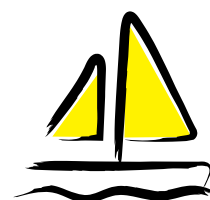


CNIB Lake Joe Year in Review 2022/23



Enriching lives, making memories,
building independence on the
shores of Lake Joseph.



CNIB
LAKE
JOE

In 2022, CNIB Lake Joe welcomed everyone back to camp for a full season of programming! Though we still had some limits on our room capacity due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns, we swung our doors open wide and offered three seasons full of super popular “camp classic” programs plus brand-new programs and special celebrations. This was on top of our robust virtual programs offered year-round!

In 2022/23, CNIB Lake Joe had 3,014 visits:

- **2,555** total program participant visits (739 in-person program visits, 1,816 virtual program visits) in **34** camp programs.
- **504** unique program participants (404 in-person guests, 45 attended both in-person and virtual programs, and 55 attended only virtual programs.)
- **459** guests attended internal and external group programs, events and meetings, including more than **200** physically distanced donors, sponsors, participants, and volunteers that came together for the wildly successful CNIB Lake Joe Dock-to-Dock Taste of Muskoka fundraising event.



CNIB Lake Joe’s land acknowledgement:

CNIB Lake Joe is on land which is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek (Ojibwe, Pottowattami, and Odawa) people. The Anishinabek still regard these lands as the hunting grounds, medicine areas, and gathering places, related to them through oral history passed down for generations. Other Indigenous Nations have come to occupy this land such as the Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-show-nee) and the Metis Nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years.

◀ Photo of Shawn Johnson, CNIB Lake Joe guest and member of the First Nations Mississauga Ojibwe, looking through a dreamcatcher at CNIB Lake Joe.

The 2022/23 year was full of firsts!

With programming stretching through the spring, summer and fall, our calendar was packed with new programs and partnerships. We hosted **34 in-person and virtual camp programs** (including nine new programs) and **14** conferences, special events, and mission-congruent external bookings. Here are some of the highlights!

April



Alumni Work Weekend kicks off the season

CNIB Lake Joe's alumni was launched in 2021 during our 60th anniversary. This year, alumni gathered at Lake Joe for their **first official reunion and clean-up weekend**. It was a mix of business and pleasure getting camp ready for the 2022 season!

FUN FACT:

There are 200 CNIB Lake Joe alumni members who volunteer year-round in virtual and in-person programs, special events and leadership roles.

May

First-ever Blind Soccer Residential Course

CNIB Lake Joe hosted North America's first blind soccer residential course. The Ontario Blind Sport Association (OBSA) and Soccability Canada collaborated to offer participants and Lake Joe staff an immersive training program to coach and officiate blind soccer.



June



National Youth Council members bring a fresh youth perspective to camp

Youth from across Canada met at CNIB Lake Joe to kick-off their year and to be inspired by nature and new friendships. A highlight was a hackathon which led to the development of working groups on critical issues like employment, education, mobility, PR, tech, and young adult programming.

FUN FACT:

This group has inspired the development of a new Young Adult Week that will be launched in the 2023 summer season!

July

NEW! Blind hockey

We had hockey in the off-season at CNIB Lake Joe as part of our Camp Abilities program! CNIB Lake Joe rented rink space at a local arena, and through an exciting new partnership with coaches at the Canadian Blind Hockey Association, young guests spent two hours on the ice daily.

“ It’s been a long time since I was on the ice and it was a lot of fun doing drills, scrimmaging, and shootouts. I spent time with friends, met new people and got to play hockey! ”

-Sofia, Camp Abilities participant.



July



5-a-side soccer

Children and youth were also able to play blind (5-a-side) soccer on the new state-of-the-art field at CNIB Lake Joe and enjoy some friendly competition with their teammates.

“ Lake Joe helped me realize what sports I could do in an adaptive way and I was able to take what I learned home with me to use in my every day life. ”

-Terri-Lyn, first-time camper

August

CNIB Buddy Guide Dog program piloted

In August, six children partnered with buddy dogs and three children waiting to be matched with a buddy dog participated in a new pilot program at CNIB Lake Joe.

Guests enjoyed fun camp activities along with informative sessions about dog training, dog health and grooming. Children experienced firsthand what it's like to walk with a guide dog in a harness and learn from other experienced guide dog handlers.



FUN FACT:

The program was inspired by a friendship between Mason and Ollie that emerged during Holiday Week 2022 at camp. After witnessing Mason and Ollie's experience at camp, we wanted to offer the same opportunities for other children partnered with, or waiting for, CNIB Buddy Dogs. Ollie is pictured above with his mother Dawn and buddy dog Hope.

September



Blind youth “Write with Feeling” at inaugural Braille retreat

A dozen children and youth with a flair for writing came from across Canada to meet like-minded kids at CNIB Lake Joe. At this retreat, all programming, materials and activities were exclusively in braille with mentors and published authors providing coaching and fun.

Guests took turns spelling their names in giant hula-hoop braille on the lawn. This photo shows one of our guests, Yashas with his name spelled in braille.

FUN FACT:

Sighted kids learn about the written word by looking around because words are everywhere. For a child to be a braille reader, braille needs to be deliberately and thoughtfully made available, put at their fingertips so they can build a relationship with written language. They must be given access to braille intentionally, wherever they are. Camp is a perfect classroom.

October

Fall Colours Holiday Retreat

No one wants camp to end, and this year the magic of camp was extended into the fall. We were excited to host a lovely long-weekend for friends and family to get-away from it all while absorbing the beauty of Muskoka in the autumn.



“ Staff were very encouraging. I ended up doing things I may have talked myself out of. I came home fresh, like a new person! ”

- Alessia, first-time camper

Late Fall & Winter

Virtual all the way!

In 2022/23, CNIB Lake Joe guests started to see **CNIBLakeJoe@Home's virtual program** in a whole new way. Everyone LOVES the week they spend with others onsite at camp, but what about the other 51 weeks of the year?

We had it covered with online events where campers could continue to connect to

celebrate, laugh and learn together. We're especially proud of "pre-camp" programs like our virtual Young Adult Pub Night, Active Living series and our "CNIB Lake Joe Has Talent" talent show that help make it easier for people to meet each other and get comfortable registering for in-person programs.



CNIB Lake Joe On the Go!

We are also proud to have launched a new podcast called "CNIB Lake Joe On the Go!" where you can tune in to hear about Lake Joe memories of love and friendship, a day in the life, and more!



CNIB Lake Joe's Got Talent: Measha Brueggergosman-Lee performs at Lake Joe event



World-renowned opera singer and CNIB Ambassador Measha Brueggergosman-Lee performed alongside talented CNIB Lake Joe staff member and University of Toronto music student Sueko (Jade) Ondrik as part of CNIB's National Annual General Meeting, which was held at CNIB Lake Joe.

“Performing with Measha was definitely an OMG moment!” exclaims Jade. “I learned so much from her, but I also had the chance to teach her what it’s like performing with sight loss and exposing her to braille.”

FUN FACT:

Jade and Measha performed together again at CNIB's “Finer Things” philanthropy event in Toronto.

Making waves at the CNIB Lake Joe Dock-to-Dock: Taste of Muskoka event



Hosted by TV personality Joan Kelley Walker and sports broadcaster Rod Black, the initial goal of \$170K was smashed with over 200 generous donors opening their hearts and their wallets to raise over \$175,500 to create an enhanced accessible watersport program - including a brand new waterski boat. The boat has been purchased and will be ready for the 2023 season!



A huge thank you goes out to the mighty, unstoppable CNIB Lake Joe Taste of Muskoka volunteer event committee of Helen Hunt (Chair), Daryl Knudson, and John Perras, for organizing another successful annual CNIB Muskoka event!

CNIB Lake Joe Volunteers

Throughout the year **107 volunteers** stepped up to serve in many roles, contributing over **2,708 hours** of their time. They provided leadership and inspiration, rolled up their sleeves to transform the property, raised awareness and much-needed funds, and shared their stories of strength, resilience and the impact of camp.

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This year, six long-time leadership and philanthropy volunteers were nominated for an **Ontario Volunteer Service Award**. Offered by the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat, this award recognizes 5+ years of continuous service to an organization. Thanks and congratulations to:

- **Corey Braun**
- **Tracey Burton**
- **Tom Cross**
- **Helen Hunt**
- **Nancy Simonot**
- **Derek Thompson**

Long-time leadership volunteer Robert Froom, Past Chair of the CNIB Lake Joe Advisory Board, was the recipient of the **2022 Arthur Napier Magill Distinguished Service Award**, CNIB's highest public honour recognizing our passionate and dedicated volunteers.

In 1991, Robert and his late brother David attended CNIB Lake Joe for the first time. David was Deafblind and attending camp together was a life-changing experience for both brothers, a tradition that continued for over 30 years. Robert recalls that everyone's challenges at camp were different but there was unlimited enthusiasm in the air and these impressions changed his understanding of what it means to be blind. This became the catalyst for Rob's countless hours of service in support of CNIB and Deafblind Community Services for years to come. Robert served as Chair of the CNIB Lake Joe Advisory Board from 2017-2022 and is richly deserving of this award.

Photo of Robert Froom (left) with Monique Pilkington, Executive Director, CNIB Lake Joe, and John Magill, son of Arthur Napier Magill and Honorary Chair of The Arthur Napier Magill Award Committee.



CNIB Lake Joe Advisory Board 2022/23

Our leadership volunteers continue to provide incredible guidance and support as we bring the magic of camp to life at CNIB Lake Joe, operationalizing our strategic plan:

- **Corey Braun**, Chair
- **Robert Froom**, Past Chair
- **Jane Casey**
- **Daryl Knudson**
- **Jason Mitschele**
- **Mark Nelligan**
- **Derek Thompson**
- **Stephanie Wilsack**
- **Audrey Wubbenhorst**



Philanthropy Partners

Lake Joe Vision Team

Established in 2016 by founding members Tim Hogarth and John Firstbrook (co-captains), Randall Oliphant, Sue Creasy, and Bob Buchan (honorary chair), the Lake Joe Vision Team is a group of philanthropic leadership volunteers who help raise funds for highest priority needs and bursaries to boost participation at CNIB Lake Joe.

In 2022/23, the Lake Joe Vision Team provided leadership, guidance and philanthropic support as the team worked with CNIB philanthropy staff to raise funds in support of CNIB Lake Joe's Capital Redevelopment Campaign. This \$3.2 million campaign is focused on raising funds to build a multi-purpose gymnasium-styled

recreational space and learning facility that will provide CNIB Lake Joe with all seasons programming capacity. Anyone interested in learning more about how to get involved by supporting CNIB Lake Joe can contact Steven Smyth, steven.smyth@cnib.ca.

Lake Joe Vision Team 2022/23

- **Tim Hogarth & John Firstbrook**, Co-Captains
- **Susan Creasy**
- **Helen Hunt**
- **Joan Kelley Walker**
- **Randall Oliphant**
- **Nancy Simonot**

Lions Clubs International

On August 17, 1961, with the financial assistance of the MDA Lions, CNIB Lake Joe opened its doors for the first time. We are grateful to Lions - the Knights of the Blind - for tirelessly serving CNIB Lake Joe ever since as valued volunteers, generous donors, and true advocates for the cause.

CNIB / MDA Lions Committee 2022/23

(Lions' members):

- Lion **Bob Tanner**, Chair
- Lion **Barb Ennis**
- Lion **Mark Nelligan**

The CNIB and MDA Lions Committee were pleased to honour District A2 as the **District of the Year** winner for raising the most funds in support of CNIB, along with 12 local clubs which raised the most funds in their District with a **Club of the Year** award. Bravo!

In 2022, the MDA Lions kicked off a campaign to **raise funds for a new minibus at CNIB Lake Joe**. Knowing that guests can't benefit from camp if they can't get there, each club was challenged to raise \$1,000 to provide safe, accessible and comfortable transportation for campers.

Visit cnib.ca/LakeJoeMinibus for full details and to donate.



Artist rendering of minibus



Meet the CNIB Lake Joe Staff Team...

- **Monique Pilkington**, Executive Director
- **Eugene Chong**, General Manager
- **Maria Reinhart**, Program Manager
- **Emily Harrison**, Lead, Guest Experience
- **Sherri Helsdingen**, Manager, Community Engagement
- **Barry Quick**, Facilities Operator
- **Emilee Schevers**, Coordinator, Sport and Active Living
- **Taylor Gaudon**, Virtual Program Coordinator
- **Jade Ondrik**, Virtual Music Specialist
- 2022 past staff: **Lindsay Garrett**, Program Manager, **Amy Lord**, Virtual Program Coordinator, and our Seasonal Staff Team.

...and the CNIB Lake Joe Philanthropy Team

- **Leila Verheyen**, Vice President, Philanthropy
- **Shane Burt**, Director, Philanthropy
- **Eyre Purkin-Bien**, Director, Philanthropy (Strategic Giving)
- **Steven Smyth**, Manager, Philanthropy and Campaign Lead, CNIB Lake Joe
- **Jenny Foster**, Manager, Foundation Partnerships
- **Amisha Verma**, Associate, Philanthropy
- 2022 Past Staff: **Tara Yellowlees**, Manager, Philanthropy & Campaign Lead, CNIB Lake Joe, **Diane El-Hachem**, Associate, Philanthropy, **Jennifer Co**, Associate, Philanthropy





Web: cnib.ca/LakeJoe
Email: LakeJoe@cnib.ca
Toll Free: 1-877-748-4028