



# Camp Cadicasu

## 2016 Annual Report



Camp Cadicasu is a traditional overnight summer camp for children ages 8 – 15 in Kananaskis, Alberta. Since 1930, we have been a haven for campers to experience the joys of summer, meet new friends, escape the city and have exciting adventures in the woods.

Unplug from technology. Reconnect with nature.

2016 A PARENTS' CHOICE COMPANY  
CALGARY'S CHILD MAGAZINE



Canadian Camping Association  
Association des camps du Canada



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"The clearest way into the Universe  
is through a forest wilderness."

– John Muir –



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## Board Chair's Message

"In sitting down to write this year's message, it occurred to me that Camp Cadicasu has reached a 'benchmark moment' in 2016 that deserves to be recognized and analyzed. We now operate on a year-round basis.

As we celebrate all the achievements and growth that our camp has experienced in the past few years, we reflect on what we need to do to build greater capacity and sustainability.

It is apparent that one needs to start with the foundation of leadership within the organization from the top down and what we want to accomplish in the future. The leadership qualities and attributes we ask of the Board of Directors and staff alike, are the same ones we hope to empower our campers during their time at Camp Cadicasu.



Margie Schuett  
Board Chair



Every successful initiative begins with leadership. I have chosen to focus on how leadership is the core of our business in providing outdoor camping experiences to the community we serve.

There are many definitions of leadership. True leadership is much more than 'leading people' in a common cause to reach a goal. It is more than just having the ability to deliberately create a result that would not have happened otherwise.

Leadership is about self-awareness; self-direction, the ability to motivate and build a social awareness.

Leadership relates directly to building emotional intelligence and an understanding that the 'whole is equal to the sum of its parts'. The basic tenants of leadership we expect from our staff are indeed the same elements we pass on to our visitors to camp:

## Vision

Knowing what you want is a meaningful way to tap into emotional growth. Campers who come here want to have fun, be outdoors and interact with other like-minded people.

## Integrity

The core of integrity is living the truth and always doing the right thing. Being in a camp environment every day with a group of peers promotes living with integrity.

## Courage

Taking risks to achieve goals with no assurance of success is courageous. We challenge campers take charge and push themselves beyond their comfort zones.

## Humility

The more we contain our ego, the more we learn how to listen and get along with others. Everyone is equal and we discourage attitudes of superiority.

## Focus

It's important to make sure that everyone is focused to enable excellent outcomes. Our families play a key role in preparing their children to optimize the experience at camp.

## Planning

Decisive planning is a key element in the leadership of camp. The ability to look ahead and achieve goals allows us to step ahead in life with happiness and joy.

## Cooperation

Learning to get along with others is crucial for leadership and success. It strengthens the bonds and commitments to each other when they work towards a common purpose.



A very special thank you to our wonderful staff who work so hard to develop the leaders of tomorrow with a 'can-do' attitude that encourage this generation to lead-by-example. Many thanks to the Board of Directors for providing the integrity and passion for Camp Cadicasu to continue offering the best environment for growth and character."

## Mission + Vision



Camp Cadicasu's priority is to instill a sense of self-worth to every camper and staff member. We assist people of all faiths along their own spiritual journey by connecting them to nature.

Our caring staff enable campers to see something positive about themselves. They facilitate an appreciation for the earth and reawaken a sense of awe and wonder.

As youth laugh and play in the wilderness, we enable the power and magic of nature to bring out each camper's curiosity and ignite their desire to learn.

We embrace the values of community and simplicity so campers can feel comfortable in their own skin.

By increasing campers' awareness of the world around them, we teach about environmental stewardship and underline the importance of existing harmoniously with all of creation by honouring the earth and the natural world. We try to live our role as caretakers of the earth to conserve the natural resources for future generations to enjoy.

We want campers leaving knowing that they are part of something bigger and they can positively influence the road ahead by following their heart.

Being at camp  
increases awareness  
and offers a new  
outlook on life.

Through reflection, we help young people discover a sense of purpose in their lives.



# Cadicasu History

Over 85 years of creative thinking has made our camp a unique combination of tradition and responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of today's youth.



Multiple generations have been to camp because they know it is a special place to be themselves.

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 official relationship with the Calgary Catholic Diocese was terminated.
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	Winter Camp and Specialty Camps were launched to expand our capacity.
2015	School Programs that teach outdoor education and leadership were introduced.
2106	Camp Cadicasu joined the Birdies for Kids Shaw Charity golf tournament.

# 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 shelters and teaching campers how to make their own campfires.

## Registrations

2011	704
2012	682
2013	676
2014	748
2015	933
2016	944



We focus on activities that highlight the importance of nature and teach environmental stewardship.

- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Leadership Skills
- ✓ Out-Trips
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Water Play
- ✓ All-Camp Games
- ✓ Earth Stewardship
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Survival Skills
- ✓ Performing Arts





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.



Overall Experience: 9.5 / 10

Staff Team: 9.9 / 10

Food: 9 / 10

7 – 10 yrs.	375 (40%)
11 – 12 yrs.	339 (36%)
13 – 15 yrs.	230 (24%)

The wilderness provides a perfect place for discovery, curiosity, concern and compassion. Youth are at their best when they can embrace these traits.

Females: 489 (52%)

Males: 455 (48%)

7 – 10 yrs.	178 Male	197 Female
11 – 12 yrs.	174 Male	165 Female
13 – 15 yrs.	103 Male	127 Female

Camp is the perfect way to connect with the extraordinary.



# Specialty Camps

Our specialty camps offer more challenging opportunities for teenagers to have new adventures!

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
CIT Program	10	15	10	17	20	13



The Counsellor-in-Training program develops young leaders in our community. Participants learn skills that benefit them in all areas of life.

## Piikani (Backpacking Trip)

Piikani is a well-planned and organized extended hiking expedition. It's an amazing introduction to backcountry travel to some hidden gems in the beautiful Kananaskis Country.

2015	2016
7	10

Slow down and step into earth time. Learn to become comfortable in the sanctuary of nature.



## Apisi (Wilderness Skills)

Apisi exposes campers to the skills required not only to just survive in the wilderness, but to thrive and enjoy the outdoors.

By focusing on the skills of our ancestors who were caretakers of the earth, campers are immersed in primitive living.

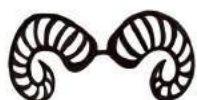
2015	2016
10	30

# Clan Families

Everyone at camp is divided into four clan families. Once someone is sorted into a clan, they remain with them for as long as they are part of camp. Each clan consists of campers and staff of both genders and all ages. There are opportunities to gain and lose points on behalf of each clan throughout the summer in the form of inter-clan games.



Solara



**Earth Element – Fire**  
**Direction – South**  
**Animal – Bighorn Sheep**



Kalani



**Earth Element – Air**  
**Direction – East**  
**Bird – Great Horned Owl**



Gaia



**Earth Element – Earth**  
**Direction – North**  
**Tree – Lodgepole Pine**



Oceana



**Earth Element – Water**  
**Direction – West**  
**Fish – Bull Trout**

Clans build community and create lifelong friendships!

## Camper Comments



"This is the first place I have truly felt welcome. I don't fit in at school or on my sports team. I can be myself at camp and people accept me for who I am, not who they want me to be."

"Camp is my happy place. It's my home."

"I whined and complained and begged by dad not to take me to camp. When I first walked up the front hill I was intimidated, I knew no one, I had never even been to a summer camp so I had no idea what to do or where to go. By the end of the day, I had never felt more accepted in my life. My quirks that my sisters would bug me endlessly about made my cabin mates laugh, I didn't feel as annoying as I thought I was. I finally felt part of something and by the end of the week I knew this was a place where I could build a family for the one that I had lost. Every summer I come back I love camp even more than the last. I've made lifelong friends here."

"I want to keep coming back until I'm 100 years old."

"I came all the way from Edmonton again this summer to learn wilderness skills. They're awesome! It's the only place in Alberta I can find that teaches survival skills. The instructors were patient, kind and really smart."

- ✓ "My counsellors were so funny!"
- ✓ "The out-trip was AMAZING."
- ✓ "Campfires are my favourite."
- ✓ "I love the food. It was delicious!"
- ✓ "Nature isn't so scary anymore."



"I was really scared and nervous to leave my mom and dad for the first time. As soon as I met my counsellors I felt o.k. I knew they would take care of me just like my parents."

"I had so much fun. I can't wait until winter camp!"

"I can't even begin to describe how much camp means to me. I have been coming for six years and it keeps getting better every time! The counsellors are friendly and the cabins are great. I meet so many cool people each summer that I keep in touch with throughout the year. We all talk about how much we miss camp. School is so boring compared to being outside. I learned more at camp in one week than I did in one year at school."

"I want to live at camp all the time. How awesome would that be? I want to be there forever and ever and ever."



"I learned that I'm stronger and more capable than I thought I was."

"I seriously can't believe how cool all of the counsellors are. I want to be just like them when I grow up. They are super nice and hilarious."



"Camp is the most amazing place in the whole wide world. I'm so happy my mom found it."

## Staff Reflections



“Living is what camp is. In the “real world” we spend our lives waiting for things to come or remembering things that have happened and not really being there in the moment. But at camp, time goes a little slower, and we make the most of every minute of it.”

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“I was surprised by the amount of personal growth that would come along with this job. Camp has granted me the proper environment to think, reflect and re-connect with what I enjoy and what makes me smile, however small or big. It has reminded me to enjoy the journey.”

"Summer camp is the closest thing to Neverland as we have, all you have to do is drive down the road."

“I have always had trouble finding jobs and classes that I’m motivated to do well in, like most teenagers, but this was different. I felt like I never ran out of energy and I was always ready to lend a helping hand or organize another game for my kids. Working in such a great and safe community taught me how to not just work hard, but be a happy loving person whilst doing it. That’s a trait that is hard to find anywhere else.”

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"Camp is a healing place. I'm happier than I have been for a long time."

“I have heard the saying ‘not all who wonder are lost’ many times and I have learned that this is very true. Although I may not know exactly where I’m headed or what the future holds for me, I know I’m never lost. I know that no matter where I go, I will always have a place here.”



"Within minutes of being at camp, I felt as though I was coming home. I felt like I had been here before."



"Before I started working at camp a couple of years ago, I was kind of a lost cause and heading down a bad path. Camp helped me discover what I want to do in the future and how to get there. Over time, my grades and the relationship that I have with my parents has improved as I have matured. I went from a kid who didn't know what he wanted to do (or even care about it), to a kid who has a plan. I give credit to camp for this drastic change. It brings out the best in people."



"Our spirits are fed by memories, and working at a place where emotions get intertwined so often makes camp one of those experiences where you are not the same person as the one you were when it all started."

"Put your kindness out in the world, and the world will give you kindness back."

"Camp Cadicasu made me remember that life can be beautiful if you surround yourself with positive people and energy. This summer has brought a beautiful gift into my life – it has allowed me to feel the warmth of a genuine friendship, the challenge of building real relationships and the satisfaction of taking a risk and having it pay off. Most of all, Camp Cadicasu has helped me to open-up and begin to let love into my life again."

"At the start of the summer I chose a journal that said, 'be true to who you are' and everyone has done that this summer. They were all themselves and it was a beauty you cannot find in a school and rarely outside of school."

"Camp is where I first discovered unconditional support."



## Parent Feedback

"My son had an awesome time. He made some great friends and would have come back the very next day to do it all again!"



"Camp has been a wonderfully positive experience for my kids!"

"We are very grateful to have found your camp. I can't tell you how hard it is for us to leave our daughter in the care of anyone else except for family. We felt immediately at peace dropping her off because of how welcoming all the staff are. She had an amazing time! Thank-you."

"All three of my children have really enjoyed camp. They have so much fun and LOVE the food."



"My daughter was really shy before she went to camp. Over the past couple of summers, she has become much better at adapting to new situations and places. She used to be very nervous about anything new. Her confidence has grown exponentially!"

"Camp is a safe and fun place for my kids to spend their summer."

"The best memories of my son's time at camp were the amazing views and meeting new friends. My son is really growing up and learning to make critical decisions. I think that getting away helped him realize that he can open-up to meeting new people and being a good judge of character. He can still be a follower, but hopefully will start making decisions that will put him on the right path. He is finally doing well in school and I look forward to that continuing. We are excited for next summer. Thank you for everything!"



# Winter Camp

Our winter camp program is designed to introduce youth to the Kananaskis winter experience in a fun and educational setting.

## Registrations

'14 / '15	'15 / '16	'16 / '17
13	25	46

Our "Frozen" campfire and surprise appearance from "Big Foot" were the highlights. Both campers and staff loved the family feeling that comes with a smaller community. Everyone was happy to come together in the middle of the year!



- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Toboganing
- ✓ Snow Forts
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Camp Games
- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Winter Games
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Pottery
- ✓ Hide Tanning

"It's even better than camp in the summer!"



# School Programs

Our second year of running outdoor education programs for schools and homeschool communities was a success!

	2015	2016
Students	145	795



Environmental stewardship and the caretaking philosophy are the foundation of our lessons.

"Loved working with Camp Cadicasu. Quality of staff, programs and accommodations were outstanding!"

– Grade 7 Teacher –

With single day visits and multiple night trips available, we work with educators to meet their needs and expectations for high quality education.



- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Camp Games
- ✓ Fire Making
- ✓ Shelter Building
- ✓ Primitive Traps
- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Tracking
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Campfires & Songs

## Rentals

We welcome renters in our winterized cabins during the year. Located halfway between Calgary and Banff, we are close to many amenities, yet a world away. This year we began offering activities to our guests during their stay.



		Guests
2015	2016	
598	864	Accommodations Only
481	780	Rental & Catering
0	169	Rental & Programming
1079	1813	Total

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.

✓ Family Reunions

✓ Yoga Retreats

✓ Weddings

✓ Churches

✓ Guides / Scours

✓ Youth Groups

Situated in Kananaskis Country, with 4,000 square kilometres of mountain perks and foothills to explore, there exist frequent opportunities to see elk, deer, moose and mixture of countless wildflowers and birds.

We can host 150 people at a time. All cabins have heat, electricity and most importantly indoor plumbing.



"Beautiful location. Helpful and courteous staff were wonderfully accommodating. Impressive kitchen facility."

– Father of the Bride –

# Sponsorship

Summer camp is a magical experience that we want children to enjoy. Everyone should be able to grow and have fun at camp. Society is divided by economic, racial, geographic, religious, ethnic and social boundaries. We strive to break down these barriers!

## Campership Program

55% Full Subsidy  
45% Partial Subsidy

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
\$23,243	\$16,135	*\$45,130	\$15,000	\$15,347	\$16,035

\*Increase for flood victims.



- ✓ 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.

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.

ALL camper fees are partially subsidized.

Registration fees for everyone are reduced.

## Birdies for Kids

Camp Cadicasu was chosen as a participating charity in Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink (BFK), a non-profit program run under the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation.

The Shaw Charity Classic is a PGA Tour Champions event featuring professional golfers among the likes of Golf Hall of Famers Tom Watson, Fred Couples, and Colin Montgomerie. It aims to not only provide Calgary with a world-class professional sporting event accessible to families, but also to bring much needed dollars to local charities.

### Tournament Details

**Name:** Shaw Charity Classic  
**Date:** Aug.31 – Sept. 4, 2016  
**Defending Champion:** Jeff Maggert  
**Broadcast:** Golf Channel  
**Attendance:** 42,500



The golf tournament was held at the **Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club.**

Camp Cadicasu received 100% of every donation collected with no added fees. In 2016, BFK raised \$3.7 million for a total charitable contribution of \$5.2 million for children's programs.

For every dollar raised, up to 50% is matched.



The most exciting part of the program comes from various corporate supporters with AltaLink being the Founding Partner in matching funds.

Camp Cadicasu raised  
 \$52,500 and received  
**\$67,217** in total.

We have been chosen as a participating charity for 2017! We appreciate everyone's generosity in helping us strive for excellence in our programs and the maintenance of our facilities.

## Executive Director's Message

“Each year I spend at camp, I continue to be in awe of the way it guides us into learning more about ourselves, life and others. Staying stagnant is not an option. The result is incredible growth.

Camp teaches us resilience. It provides opportunities to leave our comfort zone with courage and strength. The ability to embrace change as a vehicle for personal development is what makes camp so wonderfully special.

Witnessing campers and staff realize they can positively shape their own experiences, humanity and the earth with a kind and caring approach is awe-inspiring.



Camp helps us find our passion and encourages us to do what we love. It inspires us to follow our dreams, work hard to achieve them and move forward in the face of any obstacle. Camp enables us to choose hope over despair when things don't go our way with a sense of peace.

*Attitude dictates happiness. We all have the capacity to emanate ease and grace if we so choose.*

What a joy it is to work alongside a staff team who have created a place of sanctuary and refuge where everyone feels safe, loved and welcome. It is heart-warming to know that the concentric rings of their actions will permeate the lives of their campers for a very long time.



**Heather O'Neill**  
Executive Director

*Camp is an oasis tucked away in the wilderness where magic really does exist.*

I am grateful for the faith and support of the Board of Directors in allowing me to push myself beyond what I ever thought possible in bringing camp to a whole new level.

Thank you to the amazing campers whose smiles and laughter continue to radiate through the unseen and eternal here at camp.”

## Board of Directors

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

Their leadership has been a guiding force and testament to the significance of camp.

### **Margie Schuett**

President, HR Committee, Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee

### **Frank Walsh**

Past Chair, Construction Committee

### **Willis Winter**

Secretary, Fund Development Committee, Knights of Columbus

### **Ken Veness**

Director, Finance Committee Chair

### **Bob Schuett**

Director, Legal Chair, HR Committee

### **Martin MacDonald**

Director, Fund Development Committee

### **Isaac Faubert**

Vice President, Alumni/Volunteer Committee Chair, Finance Committee

### **Rebecca Kalmacoff**

Treasurer, Finance Committee

### **Patti Iredale**

Director, Maintenance/Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee

### **Fr. Eric Nelson**

Director, Chaplain

### **Georgia Dinning**

Director, Fund Development Committee

## Ex-Officio

### **Heather O'Neill**

Executive Director

### **Maaike Rawcliffe**

Bookkeeper

### **Dan Ruether**

Program Coordinator

### **Mike Nelson**

Director Emeritus

### **Ryan Kalmacoff**

Director-at-Large

If you would like a copy of the 2016 Camp Cadicasu audited financial statements, please contact us.

**Corporate Access:** 500017652  
**CRA Charities Reference:** 0877779

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 5:00 pm

**Hotel Blackfoot**

5940 Blackfoot Trail SE  
Calgary, AB T2H 2B5



"Sometimes teachers  
come when you  
least expect them,  
bearing precious  
gifts of knowledge  
that somehow tie  
everything together."

— Tom Brown Jr. —