

River's Edge Review

Eccl. 3:1 – “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”

Welcome to the (now) quarterly issue of the River's Edge Newsletter!

Whereas in the past a newsletter came out monthly, the Board decided to reduce it to once every 3 months. The reason for this change could be understood in light of the Scripture passage quoted above, but that was not really the impetus for the change. We are sensitive to the fact that people's "In-box" can become quite inundated with



information and emails, and therefore one could become more selective in opening (and reading) these messages. Another reason we scaled down in frequency is with the intent to keep the Newsletter fresh with relevant and current information. The last 3 months "at the farm" have been interesting and challenging! A turnover in any organization will present challenges, and particularly so for a fledgling organization like River's Edge (RE). Commitments and schedules are in place, and need to be honored for those who come to RE to be mentored in a safe Christian environment. For that reason a group of 3 volunteers stepped up to the plate, who during the vacancy of an Executive Director (ED), kept things running for both staff, volunteers and most importantly, our clients. A collective sigh of relief was heard from these 3 volunteers when the appointment of a new ED became a reality (see elsewhere in this Newsletter for more details). We are looking forward to proceeding in a more structured format with Nathan at the helm, collaboratively flanked by Megan and Avery. We are deeply thankful to God for His providential care over RE with these developments, and pray that He will provide all 3 staff members with the zeal and enthusiasm to continue this unique and beautiful ministry to His glory.

Another thing we have addressed in the last few months is the attempt to recruit more volunteer mentors. The fact that there is a waiting list of clients to be enrolled in our programs is a clear indication of the need for mentors. A request went out to various churches in the area which resulted in the interview and subsequent appointment of 3 new volunteer mentors. We are thankful for their willingness to help out in this respect and we hope to formally introduce them to you in the near future.

As the "landscape" for the staff and volunteers is changing, so it is for the Board. At our latest Board meeting we could in thankfulness welcome Tricia DeBoer to the Board of Directors. She has enthusiastically taken on this position on the Board and was appointed to serve as Secretary. Also, due to workload commitments and practical implications, the Board tasks were shuffled....see elsewhere for the current Board format.

CONTINUED...



As I mentioned at the beginning of these notes, we decided to change the frequency of sending out this Newsletter and continue doing so by email. We also discussed providing a printed copy for distribution to the various churches in our area of support. Since this comes with a considerable cost, we have decided to first ascertain whether there is a desire for this before proceeding. In closing I'll stay with Eccl. 3 and quote vs. 11: **"He has made everything beautiful in its time."**

Yes, we can say that in confidence, even in a sinful and broken world, where the results of this are evident also in the lives of those who come through the doors at RE. The "He" referred to in this passage is none other than our faithful God and Father, who in His Son Jesus Christ made "everything" beautiful and new. To Him be all glory and praise.

Written by Nick VandenOever

Ongoing Support

We are thankful for the support we receive and realize it is from His hand! Thank you to all who have supported us both prayerfully, financially, and with their gifts! There is no fee for the participants, so we operate completely on donations. We are looking to build our monthly donor base. Please consider supporting us monthly!

BOARD REPORT

River's Edge staff and volunteers continue to mentor and walk alongside young people in the beautiful agricultural setting at River's Edge. The generous support from all of our volunteers and donors makes this possible. We thank you all for the support given physically, materially and prayerfully; we continue to experience God's blessing on our work because of you all.

The last few months have been exciting in many ways. First of all, we have seen the Staff and volunteers step up and do the little extra things needed while we were without an Executive Director. Even though Chris DeBoer was missed the important work could continue.

The Board has been busy over the last while with interviewing potential candidates for the vacant position. A special thank you goes out to the individuals that applied and who were interviewed.

After much prayerful consideration we are excited to announce that we have reached an agreement with Nathan Kok to be our Executive Director for the coming year. We are very pleased with this development and that Nathan could see his way clear to coming to assist us in our work here.

Nathan currently is a Principal at Dufferin Christian School in Carman, Manitoba. He started serving in that position in 2019. Prior to that he was Vice Principal and teacher in the same school from 2015-2019, and before that he came from this area and was a grade 5-8 teacher in the Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School.

Nathan has extensive education and experience in the field of education and his passion is dealing with young people. In January 2021, Nathan accepted a Principal position in Lynden, Washington, with an expected start date of September 2022. However, the immigration process, which had 18 months to be completed, has stalled, and at this point it has become clear that he will not be able to go there for the season start in September of 2022. As a result, he has agreed to be our Executive Director for at least one year beginning this August 2022. If the immigration process continues to not be possible, he may continue in this role. We extend a warm and hearty welcome to Nathan Kok and his family and pray for God's blessing on this decision. Once again, we thank you all for the support given. We encourage you to remember the ministry at River's Edge in your prayers. May God bless this work and may His name be honored above all.



Written by Tim Hutten

Meet Our Staff

BOARD - board@riversedge.ca

- Jackie Elgersma – Vice-Chairman
- Ed Feenstra – Board Member
- Nick VandenOever - Chairman
- Tim Hutten - Board Member
- Tricia DeBoer - Secretary

MENTORS

- Jackie Nordeman
- Monica Bos
- Kent Gabel
- Monica Gabel
- Katelynn Kingma
- Sheila Wagter
- Fred Vandenbos
- Jared Vermeulen
- Nick VandenOever
- Sarah Vanderveen

STAFF - info@riversedge.ca

- Nathan Kok
- Executive Director
- Megan Devries
- Lead Mentor
- Horse manager
- Avery Linde
- Lead Mentor
- Media Productions

VOLUNTEERS

- Hannah Vermeulen
- Kaelyn Lof
- Alexa Linde
- Dale Tomlin
- Lilia Kingma

Upcoming Events

SUMMER CAMP

As the summer months approach, we are eagerly awaiting the beginning of our summer programs.

We had a fantastic year last year and are busy planning for this year to be another fun year.

To help with the planning so everything runs smoothly we are still in need of volunteers for our camps. If you are available for a couple of days or weeks to help out with our day camps please email Avery at avery@riversedge.ca or sign up as a volunteer on our website.

We are very thankful for the donations and help we have already received from the community. If you are looking for ways to help out and can't volunteer, we are looking for a few things to help this summer run smoothly.

Things such as:

- soccer balls, volleyballs, basketballs
- bean bags, hoola hoops, small water guns
- small nets, children's binoculars
- craft supplies - paint, brushes, yarn

If these are things you can help us out with, please feel free to reach out to us at info@riversedge.ca! Thanks!

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Don't forget about our fundraiser coming up! June 24, 2022 we are hosting a food truck festival! There will be live music, drinks, food and much more! You don't want to miss out!

Tickets are \$75 and includes 3 dishes, dessert, specialty coffee and a choice of cider, beer or wine.

To get tickets please email Nick at nickwvdo@gmail.com! More details on our website!

Summer Camp Dates:

DYIC Camps:

- Grades 5 - 8
- Mondays: 1-5pm - July - August

RIVER'S EDGE WESTERN:

- Ages 7 - 10 - Mornings
- Ages 11 - 14 - Afternoons

Girls: July 12 - 14
Boys: August 9 - 11

BRIGHT HOPE:

- Ages 6 - 14
- Week 1: July 26 - 28
- Week 2: August 16 - 18

Contact Us



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FOR MORE VISIT: WWW.RIVERSEEDGE.CA