**CNIB Lake Joe On The Go! Podcast**

**Episode 1: Memories of Lake Joe – Transcript**

**Taylor:** Hello, everybody and welcome to our new podcast series, CNIB Lake Joe On The Go, where we have a new theme every time. We keep things short and sweet so you can listen at home or if you're on the go.

Today's episode, we are starting off this series talking about our favorite memories of Lake Joe. I am your host, Taylor G. I am a CNIB Lake

Joe staff. And today, I am joined by 3 wonderful people who have experienced Lake Joe in person, and Lake Joe at home, virtually. We have Dawn, Bruce, and Bill. Would you guys like to say a quick hello?

**Dawn:** Hello. I'm Dawn Barton. I'm from Windsor, Ontario.

**Bruce:** Thank you for inviting me to the podcast.My name is Bruce, and I've been attending Lake Joe for the past eleven years.

**Bill:** Hello, this is Bill McKendry. I've been attending Lake Joe for as long as I have been…I've been attending it with my family first, and now, I just go by myself with the camp bus. And I just love it.

**Taylor:** That's awesome. You guys have so much experience at Lake Joe. For the listeners that don't know what LakeJoe is, would you guys mind helping me explain what Lake Joe is?

**Bill:** It's a CNIB summer camp with swimming, tubing, paddle boating and voyager canoes. We have a lounge, dining hall and cabins.

**Taylor:** That's right. We got the whole setup.

**Bruce**: It's just a great place to get away. if you are in an apartment or you'd like to get out and just enjoy the fresh air.

**Dawn**: It's a fully accessible camp for the blind and visually impaired.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Dawn:** People get to come out and try new experiences. It builds up confidence. You meet new friends. It just makes it a summer of a lifetime. And unforgettable too, I might add.

**Bill:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Well, thank you guys for your wonderful descriptions. Dawn, you actually made a perfect segue into our first question, which is discussing our favourite Lake Joe memories. Who would like to start by sharing their memories? I know, Bill, you said that you liked tubing. Is there any other memories that you would like to share about your time at Lake Joe?

**Bill:** When I went to the talent show and I met up with my girlfriend, Say.

**Taylor:** That's right. Talent show is one of the super fun and exciting

activities that we have at camp every Friday. It's a great way to end off the week and everybody gets to share their wonderful talents. So, that's a wonderful memory that you've

shared there, Bill.

**Bill:** Yes, I love seeing the Irish Rovers. And of course, I always thought seeing Tammy Wynette, especially for Dawn. They're Dawn's favorite ones, Stand By Your Man, Tammy Wynette. Right, Dawn?

**Dawn:** Yes, you got it.

**Taylor:** Dawn, do you want to go next with sharing your memories?

**Dawn:** Sure, yes. I guess my favourite memories of Lake Joe, in general, is I love to gather out in the porches. They have the screened-in porches at night. Everybody goes out and we socialize, have a few drinks, chat and just have a good time, all kinds of laughs, and parties, and all

that. That's one memory I love. I love swimming. I love the lake because it's so clean. The lakes around here in Windsor, they're no good. They're all polluted and it's just no good. It's nice to go up to a nice camp where the

water is crystal clear. I've been told that you could see right t the bottom of the lake. It's almost like when you go up there, yo just don't want to come home. I enjoy swimming, crafts. I like the pedal boats. I like the pontoon. I think that's a favorite of everybody's,

pontoon. We can't forget that. And just the idea of getting to see old friends

and meeting new ones, new experiences. You get to try different things and try the things that you did before, and you try different, new activities.

**Taylor:** That's so true. I guess it's hard to pick one thing that is

amazing about Lake Joe, right?

**Dawn**: It is.

**Taylor:** Bruce, we want to hear from you.

**Bruce:** Well, my favorite memory, I guess, is maybe the first night I was there. We went out on the big voyager canoe.

**Bill**: Oh, yeah, the voyager.

**Bruce:** One of the girls said, "Quit splashing me." It almost seemed like she was going to jump overboard and try to swim back to shore because she was being splashed. And so, anyway, we got back. Another favourite memory is the tubing. I really enjoyed that. One time, we had a cross wave from another boat. And honestly, I thought we were going to fly right off the tube. I'm really looking forward to the new rock-climbing wall.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Bruce:** The soccer pitch, maybe try a little golfing on the new golf field, and that. But my main memory of Lake Joe is just meeting the people and talking. You learn all about what their eye problems were. It's just kind of put a meaning to going to camp to me. It was very important just to talk to the people.

**Taylor**: Well, I would agree with you Bruce. I started working at Lake Joe in 2016 when I was 17. I'm partially sighted, myself, and I hadn't been exposed to people that were blind or partially sighted in my entire life. So, going there was extremely eye-opening, pardon the pun. But getting to talk to you guys and getting to know everybody, it is such a huge part of camp. Bruce, you mentioned, and so did Dawn, those porch evenings, if you will, are so important because that's when you make the most meaningful

connections. All day, you spend all day out in the sun, hanging out with everybody doing all the activities but at the end of the day, you get to really

connect and get to know each other and form those new relationships.

**Dawn:** It's like a nice end to the day.

**Taylor:** Yes, so I'm going to segue into our next question here because I'm very intrigued in hearing what you guys have to say. You guys have such wonderful insight. Why do you think that Lake Joe, in person and like Joe at home, virtual, is so important to people?

**Bruce:** I think that if you had recently lost your sight, going to Lake Joe is a good way to try to break the ice, try to get used t the fact that you have lost your sight. I just think it's a great way to get used

to it.

**Bill:** I remember you as a roommate, Bruce.

**Bruce:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Bill, why do you think Lake Joe is important to people?

**Bill:** Because for people that are blind and visually impaired, they could get used to it. There are cabins with trail labels and print labels wherever.

**Taylor:** Well, everything is made accessible at camp. So that, like what you and Bruce are both saying, if you are newly partially sighted or blind, or maybe you're just looking for a new experience, it's a really great way to dip your toes into the water of the world of accessibility and being a part of the community.

**Dawn**: I'm going to put my 2 cents in here again.

**Taylor:** Yes, Dawn, please.

**Dawn: I** would say that Lake Joe is important to people because it's all about connecting. You connect with people across Canada. For a lot of us, and I'm speaking this in terms of myself, it's the only, really, vacation that we have. A lot of people, including myself, people that don't live in your city, you only get to see them once a year. So, I would say the reason, the most important thing, I think, that Lake Joe is important is the connections that you make with people and the way we can interact. It's just like being a one big family.

**Taylor:** That's so true, Dawn. That's the in-person camp experience, but I think it's also wonderful that in these trying times, we found a way to maintain those connections throughout the year virtually.

**Dawn**: Right.

**Taylor:** Especially for staff as well. For example, I worked at camp for 5 years in-person and it was so wonderful seeing you all each year. But now, through virtual, I get to talk to you guys every week and continue to make those connections. It's the same for you guys with each other too. Lake Joe has done such a beautiful job of being able to connect people in person as well as being able to really make it work in the hardest of times and connect everybody again. Now, I have one last question for you guys and then you guys can share any last thoughts after that if you wish. My last question is, if you could tell somebody one thing about Lake Joe, what would that one thing be? Bill, would you like to start?

**Bill:** Yes, I think my favourite is the talent show.

**Taylor:** So that's what you would want people to know? You'd want people to know about the talent show, Bill?

**Bill:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yes, it is such a really awesome part of Lake Joe.

**Bill:** If anybody wants to do [inaudible], then do it for the talent show.

**Taylor:** That's right. Dawn, Bruce?

**Dawn:** Okay, I'll go. I would say, I guess, to sum this whole thing up in a nutshell, just go to camp, have fun. Because every time, on Peter's bus, we havea big huge group from Windsor.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Dawn:** And it's called Peter's bus. Peter has told us, on the way up to camp, and I'm going to quote this, "Have fun." I guess that's the most important thing for me is to get up to camp and have fun.

**Taylor**: Yes, that is so true. What an important message to share also.

**Dawn:** Have fun and connect with people.

**Taylor**: Just have fun. Bruce, what would you like to let someone know?

**Bruce:** I guess I'd like to say, just like Dawn, have fun and make sure that you have tried out all the different activities.

**Taylor**: Right.

**Bruce:** Like, the tubing or the tandem biking, they're all fun.

**Taylor**: That's so true. Are you guys going to try the new rock wall?

**Dawn:** See, like me, I'm sort of limited to what I can do. If you're able to do these things, go and do it. But for some, they may have limitations. Like with me, I've got a bad back. I can't climb. So, no. Unfortunately, I will not be trying out the the rock wall. However, I wouldn't mind trying out the golfing. I've never done that before. That'd be fun.

**Taylor:** There's so many new things happening. There's the soccer pitch, and then there's the new mini golf as well. I think your point is really important, Dawn. While it's important to try everything that you can at Lake Joe, there's something for everyone regardless of your limitation. So, I think that's a really wonderful point to share also.

**Bruce:** Dawn, I'll challenge you to the 20-foot putt on the golf course.

**Dawn:** Yes, we'll see how we do with each other, Bruce.

**Taylor:** Are there any last, final thoughts that you guys would like to share before I close out the episode?

**Bill:** I can't wait to see Dawn in person.

**Dawn:** I can't wait to see you either, Bill. I don't see everybody. Oh, man.

**Bill:** I miss you, Dawn.

**Dawn:** I miss you too, Bill.

**Taylor:** That really goes to show the connections that we're able to make at camp. Thank you, all. Thank you, Dawn, Bruce and Bill for being

on this first episode of the podcast. It was absolutely wonderful having you.

**Dawn:** Thank you.

**Bill:** Thank you.

**Dawn:** It was my pleasure to be selected and be on here. Thank you for inviting me.

**Taylor:** Of course. And I also want to thank the people listening

to this podcast. I hope that you come back in the future and

listen to more episodes because this is only the beginning.

**Bruce:** It's been a great experience.

**Dawn**: It has, very much.

**Bill:** It is, it has been, yes.

**Taylor:** Awesome.

**Dawn:** Okay, everyone. Bye for now and I hope you enjoyed listening

to us. I think you'll get a lot out of what we talked about.

**Bill:** Yes.

**Taylor:** All right.

**Bruce:** Yes, I think you've enjoyed it. Bye-bye.

**Taylor:** Bye, everybody.

**Bill:** Bye.

**Dawn:** Bye.