

PATRIOTS NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CALGARY PATRIOTS SWIM CLUB

2026/27 VOLUME 1

OCTOBER 2026



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This newsletter is intended to compliment important information already shared by coaches and on to the Patriots website!

Looking forward to seeing you at the pool!

HEAD COACH'S MESSAGE

Patriots,

Welcome to a new season with the Calgary Patriots Swim Club!



We have an exciting year ahead, with some big changes and new opportunities for our swimmers. From an incredible new training camp destination for Performance to four team travel opportunities, there is plenty to look forward to! This season, we will continue to maximize our pool space and meet opportunities, ensuring that all swimmers can train and race consistently with their own squad while continuing to grow, develop, and challenge themselves throughout the year. I'm also excited to introduce the new coaches joining us this season!

- Lara and Kristina will lead our White Squad
- Jayden will be helping with our Grey Squad
- Ray Bettuzzi will take the reins of Performance

We're thrilled to have them joining our coaching team and look forward to the energy, experience, and new perspectives they will bring to our athletes. Let's work together to train hard and get better in and out of the water.

Go Patriots!

Performance – Ray Bettuzi
Gold & Senior Lead Coach – Marit Anderson
Strength & Conditioning & Silver – Richie Stokes
Head Coach & Bronze – Kevin Coulman
Red – Brent Bester
Black & Asst. Head Coach – Chad Michie
Grey – Elsie Whitney
White 1 – Kristina Mills
White 2 – Lara Ball
Assistants – Erin Cameron, Julia Pigott, & Jayden Wong

Kevin



SAVE THE DATE

This Year's hosted meets will be:

Puglsey's Plunge Jan 15-17
50th Chinook Invitational April 16-18
Summer Splash – June 12-13

Volunteer spots open now!

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to the 2026-27 season of the Calgary Patriots Swim Club. Whether you are new or returning for another season, we are grateful you have chosen to be part of our community. Competitive swimming is a significant commitment for athletes and families, and we appreciate the trust you place in our club.

This is my fourth year serving on the Board and second as President, and I am incredibly proud to be part of the Calgary Patriots organization. Our culture is grounded by our values and strong sense of community, and that is reflected in the dedication of our coaches, staff, athletes, volunteers, and families. It is this collective commitment that empowers our swimmers to succeed not only in the pool but also as teammates, leaders, and individuals.

The Calgary Patriots' volunteer Board of Directors is here to serve our membership. Our role is to provide thoughtful governance, responsible stewardship of club resources, and foster a culture built on excellence, respect, and accountability.

Over the past year, our Club has navigated a period of change and transition. Throughout that time, the Board and coaches have remained focused on ensuring that the safety, well-being, and individual goals of our athletes are at the centre of our decisions. As the needs of our swimmers and sport continue to evolve, we believe in looking ahead and proactively evaluating opportunities to strengthen our programs. By taking this long-term approach, we are working to build a strong foundation for the Club and ensure the Patriots continue to be a place where current and future generations of swimmers can thrive.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your ongoing support and for giving your athletes the opportunity to grow. We look forward to celebrating the achievements that will make this season special.



Aaron Swanson

Board President,
Calgary Patriots Swim Club
Board of Directors

MEET PHOTOS!

Huge thanks to Stephen for capturing these photos from our recent meets.

View and download here:

Team Champs

All meet pictures in this newsletter are Stephens!



2026/27 CP BOARD MEMBERS

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FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW! LIMITED EDITION PATRIOTS MERCH – AVAILABLE SOON!

The Performance Squad is heading to Training Camp in February, and to help offset the costs for participating families, the Club is launching a limited-edition collection of Calgary Patriots merchandise! 100% of the proceeds will go directly towards supporting Training Camp families.

PATRIOTS FAN T-SHIRTS.

A familiar favourite, with a fresh new look! Personalize the back with your choice of “Patriots Fan,” “Mom” or “Dad.” It’s a fun way for family and friends to show their support for Patriots’ swimmers! \$35 each.



PATRIOTS LOGO TOQUE

Keep your swimmer warm this winter with this classic, ultra-soft toque, featuring the Patriots logo embroidered on the front. Makes for a great stocking stuffer! \$25 each.



PATRIOTS PERK COFFEE

It’s back! Our very popular signature coffee blends from Fratello Coffee are available again. A great gift for your coaches to help get them through those early morning coaching sessions! \$22 per bag.



All limited-edition merchandise will be available for purchase through the Patriots ProShop from October 15 to November 15. Delivery is expected in early December, just in time for the holiday season!

BENEVITY

Benevity is a platform used by many employers that convert your volunteer hours into donations for registered nonprofits. By logging the time spend volunteering with our Club (officiating, Board and Committee volunteering, Squad parent, chaperoning), your company may provide a monetary donation on your behalf.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

1. Check if your employer offers a Benevity Workplace Giving Program (ask your HR department)
 2. Count up your volunteer hours with the Club (meet officiating counts!)
 3. Log your hours in your company’s giving platform.
- Use Patriots Id Number: 50229990



SKIP THE DEPOT



Looking for an easy way to support the Calgary Patriots Swim Club? Turn your empty bottles and cans into fundraising dollars for our club with SkipTheDepot! SkipTheDepot makes recycling simple and convenient, while giving our Patriots community another way to support our swimmers. Instead of making a special trip to the bottle depot, you can arrange a pickup and donate your refund to the club!

Here’s how you can help:

1. Sign up with SkipTheDepot.
2. Schedule a pickup of your eligible bottles and cans.
3. Select Calgary Patriots Swim Club as your fundraising recipient.
4. Sit back and support our swimmers! Your bottle refunds will help support club initiatives and opportunities for our athletes.

Every donation adds up, and when our Patriots families work together, small contributions can make a big difference! Whether you have a few bags or a garage full, we encourage every family to participate. It’s an easy way to recycle, reduce waste, and support our swimming community at the same time.

Ready to get started? Visit [SkipTheDepot](https://www.skipthedepot.com) to sign up and select Calgary Patriots Swim Club.

OFFICIALS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Swim Alberta officials clinics are scheduled for October. You can find [Swim Alberta Hosted Clinics](#) information on Swim Alberta website. All officials, as well as individuals interested in becoming officials, are encouraged to register for the upcoming clinics.

Swim Alberta is hosting the following clinics:

- Starter – 20 October, 2026
- Administration Desk – 21 October, 2026
- Judge of Stroke – 22 October, 2026
- Chief Judge Electronics – 26 October, 2026
- Recorder – 28 October, 2026
- Chief Recorder – 30 October, 2026



All clinics will be held online from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

To register for a clinic, officials must have an active REMS account.

Available clinics can be found through the Learning Management System (LMS). An active REMS account is required to register and receive credentials for the clinic completion. Active officials can use this [link](#) to login to LMS and register for the clinics.

The deadline to register for each clinic is 3:00 p.m. on the day of the clinic.

PATRIOTS GIVE BACK

SILVER SQUAD VOLUNTEERS IN THE COMMUNITY

On September 20th, swimmers and parent volunteers from Silver Squad came together for a day of team building and community service, supporting the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.

The group volunteered at the CPMA Fall Harvest at the BMO Centre, a large, two-day annual charity market that brings together the Western Canadian produce industry. Thousands of pounds of donated fresh fruit and vegetables are sold at prices well below standard grocery store rates – all for charity!

Our swimmers were assigned to the Produce Sales team, where they helped shoppers at the produce stands, filled bags, and restocked boxes of fresh produce. Throughout the afternoon, they worked together to keep the stands running smoothly while engaging with members of the public.

The swimmers put in a tremendous amount of effort throughout the day, and their hard work didn't go unnoticed! They made a strong impression on Foundation staff, who were so pleased with the group's contribution and enthusiasm that they invited the Patriots back for next year's event.

The Club would like to thank the parent volunteers who supported the swimmers throughout the afternoon, as well as the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation for the opportunity to participate



Calgary's GamePLAN and the Future of Aquatic Sport

Where Calgary invests in recreation infrastructure over the coming years will directly affect opportunities for our swimmers and families. The City of Calgary is moving forward with GamePLAN, its long-term strategy for public recreation, which will help guide future investment in facilities, programs and services across the city.

For the Calgary Patriots, these decisions matter. Access to suitable pool space directly affects our ability to provide programming, welcome new swimmers and host competitions. This season, limited pool capacity contributed to the Club having to turn away more than 45 swimmers between the ages of 7 and 17. For competitive aquatic sports, the challenge is not simply the amount of pool space available, but having the right types of facilities available for training and competition.

Access to competition-capable facilities is also important because hosted meets provide competitive opportunities for athletes while generating revenue that helps support Club programming. As part of our ongoing advocacy for competitive swimming and aquatic sport, the Club has prepared the letter below for the Mayor and members of City Council. It asks the City to recognize that recreational swimming, competitive training, and hosting aquatic competitions have different facility needs and that each should be considered as Calgary makes future recreation investments.

Learn about GamePLAN

- [City of Calgary – GamePLAN](#) – Overview of the strategy, implementation phases and recreation investments.
- [GamePLAN Research and Planning](#) – Background on Calgary's recreation system, the Making Waves service level and future facility planning.
- [Full GamePLAN Report](#) – The City's complete GamePLAN strategy and recommendations.
- [GamePLAN for Facilities](#) – What We Heard – Read the findings from the City's public and organized user group engagement on recreation facility needs and priorities.

Make your voice heard

GamePLAN will help shape recreation opportunities across Calgary for years to come. We encourage Patriots families to contact their Ward Councillor to share their experiences with Calgary's recreation facilities and the types of infrastructure they believe should be prioritized as the city grows; including, where important to them, adequate aquatic training and competition capacity.

[Find your Ward Councillor and contact information](#)

We encourage Patriots families to learn more about GamePLAN, read the Club's letter to the Mayor and City Council, and add their own voices to the conversation about Calgary's future recreation infrastructure.

[CALGARY PATRIOTS GAME PLAN ADVOCACY LETTER](#)

The 2026-2027 swimming yearbook is available now! This year I created an option personalized for Patriots, featuring your logo and team colors, which really adds a nice element to your swimmers' book.

If you are new to the yearbook it's an 8.5x11 coiled memory book with about 22 pages, where your swimmer can fill in their memories from that year, set goals, track their times for each meet, scrapbook photos and fill out questions. There are also autograph pages so coaches and friends can sign and write a note at the end of the season (like in a school yearbook).

Once filled out it becomes a beautiful keepsake for them to look back on for that year of swimming! You can see a general idea of the book with some sample pages on my website:

<https://swim.reneekardash.com/collage-print-samples>

You can purchase your Patriots Yearbook with this link:

<https://square.link/u/A0jBBXRn>

If you want the personalized Patriots cover you must use this link, not the link on the website

DID YOU KNOW – GEAR BUY AND SELL



This parent-run private online group allows Calgary Patriots families to buy, sell, or swap swim gear, suits, and clothing. It is not officially affiliated with the Club, and all transactions are arranged directly between parents through Facebook. Go to the Calgary Patriots Buy and Sell here:

[2026-27 Calgary Patriots Buy, Sell & Swap | Facebook](#)

A big congratulations to our Calgary Patriots swimmers on a fantastic start of the season Team Champs meet!

Swimmers dove right in with some amazing swims, personal bests and super exciting 8 person club wide relay races to kick off the season with a focus on team spirit and excitement. Our swimmers showed determination, encouraged their teammates, and represented the Patriots proudly.

A huge thank you to our coaches, families, and especially volunteers who made the meet possible. From timing and officiating to helping behind the scenes, your time and support are absolutely essential to making these events a success. We couldn't do it without you!

Congratulations to all our swimmers, and thank you to everyone who helped make Team Champs a great start to the season.

TEAM CHAMPS SWIM MEET

