

April 2020

Dear Camp Nokomis Families,

We are living through some very precarious times, and life as we know it has been interrupted, severely, for the past month and a half. We are three months away from summer camp, and if we can't run all of our boys and girls sessions, perhaps we can collapse a few and have a month of camps throughout August: the point is, it's all unknown at this time.

Unfortunately, the Camp Nokomis bank account has been frozen for the past two months. We have had no income but continue to have expenses like all other businesses – and homes. We have applied to the Federal Government for assistance.

As a small business, we are the smallest of the small: we operate for only eight weeks each summer but we still have full-year expenses: insurance, lease, taxes, electricity, accounting, legal, waste management and propane rentals.

As the summer approaches, we add: propane and waste management use, Bell services (phone and WIFI), plumber, water opening and testing, environmental ground-water testing, pool opening and maintenance, camp opening and maintenance (painting, roof repairs etc.), staff training (first aid/CPR), fire training and preparedness, all of the above services PLUS food and staffing (our two biggest expenses).

Our dinner Gala (May 22, 2020) at The Old Mill has been postponed; this Lions Club venture (for the past 21 years) has allowed us to sponsor over 40 campers each summer.

If Camp Nokomis is allowed to open and run our summer programs, we can go forward with all of the above expenses as camper balances are paid; as well, we can offer refunds to any camper who wishes to cancel.

If Camp Nokomis is NOT allowed to operate for the summer, we will offer whatever has been deposited as a valid voucher toward camp 2021.

These are unprecedented times for all of society, facing a global pandemic with almost 2,000,000 infected and 100,000 deceased; the health and safety of all of our campers and families is paramount! In our 29 years running Camp Bellaleo/Nokomis, we were closed in 2002 and shuttered in 2009 when we re-opened as Camp Nokomis (from Bellaleo). Whatever happens, we will emerge from this, become stronger and closer, and possibly need camp more than ever before: to appreciate our environment, our social fabric, our camp programs (campfires, archery, canoeing, chapel talks, dining hall meals and songs, cabin group bonding, free time, tuck, camp games, flagpole, national anthems, Graces etc). Every meal we “pump our hands” with sanitizer – who knew how important this would become to keep us from getting coronavirus – so keep pumping those hands!

We are still three months away from the opening of our first boy's camp; let's hope and pray that we all get through this safely.

As we sing at each campfire: “....I'll think of you and sigh, this is goodnight but not good-bye.”

Jay and Vicki Haddad

Zak Haddad

Noah Haddad