



# British Columbia Childhood Cancer Parents' Association

"We Help Families of Children with Cancer"

April 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Connections

Welcome to BCCCPA!

[www.bcccpa.org](http://www.bcccpa.org)

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*Dan Mornar, BCCCPA Chair*

In November of 2002 twelve parents gathered at a restaurant in New Westminster and founded the **BC Childhood Cancer Parents' Association**. It was time...these parents felt that their voice be added to the chorus of many others who were speaking on behalf of children and youth with cancer and their families. **BCCCPA** works closely with the BC Children's Hospital Pediatric Oncology/Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Program, Surrey Memorial Hospital and Victoria General Hospital to name a few to identify the programs and services that will help a child or youth with cancer or a blood disorder meet the many challenges of diagnosis and treatment. Supporting the areas of patient care, outreach, advocacy and pediatric cancer research are the cornerstones of the **BCCCPA** mission.

**BCCCPA** advocates for and helps to fund programs and services that strive to improve the survival rates of pediatric cancers while also enhancing the quality of life for both the pediatric cancer patient and their family. Since 2003 through **BCCCPA's** 'Family Financial Aid Program' and other outreach initiatives, more than \$350,000.00 has been raised. As result of several campaigns to raise awareness and support more than 300 families have benefitted while coming from more than 200 communities across British Columbia.

We hope you will join us in our mission as we continue to raise awareness and support for children and youth with cancer and blood disorders and their families. 2009 was **BCCCPA's** most successful year to date in the delivery of financial aid and support services to families. More than 100 families received aid with more than 700 donors involved and \$136,000.00 raised.

**'TOGETHER WE CAN'**

Yours truly,

Dan Mornar

Chair/BCCCPA

### BCCCPA Receives \$15,000 from AIK ~ Athletes in Kind

BCCCPA would like to offer its gratitude to Athletes in Kind for their generous donation of \$15,000!

Athletes in Kind organizes athletic and non athletic events to raise money for families battling cancer. Their events include Pitt Meadows Day Head Shave, Canada Day Kid Fun Run, "kids help kids" race series and individual events hosted by team AIK members. They also have a year round elementary school running program called the Athletes In Kind Km Club.

Visit AIK online at [www.athletesinkind.com](http://www.athletesinkind.com)



*BCCCPA receives a donation from the Founder & President of Athletes in Kind – Lorie Muller.*

Did you know... Every year in BC approximately 150 Children are diagnosed with a life threatening cancer or blood disorder.

Special points of interest:

- Singleton Urquhart LLP hosted their 5th annual auction for BCCCPA.
- An unprecedented \$30,000 was raised.
- Be sure to join us again next fall!

## Annual Singleton Urquhart Auction



L-R: Simone Carpenter (BCCCPA), Catherine Tsang (Singleton Urquhart), Brendan Whieldon

On November 6, 2009, **Singleton Urquhart LLP** teamed up with BCCCPA to host their 5th annual live and silent auction. This year's auction was full of joy, cheer and most importantly, kind people coming together for a great cause. As in previous years, our generous sponsor hosted the event at their beautiful

downtown offices, providing food and drinks to over 150 people who attended. Their staff worked hard for months preparing for the event, which included recruiting items for the auction. A few highlights this year were a raffle for 2 tickets to anywhere in N. America & the Caribbean donated by Air Canada, & a performance by a group of talented Flamenco dancers. Cecilia Maerov from BCCCPA worked alongside the Singleton staff to make this event an incredible success raising an unprecedented \$30,000.

*"A big thank you to Singleton Urquhart and everyone who donated and purchased items for your incredible generosity. It could not have happened without you."*

*- Cecilia Maerov, BCCCPA Fundraiser*

All proceeds went of course to families that have children with cancer, with ideal timing right before the holidays.

## Country Furniture Joins the BCCCPA Team!

**Country Furniture** started by donating all the proceeds from their first Hot Dog Sale at both the Granville (Vancouver) and Marine Dr. (North Vancouver) locations, with a total of more than \$1,800.



Kerstin Snelling and Chris "the hot dog guy" at Country Furniture's fundraiser.

They had such a great time that the staff then decided to organize their first garage sale, raising over \$2,400!

Subsequently, one of the most successful — and fun! — events was the **Country Furniture** Pub Night at Tatlows Pub — great food, 50/50 draws and lots of door prizes for all who came out to support. Thanks to Marlene and her wonderful team at the Granville Country Furniture!

Overall, during last two years **Country Furniture** has raised more than \$9,600 — all for BCCCPA. Way to go... **Country Furniture!**

### About Country Furniture:

*Country Furniture is Vancouver and Calgary's premiere furniture store. Located in Vancouver on the South Granville Slope, North Vancouver on Marine Drive and now in the Design District of Downtown Calgary.*

Visit them online at [www.countryfurniture.net](http://www.countryfurniture.net)



Did you know... In BC there are approximately 350 children with cancer & blood disorders in ongoing treatment at any given time.

Special points of interest:

- BC's Biggest Breakfast campaign kicks off annually on May 1st.
- Host your own Biggest Breakfast at anytime, anyplace, during the year!

### "BC's Biggest Breakfast !"

BC's Biggest Breakfast Campaign has been running for three years now, and kicks off their 4th year on May 1st and continues throughout the year. People from across the province have been hosting the Breakfast fundraisers in their homes, halls, businesses, and schools. This fun, simple fundraiser has raised over \$50,000.00 since its inception in 2007.



*Karen Gibson from the Pied Piper Preschool is busy making pancakes for the children at their annual BC's Biggest Breakfast .*

For example, Pied Piper Preschool in Burnaby has been proudly hosting a breakfast annually since 2007. Pied Piper's teacher, Karen Gibson, lost her nephew, Quinn Dunbar, in 2008 to cancer and knows the financial difficulties families face in such a situation. The children and their families come to the preschool for a fun morning of

crafts, playtime and pancakes. They alone have raised over \$2,000. A good time is had by all while supporting a good cause.

In 2009, a BC's Biggest Breakfast fundraiser began at the Deep Cove Yacht Club (DCYC) in North Vancouver. This was an amazing event (raising over \$6,000 on its own) with an incredible amount of community support. Almost everything was donated – the DCYC Club house, a grill from the Lions Club, 72 pounds of sausage from the British Butcher Shoppe, 125 bagels from The Mount Royal Bagel Factory, and Granola Cereal from Nature's Path.

Special thanks to a long list of additional sponsors including: Delany's coffee—Lynn Valley, Market Place IGA—Esplanade, Starbuck's Coffee—Dollarton Highway, Honey Doughnut's—Gallant Ave., Safeway—Parkgate, Save-on-Foods (Lynn Valley), Save-on-Foods (Park & Tilford), Country Furniture, Echo Valley Ranch and Spa, North Shore Orthopaedic and Sports Clinic, Jikky—Lynn Valley Hair Stylist, In Bloom Kids, My old Fence—Bird House, Red Tulip Gift Gallery—Lynn Valley, The Sanctuary—Parkgate, Marianna Park Lane Hair Stylists, Milestones—Park Royal, Pacific West Marine, Best Western Carlton Plaza—Victoria

For more information on how to host your own breakfast please visit [www.bcccpa.org](http://www.bcccpa.org), click on "Fundraising", then go to "BC's Biggest Breakfast".

Special points of interest:

- BCCCPA HEROES Golf Tournament was a big success once again!
- Watch for the announcement of the 2010 venue, soon!

### BCCCPA HEROES Golf Tournament!

The 2009 "BCCCPA HEROES" Golf Tournament was a huge success last September and netted more than \$12,000.00 for families in need! YAHOO!!

BCCCPA would like to thank - Trevor Gibson & Chris Thorne - for making this a fun, memorable event that was enjoyed even more, due to the great props from Etap Productions (Jim & Susan Pate), + extra help from Trevor's wife (Sandy), a multitude of exceptional friends and family, and unnamed others who put a lot of time and effort into it's success!

Eaglequest Coyote Creek did a great job as the "host" course for all of our golfing teams and other participants (guests) that came for the dinner, awards

and festivities afterwards.

We're also sending out a huge "THANK YOU!" to all of the companies and individuals that sponsored the event, sponsored holes and/or donated prizes - along with a surprise visit from a few Celebrities and Superheroes!

The registration form for participants and sponsors will be available for our 2010 tournament soon.

Check our website for more details about this year's BCCCPA HEROES Golf Tournament - if you can help as a Sponsor, Donor, or Golfer, your participation will be most appreciated - see you soon!



Did you know... When a family has a child suddenly diagnosed with cancer, usually one parent quits their job to care for their child fulltime — could you afford a loss of income?

Special points of interest:

- Brendan celebrates 12th birthday with a massive fundraiser at his school.
- Participants from across the community joined the fun-filled event.
- \$7,000 was raised benefitting both the school's sports programs and BCCCPA.

## Brendan's Birthday Bash Raises \$5,000 for BCCCPA!



Brendan Whieldon and Cameron Moreau with the Canucks' team mascot "Fin".

Brendan Whieldon knows how to throw a party. For the past 6 years he's lobbied his friends, family and community to help him sell Kourageous Kids Art Calendars to raise money for children fighting cancer. This year he tried a new approach to fundraising. He gave up his 12th birthday to throw a "GIGANTIC" fundraising party at his school.

The theme of the party was what Brendan's parents believe has kept Brendan in this world for so long: music, fitness, nutrition, fun, friends, community and a desire to give back.

The school was transformed into "party central" with the gymnasium, multi-purpose room, library, music room, and hallways crowded with fitness activities. Core training, stability training, eye-hand coordination, a bouncy castle, sumo wrestling, dancing and karate demonstrations were just some of the events. Fin signed autographs and gave photo opportunities to the children. Face painters created masterpieces the children still wore the following days. The D.J. kept the party rocking. CTV, Global and The Langley Advance recorded the event.

Brendan's lived in Walnut Grove his whole life so the community knows him well, and many local establishments got involved at his party. Starbucks and their customers have helped him sell calendars for years and they continued their generosity by serving donated coffee and raffle items. The staff at Save-On-Foods combed over food labels and brought in items time after time to find calories with little

volume to sustain Brendan through his years of chemotherapy. They dedicated days of man-hours to create spectacular cakes, and attended the party to help serve and organize. Iris was the first to donate raffle items, but the ladies at the store are so touched year after year with Brendan's courage and desire to help children that they individually went shopping and filled four enormous hampers with new toys to be distributed to children in hospital at Christmas. They were giddy, "Shopping for these toys made our whole Christmas." Over 50 signs were made by the school children and displayed in the gym to thank the sponsors who made this campaign a huge success.

Brendan's long time karate buddies, Zach and Nic shaved their heads to raise money for cancer. Athletes from Karate, Skydiving, Skiing, directors of BCCCPA, doctors and nurses from Langley Memorial, Staff from Topham, teen/adult cancer survivors and staff from BCCH also gave up their time to create this spectacular event that will be remembered years into the future.



Ernie, Zach, Nik Charlton & Sensei Peter Stoddardt pose for a photo at Brendan's Birthday Bash.

The party was a tremendous success with \$2,000 being donated to the school for sports programs and \$5,000 being donated to BCCCPA to support families with children fighting cancer. Smiles were seen and laughter was heard in the halls for weeks following the party.

Interviews from the party can still be seen on-line at CTV, Global TV and on BCCCPA's website (News & Events section) - [www.bcccpa.org](http://www.bcccpa.org).

Did you know... Many costs are not covered by healthcare in BC ~ such as life supporting liquid nutrition for a child on a feeding tube — needed due to extreme nausea from chemotherapy.

Special points of interest:

- The Genome Sciences Centre focuses on DNA sequencing research.
- A BCCCPA grant of \$10,000, matched equally by another donor, has helped enable an important advance in the field.

## BCCCPA Donates \$10,000 to the Genome Sciences Centre



L-R: Marco Marra (GSC), Simone Carpenter, Sasha Maslova (GSC), Olena Morozova (GSC), Gayle Nelson, Suzanne Dunbar, Dave Dunbar and Al Carpenter.

BCCCPA recently donated \$10,000, to the Genome Sciences Centre, matched by another donor for a total grant of \$20,000 to the project.

### About the Genome Sciences Centre:

The Genome Sciences Centre (GSC), led by Dr. Marco Marra, was the first group in the world to sequence the SARS-associated virus, and since then has established itself as a Canadian and world leader in DNA sequencing research. A few years ago, the centre became among the first four groups in the world to obtain early access to the new-generation sequencing technology called Illumina. The Illumina technology dramatically reduces sequencing cost while improving its throughput. This technology can determine the DNA sequence of all genes in a cancer cell while simultaneously detecting their expression levels. Over the past few months, the use of the Illumina technology at the GSC to study cancers has led to major breakthroughs in ovarian, and breast cancer as well as follicular lymphoma ([www.bcgsc.ca/about/news/](http://www.bcgsc.ca/about/news/)).

### Statement of Purpose of the GSC:

The goal of the neuroblastoma initiatives at the GSC is to use our expertise in genomics and DNA sequencing to identify novel therapeutic targets in high-risk neuroblastoma. We are working toward

this goal by participating in two collaborative projects with neuroblastoma experts, Dr. David Kaplan at the Hospital for Sick Children, and Dr. John Maris and his colleagues at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. None of these collaborations would have been possible without the generous donation from BCCCPA that helped us start working on neuroblastoma at the GSC.

*"This time of interprovincial and international linkage is unheard of in pediatric drug development so those living in the Neuroblastoma world are truly blessed with the collaboration and crossing of paths. It opens lines of communication for many advances in the future."*

*- Shannon Whieldon, BCCCPA*

**Update on characterizing neuroblastoma tumor initiating cells using Illumina sequencing:** (collaboration between the Genome Sciences Centre and the Kaplan lab at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

The funds from the BCCCPA foundation have helped to enable our collaboration with the Kaplan group at Sick Kids to characterize the neuroblastoma "queen bee" cells at a previously unprecedented resolution. These cells are thought to escape current therapies and contribute to tumor relapse. Early results from our sequencing experiments found that neuroblastoma "queen bee" cells from bone marrow metastasis of Sick Kids patients expressed B-cell markers, normally found in leukemia and lymphoma cancers. The potential clinical impact of this finding is significant, since it may suggest the use of existing leukemia and lymphoma drugs for treating metastatic neuroblastoma.

Did you know... More than 45% of families come from outside the lower mainland for their child's treatment ~ travel, accommodation, food & parking expenses can be significant!

Special points of interest:

- Susan Kerr is a director with BCCCPA and a Liaison for the Vancouver Island community.
- She has been very active in that area expanding the BCCCPA presence and helping to make a difference in families' lives.

Letter from Susan Kerr, BCCCPA's Vancouver Island Liaison

*"Vancouver Island oncology families now have more options available to them than they did just over a year ago thanks to the awareness and the compassion of many special families within BCCCPA."*

- Susan Kerr, BCCCPA

My name is Susan Kerr, Patient / Family Advocate for the Victoria General Hospital Oncology Unit and one of the directors for the BC Childhood Cancer Parents' Association. As part of my job I assist families supporting their children through and after cancer treatment. Having supported my son through cancer treatment in 2005 I am aware of specific struggles and challenges that are presented to children and families throughout this childhood cancer journey. My relationship with the BC Childhood Cancer Parents Association as a director has enabled me to be given the support I need in assisting families throughout Vancouver Island. The BC Childhood Cancer Parents' Association has also dedicated a portion of their raised funds to enable the pediatric oncology unit at Victoria General Hospital to successfully extend and create important programs. Vancouver Island oncology families now have more options available to them than they did just over a year ago thanks to the awareness and the compassion of many special families within BCCCPA.

We are now entering into April 2010 and I would have to say that the past year has flown by at a fast and furious rate. My initial goals for the families have branched out to include many other avenues of support that far exceeded my expectations. I will summarize and give you a brief outline of some of the highlights over the past year:

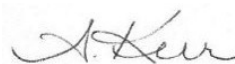
- Family adventures that included: Mini Golf, Batting Cages, Car Racing, Kayaking
- Monthly meetings with families - Specific topics for discussion and guest speakers that included:

- Dan Mornar: BC Children's Hospital Patient/Family Advocate, Director for BCCCPA
- Sharon Paulse: Leukemia Lymphoma Society of Canada, Patient Services Manager
- Leanne Drumheller: Owner of Sleeping Dog Farm and Retreat
- November 2009 Fundraiser: Casino Night - this night which included a silent auction, casino tables and a live auction raised over \$8,000
- Spa Connection with Nurture Thyself Day Spa
- Family Christmas party
- The new Victoria Aquarium tours
- Victoria Salmon Kings hockey games

The Power to Be is a wonderful adventure therapy group here in Victoria. They have had an ongoing and successful relationship with BC Children's Hospital for ten years, and this year we will be building on that relationship here on Vancouver Island. We are excited to have 4 adventure opportunities for 2010 that include Mary's Therapeutic Farm, Camp Bernard Day Camp, kayaking, gardening, and climbing activities.

I look forward to continued relationships within the community, and providing important avenues of support for the pediatric oncology families of Vancouver Island.

Thank you,



Susan Kerr

Patient / Family Advocate

Victoria General Hospital

Pediatric Oncology Unit

Director

BC Childhood Cancer Parents' Association

## Comics / Kids Page

Special points of interest:

- This comic strip was submitted by then 11-year-old Brendan Whieldon, “Neuroblastoma Warrior”.
- Joke of the Day was submitted by 12-year-old Quinn Dunbar



### Joke of the Day:

Q. How much does a pirates' earrings cost?

A. A “Buck-an-ear!”

...a favorite of Quinn Dunbar's



Did you know... to get that warm “fuzzy” feeling, visit our website at: [www.bcccpa.org](http://www.bcccpa.org), click on the “How You Can Help!” button ~ and become a Member, host a Breakfast... make a difference!

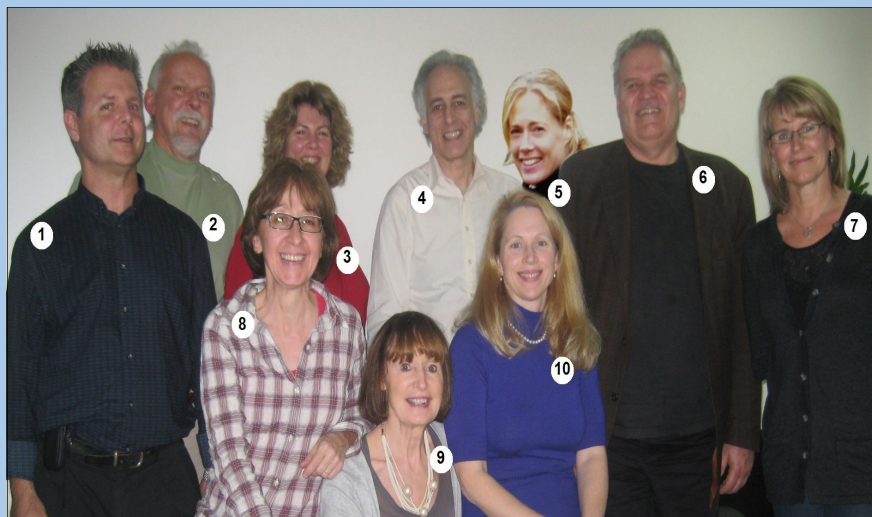
British Columbia Childhood Cancer Parents’ Association

[www.bcccpa.org](http://www.bcccpa.org)



### BCCCPA – Board of Directors

**A Big Thank You to the BCCCPA team for all of their hard work throughout the year!**



- 6) Chairperson — Dan Mornar
- 4) Vice Chairperson — Leslie Maerov
- 2 & 3) Treasurers — Al & Simone Carpenter
- 1 & 7) Fraser Valley Liaisons — Dave and Suzanne Dunbar
- 5) Vancouver Island Liaison — Susan Kerr
- 8 & 9) Fundraising Development — Gayle Nelson & Cecilia Maerov
- 10) Director — Shannon Whieldon
- Medical Advisory Staff — Dr. Paul Rogers MB, FRCP (Lond), FRCPC, MBA (not pictured)

See the “**News & Events**” \* section on our website to view other upcoming events & fundraisers this year...

- \* MAY 1st ~ “Kick-Off” of BCCCPA’s “BC’s Biggest Breakfast!” Fundraiser at Ricky’s ~ Central City Mall in Surrey
- \* Late summer “Hockey All-Star Fundraiser” thru TommyFit Ltd (includes NHL, WHL & European Star Players)
- \* SEPT ~ Porsche Club of America (Canada West) ESCAPE 2010 at Sun Peaks Resort — BCCCPA Charity of Choice
- \* Early Fall ~ Annual “BCCCPA HEROES” Golf Tournament at Eaglequest Coyote Creek in Surrey... AND MORE!

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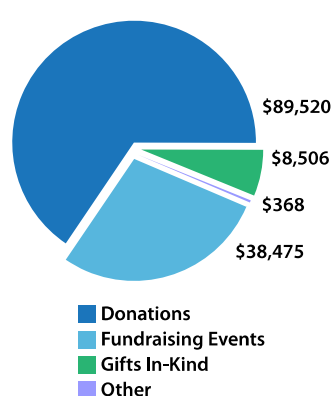
We’re on the Web!  
[www.bcccpa.org](http://www.bcccpa.org)

As you see in the “Revenue” Chart on the right, in 2009 the BCCCPA raised over \$ 136,000.00 !!!

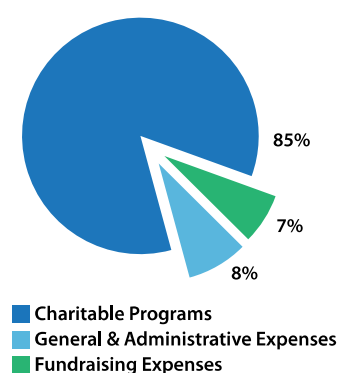
On the far right, the “Funds Distribution” Chart shows that , ) % of the monies raised was given out to Charitable Programs. The largest portion went to families in need via BCCCPA’s Family Financial Aid Program in 2009.

Thank You for our Success!

**BCCCPA 2009 Revenue**



**BCCCPA 2009 Funds Distribution**



The BCCCPA is a registered non-profit charitable society whose mission is to provide financial and emotional support to families who have children with cancer.

**“TOGETHER WE CAN”**

Non-Profit Registration #: 89530 8807 RR0001