



CAMP CHIEF HECTOR YMCA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



WELCOME ALUMNI!

The Alumni Newsletter is a place to read about Camp news, Alumni events, Camp revitalization projects, and more!

Newsletters will be sent out on a regular basis (a few per year). We are busy creating opportunities for Alumni to spend time at Camp and play in the outdoors. We are also planning social events in Calgary and at Camp.

Camp Chief Hector YMCA is pleased to have Samantha Nelson as the Alumni Engagement Specialist for Camp!

You may remember Samantha from her many years (22+) at Camp as the Administrative Director when she registered tens of thousands of summer campers and supported the Outdoor Schools and weekend programs.

Calling all Alumni. We want to connect with you!

If you know Camp alumni who have been out of touch please ask them to fill out our short [survey](#) to update their info.

Questions? Send us an [email](#).



GREETINGS FROM CAMP

JANA REED, GENERAL MANAGER

Hello CCH Alumni!

I am excited to hear that so many of you are reconnecting with us at Camp Chief Hector YMCA!

After a few years of having to celebrate small wins, I am happy to report that the summer and outdoor school programs are moving and growing! We will have over 2,000 summer campers and have hosted over 3,000 students so far this year. It is so great to hear campfire songs in the evening and run into groups having adventures on the trails. Our staff team is rebounding post-pandemic and we are collectively hitting our stride with the balance of leadership, risk management and fun.

An increasing focus of our staff teams over the past few years has been Truth and Reconciliation. At this point in the journey, we are looking to rebuild the CCH relationship with the Stoney Nakoda people and with the families of Chief Hector Crawler and Jonas Benjamin (Walking Buffalo). All involved agree that we do not want to erase the Stoney history with CCH, and that it is important to work together to honour our shared history in a way that is appropriate in the current Canadian context.

The Camp Chief Hector YMCA site is getting some attention, with more on the way. Those ATCO trailers from the 1970s have sure served us well through many camp generations!

Through the YMCA Calgary Power of Potential Capital Campaign, two "Leadership Cabins" were built near Bowfort Lodge. These buildings have bunk rooms for 4-6 people and universal bathroom and shower stalls. We opened them in August 2019 and they have already served many groups very well.

The new Expedition Centre (OT) was completed in summer 2021, with the summer of 2022 being the first where backcountry trips were happening again. In addition to the usual trip planning and preparing spaces, there are also dedicated staff bathrooms and showers



and a second floor meeting room with a beautiful view of Mt. Yamnuska.

Recently, we started the Love, Camp Campaign to fund some revitalization projects at CCH. So far, 63 yurt have been installed in mid-camp and Hector-end for camper accommodations. Additional upgrades will include new washroom facilities, and new higher ground and low ropes course and improvements to the ranch area.

These new buildings and improvements will allow for many more decades of camp experiences! Camper and family expectations and needs continue to evolve, and we are happy to be able to adapt with the aim of providing children and youth impactful community based experiences in the outdoors.

We would love to connect with our alumni so please attend an upcoming alumni event or come to camp for a visit. Camp staff and campers continue to love hearing stories from Alumni. Please reach out to [Samantha](#) or [me](#).

See you on the trails,
Jana Reed
GM, Camp Chief Hector YMCA



New Yurts at Camp

63 Yurts have been installed at Camp Chief Hector YMCA. This allows Spring and Fall seasons to be extended.

Tipis will remain an important part of the camp's heritage and future, with plans to replace the current (commercial) Bowfort tipis with tipis provided by the Stoney Nakoda. This allows all campers to have an overnight tipi experience as part of their camp journey.

Why Yurts?

- Yurts can remain in place year-round, removing the need to assemble / disassemble over eighty tipis annually
- Yurts have the advantage of offering a comfortable three (and even four) season use, and an enclosed stove, which will extend our program capacity
- They have a lifespan of 25+ years

ALUMNI STORY

WITH CORRENA JONES

Meet Correna Jones, one of our cabinet members for Camp Chief Hector's Love, Camp Campaign. After one visit to camp at age 11, Correna quickly grew to love the outdoors and all Camp Chief Hector had to offer. She continues to support Camp Chief Hector and the YMCA today, ensuring that generations of kids can have the same experiences and develop lasting relationships just as she did.

Correna started her Y journey 37 years ago attending Camp Chief Hector, immediately falling in love with the mountains and camps' lifestyle. The impact of Camp Chief Hector has lasted a lifetime for Correna, the friends she made at camp have continued to remain her best friends' to this day.

"The experiences from camp and the Y last a lifetime. Camp was such an important part of my life."

At Camp Chief Hector, youth get to experience an outdoor education and continue to develop lifelong skills. As they grow older, campers get to experience more challenging experiences and push their personal growth. For many, like Correna, their journey as campers even leads them to become Camp Counselors! Through these experiences, campers gain tremendous self-confidence and understand that they are capable of more than they initially thought.

Correna still recalls being 13 at camp and canoeing along the Bow River. Her group had to portage around Horseshoe Falls, and she remembers carrying the canoe with her tipi mates for what felt like an eternity, while her camp counselor carried the rest of their supplies. "That memory reminds me that whenever there's a challenge, I can push myself and grow through it." For over 90 years, Camp Chief Hector has provided an unparalleled opportunity for children and youth to come together in a supportive environment and develop themselves to grow and learn through



opportunities in the outdoors. Correna still holds her time at Camp Chief Hector as one of the most powerful experiences in her life.

YMCA Calgary is currently raising \$14.5 million to revitalize Camp Chief Hector to allow camp to continue to be that magical escape in the Rocky Mountains – where some of life's best stories come from. These funds will support necessary upgrades to Camp's STAY & PLAY environments, benefiting campers, staff and guests.

"Please take the time to support and donate to our Love, Camp Campaign. Camp is a powerful community, and we want to continue to support healthier, more vibrant future generations."



Camp Chief Hector YMCA is beloved by thousands of Albertans, who have paddled, climbed, and hiked on the 1,000 acres in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. For over nine decades, Camp has taught problem solving and resilience, leadership and independence, and created positive, character-building memories, stories and joy. Both campers and staff recall their camp days with a big grin on their face. Recalling that it was a fun, inclusive, memory-filled cornerstone in their young lives.

We are now envisioning what is next for Camp Chief Hector as it approaches its centennial year as a place for fun, belonging, and making memories that last a lifetime.

The Love, Camp Campaign will enable strategic infrastructure improvements that will allow Camp to continue to be that magical camp in the Rocky Mountains - where some of life's best stories come from.





FROM THE CHEF

ZUCCHINI BROWNIES

Zucchini Brownies - a simple way to yum!

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups cocoa powder
2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup canola oil
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups zucchini - finely shredded

DIRECTIONS

Pre-heat oven to 350F
Combine all ingredients and mix for 5 minutes.
Spread in a 1" high sheet pan
Bake for 30-40 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

For gluten-free brownies:
use a GF flour blend that is designed for 1:1 substitution.

Yield: approx 25 brownies



50 YEARS OF GIRLS AT CAMP

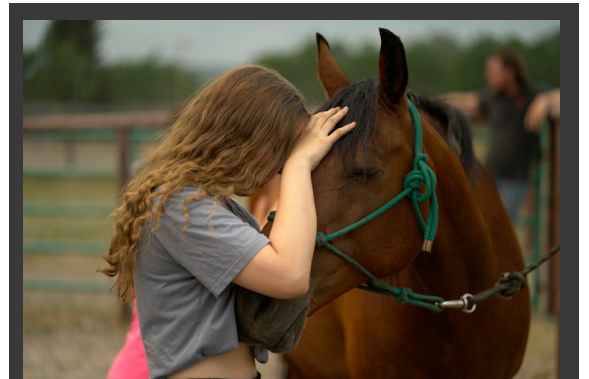
Creating inclusive spaces has been a hallmark of YMCA Calgary for decades. We have proudly welcomed girls to Camp Chief Hector for over 50 years.

So, to celebrate our long history of girls at camp and International Day of the Girl, we invited local singer/songwriter Kate Stevens to write a brand-new campfire song and debuted it in 2022 at camp for the first time.

Watch now and travel back in time with warm campfire fuzzies!

[Watch the video](#)

[#dayofthegirl](#) [#idg22](#)
[#brighterfutureforgirls](#) [#camp](#)
[#campchiefhector](#) [#ymca](#)
[#ymcacalgary](#) [#yyc](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

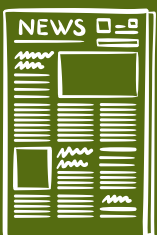
JUNE - Let's Raise Dinner & Auction - On June 30 we held the annual fundraiser to celebrate the end of Summer Staff Training. Vendors donated the food and 160+ counsellors, support staff, some donors and other Y staff enjoyed a great evening. We raised just over \$8,000 to help send kids to Camp.

SUMMER - Alumni Campfires - Reconnect with your Camp peeps! Host a backyard campfire during the summer. Camp can provide a trivia contest and Camp swag for "door prizes."

SUMMER - Tour/Lunch at Camp - Haven't been to Camp in ages? Curious to see what's new? We are happy to host you at Camp for a tour and lunch. Tuesdays or Wednesdays, 10am - 2pm, July and August. Contact [Samantha](#) to book (at least a week ahead).

FALL - Alumni BBQ at Camp - October 7 - more info to come
Tours - Yurts, Expedition Centre, Leadership Cabins
Camp Fun - Animal Game, Trivia contest, Camp songs and more!

AND, the Alumni Fundraiser is back...**Music in the Mountains!**
October 28 - Ironwood Stage & Grill, Calgary
Want to be part of the organizing committee? Contact [Samantha](#).



Know someone who would like to receive the alumni newsletters? Forward this [link](#) to them.

Join the CCH Alumni program by completing our [short survey](#).

