



SANCTUARY NORTH

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Newsletter - Summer 2024

Dear Sanctuary North Community,

We are writing with a mid-season update – our first “newsletter”! We hope that you enjoy this overview of what we have been up to as someone who has been involved with Sanctuary North in the past or present.

We have a new logo!

Earlier this year, we hired a Ukrainian newcomer named Vitaly Milyutin to redesign our logo, and we couldn’t be happier with the results (see above). The new logo depicts the main cabin with the sun rising (or setting) over it. We will be adding the new logo to our website and have a new letterhead.

We have a new signpost!

Many of you who have been up to Sanctuary North in the past few years have noticed that our signpost was in need of replacement. After many years of repairs, the main post could no longer hold the signs representing some of the many home countries for visitors to SN. Thanks to Romero House and Karen Sierra, we now have a brand new post that will last for many more years to come (see photo to the right).

Updates to watercraft and waterfront

We are updating our watercraft thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Metropolitan Community Church’s Community Outreach Partnership Grant. We have purchased a new canoe, new paddles and a new shed where we can keep lifejackets and paddles close to the water (instead of under the main cabin). We are very excited about these updates and very grateful for this grant!



We have a new bunkie!

When we did the major refresh of the cabin in 2022 , we sacrificed a bedroom to make the kitchen/living space larger and more hospitable to groups. The next step was to build a new bunkie to allow for more visitors and to replace the bedroom in the main cabin. This year, we purchased a bunkie from Sawmill Structures thanks to a very generous donation from Sheila Connell, and we are in the process of installing it by the existing Casetta Santarosa. Thank you to Cesar and his family for the incredible hard work and sweat equity that they have put into this project! We will be naming the new bunkie the “Connell Cottage” in honour of the generous donation we received.



Founders' Cottage naming

As we “pass the torch” to the new Board of Directors, we are extremely grateful to the founders of SN who worked so hard to bring this vision to reality. We pay special tribute to Michael and Lee Creal and Mary Jo Leddy, as well as the extended group of individuals who helped to establish and found Sanctuary North. In honour of these founders, we will be dedicating the main cabin and renaming it the “Founders' Cottage.” Stay tuned for photos of the plaque and dedication trip in late September.

Connecting with new groups

We are continuing to build partnerships with new community groups to broaden the SN community. This year, we have reached out to the 519, the People With Aids foundation, Christie Refugee Welcome Centre (CRWC) and the Centre for Refugee Children (CRC). We hope to continue building these connections so that our schedule is full with trips every summer.

Building our community

Our community includes more than our hosts and Board members, and we are making efforts to stay connected with our broader community. We have left a sheet up at Sanctuary North asking if people want to “stay connected” by either volunteering with SN or by applying to become a “member” and attend our AGM. We have welcomed several members to SN since opening up this process (you may be one of them!), and hope to welcome many more through the years.



Succession planning and development of Board roles

The Board of Directors spent time at the end of 2023 talking about the sustainability of operations at Sanctuary North. As a result of these conversations, we have built out expertise in the Board and divided up the many tasks that go into the operations of Sanctuary North on a yearly basis. We have also hired a bookkeeper (thank you Alma from FCJ!) and taken other material steps to ensure the longevity and efficiency of our volunteer Board of Directors.

Ongoing support and donations

As always, thank you all for the support you provide SN. If you wish to provide financial support, [you can do so here](#) or by mailing a cheque to : Sanctuary North, 208 Oakwood Ave, York, ON M6E 2V4