

Noronto Report

This year, while not quite at pre-COVID levels, was still a very good year for our campground. We deeply missed our beloved groundskeeper, Jeff Phelps, who has been dealing with serious medical issues throughout the year.

In Jeff's absence, many stepped up to maintain these sacred grounds, ensuring they remain in great condition. Special thanks to those who traveled from as far as Shelburne and as close as North Bay, especially Sisters Bonnie and Pat, who organized mini work camps. Their efforts spread the word about the camp's needs, allowing people from Canada and the U.S. to participate and enjoy this cherished spiritual space.

The camps and groups that rented Camp Noronto this year include:

- St. Louis Family Reunion
- Northern Ontario CEM Children's Camp
- Narcotics Anonymous Campout
- CEM Noronto Family Reunion
- CEM Senior High Camp
- Seventh-Day Adventists
- CEM Canoe Camp
- Young at Heart Camp.

We began the year with a few concerns from 2023, such as the roof on the Children's Centre, our aging dishwasher and stoves, and our grass mower catching fire. It was decided that the roof and dishwasher could wait, but we replaced the main hot water heater for the dishwasher with a proper boiler. The lawn tractor was replaced with a used commercial unit, and the burnt one was restored by generous friends from North Bay. Jeff assisted from home, helping with the selection of a replacement stove and providing maintenance guidance.

This was the second year we successfully sprayed for mosquitoes using garlic oil. I believe it was the fourth year Scott and his daughter, Joyce, worked on seaweed removal from our beautiful sand beach—it really shows! Thanks to Scarborough Congregation, we now have barrier-free washrooms in the upper washroom building. We also tested a product called "Wet It and Forget It" on the chapel roof moss, which worked well without harming the shingles.

We continue managing our own waterworks system under the Walkerton Clean Water Act. In 2022, we installed maintenance-free epoxy floors in the dining hall, washrooms, and shower building. This year, the contractor is returning to address a hydraulic issue in part of the old dining hall concrete. A Children's Centre playground committee was established, and Noronto provided for upgrades. The highlight of the year is welcoming a new supporting congregation, Gathering Place+.