

Facing Forward



A B O U T F A C E

Camp Trailblazers 10th Anniversary A Huge Success! **By Emily Rivers**

...continued from front page

2014 marked Camp Trailblazers' 10th Anniversary, and we could not have asked for a more successful year! This year, we had some exciting improvements to our program which we are very proud of, and had a record breaking total of 100 campers!

We started off with our first ever West Coast Family Camp which took place May 2-4 at Camp Fircom on Gambier Island in B.C. Over the weekend, 18 people aged 5-70 which included families and affected individuals, had the wonderful opportunity to connect with other families, participate in some empowering sessions and of course enjoy some time in the great outdoors. Not surprisingly, everyone loved Camp Fircom which offers great food, a great facility and great views!



This year, our Nova Scotia camp took place Aug. 3-7, and was held at Brigadoon Village. And what a difference it made to have this camp take place in the summer! Our campers were so happy to be able to go swimming every day and enjoy the heat all week! Campers swam, went canoeing, and played lots of games. One of the big focuses this year was having the campers at each camp create a goal that they wanted to reach by the end of camp. Our campers made goals like improving their swimming skills, and speaking to new people, which they completed by speaking to five strangers before the end of camp. The team at Brigadoon Village were great and even made [this amazing video](#) of our campers!



Facing Forward



A B O U T F A C E

Our Ontario camp was also held in the summer this year Aug. 13-17 and like our Nova Scotia camp, was longer than previous years at 5 days long. With 33 campers, this was our most successful camp this year! It took place at Easter Seals' Camp Woodeden which was a new camp for us, and provided us with an amazing staff and facility. It was also more accessible for a lot of our families. Of course we still arranged for a road trip for our wonderful campers from Ottawa and Belleville and drove them across Ontario to get there! The biggest hit this year, was our first ever hoedown themed banquet where our campers and volunteers got to dress up and dance the night away!



Our Manitoba camp which was on Sept 18-21, was the biggest it has ever been with 22 campers this year! We had 6 campers from Saskatchewan thanks to two enthusiastic med students and volunteers Hannah and Bahar, who arranged flights and accompanied them on the trip to Manitoba. Along with sponsoring the campers from Saskatchewan, AboutFace also flew in a camper from Alberta! It was also the first time that Camp Trailblazers Manitoba had representation from 4 provinces – AB, SK, MB, and ON (a camper drove over from Northern Ontario)!



Facing Forward



A B O U T F A C E

Newfoundland, which took place Oct. 2-5 was our smallest group at just 7 campers, but it was a very impactful weekend. We had gorgeous weather the whole time and there was lots of play time outdoors. One unique thing we did at our Newfoundland camp was invite some of our local families to come and spend the day at camp with us. They were able to participate in fun and games, played Quest – a team challenge and got to tour the camp facilities. They also got to take part in the “Pie in the Face Challenge” which you can read more about [HERE](#). We are so happy that they were able to join us! Another highlight is that we had a camper fly in from Ontario because she was unable to attend the Ontario camp this year. She was originally from Newfoundland so it was a special trip for her! She is hearing impaired, and the other campers had the opportunity to learn sign language throughout the weekend, and could all sign their names by the end of camp!



All in all, we couldn't have asked for a better year of Camp Trailblazers. We want to say a big thank you to all of our wonderful camp volunteers who care so much about our campers and our organization. Without you, Camp Trailblazers would not be possible! Check out [this video](#) of the campers thanking our awesome volunteers!

Last but not least, AboutFace would like to thank all of our donors and sponsors who have helped [contribute](#) to our Camp Trailblazers fund as well donating [Aeroplan Miles](#) to make this program accessible to children everywhere! We already can't wait for Camp Trailblazers 2015 – stay tuned!