

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the 75th anniversary of IVCF in Canada, **Don Stinton** was awarded an Inter-Varsity Canada Alumni Award. Don graduated from the U of C in medicine in 1974.

As one who has been impacted by IVCF in the past, and who continues to live out the values of IV, Don has led projects to renew and refurbish ageing staff cabins at Pioneer Ranch as well as the Voyageur canoes.

Lyle Korver, former site manager at Pioneer Ranch, is at RCMP school.

Penny Lussier is our new staff at Beaverlodge High School.

Joe Oliverio, a former Senior Boys Camp Director, has been appointed to the national board of IVCF. Joe replaces Alec Kerfoot, who served for 15 years.

Cyntha Dyck is an ISCF intern in Lethbridge - a partner with Millar College and Park Meadows Baptist Church.

Neil Graham is Vice President of External Relations for IVCF.

Rob Holland and Naomi Siemens were married at Pioneer Ranch on Oct.30.

Helping with program at the Lodge this winter are **Paul Aitken, Yvonne Bleakney, Cerah Vincent, and SuJan Gill.**

Brian and Nancy Penny recently retired from seven years of International Student Ministry in Edmonton.

Gas and electricity cost \$43,300 this past year! We continue to seek energy efficient solutions.

EDMONTON FUNDRAISER

This year's Inter-Varsity Celebration was a great success, thanks to great work from our volunteers (especially Shayna Bowling!), supporters, table hosts, and of course, the 180 'old and new' friends of Inter-Varsity in Edmonton.

We are especially grateful for those who were able to give financially. We made over \$13,000, not counting the generous supporters who agreed to cover the room and catering costs in advance!

NEWS FROM TANA

Our president, Geri Rodman, has reorganized the senior levels of IVCF. I am now one of three Divisional Directors. I will oversee camp and campus work in the three western provinces, and participate in decisions affecting the entire IV mission. I am continuing in my job as Alberta Regional Director while we search for a full-time replacement. Please pray for God to provide a leader to advance the mission in Alberta.

Our biggest challenge today is meeting people who share God's heart for young people and want to partner with us in this mission. You can help by speaking to someone else, sharing this newsletter, or arranging a meeting where I can explain Inter-Varsity's purpose.

TANA CLARK
Western Divisional Director, IVCF

About half of the funds were specifically designated to staff salaries - the remainder will be used for staff development and support, and developing the local support team.

Thanks again, Edmonton, for making this fundraiser such a huge success!

"NEW" VOYAGEUR - THANKS DON!



INITIATIVES

PIONEER LODGE - NEXT GENERATION

People who use the Lodge increasingly mention its worn and outdated nature, so we are looking at the work required to prepare for ministry in the coming years. The leak and repair cycle of the Lodge's roof is over - a redesign has resulted in a new metal roof. No more buckets on the floor during the rains!

We are now in a position to invest in upgrading the inside. A kitchen consultant was hired to help redesign the kitchen. More dreams for the Lodge: improved washrooms, improved bunk and twin rooms, barrier free access and pool improvements.

For submissions to this newsletter, please contact:

- Bonnie** bonnie.tarchuk@shaw.ca
- Dave** dndfisher@telus.net
- Leah** leahrunka@telus.net

HOW TO SUPPORT A STAFF PERSON

All of IVCF/Pioneer Camps staff wages are dependent upon donations from people who want to be partners in Inter-Varsity's mission to students. If you want to support a staff person, please make a donation using the attached form and specify the person's name. Donations may be made online at www.ivcf.ca, by phone to IVCF Donor Services at 1-800-668-9766 or by mail to the Pioneer Camps office or the IVCF Alberta Region office.

HELP WANTED

Are you, or do you know of a retired sales person who would like to donate marketing time? We need someone to help us generate school and group business for fall/winter/spring and ideas for summer camp marketing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- as camp hosts for both sites
- to become camp cooks for days or weekends
- to train to be a wrangler and work with young people.

Contact Kayla and let her know you can help.

A generous donor enabled us to start these projects and your donations will take us farther.

If you donate money it may be matched or if you volunteer your labor it may provide additional funds of \$10/hour toward a matching grant - contact Fred Tyrer, site manager at the Lodge, if you want to be part of the building projects. Please designate your monetary donations for:

"Pioneer Lodge - 2020".

NEW AT PIONEER RANCH

Jack's John (an old trailer) was

ROB & NAOMI HOLLAND



brought in when Cap's Ranch house was built in 1982 as a temporary washhouse - it is still there! This year the Rocky Area Committee donated monies from their fall fundraiser towards a new washhouse.

Please consider partnering with us through cash contributions so that we can request for matching funds and plan for spring construction - estimated cost is \$40,000.

Camper cabin renovations started last May with Cabins 7, 11 and 12 receiving new bunks, doors, fire exit windows, flooring and improved energy efficiency.

Our property insurer now requires us to replace or upgrade our wood stoves and chimneys - about 30 of them at a cost of about \$1500 a piece! You can help one stove at a time or direct us to a company who may supply them economically.

PIONEER RANCH 04/05 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Ice Climbing Weekend
December 17 - 20
Age: High School

1/2 Way To Summer
January 28 - 30
Age: High School

Spring Fling
April 8 - 10
Age: High School

**PIONEER LODGE 04/05
SUNDRE**

International Christmas Camp
December 20 - 23
Age: Everyone

Country Christmas
December 24 - 27
Age: Everyone

The Gathering
March 18 - 20
The Gathering is an annual weekend for Alberta staff and key volunteers. If you want an invitation, contact your local staff worker

FERNIE Ski Weekend
March 4 - 6
Age: High School

PIONEER CAMP NEEDS

- A new-to-us **van** and a fuel-efficient **car**. If you have either at a good price, please call our Pioneer camp office.
- A large steel **cabinet** to store paint at Pioneer Ranch.
- **Lamps** for bedside tables and **dressers** in good condition.
- Automatic tea **kettle**.
- **Snowplow blade** ~ \$5,500.
- **Tractor** for Pioneer Lodge.

Contact Kayla Pearce at the Pioneer Camp office toll free:

1-888-511-2660

Check out our website at:

www.pioneercamps.ab.ca



ALBERTA REGION
Box 67162
RPO Northland
Calgary, AB T2L 2L2
403-815-7928
alberta@ivcf.ca

CAMPS & CAMPUS DECEMBER 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- A Message From Cam Runka
- Grant Money Received
- Urban Pioneer
- Edmonton Fundraiser
- Camp Initiatives
- Tana's New Job

The Word became flesh and lived among us We have seen his glory!



CAMPS & CAMPUS DECEMBER 2004

unto us a child is born!



A MESSAGE FROM CAM RUNKA

"I believe that the wind of the Spirit is blowing."

It has been 10 months since I assumed the role of Executive Director of Alberta Pioneer Camps. It has been a privilege to watch God work in so many ways. In September summer camp directors and staff met to acknowledge and celebrate the work of God during the summer. Here is what I reflected on with them.

In Acts 2 Luke observes what life among believers looked like in the early church. My own loose paraphrase:

"Awe came over everyone because many wonders were being done by camp directors. All directors, leaders, and staff were together sharing all things in common. They gave of their time and gifts distributing to any as they had need. Day by day they spent time together at camp, sharing meals in the dining hall or in the wilderness eating food with glad generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of parents and friends. And day by day the Lord added to their numbers those who were being saved and transformed into characters of God."

Well, this takes some liberty with the text but it illustrates the

ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in ushering in the Kingdom through Pioneer camps.

As I traveled from camp to camp I saw diversity among camps but also the unity of our common spirits – of both the Holy Spirit and the Pioneer spirit. God gave us the gift of people who were willing to share in a work that sometimes involved sacrifice, anxiety, tiredness, joy, and frustration. But all were able to share in the mystery of Jesus at work in the hearts of people. Some of us planted, others watered, but it was God who gave growth.

I saw that only God could knit

URBAN PIONEER

For youth who come to Pioneer Ranch, camp is often a highlight in their lives. Camp may leave people changed, often in ways they don't understand and it can be difficult to transfer these experiences into urban lives. The Urban Pioneer work in both Calgary and Edmonton, is our way of trying to help high school kids understand their time at Pioneer, integrate it into their lives at home, and to expand the network of students being called to a life of faith, journey, and adventure. And as you'll see in the articles that follow, **Urban Pioneer** is an idea that's taking hold on University campuses as well!

UPS IN CALGARY

How can we help our high school aged campers to continue to live out the camp experience in the context of the city? This question was creatively addressed by a group

together and create such a ragged glory. All our efforts at being prepared and in control withered as we found ourselves having to yield to and trust God in events as they unfolded. I realize how truly amazing it is that so many people were thrown together and in those relationships so much happened, with such grace. For some moments this summer we, and others as co-workers, were the light and hope of Jesus, who seems to like showing up in places that are messy and risky. Praise God.

of about 25 Calgary leaders from Sr. Girls, Sr. Boys and Plunge camps this fall, and the result is **Urban Pioneer**. A kick-off barbecue, wide game and campfire evening saw over 50 campers gathered with their summer cabin leaders! The calendar is set now, with every second Monday seeing campers and staff gathered together for "UPS" - Urban Pioneer Stories – where leaders will share their own stories with the campers, inviting them to consider how God might meet them in their everyday lives.

This energetic group of young leaders has lots of ideas, including service projects, sports activities, speakers, Bible studies, small groups, emails, phone calls,

U of C at HIGHWOOD PASS



The summer is now a memory, but the work of our mission continues. Several young leaders have stayed on with us helping host schools and groups this fall and winter. God is transforming them through a rhythm and discipline of work, study, prayer and community living. It is our desire and prayer to see more young leaders have this opportunity. This is one way that Pioneer Ranch Camp's mission of transforming youth, students and graduates is growing into a year round work. I believe the wind of the Spirit is blowing.

God is encouraging us, as He did this summer, to press ahead with hopes and dreams of influencing youth for the kingdom. As you read this newsletter prayerfully consider how you are being called to be a part of this renewing work.

I want you to share in this work of Pioneer and see it as a gift of God. Please continue to listen and pray for what He is asking of each of us as He shapes a new work for the next generation.

CAM RUNKA
Alberta Pioneer Camps
Executive Director



TARRA MCKENZIE

coffees and meals together, weekend gatherings, singing, one-on-one connections, wide games, and just hanging out. Please pray both for the leaders and their campers as they seek to stay involved and invested in each other's lives.

U of C - INTRODUCING TARRA MCKENZIE

We have two new staff in Calgary- Lynette at Mt Royal College and Tarra at the U of C. (Our next newsletter will tell you more about Lynette Stokhuyzen). Tarra McKenzie comes to IVCF staff work from a background of studying Kinesiology at the U of C (2002) and extensive outdoor leadership experience on water, snow, ice, rocks and mountain trails. Tarra's love for both the outdoors and for ministry has resulted in lots of action and more **Urban Pioneer** initiatives among U of C's IVCF'ers.

- A kick-off was held with U of C students in September at the Amiskwi backcountry fly-in lodge.
- Another weekend brought students from Mount Royal College and U of C together at Pioneer Ranch for a weekend of camp activities and time with speaker Manny Mah, professor of Medicine.
- Tarra housesits a home near to the U of C where she is hosting a Bible study and meeting with student leaders. There are several other Bible studies underway, led by students.
- At a recent gathering at the U of C climbing wall for instruction on glacier travel and rescue, the group used the evening as a metaphor for:

FIRE AT U of A

James Peters, Edmonton Team Leader, writes on his website www.jamespeters.ca, "It starts with a flame." He speaks of a dozen student leaders sitting around a fire at Elk Island Park talking: about calling their peers to risk on an adventurous journey of exploring the world and the God who created it; about developing future leaders; about setting a new and bold course of campus ministry. All this with one primary focus of inviting people on a physical and spiritual journey to develop authentic, challenging relationships. Their plan:



U of A at MT. ROBSON

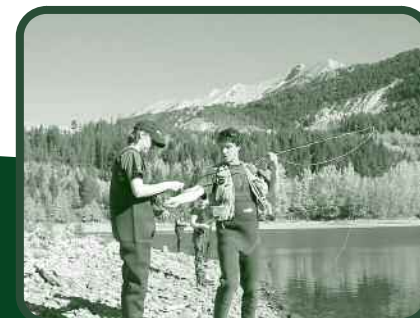
a vision of further integration between Pioneer Camps and our campus ministries. Since we are located so far away from the Pioneer sites, we are initiating an **Urban Pioneer** out-trip program that will see the hiring of our first Pioneer campus staff worker. His job will be to develop an out-trip program and work alongside other campus staff to provide "camp on campus" to our ISCF, VCF and ISM students.

So far this semester, VCF at the U of L has been successfully experimenting with Pioneer style out-trips. A leaders canoe trip down the Milk River was a smash hit. This was followed up by our first-ever Base Camp weekend in the Crowsnest Pass. Here students chose either mountain scrambling, fly fishing or mountain biking,

Students came to a Devon-Edmonton canoe trip one weekend, a new-student weekend at Pioneer Ranch on another, a challenging weekend at Mt. Robson, and a night-time corn maze. Students from both churched and non-churched backgrounds came to these weekends. Around the campfire at each, friendships and conversations about what it means to be a follower of Christ in an increasingly diverse world began to develop.

while Dr. Duff Crerar led a series of evening discussions around how to choose guides for life. The response from students to the weekend was awesome and the conversations and relationships created through the sharing of a common experience together have carried over to the campus. It was also a great atmosphere for those who were "just checking Christianity out". In the future, we are looking towards creating a leadership development program for campuses that will tie heavily into our new Pioneer out-trip program.

DAVE McMURRAY
Southern Alberta District Director and ministry at U of L



James writes, "We're not running training in evangelism - we're giving people an experience of it."

GRANT MONEY RECEIVED

Over the past few years several donations of time and money have enabled us to obtain matching grants from the Alberta government. At the Ranch, cabins were renovated, furniture reupholstered, and the dining room received a new wood floor. Last May, the dining room at Pioneer Lodge also saw new wood flooring. Over \$27,000 worth of volunteer labor for these projects was matched by the grant monies.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY IN EDMONTON

Urban Pioneer in Edmonton sees leaders, along with staff worker Jenny Stinton, meeting with students every other Tuesday for Bible study, prayer, and to continue the Pioneer journey together.

One of their goals this year has been to see informal relationships furthered and it has been encouraging to see the high school ministry grow through the initiative of individuals who take campers riding, hiking, serving in the inner city, to weekends at camp, and spending time with students. It really is a pioneering work as young leaders seek to develop new models and new visions for high school work in the urban centers.

THANK YOU!

INTERVARSITY

Christian Fellowship

PIONEER RANCH CAMPS

1. YES, I / we want to stand with Inter Varsity and Pioneer Ranch Camps to advance God's Kingdom in Alberta. I will make a gift of:
 - \$300
 - \$200
 - \$100
 - Other \$ _____

Please provide the following information:

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: STREET _____ APT. _____
 CITY _____ PROV. _____
 POSTAL CODE _____ Donor ID: check label

4. Mail this form to:
 - IVCF Donor Services
 - 64 Prince Andrew Pl
 - Toronto, ON
 - M3C 2H4

or donate online at: www.ivcf.ca

AB1104

2. I will make my contribution through a:
 - Cheque
 - Visa or MasterCard - charge \$ _____
 - Credit Card #: _____
 - Expiry Date: _____
 - Signed: _____

3. I designate my gift to:
 - Pioneer Camps at:
 - Lodge (Sundre)
 - Ranch (Rocky)
 - Peace County
 - General
 - Scholarship assistance for summer campers
 - Development of Pioneer's facilities at: _____
 - Ministry with students at: _____
 - Support for staff member: _____
 - General support for IVCF Ministry in:
 - Alberta Region
 - Lethbridge District

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.