

McGowan's Lake Campground & Reunion Report

Our 2024 Reunion took place this year from August 16th to 21st. Vonda DenBoer of the CEM Presidency Team was our guest minister, and she brought a unique and powerful ministry to our worship and intergenerational sessions. The theme for the reunion was "Heal the Earth," and it had a memorable impact on the attendees' attitudes, knowledge, and behaviour regarding the environment, inspiring them to become better protectors of our planet's fragile balance.

In addition to our daily classes, hymns and devotions, the reunion provided learning opportunities in making miniature compost bins, creating reusable greeting cards, building bat houses, collecting items from nature to create a meditative mandala, using old fire hoses to create feeders for the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. We also enjoyed campfires, games, good food, assembling an earth puzzle, rock painting, a pancake breakfast supporting World Accord and a silent auction to support the campgrounds.

After a break from our daily routines, we leave our 2024 Reunion experience with a fresh outlook and a desire to notice how we relate to and interact with the natural world and our everyday choices benefiting the planet.

Last year, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority provided McGowan's Lake with twenty endangered Butternut trees to plant on the campground. This year, we were happy to report to the conversation authority that all twenty Butternut trees were doing well.

Our immediate requirements include restoring Heritage Hall as it is an essential priority in keeping the memories and feelings alive at McGowan's Lake in the future. We also want to align the Board's campground policies with CEM's. One such example is acknowledging the Kanata Congregation as a separate entity in its representation on the Board.