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## Happy 15th Anniversary Monopoly Madness!

The 15th Annual Monopoly Madness event took place Saturday, February 24 at the Victoria Conference Centre and this year the celebration came on full force to mark 15 wonderful years of this successful event. Over 265 guests came out to support Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria and the BC Paraplegic Association. And they certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves; we even had a hard time pulling everyone away from the reception and silent auction and into dinner seating! Emcee **Meribeth Burton** guided us through the evening as we all enjoyed a fabulous dinner from the **Fairmont Empress**, a great assortment of silent auction items, a live auction led by the gregarious **Bruce Williams**, dancing under the fireworks to the fabulous sound of the



sponsorship funds but also for the human effort they put into the event. Over 50 bankers come out to lead the rousing tournament, the Coast Capital youth team is invaluable in assisting with set up in the crucial hours before the guests arrive, and the organizing committee is expertly led by **Ms. Debi Dempsey**. We continue to be touched by Coast Capital's true commitment to their community.



Bank Notes, and of course – the highlight of our evening – the Monopoly tournament!

Of course it would be impossible to have all this fun without the support of our sponsors. Our Mr. Monopoly, **Coast Capital Savings**, returned this year with a new guest – our Honorary Judge and their VP of Strategic Planning, **Mike Bushore**. We are deeply grateful to Coast Capital, not only for their

**Thrifty Foods** was also back 'on board' as a Tycoon sponsor this year and our thanks go to **Milford Sorensen** for returning as Honorary Chair. Thrifty's really showed their 'tycoon' side and pulled out all their friends in the food industry to come for a night of fun and friendly competition. What better way to spend a night with your suppliers?!? As well it was wonderful to see so many other local businesses come out in support again this year – and have a great time doing it. It is a superb way to reward your staff for all their hard work, meet other local leaders in a friendly and fun environment, and support two fabulous charities. Our thanks to all of those individuals and businesses that purchased tables!

*Continued on page 2*

**This ad space is available to promote your business/organization and help us cover the costs of producing this newsletter!**

See page 3 for rates. Contact Kate Mansell at 250.478.3872 or email her at [kmansell@bgcvic.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvic.org) for info.

## Monopoly Madness 2007...continued from Page 1



Special mention also has to be made to our media sponsors who really get out there and spread the Monopoly word. **A-Channel, Black Press, and C-FAX / Kool FM** were invaluable in making sure Monopoly madness swept the city in the weeks leading up to our big event.

A full list of all our sponsors is listed on page 7, we are so grateful for all the community spirit demonstrated by these companies and organizations. In addition, over 40 volunteers come out to make the evening smooth and magical for our guests and to them we extend a huge thank you for once again making the evening a success. We truly couldn't do it without you!

The Monopoly Madness committee was very excited about a new addition to our evening. Following dinner our 50 bankers arrived carrying 300 brightly colored balloons. Each balloon contained a slip of paper that was attached to a gift available in the front lobby. The grand prize gift, a Steve Nash autographed basketball, really helped those balloons fly. We sold all 300 balloons before one loud 'group pop,' bringing in an extra \$6000 in just under 20 minutes! The best part was everyone was a winner! We sold



all our Chance bears again this year, with the lucky mystery bear holder walking away with a complete Digital Camera and photo printer. Between these special 'chances' and the auction items, there was certainly something for everyone this year!

Of course we would be remiss if we didn't let our winners have their 30 seconds of fame. Our prize draw winner, who will be going to Disneyland courtesy of **Vision 2000 Travel**, was **Ms. Yolanda Balderson** (husband Ted is at AON Reed Stenhouse). This year our grand tournament champion was **Mr. Sturdee Arden** (Thrifty Foods) who amassed a record total of \$14,271.



Second place was secured by **Ms. Ali Foord** (Custom House) with \$12,385 and **Adam Sawatsky** came in at third with \$12,041! No small feat, these three winners beat out over 200 other players in the room for this honor. Remember that the next time you play two people in the living room!

**Adam Sawatsky** also took the Media Trophy away from our 3 year media champion **Meribeth Burton**. It must have been the fantastic job she was doing as our evening's charming emcee that cost her the title – way to take one for the Monopoly Madness team Meribeth! The mayoral challenge was won by **Victoria City Mayor, Alan Lowe**, who once again



proved his ability to reign in the Monopoly monies. This year all our winners received beautiful keeper trophies and we sincerely hope they put them on proud display and get all the gloating privileges that they deserve for this high honor!

Again, our thanks go to the organizing committee, our sponsors, auction donors, bankers, and volunteers. This event has become truly something special and irreplaceable to both **Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria** and the **BC Paraplegic Association**. There is so much important work being done in our community because of your support. Next year will be the 16th year of Monopoly Madness and we invite you to pencil us into your plans for next year (and start practicing for that championship now!). For 2008 sponsorship information and table purchase please contact Kate Mansell, Director of Development at [kmansell@bgcvc.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvc.org) or call (250) 384-9133. Thank you everyone, we will see you next year!



## Create a Ripple Updates

The ripples of our campaign have reached out to a new and important member. We are pleased to announce we have a new co-chair for our Create a Ripple campaign, **Mr. Richard Gray**, station manager of Victoria's **A-Channel**. Richard will be joining co-chair **David Curtis**, of **Viking Air**, to lead us forward as our ripples continue to reach onwards and outwards. At A-Channel Vancouver Island Mr. Gray directly oversees the entire operation of the television station including local programming, community relations, publicity, promotions, sales, technical operations and human resources. He is responsible for over 100 employees and annual expenditure and revenue budgets each in excess of \$16 million.

He has also been an active member of the Greater Victoria Chamber of



Commerce since 2000, serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Victoria Film Commission, Vancouver Island School of Art and the Victoria International

Film and Video Festival. We think that his mixture of business acumen and commitment to community is a perfect match to our campaign. We look forward to new and exciting ripples led by our new team of chairs. Thank you

Richard Gray & Dave Curtis for leading the way!

We have other ripples to report. In our fall newsletter we announced that **Mike O'Brien** of **CIBC Wood Gundy** and his team had organized the 3rd annual **Irish Invitational Charity Poker Tournament**. This incredible event held November 4th had over 70 players and all proceeds were given to our Create a Ripple campaign! Over \$16,000 has been designated towards construction of an Activity Shelter. This shelter is an important component of our camp project as it provides covered meeting space for small groups and indoor summer camp activities (very important in our ever changing island climate). Thank you to everyone who participated in what we hope is a long standing event!

January 27th marked the day of the **Critical Matters Public Conference**, another exciting event benefitting our Create a Ripple Campaign. We received \$4,900 from the sale of tickets in-house and through our good friend Lisa Parans of the UVic Commerce Students Society. This amazing conference raised \$23,750 in total and had several life-changing presenters speaking to a packed house of over 700 people in the Conference Centre. Our thanks go to all of the presenters including **Silken Laumann**, **Neal Peterson**, **Dr. Gabor Mate**, and **Dr. Marius Barnard** as well as all of the guests that attended. We extend a special thank you to **Alphonso Franco** of **Trenton Financial** and his wife

**Create a Ripple**  
There's no better feeling



**Wendy Schulz** for taking the initiative to organize this great event. Another example of ordinary people creating ripples throughout our campaign and our community!

We would like all of you to be on the watch for two upcoming exciting events benefitting our camp campaign.

**Thrifty Foods**, always a wonderful supporter, is holding another "Community Day" April 28th at all Greater Victoria stores. This day gives us a great opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of our programs and camp project! Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and hand out materials and Thrifty's provides cake and coffee to attract a crowd. Thank you Thrifty's for continuing to provide sustenance – to our bodies and to this community! Also, don't forget to check out page 5 and get your pirate patch ready as we set sail with Boat for Hope June 2nd, 2007. What an exciting summer this is gearing up to be!

## Advertise with Us

Your advertisement in "Our Children-Our Future" will help to defray our publication and distribution costs and help you get your message out. Currently our circulation is about 2400 but it is growing all the time!

Banner: 7.5 x 1.5	\$320
Business Card: 3.5 x 2	\$150
1/4 Page: 3.5 x 4.5	\$400

We can use camera ready artwork but digital files are preferred. We work on a PC platform so cannot use Mac files. We can accept TIFF, JPG, BMP files as well as CorelDraw files. Please email digital files to [kmansell@bgcvic.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvic.org).

We publish quarterly in March, June, September and December. Deadlines for receipt of copy are February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st.

Cheques should be made payable to Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater

Victoria and sent to 1240 Yates St., Victoria, BC V8V 3N3 and marked for the attention of Kate Mansell. Payment needs to be received with or prior to submission of artwork.

Many thanks.



## Summer Camp 2007

Do you remember the rush of the first jump into that cool summer lake? How about the feeling of pride as you expertly guided your canoe across to new lands? How about the sense of adventure and accomplishment that came from climbing, exploring and finding out that 'hey, I'm pretty good at this!?' Aaahhh, summer camp...

Here at Boys & Girls Club we believe that these types of experiences are much more than good memories and a constructive use of those long summer days. They provide an environment to foster growth, to learn teamwork and leadership, to feel belonging – and most importantly to believe in your own personal power, purpose, and potential! Our Earth Day Adventures Day Camp program is gearing up again for summer and our Camp eagerly awaits the return of laughter to the lake.

These day camps are held at our beautiful 98 acre camp in Metchosin, surrounded by forest, ponds, trails, and meadows. There is an archery range, a canoeing and swimming area, a low ropes adventure course, and a brand new 42 foot climbing tower! Of course there are crafts and games, sports and play, as well as fun out adventures on Fridays to other delightful, local beaches and play spots. We have theme weeks that have included crazy ideas such as 'Mission Impossible,' 'Retro flashback,' and 'Muddy Mayhem.' The bottom line is we have FUN!

Our summer camp program registration begins April 18th. For more information and registration forms please visit our website or call 384-9133. Our camp programs are well below cost to allow all children an opportunity to spend their summer in a



healthy and positive environment. For parents who still find these fees unmanageable, there are a limited number of Camperships available. Our thanks go to our donors who provide these "Camperships" and we invite others to join in the "campership" craze. You provide so many great memories for these deserving children!

## News Bits

### Canadian Tire is at it again!

We are so grateful to have the support of both the local **Canadian Tire** stores as well as their national company and once again we must thank them for their recent gift. We have received \$4,650 from the **Canadian Tire Foundation for Families** as part of their national JumpStart program. This program is designed to help kids in financial need participate in organized sports and recreation – a top priority to Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria as well! Thank you Canadian Tire Foundation for Families for encouraging children and families to get active, and thank you for making sure we can continue to offer them the programs to do so!

### Lululemon has some smart customers

Last October we were approached by the Victoria branch of **Lululemon** and offered a terrific opportunity. As part of their corporate giving program, customers were given the chance to have Lululemon make a donation in their own name to their choice of the listed charities. Seven local charities were featured, one of which of

course, was Boys & Girls Club Services. Lululemon decided this was a great way to assign their donation dollars - by letting their customers choose where the company's donations should go. We agree – this fundraiser brought in \$1,400 for Boys & Girls Club Services Youth Leadership! Good choice Lululemon customers!

### Microsoft are a bunch of Software Softies

We have received great news! **Microsoft Canada Co.** has graciously donated over \$36,000 USD worth of software for use throughout our clubs and programs. These types of in-kind donations are invaluable to our programs as our budget simply does not allow for these types of expenditures. Thank you again to Mr. Gavin Thompson of Microsoft Canada Co. for arranging this generous gift (now we need to find more computers to go with this great gift)! Our thanks also go to Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada for building this great partnership with Microsoft and creating the CanTech program.

### Sears Shares the Christmas Spirit

I know, I know, every issue you read about **Sears** – but we just can't help it, they keep on giving! Once again they have come through for us over the holiday season. Gift wrapping stations were offered to customers with proceeds (\$600 in total) given to Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria and we directed the funds to our Assets in Motion Youth Leadership Program – after all, they were the ones helping wrap all those gifts! In addition, once again Sears had an adorable plush toy available over the Christmas season for purchase with 50 cents of each purchase going back to us. It sure doesn't sound like much, but once again Sears shows us that a little can go along way – Penny the Penguin sales brought \$2,397 our way! That is a lot of little penguins! Now that you know the power of these cute little rascals, be on the lookout for their upcoming plush at Sears sales counters!



## Boat for Hope Sets Sail June 2nd!

Ahoy! We invite you aboard as we take Victoria's inner harbor by siege on June 2, 2007 for the 3rd annual Victoria Boat for Hope. We have partnered this year with Variety-The Children's Charity on this increasingly popular event.

It promises to be a day to remember as 300 children take to the harbour for a day of fun and high-seas adventure. And older land-lubbers will not be forgotten! We will follow with an evening of gourmet grub and grog, live and silent auction swag, and perhaps even a chantey or two.

On June 2, we are raising our sails to raise funds for Victoria's children and youth and we invite you along as we weigh anchor. You already know what great work Variety does with children and youth in B.C. Our portion of the proceeds will be used to support our Create a Ripple



campaign which is raising money for a variety of projects at our 98 acre camp in Metchosin. The Camp is an important piece of the Boys & Girls Club commitment to supporting the potential in each and every child and funds from this event will go towards helping make the camp and facilities accessible to all children and youth.

We have put together a great team of volunteers from the community and from the two benefitting charities, Boys & Girls Club

Services of Greater Victoria and Variety-The Children's Charity, to ensure the event is shipshape.

Whether you fancy yourself a pirate, a privateer or simple sutler, this is your chance to throw a life line to the children and youth in Greater Victoria. This very visible event is a great opportunity for you to support two worthy organizations and have a great time doing it. I officially invite you to the briny deep to participate with us and demonstrate your commitment to children and youth in Greater Victoria – our true treasure.

Don't be left behind; get involved in this great event! If you would like further information on Sponsorship & Auction opportunities please contact: Kate Mansell [250]384.9133 or Email: [kmansell@bgcvic.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvic.org).

## Care Homes – Making a Difference for over 20 years!

"My name is Jeni. I'm 23 and a single mum. I have a young son whose name is Caleb. It all started when I was 16 and having a lot of problems. I got into the drugs and didn't know where to turn. That's when an old school counsellor got me affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria. That's where I met Tracey, my drug and alcohol outreach worker. She got me into the Youth Detox and set me up with a drug and alcohol counsellor. I struggled for nearly three years with my drug addictions. I always kept in contact with Tracey. So, when I was 19, and had almost 6 months clean, I found out I was pregnant. At the time, Caleb's dad and I were together and we were excited about the pregnancy. But after about a month of us knowing about the baby, my partner got into the drugs. As far as I knew I loved him, but could not bring a child into this world around that kind of lifestyle. So, I ended our relationship. Feeling lost, hurt and having nowhere to go, I called Tracey. I knew I could trust her and she may have some suggestions. So we met and that's

when she told me about the Care Home Parenting Program run through the Boys and Girls Club. So, I was two months pregnant when I met the outreach workers from the parenting program. At first when they told me all about the program I wasn't sure if it was for me, but I knew I had to make the right choices for my baby. So, I

decided to move into one of the care homes and I'm so happy I did. Because my case is a little different for I knew the care family I was moving in with. When I was seventeen the family had a youth detox bed in their home and I lived with them for awhile. I already had a relationship with them and felt very lucky to be back there. I moved into

*Continued on page 8*



  
 Boys & Girls Club Services  
 of Greater Victoria

Kids need

People Who Care

### Boys & Girls Clubs are looking for people who care about kids...

Sometimes youth need a little help to get them through the rough patches. Our Care Families provide a safe place to come home to.

- Build your retirement fund while helping youth in transition
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**Call 250.370.5925 for more information on becoming a Care Home**

## We Thank Our Donors

We are very grateful to the following donors who have contributed to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation from 08 November 2006 to 12 March 2007. We have endeavored to make this list as complete as possible and apologize for any errors or omissions.

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## Together We Can Make A Difference !!

Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria are grateful to receive funding from a variety of sources which allows us to continue delivering quality programs that address the current needs of youth and their families. If you have not already supported us this year please take a moment to clip this form and send it along with your donation to The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation, 1240 Yates St., Victoria, BC V8V 3N3.

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I/We authorize Boys & Girls Club Services to issue a Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) on the first of each month in the dollar amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my/our account located at \_\_\_\_\_ (financial institution). I/We have attached a cheque marked "VOID". I/We will inform Boys & Girls Clubs, in writing, of any change in the information provided.

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## More Monopoly Madness...



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Victoria, BC V8V 3N3  
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Email: [development@bgcvic.org](mailto:development@bgcvic.org)



Design/Layout: Amber Mitchell  
Editing: Kate Mansell, Director of Development  
Questions? Call Kate at 250.478.3872 or email her at [kmansell@bgcvic.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvic.org)

## Care Homes - Continued from Page 5...

their home when I was three months pregnant. I felt loved and supported and was once again excited about my baby. Throughout the rest of my pregnancy I had a lot of support through my worker through the Parenting program, Janet, my care home parent, as well as my mum, my siblings and my friends. I was nervous but felt confident about being a mother. During my pregnancy I took classes on motherhood and did my prenatal classes.”

Jeni was connected with a doula who helped her through her pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding. She even helped with some respite care after the birth of her son. As Jeni said, “She would come over and watch Caleb so I could shower or nap. She was amazing, everyone was. I don’t know if I would have made it through those first four weeks without them.”

Our Care Home Parenting Program is one of many programs that help youth through the rough patches. Care Homes have been the foundation of the support team that help youth rebuild their lives for over twenty years. And to this day, some of those youth stay in touch with their Care Homes. They made a difference. You can too.

We have youth 12 to 21 with a variety of needs and placements can range from 3 to 12 months. We offer a tax free retainer and per diem fees. If you are interested in offering a safe, nurturing environment for kids in transition please call us at 250.370.5925 for more information.

## Davis Realty Corporation Proudly Supports Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria



As an ongoing corporate program Jack Davis, owner of Davis Realty Corporation, will donate a substantial portion of any commission earned on a real estate transaction conducted through his company. A tax receipt

will be issued in your name.

All you or anyone you know has to do is state that they wish to have a donation made to the Boys & Girls Club at the conclusion of their real estate transaction.

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