

A Message from Dale Kilgour, Director of Camp and Recreation Programs

As we wrap up our camp season, we reflect on the incredible successes we experienced this summer. All three of our camps – Camp Shawnigan, Camp Squamish and Camp Winfield – were at full capacity. This is the first time since 2017 that we have achieved this!

Over 900 campers, including 169 new overnight campers, joined us for a season full of fun, friendship, and personal growth. Smiling faces lit up our pools and campers challenged themselves on newly accessible climbing gear, creating countless magical moments of self-discovery. Our family camps also grew, welcoming even more new families into our supportive, inclusive community.

We're proud to have made exciting improvements across all our camp facilities, including reopening the pool at Camp Squamish and upgrading life jackets at Camp Shawnigan. Partnering with organizations like the Canucks Autism Network and CNIB, we ensured every camper had the support they needed to fully enjoy their camp experience.



We also welcomed 255 people from 86 families to our 2-night families camps, where the attendance grew by over 50%! This program provides a unique opportunity for caregivers to connect. Staff have cited an incredible camaraderie between families; offering support, words of advice, laughter, and a shared love of their children.

A special thanks to our 90+ staff members who helped make this season unforgettable, many of whom are now pursuing careers in fields like teaching and healthcare, where their experience at camp creates a baseline for quality care, support, and inclusion.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to offer even more family camps at Camp Squamish, expand spots at Camp Winfield, and enhance the waterfront at Camp Shawnigan. Keep an eye out for updates on how you can get involved in spring cleaning to help get our camps ready to welcome eager campers next summer.

We can't wait to welcome even more campers for another season of fun, growth, and lifelong memories!

Sincerely,

Dale Kilgour
Director of Camp and Recreation Programs

Our Lions in Action



Drop Zone

Thank you to the Lions Club members who participated across the province in our annual Drop Zone campaign. Together, they raised \$14,000 to contribute towards the record-breaking \$350,000+ raised this year!



Vernon Lions Club Golf Tournament

The 6th annual event raised over \$19,000 in support of Camp Winfield, supporting facility maintenance & improvements and subsidizing camperships.



Lions Anniversary Dinner

Board Chair, Wanda Eddy, celebrates the accomplishments of three clubs in the Okanagan region during their anniversary dinner.



Partnering on a Room Renovation

There are still 6 rooms at Easter Seals House in need of a complete renovation, costing approximately \$25,000 per room. The North Surrey Lions Club would love to partner with a few other Clubs to fund a complete a full room renovation.. Please reach out to [Shannon Bernays](mailto:sbernays@eastersealsbcy.ca) at sbernays@eastersealsbcy.ca for more information.

Camp Shawnigan Updates

Recently, we successfully secured a \$1.15 million grant that allows us to take the first steps towards the reimagined facilities at Camp Shawnigan. We are excited to share that updates are progressing and some are planned to be completed as soon as next summer!

Stay tuned for more details and how you can get involved in the coming months.



Easter Seals in the Community



Chip In For the Kids

This holiday season, dispose of your live Christmas tree in an environmentally-friendly manner and give back to Camp Shawnigan! Join us on January 4 and 5 for this inspiration fundraiser.

[Learn More](#)



Around the World Dinner

An indulgent dinner experience with renowned Chef David Hawksworth brings your taste buds on a global culinary journey! Last year our supporters came together to raise over \$140,000. Learn how you can take part and help us raise even more.

[Learn More](#)

Thank You Lions!

Every year, the Lions Clubs donate generously, contribute countless volunteer hours and inspire support, all to lift up the disability community. Because of you, we can and are making a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families.

Thank you for your dedication — what we do would not be possible without you.

All editions of the Lions Den newsletter will be available on our website. Check out past issues, print and share the latest edition, and submit your own news!

Share this newsletter to your Club members to keep them updated with Easter Seals BC/Yukon!