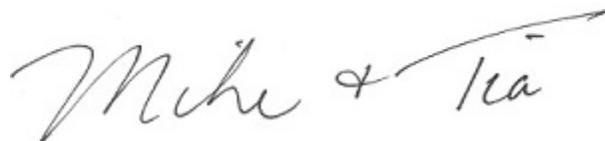
to Camp as a worthwhile and important childcare provider. Such things as these - not to mention the immeasurable joy that our Day Camp campers bring us, daily, when they are here, makes delivering this message all the more difficult...and we know makes receiving it equally so. Please keep reading...

The situation may change! Despite a growing optimism that overnight camps in the province will be permitted to open and operate, it is still possible that we are ordered by the Government and Public Health to remain closed for another season. If that is the case, then we - Tawingo - ***may*** be able to pivot back to a Day Camp Program. We understand your need to make plans for your child. It is not our intent to "leave you hanging" until we and you know more. However, we would be remiss if we didn't prepare you for the possibility that Tawingo's Day Camp may, under the above conditions, still operate. It is difficult to know when the call can be made, because it depends so heavily on the pandemic and other factors. We are hopeful that we will know one way or another on or before May 25, at which point we will be back in touch with more details.

Again, we are immensely sorry about this news - sorry to you and to your camper... Please know that:

- Our gratitude to you for your support of our Day Camp is difficult to put into words;
- As mentioned, our Day Camp campers have been a source of joy and inspiration for us - everyday and in every way - each summer...*and we hope they will continue to be in the future...because...*
- ***It is ABSOLUTELY our intent to open the Tawingo Day Camp in 2022 and beyond!***

Our very best to you and your camper as you finish what has been a challenging year for us all. May you stay safe. May you stay healthy. And, should there be no Day Camp this summer, may you have the good fortune of finding another opportunity for your child to be part of a community in the outdoors this summer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike & Tia". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mike and Tia Pearse