



**Boys & Girls Club
of Niagara**

A good place to be



2009 Annual Report Summary

Executive Director Remarks

Each year, it requires a greater number of dedicated staff, volunteers and community supporters to provide the Boys and Girls Club programs and services throughout the Niagara Region. I am very grateful to all who met the challenges and opportunities in 2009 with such enthusiasm and resolve. You are truly inspiring. I am trusting your contributions have been rewarded with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Together we can work to build a brighter future for Niagara's children and youth.

JoAnne Turner
Executive Director

Mission Statement

“To provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life.”

Club Profile

The Boys & Girls Club of Niagara is part of a national movement with over seven hundred community locations throughout Canada. Together with the National and Regional offices the movement provides innovative and effective programs to assist in the healthy educational, social and physical development of Canadian children and youth. For over one-hundred years, professionally trained staff and dedicated community volunteers have helped hundreds of thousands of children and youth in safe supportive environments.

The Boys & Girls Club Model is more comprehensive than prevention, recreation or educational programs alone. The development approach offers children what research says is the most needed, relationships with positive role models (adults and peers), structure and safety, access to a diverse range of programs that include recreation, play and expression, opportunity for acquiring positive behaviours, self esteem and hope for the future.

Core Values

Inclusion & Opportunity:

We strive to offer children and youth from all economic, cultural and social backgrounds access to the resources, supports and opportunities that will enable them to overcome barriers and achieve their positive potential in life.

Respect & Belonging:

We provide a safe, supportive place, where every child is listened to, respected and valued in an environment of inclusion and acceptance. Our staff and volunteers model honesty, fair play, positive attitude, cooperation and respect for self and others.

Empowerment:

We believe all young people can grow into responsible, contributing and self-reliant members of society. Children and youth are at the centre of everything we do. Through adventure, play and discovery, we encourage and empower them to develop healthy lifestyles, a life-long passion for learning, leadership and life skills, and a sense of social responsibility.

Collaboration:

We work together with families and volunteers in each community, in partnership with the public and private sector, to create healthy community solutions to providing children and youth with what they need for optimal development.

Speaking Out:

We speak out on behalf of children, youth and their families to reduce disadvantage, enhance their lives and enable their voices and ideas to be heard.

- Our sole mandate is to serve children and youth – they are our ONLY priority in programming and fund allocation.
- The ability to participate is guaranteed – NO child is ever denied access.
- 98% of former members surveyed by Ipsos-Reid for Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada credited a particular staff member for developing, helping and supporting them.
- Programs are designed to create a continuum of opportunities that build leadership and character in every child throughout every stage of their life.

President's Report

2009 has been an incredible journey for everyone involved with the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara. The state of the economy brought extraordinary challenges and opportunities. To assist Niagara families to manage these difficult times, the Club invested in expanding programs to reach 40% more children and youth throughout the Region. I am very grateful to my fellow Board members, Club staff and community partners for their innovation, flexibility, and enthusiasm to ensure access to programs for a record 4,638 children and youth full members and 14,825 associate members of the broader community throughout the Region.

Along with challenges in operating demands were much needed capital opportunities. In February, through the generosity of the Holy Family Boys Home, the Club acquired a property in Fort Erie which would house partner not for profit organizations and Boys and Girls Club programs and services. In the same month, the Club hosted the Grand Opening of the Boys and Girls Club Queen Elizabeth Centre, in St. Catharines, currently housing after school programs for 100 children per evening and many others through the day and weekends. Throughout the summer and fall the Club received confirmation of capital funding to expand program space in Fort Erie and transitional youth housing space in Niagara Falls from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Initiative.

Most exciting of course was the confirmation in December from the Federal and Provincial governments of \$8 million in infrastructure stimulus funding for the New Niagara Falls Centre. All projects are to be completed by March 2011. We move into 2010, celebrating our 50th Anniversary. The new strategic plan to be finalized in May, calls for flexible approaches and strong partnerships to continue providing programs and services in a recovering economy. The work to be done will bring more challenges and cannot be done alone. It is only the tremendous support from the community that opens doors and keeps the doors open for Niagara's children and youth.

Respectfully submitted by

William Walters
President

Core Programs

Membership Program - 4,682 Children and Youth held full memberships in 2009. Children and youth of all ages are eligible for membership. The full cost of a membership is \$20.00 annually per child and \$50.00 annually per family in a Club Unit and \$5.00 annually in a Satellite Unit. A youth membership provides access to age specific Club Programs including gymnasium and aquatic activities, computer labs, craft areas and leadership development opportunities. No one is denied access due to financial constraints.

Family Resource Programs - Childcare programs licensed through the Ministry of Family and Children's Services offered from Niagara Falls provides families of preschool and school aged childcare programs with quality care from 7:00 am to as late as 10:00 pm. Meal programs provide nutritious snacks, breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Transportation ensures accessibility. The Family Resource Centre offered in Niagara Falls provides families with opportunities to participate including Brighter Futures as well as linkages to many other community family support systems. Holiday Camp Programs offered from Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and St. Catharines provide Christmas Break, March Break and Summer Camps. Full day activities with during the school breaks. The Club provided access to 2,975 camp weeks in 2009.

Sports and Recreation Programs - Participation in recreation and physical activity is an important part of a child's overall physical and social development. Research suggests that these benefits can stretch well beyond childhood into adulthood. Sport and Recreation Programs for children and youth offered in Niagara Falls 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 869 opportunities in programs that included Gymnastics, Golf, Jazz, Ballet, Karate, House Leagues, Hip Hop Dance, and Rock Climbing Courses. The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara is an authorized provider of Canadian Lifesaving Society. The variety of water activities for all ages includes a complete learn to swim program with the focus on Water Smart®. In 2009 there were 1,268 registrations in Swim Lessons, provided by certified instructors and guards. Over 250, Niagara youth benefited from attendance in the 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.

Outreach Programs - Torch and Keystone Clubs are nationwide Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada programs that provide opportunities for children and youth to contribute to their local Club and community. Through volunteerism children and youth have the opportunity to influence programs and services, fundraise, participate in advocacy roles on Boards and Councils and qualify for Scholarship opportunities through the Future Leaders program. Weekly meetings are organized and supervised by our Club staff. This program is designed to give youth a place to make a difference. Shelter Programs are designed to provide temporary housing, shower and laundry facilities and meals for youth without secure housing. The average age of members is 17 -19 years of age. During the average stay of 10 days, Shelter and Regional staff work to support the youth in their efforts to secure affordable housing. In 2009 the shelter had 254 youth intakes.

Transportation and Meal Services - The transportation and meal services are a critical piece to accessibility. Without these programs, participation for many children and youth would be impossible. The Meal Services are available providing supper club for Zone program participants; three meals daily for childcare and shelter participants; and nutritious breakfasts and snacks for Before and After School participants. Staff and volunteers served an average of 792 meals and snacks weekly to children and youth throughout the Region. Utilizing a fleet of vehicles, Transportation Services are provided to increase access to the Kids Zone Programs, Teen Zone Programs, Childcare Programs, and Shelter services. In 2009, children and youth received an average of 636 rides weekly.

Community Programs - Working in partnership with several organizations, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara created opportunities for an estimated 14,825 members of the community. Programs were accessed primarily at the Culp Street location, where program space was utilized to provide diverse programs to meet public needs. The community participated in aquatic programs, recreational and educational programs and special event activities. In partnership with the District School Board of Niagara, the Boys and Girls Club housed two Alternative Education Programs at the Culp Street location. These programs are designed to provide youth the opportunity to earn credits toward reaching their high school diploma. In partnership with the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara operated a satellite site for the Ontario Early Years Programs. The Club continued a successful partnership of 10 years with the Ministry of Community, Youth Justice Services to work with youth through the Community Service Order Program. Staff provide leadership and assist the youth with completing their required community work.



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Past Presidents

1959 – 1960	R.G. Christopher
1960 – 1961	R.G. Christopher
1961 – 1962	R.S. Griffin
1962 – 1963	D. Elsley
1963 – 1964	F.C. Cullimore
1964 - 1965	B.L. Walker
1965 – 1966	J.P. Matthews, Q.C.
1966 – 1967	A.A. MacBain
1967 – 1968	A.H. Neal
1968 – 1969	D.E. Nash
1969 – 1970	Rev. H.B. Stokreef
1970 – 1971	G.E. Martin
1971 – 1972	K.H. Lindsay
1972 – 1973	J.G. Hallworth
1973 – 1974	C.W. Wasbinder
1974 – 1975	Archdeacon N. Standish
1975 – 1976	Emma Bearss
1976 – 1977	W.M. G. Overs
1977 – 1978	Vin Johns
1978 – 1979	Paisley January
1979 – 1980	Donald G. Robertson
1980 – 1981	Brian Merrett
1981 – 1982	George Bailey
1982 – 1983	George Bailey
1983 – 1984	Glenn Gandy
1984 – 1985	Nicholas Minov
1985 – 1986	Glenn Gandy
1986 – 1987	Glenn Gandy
1987 – 1988	Paul Heath
1988 – 1989	Don Graham
1989 – 1990	Bob Gale Jr.
1990 – 1991	John Sirianni
1991 – 1992	Patricia Weston
1992 – 1993	Jim Rocca
1993 – 1994	Don Graham
1994 – 1995	Dennis Bowers
1995 – 1996	Dennis Bowers
1996 – 1997	Brian Pellow
1997 – 1998	Brian Pellow
1998 – 1999	Bill Walters
1999 – 2000	Bill Walters
2000 – 2001	John Russell
2001 – 2002	John Russell
2002 – 2003	Larry Warden
2003 – 2004	Larry Warden
2004 – 2005	Dan Nywening
2005 – 2006	Dan Nywening
2006 - 2007	Sharon Salci
2007—2008	Elaine Wallis
2008 - 2009	Elaine Wallis
2009 - 2010	Bill Walters

REACHING MORE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

New Boys & Girls Club Center in Fort Erie

In February of 2009, the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara with the assistance of a generous donation from the Holy Family Boys Home, purchased property at 20 Lewis Street, Fort Erie for the purpose of developing a community facility. The building currently houses offices for the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Fort Erie and the Friendship Festival with space for two additional tenants. The Club received confirmation of Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to renovate warehouse space to house a child and youth facility scheduled to be opened in 2010.

New Niagara Falls Centre

The Boys & Girls Club members board, and staff were pleased when, the federal and provincial governments made a joint announcement December 17, 2009 to commit \$8 million in infrastructure stimulus funding toward the construction of a New Niagara Falls Centre on McLeod Road in the City of Niagara Falls. A project that has been in progress for some time, the facility is now scheduled for completion March 2011.

Grand Opening St. Catharines Centre

February 17, 2009, the Club hosted the grand opening of the Queen Elizabeth Centre in St. Catharines. The facility houses a gymnasium, computer lab, art room and multi purpose facilities. New registrations in 2009 totalled 248 children and youth while serving 8,356 from the broader community.

Expansion to Port Colborne-Wainfleet

In collaboration with Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet the Boys and Girls Club offered Kid Zone after school programs two evening per week. Community Living provides transportation while the Boys and Girls Club delivers the programs to an average of 50 children per evening.

Board of Directors 2009/2010

Executive Committee

President	Bill Walters
Vice President Operations	Blake Merritt
Vice President Human Resources	Tim Sirianni
Vice President Programs	Louise Murphy
Past President	Elaine Wallis

Directors

Peter Conradi	Margaret Pirosko
Sandy Hetherington	Richard Slater
Flory Massi	Shannon Valenti
Diane McLean	Larry Warden
Carrie Morris	
Carolynn Ioannoni (City of Niagara Falls)	
Barbara Greenwood (Boys and Girls Club of Niagara Foundation)	



Now more than ever...

Volunteers

In 2009, 116 adults and youth committed 3,962 combined volunteer hours to programs and fundraising events. These dedicated individuals offered their services to run specialty programs, cook for the Supper Club and supervise various program areas. Fundraising volunteers assisted with many events including the Golf Tournament, Bonspiel, Partners in the Sky and other various initiatives.

Outstanding Contributors 2009

Builders - President's Circle - Partners

Bob Sr. & Ida Gale	Boys and Girls Club of Niagara Foundation	Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada	Branscombe Family Foundation	City of Niagara Falls	City of St. Catharines	Giant Tiger	Government of Canada	Government of Ontario	Holy Family Boys Home	Kiwanis Club of Stamford
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	The Ontario Trillium Foundation	RBC Foundation	Regional Chair's Golf Tournament	Regional Municipality of Niagara	The DiCenzo Family	The Estate of Annie Kathleen Haine	United Way of Niagara Falls & Greater Fort Erie	United Way St. Catharines and District	Walker Industries Holdings Ltd.	

Champions - Benefactors

Al Reid Memorial Tournament	105.1 The River	Archie Kitzman	Bill and Barbara Greenwood	Bill Roach	Blake & Karen Merritt	Bob Wilkinson	Brian Pellow	Brock Ford Sales
Canadian Tire Financial Services	Canadian Tire Foundation for Families	Casino Niagara	Chippawa Lions Club	Community Foundations of Canada	Cora's Breakfast & Lunch Niagara Falls	Cotton Inc.	Crawford Smith & Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP	Derosé Bros. General Contracting
Dumont Specialty Meats	Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP	E.S. Fox Ltd.	EDS Canada	For the Needy - Not the Greedy	Future Shop St. Catharines	Gales Gas Bars Ltd.	HOCO Entertainment and Resorts	Home Depot Niagara Falls
Hyde's Distribution	Independent Order of Foresters	JoAnne & Gord Turner	Law Office of Brian C. Wilcox	Lions Club of Niagara Falls	Maid of the Mist Steamboat Co. Ltd	Monte Carlo Bingo Association	Mr. Calvin Beresh	Niagara Association of REALTORS
Niagara Falls Community Outreach	Niagara Falls Foodland	Niagara Parks Commission	Olsen-Sottile Insurance Brokers Inc.	PartSource Niagara Falls	RBC Dominion Securities	Refine it Now Inc.	Rotary Club of Niagara Falls	Salvation Army Niagara Falls
Sears St. Catharines	Signature Signs	Stamford Lions Club	Stephen King Photography	Studio 55 Hair Salon	The Keg Spirit Foundation	The McLean Family	The Niagara Falls Review	Tim Hortons
TransCanada Pipelines				Vic Teso Memorial Golf Tournament				Vince Kerrio Jr.