

# Valley Voice

Okanagan  
Boys & Girls Clubs

2010 SPRING NEWSLETTER

OKANAGAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS

## Celebrating 50 Years in the Okanagan!

In 1959 Diefenbaker was Prime Minister, Barbie was born, gas cost only eight cents per litre, and in a remodeled pool hall on Lawrence Avenue, the first ever Kelowna Boys Club opened its doors.

While Barbie hasn't changed much in the last half century, most other things have, including the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs. Originally created to fill a gap in organized activities for youth not already involved in minor sports or Scouts, the organization first opened as the Kelowna Boys Club. Since 1959, the one Club with 166 young male members has grown to a present day membership of more than 5,000 children and youth (of both genders) and their families in 30 clubs or service locations across the Okanagan.

Programs such as "BB gun shooting" and "taxidermy" have been replaced with child development and recreational programs, youth employment and outreach services and family support programs. But not everything has changed, Craig Monley CEO remarks.

**"Our success can be summed up in a word – club,"** said Monley. "Fifty years ago in the Okanagan, people came together to bring the club experience to kids who didn't belong to much else. Although much has changed in that time, very little has changed. What brought the first kids into our first Club are the same things that bring kids into our Clubs and services today: **joining a club, being a member, going to a place that is fun, safe and where belonging counts.**"

Herb Sullivan, executive director from 1959 to 1987, agrees. "The reason we started was to serve the greatest need, whatever it was," said Sullivan. "We had an open-door policy. Any child who needed our services could come in – and that hasn't changed."

**September 28-October 2, 2009** was proclaimed Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs Week in cities from Osoyoos to Armstrong. Clubs celebrated with events for their members including BBQs, spaghetti dinners, a community road hockey tournament and a 50s sock hop.



LEFT. Kelowna Boys Club members 1965.



ABOVE. Kelowna Boys Clubs camp 1961.

LEFT. Vernon Boys and Girls Club 1983.

BELOW. Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs 2009.



## ANGELS HELP FILL HAMPERS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Angels across the Okanagan helped the **Kelowna Daily Courier** and **Penticton Herald** "Be An Angel Campaign" raise over **\$120,000** for the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs Christmas Hampers. More than 100 staff, friends, family, volunteers and members of the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs filled and delivered over 1500 boxes of food and gifts for local families in need.

**Over 400 families** received Christmas hampers this year, **up 55%** from the previous year. Hampers included food, gifts, Boys & Girls Clubs memberships as well as coupons and gift certificates donated by local business. Several companies also offered to sponsor a family this year, including Rona, Greyhound, Coca-Cola

Bottling Company, Upper Canada Forestry Products, Marvel College, Stantec Consulting, and Black Mountain Elementary School.

Thank you to everyone involved!



Volunteers pack hampers at the Martin Ave. Club

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## CRAIG'S CORNER...

Welcome to the first edition of our newly improved Valley Voice quarterly newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading it and welcome your comments and feedback. I would like to thank our advertisers for their support in making this publication possible.

Sadly, this is shaping up to be a very difficult year for our Clubs and the many

children and families we serve throughout the Okanagan. Provincial fiscal reductions in the social services sector mean that many of our programs and services tailored for "at risk" youth and families are **at risk** themselves.

However, spring is a time of new life, growth and opportunity. Despite the harsh political climate in British Columbia, we will continue to work in our Okanagan backyard to improve opportunities for children, youth, and their families. We are looking forward to concluding our 50th Anniversary celebrations and kicking-off our next 50 years. Thank you to everyone for your help then, now and in the future to help us give Okanagan children, youth and families **"a good place to be"**.

Valley Voice is published quarterly by Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs and distributed at no charge to its members and supporters.

**Editor** Erin Turvey, Marketing Coordinator  
(eturvey@boysandgirlsclubs.ca)

### Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs

Administration Office

1434 Graham St.,

Kelowna, BC V1Y 3A8

Tel: (250) 762-3914 Fax: (250) 762-6562

email: info@boysandgirlsclubs.ca

web: [www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca](http://www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca)

**CEO** Craig Monley

### Board of Directors:

**President** Rod Pacholzuk

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 24 Hour Relay Teams Getting Ready...



The clock is ticking and the excitement is building as we count down to the best weekend of the year, the **2010 Okanagan 24 Hour Relay For The Kids**. The 24 Hour Relay returns to the Kelowna Apple Bowl, **June 12-13th**. This annual fundraising event challenges teams to run or walk relay style for 24 hours in support of Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs and BC Lion's Society. All money raised stays in the Okanagan to support children with special needs to attend Easter Seals Camp Winfield, and specialized camps and programs at the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs.

You can help (and have a lot of fun!) by **entering a team** in this year's relay. The **2010 Kick-off and Information Night** is **Wednesday, March 24, 6 pm** at the Martin Avenue Boys and Girls Club (1434 Graham St., Kelowna). Call (250) 762-3914 for more information or go online to register your team today at [www.24hourrelay.com](http://www.24hourrelay.com).

### PINK SHIRT DAY T-SHIRTS ON SALE NOW!

The **2nd annual Okanagan Pink Shirt Day** will be **Wednesday, April 14, 2010**. Once again our Clubs will join in the movement of celebrating Pink Shirt Day – Bullying Stops Here. Pink Shirt Day is an opportunity to increase awareness in the Okanagan that we are all a part of the solution and won't tolerate bullying any longer.

Take part in this important day by encouraging your children, friends and staff to **wear pink on Wednesday, April 14**. Pink Shirt Day T-shirts are available



in adult and youth sizes and can be purchased at any **London Drugs** or **Okanagan Boys and Girls Club**, by contacting **Miriam King** at 250-762-3914 or [mking@boysandgirlsclubs.ca](mailto:mking@boysandgirlsclubs.ca). Shirts are **\$5** with proceeds going to support Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs in your community. Get yours before they sell out and help us make sure **"Bullying Stops Here"!**



MLA Rick Thorpe in 2009.

### Alumni Breakfasts!

**Are you a past Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs member, volunteer, staff, board member or supporter?**

We want you! We're wrapping up our 50th Anniversary celebrations and kicking off the next 50 years with **pancake breakfasts for all our alumni and supporters**. Breakfasts will be held in Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton to reunite those who helped us get to where we are today. For more information contact **Erin Turvey** at (250) 762-3914.

### HAPPY McHAPPY DAYS!

**Wednesday May 5, 2010** is McHappy Day. All McDonald's stores from **Summerland to Armstrong** will be donating **\$1** from every **Egg McMuffin, Big Mac and Happy Meal** to the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs.

Club staff and members will be at their local McDonald's that day so join us to enjoy prize give-aways, raffles and support your local Boys & Girls Club!



### UPCOMING OBGBC SPECIAL EVENTS...

**March 28** Taste of Kelowna  
**April 14** Pink Shirt Day  
**May 5** McHappy Days

**TBA** Alumni Pancake Breakfasts  
**May 28** Spallumcheen Golf Tournament  
**June 12-13** 24 Hour Relay (Kelowna)

# SALUTING OUR SUPPORTERS...

## BOARD PROFILE - Rod Pacholzuk, President



Rod Pacholzuk

I have resided in the Okanagan since 1972 and am a partner in the law firm FH&P Lawyers in Kelowna. I have two children: Emma aged 11, and Michael aged 9. I grew up in a family of 6. My father was very involved in the development of community programs for youth and persons with disabilities. He encouraged me and my siblings to actively participate with him in the organization of many events. I think it was the influence of my father that kindled my sense of social awareness and responsibility. Throughout my adult life I have tried to contribute to community organizations and programs focused on child and youth development.

I have been involved with the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs for almost 23 years. "In the old days" the Kelowna Boys and Girls Club was a relatively small organization with a handful of staff and one main facility- a building at the old KSS school. Perhaps one of the most beneficial things that I have done for the organization was my participation in hiring the current CEO - Craig Monley. It has been a pleasure not only to work with Craig, the management team, and staff, but to observe the unbelievable growth and development of the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs since then. It gives me a great sense of pride and satisfaction to participate in an organization that provides such a diverse array of services to children, youth, and families here in the Okanagan Valley.

While the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs have become one of the premier youth service organizations in Canada, we are not done. At the Board of Directors level, we continue to work with the management team towards the future enhancement of the organization. In particular, we are working towards the establishment of a permanent outdoor wilderness camp, and a permanent youth housing facility. I believe that these are two extremely worthwhile goals, and I look forward to working together with members of the organization to establish these facilities.

It is not often that I get a chance to thank my fellow Board Members for their commitment and dedication to the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs. I would like to take this opportunity to do so. Your efforts and commitment to children and youth in our area are very much appreciated.

## NATURE'S FARE NURTURES YOUTH



**Nature's Fare**, are strong supporters of community groups and have implemented a **rewards plan** to help groups (like us!) raise money. Through their **3% Club**, receipts from any Nature's Fare Store submitted to your local Okanagan Boys and Girls Club will enable us to **receive 3% of the pre-tax purchase value back**.

Shop at any of their stores today in **Penticton, West Kelowna, Kelowna or Vernon**, and drop off your receipts at your local Okanagan Boys and Girls Club. Contact Erin Turvey at 250-762-3914 for more information.

## Donate ONLINE!

Looking for the perfect gift? Want to give back to your community? Visit the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs website and make an online donation to help us provide Okanagan children, youth and families with "a good place to be".



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



Okanagan  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
A good place to be

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215 Lawrence Ave., Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 6L2 | Telephone: 250-762-4222

# OUR CLUBS, PROGRAMS AND MEMBERS...

## Bail Support Staff an Asset to Youth at Risk



*CJ Leblanc at the Jaycees Youth Centre.*

For young people charged with a crime, being involved in the criminal justice system can be daunting. Fortunately, young people that find themselves in this predicament have an ally in CJ Leblanc.

CJ is the program coordinator of the Kelowna Bail Support and Supervision program. The program provides housing in a family care setting and 24/7 support and monitoring for youth that have been charged with an offense and released on a bail order. He has worked for OBGC for the past three and a half years and is known for his calm demeanor and ability to connect with youth, care home parents and staff alike.

With a quick wit, CJ has the right mix of qualities and characteristics to be successful in his work. The role can be challenging at times, as young people are mandated to stay in the program, and are often times very resistant to service.

Evidence of CJ's success includes over 90% of the young people that reside in the program successfully complete the terms of their bail order. But perhaps more importantly, those young people who initially wanted nothing to do with CJ or the program often follow up with CJ long after they have left Bail Support. Whether they need support or simply want to let CJ know their latest success, the bond CJ forges with these youth has a lasting and meaningful impact.

The Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs would like to thank CJ for his hard work and dedication and making the Bail Support program a model for others to follow.

## A YOUNG LEADER



*Summerland member Ally.*

Ally is a gentle, laid back leader who always has a smile on her face and participates with enthusiasm in all Club activities. Ally has taken on much of the

Olympic scrapbooking wall and encourages others to take part. Ally is always willing to help the leaders and set a good example for those younger than herself. Ally's strength is conflict resolution. She can always seem to find a way to make things work so everyone she is working with is happy. Ally especially loves art projects, and has her own sense of style and flare. Her favorite activities at the Club are the Baking and Craft Club. Ally also actively attends all the youth advisory meetings we have at the Club. Ally has attended the Boys and Girls Club of Summerland for over three years, and we hope to see much more of her over the years.

## Partnership Brings Basketball Skills to Okanagan Landing Students



*Ok Landing students learn skills from OBGC program staff.*

In partnership with **Canadian Tire Jumpstart** and **School District 22** the **Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs Vernon** is offering a Basketball Skills Camp to Okanagan Landing Elementary School students. The program started January 2010 and focuses on teaching fundamental basketball skills, sportsmanship, individual shooting, ball-handing, passing and defensive skills.

20 children have been regularly attending once a week after school – a great way for kids to enhance friendship and provide opportunity for increased physical activity. Centre Director, Kirstie Blanleil states,

***"This has been a great opportunity for kids who don't usually access mainstream recreation. The children and parents are thrilled to have access to after school activities in a safe and familiar environment"***

## Brilliant Brains Book Club

encouraging mind & body health among children.



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