

January 2010

YMCA Camps  
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# Reflections



## Letter from the General Manager

As a past camper, counselor and director I am extremely happy to be back as GM of YMCA Camps. It is an exciting time to be involved in YMCA Camping and I am eager to reconnect with our camp Alumni. Our Alumni BBQ in September was a huge success and I can't wait to connect with more of you as we continue to plan events and reengage our Alumni in our present and future.

We are planning for the future and we have many fantastic plans in the works. We are currently working on a large redevelopment plan for YMCA Camp Elphinstone. This multi-step process has begun and we are looking forward to the future (more on the next page!). At Camp Howdy, Elphinstone and Dekka, we are also continuing to develop and improve our camp programs and staff training opportunities.

YMCA Camps served 10,600 campers in 2009 and we are looking forward to a successful 2010. This year we are excited to announce Erika Lougheed has joined us at YMCA Camp Elphinstone as our new Manager and Annie Markvoort as Dekka Director. Robyn Heath continues to provide leadership in our Administration office and Pam Chater is excited for her second summer as Camp Howdy Director. Our team is looking forward to all that 2010 has to offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Stiver', is located to the left of her name.

Lisa Stiver - General Manager

### We are on Facebook and Twitter!

Follow us at VanYMCACamp on Twitter and join our Official YMCA Camp Howdy, Elphinstone and Dekka groups on Facebook



## Alumni Connection - Where are they now?

Tim Straka worked as a Residential Camping Section Director at Camp Howdy in 1999 and 2000. He is now Education Program Director for Students on Ice Expeditions (SOI), an Ottawa-based charitable organization founded in 1999, with a mandate to inspire youth from around the world in the Arctic and Antarctica to foster new understanding and respect for the planet.

Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> Year, SOI has taken over 1,200 secondary school and university students, from 40 countries on educational expeditions to the planet's Polar Regions. Thousands more have been introduced to the Polar Regions through their public education and outreach activities. Tim travels on all SOI's expeditions and manages the organization's field-staff team that join him to support student learning. In addition to expeditions.

Since working with the YMCA of Greater Vancouver Tim has taught at elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels across North America and in Central Europe. He has worked with Outward Bound Canada, various school boards and a number of Canadian Parliamentarians. Tim continues to be a proponent of youth having a key role to play in shaping the world of today and the world of tomorrow.

Tim and his brother Chris (also an Alumnus staff member of the YMCA Camping Division) are currently building homes which will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)™ for Homes Platinum Certification.

To learn more about Tim and Students on Ice visit [www.studentsonice.com](http://www.studentsonice.com)



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**Camp Howdy Women's Weekend**  
(Sept 17-19)

It's back! Our fabulous women's weekend is a chance to kick back and relax at camp while enjoying programs and activities for women only.

**Family Camp at Elphinstone**

(Aug 29 – Sep 1 & Sep 1 - 4)

A camp for the entire family, this is a great chance for parents and kids to enjoy camp together.

## YMCA Camp Elphinstone Redevelopment

For over 100 years children and youth have found independence and a sense of self at YMCA Camps. To launch our second century of helping young people grow into active, aware and engaged adults, we are embarking on the first phase of renewal at Camp Elphinstone. This phase will allow us to improve accessibility for those with special needs and expand the numbers of campers we can serve each year.

Construction has begun on the Mark Hume Leadership Centre, a fully accessible waterfront complex that features a renovated pier, a learning centre, an all-weather deck area and indoor/outdoor meeting space. We are extremely excited to have this amazing new facility ready for camp this summer. This will provide the opportunity for us to increase our waterfront programming, increase and improve our sailing programs and provide accessible space at camp for children, youth and adults with special needs. The Mark Hume leadership Centre will help foster the development of a new generation of YMCA leadership.



Artist's rendering of the Mark Hume Leadership Centre

We are also excited to report construction has started on a new recreation space which will include space for Day Camp, indoor meeting space and leadership programs. This new accessible recreation space will allow us to provide more camping and outdoor education opportunities to children, youth and adults year round.

Both of these spaces have been generously supported by the Minister of Western Economic Diversification through a Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC) Grant, as well as fundraising and donations by the Hume Family. With a capital campaign starting, we are looking forward to building new lodges that will serve more children and adults from our community with special needs, an addition to the dining hall and renovations to camp Heritage buildings. We look forward to updating you as our projects get underway.

### Send Us Your Stories & Photos!

Adventures, misadventures and shenanigans have always been part of working at YMCA Camps. Whenever a group of alumni get together, the stories start flowing and they are an important part of your Y's history. Please share your stories and photos with us, either electronically or with snail mail.

[camps@vanymca.org](mailto:camps@vanymca.org)  
200-1166 Alberni St  
Vancouver BC, V6E 3Z3

### Upcoming Events

#### Work Weekends

Help us get ready for the busy summer season! We need help with site cleanup, building restoration or program preparation. There are jobs for all abilities and ages.

- Howdy May 1-2nd, Elphinstone May 15-16th
- Deka: July 4th

#### Alumni BBQ

Last year's BBQ was a lot of fun and we're doing it again this year! Join us on September 12th from 11am to 3pm in Stanley Park for an Alumni BBQ and spend a few hours catching up with friends.

### Volunteer Opportunities

We have YMCA volunteer opportunities to suit all schedules, talents and tastes, contact our camp office at 604-939-9622 for more information! Please contact Lisa Stiver at [lisa.stiver@vanymca.org](mailto:lisa.stiver@vanymca.org) if you are interested in volunteering on an Alumni Committee.

### Robert Lee YMCA Open House

Join us May 1&2 to celebrate the opening of the YMCA's brand new facility. With over 92,000 sq feet of space the facility will be a center of community for everyone in Downtown Vancouver.

[www.robertleeymca.ca](http://www.robertleeymca.ca)

