

Valley Voice



2010 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

OKANAGAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS



Camp ArrowFlight Takes Flight!

The Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs have been searching for property for the past decade to serve as an outdoor environmental education centre and camp. In April 2010 we purchased and took possession of a residential camp outside of Armstrong, BC. Formerly known as the Circle Square Ranch, the camp has been in operation in the North Okanagan for over 20 years. This camp will now be “**Camp ArrowFlight**”, the center of our camping and outdoor programs for children, youth and families throughout the Okanagan.

Campers “**Learn Through Adventure**” about the environment, the importance of being part of a team and about themselves with programming based on recreation, adventure and active learning. Programs will operate year-round and include extended camps for children, youth and families with activities such as **swimming, rock climbing, bmx biking, archery, mountain boarding, canoeing, seasonal recreation and much more!** The camp will also be available for rentals, custom programs and retreats.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our organization, our members and the children and youth in the communities we serve for generations to come.



Top: Camper Cabins at Camp ArrowFlight
Middle: Kylah Bryde, Camp Director, helps young camper climb the rock wall.
Bottom: “Girls of the West” camper enjoys a canoe trip across Gardem Lake.

SEND A KID TO CAMP!

Our goal is to make sure all children in the Okanagan, regardless of their economic or social circumstance, have the opportunity to grow and benefit from the unique experience of attending Camp ArrowFlight.

We need your help to provide “**Camperships**” to families who need financial assistance to send their child(ren) to camp. Just **\$300** will send a child to camp for 6 days/5 nights and includes all meals, accommodation, activities and programs at camp.

To donate or for more information call Erin at 250-762-3989 ext. 130 or email eturvey@boysandgirlsclubs.ca or visit our website at www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca and donate online with **Canada Helps**.



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2009 Legacy Night at Summerhill

2ND ANNUAL LEGACY NIGHT

The Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs are preparing for another evening of inspiration and motivation at the **2nd Annual Legacy Evening Wednesday September 29, 2010** at the Summerhill Winery in Kelowna from 5-7 pm. Guests are invited to enjoy complimentary wine and appetizers while spending time with fellow business and community leaders at the gorgeous Summerhill Winery. Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs Board Members and Staff will be sharing some of our recent successes and calling guests to action to lend their support to help us continue to give Okanagan children, youth and families “a good place to be”. For more information call 250-762-3914 or email eturvey@boysandgirlsclubs.ca.

CRAIG'S CORNER...



Craig Monley, CEO at Camp ArrowFlight

Ah being young, having the whole summer off and no particular place to go. Summer is a very important time in the

ongoing process of growing up. Big things happen for kids in the summer. Things they will remember for years, some things always.

Kids try to play out this ideal fantasy, for some it's close to a reality, but for many others it's a distant daydream. For those kids, our kids, the Boys and Girls Clubs are here to help create those memories; here to give them a fun-filled summer of exciting things to do, places to go, new friends, and great staff people. Giving kids a summer they wouldn't have otherwise in many cases.

From trips to the local pool or park, or going to our new Camp ArrowFlight, for a whole week! With neat stuff like: archery; rock climbing; bmx-ing; hikes; campfires, smores and more.

Without the generous contributions from so many of you reading this newsletter, those moments wouldn't happen. You make the magic of summer possible for many of our members. Thanks for joining with us to make a difference in the life of one young person at a time. Contribute heavily, and have a wonderful summer.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Moonlight Movies Tour Valley

July 11-19, 2010 as the sun went down, Interior Savings Credit Union and the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs lit up parks from Osoyoos to Vernon with a giant, three-story high, inflatable movie screen. The **Interior Savings Moonlight Movie Tour** visited 14 communities in the BC Interior, including 6 communities in the Okanagan.

"The Interior Savings Moonlight Movie is a unique event for our community that will help us raise funds to enable our Clubs to continue offering affordable recreation, care, and support services to children, youth and families across the Okanagan," said Craig Monley of the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs.

"With the Moonlight Movie Tour, we've partnered with organizations who we believe are making a valuable and lasting impact in the lives of youth," says Barry Meckler, Interior Savings CEO. "We provide the movie, the screen and the sound system and our community partners create an event to raise funds and generate awareness about their services."

All ages were invited to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a family movie under the stars. The six movies held in the Okanagan raised over **\$6,400** in donations to the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs.



Moonlight Movie in Kelowna City Park



2010 Relay participants take off!

and Relay guests to enjoy the Kidzone, volleyball tournament, wacky relay races, live bands, late-night activities, and delicious food and beverage at the Hospitality Tent. The top fund-raising team was **Century 21 Assurance Realty Centurions** who raised over **\$19,000** followed by Kelowna FlightCraft with \$4,776.00 and The Grasshoppers team who raised \$3,970. Thank you to all the teams who participated and raised funds to send kids to camp!

Golfers Tee Off!

The 20th Annual **Capri Charity Golf Classic** August 18, 2010 at the Harvest Golf Course has **SOLD OUT!** This popular event brings together golfers from around BC to support Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs programs for children, youth and families in the Valley. Good luck to this year's teams!

RAFFLE RETURNS!



Visit your nearest Club **September 27-November 26**

to get your tickets for a chance to win great prizes, including a trip for 2 to anywhere WestJet flies! Only 5000 tickets will be sold and all proceeds go to support your local Boys & Girls Club.

UPCOMING OBGCSPECIAL EVENTS...

Aug. 18 - Capri Charity Golf Classic (Kelowna)

Sept. 23 - Penticton Club Open House

Sept. 27-Nov. 26 - 5th Annual Agency Raffle

Sept. 29 - 2nd Annual Legacy Night (Kelowna)

Nov. 1-14 - Hands Campaign

Dec. 1-31 - Be An Angel Campaign

SALUTING OUR SUPPORTERS...

BOARD PROFILE - Pat Reiter, Secretary

I bring longevity, experience, a professional attitude, practical insight, and a scribbling pad to the Board table, and I like to think reliability to the position of Secretary to the Board. I also bring the perspective of a mother of three boys who attended the Club and took part in some of the activities.



Pat Reiter, Board of Directors Secretary since 1976

I have been a Board Member of this organization since just before 1976 when the then Kelowna Boys' Club officially became the Kelowna Boys and Girls Clubs, about thirty-four years ago!! It started when I was in the Club with two of my boys and someone opened a door and yelled, "Pat, you take shorthand don't you?" Of course I had to say yes, that I did and the next minute I was whisked into the small meeting room to take down the Minutes of the Meeting because the Secretary had not shown up. I am still taking the Minutes of Meetings!!

When I retired from working at Okanagan University College, I fulfilled one of my dreams by going back to school and getting my BA degree in English in 2004. I feel privileged to belong to an organization that dedicates itself to the betterment of youth, working with acceptance and encouragement to develop a child's unique character. During the time I have been a member of the board there have been many changes but what doesn't change is the caring staff and volunteers who bring various programs to the children belonging to this great organization.

McDonald's Gives Clubs A Hand



McDonald's Restaurants from Summerland to Armstrong will once again be helping the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs spread "Hands Across the Valley" **November 1-14, 2010**. McDonald's Restaurants will



once again be offering customers the chance to purchase a paper handprint for a donation to their local Boys & Girls Club. Hands will be displayed around the store recognizing donors who "lend a helping hand to the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs". Club members will also be visiting their local McDonald's to lend their own helping hands, by clearing tables, opening doors, cleaning up garbage and other random acts of kindness. In 2009 the campaign raised over \$5,000 across the Valley.

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



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OUR CLUBS, PROGRAMS AND MEMBERS...

A YOUNG LEADER IN LAKE COUNTRY



Felicia Storey, 13 years old, Lake Country

At the young age of 13, Felicia Storey has been a valued member of the Lake Country Boys & Girls Club for that past 9 years. She is a very enthusiastic, fun loving young woman who insists on being positive and making people laugh. Through her years at our centre, Felicia has been a part of almost every program we offer; Before & After School, Torch Club, and our recreation programs. Felicia has also had some terrific accomplishments in her time here as well.

Felicia has completed our Home Alone course and was the winner of the Pink Shirt Day Anti-Bullying poster contest in 2009, beating over 300 participants. Felicia has formed a special bond with not only her peers, but the staff as well. She feels the Boys and Girls Club is like second family, and we are proud to have her involved in our centre. Some of Felicia's favorite activities at the club are the Drop Zone Program (after school lounge for grade 6 & up youth) and the sleep overs. Hopefully we will have the pleasure of having Felicia continue on through our programs for many years to come.

Alexis Park GoodLife Kids Fund Program

Thanks to the GoodLife Kids Foundation and the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs, Alexis Park Elementary School students have the chance to be more socially and physically active in 2010. Staff of the Vernon GoodLife Fitness Club raised money in 2009 to fund a brand new program run by the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs of Vernon in partnership with School District 22 and Alexis Park Elementary. Starting in January, qualified recreation leaders ran free weekly sports and fitness sessions for 20 children aged 10-12 years who attend Alexis Park Elementary. The program is targeted specifically for children who may have barriers that inhibit them from accessing other sport or recreation programs.



Participants having fun at Alexis Park

GoodLife Kids Foundation is a Canadian private foundation that envisions a Canada where all kids have the opportunity to benefit from an active life. They activate parents, role models, mentors, leaders and individuals to deliver the message to kids, that being active is not only good for their body and mind but also a lot of fun.

Oliver Youth Worker

Abhi Sharma has been with the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs Oliver Youth Centre since November 2009. He first contacted us to ask about volunteer opportunities at the newly formed Oliver Youth Centre, which led to him giving up most of his Friday and Saturday nights to come and volunteer at the Centre!

When the posting for the Summer Student Youth Worker came out, Abhi was eager to apply. Abhi was hired at the end of June and has worked out magnificently. Although only 16 years old, Abhi is very mature and motivated, and acts as a role model and mentor for his peers who come out to the Centre.

As the Summer Youth Worker, Abhi has planned, organized and facilitated an Amazing Race event, and is currently planning a Summer Dance for the end of August. Says Abhi,

"I joined the Youth Centre because I think that it's a great place for the youth to go out, have fun in a safe environment and be able to do what they want. I wanted to be a part of an organization that is committed to giving back to the community."



*Abhi Sharma,
Volunteer and
Youth Worker at
the Oliver Youth
Centre*

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