

Valley Voice

Okanagan
Boys & Girls Clubs

2011 SPRING NEWSLETTER

OKANAGAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS

WANTED: SUMMER CAMPERS!

Want the experience of a lifetime this summer? Then WE WANT YOU! Come to Camp ArrowFlight this summer and **Learn Through Adventure!**

Camp Arrowflight is the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs' outdoor centre offering camping and outdoor programs for children, youth and families. Situated on 82 acres in Armstrong, BC it has cabins, a lodge, dining hall, swimming pool, bmx course, archery range, rock climbing tower and more! Campers learn about the environment, the importance of being part of a team and about themselves through programming based on adventure and active learning.

Overnight camps for ages 7-16 happen weekly from **July 3 to August 31**. Try our Counsellor in Training programs for youth ages 14-16 who want to further develop their leadership skills. And check out our **special camps and activities** in May and June, including an overnight Family Camp and Family Adventure Days.

More information including registration forms are available at all Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs or online at our website at www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca. Completed forms can be emailed to campreg@boysandgirlsclubs.ca, faxed to (250) 762-6562 or dropped off at any Boys & Girls Club.

NEEDED: Camp Sponsors & Volunteers!

We believe every child and youth deserves the self-discovery and adventure of an outdoor experience. If you're interested in **sponsoring a child to attend camp this summer** contact us at info@boysandgirlsclubs.ca.

We also need volunteers ages 17-77 to help with duties around Camp. Volunteer for a day or a month - no experience needed and **help make a difference in a child's world this summer!** Contact camp at camp@boysandgirlsclubs.ca to volunteer or for more info.

A SEA OF PINK

The **3rd Annual Okanagan Pink Shirt Day** on **Wednesday, February 23, 2011** was celebrated across the Okanagan in record numbers! This year over 4500 shirts were sold in the Okanagan alone, with a national shortage of Pink Shirt thanks to the growing popularity of this day in Canada and the world. Locally demand exceeded supply with shirts sold out days in advance! Local businesses, schools, Mayors and City Councils as well as MLAs and MPs all donned Pink that day to show their support.

Pink Shirt Day 2011 was an inspiring display of public support and awareness that we are all a part of the solution and won't tolerate bullying any longer. Check out our Facebook Page to see all the great photos and stay tuned for info on next year's event!



24 Hour Relay 2011

We're counting down the days to the best weekend of the year - the **Okanagan 24 Hour Relay** at the Kelowna Apple Bowl **June 11-12, 2011**. There's still time to get your team together and start fundraising to help send Okanagan kids to camp at Easter Seals' Camp Winfield and the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs Camp ArrowFlight. What's your reward for your teams' hard work? Only the most fun you can have in 24 little hours!

Camp in the heart of the city with friends, family, co-workers, and 1000 other new friends! We'll keep you busy with live music, a Kidzone, volleyball tournament, hypnotist, Food & Beverage area, crazy games, DJ Bingo, a Poker Tournament and MUCH MORE!



Register your team today at www.24hourrelay.com and find out why it's more than just running around in circles - it's about making a difference in the lives of Okanagan children.

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CRAIG'S CORNER...



Craig Monley, CEO

AHHH Spring At Last! The doldrums of a cold bleak winter have slowly passed into days with one less hour, but more daylight, and the near future

of a warm Okanagan summer, a promise not far off.

It's our appropriate moment as parents to encourage our young ones to get up, move, stretch, breath, get away from the TV, the Wii, computer screens and out into the fresh air.

It's important to us, here at the club, that we provide kids with lots of opportunities to be physically active, and to experience the joys of a healthy lifestyle.

We also have the most wonderful opportunity to introduce our members of all ages, to a true outdoor adventure, Camp ArrowFlight. New friends, new activities all in Mother Natures awesome environment.

Wow it's finally here, make sure your children are here, to share this wonderful time with their friends. Oh, and plan now, to send your kids to camp this summer!

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

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SPECIAL EVENTS

McHappy Day - May 11, 2011

Visit your nearest McDonald's from Summerland to Armstrong on **Wednesday May 11** and **\$1** from every **Big Mac, coffee or tea or a Happy Meal** will be donated to Ronald McDonald House and Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs. You can also support the day by purchasing a **McHappy Day T-shirt** for only **\$10** from any Okanagan Boys & Girls Club or McDonald's restaurant. So make sure to stop in for a treat and give back to children in your community!



PLAY A "ROUND" FOR THE KIDS!

Now that spring is finally here it's time to get out the clubs and support our Clubs! We put on three golf tournaments each year across the Okanagan, with all funds raised used to support our low-to-no-cost recreation programs for children and youth. The **North Golf Tournament** is **June 3** at the Spallumcheen Golf and Country Club. **Penticton** is hosting it's 9th Annual Spring Fling in June. And don't forget to register your foursome for the **Capri Charity Golf Classic** at the Harvest Golf Club **August 17**- last year sold out weeks in advance! For more info on any of these tournaments check out our website at www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca or email info@boysandgirlsclubs.ca.

Moonlight Movies Return!

July 14-August 15, 2010 Interior Savings Credit Union and the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs will be bringing a giant, three-story high, inflatable movie screen to parks from Osoyoos to Vernon.

- July 14, 21 & Aug 11 – Kelowna
- August 10 – West Kelowna
- August 7 – Osoyoos
- August 14 – Vernon
- August 8 – Oliver
- August 15- Lake Country
- August 9 – OK Falls

All ages are invited to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a family movie under the stars. Entrance is by donation and there will be popcorn, a concession and games to keep you entertained before the sun sets. Visit www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca for more info!



Camp Retreats and Rentals

Looking for an educational and exciting place for your school trip or community outing? Need some inspiration or team building away from the office? Camp ArrowFlight is available for rentals year round. We have overnight accommodation for over 120 people, challenging and fun activities, great food, trained staff- all on 82 acres of gorgeous Okanagan wilderness, just 10 minutes from Armstrong BC. Call toll free 1-888-772-7751 or email camps@boysandgirlsclubs.ca for more information.

UPCOMING OBGC SPECIAL EVENTS...

April 13 - Focus on Great Youth Challenge

May 7-8 - ArrowFlight Family Camp

May 11- McHappy Day

June 3 - OBGC North OK Golf Tournament

June 11-12 - 24 Hour Relay

June 11 & 18 - ArrowFlight Family Days

June 18 - Boat for Hope

July 3-Aug.31 - ArrowFlight Summer Camps

July-August - Moonlight Movies

August 17 - Capri Charity Golf Classic

SALUTING OUR SUPPORTERS...

BOARD PROFILE - Rick Hall

I have fond memories of my time spent in the 1960s at the Penticton Boys Club. Whether it was playing floor hockey, learning to box, shooting hoops or hiking the hills around Penticton, the Boys Club was a great safe place to learn, grow and belong.

Now that our 3 children are grown, I am very excited to once again to be a part of this great organization. Our firm has been a financial supporter of the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs and I am excited to have the opportunity to have a more hands-on role in the future successes. The many positive and rewarding opportunities that the OK Boys and Girls Clubs provide for so many young people and families is truly amazing.

My business background spans 30 years. Sales and management with an international food manufacturer, working in Canada, USA and Asia. In the mid 90s we returned home to the Okanagan from Dallas, TX. For the last 14 years I have been an investment advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy in Kelowna. My wife Karen and I enjoy all that the Okanagan has to offer such as camping, fishing, boating and golf.



Rick Hall

Donate ONLINE!

Visit our website and donate online to help us provide Okanagan children, youth and families with "a good place to be".
www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca



Special Thanks To...

- The **Kelowna Daily Courier** and the **Penticton Herald** and all 2010 **Be An Angel** donors for raising over **\$60,000** for the Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
- Staff and customers of **Rona** Kelowna for donating \$600 from popcorn sales in February
- **Boyd Autobody and Glass** for their donations totalling more than \$9000 from their 2010 Father's Day Car Show and BBQ and the Westside Warriors frisbee toss
- **Original Joes** in West Kelowna and Vernon for choosing us as their Charity of Choice to receive a portion of their select beer sales at their two newest locations!
- **Bannister GM** in Vernon for raising \$550 at their BBQ fundraiser with A&W in March
- Our sponsors and visitors of the **Vernon Winter Carnival** which raised over \$8000 at our 3 events
- **Flightcraft** Kelowna for donating \$200 in support of Pink Shirt Day activities
- **Wonder+ Cares Foundation** and **Loblaws** for supporting Penticton's Generation Active Program
- **Credit Unions of BC's** Charity Campaign "Be Remarkable" donation of \$6295



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Boys & Girls Clubs
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OUR CLUBS, PROGRAMS AND MEMBERS...



The family show their support of Pink Shirt Day 2011

Member Profile: An Active Vernon Family

Tannis and her family (Colby, age 6 and Hudson, age 3) have been members of the Boys & Girls Club since 2008. "Making child care decisions are terrifying and very stressful. The Boys & Girls Club has taken away that fear and made that aspect of our life so simple. The Club is completely reliable and accommodating to our family's needs."

Tannis is an active member of the Parent Advisory Council. "I believe in the Club and everything it stands for, so strongly, that I want everybody to feel the way I feel. I think being a part of a group of parents that can share that message is so valuable. I feel that the Club is very supportive of the whole family and love being able to be involved in this aspect of my children's lives."

One of the things that Tannis loves the most about the Club is the level of respect that is shown to every member and their families. "The parents and kids are respected, and in turn, the Club staff have expectations for the kids to treat others with respect and kindness. It is a part of their every day teaching and I think that is so important to start instilling in kids at a very young age."

The kids also have their favourite parts of the Boys and Girls Club. For Hudson it is going every Wednesday on a "field trip" to our own gym to attend the drop-in program organized by our Child Care Resource and Referral Staff. For Colby, he enjoys riding our awesome bus and everything about his cool program leader, Jesie.

Kiwanis Volunteer Empowers Youth

Marion MacNeil has been a member of Kiwanis Summit Club for 22 years. Three years ago Kiwanis International formed a partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Governor Wendy Falkowski, and Lt. Gov. Division 7 Bob Bissell, looked into how Kiwanis could help Boys & Girls Clubs in the Okanagan and that was when the Kiwanis Empower Hour was born.

When Marion heard about the project she decided to look into what it would be all about. After her first afternoon at the Rutland Club, she decided to volunteer. "It gives me a great satisfaction to see the children learn the most important things in life, being exercise to keep us fit, nutrition to keep us healthy and trim, learning the benefits of cleanliness and last but not least watching the children have fun doing this. Kiwanis' logo is 'Serving the Children of the World' and this keeps me fit and happy."



Kiwanis volunteers Jeannie Wasylenko (l) and Marion MacNeil (r) listen to Brayden age 10 read a story.

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