

Burnaby Connexions

Feature Story 1

A Gift that Changed a Life



Betty Blair shares her love for camping with the Burnaby Camping Bureau.

It was the year 1939 and many Canadian families were suffering from the Great Depression. However, 15 year old Betty Blair was one of the lucky few who, despite such poverty during that time, was given the rare chance to escape reality and enter the world full of trees, lakes, and bon fires.

Sponsored by a lady her mother worked for, Betty spent three summers at Camp Artaban in Gambier Island, learning not only technical skills like cooking and sewing, but

also defining life skills that shaped her to be the confident and independent woman she is today.

"We had to do skits during camp and that was how I built my confidence," Betty said of one of many skills she gained.

Carrying the very skills she gained from her first camp experience under her wings, Betty continued on to be a camp leader and later, a camp director.

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However, camp isn't all about having fun and learning skills.

"Kids learned to appreciate and express this appreciation with one another. The golden rule 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' also played an integral part of the camping experience," explained Betty of the many character building lessons she learned and passed on.

Aside from sharing her passion with her young campers, her love for the outdoor and love for an environment that fosters friendships and offers challenges inspired her granddaughters to follow her footsteps.

"My granddaughter works at a camp for sick children in California and had asked me to volunteer there. I was

eighty at that time!"

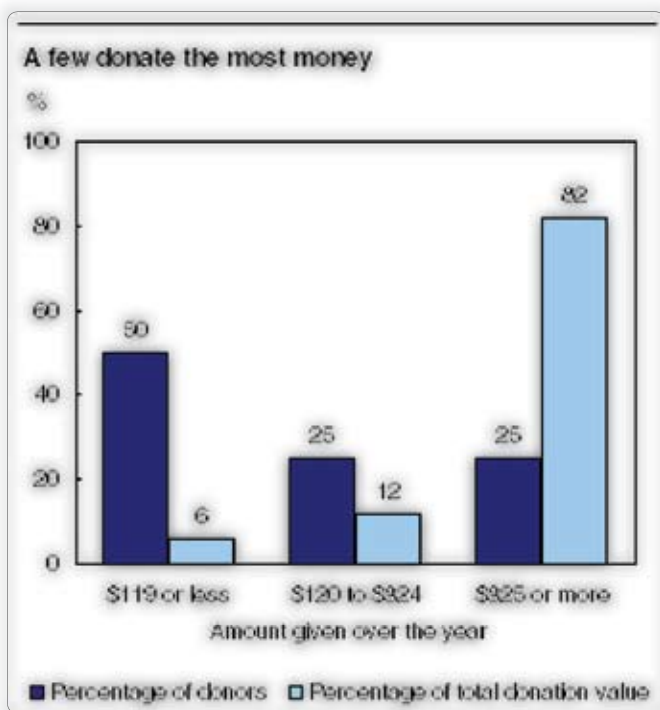
Betty Blair's first camp experience changed her life. Remembering how it all began, she said "I wasn't able to tell the lady how thankful I was of her sending me to camp. Thinking back now, I feel so grateful." Hence, Betty wanted to change another child's life, exactly the way her life was first changed.

She donated to our camping bureau to help send a kid to camp of their choice this summer, and although she has no personal connection with these kids, her enthusiasm and love for camping will truly be felt by those she helped.

August is fast approaching but it's not too late to donate to the Burnaby Camping Bureau. ■

External News

More than Just Numbers



It's been a long day at work, and you come home to a pile of unopened mail and unread newspaper.

Letters, along with donation cards, asking for help and ads in the newspaper showing needy children moves you. You pick up your wallet and so do 22 million other Canadians.

According to the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating (CSGVP) which was last conducted by Statistics Canada in 2004, 85% of Canadians (or 22 million Canadians) aged 15 and over made a financial donation to a charitable or other non-profit organization during the 12-month period covered by the survey. They donated an estimated \$8.9 billion.

Despite this high percentage of donors, charitable and other non-profit organizations rely on a relatively small group of donors for majority of their support. 82% of the value of all donations was provided by a quarter (21% of Canadians) of donors.

Although the survey shows statistics of financial help, the many other forms of aid given by Canadians are gone unnoticed. However, help is always wanted no matter what form it's in.

Resources are available if you would like to find out more about community services and organizations. ■

Feature Story 2

A Succ-sea-ding Partnership



Summer is not only a time for out-of-school children to enjoy their free time but also an opportunity for them to discover the independence, creativeness, challenges, and friendships that summer camp has to offer. Whether it's a day camp or an overnight camp, there are always lots for children to learn.

With a partnership that began a year ago, the Vancouver Aquarium continues to work closely together with us in subsidizing children to attend their camps. In addition to the subsidy provided through donations to the Burnaby Camping Bureau, the Vancouver Aquarium covers a portion of the fee, leaving the parents with only a small amount to pay.

"We want our camps to be accessible to everyone in the community so we're not targeting to just one market," said Kristi Larsen, a camp coordinator at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Kids are taught about the life of the marine through activities that develop their scientific skills such as inquiring, testing, and analyzing as well as observation skills. They are given work that is to be done individually and also in a group, giving kids extra practice with different working styles.

Reflecting on the results of this partnership, Kristi stated "We really enjoyed the partnership with the Burnaby Camping Bureau. We hope to further develop this so we can continue to bring life of the marine into the lives of children."

Apart from its collaboration with the Burnaby Camping Bureau, the Vancouver Aquarium offers subsidies and discounts to other community organizations, truly spreading knowledge and opportunities to children from all different communities.

"We would love to see the number of subsidized kids increase. We really want to work on increasing our reach to the community," responded Kristi on their future goals.

Many other camps also make Burnaby Camping Bureau possible and with the help of donors, our hope for every child to go to camp will be fulfilled. ■



Visit the Vancouver Aquarium Website:
www.vanaqua.org

Read more about Burnaby Camping Bureau:
www.burnabycommunityconnections.com/camping.shtml

Feature Story 4

Current Events at our Office



Discovery Day Festival

Discovery Day

Splash! Close to 800 kids showed up at our booth during Discovery Day to catch some fish for a chance to win a water gun, bracelets, candies or other wacky prizes.

Discovery Day, which happened on July 20th at Deer Lake, is an annual event that welcomes families and children to have fun, and fun is exactly what our fishing game provided. Up until the very last minute of the event, kids continuously crammed around the fishing pool, hoping for a chance to test their fishing skills and, of course, to have some fun.

Burnaby Camping Bureau

We have sent 382 kids to camp; it was another successful camping season. Friday August 1st will be our last day for accepting applications.

We also had a lot of great partnerships with camps this past year (the Vancouver Aquarium, Camp Jubilee, Camp Potlatch, etc.) and we hope to continue to partner with these camps again next year.

Finally, we would like to give a great big thanks to all our

donors and for those who participated in our Send a Kid to Camp Campaign.

Things to Look Out For

Ever wonder how your donations affect those you helped? In our upcoming August newsletter, we will be featuring stories of a few families who used our Burnaby Camping Bureau.

Community Events

For upcoming events, check out Community E-Calendar: www.burnabycommunityconnections.com/ecalendar.php ■

Do you have any suggestions, comments or a story you would like to share?

Contact us by email at info@burnabycommunityconnections.com or call us at 604-299-5778 ext. 22.

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