

# Camp Cadicasu

## 2015 Annual Report



Kids can change the world.  
We show them how to begin.

Camp Cadicasu is a traditional summer camp in Kananaskis Country, Alberta. We offer outdoor education throughout the year and rent our facility for events such as weddings, family reunions and youth gatherings. Since 1930, we have been a haven for children to experience the joys of summer, meet new friends and be supported by a dedicated staff.



Contact Us

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# www.cadicasu.com



*“A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because...*

*I was important in the life of a CHILD.”*

– Forest Witcraft –

# Table of Contents

Board Chair’s Message.....	Page 1
Mission & Vision.....	Page 3
History.....	Page 4
Summer Camp.....	Page 5
Camper Comments.....	Page 7
Staff Reflections.....	Page 8
Parent Feedback.....	Page 9
Winter Camp.....	Page 10
School Programs.....	Page 11
Rentals.....	Page 12
Donors.....	Page 13
Sponsorship.....	Page 14
Executive Director’s Message.....	Page 15
Board of Directors.....	Page 16

# Board Chair's Message

***“Camp Cadicasu’s wish for every camper — that camp is a place of inspiration that encourages them to learn and then lead — to reach higher than they ever thought they could, to dream bigger than they ever dared before and to achieve great things because they’ve discovered a confidence in their own abilities that tells them they can!”***



2015 was another year of transforming hundreds of lives. It was yet another ‘benchmark moment’ for all of us associated with operating what is arguably one of the most successful camps in Western Canada. What we are reminded of as we move into our 86<sup>th</sup> year, is the tremendous potential that we have for **an incredibly bright future.**

We learned the power of reaching out and communicating to our community can achieve amazing success both in registration and brand-building, but also in providing a better insight into the soul of the camp and what makes us truly unique and very special.

**Communications** – Improving on what we say and how we say it to our stakeholders got an overhaul that performed with a great return-on-investment which saw close to 100% registration capacity. Upgrading our website and developing a video communications library will continue to provide memories of great summers in ‘bringing the camp to life’ like we have never done before.

**Programming** – Planning a daily schedule for the kids can be daunting when you do not have a huge budget to manicure our lawns and provide basketball courts, among many other things that some other camps can do. Instead we focused on building survival skills such as teaching how to start a fire without matches, **creating games using nature as our muse,** climbing mountains instead of walls, swimming in a creek instead of a pool and finally using the creative arts and music to best illustrate the power of imagination to tell stories and develop teamwork and leadership skills through real-life experiences.

**Appearance** – When watching children and youth participate in an extraordinary positive experience, you can visibly see a change in their appearance. Their style and manner of presentation are altered. Maybe they stand taller, smile sooner, or step up to help with greater confidence. The change in their ability to make a positive, strong impression is palpably modified. What is always amazing to see is the creativity in giving the coordinated clothing they brought to camp a whole new personality with the mix-and-match outfits they seem to make up during their stay! Face paint (or dirt), sunshine, fresh air and exercise with a dash of creativity are great accessories that **build a wardrobe of confidence, happiness and pure joy** which are discovered and interpreted by our campers allowing their imaginations to take on a whole new level of meaning!



**Nature** – An enriching camp experience can help young people manage their actions in ways that demonstrate humour, heart and humility. A “can-do” attitude or a “choose-your-mood” mentality emerges, empowering them and those around them to be and behave better. It is so encouraging to see them develop, show compassion and bond as they get to know each other during their week-long stay.



**Character** – Giving young people the chance to “lead-and-learn” allows them to explore and discover their moral compass. Ethical attributes and ways of thinking are like a shield of armour in tough times – times we all experience in life. A camp experience with strong mentors **provides the best environment for growth in character.** To give children and youth a sense of unity and wholeness while having fun leading and learning are extraordinary gifts.

The Board of Directors is enormously proud of the direction and progress the camp has taken. **Our growth is no accident and our attention to detail is intentional. The commitment to excellence is always present.** Our passion for providing once-in-a-lifetime memories is what drives us to reach for the stars. Every day. As a camper at Cadicasu I learned how to trust others, work with others and build relationships. Camp helped me grow up. It taught me foundational principles I now rely on as an adult. My wish for the children who come to camp to have such a strong foundation to meet the challenges throughout their life.

A special thank you to all of our donors and supporters that help provide us with financial resources to bring Cadicasu to life each summer. Without their support there would in fact be no camp. A special thank you to the parents who provide us with an important opportunity to care for, love and mentor their children. We do not take this responsibility for granted and will **continue to do our best to live up to the very high standards** you have come to expect from us.

Lastly, a very special thank-you to Heather, Dan and the incredible staff who work so hard to bring Cadicasu to life each year! The summer staff are the heart and soul of the camp. Without their enormous dedication, selfless determination, pride and commitment to the children and the legacy of the camp, we just could not be all that we are, and more importantly try to be! It is an honour and privilege to serve as a member of the Cadicasu Board along with the wonderful men and women who stand shoulder-to-shoulder to make this camp a success.”

## Margie Schuett

Board Chair – Camp Cadicasu (Former Camper and Counsellor)

## Mission & Vision

Camp Cadicasu is a place that welcomes everyone and embraces individuality. We give campers a safe space to be themselves without the pressures of modern society. Our priority is to give a sense of self-worth to every camper, volunteer and staff member. Rooted in the foundations of the Roman Catholic tradition, we welcome children of all different faiths.



**Egos are set aside and campers are allowed to be more fully their true selves.**

We embrace the values of community and simplicity so campers can grow more comfortably in their own skin. We try to live our role as caretakers of the earth to conserve the natural resources for future generations to enjoy.

By increasing their awareness of the world around them, we teach about environmental stewardship and underline the importance of existing harmoniously with all of creation by virtue of honouring the earth and the natural world.

**We want campers leaving knowing they are a part of something bigger and that they have the ability to positively influence the road ahead by following their heart.**

By way of nature-connection we endeavour to open peoples' eyes to themselves, others and the world around them. Our caring leaders ensure that each camper has the opportunity to grow and learn as an individual in a safe, loving and inclusive atmosphere. Our campers are encouraged to take responsibility to make decisions and to experience initiative through positive interactions.



# Cadicasu History

Over 85 years of creative thinking in a vital summer camp environment has made our camp a unique combination of tradition and responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of today's youth. Multiple generations of campers have been to Camp Cadicasu because they know that it is a special place where they can be their true selves.



1930	Camp Cadicasu opened in Bragg Creek as St. Mary's Boys Choir Camp.
1951	Camp was turned into a general summer camp for boys.
1952	Girls were welcomed at camp for the first time during separate weeks.
1955	The official name of the camp was changed to Camp Cadicasu.
1956	Camp Cadicasu became a registered non-profit society.
1950s	A new chapel, dining hall, chalets for sleeping and a swimming pool were built.
1961	Mrs. Violini (a.k.a. "Mom") started a 20-year relationship as the head cook.
1965	Fr. Eric Nelson began a 50-year run as Chaplain.
1970s	A co-ed program was initiated that reflected the cultural trends in society.
1980s	Camp refurbished with some new buildings and upgrades.
1989	Mike Nelson embarked upon a multi-decade relationship as the Managing Director.
2006	The mess hall burned down and discussions of how to continue camp emerged.
2007	The Calgary Catholic Diocese terminated its official relationship with camp.
2008	Under the leadership of Frank Walsh (Board Chairman) a new location was found.
2009	Margie Schuett was elected Board Chair of Camp Cadicasu.
2010	The new Camp Cadicasu opened for campers in Kananaskis Country.
2012	An out-of-season rental program was created to help build financial independence.
2013	Mike Nelson retired and Heather O'Neill was hired as the new Executive Director.
2014	Our first winter camp was held in December to expand upon our summer programs.
2015	School programs that teach outdoor education and leadership were introduced.

From the very beginning of camp, the indigenous peoples in Canada have played a significant role in defining the culture of our program in addition to the Roman Catholic Church. We continue to honour the First Nations people through moments of recognition and our day-to-day living at camp, which offers a greater understanding of and respect for their history.

# Summer Camp

With so much technology in our lives today, we offer a sanctuary in nature with exciting, yet low-risk activities. We go back to the basics by exploring the woods, getting covered in mud while building primitive shelters and teaching campers how to make their own campfires.

## Registrations

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
704	682	676	748	933



We recognize that nature-based experiences are an essential part of every healthy human existence, so we focus on activities that highlight the importance of nature and connect children to our environment.

- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Shelter Building
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Earth Stewardship
- ✓ Water Play
- ✓ Earth Skills
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Out-Trips
- ✓ Tetherball
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Yoga
- ✓ Bow Drill Fire
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ All-Camp Games
- ✓ Survival Skills
- ✓ Leadership Skills

A sense of community and an interrelationship with our surroundings is developed through the outdoor camp setting. The wilderness provides a perfect place for discovery, curiosity, concern and compassion. Youth are at their best when they can embrace these traits.



Every week we have the capacity for 112 kids that are divided into 14 tribes. Each cabin group consists of 1 counsellor, 1 assistant counsellor and 8 campers. We are a tight-knit community that provides individual attention to all campers.

## Counsellors-in-Training

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
10	15	10	17	20



We are very happy with another successful year at camp! With 933 campers and 50 staff members, we almost had a full house. Everyone had an absolutely amazing time.

Overall Experience 9.5 / 10  
 Staff Team 9.4 / 10  
 Food 8.5 / 10

We reached 99.6% of our total capacity.

100% of the campers said they had fun!

Clan families were created: Solara, Kalani, Oceana and Gaia. Everyone at camp was sorted into a clan that they will remain with for as long as they are a part of Camp Cadicasu.

Male	Female	7 – 10 yrs.	348 (38%)	180 Male	168 Female
446 (48%)	487 (52%)	11 – 12 yrs.	357 (38%)	164 Male	193 Female
		13 – 15 yrs.	228 (24%)	112 Male	126 Female



### Specialty Camps

We introduced two specialty camps.

**Piikani.** Provides an opportunity to experience an extended backpacking trip in Kananaskis. (7 Campers)

**Apisi.** Exposes campers to the skills required not only to just survive in the wilderness, but to thrive. (10 Campers)

### Top 3 Favourite Activities

(Voted by campers each week.)

- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ All-Camp Games
- ✓ Survival Skills

# Camper Comments

Why did you come to camp?

- ✓ *"My mom came here when she was a kid and loved it."* (Age 9)
- ✓ *"It was fun last year and the counsellors are always amazing!"* (Age 12)
- ✓ *"To go to my first sleep away camp with my friends."* (Age 9)
- ✓ *"I wanted to go on another awesome out-trip in the forest."* (Age 13)



What did you learn at camp?

- ✓ *"I'm tough."* (Age 10)
- ✓ *"How to create a fire."* (Age 8)
- ✓ *"I actually like hiking."* (Age 13)
- ✓ *"I'm a good sportsman."* (Age 12)
- ✓ *"It's fun being in nature."* (Age 8)

What's the best thing about camp?

- ✓ *"Smores."* (Age 9)
- ✓ *"The food."* (Age 8)
- ✓ *"Archery!"* (Age 11)
- ✓ *"EVERYTHING."* (Age 14)
- ✓ *"Looking for bugs."* (Age 9)

*"I realized that life isn't just about video games."* (Age 10)

## Staff Reflections



*"From the moment I arrived on camp I felt as though I had found my home. The community here is so **kind, welcoming and free of judgment** that made it easy to be myself. I could always count on the comfort and support from the staff. I really have become a better one for knowing all of you."*

*"Camp teaches you how to live without camp. Every lesson I have learned here will help me in the future. Every friendship I've made will support me through my best and worst times. Every camper I've had the privilege of meeting has given me a **reminder of what life is all about.**"*

*"I was not aware of all the wisdom and knowledge you can acquire from kids. They express sincere feelings and **spread happiness from the simplest things, things that we as adults can easily forget to appreciate.** I had forgotten how it felt to laugh until your stomach hurts just because you have the wish to act silly, I had never witnessed how a campfire could bring people's hearts so close and I had forgotten how a simple smile or even spending a whole day outside could brighten up your day."*

*"I have a second family at Cadicasu. **There is nowhere else where people will help you out just because they can.** The beautiful nature and environment in the area also add to how amazing camp is. The forest, the creek, the meadow, and all the out-tripping spots are absolutely beautiful. I love the campfires, the trees, the creek, and Christmas in August. I love the sunsets, the stars, the out-trips, the songs, and above all, I love all of the amazing staff who make camp what it is."*

*"From rock stoves to bow drill coals, 6 am wake up calls by falling pine cones, and seeing campers discover skipping stones. Everyday lies an adventure, and it leaves me feeling enriched, and in **a purely wonderful mood.** There's a reason I love this place."*

*"I learned you don't need a tent to go camping, and if you're really good you don't even need a lighter. I met people from a variety of backgrounds that I am happy to call my friends. I have come to realize that being a camp counsellor is **one of the most rewarding jobs I could have.**"*



## Parent Feedback

*“Our son has loved his times at Camp Cadicasu. He has been out the last two summers and has now attended the winter camp. He comes home tired and very happy and with many **new friends and lots of adventures to talk about.**”*

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*“My daughter learned many creative ways to set the table. It’s always fun seeing how she has arranged the dishes and cutlery for each meal. She gets the broom and sweeps when we are done eating. **She even tidies up her room without us asking** after breakfast every morning before school. Thank-you!”*

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*“This was the first time our son has ever been away from home without us begin there with him. **Huge accomplishment for him (and us)!** He loved camp.”*

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*“Our daughter JUST returned from camp Apisi. It was without exception the most exceptional experience she has ever had at a camp! Amazing life & survival skills taught. She returned home with a **whole new level of passion and appreciation for nature** and the outdoors (and trust me, we hike, bike and camp extensively and frequently -, thus as a family, already had a steady "need"/desire to be outdoors often and the value such outings provide to our well being).*

*What is also so impressive, is how in this day and age of instant gratification and a generation who is used to and almost demands, constant stimuli via technology and disconnect with nature - these youth returned from Apisi with a great appreciation for the Sit Spots (reflection/meditation) and **the peace and connection they were taught** to create with their surroundings and the environment. Skills and quiet times they want to carry forward in their lives outside of camp. Every youth should have this type of exposure to the lessons learned.*

*The leadership and counsellors were as always, top notch. Excellent mentors and examples for the kids. **The camp values, organization and ethics were again, outstanding, allowing the kids a fluid, social setting, which was also safe, moral, relaxed and fun** - quite a feat with the age groups presented.”*

# Winter Camp

Our winter camp program is designed to introduce youth to the Kananaskis winter experience in a fun and educational setting. Most of the activities are done outside in the snow.



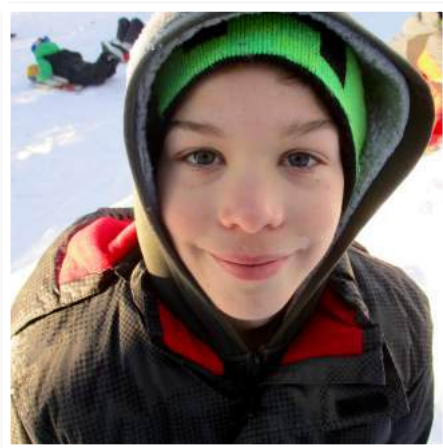
## Registrations

2014	2015	Male	Female
13	25	9 (36%)	16 (64%)

With another successful winter camp under our belt, we are excited to see what next year will bring. Both campers and staff loved the family feeling that comes with a smaller community. Everyone worked together to enjoy a spectacular week! Our “Frozen” campfire, an appearance from “Big Foot” and the big slumber party on the last night were the highlights.



- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Tobogganing
- ✓ Snow Forts
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Winter Games
- ✓ Survival Skills
- ✓ Campfire Songs
- ✓ All-Camp Games



# School Programs

We launched our outdoor education program in the fall of 2015 and opened the doors to school groups and homeschool communities for exciting field trips to complement their learning. With single day visits and multiple night excursions available, we work with educators to meet their needs and expectations for excellence.

**145 Students** received high quality outdoor education.

- ✓ Campfires & Songs
- ✓ Orienteering
- ✓ Tobogganing
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Bowdrill Fire
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Shelter Building
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Leadership Skills
- ✓ Earth Stewardship
- ✓ Camp Games
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Water Play



Our programs meet the Alberta Education Programs of Study objectives and outcomes through unforgettable experiences. Lessons are tailored specifically to each group that joins us. Our professionally trained staff can provide activities for all ages and grade levels.



*“We had a fantastic time at camp this past week. The site is incredible and facilities very accommodating. The food was delicious and the staff were great. We were very impressed.”*

– Teacher (Rocky View Schools) –

# Rentals

We welcome renters in our winterized cabins during our off-season (September – June).

- ✓ Weddings
- ✓ Scouts & Guides
- ✓ Youth Groups
- ✓ Family Reunions
- ✓ Birthday Parties
- ✓ Corporate Training
- ✓ School Groups
- ✓ Yoga Retreats
- ✓ Band Camps
- ✓ Christmas Parties
- ✓ Church Groups
- ✓ Company Retreats

Located halfway between Calgary and Banff, we are close to many amenities, yet a beautiful retreat in nature. Relax and rejuvenate amidst our breath-taking scenery.



## Guests

598 (55%)	Accommodations Only
481 (45%)	Rental & Catering
1079	Total

All cabins have heat, electricity and most importantly indoor plumbing.

*“The facilities are clean and well maintained. The kitchen is very well equipped. The surrounding area is beautiful.”*

– Girl Guide Leader –

We offer a secluded getaway in the mountains for a large group at an affordable price. The facility is rented to one group at a time to ensure the privacy and enjoyment of all our guests.

- ✓ Our dining hall seats 150 people comfortably.
- ✓ Enjoy the perfect escape with stunning views.
- ✓ We have enough beds for 132 people to sleep.
- ✓ Catering is available to keep you well fed.
- ✓ The commercial kitchen is a cook’s dream.
- ✓ Roast marshmallows in our campfire circle.



# Donors

With our deepest gratitude, we give thanks and appreciation to our generous donors in 2015.

Alan Rankin  
Alice Chapman & Mark Sowinsky  
Allan Markin  
Amy & Trevor Thera  
Andrea Coli & Curtis Stang  
Anita Carey  
Anthony Jordan  
Anusuya Panneerselvam  
Barbara & Ervin Riddle  
Beata & Peter Barnett  
Becky Poma  
Belinda Geib  
Berta & Imre Sipos  
Bill Strobl & Lena Choe  
Bobbi Johnson & Benjamin Colley  
Brad & Amber Rhodes  
Brian & Jennifer Johnson  
Calgary Catholic Teachers Charities  
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Caralea Day & Dominic D'Antimo  
Carey Management Inc.  
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Caryn Jennings  
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Frank Walsh  
Georgia Dinning  
Geraldine Dunsmore  
Ginette & Bruce Rowland  
Holly & Kondrad Popeil-Kozicki  
Ilham & Randall Brown  
Jan Cerato & Kasia Strzepka  
Jen Morin & Sean Kolle  
Jennifer Allore & Wesley Balla  
Jennifer Taylor  
Jerry Cramm  
Jill & Dean Skarstol  
Jo & Everest Siwira  
Joanne & Jason Poloway  
Joanne & Scott Horack  
Karin & Tony Ozeroff  
Katherine & Daniel Sullivan  
Kathy & Greg Fleshman  
Kelli & Norman Grier  
Kevin Bond  
Knights of Columbus 271  
Knights of Columbus 4251  
Knights of Columbus 4878  
Knights of Columbus 6488  
Knights of Columbus 6994  
Knights of Columbus 7871  
Knights of Columbus 9658  
K of C Charitable Foundation  
Kristy & Michael Hopkins  
Leslie & David Ruether  
Lisa Hazlett & Graeme Attaway  
Lonnie & Daniel Hartley  
Loreen Jacobs  
Lucille & Roy Wearmouth  
Lyceum Society  
Maaikie Rawcliffe  
Margaret Kingsep  
Margie Schuett  
Marie & Nathan Smith  
Mark & Lisa Sombach  
Maureen & Neal Brandemark  
Maurita Vesey  
Melissa & Brandon Erdos



Michele & Paul Beitel  
Michelle Hoogveld  
Monica Blakely & Ric Crowe  
Nancy & Stewart McNair  
Natalie Proulx  
Nicole & Stefan Price  
Noreen & Andrew Hoskins  
Paddy-Luke Fraternal Society  
Patti & John Iredale  
Paul LeBlanc  
Paul Schulz  
Penny & Mark Bates  
Ralph & Enez Holunga  
Robin & Nicola Penfold  
Samuel & Anne Branjon  
Schuett Law  
Sharon Heffernan  
Sherrie & Jason Webb  
Simon & Victoria Pianaros  
Sisters of Charity (St. Louis)  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Steven & Angelika Duguay  
Suzanne & Chip Doig  
Tamara & Ryan Tapley  
Tami & Ryan Hidson  
Tessa & John Kirinic  
The Wagemakers Foundation  
Theresa & Darren Boss  
United Way  
Wendy & Dan Kennelly  
Willis Winter



# Sponsorship

Summer camp is a magical experience that we want children to enjoy. Everyone should be able to have the opportunity to grow and have fun at camp.

## Campership Program

55% Full Subsidy  
45% Partial Subsidy

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
\$23,243	\$16,135	\$45,130*	\$15,000	\$15,347

\* Increase was to help flood victims.

Society is divided by economic, racial, geographic, religious, ethnic and social boundaries. We strive to break down these barriers.



Registration fees for everyone are reduced.

**ALL of our campers' fees are partially subsidized.**

Our Board of Directors have made it their goal to always keep the camp within the reach of all families who attend. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful program, please contact us.

- ✓ Actual cost to us for one full week at camp is \$1,000 per camper.
- ✓ Registration fee charged for one full week at camp is only \$450.
- ✓ Every donation (big or small) makes a huge difference to our campers.

## Executive Director's Message

*"It's been a year of joy, tears, adventure, triumphs and many important life lessons for everyone. Overall, it was a huge success! I am continually grateful to be living my vision of running a children's camp.*

*Every season I am reminded of what makes camp so special and unique. Children of all different backgrounds come together here. It's a sanctuary in nature where everybody feels at home and a sense of belonging.*

*Respect for the earth and all living things is at the core of who we are. This camp has a spirit that takes your breath away.*

*Camp is about accepting people, strengths and weakness included. It's about serving the greater good. It's a place where people can come to escape the chaos of the outside world and immerse themselves in the purity of nature. Most importantly, camp is a place where everyone feels welcome and loved unconditionally.*



*It has been wonderful having new staff join us and bring a sense of excitement, while having returning staff share the wisdom of the past. I am thankful to all of the parents who trust us in the safeguarding and educating of their children along their journeys. With the outstanding support and guidance from the Board of Directors, I am honoured to be leading a community whose foundation was so carefully cultivated with love and inspiration."*

**Heather O'Neill**

Executive Director – Camp Cadicasu

# Board of Directors

The Members of the Board of Directors have been an integral part of the legacy of the camp ensuring sustainability for a very special institution that has lasted over eight decades.

Their leadership has been a guiding force since 1930 and is a testament to the significance of camp. The appreciation of the Catholic community cannot be underestimated as to the magnificent contribution of the men and women who have led by example, thereby inspiring thousands of volunteers to participate and contribute to the camp.

## **Margie Schuett**

President, HR Committee, Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee

## **Isaac Faubert**

Vice President, Alumni/Volunteer Committee Chair, Finance Committee

## **Frank Walsh**

Past Chair, Construction Committee

## **Rebecca Kalmacoff**

Treasurer, Finance Committee

## **Willis Winter**

Secretary, Fund Development Committee, Knights of Columbus

## **Patti Iredale**

Director, Maintenance Committee, Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee

## **Ken Veness**

Director, Finance Committee Chair

## **Fr. Eric Nelson**

Director, Chaplain

## **Bob Schuett**

Director, Legal Chair, HR Committee

## **Georgia Dinning**

Director, Fund Development Committee

## **David Ruether**

Director, Construction Committee

## **David Leinster**

Director, Marketing Committee

## Ex-Officio

### **Heather O'Neill**

Executive Director

### **Mike Nelson**

Director Emeritus

### **Maaik Rawcliffe**

Bookkeeper

### **Dan Ruether**

Program Coordinator

### **Ryan Kalmacoff**

Member-at-Large

### **Martin McDonald**

Member-at-Large

If you would like a copy of the Camp Cadicasu 2015 audited financial statements, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to send them to you.

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 5:30 pm  
5940 Blackfoot Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2H 2B5

Corporate Access 500017652

CRA Charities Reference 0877779

*“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul. Keep close to nature's heart... and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”*

– John Muir –



## Contact Us

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