



YMCA Camp Elphinstone  
Home of a million memories



Family Camp  
Information Guide

# WELCOME LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2012 summer season of Camp Elphinstone and thank you for choosing the YMCA for your Family's summer camp experience. We look forward to having your family at camp and our staff are preparing to ensure they have a positive and successful camp experience. No matter if this is your first time at Family Camp or you have been coming for years, 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.

Talking to your family 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 family's camp visit. Early communication allows us to address questions and concerns before you arrive at camp, ensuring an easy transition on the first day.

We expect all YMCA Families 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 family this summer and sharing our place of a million memories.

Sincerely,



Pam Chater  
Camp Director  
YMCA Camp Elphinstone

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Website: [www.vanymca.org/camps](http://www.vanymca.org/camps)

# FAMILY CAMP

## Facility Information and Helpful Tips

### Shower room/Washroom Facilities

Camp has excellent shower and washroom facilities. Each of our lodges has 2 private bathrooms (shared among 8 guest rooms). Our summer cabins have a centrally located washhouse facility (with 12 showers per gender available).

### Laundry

Laundry facilities are not available on-site. In case of emergency we will be happy to provide you with directions to the Laundromat (and can likely arrange to bring the laundry in and out for you if necessary).

### Tuck Shop

Families will have access to the YMCA Camp Elphinstone tuck shop. Our tuck shop stocks a number of clothing items and memorabilia. Purchases can be made by credit card or cash (we are unable to process debit at this time).

### Phone Calls

In case of emergency please advise your friends and relatives to call the Camp Elphinstone Office at 1-604-886-2025. Any messages left on the emergency pager will be relayed to you as soon as possible.

The camp has pay phones available for our guests for outgoing calls. Cell phone service is inconsistent but available on-site. You may need to search for a signal, but we have found that all major carriers have some level of signal available.

## GETTING TO AND FROM CAMP

(Maps and directions see last page)

Please arrive at camp between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM and be prepared to leave around 10 AM on the final day. Ferries run from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale throughout the day. A current ferry schedule is available at [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com) or by calling 1-888-BC FERRY.

**(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).**

Ferries to Camp: 12:00 PM & 2:15 PM

Ferries from Camp: 8:30 AM & 10:50 AM

If you prefer to walk-on to the ferry, a shuttle service will be available from the Langdale ferry terminal — please call ahead to ensure we know what ferry to expect you on.

*Please do not arrive before 1:00 PM as the cabins and lodges will not be prepared prior to this time.*

## CAMP ACTIVITIES

Families will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of camp activities. All activities will be age-appropriate and participation will be based on the size, skill and safety of the participants.

Camp staff will provide daily programming for children up to 16 years old in the mornings between breakfast and lunch, and in the afternoons between lunch and dinner. Parents can drop their children off with camp staff or are welcome to join in with the activities as well. We will have adult only programs as well.

Parents should be aware that during all other times of the day they are responsible for supervising their children.

### ***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, campfires, nature walks to Big Tree or around site

### ***Outdoor Living Skills***

Outdoor cooking, shelter building

## CAMP BEHAVIOUR POLICY

### **Camper/Family Dismissal**

If a situation arises where a family member threatens the safety of another family member or if a family member shows a complete disregard of camp rules, that individual or family may be dismissed at the discretion of the Camp Director. The family is responsible for any costs associated with that individuals or family's dismissal and no refund will be given if the dismissal is due to behavioural reasons or concerns.

### **Possession of illicit substances**

Smoking, the consumption of alcohol and/or the use of non-prescription drugs are not permitted on YMCA property. Any family member who disregards this policy will be automatically removed regardless of circumstance or degree of participation.

## HEAT ROOM

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

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has implemented a new procedure for campers, families 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 families 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 luggage. The following items should **not** be heated, as it will 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 names. We appreciate your support in this matter.

### **Recommended Clothing and Equipment List**

*Please consider the activities that your family may participate in and the length of your stay.*

#### Equipment

- Sleeping bag - warm, preferably synthetic fill
- Pillow and pillow case
- Flashlight with fresh and extra batteries
- Water bottle

#### Clothing

- Supply of underwear
- Supply of socks
- Shorts, t-shirts, pants & sweaters
- Rain gear (camp activities continue in the rain)
- Rubber boots
- Shoes (1 pair with laces and rubber soles, 1 pair that can get wet)
- Pyjamas
- Swimsuit
- Towels (1 large, 1 small)
- Hat (for sun and rain)
- Toque (optional)

#### Personal Care Items

- Biodegradable soap, biodegradable shampoo (in plastic containers)
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Brush or comb
- Insect repellent - non-aerosol
- Sunscreen: minimum SPF 30

#### Optional

- Camera and film (disposable camera recommended)
- Sheet for mattress, extra blanket

We do not have on-site laundry, but in the event of an emergency, arrangements will be made to ensure laundry is dealt with promptly.

### **Do not bring:**

Matches, firearms, knives, hatchets, tobacco, video games, cellular phones, portable radios, iPods, laptops, expensive watches or jewellery. Food, candy and gum should also be left in the city (they attract animals both large and small). YMCA Camps will not be responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items.

### **Luggage**

Luggage need not be expensive - back packs are ideal, hockey bags, duffels, old suitcases and big laundry bags are fine. Do not pack items in garbage bags as they rip easily and can be mistaken for garbage.

### Rain Gear

Our camp programs will continue despite the occasional rainy day and for your families comfort and well-being, they should be well prepared for the weather. Rain suits and sturdy, well sealed rubber boots provide the best protection.

### Biodegradable Soap

All soap products used (shampoo, soap and conditioners) must be biodegradable as our water is treated and returned directly to the ocean. We need your help to protect the environment and our water system works best and operates cleanly when all soap products used are biodegradable.

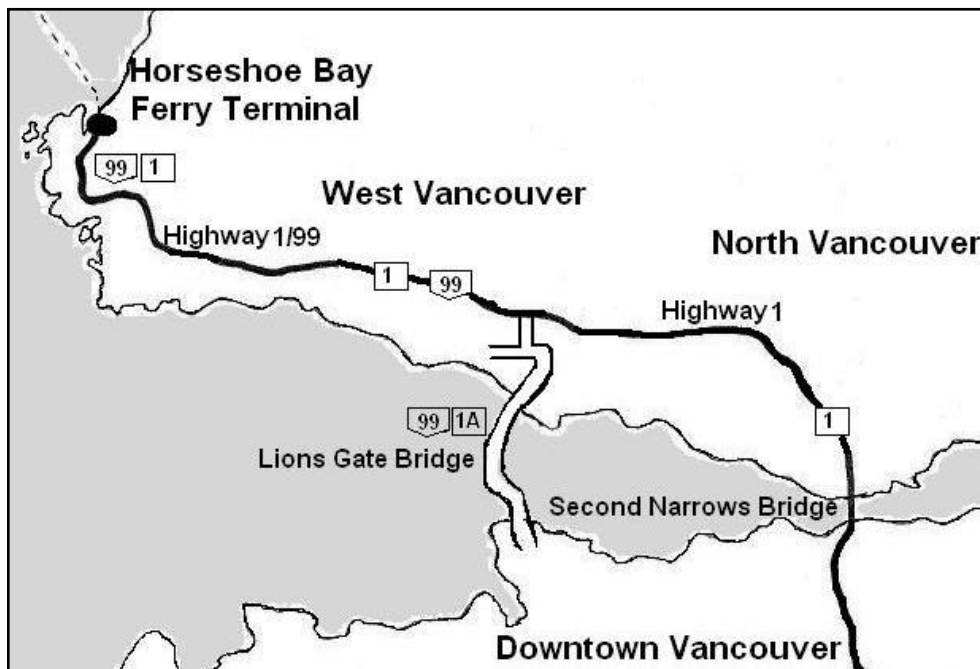
## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Check out the *Preparing for Camp* page on our website for more information about what to expect for camp – we have everything from a more detailed packing lists to 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.



**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.

