

Rotary Club of Palgrave's Weekly Rotary Minute

By Craig Robbins

In 1983, an ambitious group of volunteers banded together to form Camp Oochigeas, a summer camp unlike any other in Canada. It exclusively serves children with cancer, it would be privately funded, staffed entirely by volunteers and completely free. A camp where every child, no matter how debilitating their illness, would be provided an opportunity to explore enriching, challenging and fun experiences through what is fondly referred to today as the Magic of Ooch.

Today Camp Ooch, located in Muskoka near Lake Rousseau, serves more than a thousand children either with cancer or affected by cancer. Ooch continues to be the only residential camp in Ontario to offer on-site chemotherapy, IV treatment and blood transfusions.

Each June, members from the Rotary Club of Palgrave spend a day working at the camp along with volunteers from other organizations to prepare the camp for the upcoming summer. We paint, rake, repair docks, clean cottages, clean trails and perform many other tasks.

For me, it is the ultimate Rotary experience as you are aiding the provision of an ultimate summer experience for a child with cancer. Indeed, when you see pictures of some of the children who attended the camp, it is very heart warming and makes you proud to be a Rotarian.

For more information on all that we do, please visit www.rotaryclubofpalgrave.com