

For those of you that just joined us Second Session, you may have missed some of our tributes to David Sheffe this summer. Our dear friend who passed away just a few months ago, David was not just a member of our family, but a best friend who was one of the most loyal, hardest working, compassionate, and caring human beings you will have ever met. In David's case, he started with us in our first year and he was one of the key people that created the warm and caring culture that defines Manitou.

In addition to naming the staff candle after David, we felt it was only fitting to build something in camp that forever will represent Dave. Building this beautiful firepit was so fitting, because Dave was just all about the campfire; about hanging with staff and campers around the fire, and of course, throwing that additional log into the fire. Dave loved nature, he loved the outdoors, and he loved hanging after a long, hard day at work. How perfect that this firepit faces the beautiful Western sky, with the incredible colours on a hot summer night, as the beauty of the sunset literally captures the magic of Dave.

David taught us for these past two decades everything we needed to know, and this beautiful firepit we have named "Dave's Place" represents the positive values and kindness of a man who has the magnet for bringing people together united with a common vision and shared purpose.

A firepit is a place where you come together as a family or a community—it's a place where, somehow, in the evening when people are a bit less self-conscious and the day is done, you can reflect, sit back, and appreciate the people and the world around you. And Dave would do just that.

How fitting that our Fireside theme this summer is "Caring is Community" — because David's essence as a human being was just that: caring for others and making every single community feel special. It didn't matter if you are part of the Manitou camper community, staff community, the off-season community, or the school groups community, Dave's caring allowed each of our communities to thrive. It didn't matter if you were young or old, Dave connected and appreciated every single person out there, always offering encouragement to those that needed it on an ongoing basis, and in the end we all became better people as a

result. Dave had the unique ability to make everyone feel special, but he did it because he believed in the goodness of people.

Most importantly, David was the best father, husband, son, nephew, uncle, and friend to everyone, and his number one community was his family. We look forward to coming together as cabins, units, and communities at Dave's Place to celebrate Dave and our Manitou family forever.