



# TAM-A-GRAM

## March 2009

### Sharing and Learning

Do you ever wonder what camp directors do in the off-season? Well, this past January and February, among many other tasks, we were busy attending and presenting at a number of camp conferences and training sessions in Ontario and the U.S..

At the beginning of January, Marc Cooper was one of four Ontario Camps Association ("OCA") camp directors to be certified as a Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Instructor through the Crisis Prevention Institute. This training provided Marc with the knowledge and certification to train other camping professionals and seasonal camp staff in a variety of non-physical methods for preventing or managing disruptive behaviour.

At the end of January, Rick and Ellen Howard, Marc and Program Director Brian Carson attended the OCA annual conference at Blue Mountain. Marc, was one of the organizers of this 3-day conference and it included sessions by Rick, Ellen and Marc as each of them were requested to share their knowledge and expertise with other camping professionals. The conference ended with a powerful keynote address by Argo legend, Michael 'Pinball' Clemons. Rick was also recognized for his contributions as OCA President over the past two years.

In mid-February, Rick, Ellen and Marc, together with Program Director, Josh Howard, and Unit Head, Jesse Rubinoff, attended the American Camp Association National Conference in Orlando, Florida. This was a great opportunity to network with American, Canadian and international camping professionals, attend a variety of informative sessions and learn about cool new equipment and activities for camp!

### Meet Our Unit Heads...

**Laura Hochman:** Hawthorn Unit Head (campers 7-10 years old) We could not be happier to have Laura back at camp this summer in a new role. After a number of years as a counsellor, Head of Beach, and Head of Head of Fine Arts, Laura's nurturing, fun and creative nature will make the Hawthorn Unit the place to be this summer!

**Zach Justein:** Juniper Unit Head (campers 11-12 years old) Returning for his second year as the Juniper Unit Head, Zach's great personality and incredible programming skills, matched with his unbelievable ability to learn and play any song on guitar, are sure to be an integral part of an awesome Summer 2009 for campers and staff in the Juniper Unit!

**Jesse Rubinoff:** Sequoia Unit Head (campers 13-14 years old) His smile is contagious and passion for camp is second to none. Jesse is back for another summer at Tamarack and his first as the Sequoia Unit Head. Jesse brings a wealth of ideas, experience and people skills to the Sequoia team and is sure to have the entire unit psyched all summer long!

**Carly Kalish:** Elder Unit Head (Pre-CIT/CIT): Building on her years and awesome reputation in the Elder Unit and following completion of her Social Work degree at N.Y.U., Carly is incredibly excited to return to Tamarack as Elder Unit Head. Her ability to lead and inspire our Pre-CITs, CITs and Elder Advisors will be instrumental in laying the foundation for our next generation of incredible Tamarack staff.

We look forward to introducing the Tamarack community to the rest of the amazing Summer 2009 staff team in the near future!

### Camper/Parent Handbook:

The Camper/Parent Handbook will be arriving in early April. The handbook will include everything you need to know about camp including information on baggage/bus depot, packing lists, visitors' day and so much more!!! Completion of a medical form for each Tamarack camper will enable us to continue to prepare for a great and safe Summer 2009.

### Program Grand Slam!

Our programming team is gearing up for what is going to be the most amazing cabin, unit and camp-wide programs Tamarack has ever seen. Enhanced daily programs, special theme days and guests, yummy new food, terrific group and individual opportunities....the sky is the limit! We are, however, always looking to make a great camp experience even better. If you have an idea that you would like to share, please send us an e-mail to [info@camptamarack.info](mailto:info@camptamarack.info).

### Important Dates:

**Baggage Day (First Session, Acorn I and Full Season Campers):**  
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

**First Day of Camp (First Session, Acorn I and Full Season Campers):** Friday, June 26, 2009

**Visitors' Day for First Session and Full Season Campers:**  
Saturday, July 18, 2009

**Baggage Day (Second Session and Acorn II Campers):**  
Tuesday, July 21, 2009

**Changeover Day (First Session Ends, Second Session and Acorn II Begins):** Thursday, July 23, 2009

**Last Day of Camp 2009:**  
Thursday, August 13, 2009

## Don't Let It End.... Instead, Extend!

**Acorn Campers:** Tamarack provides great opportunities for 7-10 year old Hawthorn campers to enjoy a first experience at camp for 14 days (Acorn I: June 26-July 9) in First Session and 7 days (Acorn II: July 23-30) in Second Session. Many of these Acorn campers are having the time of their lives and do not want to leave after an incredibly positive and exciting introductory session. Many families are delighted to know that Acorn campers are GUARANTEED the opportunity to extend their stay at Tamarack (until the end of First Session (July 23) or Full Season (August 13) for Acorn I campers, and until the end of Second Session (August 13) for Acorn II campers). One of the Camp Directors will contact you during the applicable Acorn session or you are welcome to initiate contact with us, to hopefully plan to extend your camper's awesome Tamarack experience!

**First Session Campers:** In a similar fashion, many First Session (June 26 to July 23) campers want to extend their Tamarack experience to the end of our camp season on August 13. The fun, excitement, friends and memories they will experience in their first four weeks of Summer 2009, together with the plans they will hear and know about for the Second Session, will fuel the desire of many campers to stay! Whether before, shortly

## A ZodiAC March Break To Remember!

Don't get caught without a spot at Zodiac's popular March 16-20 and 23-27 Camp! Come for the first week, second week, a selection of days or the whole shebang! Experience the usual Zodiac fun, excitement and camaraderie while enjoying an amazing variety of programs including rock-climbing, swimming, art, sports, magic, science, performing arts, karate, animals and so much more! Please call the Zodiac office at 416-789-1989 or check out the Zodiac website at [www.zodiaccamp.on.ca](http://www.zodiaccamp.on.ca) for more details and to register.

## ZodiAC Campers Enjoy A Free "Taste Of Tamarack" Weekend

In addition to the regular 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 week options at Camp Tamarack, Zodiac campers registered to enjoy at least one 1 or 2 week session at Zodiac's popular day camp in Summer 2009 have a unique and incredible opportunity to enjoy a FANTASTIC FREE WEEKEND AT CAMP TAMARACK! Taking place during each of the Friday July 10-Sunday July 12 and Friday July 31 - Sunday August 2 weekends, campers will travel by coach bus and enjoy a three day, two night exposure to beautiful Camp Tamarack, located in Muskoka, less than 2 hours from Toronto. Campfires, singsongs, new friends, great memories and exposure to a variety of activities such as canoeing, sailing, nature, rocks 'n ropes, waterskiing, trampoline, golf, sports and so much more are all part of the exciting weekend! Details as to how to be part of this awesome opportunity are available at [www.zodiaccamp.on.ca](http://www.zodiaccamp.on.ca) or by calling the office at 416-789-1989. Space is limited so, don't miss out on this no cost, fun-filled incredible opportunity!

after, or on Visitors' Day, we will do our very best to accommodate your camper's desire to extend their stay, subject to availability.

**Extending is Easy:** Once we have confirmed with you that your camper will be extending his/her stay, the additional fee is simply the difference between the fees for the shorter and longer session (a significantly smaller fee per day for the extension period). Please maintain flexibility in your summer plans so that you and your camper will not be disappointed!

## February 8, 2009 Tamarack/Zodiac Open House

On Sunday February 8, 2009 between 2 and 5 pm, hundreds of Tamarack, Zodiac and interested families descended on the Toronto French School for an afternoon chock full of fun, food, tours and information. Meeting our staff, learning about Tamarack's great program and facilities, and enjoying diverse activities such as rock-climbing, sports, dance, magic, Mad Science, WHIMZ, Zodiac sports and our special guest singing group "Sunshine & Broccoli" were just some of the fun, free, fantastic afternoon. Look forward to seeing you next time!

## Get Into The ZodiAC Swim Of Things!

Zodiac Swim School's Spring (starting the week of March 28) and Summer (starting the week of June 20) Sessions are just around the corner! Some spots in the terrific line-up of aquatic programs are still available. Please check out [www.zodiacswim.on.ca](http://www.zodiacswim.on.ca) or call the office at 416-789-1989 for details about how to be part of the fun. Private lessons are also available in the summer in Zodiac's Bathurst/Eglinton "backyard" pool. Information about registering for Zodiac's upcoming Fall '09/Winter '10/Spring '10 Program will be posted to the Zodiac website in early June.

## ZodiAC's Great Day Camp Experience

Zodiac Swim & Specialty Camp's 12th season will be the best ever! 2 1/2 to 15 1/2 year old campers enjoy one or more of Zodiac's three 2-week and one 1-week sessions at the beautiful, state-of-the-art Toronto French School Bayview/Lawrence campsite. Kid-vantage campers (2 1/2 to 6 1/2) enjoy a wide assortment of sports, arts, science, animals, Zodiac swimming and so much more, while 6 1/2 to 12 1/2 year olds participate in Zodiac's unique "specialty" program where they pre-pick a focus area (ie: performing arts, extreme sports, science & computers and so many others) for approximately half a day and a mixture of all the Zodiac programs (including daily Zodiac swim) for the balance of the day. Leadership programs for 12 1/2 to 15 1/2 year olds lay the foundation for future Zodiac staff and other positions. The office (416-789-1989) and the website [www.zodiaccamp.on.ca](http://www.zodiaccamp.on.ca) will provide the visuals and information needed to open the excitement and fun of Zodiac's day camp world to your camper.

An awesome Summer 2009 is just around the corner!

All the best,

*Ellen Rick & Marv*

Year Round Address: 160 Steeprock Drive, Toronto, ON M3J 2T4 p: 416 782-0736 f: 416 789-5525

Summer Address: 1391 Stoneleigh Road, RR#2, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W9 p: 705 645-4881 f: 705 645-3996

[www.camptamarack.info](http://www.camptamarack.info) [info@camptamarack.info](mailto:info@camptamarack.info)