

Meet our Special Guests!



2018 Ski for Heart Honourary Chair, Jim Hunter

Jim Hunter, also called “Jungle Jim,” was a member of the Canadian Men’s Alpine Ski Team for eight years in the 1970s. He’s also known as “The Original Crazy Canuck.”

Overcoming the odds is second-nature for Jim. At the age of 10 he was in a long coma after a severe concussion; he had to relearn everything. Jim wasn’t deterred. He decided to pursue downhill skiing, an unlikely sport for a resident of the flatlands of Shaunavon, SK.

To fulfill his dreams, Jim resorted to some unorthodox training methods. He would practice his racing tuck position on top of a rack he built and placed in a pick-up truck as his father drove down the road at over 100 km/h. His sheer drive and determination literally took Jungle Jim to the top of the mountain.

Jim placed among the top ten finishers on 17 occasions between 1972 and 1977, and represented Canada at the Winter Olympic Games in 1972 and 1976. He won a bronze medal in the 1972 World Championships, making him the first Canadian male skier to ever reach the podium and win a World Championship medal in Alpine skiing!

Jim is a motivational speaker and provides developmental coaching for anyone who desires to grow to their full potential. Jim and Gail, his wife of 42 years, live in Calgary, and have four grown children and 10 grandchildren.

Special Guest Speaker, Dr. Adam Kirton

Babies and children have strokes; in fact, the first week of life is the most focused period of risk for stroke. Most kids who have a stroke at or near their birth are left with lifelong physical disability.

Dr. Adam Kirton, professor of pediatrics and clinical neurosciences at the University of Calgary, is helping kids to improve their function after perinatal stroke. He and his research team at the Calgary Pediatric Stroke Program have completed two clinical trials, engaging more than 75 children in intensive “camp” therapy sessions combined with non-invasive brain stimulation. The kids bonded with peers while working toward realizing personal goals.



“Seeing young people achieve something they never thought they could, and the positive effect this has on their lives, is very rewarding,” says Dr. Kirton.

Our fabulous co-emcees, Darrel Janz and David Gray!

Perhaps one of the most recognizable faces in Calgary, Darrel Janz has been a fixture on CTV for over 40 years. Now host of the weekly feature Inspired, Darrel was the trusted voice of the CTV Calgary evening news for decades.



Before leaving the anchor chair in 2013, Darrel enjoyed a storied career winning a long list of awards and honours. His most memorable assignment came in 1995 when he travelled with shoe boxes from Calgary children to give to kids in the war ravaged countries of Bosnia and Croatia.

Darrel has been a part of the Ski for Heart family for more than 25 years!

Listeners of the Calgary Eyeopener on CBC Radio One are very familiar with David Gray. And thanks to his personable style and community involvement many feel they know him.



Before assuming the role of host of radio program, David spent years on CBC television, covering stories the world over and winning national and international awards along the way. He can now also be heard as guest host of a number of CBC programs including The Sunday Edition, Cross Country Checkup and As It Happens.

When not behind a radio microphone, David plays in local band Sweet Potato and loves to ski, especially cross-country. He and his wife Kim have two children.