

PATRIOTS NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CALGARY PATRIOTS SWIM CLUB

ISSUE 3 MARCH-MAY 2026



In this edition of the Patriots News

COACHES MESSAGE
UPDATE ON REGISTRATION
BOARD ANNUAL SURVEY
INVITATION TO AGM
CHINOOKS HIGHLIGHTS
SWIMMER MILESTONES
INVITE TO BANQUET
FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT
MEET PHOTOS

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!

COACH'S MESSAGE



Patriots,

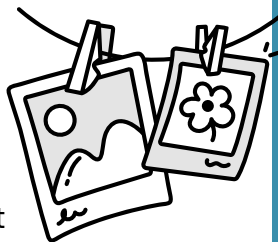
I hope everyone has had a good cycle of training. The racing has looked good and swimmers are getting some good results especially at Chinook. Thank you to all the officials for making that amazing. I am sure Summer Splash in June will be a great meet.

I wanted to take this opportunity to elaborate a little more on our culture. Our club has developed a culture that is present through every squad. That culture helps the swimmers move forward in the sport. It is culture that helps the swimmers retain the multitude of information we impart is through culture, developing their passion and drive for the sport and supporting it with likeminded teammates will help them develop their technique and skills and will help motivate through the tough practices and hard times. Some elements of this culture which may not be easily understood in an individual sport are the concepts of friendship, cooperation and team spirit. I want all the swimmers and parents to understand that nothing is achieved alone. Support from teammates, volunteers, coaches and other competitors are what drive everyone to their individual results and supporting this relationship is part of this culture. Through the team our successes seem better and our failures don't seem as bad. I hope all of you can practice a bit of gratitude as we get into the end of the year and support the clubs culture that has lead us to the success at every level of this sport. I want to leave you with a clip from Ted Lasso (which should be required watching in Gold squad). This clip gives you a glimpse of how team spirit can help even during our tough times.

Kevin

CALL OUT FOR PICTURES!!

Swimmers and families, do you have candid or poolside photos of your swimmer or squad you would be willing to share with us for the banquet slide show? Please send them to communication@calgarypatriots.com



SAVE THE DATE

There's still many great swims and events left in the season, but behind the scenes, we're busy preparing for another exciting year in the pool. Watch for 2026/27 registration information coming in June, with re-registration for returning families opening Monday, July 6. Let's finish strong and keep the momentum going!

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



It Takes a Village

As we head into the final stretch of the season, it's worth pausing to recognize what makes our Club strong. Of course, we're seeing continued improvement in the pool, but just as important is the way our athletes and families encourage one another. That positive, supportive culture remains one of our greatest strengths.

From a Board perspective, the Club is on the right track. While the progress in performance is easy to see, there has also been a great deal of important work happening behind the scenes. Much of it may go unnoticed day to day, but it is just as important to the Patriots' long-term success.

Having been part of the Board for over three years and now serving in my first year as President, I'm incredibly proud of how this group has come together. The Board has consistently approached challenges with collaboration, professionalism, and a shared commitment to what's best for the long-term benefit of the Club.

This year, we've made meaningful progress in strengthening how we operate: updating outdated policies, aligning with Swim Alberta requirements, completing Safe Sport and governance training, launching a dedicated fundraising committee, and supporting the addition of coaching resources. These are important investments and reflect the priority of putting the athletes first while ensuring the club can thrive for years to come. At the same time, the Board is only one piece of the puzzle. The Patriots' success truly is a collective effort.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers and staff help make this club the strong community it is today. From Martina, our Club Administrator, to our meet management and officials, committees (fundraising, hospitality, prize table), bingo coordinator, travel chaperones, and squad parents, each person contributes countless hours, energy, and care to support our swimmers and families. Their commitment does not go unnoticed, and the positive impact they have on our club is truly appreciated.

It truly takes a village, and I want to sincerely thank everyone for helping make this such a great year. I am incredibly grateful for this community and for the many ways people continue to support one another and show up for our swimmers.



Aaron Swanson
Board President,
Calgary Patriots Swim Club
Board of Directors



The Calgary Patriots Board AGM is scheduled for June 17th at 8 PM online to encourage parent attendance. A Zoom link will be emailed to all families beforehand. For those interested in volunteering or with questions, contact president@calgarypatriots.com.

MEET PHOTOS!

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

View and download here

PUGLSY PICTURES
CHINOOK PICTURES

BOARD VACANCIES

The Board needs your help filling positions for the next swim season. These roles offer a chance to:

- Have a direct voice in key decisions that affect our swimmers and families
- Strengthen the long-term sustainability and culture of the club
- Contribute your skills and perspective in a collaborative, high-impact way
- **VP Finance** – Oversees financial management, reporting, and budgeting
- **Board Secretary** – Maintains official records and meeting minutes
- **Sponsorship and Gaming Officer** – Supports sponsorship and gaming initiatives
- **Social Coordinator** – Supports planning and delivery of club social events

If you are interested in serving on the Board, reach out by June 16 to president@calgarypatriots.com & secretary@calgarypatriots.com



CLUB FUNDRAISING

INTRODUCING OUR FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are excited to introduce the fundraising committee Members

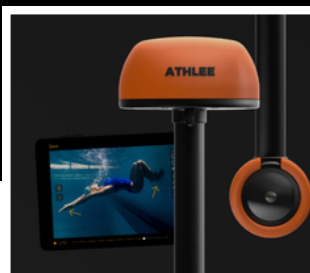
Natalie Swanson (Chair), Martina Lee, Abby Blough, Christi Barber, Tania Amador

- The Committee is a group of parent volunteers who plan, support, and execute fundraising initiatives for the Club.
- Our mission is to support equitable opportunities for all Calgary Patriot swimmers and ensure families and the Club have accessible options to manage costs associated with the swim program, swim fees, meets, and travel.
- Fundraising initiatives are thoughtfully selected to strengthen our swim community while helping keep overall program costs as low as possible for families.

The Calgary Patriots is proud to offer program fees that are at least 30% lower than other clubs in the city. We aim to ensure competitive swimming remains an inclusive and accessible sport, while fostering long-term athlete development – both in and out of the pool.

To support this philosophy, the Committee will be running a series of opt-in fundraising initiatives this spring/summer, with all proceeds going towards purchasing new equipment to support our swimmers' skill development:

- o Athlee Camera – a high-resolution underwater camera that allows coaches and swimmers to clearly see what's happening beneath the surface. It gives athletes real-time visual feedback on technique, turns, and stroke efficiency.
- o Equipment Upgrades and New Purchases – including bands, stretch cords, and tools like loofahs to support activation, build strength, and refine strokes.



BENEVITY

Benevity is a platform used by many employers that convert your volunteer hours into donations for registered nonprofits.

By logging the time spent volunteering with our Club (officiating, Board and Committee volunteering, Squad parent, chaperoning), your company may provide a monetary donation on your behalf.

To date, we've collected almost \$3,000 in Benevity donations! Our goal is to reach \$5,000 by the end of the season. Log your volunteer hours today!

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

SUMMER SPLASH RAFFLE

Stay tuned for your chance to win big at our June hosted meet!

The Committee is looking for donations to include in our prize baskets. If you know a local business that could donate prizes, gift cards, or sponsorships, please reach out today – we have a ready-to-send letter to make it easy: fundraising@calgarypatriots.com



PATRIOTS' PERK, BY FRATELLO COFFEE

We've teamed up with Fratello Coffee to create a signature Calgary Patriots coffee blend crafted just for our swim community! Whether you're an early-morning practice parent or a meet-day marathoner, this coffee is your new go-to. Stay tuned for order details!





PATRIOTS SECURE 24TH IN NATIONAL TAG RANKINGS

Ranked 24th out of 208 clubs nationwide | 1,708 Total Team Points

CSCA "Making Waves" Spotlight

15-year-old **Will Cameron** was specifically selected by the CSCA as a featured athlete in the national publication, recognizing his massive season across butterfly, freestyle, and IM events.

Top National Performers

- **William Cameron (14):** 2nd (50/100 Free, 50/100 Back, 50 Fly), 3rd (100/200 Fly), 4th (200/400 IM), 6th (200 Free), 10th (200 Back).
- **Federico Martino (14):** 3rd (50 Breast), 5th (50 Free), 6th (100 Breast), 7th (200 Breast).
- **Noa Josh Burger (13):** 8th (100 Free).

Top National Relays

- **Boys 13-14 4x50m Medley** — 6th (1:53.92)
W. Cameron, S. Bratton, N. Burger, F. Martino
- **Boys 15-17 4x50m Medley** — 10th (1:46.97)
S. Bygrave, H. Blough, W. Cameron, L. Hildebrand
- **Girls 15-17 4x50m Medley** — 10th (1:59.03)
C. Waldhuber, E. Pegg, H. Cameron, M. Storck

Top 50 National Swimmers

Congratulations to our swimmers who secured Top 50 finishes in Canada: **Samuel Bygrave, Levi Hildebrand, Desmond Phillips, Aria Warwick, Audrey Thompson, Cadence Waldhuber, Maya Storck, Hudson Blough, Jade Boake, Hailey Cameron, Willa Shortt, Anna McLellan, and Abigail Federkeil.**

CALGARY PATRIOTS
AWARDS
Banquet

JUNE 21 5PM

POLISH CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
TICKETS \$50 PER PERSON
RSVP BY JUNE 5 ON THE EVENTS PAGE



All Patriots swimmers and families are invited to join us for our Annual Patriots Awards Banquet on June 21st beginning at 5:00 pm at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre !

This special evening is a chance to celebrate the hard work, growth, and achievements of our swimmers over the past season. It's always a highlight of the year—bringing our club together for a night of recognition, connection, and plenty of fun.

Enjoy a festive atmosphere complete with a photo booth, exciting door prizes, and great moments shared with teammates and friends. It's an event for swimmers of all ages and a wonderful way to wrap up the season as a team.

Tickets for this event typically sell out quickly, so be sure to secure yours early—we'd love to see everyone there!

49TH ANNUAL CHINOOKS MEET SUMMARY



The Chinooks Long Course Meet at Seton was a tremendous success, bringing together 600 swimmers from across Western Canada for four action-packed sessions. The energy on deck was outstanding, with athletes competing hard and supporting one another throughout the weekend.

This meet was made possible by the hundreds of volunteer hours behind the scenes—timers, officials, and organizers all working together to create a smooth and welcoming event for every participant.

In the pool, swimmers delivered countless personal bests and strong performances, a testament to their hard work and preparation. Coaches focused on creating opportunities for as many swimmers as possible to experience relays, building team spirit and excitement across all squads.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the prize table at the Chinooks Meet. Your generosity helped create a fun and rewarding experience, and it was wonderful to see so many swimmers clamouring for the little bingo chips at the end of their swims

The excitement around the prize table added to the energy of the meet and made the experience even more memorable for all participants. We appreciate your support in making this event such a success!

From start to finish, the meet was filled with fast swimming, great teamwork, and endless fun—a true celebration of our swim community.



HONOURING COACH JAMIE

Bronze squad – A hardworking group, always up for a little fun, made their presence known—not just through their strong swims, but through the way they showed up for one another and for their coach – pulling on faces of Jamie personalized caps during Saturday warm up at Chinooks.

The Bronze Squad demonstrated some serious team spirit and warm gratitude to a great coach with some squad members at Westerns also proudly sporting Jamie Caps! Coach Jamie's reaction was priceless summarizing the teams antics as "funny Stuff"

Thank you to all families who participated in this year's parent survey. 50 parents took the time to share their thoughts. Results show a strong and positive club experience, with overall satisfaction at 8.6/10, most families planning to return, and 94% saying they would recommend the club.

Our coaching team continues to be a standout strength. Over 90% of families shared positive feedback on coaching and athlete development, with many highlighting the strong relationships between coaches and swimmers and the progress athletes are making throughout the season. There is also strong confidence in club leadership, with a board satisfaction rating of 4.16/5, and the majority of families indicating they trust the club to respond to feedback and continue improving. Alongside these strengths, families shared helpful suggestions. Based on your feedback, we are focusing on a few clear and achievable priorities:

*Improve communication so information is consistent, timely, and easy to find
Strengthen consistency across squads to support all swimmers
Continue to prioritize safe, respectful, and inclusive swim environments*

Thank you for your continued support. Your feedback is helping us build an even stronger club for every Calgary Patriots swimmer. We look forward to sharing a more in-depth look at the data at our upcoming club AGM in June.