

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF NIAGARA
ANNUAL REPORT 2004**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the past 45 years, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara has provided safe, meaningful, and affordable programs and services to the children and youth of Niagara. Although the focus was in Niagara Falls for most of this period, the services have now been expanded to other underserved areas in the Niagara Region. Programs are currently being offered in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines, Fort Erie, and Niagara Falls.

The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara recognizes that in the Niagara Region, close to a third of children live in families with low incomes. Subsidized programs ensure that all children and youth can enjoy services provided by the Club.

The Club has been providing essential child and youth services in Niagara Falls for forty-five years; however, the current facility can no longer sustain the growing needs of the Community. The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara has investigated all possible options to reconfigure and reconstruct the current site, however, the infrastructure will not sustain this.

In order to meet the growing needs of Niagara Falls and area Communities, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara will be constructing a new facility. This new facility was developed with thorough and extensive consultation that involved employees, members, other Boys and Girls Club partners, major donors and the Community at large. This new facility is vital to the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara's ability to maintain and improve quality of service and the growing demand for programs and services. This new facility is expected to serve the Community's needs for the next 50 years.

The year 2004 also saw the opening of the Nightlight Emergency Shelter. This much needed facility will serve homeless youth and direct them to the appropriate agency enabling them to return to a meaningful lifestyle.

I would also like to thank the entire staff at the Club and my fellow board members. The year 2004 presented many challenges that required dedication by both to ensure effective delivery of services.

Thank you for allowing me to serve our community.

*Respectfully submitted
Dan Nywening*

1. CLUB PROFILE

The Boys and Girls Club is unique. It is part of an “international movement” to help children and youth reach their potential. The movement is delivered internationally through neighborhood-based facilities “dedicated to children and youth”. Funders, supporters, and members are committed to creating nurturing environments where children can build positive feelings of self worth and develop life long skills.

A full spectrum of programs and services provides children and youth, 0 – 24 years of age, basic needs, such as feeding and shelter, child care, recreational activities, leadership and life skills. This focus, combined with the synergy created by sixty professionals, who have dedicated their lives to working specifically with children, is a very powerful resource for children and youth of our community.

The true personality of the Club starts when the children and their families are greeted warmly at the front door, most by their first name. There is a slight aroma of home cooking, making everyone feel at home. A warm and encouraging atmosphere prevails. The children feel at home. They belong and are respected and supported. Meaningful and lasting friendships are formed. The children know they are welcomed and celebrated.

The power of the movement differentiates the Club from other child and youth service providers. The other organizations do not offer the diversity of programs and services within the low cost, accessibility focused participation structure offered by the Club.

The Club is currently providing award winning child and youth programs right here in Niagara

Prime Minister of Canada – Excellence in Childcare 2003

Donner Award for Excellence in Childcare Programs 2004

Peter F. Drucker – Most Effective Board of Directors 2004

Parks and Recreation Ontario –Quality Assurance 2004

Early Childhood Centre for Development - Philosophy and Direction 2004

1.1 MISSION STATEMENT

“The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara is a leading community organization, committed to assisting children and youth to reach their own potential, based on the Club’s core values, and its ability to create opportunities in an encouraging, fun and safe environment.”

1.2 CORE VALUES

We believe....

- *That youth and children’s programs need to be affordable and accessible to all abilities and needs so that all can participate and learn equally.*
- *In being a voice for children and youth in supporting them through advocacy, resources and other means as a basis to empower and encourage them to achieve their potential.*
- *In creating an environment of adventure and discovery, through recreation and leisure activities, that enhances safe risk taking, learning, individual growth and development and family values.*
- *In the development of quality, programs and services that provide children and youth with the tools, leadership, and role models supportive to them discovering, developing, and reaching their potential.*
- *In the delivery of relevant programs that are flexible, community-based and demonstrate quality in support of youth and children reaching their potential within a safe and secure environment.*
- *In the community’s responsibility to support the development of each child and youth to reach the potential through the contribution of resources, volunteerism and ongoing support.*
- *In the accountability of the organization related to the achievement of its vision and mission within its work with each child and youth served, as well as the responsible use of the resources provided to it by the community.*
- *In an organizational culture that develops a strong sense of team between the volunteer and staff and is flexible, participatory and encourages individual growth and development.*
- *In the need for the organization to always ensure it’s ongoing viability, involving the effective and responsible use of it’s resources, sound fundraising and promotional practices and the development of partnerships that enhance both the delivery of services to children and youth, and the future strength of the organization.*

1.3 PARTICIPATION

*There were **1,680 youth between the ages of newborn to 19 years**, who registered in 2004. It is important to note that memberships are valid for 12 months after the date of purchase. Therefore, those purchasing memberships in 2003 also were members through out 2004.*

*There were a further **6,690 program members** who utilized the Club through partnership and program membership activities.*

2. GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The Club is an autonomous organization, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. These community representatives establish strategic directions and policy, and are accountable to the various funding bodies and the community at large. Trained and certified staff work closely with over fifty partner organizations to deliver quality programs and services. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and compliment our experienced staff.

2.1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The 2004-5 Board of Directors was comprised of **18 men and women**, who met monthly to conduct Club business. These individuals dedicated volunteer hours and expertise, throughout the year, participating at committee meetings, work parties and fundraisers and representing the Club at various events.*

2.2 VOLUNTEERS

*Over **162 Adult Volunteers** committed over **4,900 hours** to programs and fundraising events. These dedicated individuals offered their services to run specialty programs, coach leagues, cook for the Supper Club and supervise various program areas. Fundraising volunteers assisted with many endeavours including the Reach for the Stars, Parking Lot Sale, Golf Tournament, Bonspiel and Christmas Tree Sales and the Slo-pitch Canteen at the Optimist Club.*

*Through initiatives from the **Secondary School** Systems, **83 youth** from the high schools approached the Club to dedicate **2,767 hours** of volunteer service to programs and services. These young volunteers greatly enhanced programs and services with their enthusiasm and their youth.*

2.3 STAFF

*The staff at the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara is comprised of dedicated individuals trained and experienced in their specific fields. **Sixteen full time** and **one hundred and eighteen part-time** staff worked at the Club in programs, administration, and property and building.*

***Staff Training** opportunities were created to offer training in High 5, First Aid, CPR, Emergency Response, and WHIMS. The Club hosted further training sessions including Canadian Lifesaving Society Instructors, Guards and Senior Resuscitation Courses. Meetings and training sessions were also held on a monthly basis.*

3. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara believes that the key to serving all members of the community is to develop a seamless delivery model in partnership with many community groups working toward offering a wide spectrum of programs and services that are as universal, affordable and accessible as possible. This is critical in some regional service areas where it is estimated, based on Statistics Canada data, that close to one third of children and youth live in families with low incomes. When children and youth benefit; the entire community benefits. A recent study by United States Senator Joseph Biden noted that wherever there is a Boys and Girls Club, there is a significant reduction in juvenile crime. Boys and Girls Clubs provide positive alternatives with positive results for children and youth.

3.1 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

The full cost of a membership is \$20.00 annually per child and \$50.00 annually per family; made possible through the City of Niagara Falls and significant contributions by the community including Bob and Ida Gale, Law Offices of Brian C. Wilcox, Children's Aid Society, Delta Monte Carlo Bingo, Kathleen Haine, Kiwanis Club of Stamford, the Lion's Club of Stamford, the McLean Family, Micron Installations, Niagara Credit Union, Niagara Falls Marathon Bridge Club, Olsen-Sottile Insurance Brokers, Proctor and Gamble, Rita Eastman, Signature Signs, Trans Canada Pipeline, and many many others.

*The **Drop In Program** was made available to children ages 6 to 19 years, three evenings per week and Saturdays. Computer activities, gymnasium sports, crafts, organized games and an open games room were provided with a 15 to 1 child/staff ratio. Visits to the Drop In Programs totaled **9,675** through out the school year.*

*The **Meal Program** provided Supper Club for Drop In participants; three meals daily for Childcare participants; and nutritious breakfasts and snacks for Before and After School participants. Staff and volunteers served approximately **799 meals and snacks** weekly through out the school year.*

*The Club provided **Transportation Services** through the utilization of five vans and two buses. It is important to note that a major barrier is the ability of the children to travel to the programs. This makes our transportation services critical to making the program accessible. Children received an average of **648 rides per week** during the school year. Sponsors of Transportation are Central Gospel Temple Congregation, City of Niagara Falls, Lion's Club of Niagara Falls, NAPA Auto Parts of Niagara, and the Maid of the Mist Steamboat Company Ltd..*

Teen Programs continued expansion through the National Crime Prevention Grant. Opportunities were provided to 18 outstanding youth for volunteerism and leadership through the **Torch and Thunderbird Keystone Clubs**.

3.2 SPORTS AND LEISURE PROGRAMS

Sports and Leisure Programs for children 0-19 are delivered with the assistance of community partners to offer a seamless delivery approach. This program model opens opportunities for children to specialize in an area of their choice at a time of their choosing. Adventure Programs provided over **839 opportunities** in programs that included Gymnastics, Golf, Jazz, Ballet, Karate, House Leagues, Hip Hop Dance, and Rock Climbing Courses. These programs are supported through the City of Niagara Falls.

The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara is an authorized provider of **Canadian Lifesaving Society**. The variety of water activities for all ages included Swim Lessons, Leadership Programs, Adult Programs, and Membership Fun Swims.

There were **2,165 registrations in Swim Lessons**, designed by the Canadian Lifesaving Society. These lessons were provided by certified instructors and guards. Levels range from Beginner to Leadership Programs providing a seamless athletic program to develop skills and proficiency in water safety and swimming.

Over **194 of Niagara's youth** benefited from attendance in the **Aquatic Leadership Programs**. Programs included Aqualeaders, Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross, Emergency First Aid, Standard First Aid, National Lifeguard Service, Boat Operators, and Instructor's Courses.

3.3 FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS

The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara offers "**Kid's First Day Care**", licensed through the Ministry of Family and Children's Services. Sponsors are Christ Church, Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, Breakfast for Learning, GAP Canada, RBC Financial, Regional Municipality of Niagara, and the Sears Foundation. Programs included pre-school and school age care from 7:00 am to as late as 12:30 am. Meal programs provide nutritious snacks, breakfasts, lunches, and dinners.

In 2004, **53** pre-schoolers ages, 2.5 to 6 years received care in the **Pre-School Care Licensed Program**. Staffed with qualified Early Childhood Educators, the children participated in daily activities such as fine and gross motor play, learning circles, arts and crafts, reading groups, outdoor play, math and science. The program offered ½ day programming and transportation to six city schools.

In 2004, **142** children aged 6 to 12 years attended the **Before and After School Care Licensed Program** including a satellite at Christ Church. Transportation was provided mornings and afternoons from 19 schools to facilitate safe arrival. Children participated in daily activities including cooperative games, arts and crafts, computers labs, literacy programs and swimming.

In 2004, **43 children** attended the **Evening Care Licensed Program** that accommodates children requiring care until as late as 12:30 a.m. Children participate in all childcare activities. The staff strive to maintain regular home routines by providing the children with homework time, outings, and their own bed.

Holiday Programs took place, in partnership with Niagara Support Services, Human Resources Development Canada, Niagara College Summer Job Service, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Programs offered during **Christmas, March Break, and Summer Camp** provided over **1,489 children** with full day activities during the school breaks.

3.4 NEW PROGRAMS 2004

Recognizing the impact Club programs have in building healthy communities, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara worked closely with the Region of Niagara Children Services Division, Niagara Regional Police Services and Community Policing Committees to identify and bridge gaps in services and increase accessibility through out the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bridging the Gaps Project began with the sponsorship of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. The Club undertook efforts to review Child and Youth Services in the Niagara Region and assess gaps in services. This process resulted in the opening of youth at risk programs such as Defeat the Streets and the Nightlight Youth Shelter and long term plans to serve children and youth through out the Region.

Club staff through the National Crime Prevention Center and Niagara Regional Police Services offered **Defeat the Streets**. Staff met youth on the streets of Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and Welland to provide links to service organizations and make health and hygiene products available.

There were **22 youth** who participated in **Canada Volunteer Initiative Program**, sponsored by Volunteer Canada. This program allowed youth, through training, to discover their skills and interests and then to develop and implement a project of their own. Club staff will share results from this pilot project with seminars and literature. All of these young volunteer leaders greatly enhanced programs and services with their enthusiasm and their youth.

The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara developed the **Nightlight Emergency Youth Shelter Project** on Victoria Avenue in Niagara Falls. With the support of several key contributors, including the Branscombe Family Foundation, Janet Beresh, Valerie Gnys, Niagara Association of Realtors, the Ontario Association of Realtors, Stephen and Caroline Tchang, United Way, and, the Board committed to working with the Region of Niagara to make shelter opportunities possible for Niagara's Youth.

3.5 PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In partnership with the **Niagara Catholic District School Board**, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara operated three satellite sites for the **Ontario Early Years Programs**. The families accessed opportunities for **261** children 0-6 years of age including age specific activities, concurrent parent leadership/education workshops, and a wealth of resources available for sign out including books, videos, and toys.

The Club continued a successful partnership with the **Ministry of Community, Youth Justice Services**. The Ministry continued the Community Service Order Program. **Community Organizations** accessed club facilities and staff to provide a variety of specialized services for program members.

4. FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

The Club's **Audited Financial Statements for 2004** are added as an insert to this report. The report was prepared by Waters, Meredith, McRae and Tchang of Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The **Fundraising Events** included initiatives such as Bingo, the Golf Tournament (Title sponsor: Falls Chevrolet Oldsmobile Cadillac Ltd.) Tag Day and the Non-Event.

Partner Initiatives included the Parking Lot and Tree Sales (Kiwans Club of Stamford), Partners in the Sky (Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre) and the staffing of the Slo-Pitch Canteen (Optimist Club) assisted in achieving budget goals.

Initiatives in the areas of **Charity of Choice** included the Round-Up (IGA, Morrison), St. Patrick's Day Dance (Chippawa Lions Club), Winter Festival of Lights and 105.7 EZ Mornings Golf Tournament (105.7 Easy Rock and Eagle Valley Golf Course)

Over **730 individuals, groups, and businesses** made significant contributions to Club programs through donations (Page13-14). Countless individual pledges were made through the efforts of Reach for the Stars and Partners in the Sky.

5. PROPERTY AND BUILDING

A **New Emergency Youth Shelter** located at 5207 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls was purchased June 2004 through the generosity of The Branscombe Family Foundation. Extensive renovations were performed with a grant from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The youth shelter was furnished through Oneida, Lighthouse Niagara, and HRSDC.

Equipment/Assets were acquired through out the season. The Club gratefully received a Defibulator through the generosity of John Corfield and Heart Niagara. The Club purchased a much needed bus through the Lion's Club of Niagara Falls.

Extensive work continued to develop a **New Child and Youth Center**. Efforts to date were supported by the Falls Management Company, League of Friends, and Venerino V. P. Panici Architects Inc.

6. FUTURE OUTLOOK

The year 2005 represents the **45th Anniversary** of the Club's Operation. A great deal of excitement will be generated from this moment in time in the history of Niagara's child and youth services. We will celebrate a rich history of serving children and youth and make extraordinary strides towards expanding this much-needed service through out Niagara. Key areas of effort will be the development of a **New Child and Youth Center**, continued expansion **Bridging the Gaps** in services.

6.1 45th ANNIVERSARY

In 2005, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara will celebrate 45 years of serving children and youth. It is the dream to engage former members, Board and staff through out the year to reminisce about special moments and occasions over the forty-five year history, exchange stories about meaningful memories and friendships that changed their lives and to share the excitement of new beginnings, serving the children and youth of Niagara for the 50 years to come.

6.2 NEW CHILD AND YOUTH CENTER

Various studies, between 1998 to 2002, forecasted that the current Boys and Girls Club of Niagara facility located on Culp Street would not accommodate the growth of Niagara Falls. These predictions are now a reality, and a new facility is vital in continuing to meet the growing and evolving needs of Niagara Falls' children and youth.

In 2002, the Club received a generous gift of five acres of land for the purpose of building a new home on McLeod Road in Niagara Falls. Input was gathered from members, volunteers, and stakeholders. Club staff and volunteers also met with members and potential partners to solicit their input. Designs were refined based on continuing stakeholder input, and site-specific considerations. A Site Plan was forward to the City of Niagara Falls for rezoning and severance purposes, February 2004.

The Preliminary Project Budget Report indicated that the potential funding sources are sufficient to cover the estimated capital costing for a 46,000 square feet facility. Additional “phases” can be added as funding becomes available.

The Club intends to operate the same array of programs and services as currently delivered in a new facility that will support a greater number of participants in an enhanced environment. The overwhelming participation and usage occurring in the current programs supports the fact that these services are needed and are not available through other service providers.

Results from a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, completed December 15, 2004, indicate strong support in the community for this project. Through out 2005, the Club will begin the steps necessary to fund the New Child and Youth Center and look forward to working with dedication to ensure 50 more years of service to children and youth.

6.3 BRIDGING THE GAPS 2005

As a result of previous research and effort, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara will launch Adventure Quest Programs though out the Region. These programs funded through the Boys and Girls Club of Ontario and the Provincial Government will provide 2,400 new opportunities for the Region's youth.

The Club will continue to address the needs of teens and youth at risk through offset programs and services and liaison with Youth Councils and Community Policing.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF NIAGARA

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2004 - 2005**

Executive Committee

<i>President</i>	<i>Dan Nywening</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Sharon Salci</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Richard Slater</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Elaine Wallis</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Larry Warden</i>
<i>Member at Large</i>	<i>Sandy Hetherington</i>

Directors

<i>Michael Colaneri</i>	<i>Krista Degazio</i>
<i>John Drake</i>	<i>Shannon Gibson</i>
<i>Barbara Greenwood</i>	<i>Delia Iafrate</i>
<i>Scott Johnstone</i>	<i>Bart Maves</i>
<i>Joyce McKellar</i>	<i>Diane McLean</i>
<i>Bill Roach</i>	<i>Brian Wilcox</i>
<i>Mike Higham- Youth</i>	<i>Carolynn Ioannoni – City of Niagara Falls</i>

PAST PRESIDENTS

1959 – 1960	<i>R.G. Christopher</i>
1960 – 1961	<i>R.G. Christopher</i>
1961 – 1962	<i>R.S. Griffin</i>
1962 – 1963	<i>D.G. Elsley</i>
1963 – 1964	<i>F.C. Cullimore</i>
1964 - 1965	<i>B.L. Walker</i>
1965 – 1966	<i>J.P. Matthews, Q.C.</i>
1966 – 1967	<i>A.A. MacBain</i>
1967 – 1968	<i>A.H. Neal</i>
1968 – 1969	<i>D.E. Nash</i>
1969 – 1970	<i>Rev. H.B. Stokreef</i>
1970 – 1971	<i>G.E. Martin</i>
1971 – 1972	<i>K.H. Lindsay</i>
1972 – 1973	<i>J.G. Hallworth</i>
1973 – 1974	<i>C.W. Wasbinder</i>
1974 – 1975	<i>Archdeacon N. Standish</i>
1975 – 1976	<i>Emma Bearss</i>
1976 – 1977	<i>W.M. G. Overs</i>
1977 – 1978	<i>Vin Johns</i>
1978 – 1979	<i>Paisley January</i>
1979 – 1980	<i>Donald G. Robertson</i>
1980 – 1981	<i>Brian Merrett</i>
1981 – 1982	<i>George Bailey</i>
1982 – 1983	<i>George Bailey</i>
1983 – 1984	<i>Glenn Gandy</i>
1984 – 1985	<i>Nicholas Minov</i>
1985 – 1986	<i>Glenn Gandy</i>
1986 – 1987	<i>Glenn Gandy</i>
1987 – 1988	<i>Paul Heath</i>
1988 – 1989	<i>Don Graham</i>
1989 – 1990	<i>Bob Gale Jr.</i>
1990 – 1991	<i>John Sirianni</i>
1991 – 1992	<i>Patricia Weston</i>
1992 – 1993	<i>Jim Rocca</i>
1993 – 1994	<i>Don Graham</i>
1994 – 1995	<i>Dennis Bowers</i>
1995 – 1996	<i>Dennis Bowers</i>
1996 – 1997	<i>Brian Pellow</i>
1997 – 1998	<i>Brian Pellow</i>
1998 – 1999	<i>Bill Walters</i>
1999 – 2000	<i>Bill Walters</i>
2000 – 2001	<i>John Russell</i>
2001 – 2002	<i>John Russell</i>
2002 – 2003	<i>Larry Warden</i>
2003 – 2004	<i>Larry Warden</i>