



FALL 2020 Rossbrook House Circle

"No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be" -Sister Geraldine MacNamara



Summer-Lite!

Summer programming returned to Rossbrook House at the end of June. Children and youth dropped-in to check out what was happening and hang out. In the playroom, crafts of all kind were taking place. From tie-dye socks to home-made ice cream, the children ages 6-11 were able to get crafty while staying socially distanced.

"I liked doing Perler beads because you can make all kinds of things", Cecillia, age 11 said.

Cecillia also loved going on van rides because "we traveled outside of the city and saw new places."

The Energy Plus age group also enjoyed outings to the beach, the zoo, a farm, the Forks and other fun outings in small groups. Other activities included in-house movie nights and bingo.

Emily, age 7, loved the beach days and would arrive early, ready to spend a day playing in the sand and water.

Beach days are always a much-anticipated outing for both age groups. Getting out of the city to enjoy the water and the sun is a great way to relax! Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the annual tradition of camping for 2 week-long stays at Camp Maskwa was canceled for the Intermediates (ages 12+) this past summer.

Santana, age 7, said "Beach days are my favourite because I like to swim."

The pool tables and video games were opened for both age groups with extra precautions in place.



VIRTUAL VISITS

While we miss seeing our supporters in person, we, like so many other organizations, have canceled events like our annual Pow Wow and the Men's Luncheon fundraiser. We did share an annual reporting of financials and program information with an online Annual Community Meeting. You can still view the video on YouTube and access our annual reports here:

rossbrookhouse.ca/welcome-to-our-virtual-annual-community-meeting/

Our Open House will not be held next month but the exciting news is that Rossbrook House will still be supporting many of the students in our community by awarding our annual scholarships. Please join us as we celebrate with the recipients virtually in early November. Details will be emailed, on our website and on our Facebook page.



Rossbrook House values the safety of our community. Due to the many unknown and unpredictable variables with respect to COVID-19, **the decision has been made to cancel the No Child Alone Dinner on January 21, 2021.** Please note that while the doors may have shut on this event, the doors at Rossbrook House remain open. For information on how you can support Rossbrook House, visit rossbrookhouse.ca or contact Stephanie Lambert at (204) 949-4092.

Fall changes!

After a **record-breaking five and a half months of remaining open 24 hours**, Rossbrook House is back to regular hours with some exciting changes.

When so many service agencies were closing their doors in March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the



Emily, age 7, dropped in every day from March to September to play on the iPad, draw, paint or craft.

doors of Rossbrook House remained open, 24 hours, every day. While we saw fewer younger children this past spring, many youth in need of a safe place were frequent visitors. We focused on food and shelter and provided twice daily meals to anyone who was hungry as well as hygiene care packages and bagged lunches.



Rossbrook House is grateful to all of our supporters who helped us to remain open to provide a safe place for children and youth. We also thank our staff for their dedication to the children and Rossbrook House during these past few months.

With the return to school, Rossbrook's hours are back to:

Weekdays: 8am to midnight
Weekends: 24 hours

After-school programming returns as well with smaller groups, physically distancing, for Learning Always, the drop-in music program, Lighthouse activities, Boys Night and Girls Night.

At this time, Eagles' Circle alternative school program is not on-site at Rossbrook House. They are at the main campus (Hugh John MacDonald School) until the COVID-19 climate is deemed acceptable to return to Rossbrook. Because of this development, Rossbrook House has **opened its doors on weekdays from 10am to 3pm to pre-school age children with a parent or guardian**. This initiative will be a great way to meet more of our neighbours!



Q&A with Jane Quinton

CHAIR | ROSSBROOK HOUSE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

How did you first hear about Rossbrook House?

A close friend invited me to attend the Ladies Luncheon several years ago. I knew when I walked through the doors that Rossbrook House was a special place!

What inspired you to get involved with Rossbrook House through the Foundation?

Joining the Foundation Board was a chance to make a change in my community. I knew I would be helping raise and manage the funds necessary to support the vital services which Rossbrook House provides. It's a chance to work alongside a dedicated group of volunteer board members and staff to support the programming, outings and activities for children and youth, 365 days of the year.

Why do you feel it's important to support Rossbrook House?

Private donations have become increasingly necessary to support the vital programming that happens at Rossbrook House.



What is something you are excited for during your tenure as chair of the Rossbrook House Foundation Board of Directors?

The No Child Alone Dinner, definitely! When it's safe to do so, we will bring the community together to raise funds for Rossbrook House and celebrate with the kids. The kids help pull this event together making it a true celebration of all things Rossbrook!

What Rossbrook House program do you wish you could partake in?

That's easy—the Music Program. The music program is an opportunity for kids and youth to become excited about music and the learning process in a fun and supportive learning environment. The Rossbrook Rockers are awesome and always put on a good show! I play the piano, so maybe one day...

What would you say to others who are considering getting involved?

It will be the best decision you'll make!

Read the full interview with Jane Quinton on our website: rossbrookhouse.ca/qa-with-jane-quinton



We said farewell to **Tom Thompson**, Director of Finance & Administration, after 31 years at Rossbrook. We wish him a happy retirement.



One of the summer outings included a wagon ride, corn maze, and petting farm at **Deer Meadow Farms**.



Cake for Kids Winnipeg volunteers are baking again, adding the happy to birthdays for participants at Rossbrook House.

KEEP IN TOUCH



www.rossbrookhouse.ca • 204.949.4090