

August, 2009
Camp Edition

A-OK Camp News

Autism Ontario York Region Kids Camp Newsletter
11181 Yonge Street, Suite 305, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the following organizations for their support, without which Camp A-OK would not be possible ...

§ Ontario Trillium Foundation

§ Ontario Ministry of Children & Youth Services

§ Human Resources & Skills Development Canada

§ Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund

§ IBM Employee Charitable Fund

§ Yellow Bus Foundation

§ Autism Ontario Possibilities Committee

§ Town of Richmond Hill

§ Vanda & Peter Buttarazzi

§ Kerry's Place Autism Services (KPAS)

§ Canada's Wonderland



A Rolls-Royce Autism Camp For All Ages ... *A Rolls Royce Kids Camp and Adult Summer Programme? I really think so!*

*by Paul Kalmykow,
Autism Ontario York Region
Camps & Programmes*

The evidence for the defence:

- Since its inception, our Camp has accepted children and youth with autism spectrum disorders, and has cared for them using a one to one or two to one camper/counsellor ratio. This year, we launched a highly successful high school volunteer programme. This meant that, on average, we had eight volunteers per week, giving many of our campers two persons to help out

with play and fun.

- Our counsellors are recruited mainly from university and college programmes in the "helping professions" - education, psychology, sociology, child and youth studies, physiotherapy and the like. The result is that our staff members are more mature and thus better able to handle challenges than the younger staff hired at most day and residential camps in the province.

- Wage rates for our staff are

much higher than those at comparable day camp programmes, and consequently, we have a very high staff retention ratio.

- Our training and screening standards are much higher, and a large portion of our payroll budget goes to training in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Emergency/Standard first aid, CPR, plus intensive study of camper profiles, anti-abuse programmes and other standards.

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