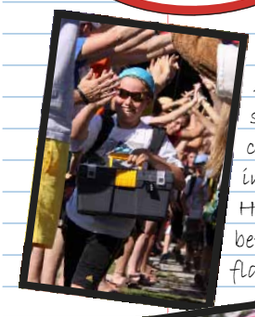
MANNY'S MEMORIES

2011's SUMMER SCRAPBOOK

We couldn't have asked for a more perfect summer at Manitou in 2011. With sunshine and warm weather almost every day and a wonderful group of campers and staff, the action that started with the raising of the flag on the first night didn't stop for seven full weeks. Together we created special memories and made new friends. We played new games and enjoyed our favourite activities from summers past. As everyone's favourite camp moose, I got to join in on plenty of fun. I hope that you enjoy some of my favourite memories from a very special summer and add them to your own collection.



Thursday, June 30

As campers exploded off of the busses, I couldn't have been more excited. I'd been helping the staff set up for days and now they were lined up on Main Field holding up brightly coloured cabin signs and wearing crazy costumes. We were all pumped to have the campers coming in. Pretty soon, the Dining Hall was rocking with music and after dinner all of the Activity Heads told campers about some of the fun activities they were planning at the Activity Fair before kids made their schedules. At the end of the night our 2010 Lokash winners raised the flag to officially kick off 2011 along with a spectacular fireworks show.

CANADA DAY

Friday, July 1

At breakfast this morning we welcomed Captain Canada and sung the national anthem to celebrate Canada Day. But we were all much more excited about our activities. After swim and health checks, I got to go to my first activities after lunch and I spent time on Art Hill making a door hanger at Crafts and a pinch pot at Pottery. In the evening, I listened to some very warming "Camp Is" speeches at Friday Night Fireside before joining the Sophomores for their Rainbow Rotation evening program.

Monday, July 4

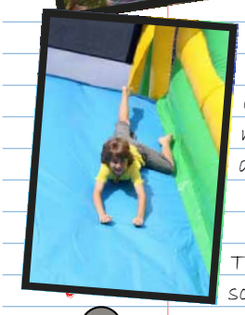
We sung the Star Spangled Banner this morning to celebrate the 4th of July, then I was off to my activities. I snapped a few shots with my digital camera and then visited Jose at the tennis courts for a match. In the evening, I joined the Junior Unit which was getting special instructions in manners and etiquette. The fun part was helping the campers rebel! I'm also working hard getting ready for the staff talent show tomorrow night as I'm hoping to join the directors closing Justin Bieber act.

Thursday, July 7

We had the first sleep-in of the summer today and it couldn't have come at a better time. We've been busy working on the camper talent show and have the under-12 intercamp teams coming from Tamakwa tomorrow. Last night I stayed up with the Freshkids for Paint Your Counsellor night. Boy was that messy! Today I'm going to go with the Sophomores to Killbear Park to swim in Georgian Bay and BBQ some hot dogs. I'm definitely ready to relax tonight with the kids at their movie night.

Monday, July 11

What a cool day at Greenhouse! We harvested a few vegetables from the garden, then brought them up to Pottery. We put them on pizza dough with some sauce and cheese and made pizzas in the kiln! They were so yummy! After my snack, I grabbed my guitar and my canoe paddle so I could strum as we paddled downstream at the Canoe-tar-ed event. Now I have to organize my moose-bucks for the Manitou Stock Ticker event tonight and then I get to do some salsa dancing with the CITs.



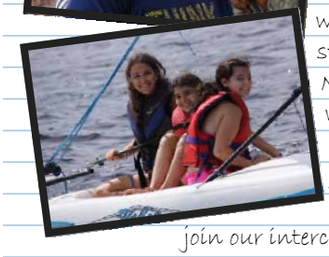
CARNIVAL DAY

Tuesday, July 12

There were lots more tasty treats today. I started by munching a grilled cheese sandwich for scoring a top corner goal up at Hockey's Top Cheese event. Later in the day it was popcorn, cotton candy, nachos and snow cones as I wandered around Main Field for this year's Carnival. The field was covered with booths so I played a bunch of different carnival games, then I jumped onto one of the giant inflatable towers that ended in a slide. After the carnival was over, I joined some friends and headed up to the big camp-wide dance. This moose was showing off his moves!

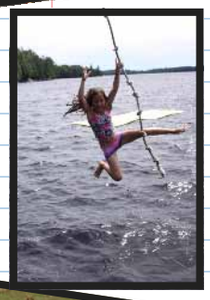
Thursday, July 14

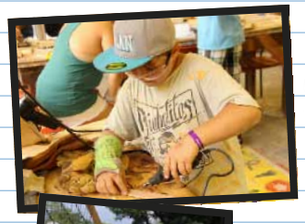
We cheered as loud as we could last night as the Freshkids and Sophomores put on their play Bye, Bye, Birdie and really earned our sleep in. I didn't want to sleep too late though, because the Senior Leaders were organizing special activities this morning. I entered the mini-golf tournament and sand castle making contest. After dinner, I joined the Sophomores for their program called Ultimate Destruction. We had to build a device to protect an egg, but instead of just dropping it, it was hit by bats, golf clubs, aerobics steps and even a sumo wrestler.



Friday, July 15

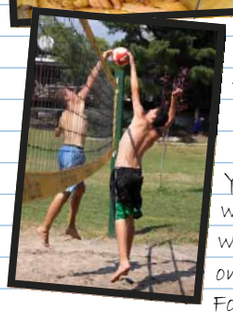
Last night was a special night at Friday Night Fireside. We met a man named Michel who had grown up in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He shared with us some stories and spoke about how he's now working to change the world working with the organization Me to We. Mark and Jeff announced that from now, through Community Week second session, we would all be working together to raise money to build a school in Ecuador. I spent some time after with the Seniors who were doing a special workshop with the team from Me to We. I then joined the Freshkids for their Aladdin Capture the Flag. Team Jafar won, but we all suspected that the villain might have been cheating. Now I've got to get to bed. I'm getting up early to join our intercamp team on their trip to Tamakwa tomorrow.





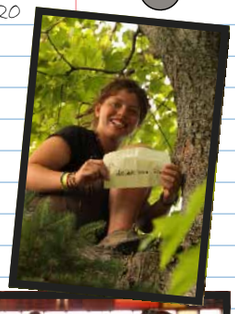
Monday, July 18

I packed my day with activities today. I started out at Bubble Day down on the Sail Docks where we learned about wind direction depending on which way the bubbles blew. It was also Hawaiian Day at swimming so I drank some punch, played a few games and danced in a grass skirt before swimming my lengths. In the afternoon, I went up to Woodworking where the Rock campers were playing in the loft as part of their "Rock the Shop" event. Tonight the Juniors have a game of Goldrush planned. I hope to play along, find some treasure and join them for some juice in the saloon afterwards.



Wednesday, July 20

Yesterday I participated in the World Cup Tournament up at Soccer, then in the Ecolf tournament where the golf and eco staff created a new golfing game by putting balls on the end of arrows. The whole camp participated in the evening's game of human Scrabble. I didn't spell any words, but... I'm only a moose! We woke up this morning to a New Year's celebration and then Mark made some April Fools announcements. We were so confused! But it was off to Volleyball for me to play in the 3-on-3 tournament, then over to Hockey for the Danny Markov tournament before joining Crafts for Royal Tea. Tonight I'm also joining the seniors for Splash Bash, a paint fight that should be very messy.



Thursday, July 21

The thermometer almost burst today it was so hot! It was a good thing we had a beach day To keep cool. We also watched a magic show in the morning and then the Moscars Video Show. Tonight I'm hanging out with the Juniors. They're re-enacting the royal wedding with William and Kate down on the docks and there's sure to be a big party after. I can't wait! But I also can't believe that tomorrow is our last set of activities for first session.

VISITORS DAY

Saturday, July 23

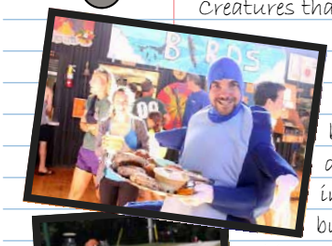
Moose may not get visits on Visitors Day, but I always have fun watching all of the campers and staff welcome their guests. I also love Serge's special Visitors lunch! Even more fun though is when the visitors leave, the Freshkids and Sophomores all get together to play on a huge slip 'n slide! We've also had some amazing shows. Last night, the Juniors put on their production of Hercules. We also watched the dancers move, groove and leap into the air. Tonight we're going to watch the Seniors and CITs put on the show Carnival, and if all that wasn't enough, we still have the break for tomorrow's Tribal Games!

TRIBAL GAMES

Sunday, July 24

As I arrived at the Dining Hall this morning, I saw all of the campers dressed in their team colours. The Birds were white, Sea Creatures blue, Insects black and Mammals wore yellow. All of the teams were screaming their lungs out doing their team cheers, and Tribal Games was only just getting under way. Being a moose, I had

to join the Mammals. I played some of the field games, watched my team make their plaque and then joined in for the closing song and dance. The final event was the rope burn, and then we learned it was the Sea Creatures that won the games this year. I still had an amazing time playing with all my friends.



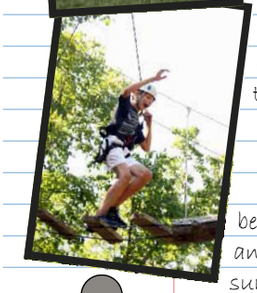
CHANGEOVER!!!

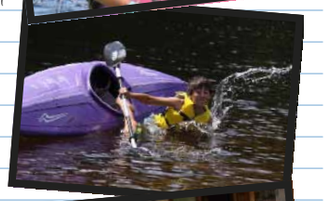
Tuesday, July 26

First session has come and gone so quickly. The Senior Leaders organized a special banquet last night and we all got dressed up to attend their Chicago Speakeasy. After dinner, the first session awards were presented on Main Field and then we all gathered in the Theatre for a final slide show. It was sad watching so many friends leave on the busses this morning, but we didn't have time to be sad. We quickly had to clean our cabins and make welcome signs for new friends arriving today. Tonight there will be guided tours through camp so that new campers can meet the Activity Heads before choosing their activities for second session. I hope the tours include a visit with me!

Thursday, July 28

We quickly got back to our normal routines and I'm having a great time at activities. Today I started my day with a paddle in a kayak on the river, then challenged myself even more by going up to the top of the ropes course. We moose may not look like good climbers, but I did pretty well, even though I was really, really scared. After my adventure, I took the field for a game of football in the MFL. I'm looking forward to hanging out with the Sophomores tonight as they play Minute To Win It for their evening program.





CANOE TRIP

Friday, July 29

Today I left with some friends on a 3-day canoe trip to Kukagami, a beautiful area near Sudbury. I love paddling on a quiet lake before finding our camping spot and making our own dinner in the outdoors. I wish I could have gone on the 12-day trip this summer, but when you're a mascot, you can't leave camp for that long. Still, I will always remember the scenery as well as the special time I got to spend with my buddies.

Sunday, July 31

I got back from my canoe trip just in time to get in on a few final activities. I joined in with the Soccer, Eco and Greenhouse campers for a lot of splashing during their Wet 'n Wild Day. Then I joined in with a Junior Cabin for their weekly Cabin Activity Night. They were playing a game called Afghan Canoe Ball. I'm still trying to understand the rules, but it made a lot more sense than the Senior Boys whose cabin activity was standing on tree stumps for hours and hours yesterday.

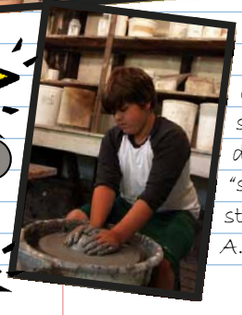
#ALLOWEEN

Tuesday, August 2

I stayed up late last night because the Senior Girls had a special sneak-out to play glow-in-the-dark soccer on the soccer field. It was a cool event played under the stars. I couldn't rest today though because there was so much going on. Camp Winnebagoe was here for a series of intercamp sports and I'm proud to say that our Manitou Moose teams did very well. But it was also Pirate Day, so I made sure to get up to Creative Arts to make my bandana and eye patch. Tonight will be even more fun as we celebrate Halloween. I hear we're going to have a corn roast, hay rides, candy apples and even cotton candy in between trick-or-treating. I don't think I'm brave enough to go into the Senior Leaders' haunted house, but I will join them afterwards for the big dance. Now I just have to pick out my costume that will hide my antlers.

Wednesday, August 3

We spent some time inside today because it was raining out and the whole camp cheered loudly in the Dining Hall for a bunk day. But after a little extra rest, we still got out to some activities. I started at Crafts for Hawaiian Day. Campers were doing hair braiding and leis, so I got a couple friends to braid my tail. Then I was "shooting stars" at the Eco archery range with celebrity pics up on the targets. I also started my bowl at pottery for Community Week and jumped onto the lilypad at O&A. I have to go and quickly rehearse my act for the camper talent show tonight.



ROOKIE DAY

Saturday, August 4

Dozens more campers arrived today, but these ones were especially little. It was Manitou's 3rd annual Rookie Day, welcoming younger campers for a single day "taste" of Manitou program. Campers got to go sailing, canoeing and climbing. They played tennis and hockey and created projects in Woodworking and Crafts. They even dug up potatoes from the Greenhouse garden to make home fries. After playing with the rookies and joining in on their campfire with marshmallows, I also went up to Adventure Park to compete in the annual Dale Evan challenge. I finished today with the Seniors' Flashbands challenge.

MIDNITE MADNESS

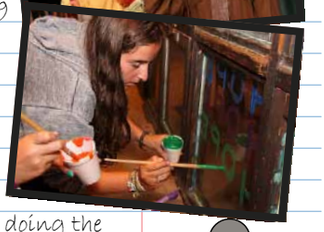
Sunday, August 6

Some of the activities I joined in on today were Drama Inc, where I did a little improv and Yoga where I learned some new relaxation techniques. I even shot a few hoops on the Basketball Court. But the highlight of the day was Midnite Madness. The CITs invited us all up to the Village where they put on a show and told us we were soon going to be travelling all over the world. When we arrived in the Hanger we found costumes, food and decorations from over a dozen countries. I loved the tea and crumpets from England and the curly fries from the USA and had fun eating while watching the staff joust. There's going to be even more fun tomorrow as we get creative for Art in the Park and watch the Freshkids and Sophomores put on Beauty and the Beast.

COMMUNITY WEEK

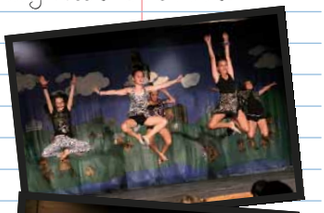
Tuesday, August 9

At Fireside last week, Mark and Jeff introduced this year's Community Week, when we're supposed to think about ways that we can give back to our community and help to make the world a better place. Many of the activities have been holding fundraisers to contribute to the school in Ecaudor, while other activities did warm fuzzies, like Aerobics' Jog it Forward program where I got to run nice notes to people around camp. Today the Guitar, Rock, Drama, Theatre and Dance campers all went into Parry Sound to entertain at a seniors home. But tonight will be the highlight of the week because we're doing the annual Walk of Hope. We'll all join together to think of some of these themes of Community Week as we walk around Main Field lit by candles and listening to campers perform music on stage.



Friday, August 12

After a great run behind the ski boat today and a final round of golf, I settled into my seat in the Theatre for the final Dance show of the season followed by a hilarious production from the Juniors called "Manitou the 13th" making fun of most of the head staff. I'm also really looking forward to tomorrow because the Senior and CITs have been working really hard on their play, Les Miserables and I'm sure it's going to be amazing.



WORLD GAMES

Sunday August 14,

The World Games Break and tug-of-war last night were very exciting, but not nearly as exciting as competing in events today. Both Portugal and Austria did a great job with their opening presentations and I loved competing in the Track & Field event. Tonight, we're invited to Portugal's market for dinner and then we'll all compete in the Dance Off up in the Hanger.

Monday, August 16

We had a great dinner in Austria's ski village last night and then watched Portugal win the Apache Relay this morning. But after all the closing events and fireworks, we learned that it was Austria that won World Games in 2011. Both teams did really well and we'll remember some of the cheers and special touches for many years to come.

GOODBYE MANITOU!

Thursday, August 18

We had our final banquet of the summer, did our final awards and watched the slide show recapping some of the great moments of second session. We listened to speeches, presented the Lokash award, and finally lowered the flag on yet another "best summer ever!" I watched the busses leave today with friends going back to the city and to other places far away. I wiped away a tear, then smiled, because now I can look forward to next year.

Do you have a favourite moment from Manitou 2011? Read other memories and send me some of your own by visiting **www.manitoucamp.com/moments**. See ya next year!

CONTACT US!

Camp Manitou
2478 Yonge Street,
2nd floor
Toronto, ON, CANANDA
M4P 2H5

Tel: 416-322-5888
Fax: 416-322-3635

www.manitoucamp.com