



# remarks

## from the Executive Director

It is with pleasure that I present to you the 2005 Annual Report for Camp Oochigeas. Within these pages you will gain an understanding of the generosity of our community, the resourcefulness of our staff, and the unfathomable impact that 'Ooch' has on the children we serve.

With the purchase and construction of our own site, a commitment was made to provide our campers with the additional programming that they need. Since the move to our new site, we have added two additional one-week sessions (7SCAPE for adolescents with cancer, and Camp Teomul for bereaved siblings) to our summer program. We also introduced Weekends at Camp (WAC), an opportunity for our campers to reconnect at camp during the off-season, and for new campers to get a taste of what Ooch can offer. As you will read in the letter from our Chairman, we will continue to expand our programming to meet the needs of our campers. This is something that we are committed to and very proud of.

The summer of 2005 was exceptional. Our campers enjoyed one of the warmest summers on record, made even more pleasant by frequent dips in the lake. They had the chance to experience a new activity to Camp, the high-ropes course which was generously donated by KRG Children's Charities. It was clear to see that the summer of 2005 marked another successful year of camp for 209 campers, supported by over 235 volunteer staff, and over 30 medical staff from the Hospital for Sick Children. Your financial contributions made this all possible. Thank you.

In the financial statements you will notice that our revenue has decreased in 2005. With the continued completion of Project Campfire pledges, our Capital revenue continues to decrease. In addition, 2005 is an "off year" for our biennial fundraising gala, An Evening of Summer Dreams, which accounted for approximately \$500,000 in revenue in 2004. Taking these items into consideration, our revenue has remained strong.

Expenses increased in 2005. The amortization of property is a main contributor, as are the added expenses related to maintaining a property of this stature throughout the year and the addition of new programs. This does not change our benchmark of approximately \$0.90 from every dollar being allocated to program-related expenses. In 2006 we will focus our energies on mitigating operating expenses through donated gifts and services. This is just another example of our commitment to stretching each dollar donated as far as it can go.

Our focus in 2006 will be to provide an opportunity for a life-enriching experience to children affected by childhood cancer through an Ooch experience – to any child who needs it. This will be accomplished through the improvement and expansion of our current programs, and the addition of new programs designed to suit the needs of those who are currently underserved.

It is only through the generosity of our volunteers, donors and staff that we can accomplish this goal. Thank you for your continued commitment to children with cancer at Camp Oochigeas.

Rob Drynan, *Executive Director*

