



COVID-19 VIDEO UPDATE (TRANSCRIPT) – April 26th 2020

Below is the transcript for the April 26th 2020 video message from Michelle “Konk” Roberts, Executive Director.

Hi Friends

I’m coming to you on this beautiful Sunday from the Thicket deck. Today, the last Sunday of April, usually marks the official start of our season. It’s the day when the first set of staff, our pre-spring team, are due to move up to camp. Right now I would normally be doing final checks of the bunkies, completing the first grocery run, and eagerly waiting for staff to drive up the camp road. It would be a day full of hugs, laughter, and welcome homes.

Unfortunately things are a little different this year. Instead of today marking the start of our camp season we are still living with uncertainty, not sure what impact COVID-19 might have on the future months. While I’m saddened that I won’t be welcoming staff home today, I am also hopeful.

Earlier this week we heard from Premier Ford that current data shows that Ontario is on the best case scenario trajectory. While current social distancing measures and business restrictions have delayed the arrival of our spring staff, we know that these measures are necessary and working to keep our province safe. I am hopeful that soon we will see the light at the end of the tunnel.

At the beginning of the week I was sure that this normally exciting weekend would be very difficult. With a delayed start to the opening of camp, and no staff moving up, I was sure that I would be missing our camp community more than ever. I should have known better. I should have remembered that the love our camp family gives can bridge any distance.

On Monday the staff of 2020 gathered for the first time. We spent an evening on Zoom getting to know each other, chatting about everything from our favourite times of day at camp to how many pigeons we think we could herd across the courtyard. On Wednesday I spoke with our Fundraising Committee and was inspired by their passion and commitment to help camp through these uncertain times. On Thursday Mapes, Kinniq, and I met with the 2020 Leadership Team. We saw once again the unparalleled dedication Cairn staff have to this place and it’s people. And This Friday we had our first ever virtual Glen Mhor Presents. Families crowded in front of computer screens, individuals tuned in from all over, and as always we came together to showcase and celebrate our talented performers. This week I was reminded over and over again that our community is not bound by location. That the connection, love, and joy that define our Cairn family is always present, whether we are sitting beside each other on the Lodge floor, or hundreds of kilometers away.

Throughout songbook series we have sung one of my favourite camp songs, On the Wings of an Eagle, a number of times. This song is based on Isaiah chapter 40 verse 31 which says:

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.



Whenever we sing this I am reenergized. I am filled with the knowledge that God will provide for his people. So let's remember that as we continue to walk together through these unprecedented times let's place our hope in our Lord and know that through him our strength will be renewed.

Know that all of us up at camp are praying for health, safety, and happiness for you and your families. I hope you have a great week. Thanks for listening friends!