

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: SEPT. 22, 2009
REPORT NO.: DOR 09 046
SUBJECT: Depot Days Summer Camp Summary
PREPARED BY: Suzanne Purdy, Curator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receives Report DOR 09 046 "Depot Days Summer Camp Summary" for information purposes.

B. Background

- During the week of August 24th, the Craigleith Heritage Depot hosted its first summer camp program, "Depot Days".
- The camp ran from 9:00am until 4:00pm Monday to Friday.
- 10 children enrolled at the cost of \$130.00 each/week.
- Daily activities were planned by the Curator, Museum Assistant and Youth Advisor. An historical theme was chosen each day and activities were planned around this theme.

A breakdown of activities is as follows;

Monday, August 24th

- Scenic Caves and NEO Organic Farm
- Children travelled by bus (Hewgills)

Tuesday, August 25th

- Scavenger Hunt
- Word searches and mazes
- Lunch at school house with discussion on how school days in the 1860's are different from today
- Afternoon beach activities- water bucket race, sand darts and castle building contest.

Wednesday, August 26th

- (Originally had Nottawasaga Conservation Authority booked for morning environmental games, however they cancelled week beforehand)
- Color chip game. Finding things from nature that match paint chips
- Made dream catchers and blessed them in native tradition with smudge ceremony
- Children gathered queen ann's lace from the Depot property and dyed them using old fashioned technique.
- Made craft beads with sculpt-it clay.
- Watched ½ hour of "Night at the Museum"
- Made clay pots from natural clay found down at Fireman's Park in Clarksburg.
- Painted a mural.
- Back to beach. Had a three-legged race and built sand castles.

Thursday, August 27th

- Lacquered and painted clay pots
- Fossil talk by Suzanne
- Demonstrated how to break open fossils and identify different species
- Kids dug for their own fossils using toothbrushes and popsicle sticks (Fossil casts)
- Free Spirit Tours kayaking

Friday, August 28th

- Biked to Thornbury (Bayview Park) 24km-Children played on the jungle gym at the park.
- Created a time capsule
- Finished "Night at the Museum"
- Good bye circle

Issues:

- Supervision. Although 6 volunteers signed up to assist with the camp, only 2 actually came, summer being a busy time for most people. A third supervisor with the children when off site would be recommended for next year. One staff member was required to run the daily museum operation as well as assist with day camp which became difficult at times.
- Parents should be required to complete their registration form, along with payment, one week ahead of the first day of camp to allow for more accurate scheduling and activity planning.
- Beach activities were difficult as the children really wanted to wade out to the deep end – beyond yelling distance.

Successes:

The children all **really** enjoyed themselves. Positive feedback from the parents, many stating that they hope we do the camp again next year. Educational aspects realized while maintaining a high level of fun. No serious injuries!

Preliminary calculation of revenue earned, minus expenses = \$622.00

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community.

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community.

D. Budget Impact

Revenue generated \$622.00

E. Environmental Impacts

Educational programs highlight the importance of preservation of the environment and our natural and cultural resources.

F. Attached

1. Depot days camp picture



Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Purdy, Curator

For more information, please contact:
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