



*Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.*

## **Our Cultural Moment this month celebrates The Wellington North Day Camp Program**

Submitted by Mandy Jones & Meghan Karrow (Day Camp Coordinator):

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, the Township of Wellington North will relaunch its Summer Day Camp Program. The Program will run for a total of eight weeks and will be offered in both Arthur and Mount Forest for ages 5 to 11 years. Campers, volunteers and staff will look forward to activities and special guests that reflect the eight weekly themes:

- Week 1: School's Out for the Summer
- Week 2: The Amazing Race & Greatest Baker
- Week 3: Arts & Science
- Week 4: Make a Splash - Wet n' Wild
- Week 5: Music Makers
- Week 6: Emergency Services
- Week 7: Holiday Celebrations
- Week 8: The Best of the Best"

With a focus on partnerships within our community, guest visitors will include the Wellington North Fire Department, Wellington County Libraries, University of Guelph Let's Talk Science, local musicians and agricultural societies. Daily activities will include plenty of outdoor fun, arts and crafts, sports, hiking, science experiments and baking.

The Counsellor to Camper ratio is 1:8, ensuring a safe and fun space for all. All staff are trained in Standard First Aid and CPR C, Anaphylaxis, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, as well as HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development - Canada's quality standard for children's programs.

As the Summer Day Camp aims to be an inclusive program, staff, volunteers and campers will be using Camps on TRACKS, which is a peer-mediated social skills program designed to increase social interactions and inclusion. It is implemented by teaching peers the skills they need to interact with campers, in order to make camp a fun and rewarding experience for all (Sperry et al., 2010). Camps on TRACKS is named for the skills that are taught to peers in a child-friendly acronym. These six components in the Camps on TRACKS program provide peers with strategies to interact with campers with social challenges.

1. Try Again (Persistence)
2. Right Thing (Correcting)
3. Assist (Prompting)
4. Congratulate (Reinforcement)
5. Keep Trying (Persistence)
6. Show (Modelling)

There are many benefits of camp, from providing a safe environment to learn, grow and develop, to fostering self confidence, independence, healthy living, and environmental awareness. The Township of Wellington North is looking forward to providing children in our community with this awesome summer experience!

