

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) Newsletter



Volume 1 Issue 4

April, 2003



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



KDSCL Yard Sale April 26, 2003

On April 26, 2003 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, KDSCL will be holding a yard sale at 555 Fuller Avenue. There will be many used quality items for sale. All proceeds from the sale will go to support the Society.

The self-advocates will be hosting their own fundraiser and selling food and refreshments.

**COME OUT AND SHOP,
SHOP, SHOP!**

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Our History

Susan Harney worked very hard the last few months constructing a detailed history of the Society. Thank you Susan! The following is a summary of her work and the evolution of KDSCL (see page 5 for scheduled anniversary celebrations).

June 10, 1953: The Kelowna and District Society for the Mentally Handicapped was organized by a group of parents, teachers, doctors and concerned citizens to ensure the education of children with mental handicaps. The Society was known as the Sunnyvale Centre at that time.

1954: The Society name changed to the Kelowna and District Society for Mentally Retarded Children.

1958: The Sunnyvale Centre had an enrollment of 13 students and a staff of 2 teachers. They taught classes of 7 to 13 year olds and 15 to 30 year olds.

1968: The needs of the individuals were more diverse and day activities were required for those who had graduated from school. The Sunnyvale Workshop was developed and served 27

adults supported by 6 staff. The school enrollment was 18 students supported by 3 teachers.

1970: The name changed to the Kelowna and District Society for the Mentally Retarded. The “trainees” in the workshop were paid \$0.50 per week. There were 4 main departments operating: Commercial, Special Services (wedding car decorations and crafts), Woodworking and Ceramics. Recreational activities such as bowling, skating, parent sponsored picnics and field trips were offered. A fundraising plan was started to build the Bertram Street Residence. Towards the end of the year, a pre-school program was created and moved to the Baptist Church on Bernard Avenue.

1971: The “trainees” were paid \$0.25 per day. An extension was built onto Sunnyvale, which added 2 more classrooms.

1973: The Bertram Street Residence opened with 12 residents living there. The children’s education programs were turned over to School District #23. The Society sponsored an Invitational Bowling Tournament with 140

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adults with mental handicaps taking part. They came from Tranquille (an institution in Kamloops) and up and down the Okanagan Valley.

1975: An expansion of Sunnyvale Workshop was completed and those on a waiting list finally received services.

1976: The Infant Development Program started.

1977: A Recreation and Field Counselor was hired to expand activities within the community.

1981: The Society changed names again to the Kelowna and District Society for the Mentally Handicapped and the Sunnyvale Workshop became Kelowna Diversified Industries (KDI) Wood Shop.

1983: The Society transferred the Infant Development program to the Child Development Centre. Bertram Street Residence closed with some residents moving home and others into the Independent Apartment Living Program.

1984: Early in the year, the Bach Road group home opened and 4 people moved in with one overnight staff and day staff. The Bertram Street Residence opened as a pre-vocational activity centre. Discussion groups, personal grooming, work preparation, arts and crafts and access to community-based programs were offered.

1985: Two homes were purchased, Solly Court and Lakeland and former residents of institutions in BC, moved into the community-based homes. Bertram Street expanded its' services to provide day programming for these individuals. The Society assisted

in setting up a Special Olympics program in Kelowna.

1986: The Bach Road residents moved to a newly purchased home on Richter Street (which is still owned and operated by the Society).

1987: The Society purchased the 'Korner Kafe' and turned it into an "on the job" training restaurant called Champs. Champs served the training needs for several workers and was supported by one staff. Unfortunately, the cost of operating the program outweighed the ability to generate revenue and it closed after one and a half years.

1988: The 35th anniversary of the Society was held. The Society was now running four levels of programming ranging from personal skills to vocational training. The day program served 68 people supported by 16 staff. The residential program served 24 individuals supported by 19 staff.

1989: Lakeland residence was sold and a duplex on Elm Street purchased. Wedding Belles and Baskets moved to a storefront operation on Sutherland Avenue with 11 individuals and 2 staff. A market garden project was run out of a roadside stand on KLO. The individuals planted, weeded and tended the garden and sold the produce. The KDI Firewood Project serving 10 individuals was started. (It was this program and the individuals involved that lead the society to its' first supported employment contract with the Ministry of Children and Families in the latter part of 1990.) The Society's offices moved out of the McWilliams Centre and into Bertram Street Vocational Centre (KDI).

1990: The Society name changed again to the Kelowna and District Society for Community Living. Integrated Career Opportunities (ICO), a supported employment service was formed. The Society started an integrated Daycare.

1991: Solly Court was sold and the contracts transferred to the new owner. With the hiring of 2 part-time staff, a fine arts program started which saw individuals doing fabric painting, sewing, making wrapping paper, herbed vinegars and bath salts, which in turn were sold to the public.

1992: The Self-Advocacy caucus started to grow and expand. The Firewood Lot was closed down and the recycling crew moved to KREDA's new quarters on Champion Road. The arts program would be converted to contracted services. The Society hired an assistant Programs Manager responsible for Micro Boards and the Rental Assistance Program. The newly formed Travel Club made its' second trip, a cruise down the Mexican coast.

1993: Elm Street group home was in the process of closing which left the Society with one home, Richter Street. ICO opened a second office in Winfield.

1994: The Society purchased a new recycling truck, which assisted the program to expand.

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A recycling contract was secured with the Kelowna General Hospital. The music night changed to a Karaoke Night and is still running now. Plans for a bicycle shop were initiated and involved handling the city's lost and stolen bikes.

1995: The Society established another 'storefront' operation when contracted services moved to Bay Avenue and became First Choice. 12-18 individuals worked there with 2 staff. Contracts included packaging and labeling for Sun-Rype and Calona Wines as well as bulk mail-outs, newsletters and collating projects for their regular customers. The Bike Shop opened at KDI and a showroom for sales and repairs started. The Bike Shop was named Larry's in memory of a former service recipient. His family donated money to start the business. The Daycare was closed due to the decline in children enrolled. The Bertram Street building was purchased by the Society from the city so that it could be sold. ICO included teens in the Life Skills Training and support approximately 130 individuals. The Winfield office closed due to the decline in participation.

1996: The Richter Street residents did a home exchange with a Coquitlam residence and enjoyed the PNE and other big city attractions.

1997: 5 people are residing at the Richter home. The ICO office moved to St. Paul St. There was a reorganization within the government causing concern for the future.

1998: The Bike Shop signed a contract with Zellers to assemble

their new bikes and was working on signing deals with Wal-Mart and Canadian Tire. The BCACL AGM took place in Kelowna with a lot of hard work done by Society staff.

1999: The administration offices moved to KDI and the Bike Shop was in the process of opening a store on Doyle Avenue. October was designated Community Living Month and the Society celebrated in several ways including buttons, brochures, and a Frisbee golf tournament with students from the high school and "life stories" written for the paper. The Society acquired a wheelchair van. At the end of the year, the Legion purchased the Bertram Street building.

2000: The Society saw Individualized Funding contracts for 2 participants. Space was provided for the school district to do skill development training for 17 year-olds. A shredding machine was purchased. The Wedding Shop moved to Spall Road and ICO moved to Kent Road. In the fall, a new 14-foot cube van was purchased for recycling.

2001: The Wood Shop acquired a forklift. The fall brought signs of cutbacks because of government's Core Services review. First Choice gave up its storefront on Bay Avenue and moved back to KDI in December.

2002: The Wood Shop started making cedar sheds. The Bike Shop moved to its new location on Lawrence Avenue and the name changed to Larry's Cycle and Sports. The Minister for Children and Family Development appointed a provincial Transition Steering

Committee to make recommendations on transferring community living services from government to a new community based governance authority. The Society began preparing for major changes to how contract dollars and services were to be administered. **Celebration for our 50th Anniversary begin!**

ICO Moving

ICO is looking forward to moving to the KDSCL building at 555 Fuller Avenue effective April 14. Staff are packing up their desks to be ready for the main move on Friday, April 11.

Anyone willing help, please phone Donna-Lynne at 763-9499 as soon as possible. Thank you.

(As we are downsizing, we expect to have many quality household items and office furniture to sell at the Yard Sale, April 26. Hope to see you there.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Okanagan Lifetime Network Trivia Night, Elks Hall, 2040 Springfield Rd. Tickets \$15 or \$112 for a table of 8. Call 250-768-4913 or 250-767-2702.

* KDSCL AGM, June 23, 2003 at 555 Fuller Avenue, 7:00 pm. Guest Speaker to be announced.

Community Living Website Resources

-www.communitylivingbc.org

-

www.individualizedfunding.com

-www.communitylivingcoalition.bc.ca

Revised Mission and Values Statement & Constitution and Bylaws

The KDSCL Board engaged in a strategic planning session in November 2002. This resulted in the development of new organizational goals one which was to review and revise the Mission and Values Statement and the Constitution and Bylaws.

The Board developed the following mission statement: **“To assist people with disabilities to reach their individual goals and to participate and contribute as equal members of the community”**.

The Board then solicited input from the self-advocates and staff who felt the mission accurately reflected the Society’s intent. While this process was occurring, a review of the Values Statement was underway. This resulted in a consolidate set of statements (see below). This too, was reviewed by the self-advocates and staff and with a few minor changes and adopted by the Board March 24, 2003.

Also on March 24, a Special General Meeting of the membership was held to adopt revised Constitution and Bylaws which included the new mission statement. The revised Constitution and Bylaws were approved unanimously and have now been filed with the Minister of Finance, Corporate and Personal Property Registries.

If you would like a copy of the new Constitution and Bylaws, please call 250-763-4837.

VALUES STATEMENT

WE BELIEVE EACH PERSON:

- First and foremost is entitled to the same rights and freedoms accorded to all citizens in our society.
- Is a person first; unique and valued.
- Is entitled to be treated with equality, dignity and respect.
- Has the right to self-determination.
- Has the right to make choices and informed decisions.
- Has the right to be informed on all matters that affect his or her life.
- Should be taught and has the right to self-advocate or to choose an advocate to speak for them.
- Has the right to live and work in the least restrictive environment.
- Has the right to live, work and participate in all aspects of community life and therefore should be taught the necessary skills to do so.

WE BELIEVE EACH PERSON:

- Has personal preferences and interests, therefore has the right to individualized service.
- Has the right to expect that service providers provide accountability for individualized services, advocacy when requested or required and positive representation of an individual.
- Is entitled to life long learning.
- Has the right to a supportive network of personal relationships with family, friends, advocates and acquaintances.
- Is entitled to good health, medical and dental care with provisions of auxiliary aides that may be needed for greater independence.
- Is entitled to the right to treatment on a voluntary basis, the right to private consultation and confidentiality and the right to be informed and give consent as he/she chooses.
- Is responsible for his/her own actions and therefore is responsible for the consequences.

Celebrating 50 Years of Community Service

By Susan Bastch., Committee Chair

The Kelowna and District Society for Community Living is proud to be celebrating it's 50th Anniversary this year. This major milestone is going to be marked with community celebrations throughout the year. The following are highlights of planned celebrations:

In April, KDSCL is donating a live oak tree (our symbol) to be planted in City Park as our thank you to the community for their support.

On April 29, we will be hosting a Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting where we will proudly display posters, photos and memorabilia from the past 50 years. A special thanks to Susan Harney, Cindy Omand, Shirley Agar, Tom Falardeau and many others who have spent so much time in preparing this special tribute.

On June 21, we will be hosting the KDSCL 50th Anniversary "Party in the Park" at Mission Creek Park from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. This will be a carnival type atmosphere, with a full day of fun, food, entertainment and events. Some highlights of the day will be the cutting of a huge birthday cake at noon, face painting, a dunk tank and much, much more. We will wind up the day with a live RCMP bike auction from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. We invite the community to come and help us celebrate while enjoying the festivities.

Congratulations to Miki Hanna, Cindy Omand and Susan Harney for winning the Regatta Float contest held for the staff of KDSCL. Can't wait to see the finished product.

The grand finale will be held on October 18 with a Reunion Banquet and Dance to be held at the Performing Arts Center from 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm. There will be entertainment, history displays and lots of opportunity to share in the memories with past and present board members, staff and service recipients.

Special thanks goes to all of the members of the Anniversary Committee who continue to give so much of their time in preparation of these events. A lot of energy goes into making these events possible, so please mark your calendars and come out and support our society as she celebrates her 50th year.

If you want more information on these events, **or would like to volunteer your services and time**, please contact:
Susan Batsch, Committee Chair at 765-2105

B.C. Special Olympics Wins Big

Twenty-nine Kelowna athletes participated in the Provincial Winter Games in Kamloops this February, and what a haul they brought home. They made us all very proud.

Alpine Skiing: Head Coach, Barb Penner
Dennis Doucet won gold in Super 'G', silver in Giant Slalom and bronze in Slalom. Jen Richardson won gold in Slalom, silver in Giant Slalom and silver in Super 'G'. Ryan Courtemanche won 3 gold medals in Slalom, Giant Slalom & Super 'G'.

Cross Country Skiing: Head Coach, Wulf Gerhardt

Katarina Gerhard	2 gold, 1 silver
Laura Gerhard	1 silver, 1 bronze
Jordon Lige	3 golds
Andrew McIntyre	1 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze
Glen McIntyre	2 golds, 1 silver
Neil Melesko	3 silver, 1 bronze
Tracy Melesko	3 gold
Crystal Miller	1 gold, 1 bronze
Maria Schmitke	2 golds, 1 silver
James Staples	3 silver
Rob Stewart	1 gold, 1 silver

Curling: Head Coach, Cherald Tutt
Team members: John Neufled (skip), TeriKay Lawrence (lead), Lorraine Noble (second), Brad Grills (third), and Dave Scott (alternate). Placed 3rd in the "A" Division.

Floor Hockey: Head Coach, Robert Nagy (Skills Competition)

Eileen Hokazono won bronze in the female division. Richard Bernard won silver in men's Level 1 Division. Chris Harrington won gold in men's Level 5 Division. Syd Freeman won silver in the men's Level 5 Division

Congratulations goes out to all the athletes and coaches that participated and good luck to those selected to compete in the Special Olympic National Games in Prince Edward Island in 2004.

Leave a Legacy is a grass roots public awareness campaign to increase charitable giving from British Columbians through their estates. Not-for-profit organizations (defined here as charities and non-profit organizations), allied professionals, the media and sponsors are collaborating in this mission.



The Vision is all British Columbians will be aware of their personal capacity to make a significant gift through their estate to a cause that is meaningful to them and they will know where to go for appropriate professional advice.

The simple act of making a gift to charity through a will makes it possible for everyone to leave a legacy of good works. A charitable gift from an estate is a way to express compassion and provide support for a cause beyond one's lifetime. It is an enduring expression of leadership to create a better community.

Most people who have a will have not included a gift to charity. When asked, however, thirty-four percent of Canadians state they would consider making a charitable bequest if they were asked.

As governments continue to decrease financial support for the not-for-profit sector, the delivery of many services is at risk. Annual donations from individuals fluctuate from year to year, making it difficult for not-for-profits to plan to meet increasing needs.

Consider supporting KDSCL. For more information please contact Leigh Edwards at 763-4839.

THANK YOU

KDSCL would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to Nick Bennett and Liz Nagy from Cascadia Brands for donating a prize gift basket!

A Beautiful Day

By Tim Groom

It is a Beautiful Day, bright and cloudy with rain the forecast. It is a beautiful day to fall in love with someone, to share this day with someone is very beautiful. There is activity on this day, people working, dogs barking, cats on a hunt. A Beautiful Day to just relax on the beach, to watch the water move to and fro, to drive a car and go nowhere. A Beautiful Day to smile, to laugh, to carry on like a child, with no care in the world, no worries like adults have. A Beautiful Day for a walk in the park, to watch the elderly walk hand-in-hand, and still be very much in love with one another. It is a Beautiful Day to listen to the birds as they talk to one another. A Beautiful Day for reaching out to one another, to listen to one another and hear what is being said. It is a Beautiful Day when a child is born in this world, to hear the child coo-cao, to listen when the child is happy. A Beautiful Day to reflect on Life, the good and not so good, to remember what it is like to be you, what it is like to be beautiful. To feel happy, to understand, to respect, to care, and to love, this makes a Beautiful Day.

MY STORY

Dear Charisse Daley,

My name is Leanne Froese. I was born in August 1968 to my proud parents, Jim and Anne Bertrand. We lived in Peachland.

When I first went to school they had to get a lawyer to help me to get my special books because the school board wouldn't pay for my books. My family won our case. I had a really nice learning assistant teacher she helped me with my learning.... and I went to the children's hospital in Vancouver. They said to my mom that I wouldn't do math and in school. I did pass all my math. I showed them.

Leanne Froese

Note: Leanne currently lives in Kelowna, with her husband Dale. They have been married for over four years. Leanne is an active member of her community. She is the assistant manager at the Friday night socials and is an active member of the Kelowna Self Advocate group. Leanne attends weekly bible study groups and eagerly volunteers to help out where she can.

“There are 2 kids of people: those who do the work, and those who take credit. Try to be in the first group—there is less competition there”.
Indira Gandhi

Our New Mission Statement: “To assist people with disabilities to reach their individual goals and to participate and contribute as equal members of the community”.

WAYS TO HELP: * Become a member of KDSCL * Be informed and involved
 *Volunteer a few hours each week *Involve yourself in a Committee *Support people to be included in their community *Make a tax deductible donations or bequeath *Just be a friend and we will all be winners!!

Services: KDSCL provides opportunities for people to learn employment skills, work (both volunteer and paid), participate in community recreation and leisure activities and live as independently as possible.

Day Service, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-763-4484

Opportunities for individuals to participate in community based recreation and leisure activities, volunteer community and contract work. Activities with an emphasis on maintenance and development of cognitive and social skills.

KDI Wood Shop, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-762-4915

Opportunities for individuals to work in an industrial wood shop setting. Sell and Manufacture survey stakes, tree spreaders, sheds and custom wood products. We also manage the “Lost & Stolen Bike Program” for the City of Kelowna.

Larry’s Cycle & Sports, 535 Lawrence Avenue, 250-762-4915

Retail bikes and accessories for sale. Quality bike repairs and bike assembly.

Wedding Belles and Baskets, 1882 Spall Road, 250-862-8113

Sales and rentals of all wedding supplies including dresses (sold on consignment), flower packages and party supplies.

Integrated Community Opportunities (ICO), 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-763-9499 or 250-717-8924

Placement into work situations with job coaching until independence is acquired. These placements may be paid, volunteer or work experiences. Provide follow-up services, a job club and life skill development.

Residential Supports

Rental Assistance: Administers 15 apartments rent subsidies which enable people with disabilities and limited incomes to live in apartments throughout our community.

Housing: Provide 24 hour support to assist individuals to live interdependently in their own home in the community.

Special Events/ Community Participation

Increase the participation of people with disabilities in community events, while fostering good community relations. Events are planned on a regular basis.

Advocacy

Ensure the rights of people with disabilities are upheld.

We’re on the
 Web Email:
[kdscl@kdscl.
 bc.ca](mailto:kdscl@kdscl.bc.ca)
 Website:
[www.kdscl.b
 c.ca](http://www.kdscl.bc.ca)

Newsletters are distributed in the summer, fall, winter and spring. Please feel free to submit stories, articles and ideas to: KDSCL at 555 Fuller Avenue, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 7W8 or by email.

