About Bay Cliff

Bay Cliff Health Camp is a non-profit organization that was established in 1933 to promote the health, welfare, happiness and independence of children and adults residing in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In its first years during The Great Depression, malnourished children attended Bay Cliff each summer for wholesome food & rest in a healthful environment. When The Polio Epidemic struck in the 1940’s, Bay Cliff provided nursing and rehab care to the children of the Upper Peninsula with polio. Every summer since, Bay Cliff has continued to provide a residential therapy program for children with physical disabilities and is believed to be the only program & facility of its kind. In addition to the summer program, Bay Cliff provides a week-long recreational camp for adults with physical disabilities—Camp Independence. Bay Cliff cherishes its history and as renovations and winterization of the facility continue for the future, additional programs are being developed. Bay Cliff is excited to once again offer The Post Polio Wellness Retreat to help the “kids” that we served in the 1940’s & 1950’s, and their peers, lead a fuller life.

Program Faculty

Bay Cliff Health Camp is excited to have Dr. Fred Maynard, M.D. lead the team of volunteer health care professionals that will provide up-to-date information on health and wellness as it relates to Post Polio Syndrome.

“Dr. Fred” is a well-known international speaker on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, especially regarding spinal cord injury, post-polio syndrome and aging with a physical disability. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Post Polio Health International, the largest organization of polio survivors committed to enhancing quality of life for polio survivors and home mechanical ventilation users. In Michigan, he was the founding board member of Polio Network, Inc. and in 1993 he established the Post Polio Clinic Program at University of Michigan Hospitals, one of the first post-polio clinics in the United States.

Dr. Maynard has recently retired from private practice; he worked for Upper Peninsula Rehabilitation Medicine Associates in Marquette, Michigan.

The Program Faculty Team includes health educators, nurses, massage therapists, neuropsychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, orthotists, and recreational instructors.

Come away with us to Bay Cliff Retreat Centre...
The Program

The Post-Polio Wellness Retreat will focus on improving participants overall health & quality of life with ongoing health & wellness. Educational sessions, taught by local & national health care professionals, will assist polio survivors in learning more about Post Polio Syndrome and leading a healthier lifestyle. In addition, participants will be able to explore aquatic therapy, massage, aromatherapy, and other complimentary & alternative medicines as they relate to post-polio wellness.

There will be recreational options to explore throughout the week for those who are interested. All activities will be adapted to each participant's functional ability level. Overlooking Lake Superior, Bay Cliff offers an ideal setting for relaxation and renewal.

Schedule of Events

Monday

Participants will arrive in the afternoon and settle into their accessible housing areas. Supper will be served at 6:00pm, followed by the Opening Program.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Full Group Educational Session
Topics presented to include:
- Overview of Health & Wellness
- The Body
- The Mind
- The Spirit
10:30 Exercise Session with Land & Water Options
12:00 Dinner
1:00 Rest & Relaxation
2:00 Recreation Time
- accessible nature walks
- arts & crafts
- boating & fishing
- adaptive bicycling
- adaptive kayaking
- Big Bay Lighthouse Tour
4:00 Informational Breakout Sessions led by a variety of health care professionals
5:30 Supper
7:00 Evening Activity

Saturday

The program will officially end on Friday evening with supper but everyone is welcome to stay and have breakfast on Saturday before traveling home.

Food: All meals will be healthy, homemade and served family-style.

Housing: All rooms are comfortable, recently renovated, wheelchair accessible and have a bathroom in the room or just down the hall. There are accommodations for 2 to 4 people per room.

Facility: Bay Cliff Health Camp is located on 180 peaceful acres overlooking Lake Superior. Lake Independence is also nearby. Bay Cliff has a sauna and an enclosed heated pool with a ramped entry.

Cost: $300.00 (CAD) per person includes full program, meals, and housing.

Space is limited!
Call March of Dimes Canada at 1 800 263 3463 ext. 7207 for an application. Gemma Woticky is the contacted person.

You are encouraged to turn your application in as soon as possible.