



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Central Vancouver Island

WE NEED A NAME

Help us name our newsletter!
Please forward all suggestions to Nicola at
reception@bgccvi.com

Win a Gift Card

WELCOME TO BGCCVI!

We are excited to bring you the first newsletter of the newly amalgamated Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island.

On April 1, 2011, the Comox Valley Boys and Girls Clubs and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island merged to become one organization with an exciting future! We now serve communities ranging from Courtenay and Comox in the North to Chemainus in the South and the merge has allowed us to blend a variety of skills and expertise that allows us to better serve all of our children, youth and families.

BGCCVI now offers programming from birth through parenthood, truly making a relationship for life with all of our families. From Infant/Toddler care in Ladysmith, through preschool programming and daycare, after-school care, teen programming including an all-youth Dragonboat team, mentoring programs and parent education, there is something for everyone.

For a full list of Club locations, please see our back page or visit our website at www.bgccvi.com.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Kevin and I are honoured to welcome you to the inaugural Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island newsletter. The launch of the newsletter comes at a time when there are many developments taking place in the organization.

At the top of the list has been the merger between the Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club and Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island. The two clubs have been working on uniting for three and half years. We are very excited about the opportunity to work with more communities on Vancouver Island. Both clubs bring different strengths and abilities together. By coming together we have a much stronger Board of Directors, we are able to reduce administrative costs, strengthen the programs we offer, and provide our staff with opportunities to gain management and community experience.

Partnerships dominate our existence. We are proud of the strong working relationships we are building and the results we are collectively achieving. We are very fortunate to have partnered with Bob Weile from "One Smart World". One Smart World provides businesses and institutions with 21st Century tools to effectively work together. Using the Four Dimension Instrument (4Di) and "Smarter Meetings", BGCCVI will begin to train our Board and staff as well as pilot a youth leadership program using BGCC's Keystone Program in the Comox Valley in 2012.

As we look to the future, we envision BGCCVI developing programs that are more experientially based. Starting with children from 0-6 years of age, we will build our programs using the Reggio Emilia approach. School age children and youth with diverse abilities will be introduced to experiential learning based on 21st Century skill development.

Research shows that at least 33% of young people do not complete high school. We believe children and youth learn in different ways and possess unique skills and attributes. Therefore we need to discover better ways to help children learn the knowledge and skills they will need not only today but when they are adults. Critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and team building are but a few of the key skills needed.

We look forward to keeping you posted on how we are doing in future newsletters.

Ian Kalina, Executive Director

Kevin Douville, Board President

NEWS FROM OUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We offer a wide variety of programs and services to children, youth and families in a broad geographical area ranging from the Comox Valley in the North to the Cowichan Valley in the South. Here is a snapshot of just some of what we offered over the past year:

- ◆ 1122 families served annually at 9 locations
- ◆ 148 children and youth are members of our social, recreational and leadership programs
- ◆ 27 children participated in our Mentoring programs
- ◆ 41 young women participated in either our Go Girls or Purple Girlzillas programs which help develop interpersonal skills and self-confidence
- ◆ Over 6000 volunteer hours contributed by Board, staff, parents, youth and community members
- ◆ In partnership with Tim Horton's, 6 children were able to attend a one-week residential summer camp
- ◆ 111 families were served by Parents Together, Parenting Without Power Struggles or Triple P
- ◆ Over 69,000 healthy snacks and 3200 meals served in our programs
- ◆ 255 parents served or referred through our Parents Together phone line
- ◆ 255 children and families access our Family Resource Programs
- ◆ 4 Mother Goose programs served 60 families
- ◆ 79 youth received counseling support through our Child, Youth and Family Services program
- ◆ 223 children attended daycare and Pre-School readiness programs
- ◆ 40 youth participated in our Youth Dragonboat Team Full Throttle

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The holidays can be a difficult time for some families who are already struggling to make ends meet. The Boys and Girls Club is pleased to participate in these efforts to help make sure that no child goes without:



WEST 49 COATS FOR KIDS

Boys and Girls Clubs are proud to work with West 49 and their Coats for Kids Charity. Anyone bringing in a gently used coat to West 49 will receive \$25 off of the purchase of a new coat. The donated coats will be given to the Boys and Girls Club who will make sure they go to the families that need them.

SEARS TREE OF WISHES

Sears, a National Partner of the Boys and Girls Club, places a tree in their stores with the names and wishes of children in our program. Their customers select a name from the tree, fulfill that wish and return the gift to Sears. BGCCVI then distributes them to our children.

PENNIES FOR PRESENTS

Every December, the Nanaimo News Bulletin heads a campaign to collect pennies that are used to purchase Christmas presents for those families that may not have enough. BGCCVI is proud to be one of the three recipients of this campaign and uses the money to buy presents and gift cards for families going without.





DID YOU KNOW?...

The Reggio Approach to Learning - An early childhood program from Italy “based on the principles of respect, responsibility and community through exploration and discovery in a supportive and enriching environment based on the interests of the children through self-guided curriculum.” We are in the process of formally implementing this strategy into all of our 0-6 programming.

One Smart World - is a program that helps people and teams learn to work smarter together and succeed through a common language. There are 4 ways of thinking that are key to success and high performance: creativity (green), understanding (yellow), decision-making (red) and personal spirit (white). The use of green, yellow and red arranged in a traffic-light format make it easy to learn and hard to forget. We are excited to be combining this with our Keystone Club and introducing it to youth in the Comox Valley.

GET INVOLVED....

Like what you see? For information on how YOU can become involved please call us at (250) 754-3215 or visit our website at www.bgccvi.com



FOCUS ON.....BULLYING PINK SHIRT DAY FEBRUARY 29, 2012

“Approximately 25 per cent of children in Canada report having been a victim of bullying in some form. Whether the bullying is verbal, physical or social, it all has the same damaging consequences. Children who are victims of bullying often experience lower self-esteem, poor academic performance, shyness or discomfort in social situations and even more serious physical and psychological problems. The negative impact of bullying extends to the bully as well. Those who bully are more likely to go on to display other anti-social, aggressive behaviours such as physical and sexual aggression and

criminal behaviour. Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada provide a safe, compassionate environment that is not only free from bullying and harassment, but able to provide the support and advice children need to properly deal with bullying.”

As can be seen from the above quote, taken from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada National Website, bullying has become a serious problem in today’s society. Boys and Girls Clubs are dedicated to addressing this issue, by bringing awareness and including anti-bullying programming. On February 29, 2012, we will be participating in our 4th Annual Pink Shirt Day. Along with CKNW, London Drugs and Corus Entertainment, Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada will be making pink shirts available for purchase in the days leading up to February 29. Then, on Pink Shirt Day, we will all wear our shirts proclaiming “Bullying Stops Here!” Our Clubs, who include the anti-bullying message in all of our regular programming, will include special programming designed to spread the message and make sure that all of our Clubs remain “a good place to be.”

LIST OF LOCATIONS

Aspen Park Club

2250 Bolt Avenue, Comox
Phone: 250-218-6583
aspenpark@bgccvi.com

Comox Valley Clubhouse

367 11th Street, Courtenay
Phone: 250-338-7582
comoxvalley@bgccvi.com

Lantzville Club

7-7221 Lantzville Road, Lantzville
Phone: 250-390-4001
lantzville@bgccvi.com

Forest Park Club

2050 Latimer Road, Nanaimo
Phone: 250-751-8937
forestpark@bgccvi.com

Coal Tye Club

2080 Sun Valley Drive, Nanaimo
Phone: 250-616-7681
coaltyee@bgccvi.com

Fifth Street Club

20 Fifth Street, Nanaimo
ASP: Phone 250-754-3220
centredirector@bgccvi.com
Daycare: Phone 250-754-3294
daycare@bgccvi.com
SSTC: Phone 250-754-3215
sstc@bgccvi.com

Chase River Club

1400 Cranberry Avenue, Nanaimo
Phone: 250-753-2464
chaseriver@bgccvi.com

Ladysmith Child and Family Centre

220 High Street, Ladysmith
ASP: Phone: 250-245-8921
ladysmith@bgccvi.com
Daycare: Phone: 250-924-2426
ladysmithdaycare@bgccvi.com

Chemainus Club

3172B Garner Street, Chemainus
Phone: 250-246-5421
chemainus@bgccvi.com



Thanks to the generosity of the following donors, the Comox Valley was able to purchase a new bus for their Club:

The Alford Family; Comox Valley Boxing Club; Canadian Tire Jump Start; The Hargood-Ash Family; Prevailing Wins Dragon Boat Team; Rhythm on the Rock; Rotary Club of Cumberland Centennial; Saratoga Speedway; Snarly Media; Telus; Tim Hortons

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Christmas Raffle

BC Gaming License #38680



1st Prize - 2 Tickets anywhere West Jet flies
2nd Prize - 12.42 kg Bernard Callebaut Santa
3rd Prize - 3-night stay from AviaWest
Tickets: \$5 - Contact your nearest Club!
Draw Date: December 11, 2011 @ 12:00 pm

Open Space Sessions

Your opportunity to provide us with feedback!
January 17, 2012 Chase River
January 31, 2012 Ladysmith
For more information, please see our website at
www.bgccvi.com

10th Annual Odlum Brown Gingerbread Village with Bears



Build the gingerbread creation of your dreams or decorate and accessorize a teddy bear, all in support of the Boys and Girls Club in the Comox Valley!

All submitted entries of bears and houses are available for purchase through a silent auction.

For more information including how to purchase a gingerbread lot or a bear, please contact the Comox Valley Club at (250) 338-7582.

**Hosted by Crown Isle Resort
On Display December 5-18, 2011**