

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) Newsletter website: www.kdscl.bc.ca



Volume 2 Issue 1

Celebrating 52 Years of Service

July 2005

BILLY JENNENS "September 15, 1925– Spring 2005"

KELOWNA CENTENNIAL

By Miki Hanna

Billy Jennens, a beloved entertainer from Kelowna, passed away earlier this year.

Billy made many adults and children smile and laugh by dressing up in his various, often hand made, clown costumes.

In years past, Billy volunteered time at KDSCL entertaining all.

Billy will sadly be missed by the entire community. In recognition of Bill's many contributions he was recently named Kelowna citizen of the century.

KDSCL was involved with our city's 100th birthday celebrations.

We entered a float in the May 7, 2005 parade, which was a huge success. We dressed to represent the different fashion trends over the past 100 years. Lot's of people came out to join us, walking beside the float, distributing candy and balloons.

We helped the Centennial Planning Committee to assemble letters and brochures to send out to the public. We got our special events volunteer group together and donated our time to support our city.

The time, commitment, planning, creativity, and energy to be part of this celebration was greatly appreciated. I extend my thanks to all that helped out and participated. The participation of the service recipient's was crucial in making these community events and celebration's a success.

We all learn so much each time we are involved in our community, thanks again to all who helped.

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Cyndy Omand & Miki Hanna dressed for success.



Reg Bourne and crew preparing the KDSCL float.

THANK YOU

KDSCL would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to:

* Miki Hanna for coordinating our participation in the Kelowna Centennial Celebrations and Regatta and all the volunteers that contributed their time.

* All the participants and sponsors of the Vipond Golf Tournament. KDSCL is very fortunate to be a benefactor of this annual event.

KDSCL Clarifies Structure

During the spring KDSCL supervisors and managers clarified the structure of each of the service areas, their respective purposes and the intake process. We held information session for service recipients, self-advocates, staff and board members. A new Service policy was developed and approved by the Board of Directors.

If you would like to review the policy please go to our website at www.kdscl.bc.ca or contact Charisse Daley at 763-4837 and a copy will be mailed directly to you.

STAFF PROFILE Linda Little

By Mark Wengrowich

Linda was born in Johnson Scotland and moved to Vancouver at the age of one where she spent all of her formative years.



Linda has many accomplishments in her life; most important are her daughters and grandchildren. Linda has two daughters, one living in Vancouver Washington and the other who recently married, living in Westbank. Linda also has four grandchildren.

Some of Linda's other accomplishments include courses in Medical Terminology and Cosmetology. She worked for eight years for BCTV setting up commercials and spent thirteen years working with seniors at Hawthorne Park and Lakeshore Place.

Linda desired change in her life and wanted to continue working with people. In 1996 she was hired by our society after completing the Human Service Worker course through Okanagan College. Linda worked in employment services through ICO for eight years and in Day Services for the last year.

BUTTERFLY

By Holly Wilson

Beautiful butterfly is in the garden where flowers grow in a beautiful colorful world. We have faith in Jesus Christ and the holy spirit. It is a wonderful world, we live here on earth. We are thankful for our life and freedom. Angels are all around, here on earth watching us.



Support the United Way

KDSCL AGM

KDSCL's 52nd Annual General Meeting will be held September 19, 2005 at 7:00 pm at 555 Fuller Avenue. Refreshments will be provided. Guest speaker to be determined.

Newsletters are published in the spring, summer, fall and winter. Submit your stories and ideas to KDSCL, 555 Fuller Ave., Kelowna, BC, Y1Y 7W8.

REGATTA FUN

By Miki Hanna

KDSCL was active at the Regatta again this summer, participating in the parade for the third time. Much excitement and anticipation was the buzz for this huge annual event.

In addition to the parade, we were approached by Regatta Committee Members and the Jaycees to volunteer our services during the weekend and assist with various events. We thought this would be a lot of fun so we committed to help out.

The parade was a success and a good time, lots of people came out to support our community. After the excitement of the parade, we were a team of five and headed to City Park to accept our volunteer assignments. We assisted with setting up several tents, filling forty-pound water jugs, and helping vendors getting the necessary supplies to sell their wares. We also changed garbage bags, recycle bags, delivered ice, beer, pop and water to who ever needed it.

Hard work? Yes, but here comes the fun part. At our disposal, we were given a Kobatta to use the whole time. For those of you wondering what is a Kobatta, picture a four wheel all terrain vehicle but bigger, that will go anywhere. This made our job much more fun and lots of the volunteers wanted it. However, we were told it was for our use only and not to allow others to try and take it from us. We did not have a hard time with those rules (ha ha).

We spent the weekend doing these tasks and several more. We were given T-shirts, free food and drinks and lots of thanks from the community. Many pictures were taken and paying jobs were offered to us for the future.

Will we consider this again? After consulting with our volunteers about their experience with this event, we do not have a choice after such a positive experience. The more we keep connected with community, the more we will all grow. We look forward to next year with even greater participation and better exposure for KDSCL.



Lorne Zolinski, Kelly Bishop and Chris Kovacs volunteers.



Mercia Carlson and Kelly Bishop volunteers.



KDSCL truck decorated for the Regatta parade.

BC Special Olympic Summer Games Results

Submitted by Susan Batsch

Congratulations Kelowna Special Olympic athletes and coaches. The following is the results from BC Special Olympic Summer Games held in Comox, BC, June 23-26, 2005. 21 Kelowna athletes competing for Region 2, won a total of 37 medals!

10 pin Bowling

Ann Kaminski: silver in the team event, bronze in doubles and bronze in singles.

William Richardson: silver in team, bronze in doubles and bronze in singles.

Jen Richardson: silver in team and bronze in singles.

Crystal Miller: gold in team event and silver in singles.

Casey Miller: silver in team event and bronze in singles.

Soccer - Silver Medal

Glen McIntyre, Chris Harrington, Ryan Courtemanche, Andrew McIntyre, Danny Sperling, Kevin Rancier, Jay Megyesi (Vernon athlete) and Jeremiah (JB) Brooke (Vernon athlete).

Swimming

Teresa Drews: bronze in 25 metre breaststroke.

Rob Tarko: silver in relay and bronze in 50 metre backstroke.

Joanne Morris: silver 50 metre backstroke.

Kelsey Wyse: gold in 400 metre freestyle, gold in 200 metre freestyle, gold in 200m IM, silver in relay and bronze in 100m breaststroke.

Emma Acres: silver in 50 metre fly and bronze in 100 metre freestyle.

Athletics (track)

Jordan Lige: silver in 400 metre and bronze in 800 metre .

Katarina Gerhardt: gold in 100 metre and bronze in 200 metre.

Ashley Hoban: silver in long jump, bronze in 400 metre and bronze in 800 metre.

Tanya McIntosh: (competing on behalf of Region 4) gold in 3000 metre, gold in 1500 metre and gold in 800 metre.

Powerlifting

Brad Grills: gold in 110 kilogram class.

Penny Boxwell: gold in 82.5 kilogram class.

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Heidi Bernard: silver in ribbon.

* Congratulations to the Kelowna 'Grizzlies' Softball Team, for winning "Silver" at the 2005 Softball City Summer Games. Many athletes from BC traveled to Surrey to participate in this years event held July 14 - 16, 2005. Way to go 'Grizzlies'.

KDSCL Closure Dates

Summer Shutdown: August 1 - 12, 2005

Labour Day: September 5, 2005

Thanksgiving: October 10, 2005

Remembrance Day: November 11, 2005

Christmas Shutdown: December 26 - 30, 2005

A duck walks into a drug-store and buys Chapstick. The clerk says, "Will that be cash or charge"? The duck replies, "Just put it on my bill".

Valuable Lesson

Submitted by Wendy Milligan

A teacher in New York decided to honour each of her students in high school by telling them the difference they each made. She called each student to the front of the class, one at a time. First she told each of them how they had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters, which read, "Who I Am Makes a Difference.

Afterwards the teacher decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a community. She gave each of the students three more ribbons and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony.

Then they were to follow up on the results, see who honoured whom and report back to the class in about a week. One of the boys in the class went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honoured him for helping him with his career planning. He gave him a blue ribbon and put it on his shirt. Then he gave him the extra blue ribbons so he could acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. "Then please report back to me and tell me what happened."

Later that day the junior executive went in to see the boss, who had been noted, by the way, as being kind of a grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down and he told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon and would he give permission to put it on him. His surprised boss said, "Well sure." The junior executive took the blue ribbon and placed it right on his boss's jacket above his heart. As he gave him the last extra ribbon, he said, "Would you do me a favour?" Would you take this extra one and pass it on by honouring somebody else. The young boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school and we want to keep this recognition ceremony going to find out how it affects people.

That night the boss came home to his 14 year-old son and sat him down. He said, "The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Image he thinks I'm a creative genius. Then he put this blue ribbon that says "Who I Am Makes a Difference" on my jacket above my heart. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find someone else to honour.

As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honour with this ribbon and I thought about you. I want to honour you. My days are really hectic and when I come home I don't pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good enough grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess, but son tonight, I just wanted to sit here and well, just let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides you are the most important person in my life. You're a great kid and I love you.

The startled boy started to sob and sob, and he wouldn't stop. His whole body shook. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, Dad, earlier tonight I sat in my room and wrote a letter to you and mom explaining why I had killed myself and asking you to forgive me. I was going to commit suicide tonight after you were asleep. I just didn't think that you cared at all. The letter is upstairs, I don't think I need it after all.

His father walked upstairs and found a heartfelt letter full of anguish and pain. The envelope was addressed, "Mom and Dad". The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch but made sure to let all his employees know that they made difference.

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

Vision Statement: Ours is one of welcome. Join us in building communities that support the diverse abilities of all people.

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 be-queath *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

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

Kelowna Diversified Industries Wood Shop, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-762-4915

Wedding Belles and Baskets, 529 Lawrence Avenue, 250-862-8113

Larry's Cycle & Sports, 535 Lawrence Avenue, 250-762-4920

Residential Supports

Special Events/ Community Participation

Advocacy

Administration, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-763-4836 or 250-763-4837

KDSCL Accomplishments of 2004-2005

The past year has been an extremely busy year within our society. Management and staff have been busily working on accreditation requirements. Society policies have been rewritten and procedures have been formalized and standardized. We expect that the accreditation surveyors will visit in the fall.

Highlights of other accomplishments achieved the past year:

- Purchased a new truck.
- Redesigned the social recreation service to meet the needs of individuals who are unable to access social or recreational activities outside of their daytime hours.
- ICO worked hard finding employment and currently 45 individuals are working part-time and full-time in the community.
- Through participation in community volunteering, we have increased our visibility and public presence. This was mostly accomplished through the Community Placement Developers, Miki Hanna and Susan Batsch. We were part of the Kelowna Centennial planning and volunteered countless hours with other community groups. Miki and Susan constantly seek opportunities for the society to support the community.
- Secured individualized funding contracts.
- Provided space for other groups to use when our building was unoccupied. These groups include Aktion Club, Self-Advocates, Parent-to-Parent, Spirit of the Island Dancers, Cool Arts Group and the Okanagan Deaf Association.