



YMCA Camp Elphinstone

Home of a million memories



Summer Camp
Information Guide

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Campers and Families,

Welcome to the 2012 summer season at Camp Elphinstone and thank you for choosing the YMCA for your child's summer camp experience. We look forward to having your child at camp and our staff are preparing to ensure they have a positive and successful camp experience. No matter if you are a new camper or a returning one, please read through this package thoroughly. We believe that a positive and rewarding camp experience starts with preparation. This package contains vital information regarding your trip to YMCA Camp Elphinstone and, as always, there is new information for you to be aware of (every year there are *new dates, details and transportation times*).

Talking to your campers about their upcoming adventure is an important step in ensuring a good time for everyone involved. **Communication** and **preparation is** important to the experience, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us prior to your child's camp visit. Early communication allows us to address questions and concerns before your child starts camp, ensuring an easy transition on the first day.

We expect all YMCA Campers and staff to abide by the YMCA core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility throughout their time at camp.

We are looking forward to meeting your child this summer and sharing our place of a million memories.

Sincerely,



Pam Chater
Camp Director
YMCA Camp Elphinstone

YMCA Camp Elphinstone
1760 YMCA Rd, Gibsons, BC
Tel: 1-604-886-2025
Fax: 1-604-886-2363

E-mail: camp.elphinstone@vanymca.org

Registration Office
200 – 1166 Alberni St. Vancouver BC
Tel: 604-939-9622
Fax: 604-939-9621

E-mail: camps@vanymca.org

Website: www.vanymca.org/camps

GETTING TO KNOW CAMP

YMCA Healthy Kids Day!

Healthy Kids Day will take place at Camp Elphinstone on **Sunday, June 3rd, 2012 from 10am-2pm**. Call (604) 939-9622 for details. HKD is a great way to find out more about the Y, visit our facilities and enjoy a free lunch. It is a perfect opportunity for new campers to become comfortable in the camp environment, meet staff and learn about our programs. We hope to see you there!

Where: 1760 YMCA Road, Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast (a complimentary shuttle service will meet the 9:20 and 11:20 sailings from Horseshoe Bay). **PLEASE NOTE – FERRY TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO BC FERRY'S SUMMER SAILING SCHEDULE AND MAY CHANGE, WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH NOTIFICATION IF THIS OCCURS.**

CAMP ACTIVITIES

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has many exciting activities to offer:

Waterfront

Sailing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, swimming, voyageur canoes

Land Sports and Challenges

High ropes course, low ropes course, basketball, soccer, volleyball, archery, tennis, tetherball, Ultimate Frisbee

Creative and Environmental

Art, drama, music, campfires, nature walks, Big Tree, global adventures

Outdoor Living Skills

Canoe trips, hiking trips, outdoor cooking, shelter building, map and compass, low-impact camping

Your camper will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of the above listed activities. All activities will be age-appropriate and participation will be based on the size, skill and safety of the campers.

Out-Tripping

All two-week campers will go on an overnight/out tripping camp experience which will involve canoeing, hiking or a combination of the two. Groups will travel to areas such as Gambier Island, Mount Elphinstone, Sechelt Inlet or one of our many onsite locations.

One week campers do not have an overnight planned in their schedule, although groups will have the option of planning a single night out trip (usually to one of our on-site locations) together if they so choose.

Campers will stay in tents and pack food and equipment with the help of the out tripping staff team. Trip lengths and destinations are decided in collaboration with the counselors and Program Coordinators and are based upon the ages and ability of cabin groups.

TUCK SHOP

Our camp tuck shop provides a great opportunity for campers to take home camp gear or souvenirs of their camp experience. All campers will have an opportunity to visit our tuck shop with their cabin group at least once a week. Possible items include: T-shirts, hoodies, hats, water bottles, magnets, beach balls, etc. The prices of these items will range from \$2 to \$45 (prices/items are subject to change). Some healthy food and drink options will be available, possible items could include popcorn, pretzels, juice, and fruit slushies.

In order to help us minimize the amount of money campers need at camp the tuck shop will maintain a computerized account system. A credit can be added to your camper's account through our registration office 604-939-9622.

Remaining credits on campers' accounts of more than \$5.00 will receive a reimbursement at the end of the 2012 summer session. Remaining credits on campers' accounts of \$5.00 or less can be carried forward to other YMCA programs or put to YMCA Camps Annual Campaign. Annual Campaign funding is used to provide financial assistance to families and individuals who otherwise can't afford to participate.

RESIDENTIAL CAMP TRANSPORTATION

Please note the camp start and end days!

Parents and Guardians will be required to sign in campers with identified staff members at each location. Please advise us if the person picking up the camper differs from the person who dropped them off. For your child's safety everyone must show photo identification when picking up a camper.

These scheduled arrival and departure times are very important as they enable our group leaders to structure the important first and last days of the session to be as beneficial as possible for each camper group. If for any reason you will be unable to make either the scheduled bus times please contact the Camp Elphinstone office (604) 886-2025.

Traveling to Camp Elphinstone by Car

If you are dropping your child off directly at Camp please plan your arrival for **1:00pm on Sunday** and pick-up time for **3:00 PM on Friday**.

Travelling by Ferry – for families picking up and dropping off from Horseshoe Bay

If you are dropping your child off at Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal you should be there at **11:15am** (12:00pm Ferry) on the first day. On the last day of camp campers will return at **4:15pm** (3:25pm Ferry).

Travelling by Bus

A camp staff member monitors each bus and orientation for camp begins on the bus. For your child's safety, if you wish to change transportation after the session has started, we will require notification in writing of the change. Changes to transportation during your camp session must be made with the Camp Elphinstone office (604)-886-2025.

PLEASE NOTE – BUS AND FERRY TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO BC FERRY’S SUMMER SAILING SCHEDULE AND MAY CHANGE, WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH NOTIFICATION IF THIS OCCURS

Location:	Departure (Sunday)	Return (Friday)
BUS 1		
Tong Louie Family YMCA 14988 57 th Ave. Surrey	9:30 AM (Bus departs at 9:45AM SHARP!)	5:45PM
Port Moody Rec Centre 300 loco Road, Port Moody	10:05 AM (Bus departs at 10:15AM SHARP!)	5:00PM
BUS 2		
Burnaby Central School 4939 Canada Way, Burnaby	9:30 AM (Bus departs at 10AM SHARP!)	5:45PM
Langara Family YMCA 282 W 49th Ave. Vancouver	10:15 AM (Bus departs at 10:30AM SHARP!)	5:00PM

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the bus is scheduled to leave to allow for loading

If you miss your bus, arrange for transportation to the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal for the next convenient sailing. Please call the camp office (1-604-886-2025) and we will meet the ferry you choose at the Langdale Ferry Terminal side and transport your camper from there.

Travelling by Airplane

\$100 roundtrip

Your Vancouver **arrival must be between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM**. Your Vancouver **departure must be between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM**. If this is not possible, please call the Camp Elphinstone office. Please note that additional transportation fees will be incurred for flights arriving/departing outside the time restrictions. Your camper will be met by an identified YMCA staff member at the arrivals gate and transported to camp.

DAY CAMP TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided in our own YMCA passenger van/bus or, if numbers require, a school bus. A bus monitor will be on each van/bus and your child must be signed in with the bus monitor upon boarding AND signed out upon leaving. If you wish your child to be able to walk home from the bus please ensure that the camp office has written notice of this.

Travelling By Bus

Arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled bus time and allow up to 15 minutes for delays. If you miss the bus please drive your child to camp and call YMCA Camp Elphinstone directly at 604-886-2025.

The bus monitor will **only** release your child to the person(s) listed on the registration form. If you miss your intended pick-up your child will remain on the bus and will travel to the final scheduled stop on that route. Bus monitors will coordinate with camp and will remain with your child. Please contact YMCA Camp Elphinstone if this does happen.

Location	To Camp	From Camp
Half Moon Bay Elementary	7:45 AM	5:00 PM
Sechelt Elementary (5800 Cowrie Ave)	8:00 AM	4:45 PM
Davis Bay – at Pier 17 (Hwy 101)	8:15 AM	4:35 PM
Roberts Creek Elementary (1088 Roberts Creek Rd)	8:30 AM	4:25 PM
Elphinstone Secondary (Front Parking Lot, Gibsons Way)	8:45 AM	4:10 PM
Dougall Park in Lower Gibsons (along the angled parking lot side)	8:55 AM	4:05 PM

Travelling by Car

Please ensure that your children are on time for camp. When they are late they miss important parts of the day. If you know your child will be late on a specific day, please call Camp directly at 1-604-886-2025 or send a note with your child the day before. **Please sign in your camper at the Upper Parking Lot/McKenzie Hall.**

Drop-Off: 9:00 AM

Pick-Up: 4:00 PM

Pre and Post Care

For parents who are unable to make the bus pick up and drop off times, before camp care will be offered from 7:30am and after camp care will be offered until 5:30pm. Children will be cared for by YMCA Camp Staff at Camp Elphinstone. **Please sign in your camper at the Upper Parking Lot/McKenzie Hall.**

Drop –Off: Anytime After 7:30am

Pick –Up: Anytime Before 5:30pm

CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER AT CAMP

We have several methods in which to contact your camper, mail, email, pay phones and through the Camp Office. Please see details below - if you have any questions or concerns contact us at 1-604-886-2025.

By Mail

Camper's Name and Session
c/o YMCA Camp Elphinstone
1760 YMCA Road
Gibsons BC V0N 1V6

- Everyone enjoys receiving mail so please write! Mail will be picked up every day and delivered to your camper by cabin group.
- Send letters prior to or during the first few days of camp to ensure delivery. Letters that do not arrive until after the session has ended will be returned to sender.

Pay Phones:

The camp has pay phones for outgoing calls. Each camper will be given a time block during the week to use the phones to call home if they choose (usually b/t 5-6pm for older campers and 6-7pm for the younger campers). Please do not give your child directions to call at a specific time as this is not always possible due to fluctuating schedules. Instead, please give several numbers (work, home and cell) your child can reach you at.

If your camper would like to use the pay phones please send a calling card with them (along with instructions on how to use it) or agree to accept collect calls (Camp is long-distance from Vancouver).

Please do not send a cell phone with your camper as they frequently have a negative impact on the camp experience.

By Email

We use Bunk1.com to help you communicate with your camper. Bunk1's secure, easy-to-use Website services let you stay in touch with your camper all session! To use the one-way email System go to: <http://www.ymcacampelphinstone.ca> and click on the Camper Email button. If you do not already have an account you will need to register first. When registering you will be asked for a preapproval code (the code for Elphinstone is: 9EP9802), complete your information and purchase credits.

We have partnered with Bunk1 in order to help us manage the volume of emails we receive. Each morning the Bunk Notes system bundles and sorts the messages for us to print out and distribute to campers. It also protects us from computer viruses and ensures we receive all emails and none are lost in filters. Bunk Note credits cost \$1 each and are purchased in packs of various sizes, **with your first one free.**

Emergency

Should a family emergency arise that requires you to contact your child, please call 1-604-886-2025 and we will be happy to assist you.

HEAT ROOM

Please read the following information carefully, as it contains some important information.

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has implemented a new procedure for campers and staff luggage. With the widespread issue of bed bugs in the lower mainland, we have built a new heat treatment room to ensure prevention of bed bugs. All bags will pass through this space before campers move into their cabins. This heat treatment will heat bags to 125 degrees, which will ensure that any bags or luggage that possibly contain bedbugs and eggs will be killed prior to moving into cabins, eliminating any concerns of bed bugs spreading to our cabins, or your home. To allow for bags to be heated, we will need you to ensure that all items that should not be heated are packed in a zip lock bag and are placed on top of your camper's luggage. The following items should **not** be heated, as it could cause damage: plastic (toiletries), electronics (which should be left at home), candles, wax, medicines, photographs or pictures, cameras, food, cosmetics, pop cans, aerosols. Please make sure zip lock bags are well labelled with your camper's names. We appreciate your support in this matter.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Check out the *Preparing for Camp* page on our website for more information about what to expect for camp – we have everything from packing lists, to coping with homesickness and what sort of food we serve at

camp. There are also hints and tips for ensuring a positive experience. If you still have questions please feel free to give us a call and we'll be happy to answer your questions.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP ELPHINSTONE

To Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal:

Take Highway 1 West, from Vancouver and follow signs for Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver. If your child is taking the ferry with camp staff, they will be signed in and out across from the terminal down by the water. There will be staff and signs to help direct you to the right location.



To Camp from Langdale Ferry Terminal:

Camp Elphinstone is 1.5 km (25 minute walk, 5 minute drive) from the Langdale Ferry terminal. After departing the terminal, turn right on the first street and follow Port Mellon Hwy to YMCA Road (first street on the right). Follow YMCA Road through the subdivision down to the camp gates. Check in at the upper parking lot/McKenzie Hall.

