

Around the MCA

MCA Well-Represented at ICC Conference in Tarragona, Spain



Kim and Rick Scherger and Andrew and Tasha Sevigny represented the MCA at the ICC 2023 in October. An amazing five days filled with sessions, fellowship, food and incredible surroundings, including Ferrari Land.



Welcome to Camp Luncheon
This year's donor appreciation luncheon was held virtually. Watch the video on our website.

Manitoba Camping Association, Home of the Sunshine Fund
Unit F – 1215 Henderson Hwy Winnipeg, MB, R2G 1L8
204.784.1130 www.mbcamping.ca

Follow us on social media



Instagram:
@mbcamping
@sunshinefund_mb



Facebook:
Manitoba Camping Association
Sunshine Fund

The SUNSHINE EFFECT: A small gift has the potential to greatly alter another's life.



Come Visit Our Booth

Manitoba Outdoors Show
Red River Exhibition Place
January 26-28, 2024



Friend Bakery and Pizzeria
partnered with us to raise money to send kids to camp.

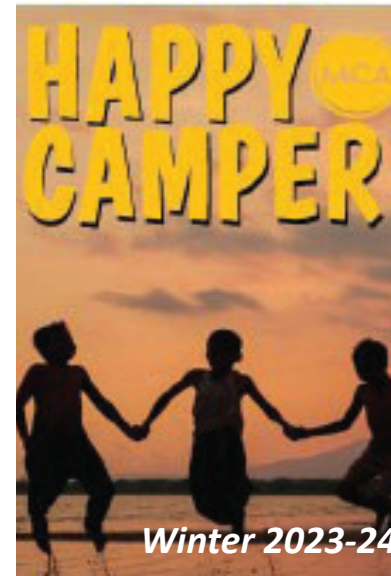


Thanks to **Piston Ring** for their generous gift. Funds from this partnership go towards helping send kids to camp.



OUTDOOR FUND

Thank you to **Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's** Outdoor Fund for the incredible \$1,500 gift to the MCA Sunshine Fund.



Winter 2023-24

Due to homesickness, Katy's experience wasn't great as a young teen attending Roseau River. She was nervous to see how her little girl would do.

"I had to take my own experience and put it away," she said. "I'm glad that his experience was so much different than mine."

Katy said she enrolled Eli in the day camp so that he would have an easier time getting used to being on his own.

"I think he felt a little upset when I picked him up each night."

Katy said her family had been doing quite well financially before experiencing a couple of bumps. The onset of the pandemic made things very difficult.

"We would never have been able to send him to camp," she said. "When we got the call from the Sunshine Fund, we didn't have to stress about it."

Nearly 550 children like Eli were able to experience a week

Double Your Gift



Thanks to an incredible \$10,000 matching gift from **Concord Projects Foundation**, beginning November 15, and continuing through to the end of the year, your gift to the Sunshine Fund will double.

Help us reach our campaign goal: \$45,000

www.mbcamping.ca/camp-it-forward

Advertise here. Email rickscherger@manitobacamping.ca

The Manitoba Camping Association Newsletter

Sunshine Fund Year-end Campaign: Camp it Forward

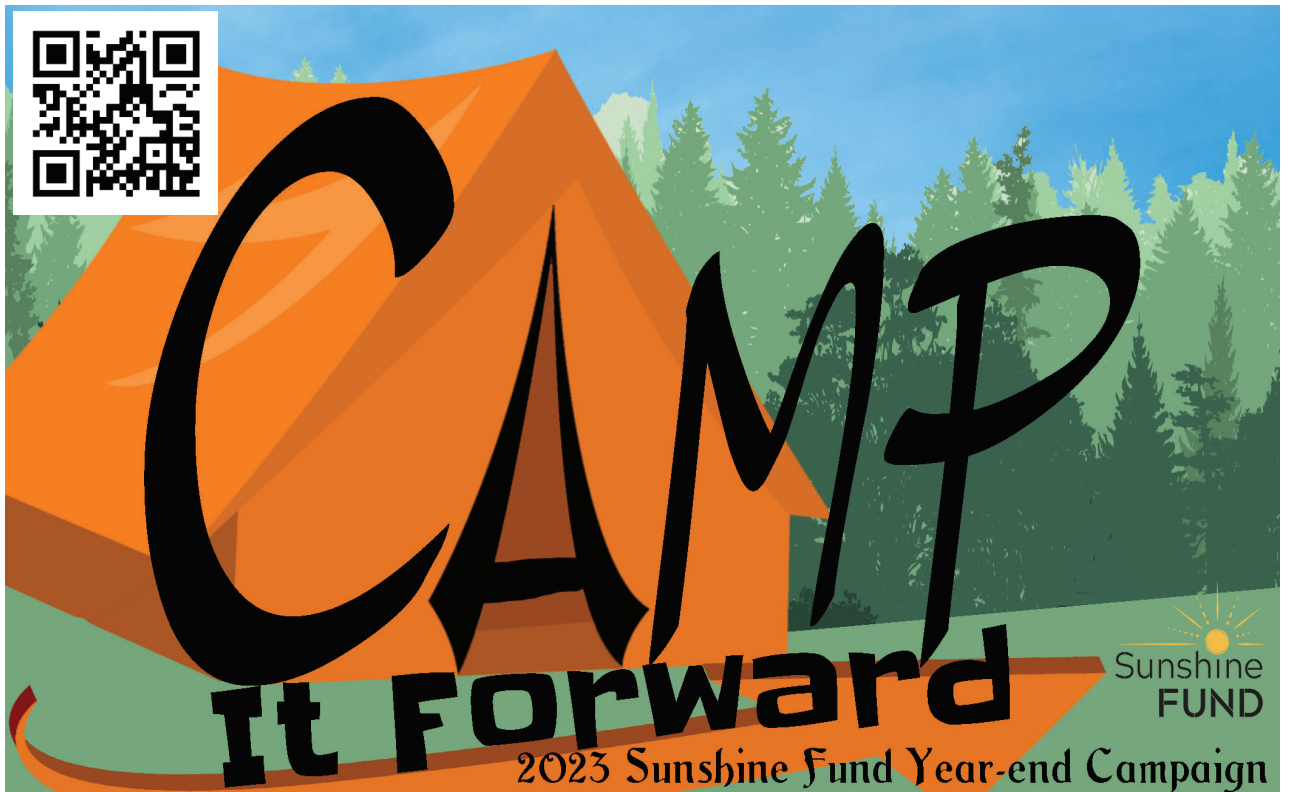
Katy Ducharme watches her son Eli, 8, with pride and adoration as he tells tales from his summer camp experience. He smiles as he shares memories of a snake crossing the road in front of his group, the terror of his first zipline run and meeting new friends.

of summer camp this year thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Donating to the Sunshine Fund isn't only one way to "Camp it Forward". Share with the young people in your circle, the importance of getting outdoors. Remind teens and young adults that camp is an incredible place to make memories, meet new friends and to build a resume. You can even give the gift of camp. Is there a small child you know who has not had the opportunity to attend summer camp? Why not look into giving them a week at summer camp? Go to our website (under the 'For Parents' tab) if you would like to explore the various camping opportunities available.

Watch the entire interview with these two fantastic people on our website (mbcamping.ca).

Eli Ducharme shares a story about a snake his group saw this summer at Roseau River Bible Camp.





The Importance of Relationships Kim Scherger

One thing that has been clear to me this summer is the importance of relationships.

One definition of “relationship” is “the way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected”.

Earlier in the year, I made some new connections with directors of camps who were not a part of our association or camps that had new directors. Setting up visits, emails and conversations with these directors and board members took place over the winter and spring to varying degrees, and when I spent time with them at their camps this summer, the “state of being connected” helped the trust level and relationship to build as we visited their camps together. What a fabulous experience to have been able to travel across Manitoba and NW Ontario to visit 21 camps this past summer.

Our MCA member camps have been keen on supporting each other and helping in conversations with camps considering becoming a part of the MCA, and camps with new directors. I watch and experience these relationships continuing to grow stronger as the MCA continues to grow and become a stronger association because of the relationships strengthening.

Members of our accreditation visitation teams have been active and strong in sharing their time and expertise in teaching and learning and directors are asking to join our teams for visits to experience other camps and help make camps better.

Our staff grew by a second student this summer thanks to summer grants from Canada Summer Jobs and Manitoba Green Team. The MCA and Sunshine Fund was pleased to have 6 people working together this summer. What a busy and buzzing office when we all were in together. We were able to venture out and about to some new opportunities you can see in pictures in this newsletter and help to spread the

news about the importance of camp – going to, or working or volunteering at, and sharing the wonderful news about the Sunshine Fund and how it is there to benefit families who need financial assistance to help offset the cost of camp.

We have incredible donors – thank you to all of you who gave to our Sunshine Fund summer campaign partnered together with the wonderful Winnipeg Free Press. We treasure our relationship with the WFP, which has been nurtured over the past 43 years. Dana reports in her article with the total raised and number of campers you helped go to camp in 2023, through the Sunshine Fund.

Thank you to our volunteers from BellMTS retired volunteer group, headed by Jo-Anne Pelzer, for helping us create camper kits for Sunshine Fund campers who needed some basic supplies like blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, toiletries in order to go to camp. Thirty-two kits were put together and the MCA and 32 campers were extremely grateful.

As you can see, the MCA and Sunshine Fund are connected to many in lots of different ways in our relationships; and there are many more people, foundations and organizations who help us build and continue relationships. Thank you for the way you are connected with us. We appreciate you.

-Kim Scherger, Executive Director, MCA



YES, I WANT TO HELP SEND A CHILD TO CAMP

With a \$400 donation, you can send a child to camp next summer.

Thanks to generous donations the Sunshine Fund received, hundreds of children have experienced camp over the years. Camp enriches children in self-confidence, friendship, exploration, community, joy, laughter and physical activity.

Please accept my donation of (Circle one):

\$400 \$200 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____

☐ I have enclosed a cheque payable to the Sunshine Fund

☐ Please charge my credit card

Name on Card _____

Credit Card# _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry date ____/____ Security Code _____

Please mail or drop off form to:

Unit F - 1215 Henderson Hwy

Winnipeg, MB R2G 1L8

Please take a moment to help us update our database. Send your email address to: sunshinefund@manitobacamping.ca

Donate on-line:

www.mbcamping.ca/camp-it-forward

Donate by Phone: 204.784.1130

www.mbcamping.ca

Charitable Tax # 130223951RR0001

Tax Receipts will be issued for donations over \$10

MCA respects your privacy.

Information shared will only be used for income tax receipting and updates on MCA activities.

**Sunshine
FUND**



Clip the donation card from the left, fill it out and mail to the address listed on the card.

Growing the Sunshine Fund in Manitoba Michelle MacIver

As the new “Community Outreach Coordinator” with the Sunshine Fund/MCA I have been busy spreading the word about the Sunshine Fund throughout the province of Manitoba. Most of my outreach efforts have been contacting various organizations, schools, and non-profits Manitoba-wide and trying to reach more Northern and remote communities, who otherwise might not be informed on the Sunshine Fund and opportunities to go to summer camp. This work has included meeting with Jordan’s Principle case managers across the province, social workers in schools, managers of non-profit organizations and promoting the Sunshine Fund all across the Sunshine Fund social media accounts. My role has been focused on creating positive impact and fostering inclusivity.

I have actively sought partnerships with various non-profit organizations, and this summer one highlight was helping send children from Flora House, a non-profit organization in Winnipeg dedicated to supporting children and families, to summer camp. This initiative has provided them with a safe and enriching environment to explore new experiences and make lasting memories. The program manager from Flora House reported back to us that all the children had a great experience and we are looking forward to partnering with them next summer.



Great Summer for Sunshine Fund Dana Moroz

The Sunshine Fund had a remarkable summer. We were able to help 548 children attend summer camp in 2023, that is an additional 145 children who benefitted from the Sunshine Fund compared to 2022.

Thanks to our donors, grantors, and corporate supporters, we have positively impacted the lives of Manitoba children. Each year, children long to attend summer camp, to meet up again with friends they have made at camp and to get back to the great outdoors. The support for the Sunshine Fund remains strong and on behalf of the children who attend summer camp, we cannot thank you enough. Thank you for making a difference in a child’s life. Children who attend summer camp come home with a sense of belonging and tend to become more independent. The entire family benefits from a child going to camp as their self confidence and self esteem improves after a child returns home from camp.

One of my personal goals as community outreach coordinator is to help families and children apply for and to reduce barriers to accessing the Sunshine Fund. For some families, it is difficult for them to apply for their children to go to summer camp because they don’t have supplies needed for their child(ren) to go. In an effort to reduce barriers, we worked with Bell-MTS volunteers to create “camper kits” for families who didn’t have the proper supplies needed to send their child(ren) to camp. The “camper kits” included items such as blankets, pillows, sheets, hygiene products and other necessities.

Along with outreach, I have been managing the Sunshine Fund social media accounts to create a larger and more interactive presence online.

Another part of my role as community outreach coordinator is searching and applying for grants for the Sunshine Fund and for community outreach initiatives for camps. One of the goals of applying for grants is to grow our training opportunities and to help fund training opportunities for MCA camp staff. We received the Manitoba-Canada job grant to receive training in mental health, grant writing, and for camp director training. These funding opportunities will help train and reduce the costs of training for summer camp staff across Manitoba, which directly affects children who receive funding through the Sunshine Fund.

My goal as community outreach is to continue spreading the word of the Sunshine Fund in Manitoba, to reduce barriers for families and children going to summer camp and to create more opportunities for children in all parts of Manitoba to go to summer camp.

**MANITOBA
CAMPING
Association**

Advertise here.

Email: [rickscherger@](mailto:rickscherger@manitobacamping.ca)

manitobacamping.ca

View ad spec sheet here

www.mbcamping.ca/newsletter-ad-specs

