

CAMP MIRIAM

– generation to generation

Decades of support from the community have allowed Camp Miriam to deliver unique camping experiences to Jewish young people.

That support has a particularly meaningful impact when it comes in the form of planned giving or a gift in memory.

When Rhoda Friedrichs passed away last year, her family suggested the Camp Miriam Campership Fund as a worthy cause that friends might wish to support in her memory.

“A few weeks before her death Rhoda specifically mentioned Camp Miriam to me as a cause she hoped our family and friends would continue to support in the future,” says Professor Chris Friedrichs. “But even if she had not mentioned it, I would have included this as one of my suggestions.”

About 30 donations were made in her honor.

“I was moved that so many members of our community chose to honor my wife’s memory by making it possible for other children attend the camp that so positively shaped our own children’s lives, he says. “Attending Camp Miriam was a profoundly formative experience for all three of our children. It deeply enriched their sense of Jewishness and it created life-long friendships.”



Prof. Chris Friedrichs

Friedrichs says that, while his wife visited Camp Miriam many times, he has only visited once.

“Whenever our kids returned from camp, they glowed in their descriptions of this magical place,” he says. “I became increasingly reluctant to visit the camp and risk having my image of this island paradise shattered by the reality of seeing it. Finally, one summer when our youngest child was

working for the last time as a madrich at Camp Miriam, I was persuaded to visit with my wife. This place that had loomed so large in my imagination turned out to be physically much smaller than I had expected. But even my brief visit gave me some sense of the joy that kids and counselors shared in this rustic setting.”

His single visit to the camp coincided with another milestone in his life.

“By a remarkable coincidence, the weekend that we spent on Gabriola Island happened to be the very weekend when our first grandchild was born on the other side of the continent. Now she, too, has started attending Camp Miriam and in two years her brother will be old enough to join her. Even though my grandchildren live in New York, my daughter wants them to have the same summer experience she had,” he says. “There are many splendid Habonim Dror camps, but there is only one Camp Miriam!”



To help provide camperships to enable Camp Miriam to maintain its motto “No child turned away for lack of funds,” please contact the Honorable John Fraser, Chair of Camp Miriam Finance Committee. For further information regarding registering your child for camp, please contact Leah, Camp Registrar, 604-266-2825 or camp.miriam@gmail.com or visit campmiriam.org.