

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) Newsletter

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Volume 2 Issue 4	Celebrating 52 Years of Service	March 2006
THANK YOU	Accessibility Report December 2005 <i>By Mark Wengrowich</i>	ACCREDITATION
<p>KDSCL would like extend a heartfelt thank you to the following individuals and groups for their generous donations to our Society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jack Newsome * Biocam Communications * Scotiabank Rutland Branch * Dr. Aldous * Brian and Gisele MacLellan * Bob and Jean Hadgraft * Paradigm Mortgage Corporation * Jim Hadgraft * Jim and Angie Greenlay * Don Wilkins <p>KDSCL would also like to thank Gunnar and Delphie Norberg and George Norberg for making donations in memory of Patrick Smart.</p>	<p>KDSCL completed an accessibility checklist in September 2005. The following is a summary of the results, barriers identified and actions taken to rectify them.</p> <p>Architectural Barriers: Although there are many improvements that can be made at 555 Fuller Avenue, a new building is planned for KDSCL that will meet all accessibility requirements upon completion. At the other KDSCL locations, accessibility to the buildings and the spaces within was not an issue. Staff continued to make adjustments according to individual needs.</p> <p>Communication Barriers: Staff facilitated and developed Advocacy in the Workplace Meetings which were held monthly and addressed the workplace issues identified by service recipients. From July 2005 to December, 2005, 4 meetings were scheduled and 3 held. At the meetings the self-advocates agenda asked the following questions: 1. Does anyone feel that everyone in his or her departments is being treated fairly?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued on page 3...</i></p>	<p>On December 15, 2005 KDSCL received the CARF accreditation survey results. We were very pleased to learn that after all our hard work, we were given a 3-year designation. The report identified 19 recommendations of which 13 have been rectified. Of the remaining 6, 4 will be ongoing and 2 have completion dates identified.</p> <p>We want to thank all our staff and especially Leigh Edwards who coordinated the preparation for the survey. Everyone worked very hard to ensure our success.</p>
Inside this issue:		<p>KDSCL 2006 Closure</p> <p>In our last newsletter we identified the society closures for the year, however neglected to include 2 half days that are used for professional development. In addition to the closures identified, we will also close at noon (12:00 pm) on June 9, 2006 and at noon (12:00 pm) October 27, 2006.</p>
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STAFF PROFILE: Rod Oranchuk

By Wayne Major

Meet Rodney Oranchuk, the lead support worker at Larry's Cycle and Sports, a business division of the Kelowna and District Society for Community Living that he was instrumental in developing. Rod is largely responsible for the growth of Larry's Cycle from a small skills training program, initially housed in one room of the KDSCL building on Fuller Avenue, into the highly competitive retail store and work skills /activity center that it is today. It is quite an accomplishment to integrate into the heart of Downtown Kelowna a successful retail business together with a service that teaches valuable work skills and offers meaningful activities to people with developmental abilities; but Rod is an individual who possesses the rare blend of business acuity and human service skills to make it work.



Rod at Interbike 2005

Rod was born in Sudbury, Ontario and grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. Rod's family then moved to Smoky Lake, Alberta to start up an Automotive Parts business. Rod graduated from HA Kostash High. Rod completed his journeyman trade ticket, his Interprovincial and Commercial Vehicle Inspection ticket at NAIT. He worked for twelve years at a Ford Dealership in Smoky Lake as a mechanic. This is where he learned many of his people and business skills. Rod also took a turf management course at Olds College. He helped design a golf course and was the golf course President for 5 years. During this time he also taught golf and played a few rounds himself. He admits that he is just a hacker now though.

In 1990, he decided to make a career change and moved to Kelowna. Rod started working for KDSCL in 1992. One of his first jobs was on the Recycling truck where he managed to secure the recycling contract for Okanagan University College, a contract that is still in place today.

Rod is a devoted family man with four children; two girls and two boys. His daughters Shantel 22 is living and working in Edmonton and Taralyn 20, is working in Red Deer. He spends all of his time off doing things with his wife, Laurie, and their two boys, Jarred 15 and Adam 11. Rod has always kept active with outdoor sports, especially skiing in the winter and off road bicycling in the summer. Rod has been volunteering for ten years with the Powder Hounds, which assists people with disabilities to downhill ski at Big White. Rod finds this volunteer work to be immensely rewarding.

His passion for bicycle riding is reflected in his in-depth knowledge of bicycle mechanics and a thorough knowledge of the industry in general. Rod is an approved instructor of the Park Tool School bicycle mechanic course that he conducts three or four times a year and has people from all over the Okanagan attending. He receives calls from across Canada and the US regarding bicycle sales and mechanics.

Rod enjoys sports in general but he particularly likes curling and hockey. His favorite team is the Edmonton Oilers.

Accessibility Report Continued from page 1...

2. Does anyone in their department feel that his or her rights are not being considered? 3. Does anyone feel that the staff is not hearing their concerns? 4. Do you feel that the staff is trying to get answers for your concerns? 5. Does anyone have any health and safety concerns in the workplace? 6. Would you like to see anything done differently at KDSCL? From these questions, 11 concerns were raised and all have been addressed to the satisfaction of the self-advocates.

Plain language continued to be developed in all areas, those with highest priority being policies, procedures, informational brochures and instructional signs and symbols. Between July and December of 2005 the self-advocates reviewed and suggested changes to 24 KDSCL policies and procedures. All internal fire safety diagrams were converted to pictures and plain language.

Larry's Cycle and Sports held 8 informal sign language sessions which helped the staff and service recipients to learn and understand basic signs.

Improvements were made to the internal communications systems. A TTD Telephone was connected at 555 Fuller and all persons are able to utilize the phone system. Regular and increased staff meetings were held. Day Services held 10 of 12 meetings, Richter Street held 4 of 6, ICO held 5 of 6, Business services held 4 of 6 and the Occupational Health and Safety Committee held 5 of 6. In this same period staff professional development occurred with 9 staff attending various training events and internal email usage increased.

Employment and Financial Barriers: The Kelowna Self-Advocates held 4 meetings from July to December have through their caucus representative to BCACL in Vancouver, lobbied the provincial government for increased access to post secondary education and an increase of the allowable amount of earned income. Their efforts continue. Four individuals were assisted to report their income.

Transportation Barriers: In November an email was sent to the CLBC team leader outlining self-advocate concerns. A meeting was scheduled for January 2006 with the owner of the Handi Dart system to discuss the lack of transportation, particularly on weekends and security on the system itself.

KDSCL hired a person with a disability to represent the Society at the City of Kelowna Community Access Awareness meetings which are held monthly.

Attitudinal Barriers: Attitude was the biggest barrier identified in the removal of barriers. We addressed attitude through reiterating the importance at staff meetings of role modeling and appropriate respectful interactions. Within the context of the community, Society staff addressed the attitude of community through again appropriate role modeling, being involved in the community through volunteerism and supported employment, participating in many community events, attending information and job fairs and assisting individuals in belonging to various groups. At the All Agency Staff meeting held in November 2005, staff reviewed the Expectations document that is included in new hire packages. We discussed the importance of using respectful language, including the people we support in conversations, even if they are unable to speak and our commitment to inclusion. The "A Credo for Support Video" was viewed again to remind us why, as support staff, we chose this field to work in.

Other Barriers: Not enough volunteers: The Community Placement Developers attended 3 sessions on volunteer development. In addition a new volunteer, Lindsay McGale, was recruited and taught the driver's education course to 4 service recipients. Lindsay continues to volunteer and we very much appreciate having her. Thank you Lindsay.

Larry's Cycle and Sports Presents "Park Tool School"

By Rod Oranchuk

Larry's Cycle and Sports offers the *Park Tool School* 2 or 3 times each year. The twelve-hour course teaches participants to adjust bearings, remove cogs, service chains and adjust brakes and gears.

Park Tool School gives you the opportunity to learn, repair and maintain bikes while being supervised by a professional bike mechanic. This is something that simply purchasing and reading a book cannot provide. You will be able to ask questions and have your work checked by a professional mechanic.

What is the benefit of the *Park Tool School* Training Course? You will become more self-reliant when riding, add to your enjoyment of the sport and meet other bike enthusiasts. You will also learn more about the bikes and equipment that are available, while gaining an appreciation for a well-tuned bike. Simply put, you will ride more.

The *Park Tool School* is an introduction to basic bicycle maintenance. It assumes that that you have a limited amount of time to allocate to bicycle maintenance and that you do not intend to perform all possible repairs yourselves. Bicycle maintenance at this level is used to add to the enjoyment of riding. However, for some consumers' bike maintenance and working with one's hands is a hobby in its own right.

Attendees' will receive a certificate of participation from the *Park Tool School*.

Information:

Course fee: \$150.00

Location: Larry's Cycle and Sports
535 Lawrence Avenue Kelowna BC

Phone: 250-762-4920 to register or have your name placed on the waitlist.

"CALLING ALL GARDENERS"

By Wayne Major

Spring is finally in the air in the Okanagan. Gardeners are starting to crawl out of their winter beds and polish up their green thumbs. Once again its time to pull out the seed catalogues and map out the garden.

Last year KDSCL gardeners grew an amazing crop of potatoes in its plot at the Hartman Community Garden in Rutland, and we grew some beautiful bedded flowers at a plot in the Cawston Avenue Community Garden.

This year we have acquired a plot in the new Kelowna Community Garden on Bailie Road behind Art Knapp. The soil there is great for growing vegetables and flowers. Anyone interested in joining the KDSCL garden crew can contact Wayne Major at Larry's Cycle and Sports 762-4920 or speak to Cyndy Omand at KDSCL Day Services 763-4484. Gardening starts in May but we can start planning and planting now.



Ron Genovese and Ben Volk talking about where to plant potatoes at Hartman Community Garden.

Newsletters are published in March, June, September and December. Submit your stories and ideas to KDSCL, 555 Fuller Avenue, Kelowna, BC, Y1Y 7W8 or by email to cdaley@kdscl.bc.ca



Tax Information

Many People with Disabilities and their Caregivers Are Paying Too Much Taxes and are Missing Significant Refunds.

Are there many people with disabilities, and this includes their families and caregivers, missing important tax credits and significant refunds that they are entitled to but generally not aware of? Yes. Unquestionably. This is a widespread and serious concern. Only you can ensure that you receive all you're entitled to!

Even if you think this may apply to you, you may be asking yourself, "Why bother to go through this exercise of trying to reduce my taxes and get refunds unless I know beforehand that it will be worthwhile? Good question. And then, where would I go for experienced, definitive help?"

This is the dilemma facing many people with disabilities and their caregivers and it has contributed to that wonderful surplus the federal government enjoys. Dedicated funds are unclaimed! Confusion and misinformation is rampant. But hold on...Help is available and a simple solution now exists. First however, the type and severity of a medical condition that may qualify for a disability tax credit needs to be understood.

A surprising number of medical and financial issues come into play when you get serious about establishing if you're eligible for disability tax credits and maximizing refunds. However, let's keep it simple. Anyone with a prolonged medical condition that "markedly restricts" their daily living should take a close look. Be aware that the intent of tax legislation does not require a disability to be as severe as many people think.

Refunds Can Apply for up to Ten Years

To maximize financial results complex tax laws must be interpreted according to each unique situation. Since these tax credits only reduce amounts of taxes payable, there is a potential to transfer of eligible tax credits from the person with a disability, especially those with a low income, to a family member who pays taxes. This is not well understood and often not applied correctly. Other factors to consider include split income levels, family and doctor relationships, residency, timing and unclaimed eligible medical expenses. You should look at each of 6 disability tax credits that are available. Significant *retroactive refunds can be retrieved for up to 10 years!* So make sure you are maximizing these credits for all concerned.

Call for a Free Tax Review

Experienced tax professionals from the Regional Accounting Firm of Ken Lagasse CA in (Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto) are offering no risk, no fee, no obligation personal tax reviews to determine if a person qualifies for disability tax credits and to establish what options are available. Eligibility for transfers of tax credits to caregivers and family members and significant potential refunds are closely reviewed. Tax reviews are often conducted over the phone or initiated by completing a simple form on the internet - as well as in person at their local office in Vancouver. This is a valuable opportunity that does not get any easier.

Call toll free 1-866-829-4446 or go to www.taxwise.ca/taxaid.

Lower Mainland residents call 604-629-1919 or write to 395-3665 Kingsway Ave. Vancouver, BC V5R 5W2.

WISDOM

Submitted by Evadene Lovell

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs, ..who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began... Honestly...No one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as: "Oh, WAY too difficult!" They will NEVER make it to the top!!!" or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!!!" The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one...Except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!!!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up...But ONE continued higher and higher and higher...This one wouldn't give up!!! At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top! THEN all of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it? A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal? It turned out...the winner was deaf!!!

The wisdom of this story is: NEVER listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic... Because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you...the ones you have in your heart!!! Always think of the power words have. Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions!!!

Therefore: ALWAYS be...POSITIVE!!! And above all: Be DEAF when people tell YOU that you cannot fulfill your dreams!!! Always think: God and I can do this!!!

Who is KDSCL:

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 *Be informed and involved *Volunteer a few hours each week *Involve yourself in a Committee *Support people to be included in their community *Make tax deductible donations or bequeath *Just be a friend!

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 interdependently as possible.

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

Integrated Career 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 763-4837, Fax 250-763-4488