



Greetings from Doris Bilitz, President

I have a friend that writes devotionals, and from time to time sends them to me. A recent one was entitled "Keep on Pedalling." As cycling is my sport of choice, it caught my attention. My friend wrote of the time when in 1973 there was a perceived crisis – a shortage of crude oil. Everyone was told to conserve fuel, to drive less, and to share rides. It also resulted in "carless Sundays," when only the police, ambulances and fire trucks were allowed to use the roads. The church they attended was about 11 kilometres from where they lived and their family would go to church on their bikes. One Sunday, their young daughter, who was nine at the time, after having biked some distance, started to complain, but was told by her father, not very compassionately – to quit complaining and to keep on pedalling. The devotional spoke to me because I find that often I complain about being too busy, too tired, etc. (even though I am retired now). This fall we moved my parents into an assisted living complex and sold their house. We are now in the process of clearing out a 5-bedroom home. Anyone who has gone through this knows how exhausting and overwhelming this process is. Again ... within myself, I found myself complaining about the amount of time and paperwork there was involved in this. It was during this time I received the



devotional and the encouragement to "keep on pedalling." There are also times at Bethel Park when the work and the projects seem to be never ending. The Waste Management project is huge, not only in the work that needs to be done but the financial investment. We all go through times both personal and professional when we get tired and may be tempted to give up but Psalm 118:24 says, ***This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (NKJV)***. May this scripture encourage us in whatever difficulties and challenges we face, to keep on pedalling, one day at a time.

Volunteer Opportunities: As we all know Bethel Park requires volunteers to maintain many of the programs and services that we provide. We are grateful for our contracted staff that keep us afloat, but it is impossible for them to do everything that is required to keep Bethel Park operating. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. We need your hands. Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in volunteering at Bethel Park. Again in 2020, we will require volunteers that would consider being a "host or hostess" during one or more of our many events. We also require volunteers for maintenance projects.

Finance Report by Harald Drewitz, Treasurer

We have met our normal 2019 financial expenses for Bethel Park Camp Ministry events, along with the cost of maintaining the facilities and grounds. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who has donated this year. For those cabin owners who have not yet done so, we will appreciate your consideration, between now and the end of this calendar year.

The Finance Committee is preparing Bethel Park's 2020 Operational and Capital Budget. We are

working collaboratively with the Spiritual Care Committee and the Facility Committee.

Auto Withdrawal

For several years (approx. 7 years), Bethel Park Treasury along with our bank, has put in place "Monthly withdrawal option". This option system costs Bethel Park approximately \$1000.00 per year. Unfortunately, less than 10 people use this option. Therefore, the Finance Committee recommended to the



Board of Directors unless the number of users increases significantly during 2020, this service will no longer be available at the beginning of 2021.

Treasury is finding the least costly way to transfer funds to Bethel Park is via E-transfer.

Potential to Lend Funds to Bethel Park for the Waste Management Project

During the past year the Bethel Park Board of Directors has communicated we will be starting the Waste Management Project during this Fall/Winter season. We have communicated this at the Annual General Meeting in July 2018 as well as July 2019. In addition to this, announcements were made during several Bethel Park Ministry events and stated in various Newsletters throughout 2019.

During the Chapel/ Dining Hall/ Kitchen major renovation project in 2002/2003, several members lent funds to BP at that time. There would be a "Loan Agreement" between the person(s) and Bethel Park Camp, stating interest rate and conditions. Each Agreement will be negotiated individually. Our general guideline for the interest rate you receive would be somewhere between the interest one would currently receive on your Saving Account from a financial institution to a reasonable Guaranteed Interest Certificate one would receive from a financial institution.

To discuss this possibility further, please contact Harald Drewitz, Treasurer at treasurer@bethelpark.ca or at 1-519-579-4388 (Kitchener)

As you plan and discuss your 2020 Family Budget, yes 2020, please prayerfully consider the ongoing needs of Bethel Park. Just one consideration, as most of you will receive a 2019 Income Tax Refund in the spring of 2020, perhaps this is a good opportunity to use a portion of the refund to pay your 2020 BP Taxes and Fees, along with a donation to Bethel Park.

Have a safe winter, stay healthy and may God continue to Bless you!

Donation note – friendly reminder. You can donate via :

1. Cheque/Cash (not via mail)
2. Our website: www.bethelpark.ca:
 - A. Click on Donate
 - B. Under "Donation Options", click on Canadahelps.org
 - C. Follow donation instructions
3. E-transfer - Please use the email bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca for the e-transfer.
 - **Security Question:** Street name of my cabin
 - **Answer:** Whatever your street name is **all in small letters** (For Example: if your cabin is on Bethlehem, then your password is bethlehem)

If you have any questions regarding options on how to donate please contact Norma at bookkeeper@bethelpark.ca

Spiritual Care Report by Jim Wright

Once again, we can testify that God has been faithful through this past camp season. The 2019 season was filled with great experiences, opportunities to connect and grow together. We are grateful for those who have served us as speakers and worship leaders during our camps. A special thanks goes out to our Summer Camp Pastor, Guenther Rittmeyer who faithfully blessed on weekends and to Dr. Werner Rienas who managed family camp. Join with us in prayer as preparations and invitations are made to those who will serve us at our camp's next season.

Victoria Day Long Weekend

The official opening of our camp gatherings. Many of you came to camp this weekend to prepare your

cottages and to reconnect. In the Sunday Services we enjoyed ministry from Pastor Todd Gibbons from Immanuel in Kitchener.



Bethel Park Kids Camp

A big thank you goes out to Monica Helbrecht and her team and volunteers for the excellent quality Camp that served and blessed an overflowing crowd of young registrants this season. We are looking forward to see this Kid's Camp, along with our Youth Camp, continue to serve our next generation and their families.

German Heritage Camp

We continue to be blessed by the senior ministers in our camp family organized by Guenther Rittmeyer who gave leadership to the ministry in the German language during this half-week of ministry.

Family Camp

We enjoyed a great week of ministry beginning with a Vintage Gospel Sing Saturday evening with Pastor Lorrie Gibbons and his friends, and then great preaching opening Sunday from Joe Amaral. Jeff Futers and Jeff Johnston blessed those who came to participate in the services during the week. Gord D. joined us from the RAN network Saturday morning updating us on the global workers in his circle. Saturday night we received a stellar offering for World Missions from the camp constituency. Thanks also to the energetic, Spirit led meetings from Pastor David Forrest on the closing weekend. What joy to see altars full Saturday night as men and women committed themselves to engage in missions and ministry and Sunday night again to have the front full as folk were Baptized in the Spirit and engaging with God and one another in a season of prayer. For our children the ministry team lead by Dan and Teresa Tambeau challenged our children 5-12

during the eight days of Family Camp. We are so appreciative of Trudy Rittmeyer and the adults who volunteer to help us maintain our Plan to Protect policies in children's ministry. We are always in need of more adults to help us, so please consider speaking with Trudy R. if you can be a part of the team next summer. Justin Hasenpflug and his wife and team out in the pavilion effectively guided our junior high cohort through an active week of ministry often closing their ministry times after the main services were done.

Labour Day Weekend

Our summer wrapped up with a full weekend of team ministry by Dr. Werner and Gabe Rienas from Warden in Toronto. Many commented on the blessings they received in those three meetings.

Best Year's Retreat

A group of volunteers organized by Trish Havercroft and John Klein promoted this informal September weekend event with guest speaker Pastor John Stewart from Kitchener Gospel Temple. We are grateful to all those who partnered together to help to make this event happen.

2019 Ground, Building and Maintenance Report by David Schuetzkowski and Fred Mielke

THANK YOU, to all who came and helped in the two scheduled camp cleanup days this year, and a special thanks to the staff and volunteers that were there faithfully throughout the year. They are the ones who make camp useable and enjoyable for us all. May it continue to be a place where lives are changed for God's glory. Additional committed volunteers are needed for grass cutting and various projects and would be greatly appreciated.



Completed in 2019

- A tent shelter was provided for the Nursery area and this will continue until such a time that a permanent structure can be built.
- The usual plumbing water leaks, etc. were addressed as they arose
- Grass cutting and plant care are a continual task

- Tabernacle carpets were cleaned due to ground water seepage
- Roads were dressed with reclaimed asphalt.
- Motel A (Known as speaker's cabins) got a complete make over, floors, fresh paint, lighting fixtures and blinds.
- The majority of outside camp building lights were replaced with new energy efficient LED lights.
- A lot of dead trees, mostly ash and red pine (some were dead falls known as widow makers) were cut down and removed from the bush along the HWY 3 fence line east of the main entrance.
- In October a major tree cutting event happened where 12 dead, large pine trees were cut down in our nice pine park as you enter the park.
- 2 Light standards were put in, the one by the garbage



bins lights up the whole area right to the tractor sheds. The one behind home plate at the baseball diamond is not yet wired in.

- A light standard was relocated to the 1st intersection at the main gate to illuminate that main entrance area
- A number of our own tree trunk benches were placed around the park
- Leaking roof on tabernacle was addressed by relocating the ridge flashing.

Reminders

- The area across from the garbage bins was designated as temporary storage of power boats and recreational vehicles. Winter storage is not allowed.
- Burn Pile: Bethel Park must comply with West Elgin's By-Law No. 2014-69 regulating open burning.
- Cabin owners working on their cabin must take all their construction waste etc. to the local dump. Construction waste may not be thrown into the



garbage bins. Only household waste is to be taken to the large waste bins. Styrofoam and plastic bags are not recyclable. **All sofas, mattresses furniture etc. is to be taken to the municipal dump. DO NOT bring unwanted items from home to add to our garbage or scrap metal pile. TV's need to be taken to a proper electronic recycle location, not dumped by the dumpsters.**

- Outside contractors may not stay overnight at Bethel Park during any of the Kid's Camps due to Plan to Protect regulations. A cabin owner or an authorized designated person must be present during working hours if an outside contractor is on site during Kid's Camps.
- **All cabins must have an up to date working fire extinguisher.**
- **2020 Camp Clean up day is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Hydro will be on as of May 1, 2020.**

Cabin Transfer and Waste Management Report by Board Secretary, Walter Nerling

It is hard to believe that another season at Bethel Park has ended. The 2019 season seemed to pass by with lightning speed. I am sure that we all are looking forward to camp opening in 2020 so we can once again enjoy this beautiful place in God's creation. We would like to welcome the many new cabin owners. There were 16 cabin transfers in 2019. It is wonderful to see such a great response from so many that want to be part of Bethel Park. We look forward to everyone's involvement in caring for and supporting all the ministries by volunteering and your ongoing financial support of Bethel Park. May God Bless you all richly!

We have once again made significant steps forward towards implementation of the Waste Management system. Early in 2019 we received ECA approval for the treatment plant supplied by Newterra, and the plant is scheduled for delivery in 2020. We then completed the design for the collection system. This work was done by Gunnell Engineering. The design was signed off by the Town of Rodney and submitted to the Ministry for an ECA amendment. It is our understanding their review

has been completed but it is being held up because of ongoing discussion between Provincial and Municipal governments as to who should be approving these applications. This may delay our intention to begin work this winter.



The design drawings for the Newterra supplied tanks are currently being reviewed and will be in production shortly. The shop drawings for the two pumping stations for the collection system are also being reviewed so that they can be ordered as soon as we receive the ECA approval from the Ministry.

We intend to work with a local contractor to do the installation work and we are working hard to ensure everything is in place and ready to start. Please continue to keep this whole process in your prayers. We are also thankful for the generous and ongoing financial support that is required to complete this much needed project.

Youth Camp Report By Simon Weresch

Leading up to our 2019 Youth Camp season, the leadership committee spent significant time in review on the rich history of Bethel Park and the future aim of youth camp. We established that Bethel Park Youth Camp has the unique position to offer a rich experience and atmosphere of connection seldom experienced at other camps and retreats. Our aim: to reach out to local youth groups from all over Southern Ontario and open opportunities to foster and build new connections to Bethel Park Youth Camp.

We established a goal to see 120 campers register for this year's youth camp and on the day before camp began, we accepted our 120th youth camp registration. God's provision continued throughout the week of



youth camp. We saw God's hand of blessing and grace over every aspect of youth camp this year. Through the powerful message of Chris Chase, youth were able to encounter Christ in new and fresh ways. Chris Chase was able to capture and draw in students to understand how they are viewed through the lens of Christ.

As we begin our planning for 2020, we are encouraged with how the planning process has already begun. We look to this New Year to continue to foster and build relationships with some of our newer church youth groups involved and are looking excitedly for what's in store. We covet your continued prayers throughout the year for the planning process and the camp.



We are planning for a government grant so that we can hire a summer student for the 2020 season. The student would help Fred Mielke with

maintenance and grounds upkeep as well as some janitorial duties. We are hopeful that this will be a full-time position for the summer months. We will keep you informed. We would be very happy to see this job opportunity for one of our Bethel Park students.

Board of Directors

Doris Bilitz (President)
Walter Nerling (Secretary)
Harald Drewitz (Treasurer)
David Schuetzkowski (Director of Facilities)
Jim Wright (Spiritual Care)
Richard Feth
Helga Hintz
Paul Mittelstaedt
Arden Nerling
Guenter Rittmeyer
Frank Weresch
Ron Baker

Administration: Ingrid Hook
Bookkeeper: Norma Scherer



*Wishing you a blessed Christmas
with Family and Friends*