

Camp Cadicasu

Annual Report 2013



Kids being all that they can be!

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Canadian Camping Association
Association des camps du Canada





Mission – To open children’s eyes to themselves, to others and to the world around them using camping as a means to communicate



Vision – We believe in a child’s right to play and letting kids be all that they can be in a supportive, safe and caring camping environment



Values — We believe in a supportive environment that supports a generous spirit, big heart and the goodwill that compassionate people have for others

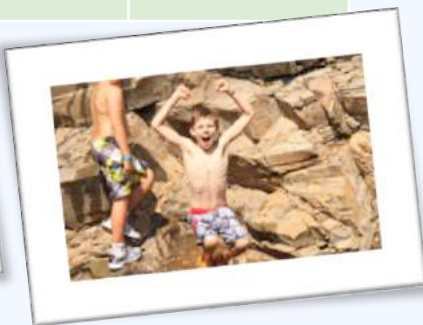


Kids being all that they can be!

Stats & Facts!

	YES	No/?
Did you have fun at camp?	99.5%	.5%
Would you come back next year?	98%	2%

	GREAT	FAIR	POOR
Location and area of camp	97%	2%	1%
Equipment and facilities	84%	10%	6%
Quality of food	92%	6%	2%



	2011	2012	2013
Total girls	378	367	371
Total boys	326	315	305
Total registration	704	682	676
Multi-stay campers	31	33	23
CIT – Girls	7	9	5
CIT – Boys	3	6	5
Subsidy	\$23,243	\$16,135	\$45,130*

*The subsidy program grew this year in response to the need of children of flood victims in High River.

Message from the Chair — Margie Schuett

To understand the importance of youth development, we must understand and appreciate the concept of the whole child. Although there are distinct and unique ages and stages of development – human development- the common denominator is the human being. Whatever we do to facilitate a good camping experience, we must understand that our individual impact will be positively or negatively impacted by our ability to be part of a larger system that is working to ensure our children and youth grow up to be productive, healthy citizens.

Our promise to the families who send their children to camp is to try and enrich their lives through a camp experience that embraces individuality and provides an opportunity in a safe and secure environment to themselves and to be all that they can be without pressure.

Leading into this year we promised that 2013 would see us initiate a financial budget and fundraising plan that would enable us greater independence and sustainability. While we were not as successful as we had hoped, we are on the right road and will continue to develop a plan that will increase our freedom of having to rely on the generosity from our many friends.

We owe a sincere thank you to the members of our Board of Directors and to the staff who have provided clear direction and implementation for the activities surrounding Cadicasu during the past year which continue to make our camp a leader in providing a vital summer camp program that is a combination of tradition and responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of today's youth.

While there were challenges in 2013 with floods and fundraising, there also were some great moments. Let's take a look back at our story and share some memories along the way!

A VERY special thank you!!

Mike Nelson, our Managing Director for over 25 years is stepping away from the day-to-day management of the camp and moving into the role of Director Emeritus. He has so many wonderful things that could be said about him and I am more than confident that there will be countless stories which will be told for years that will bring a smile to the face of many of us who have had the privilege and joy of working with him. I would like to reflect on why we all love Mike so much in the way he has helped so many kids be all that they could be for the last 25 years!

Mike has an ability to multitask, managing adolescents and to look after the youngsters in his care who found joy in screaming and running around day and night! Keeping the energy and attention of the counsellor's focused on the task-at-hand for 8 weeks each summer is a miracle in itself! He found humour in situations that others might have thought to be stressful, when toilets didn't work, kids were homesick and bills needed to be paid with no money in the bank! People wanting to tell him a better way to run the camp was one of his personal favourite moments in running the camp for so many years!

Mike can draw energy from mysterious sources, being pleasant and helpful to people who were secretly driving him crazy, meanwhile making sure they did not know it. He could see beyond the restlessness or anxiety of the campers he called his "angels" to reach the unique individual hiding behind the face and see their soul while providing them with love and confidence that everything was going to be all right. This was amazing was amazing and always consistent!

It was incredible to witness Mike doing the impossible – getting girls to stop chattering and boys to stop being mischievous and know when it's time to be serious and appreciate the majesty of nature and respect for the environment.

Above all, Mike has changed many people's lives through sharing a love of camp, a respect for nature, the joy of simplicity and having a healthy respect for humanity. Mike Nelson has inspired us to be human in business, and honorable and rich at heart. He gave us optimism when we needed it and to pay attention in looking after the values and the core of what Camp Cadicasu is. His vision for camp will continue to be the platform in which we grow and move forward. Thank you Mike for everything you are and **everything you have done to make Camp Cadicasu such a wonderful part of the history of Calgary & Alberta.**

Message from the Executive Director

I was very happy with the program this season: The direction was good, the adherence to the camp philosophy was dead on and the children appeared to enjoy it. We had many wonderful spirit filled moments of prayer and reflection. I feel the children left the camp with some understanding about their own personal faith and life journey. The celebrations of the mass and the Eucharist would appear to have been faith and peace filled events. The weather was somewhat of a challenge this year but as far as the children they certainly appeared to enjoy themselves and the evaluations were great. There was a whole bunch of fun and enjoyment to be had at Camp Cadicasu this past summer. There were very few complaints and those that there were easy to fix. Cadicasu Staff 2013

I feel that we are definitely are on the right track and that Camp Cadicasu is still as valuable as it ever has been.

Valuable as a tool to bring an enhanced a sense of spirituality to children and staff alike. The Gospel is real and can make a difference in all our lives. We can have ownership of our spiritual journey in a very real sense.

Valuable as a tool to instill in children a sense of their own self-worth and value to the folks around them and the world

Valuable to give all citizens of Camp Cadicasu knowledge that they can make a difference and that they can be the architect of their own lives, enjoyment and destiny.

In closing I wish to thank all those wonderful people who have helped me over these many years to define myself and values, discover my strengths and weakness, develop my love of humanity and articulate my sense of right and wrong.

The Journey has been long at times, full of questions, very often joyful beyond my wildest dreams, painful beyond what I thought I could endure, insightful, creative, resourceful, loving and a wonderful ride!!

THANK YOU ALL!

Michael Nelson

Introducing Camp Cadicasu's new Executive Director, Heather O'Neill

Heather O'Neill has been working with children her entire life and working with children in an outdoor environment is her *passion!* As a teacher for six years teaching French and Outdoor Education classes, she finally realized that what she wanted to really do is run a summer camp program! This came after having attended camp as a camper, then as a counsellor in Saskatchewan before moving to the United States and working for a variety of summer camp programs before returning to Canada.

Heather has an accomplished academic background with a Bachelor of Education, Arts and Commerce from Queen's University as well having attended Laval University summer language program. She also attended an International Management Program in France at the Institution de Commerce et Gestion.

As Executive Director, Heather will be responsible for fulfilling the mission of managing all aspects of the camp so that they work together effectively and efficiently. A major role Heather will be playing is to lead the strategic long-term planning to build sustainability and capacity for the camp to be run independently.

The most important part of the job for Heather will be to maintain the high standards of the camp, as well as the culture of Cadicasu: to be a haven for young people to experience the joys and freedom of summer and embrace camp values and traditions. I know that we have found a person with the values and vision to maintain the standards of excellence which have always separated Camp Cadicasu from other summer camp programs.

We welcome our new Executive Director and look forward to many years of her leadership leading the camp where young people learn to live in harmony, creating a sense of family and community while celebrating the healthy living experience of the outdoors!

Welcome to the
Cadicasu family
Heather!



2014 – The Plan

Two Important Initiatives

1. **Campership program** — The Board of Directors will continue to support the need to continue to break down the barriers of economic, religious, ethnic and social boundaries by offering a campership subsidy program that enables children to experience camp by making available funding to those in need.



2. **Out-of-season rentals** — An important revenue stream to help build capacity and sustainability for the camp is our out-of-season rental program during the months of September through June. From weddings to band camps, we can offer a unique atmosphere that allows a family, youth group, church group or any other association or organization to enjoy the natural surroundings of God's beauty. All buildings at the camp have heat and electricity. We offer rooms which have bunk beds, washroom and shower facilities which are located on the same floor adjacent to the sleeping accommodations!





Strategic focus moving forward will include:

- To build a resilient team that lives our values, builds greater accountability, clarity and consistency so that we are role models of camp philosophy
- To develop a three year strategic business plan including a program plan, sustainability model, and blueprint to enhance our reach and capacity on a 12 month a year basis

2014 – The Plan Operations & Governance

Operations strategies

- We will continue to assess and create improvements to current programs where needed and if applicable.
- We are committed to resourcing, development and scoping for new program areas to increase revenues for out-of-season rentals.
- It is our goal to establish collaborative partnerships with key organizations to expand registration capacity.
- Actively develop a brand and communication strategy that links to our strategic direction.
- Continue to improve budget process and financial risk management.

Corporate Governance

- The Directors are responsible for the performance of the camp in both the short and longer term and seek to balance these sometimes competing objectives in the best interest of the camp as a whole.
- The Board draws on corporate governance best practice principles to assist it to contribute to the performance of the camp.
- Day to day management of the affairs of the camp is the responsibility of the Executive Director. The Board oversees and monitors performance at five or more meetings per year. Financial and management reports are reviewed at each meeting or more frequently if required.

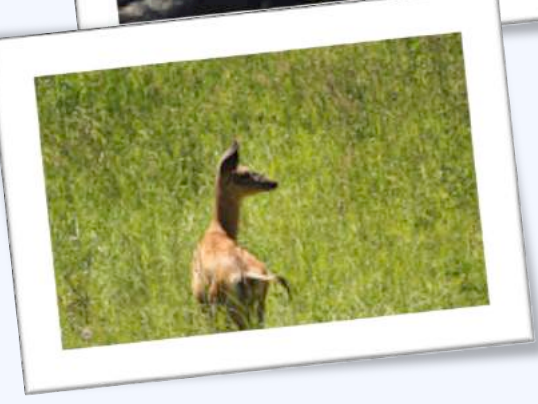
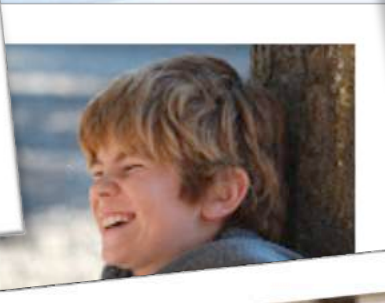
Special thanks to our supporters!

In 2013, Camp Cadicasu was able to raise over \$100,000 of cash and in-kind support from a mixture of amazing partners, friends and donors.

Without the help and assistance of our good friends who continue to give to Camp Cadicasu, we could not continue our mission of providing an affordable, safe and fun camping experience to the children and youth of Southern Alberta.

Our thanks go to everyone who has made a donation to Cadicasu – without it, we would not have been able to continue to have the impact we do!





What a great Summer!

See you next year!!

