

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



South Fraser Child Development Centre

Operated by Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association
Serving children with special needs and their families 1954 - 2004.



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Introduction

James has brought the history of the Centre to life from personal interviews and treasures of old newspaper clippings, pictures, annual reports, documents and scrapbooks. Also of great assistance has been a previous history of our Centre prepared in his own hand by our founder and long serving past Board Member and President – Mr. Norm Sherritt.

On behalf of the current Board, staff and the children and families we serve, I am extremely grateful to Norm, all the founding Board members and all those who have come before us for the wonderful legacy they built. Thank you also to all those who agreed to be interviewed and share their personal stories with James.

To the children, youth, adults and families that we have served and serve, and to our long term friends and supporters, I trust that you will find the pages that follow provide a pleasant trip back through the history of accomplishment of which you are an integral part.

To our new acquaintances and soon to become friends, I hope that you will delight in the difference that a dedicated group of families can make for the betterment of their community.

To our current Board members, staff and volunteers and all who follow, I hope that you will experience the genuine pride, and occasional pleasant surprise of stories unfamiliar or perhaps partially forgotten, that I experienced in reviewing these pages.

Gerard Bremault, MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer
South Fraser Child Development Centre
October 2004



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Preface

Many people driving by the South Fraser Child Development Centre's prominent location at 9460-140th Street in Surrey, might assume the impressive building and its expansive activities were established by a simple stroke of a pen at some level of government. And a reasonable assumption it might be, considering the centre's size, history, and remarkable reach, both directly and indirectly, to the disabled community. But fifty years ago, when this centre began with a group of parents organising rides for their disabled children to the only treatment Centre in Vancouver, things were not nearly so easy. This is a rare and remarkable story of a community coming together in a sustained effort spanning these past fifty years, creating and growing the services offered, from a bussing service into Vancouver for treatment, to this large community-based multi-disciplinary Child Development Centre, whose outreach programs have spawned other centres throughout the Lower Mainland.

The South Fraser Child Development Centre is a testament to fifty years of grassroots efforts by local area mothers and fathers, grandparents and friends, neighbours and volunteers, and service clubs. Their tireless efforts have created and expanded this facility over the years, to ensure no developmentally disabled child in the area would miss out on the opportunity to learn and to grow to be the best that he or she could be.

While there may be some disagreement about the exact date of the South Fraser Child Development Centre's fiftieth birthday, there is no doubt about the year it began its activities serving the disabled community. There are certainly, a series of milestones and key people back in its humble beginnings that laid the foundation for the remarkable multifaceted facility in operation today.

Telling the story of this centre not only ensures that all those people whose faith, labour, determination and love built this facility will not be forgotten, but it will show that when a community works together toward a common goal, anything is possible. It truly does take a village!

James Hunter



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There is Something Wrong with the Baby!

Norm and Mabel Sherritt's son David had a difficult birth. They took him to a specialist who gave them the grave news: severe mental retardation.

When the Etter's child was born they knew something was wrong.

The Pearson's son was born severely handicapped.

The Long Road to Treatment

These parents did not know one another yet but all shared very similar challenges: the tremendous burden of caring for a disabled child, along with their other often school-aged children. Back then the only facility in British Columbia that could help their disabled and growing child was a specialized clinic within the G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre in Vancouver. In addition to spending hours at doctor's offices throughout the Lower Mainland, they all faced the daily challenge of commuting with a severely disabled child to the G.F. Strong Rehab Centre in Vancouver. Remember these are the days long before car seats or even seat belts.

The Knights of Pythias of New Westminster

The Order Knights of Pythias is a great international fraternity, which was founded in Washington, DC, February 19, 1864, by Justice H. Rathbone, and embraces more than two thousand subordinate lodges in the United States and Canada, with occasional lodges having been formed elsewhere. The primary object of fraternal organizations is to promote friendship among men and to relieve suffering. Each organization adopts some outstanding principle as its objective. The individuality of an order is determined by its ideal sentiment. The distinguishing principles of the Order Knights of Pythias are "FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY and BENEVOLENCE".



Honourable Knight Ron Mannering

In 1950 the New Westminster chapter of the Knights of Pythias voted to make helping children suffering from Cerebral Palsy their principle objective. The next step was finding these children in order to offer some assistance. One of its members, Ron Mannering, travelled regularly throughout the Lower Mainland in the course of his work, so in 1951 the Pythians appointed Ron to seek out children in the New Westminster area who had cerebral palsy. Initially he could not find a single child. So he expanded his search to the entire Fraser Valley. Finally he located a child in Ladner, another in Langley, then Cloverdale and White Rock. Once found, The Knights of Pythias helped by putting the parents of cerebral palsied children in touch with one another, provided Christmas gifts and tried to bring a little joy to these children and their families by transporting them each year to the Totem Skating Club Ice Shows in New Westminster.

Ron Mannering's instrumental role in putting parents of cerebral palsied children together helped to create a network where the parents began sharing their experiences, challenges and needs.

Doctor Harry Kennedy and the Boundary Health Unit

It was at this time that Dr. Kennedy, Director of the Boundary Health Unit, had a young

medical student assigned to him. One of the tasks Dr. Kennedy assigned his Intern was to conduct an inventory of the Cerebral Palsy Cases in the Boundary Heath Unit district.

As a result of Pythian Knight Ron Mannering's efforts, as well as those of Dr. Kennedy and his assistant, not to mention all of the time spent together at the CP clinic, parents of cerebral palsied children in the Fraser Valley were pretty well known to each other. Parents were taking turns carpooling one another's children into Vancouver for treatment and for parents' meetings.

The Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia (CPABC)

The Cerebral Palsy Association Of British Columbia was founded by a group of concerned parents who wanted the best possible opportunities for children living with Cerebral Palsy, however, at this point, their activities were limited to providing the vital service of operating a Cerebral Palsy Clinic out of the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. In the spring of 1952 The CPABC established a committee "to explore the best means of expanding the operations of the Cerebral Palsy Association throughout the province". They scheduled a conference for May 29, 1953 and interested parents from all over the province were invited to attend. Ron Mannering and Doctor Kennedy's work made it possible to contact those "Interested Parents".

To inform and invite parents to attend the conference, a meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Etter in Ladner on May 15, 1953. Consequently, several parents from the Lower Fraser Valley did attend the conference held at the G. F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre.

The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association (LFVCPA)

Many of the parents whom had attended the Vancouver conference met at the home of Norm and Mabel Sherritt and their son David the following month on June 17, 1953. The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association was born on this day, although it took until January 12, 1954 for all the paperwork to be finalised for it to become a legally incorporated Society. The first executive was as follows:

President	Norm Sherritt	of Cloverdale
Vice President	E. A. Britz	of Ladner
Secretary	Mrs. Ethelda Crutchley	of White Rock
Treasurer	Mrs. L.C. Etter	of Ladner



The association began with members from Cloverdale, Langley, Ladner, and White Rock. For the first eight years, meetings were held monthly at the Cloverdale Health Centre and were a place for parents to share information and socialize and support one another with the challenges that come with raising a child with cerebral palsy.

When the first Annual General Meeting was held in February 1954, all officers were re-elected and plans were drawn up for regular transit services for area cerebral palsied children to commute to BC's only existing CP Clinic in Vancouver.

In the Transit Business with the First Van and Driver Frank Pearson

By August 1954 the association had raised enough money to purchase a 1947 nine-passenger dodge Van to transport children to G.F. Strong in Vancouver.

On September 1, 1954 the association's first employee, retired R.C.M.P. Officer Frank Pearson of White Rock began driving eight children per day to the Cerebral Palsy Clinic in Vancouver. Frank Pearson drove that Dodge van an average of 17,000 miles per year for the next four years. Volunteer mothers accompanied Frank Pearson and the children with each trip.

The Federal Department of Health

In December 1954 Dr. Kennedy helped the association apply for its first Federal health grant of \$4,567 to help finance the transit service.

The United Good Neighbour Organisation aka The United Way

Also in 1954, the LFVCPA became a charter member of the newly formed Surrey-New-Westminster United Good Neighbour organisation with Norm Sherritt elected as Charter Director. The United Good Neighbour organisation is now better known as "The United Way".

The BC Society for Crippled Children - "The Easter Seal Society"

The BC Society for Crippled Children soon learned of LFVCPA's transit arrangements for their cerebral palsied children and felt it was a duplication of their 'Bunny Bus' transit service, which they had been providing to a variety of handicapped children in the region for a number of years. Since the LFVCPA was unwilling to discontinue the service they'd worked so hard too establish, a compromise was reached whereas, the LFVCPA was given an "Easter Seal" franchise for the Surrey, Langley, and Delta area. They were now part of the 'Bunny Bus' program, which added several children with other disabilities to their ridership, but enabled them to join the Easter Seal fundraising program for their district.

This added considerable saliva to monthly meetings, as the entire membership was now responsible for folding, stamping, and addressing Easter Seals envelopes. The resulting funds were split fifty/fifty with the Easter Seal Society. In the first year, each organisation's share was \$585. In addition, The LFVCPA donated a further \$300 to the BC Society for Crippled Children and \$300 to the Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Vancouver. The LFVCPA also agreed to pay the cost of any uncollected fees at the Vancouver CP Clinic. Everyone was certainly a winner as a result of this collaboration.



Boundary Handicapped Children's Association

As the first organisation in the area formed to care for handicapped children, the LFVCPA was beginning to attract requests for aid from parents of mentally handicapped children, which they were not equipped to assist. The LFVCPA was therefore relieved to see the formation of the Boundary Handicapped Children's Association, the area's first organisation for the mentally disabled, with Dr. D. Benson as President. They received their first donation of \$50 from the LFVCPA.

In December 1955, the LFVCPA applied for another federal health grant to help with budgeted expenditures estimated at \$6,244.

A Second Bus on the Road

In February 1956, the LFVCPA began service of a second transit vehicle. This was partly due

to a request by the newly formed Boundary Society for the Mentally Handicapped. Parents of mentally handicapped children, some of whom were Cerebral Palsied, required rides to Beacon Hill School operated by the BC Society for Crippled Children. As a result, the BC Society for Crippled Children purchased the vehicle, and the LFVCPA provided the driver, the association's second employee, Mr. Art Bebbington. Quite a remarkable collaboration of overlapping community needs by active and concerned community members.

Several interdependent relationships between the LFVCPA and the United Good Neighbour Fund, the BC Society of Crippled Children, the Easter Seal Society, Cerebral Palsy associations of Vancouver and BC as well as the organisational assistance of Court Pleasantdale, The Canadian Order of Foresters and the South Fraser Chapter of the B.C. Registered Nurses Association were evolving and gratefully acknowledged in the 1956 annual report.

A Third Bus on the Road

By October 1956, the growing demands on the transit service, as well as some children who needed only half-day treatment in Vancouver, while others required a full day, meant the LFVCPA now needed a third bus. Once again, the BC Society for Crippled Children purchased the new "Bunny Bus" while the LFVCPA provided the resources for the daily driver, Mr. Hobbs. Now with three busses on the road daily carrying more and more children, the idea of a local facility could no longer be ignored. A further concern was the long daily bus ride for the children, and the inevitable overcrowding of the CP Clinic at G.F. Strong Rehab Centre.

The Knights of Pythias provided various gifts of much needed equipment to some of the area's children.



A Fourth Bus on the Road

In February 1957, Mr. Bebbington's transit van broke down and was declared beyond repair so once again the BC Society for Crippled Children purchased a new bus and Mrs. Langton took over as driver. In October a fourth vehicle was put on the road, driven by volunteers, to service the Ladner to Vancouver route.

The Organisation Hires its First Executive Secretary

The Cerebral Palsy Association of BC struck a committee to study the possibility of a "fringe clinic" in New Westminster or Surrey. At this point the decision was made to hire the organisation's first executive secretary, on a part-time basis, to take on the growing day-to-day responsibility of managing the growing transportation services. Her name was Leola Purdy of White Rock and she had formerly worked with the Vancouver Society for Retarded Children. She would take much of the load of the volunteer executive of the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association. The Cerebral Palsy Association of BC offered to pay her salary for the first three months.

Talk of a "Fringe Clinic"?

Meetings were held in March and June of 1957 with the Medical Advisory Board of the Cerebral Palsy Association of BC recommending that a 'Fringe Clinic' be set up in the area. Royal Columbia Hospital was approached to see if there was space available for the clinic and declined due to lack of available space.

Growing Pains – A New Constitution

The fifth annual general meeting was held in April 1958 with no change of officers, but a new constitution was introduced to provide for the association's business to be handled by a board of directors. This was deemed necessary with the growing responsibilities of day-to-day operations. Further, this new structure made it possible to attract representatives from throughout the geographical areas served by the Association as well as encourage board members who may not necessarily be parents of disabled children. At a time when discussions of building a clinic were taking shape, a social club structure was considered no longer adequate. Unfortunately, this new corporate structure resulted in the loss of much of the direct contact and involvement of the many parents that had been involved through the years.

A Plan Emerges to Make the "Fringe Clinic" a Reality

Also at that 1958 annual general meeting was the launch of a three-year plan to make the 'Fringe Clinic' a reality.

1958 would be spent planning

1959 would be spent financing

1960 would be spent building

Surrey Memorial Hospital and Dr. Kennedy to the Rescue

The LFVCPA approached the Surrey Memorial Hospital with a request for space, either within the hospital or on the hospital grounds. What followed was a long debate on the merits of either plan. When finally it was decided a separate building would be required, Dr. Kennedy was made Chairman of the planning committee and began immediately to make the plan a reality.



A location was identified on the hospital grounds for the new 'Crippled Children's Clinic'. As the plan took shape, so did the budget: \$80,000 dollars.

Belts Must Be Tightened: Down to Three Busses

Not only was that amount not in the coffers, but current activities were using more resources than the organisation was able to raise: The Beacon Hill School route had had to be discontinued due to a lack of resources, leaving three vehicles and drivers on the daily Vancouver route. And the LFVCPA still picked up the full cost of any uncollected fees at the Vancouver clinic.

Despite all regular fund-raising activities and a very active Easter Seals team in place, the organisation was forced to borrow from the CP association of BC and the bank at the end of each quarter. "How on earth would we ever raise enough money to build and operate our own treatment centre?"

1959 Brings A New Team on the Executive

1959 proved to be a turning point. At the annual general meeting, Norm Sherritt declined to run for president after six years at the helm. Mr. L.C. Etter was elected president in the first change of officers in the organisation's six-year history.

More Belt Tightening

With the poor financial situation continuing into 1959, it became unavoidable to lay-off part-time secretary Leola Purdy. This was a great blow, particularly at a time when so much planning and administrative work would be needed to get the clinic up and running.

Out of the Bus Business and into the Clinic Business

On March 1, 1959, as a further cost-saving measure, the BC Society for crippled children was persuaded to take-over the operation of the entire transportation system, along with our drivers, for a flat annual fee of \$5,700. This did not save LFVCPA as much money as had been hoped, but more importantly, it freed up the organization from the daily responsibilities of operating the transit system, allowing them to focus on the new clinic.

'The Crippled Children's Clinic'

Dr. Harry Kennedy was becoming increasingly involved in pushing the project through a myriad of obstacles. The clinic was now being referred to as a 'pilot project' because it would be the first centre of its kind located outside a large urban centre and only the third area in British Columbia to be served by such a facility.

The Cerebral Palsy Association of BC Lends a Hand with Mrs. Chowne

1959, 'The Year of Financing' had the LFVCPA drowning in paper. Briefs, proposals, and grant applications had to be prepared and much of this critical work was beyond the abilities of the volunteer Board. Mrs. Leola Purdy was sorely missed. Near the end of 1959, the CP Association of BC came to the rescue by loaning the services of their Mrs. Chowne to manage the growing paper tiger.

Norm Sherritt Heads 'Ways and Means' Committee for New Clinic

At the AGM in April 1960, Mr. Etter was re-elected president, and announced that the proposed building completion date of September 1960 would clearly not be met. A Ways and Means Committee was set up with Norm Sherritt as Chairman. Their goal: to raise \$15,000 for the new building.

A Turning Point and a New Full-Time Executive Director

1960 proved a turning point for the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association. In June 1960, bus driver Frank Pearson, the LFVCPA's first employee, retired after six years of driving crippled children to Vancouver for treatment. And in November 1960, following a recommendation by Mrs. Chowne, Marjorie Hardy was hired as the organisation's first full-time Executive Director. Miss Hardy would have the responsibility of supervising the programs offered in the new clinic, once built, and a temporary office was set up for her in the Bolivar Building in Whalley where she was joined by Mrs. Rose Hougan, who would support her with secretarial and bookkeeping duties.

The Children's Treatment Centre

In December 1960, Mr. Frank Pearson was appointed Chairman of the Building Committee. A key member of that committee was Mr. Stan Dainard who was a member of the Surrey Memorial Hospital Board. At a meeting of the Building Committee, Mr. Pearson moved that the name of the facility be "The Children's Treatment Centre" operated by the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association and that it be made available, *"not just for Cerebral Palsy, but for any crippling condition which requires physiotherapy and special education"*.



In January 1961, on property belonging to the Surrey Memorial Hospital, the foundation was laid for the treatment centre just one year later than projected by the original plan. The total cost of the building was \$14,540 which was \$460 less than the original budget set out by the Ways and Means Committee with not one cent from the Provincial or Federal Government. Among the larger donations were:

\$7,000	Labour provided by the Van Zor Grotto
\$1,200	Material supplied by Valley Lumber Yards
\$1,000	Van Zor Grotto followed by another \$750 in 1962
\$1,000	Municipality of Surrey followed by another \$1,250 in 1962
\$1,000	The Williamson Foundation
\$1,000	The Polio Foundation
\$400	BC Electric Company

along with so many other donations both financial and in-kind over the years leading up to this major undertaking.

The Van Zor Grotto

The Grotto is a charitable organization composed of Master Masons in good standing and the basic structure is erected upon Masonic precepts, with its origins dating from the 1890s.

The Order established Grottos in various cities in the U.S.A. and Canada, wherein Master Masons may meet and cultivate the cheerful side of life, with their main objective being the relief, support, treatment and research into the problems of the Cerebral Palsy Child, including dentistry for the handicapped child.



Grottos have been formed in the Pacific Northwest with Van Zor Grotto receiving its charter in 1958, with an active membership of over 200 in British Columbia, holding their monthly meetings in Vancouver.

Van Zor Grotto has been of great assistance to the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association Treatment Center in Surrey B.C.

Van Zor Grotto members erected the first and second phases of the Treatment Center with volunteer craftsmen starting in 1960. The original Center was supplied with equipment such as motorized wheelchairs, video cameras, tapes, chairs, special services such as specific learning ability components and Van Zor has continued its financial support ever since.

The Vancouver based VAN ZOR GROTTOS are members of the Northwest Grotto Association which includes Grottos from cities in Oregon, Washington, and B.C., all working on the projects of Cerebral Palsy and Dentistry for the Handicapped, barring no race creed of religion.

VAN ZOR is proud to assist the Treatment Center providing leadership, Presidents, and Directors since

its inauguration. Fund raising is done by taking a portion of the membership dues and through the efforts of the individual Grotto fund raising projects, as well as donations and bequeaths left to the Fund.

The Enchanted Lantern is a symbol, (usually in the form of a lapel pin), of Grotto Philanthropies, Cerebral Palsy and Dentistry for the handicapped. They are used by the Supreme Council to raise funds and are one of their major fund raisers. The Enchanted Lanterns are sold to the individual members for a \$50 donation. You will see them proudly displayed on Fezzes and other regalia.

Van Zor Grotto is active in supporting both Job's Daughters Bethel #40 and the Lansdowne Chapter, International order of Demolay. These are the girls and boys youth groups, which are also part of the Masonic Family.

1961 a Year of Change

1961 was a busy year. At the AGM in 1961, Mr. Etter resigned as president of the LFVCPA and Frank Pearson was elected president. Due to a change in policy over the sharing of revenues of the Easter Seals campaign, 1961 was the last year the LFVCPA participated in the program. This was a considerable blow to the organisation as the campaign had been a major source of funds for the Association. Mrs. R. Reichelt and Mr. Norm Sherritt report nearly four thousand mailings went out to Langley and Ladner earning \$1,148.50 with half (\$574.25) going back to the Easter Seals Society, and the other half funding the Association's transportation program.



New Ladies' Auxiliary to the LFVCPA to the Rescue

On April 11, 1961, 21 ladies, many of whom had been very active with the Easter Seals Campaign in the area, met to discuss how to replace those much-needed funds. They agreed to form an Auxiliary to the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association and voted Mrs. H. Perry as its first president. One of the group's first major fundraisers was a garden party at the home of Mrs. C. G. Brown on July 15, 1961. The Auxiliary would provide untiring financial support to the centre operation over the coming years.

The Official Opening of the Children's Treatment Centre

The Children's Treatment Centre officially opened on September 4, 1961. It was a 24-foot by 60 foot prefabricated building located on the corner of the Surrey Memorial Hospital grounds. The centre would treat children with any crippling condition, which required physiotherapy and special education. The official ceremony was held September 30, 1961 with the Honourable Eric Martin, Minister of Health present.

On opening day, the centre boasted a team of seven professionals:

- Medical Director
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- School Teacher
- Nursery Therapist – Pre-school teacher
- Medical Secretary – Bookkeeper – Secretary - Receptionist
- Executive Director – Social Worker

Demand Exceeds Supply in Just Months

And an active caseload of 23 children with 80 more children registered. No longer would these children have to endure daily bus rides into Vancouver for treatment. There were six children in the nursery and kindergarten and ten in regular class with an out-patient screening service under a medical director and a team of social workers, a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist, speech therapy, a psychologist and ancillary services on a consultative basis. Remarkably demand for services outgrew the facility in a matter of months. The average caseload was around thirty children.

Slim Edwards 'The Singing Cowboy' to the Rescue

The 1962 AGM held in February elected Mr. Max Terrace as the new President. Volume 1 of the Centre's new Newsletter issued a cry for help. After only four months in operation, there was not enough money or space to even come close to meeting the demand for services. By July 1962, the centre was completely paid for, but clearly not large enough. In an attempt to rectify the situation the directors proposed an enormous fundraiser but could find no one to head up the enormous organisation of such an event.

Then in August of 1962 the Centre's Newsletter announced:

"We have been fortunate in getting the services of Mr. Slim Edwards, who formerly headed up his own Western Carnival, to head up the committee for this event." The first Annual Bazaar and Western Carnival was held on November 16th, 1962. It was a huge success and raised \$1,669.45. Slim Edwards kept this event going for several years raising both funds and awareness of cerebral palsy.

In September, the LFVCPA operated a booth at the local fall fair.



Candy Wreaths and Second-Hand Clothing

The Ladies' Auxiliary made their first 325 candy wreaths. This involved purchasing cases of candy and rolls of wire then attaching the candies to the circle of wire to form a Christmas wreath which were then sold in conjunction with the Kiwassa Club and later at the thrift shops operated by the Ladies' Auxiliary at Whalley and Newton and Cloverdale. Band-Aids were an important part of the supply list. At the end of their first full year of fundraising, the Auxiliary handed over some \$2,500 to the Association for operational expenses.

The caseload at the centre had grown to 101 children.

Finally Some Public Money and a New Addition to the Centre

On February 27th, 1963, Mr. Jack Barr was elected president. Much of the agenda at that meeting concerned the growing need for more space. Grant applications to the provincial and federal governments this time were successful and secured \$5,000 from each. The City of Surrey contributed \$1,250, the Evergreen Social Club \$5,660 and once again the talented Labour of The Van Zor Grotto Members was donated for free. Construction on the 26-foot by 48-foot addition began in September of 1963 and was completed in December.



Now If We Can Just Find a Way to Pay for the Salaries

While the building project was a success all round, the operating budget of the LFVCPA continued to be strained. The year ended with a \$1,500 deficit.

Jack Barr continued in 1964 as president and Mrs. Moffat was engaged as a full-time social worker to take some of the load off Miss Hardy.

Simon Cunningham School

May 1964, enlargements to the centre were completed. It now included one classroom, a nursery, a kindergarten, a physiotherapy/occupational therapy department, and office space. Two classrooms for physically handicapped students were opened at Simon Cunningham School with two teachers provided by the Surrey School Board.

Well Worn Belts Are Tightened Once Again

The summer of 1964 proved to be one of the most financially challenging periods for the Children's Development Centre. The physical facility had been enlarged to accommodate the constantly growing caseload of children, but fundraising was not keeping pace. Staff was cut back and everything possible was done to reduce operating expenses. Local doctors pledged monthly donations and at one point, the staff was even asked to defer cashing their paycheques. The Cerebral Palsy Association of BC arranged for a loan of \$2,000 to cover overhead expenses. By year-end the financial picture had improved somewhat.

The Passing of Frank Pearson

Jack Barr continued as president into 1965 but on January 21, the LFVCPA, and the community lost a great man. Frank Pearson passed away after ten years of dedicated service to the LFVCPA as bus driver, director, building committee chairman, and president... and all of this after Frank had retired from an entire career as an R.C.M.P. Officer. A great man and a pillar of the community.

The Dainard Property

April 28, 1965, Mr. And Mrs. A. S. Dainard donated a parcel of property known as "Albertsan" on the Fraser Highway in Surrey for the purpose of building a permanent clinic. The association was ecstatic and in July authorized the purchase of an additional 1.44 acres adjacent to this land to give access from both the Fraser Highway and 140th Street. The \$4,000 price tag was a burden at the time but proved a fortuitous decision. Plans were drawn up for a new permanent Children's Treatment Centre. These plans included special classrooms at a time when a new policy of integrating handicapped and non-handicapped students had just begun. In September 1965, two teachers, and two special classrooms equipped to handle cerebral palsied children had been added at nearby Simon Cunningham School.



Back in the Transportation Business... Sort of

At the AGM in 1966, Steve Piskorik was elected president. The big project now is to raise money for the new centre on the Dainard property. On May 1st, the BC Society for Crippled Children announced, because of its own financial difficulties, it was withdrawing the bussing service it had taken over from the LFVCPA. The association would once again have to provide transportation for its children to treatment but the Society for Crippled Children did continue a \$500 per month subsidy to help with the cost.

Rather than go back into the transportation business, and after all, the distance was considerably shorter now with the facility on the Surrey Memorial Hospital grounds, the association chose to enter into a contract with Mr. Ken Konopski of Ken Mar Handicabs. This arrangement worked remarkably well.

In June a Professional Advisory Board was set up to work with the board on policy matters and in September Simon Cunningham School increased to four the number of classrooms for cerebral palsied children. The centre was then working with 118 children and their parents.

The Children's Treatment Centre Gets an Eviction Notice

At the 1967 AGM Steve Piskorik returned as president but this would be a trying year. The Surrey Memorial Hospital announced their own expansion plans. The Children's Treatment Centre would have to find a new home by July 1968. With so little time to relocate, beginning construction of the new facility planned for the Dainard property was out of the question. The alternative was to arrange to move the existing facility from the Surrey Memorial Hospital grounds, to the "right-of-way" property; the 1.44-acre parcel, which the association had purchased simply to improve access to the eventual new centre. The provincial government gave a grant of \$12,000 for land clearing, and the municipality of Surrey gave \$10,000 worth of sewer and water excavation work. A Capital fund drive was authorized to raise an additional \$20,000.



In June, a debate began to grow among various parties regarding the wisdom of constructing a "Health Facility" so close to an existing Hospital. With little time and less money, the decision was finally made to simply move the existing treatment centre to the 'right of way' property until a longer-term decision could be made about the Dainard property.

In November, the provincial government injected an additional \$12,000 to prepare the 'right-of-way' site.

Auxiliary's "Cerepals" Thrift Shops in Whalley & Newton to the Rescue

In October 1968, The Ladies Auxiliary opened Cerepals Thrift Shop in Whalley to raise money for the Centre. In November, the Ladies' Auxiliary opened a second Thrift Shop in Newton to raise "Proceeds for the Building and Equipment Fund of the New Building".

At the 1968 AGM Steve Piskorik was re-elected president. The provincial government added another \$16,400 to cover the remainder of the moving costs.

With Jack Barr as Head of the Building Committee, the move was completed in the summer of 1968, but to little fanfare. The new building plans were collecting dust and 1968 was proving to be another difficult year financially. Staff hours had to be cut back once again despite an increased caseload to 126. On a positive note, however, a sixth classroom, in the form of a portable classroom was added to Simon Cunningham School in September and the school boards began to increase their transportation subsidies.

At the AGM in 1969, Archie Card was elected president. Morale was as low as the bank account. Association members and staff had to continually remind themselves how much worse things would be

for their children/clients if this facility did not exist. They've come along way from bussing kids into Vancouver. In addition a new challenge was beginning to appear. The cerebral palsied children were growing up. What was to be done with or for these young adults?

By December of 1969 the Centre was handling 137 cases while running short on staff and funding. Two part-time medical directors were appointed under the supervision of Dr. Sydney Israels, Director of Paediatrics for UBC. 1969 comes and goes with the centre squeezing every last dollar to stay afloat.

Demand Continued to Exceed Supply

At the AGM in 1970, Archie Card was re-elected as president. In April the Surrey School board takes over the full cost of children's transportation. One physiotherapist was hired in February, and a second social worker was hired in March. This brought the caseload to 138 divided between these two staff members. The accepted ratio was a maximum of 25 to 30.

Prolonged Debate Resulted in Loss of the Dainard Property

In April, the plans for building a medical and administration centre on the current Dainard property were put under review and by June the association's financial situation was no where near able to take on such a project. The delays and dispute eventually resulted in Mr. And Mrs. Dainard's generous offer being rescinded. The association now had only the temporary facility on the "right-of-way" property, which now lead to nowhere.

School Boards Take Responsibility for Bussing All School-Aged Children

Despite beginning the year optimistically with the hiring of two new staff members, by June a budget crunch forced the team to be reduced by one social worker and one doctor half a day a week. A meeting was called inviting all parents to warn of the perilous financial situation the Centre was in. One bit of relief came as a result of the school boards taking over all transportation costs for all school-age children. The caseload was at 124 active patients.

Saved by a Generous Bequest and The Lions Club

On February 1, 1971, Miss Marjory Hardy retired with Dorothy Ladner taking her place. At the Annual General Meeting later that month, Mr. Hugh Cuthbertson was elected President. After an uncertain start to the year, the association's many important activities were saved by a bequest of \$20,000 from the estate of Benola Scott as well as a donation of \$5,000 from the North Surrey Lions Club.



Variety Club Tent 47

Tent 47 of the Variety Club of BC got its start back in 1965 with the intervention and assistance of renowned British Columbian Jack Diamond. During his life, Mr. Jack Diamond was a generous and constant supporter of many worthy causes.

Since its inception in 1965, the Variety Club of BC has raised more than \$100 million to help children with special needs. All funds raised in BC, stay in BC.

You'll find Variety Club wherever there are children in need - funding capital projects for hospitals and development centers, supporting essential services such as medical treatments or subsidizing the purchase of wheelchairs, specialized equipment and tools for independent living.

The Variety Club provides support to individual children and their families when financial difficulties arise due to the child's medical condition.

More than 200 fund raising events are hosted by Variety Club or its supporters every year. The largest event is Variety Club's annual "Show of Hearts" telethon broadcast live on Global TV around Valentine's Day weekend.

Thanks to the generosity of British Columbians, the Variety Club is able to provide dozens of grants to assist children every year.

Grants are provided in these categories:

- * Organizations - primarily for updates and equipment for children's centers and programs
- * Individuals - primarily for equipment, therapy and medical travel
- * Sunshine Coaches - specially equipped vehicles provided to children's organizations
- * Capital Projects - primarily for the construction of new facilities



All projects must benefit children with special needs under the age of 19 years.

Variety Club Tent 47 Makes New Centre at 9460-140th Street a Reality

November 1971 marked the beginning of a long relationship between the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association and Tent 47 of the Variety Club when the club pledged to build a new centre with a hydrotherapy pool. After ten years of gritty determination offering much needed services, often running on little more than love, a permanent facility was nearing realisation. In light of the lengthy debate about the location of the proposed facility on the Dainard Property near Surrey Memorial Hospital, The LFVCPA were able to exchange the \$4,000 property they'd purchased as a "right-of-way" to the Dainard property, for an ideal three-acre location directly across from Simon Cunningham School where five handicapped children's classrooms were already operating, plus one at the centre. The caseload was then 145 children.

The Surrey Rehabilitation Council

At the 1972 AGM Hugh Cuthbertson was re-elected president. In September, the Surrey Rehabilitation Council was created with a mandate to operate a rehabilitation centre workshop for the out-of-school and adult handicapped. Three LFVCPA members became Directors of this new organisation.

In January 1973, the Surrey Rehabilitation Council received a grant of \$52,000 and set up a workshop in Whalley. This welcome news went a long way to easing the LFVCPA's concern about what services would be available to the Children's Treatment Centre children when they grew up.



Work on the new Treatment Centre site began in October with April 30, 1973 as the target completion date for phase one - the hydrotherapy pool and parking area.

Yet Another Cash Crunch

With all this activity around, the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association's own coffers are once again running dry without enough funds in the bank for the January salaries. In the words of Norm Sherritt, "With a resoluteness born of 20 years of such announcements, we calmly passed a motion to borrow \$5,000 from the bank and decided that 1973 would be no different than any of the other 20 that had preceded it." The caseload was 188 with an estimated budget of \$142,000.

The Vancouver Sun 'Tiny Tim Fund' Raises Funds and Awareness

At the 1973 AGM Hugh Cuthbertson was re-elected president for a third mandate. The Variety Club International and the Vancouver Sun's "Tiny Tim" Fund combined to build phase two, which included a kindergarten, nursery school, and occupational and speech therapy departments.

1974

The Variety Treatment Centre for Children Opens its Doors

On January 11th 1974, the new permanent building was officially opened and, in recognition of the key role the Variety Club played in fundraising re-named the facility the 'Variety Treatment Centre for Children' operated by the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association. Over \$500,000 was raised for the project.



A Year of Change and Transition

Dorothy Ladner resigned in August and Mrs. Pat Phillips assisted with operations until Mr. Elio Azzara accepted the position as Executive Director in October 1974. The caseload was 169. The centre retained a medical director, and offered the services provided by social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, swim therapists, speech therapist, nursery school teachers, teachers assistants, child-care workers and had a fully staffed administrative office and a full-time building superintendent.



Treatment Staff Join Union

On the heels of the opening of the new centre, another important transition took place as the centre's staff applied for union membership in the Health Sciences Association. A year of difficult negotiations eventually culminated in a mutually acceptable collective agreement; one which included salary increases and retroactive pay in an already overburdened fiscal year. Not since 1958, when a new board constitution was approved had such a fundamental change occurred in the inner workings of the Treatment Centre. As in '58, this was an inevitable and necessary part of the centre's evolution and growth, but now more than ever it would be necessary to master the art of matching the LFVCPA's perpetually fluctuating income with the requirements of the increasingly fixed overhead costs. The year ended with a \$15,765 operating deficit.

A Waiting List for the First Time

Increased public awareness over the centre's opening and expansion brought a flood of new referrals while funding and qualified therapists were harder to find. For the first time the Treatment Centre had to establish a priority-based waiting list and shift treatment way from some older children in order to create space for some of the younger treatment referrals.

1975

After a challenging first year on many fronts, Executive Director Elio Azzara closes the year thanking staff, parents and the many friends of the Association and the Centre for their respective part in implementing sometimes difficult fiscal controls to preserve vital programs in a worsening economic environment province and nation-wide.

Caseload Growing... and so are the Clients

Some groundbreaking community-based programs were initiated. A UBC Social Work student hired and supervised thirteen young handicapped persons to publish a newspaper called 'SPOKE' of special interest to Surrey's handicapped community. For most participants this was their first on-the-job experience and was very much in keeping with the Centre's movement toward providing and promoting meaningful and stimulating goals for older current and past clients. Further, 60 handicapped persons aged 15 to 45 participated in an evening program offered to deal with issues related to the isolation experienced by handicapped persons living alone or in group homes.



Much emphasis was placed on evaluating the needs of the centre's aging clientele and what could be done to provide for young and older adults. The Centre adopted the position that a community-based approach was desirable over an institutional model.

Horses and Skis and Special Kids

Five children received ski lessons at Grouse Mountain while Hi Harriet of Paradise Stables along with instructor Jo Kennedy made eight spots available for horse-riding lessons. The kids managed remarkably well and loved the experience.



The active caseload was 240 children and their families. The Centre's newly licensed pre-school program supported the developmental needs of 35 handicapped youngsters.

Logistically, the supply of financial and human resources was not keeping up with demand. Staff vacancies were not replaced and every paper clip was counted to keep the centre from slipping into deficit while every effort was made to maintain services. And all this was done from ever more cramped quarters as the Centre's staff prayed for much needed expansion of the administrative area with the help of Variety Club's Tent 47, The United Good Neighbour Fund, the Provincial Government, and the Centre's many loyal supporters.

1976

Phase III...A Real Office With Real Desks

On April 17 1976, Variety Club's Tent 47 came through once again, along with numerous other donors, this time for the construction of the much-needed Administration Wing.

The centre operated through most of the year under the shadow of an un-confirmed grant from the government. The initial approach was to freeze any new staffing but heart-breaking demand forced the

center to go out on a limb mid-year and hire more occupational and speech therapists. The ladies Auxiliary's tenacious work and support helped keep the lights on during this period. Staff, parents and volunteers pulled together for the kids and the grant money was finally confirmed in October.

More and More Irons in the Fire

During 1976, referrals of younger children to the Child Development Centre continued to grow (270 active cases, 37 in pre-school), as did the activities of the centre to support aging and former clients. Skiing and horse-back riding continued, as well as "START" (an evening program for older handicapped persons), vocational programs in conjunction with Simon Cunningham School, the "SPOKE" newspaper project, "Respite Care" for families with handicapped persons, community education about handicapped conditions and treatment AND a "Sunshine Bus" from Variety to aid with transportation needs. Try and say that in one breath!



The Centre collaborated with the Surrey Rehabilitation Workshop Society on their "Sheltered" work program and acquired property adjacent to the centre for a new workshop.

Passing on Knowledge

U.B.C. Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy students were now spending time at the centre as part of their training. This gave them invaluable insights into the challenges of treating the cerebral palsied child. The Child Development Centre conducted an in-house Therapy Aide program funded by "Canada Works" employment program.

This new role in training marked a turning point for the Child Development Centre and the Cerebral Palsy Association in their groundbreaking approach to early intervention in treating cerebral palsy since little was known about the handicap. From their beginnings they sought what little knowledge was available and then passed on their years of accumulated knowledge.

1977

Phase III Inaugurated By Tent 47

February 20th, 1977, Tent 47 Chief Barker, Gordon Weber officially opened Phase III of the Variety's Treatment Centre for Children for the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association in Surrey BC. Variety raised over \$100,000 for Phase III. The caseload had reached 280 children aged from 2 1/2 months to 24 years old.

Growing Up and Out

Funding the many, and growing, programs continued despite the traditional challenge to raise funds. Two interesting new programs were added in 1977 to the Centre's growing diversity of treatment, and support - "Ham Radio Operation" and "Adolescent Cooking and Hand-skills". The Pre-School program continued to grow to 50 licensed places for children. At Simon Cunningham School, there were 76 students in integrated and segregated programs.

1978

25 Years of Compassionate Struggle for the Association

While celebrations marking The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association's 25th Anniversary began in 1977 with reflections by then President M.R. Munro, they continued into 1978 under the Association's new President R. Hibbert as they reflected on the remarkable 25-year history of the Association with the tremendous effort and dedication of so many who had accomplished so much for all the right reasons. Interestingly, this year saw a record 100 new referrals for treatment.

The Ladies Auxiliary Report and Reflect

In 1977, the Ladies Auxiliary held Bazaars at Surrey Place, Clearbrook as well as the annual Bazaar at the Centre plus their first annual Strawberry Festival. And, of course, they had now been operating the Whalley and Newton Thrift Shops for fifteen years. The Auxiliary contributed a total of \$32,975 this year to the Centre's activities. Over the fifteen years the Auxiliary had contributed a total of \$134,450. That's a lot of candy wreaths ladies!

You're Not Getting Older, You're Getting Better!

The growing momentum to do more to support growing and adult handicapped people led the LFVCPA to happily announce they had secured both the funds and the locations for two adult handicapped group homes in the Surrey area.

1979

Group Homes - Branching Out for Those Growing Up

The Group Homes Project was officially realised with the opening on April 17th of the Old Yale Road Residence at 12833-106th Avenue, Surrey. The residence accommodated six physically and/or mentally handicapped children aged 12 to 16 years. One of the six beds was reserved as a respite bed, giving hardworking family members of a handicapped child some occasional, but much needed, down time. A Group Home Management Committee was struck to operate the residence and met once per month working in close liaison with the BC Ministry of Human Resources.

The increasing number and complexity of services offered to older and adult handicapped persons resulted in the creation of an Adult Services Co-ordinator. This department had three main areas: housing, weekly support and development programs, and job training.

Lookout Pre-school Opens in North Delta.

Operating out of the Royal Heights Baptist Church in North Delta, Lookout Pre-school opened on October 1st with four full-time and two part-time teachers, a voluntary management committee, and the full moral and material support of the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association and resource support from the Children's Treatment Centre.

Hydrotherapy Evolves into 'Adapted Aquatics'

The Centre had come a long way from its plastic children's swimming pool. The new name represented a new goal toward enabling recreational and competitive swimming programs, including training for disabled swimming competitions.



A first annual swim-a-thon was held to raise funds for the Children's Hospital. Future funds would support formation of the BC Cerebral Palsy Sports Association, with the future goal of a Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association; all steps enabling the Centre's athletes to compete in the International Special Olympics. Some of the Centre's special athletes competed in local track meets including the BC Games and a competition in Edmonton. There were 152 new children referred to the centre, less discharged children, the active caseload reached 341 handicapped children.

1980 – International Year of the Disabled

Variety Children's Villa Second Group Home

On October 1st, 1980, Variety Children's Villa opened at 9141-140th Street, Surrey as the LFVCPA's second group home for the physically and/or mentally handicapped. Scores of caring individuals and groups helped make this home possible. Among them: capital funding from the Ministry of Human Resources, Variety Club's Tent 47, and Canada Mortgage and Housing. A Sunshine Coach was also provided by Variety Club. Both homes operated at full capacity from their opening day. The Vancouver Sun Tiny Tim campaign helped to expand the pre-school and hydrotherapy pool space. Lookout Pre-school began fundraising, seeking its own space to accommodate expansion needs.

1981

Changing of the Guard

Elio Azzara resigned as Executive Director to accept a position as Administrator of Sunny Hill Hospital. Mrs. Sharon Kreutzer, formerly President of the Ladies Auxiliary, accepted the position.

Government Funding Still There, But Not Keeping Up with Costs

A much-needed Ministry of Health funding grant, distributed through the BC Cerebral Palsy Association did not include a much-needed increase to match the centre's increasing operating costs. Painful staff reductions were unavoidable. The government later announced that future operating funds for BC's Child Development Centres would be granted directly to treatment centres by the Ministry of Health. The LFVCPA welcomed this news in anticipation of better and closer relations with the Ministry.

Special Athletes Training Centre

CPA athletes competed at BC Games in Esquimalt and trained for a big meet in Eugene, Oregon. Success at Eugene could mean competing at the American National Games in Rhode Island. Track and Field Equipment was added to the Centre's inventory.



Medical Director Reports on a Growing and Diverse Caseload

Medical Director, Dr. Simon reported a 10% increase in the Centre's caseload over the past 4 years. Within an average caseload of 392 clients per month, 47% were diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, 14% with Developmental Delay, 9% with Spina Bifida, 7% with speech impediments, 2% Muscular Dystrophy, and 20% listed as other. Clearly the Child Development Centre's mandate had grown significantly from its origins in treating Cerebral Palsy. The largest age group in active treatment at the centre were 4 to 6 year old children at 32%, with children 0 to 3 and 7 to 9 years each at 20% respectfully. 18% were aged 10 to 14, 8% 15 to 19, and 2% over 19 years old.

1982

Endowment Fund: Association's First Foray into Investment Funding

The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association set aside a \$250,000 endowment fund, securing capital for one-year periods. The principle would provide important equity when needed, and income earned would go to operating the Treatment Centre. Despite the fund generating over \$11,000 dollars in the first year, the Treatment Centre continued to grapple with operational funding challenges. The waiting list of disabled children was growing.

There for the Children at the Beginning, There in the End

The families of two people who played important roles in the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association's humble beginnings, Mrs. Daisy Sherritt, and Mr. Art Bebbington, showed, upon their passing, their enduring commitment to the Centre's work with memorial bequests on their behalf.

A Big year for Disabled Athletics

In 1982, twenty special athletes from the Children's Development Centre competed in swimming and track-and-field events at the BC Games in Kelowna. Three of the Centre's athletes qualified for the American National Cerebral Palsy Games in Rhode Island USA. All returned with medals. The third annual swim-a-thon raised additional funds for the BC Cerebral Palsy Sports Association.



Commitment to Older Disabled Continues with Two More Group Homes

The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association took responsibility for the operation of 'Guildford Glen' a group home for 4 young women in the Guildford area. The Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation built and BC's Long Term Care program provided funds for this project. A second group home for 4 young men, this time on 88th Avenue in the Bear Creek Park area, was transferred for \$1.00 by the Handicapped Resources centre to the LFVCPA to operate. This facility was also funded by BC's Long Term Care program.

1983

Inflation Continues to Outpace Funding

Despite a variety of innovations in 1983 aimed at reducing operating expenses, a six-week layoff of some staff was necessary. Similar measures were being used around the Province in the form of bed-closure at hospitals. Dedicated staff weathered yet another dry-spell. The endowment fund was increased from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The Centre's overhead was now largely financed by grants from the BC Government, The United Way (formerly the United Good Neighbour Fund), the BC Lions Society for Crippled Children, and other charitable organizations.

Auxiliary Labour to Make Up Funding Shortfall

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association continued to work tirelessly to make up any funding shortfalls with increased special events, raffles and operation of their two Thrift Stores. A small part of the costs were met by medical plan payments and private payment of user fees by parents. Treatments were billed at \$2.50 per 1/2-hour session.

Enter the Computer Age

A "Micro-Computer" was purchased for use as an aid to communication for the Centre's disabled children, while at the other end of the building, administrative staff begin using computers for record-keeping and financial reporting functions for the first time.

A Good Year for Capital Projects

Two new extensions to the Centre, a new classroom and a changing-room for the pool, were made possible this difficult year due to capital funding once again from Variety Club's Tent 47, the Tiny Tim Vancouver Sun Christmas Fund, the Van Zor Grotto, The Pythian's Cerebral Palsy Committee, the Whalley Legion, and many, many more generous donors. The Rotary Club of Surrey paved a pathway connecting Simon Cunningham School to the Centre. The Marpole Sportsman's Association donated a wheel-chair lift-equipped van, \$15,000 to the Lookout Pre-school building, as well as funds to construct a garage for the two Marpole Richmond vans.

Lookout Preschool Opens its New Facility in Delta

The new School opened in November on the grounds of the North Delta Recreation Centre. Simon Cunningham School had 70 special needs students aged from five to 21 years. The Association's Delta facility was made possible with contributions from the Marpole Richmond Sportsman's Association and, yet again, Variety Club.

Success Stories

Once again, twenty athletes from the Centre competed at the BC Games with one extra-ordinary athlete going to Denmark to participate in competition. Another young man successfully completed a bookkeeping course.

1984

30 Years and Counting...

In 1984, Mrs. Karen Duddy, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and its President for the past 3 years, became President of the LFVCPA following the resignation of Ray Hibbert. Executive Director Sharon Kreutzer remarked in the annual report that the Children's Treatment Centre was becoming an increasingly significant employer in the area with 90 staff members and 60 regular volunteers not including the Board of Directors. The Centre now had four distinct operational areas: the Treatment Centre, Children's Group Homes, Adult Services Group Homes, and Lookout Pre-school.



The average enrollment at Lookout Pre-school reached 17 disabled and 52 able children.

...And The Kids Just Keep On Coming

An overall good year for the Association and the Children's Treatment Centre staff were able to improve efficiencies enabling them to accommodate more children on the same budget as government funding remained unchanged though there was a 5% increase for children's

group homes. Medical referrals to the Centre increased 51% over the previous year compared to a 22% increase over the one before that. With this facility still the only one of its kind throughout the entire Lower Fraser Valley, it was believed that the increase in referrals reflected increased awareness on the part of physicians, of the need for early intervention for these children as well as a rapidly increasing population. The average number of children treated per-month climbed to 444.

Ladies Auxiliary Opens Third Thrift Shop in Cloverdale

A very difficult 30th year followed for the Ladies Auxiliary but their 'Survival Committee', staged a comeback and the Auxiliary handed over a cheque for the Centre's operating expenses in the amount of \$30,000 in honour of the 30th Anniversary of the LFVCPA. While this cheque matching the Anniversary of the LFVCPA had become a tradition for the Ladies Auxiliary, they typically funded several additional large and small needs of the centre throughout the year.



All Sports All the Time!

Whalley Legion sponsored the Centre's swim teams and contributed \$25,000 for renovations and new equipment in the therapy area. Five of the centre's athletes participated in the American National C.P. Games in Austin, Texas. The Richmond Sportsman's Association donated \$10,000 for computer equipment and BCIT sent over its horticulture students to 'Spruce Up' the grounds. The Spina Bifida Association donated \$5,000 for playground equipment and the C.P. Air employees Fund donated \$4,000 to build a playground at the new Look-out Pre-school.

1985

This Year's Theme: "Do More With Less"

Mr. Edward Rudnicky is the Association's new President replacing Mrs. Karen Duddy after her two-year term. Efforts intensify to establish a stable source of core funding. As Lower Fraser Valley communities continue to grow, so do the number of referrals of handicapped and cerebral palsied children to the Centre. Much-needed government funding continued this year, but for the second time with no increase. Despite the heart-warming generosity of individuals and groups throughout the Lower Mainland, children and families in need far outpaced available resources. The unavoidable wait for treatment has eked up to a heart-breaking one and a half to three months.

New Fundraiser Volunteer Coordinator Position

The Federal Government "Canada Works" enabled the Centre to create a new staff position dedicated to fundraising. This represented a shift in the traditional role of the LFVCPA to raise funds. It was hoped that this full-time focus will enable the development of new and longer-term funding sources.

Continued Support for Our Athletes

The Centre's Track-and-Field and Swim teams received another annual donation of \$4,400 from the Whalley Legion. Team members participated in competitions in British Columbia, Alberta, Oregon, and New York. Children, adults and families participated in a growing variety of Adapted Aquatics activities. The United Way's designated donor option and BC Telephone Employees really came through this year. An astounding \$50,000 from the Ladies Auxiliary; and this while the Auxiliary struggled to find enough volunteers. These ladies somehow always found a way to turn less into more!

1986 – The Year of Rick Hansen “The Man in Motion

What a Difference a Year Can Make

While Rick Hansen was changing attitudes and knocking down barriers for disabled people around the world, the same could be said for Board members and Centre staff and the Ladies Auxiliary to the LFVCPA in 1986.

1.2 Million Dollar Expansion Project Gets Green Light

Variety Club of British Columbia agreed to be a major sponsor for a 20,000 square-foot expansion of the Treatment Centre with construction planned for 1988.

After 32 Years, It Was Time to Reflect

After more than thirty years of operation, growth and evolution, it was time to have an outside observer assess the organisation to ensure it had evolved in a manner that best served its clients current and future needs. Using consulting services of the United Way, the Association underwent an intensive organisational review of Board members and senior staff. Strengths and weaknesses were identified and a series of recommendations developed. As a result, many important changes took place among the administrative staff improving efficiencies and modernising and computerising many functions.

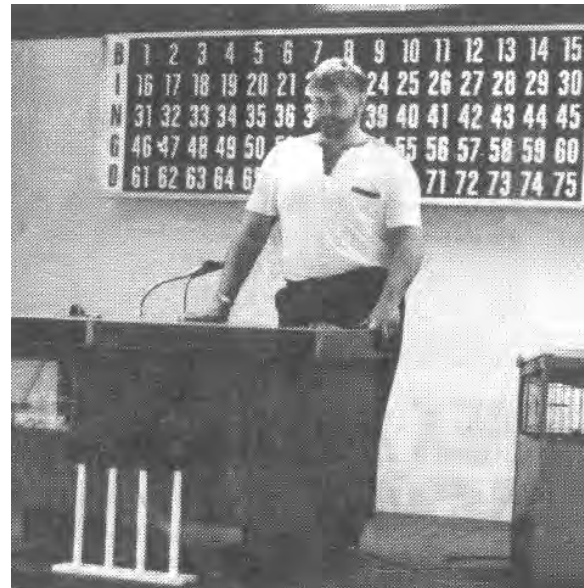
Mr. Arthur Dick joined the Centre’s staff as a full-time fundraiser. Following recommendations of the organisational review, a Human Resources consultant was engaged to conduct the hiring competition for this position.

BINGO!

The Association embarked for the first time into holding Bingo games as a new fundraising venture. Mrs. Wendy Thompson was Bingo coordinator with the crucial assistance of the Marpole Richmond Sportsman’s Association and the Upper Fraser Valley Neurological Association in obtaining licenses for the activity. Net proceeds in the first year totalled \$107,249. The Association’s endowment fund increased to \$400,000.

Those Remarkable Ladies

The Ladies Auxiliary also obtained a license to offer a Bingo night, which generated \$37,681 in its first year. "Canada Works" also enabled the Ladies Auxiliary to engage a much-needed Volunteer Coordinator. This resulted in many new members welcomed to the Auxiliary who worked toward a banner 25th year for the Ladies Auxiliary to the LFVCPA.



Outreach Services Reach Further and Further

Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy were offered in Abbotsford, throughout the Upper Fraser Valley, and for the first time, Occupational and Physiotherapy

consultations were provided for school-aged children within the Surrey School Board. The Upper Fraser Valley Neurological Society was moving rapidly towards autonomy with the support of the Association. The Board entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Health to provide treatment services to Rainbow Ridge, a long-term care home for severely handicapped children and young adults located in Maple Ridge.

1987/1988

A Year of Musical Chairs

Long-time board member Dianne Lewis, whose child received regular treatment at the Centre, became President of the Association. She replaced Chuck Hainsworth, former board Vice-President, who acted briefly as President following the departure of Ed Rudnicki, Executive Director Sharon Kreutzer stepped back to begin her family and Susan Jordan held the fort.

When the Dust Settles... a New Name

When the \$1.6 million dollar expansion to the Variety's Treatment Centre got underway, Susan Jordan valiantly coordinated the temporary relocation of all services except pre-school. To reflect the changing attitudes about the centre's mandate moving away from treating the ill to developing the full potential of the children, the Board approved a name change: Variety Child Development Centre.

Advocacy with a Capital A

When the provincial government imposed a new five-dollar user-fee for physiotherapy services, the LFVCPA voted to absorb this cost on behalf of the Centre's parents and children. Ironically, it was in 1954, shortly after their inception, that the Association first voted to pay any un-collected user fees at the CP Clinic in Vancouver to ensure no child would be denied treatment.

New Fundraising Committee Sees Many Happy Returns

Slide-a-thon at Splashdown Park was a big success. The Ladies Auxiliary contributed \$43,854 dollars for Variety Child Development Centre operations. Bingo revenue continued to roll in from the Association's own licensed activities as well as funds from several other charity-run bingo events. This second year of increased fund-raising lead to new programs and increased staffing.

Vancouver Foundation

Board's \$100,000 investment in the new "Vancouver Foundation" is matched dollar for dollar resulting in interest income from \$200,000. Just \$325,000 remained to be raised for what was expected to be a \$1.6 million dollar expansion project. Variety Club committed to \$1.19 million and the BC Lottery Fund committed to \$75,000. Work was expected to begin June '88.



And Now for the Sports

Track and Field, Swimming, Skiing, Horseback Riding, Cycling and a growing passion for Boccia had the Centre athletes training, sweating and traveling for medals and for the joy of friendly competition. Countless parents and volunteers made the growing emphasis on sporting activity possible.

1989

New Faces a New Building, a New Mission and a New Logo

Peter Winford became the Board's new President. After eight years as Executive Director of Variety Child Development Centre, Sharon Kreutzer resigned to care for her growing family. Mr. Ian Moody was selected as the Centre's new Executive Director. The Association's constitution was reviewed and the Board's Objectives were replaced with the following Mission Statement:

The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association is a non-profit organisation committed to assisting physically disabled children and adults to develop their full potential as participating members of the community. The Association strives to provide accessible, comprehensive services for disabled people and their families and to act as an advocate on their behalf.

Accepted by the Board of Directors June 1989

Most significant in this mission statement was the inclusion of adults. It reflected the increasingly professional make-up of the Board of Directors, though parents of disabled children, including the first Board President Norm Sherritt, were still well represented.

The LFVCPA unveiled their new logo, of a child held aloft by the LFVCPA umbrella.

Most of the expansion and renovation work was completed and staff and clients benefited immediately from the beautiful new environment. Only the Pre-school "Discovery Room" remained unfinished.

Fifth Group Home Opens and Another on the Way

Park-Land View in the Fleetwood area of Surrey opened in January to provide a home for four young adults previously cared for at Woodlands. Funding had already been secured for a sixth group home scheduled to open in late fall. The development of group homes barely kept pace with the emerging trend, at the government level, away from the institutionalisation of disabled children and adults.

The Villa and Old Yale Road continued to provide homes for ten children as well as twenty more well-used respite beds. The eight young adults who lived at Bear Creek Villa and Guildford Glen were active in daily work and recreation activities.

1990

Passing the Torch

Several long-time members of the board stepped down including past-president Karen Duddy, past-president Ken Kabush (organizer of the hugely successful slide-a-thon), Lucille Courchene (tireless worker with the Variety Club), and Steve Piskorik after 29 years on the board. Steve would focus his efforts on the Cerebral Palsy Sports Association. The many committees of the Board were very active in developing a long-term strategic plan, public relations and fund-raising.



Executive Director Creates Two New Positions

Two full-time positions evolved out of the Executive Director's evolving responsibilities. John Maddalozzo would take care of day to day operation of the Centre as the new Centre Coordinator and Wendy Thompson would be responsible for financial development and fundraising.

Upper Fraser Valley Neurological Society Spreads Its Wings

Maple Ridge's Rainbow Ridge Centre at Whonnock no longer needed our Associations Outreach Services support as they established their own Board of Directors with government granting full operational funding. Yet another facility the Association helped to spawn.

Treatment Centre Increasingly a Teaching Centre

In 1976, Variety's Treatment Centre hosted its first student clinical placement as part of UBC's physiotherapy program. Since that time an increasing number and variety of medical disciplines had sent students to the Variety Treatment Centre as part of their training programs. The Centre's staff continued to be recognized for their expertise in a number of areas including provincial recognition in national professional associations, publications in international journals, and participation as presenters at major conferences.

Centre Now Provides "Recreational Services"

This department provided alternate opportunities to the more traditional therapies. In addition to Track and Field and Adapted Aquatics this new division included Dance Motivation and Adult Aqua-fitness.

'Newton Place' Sixth Group Home Opens

In November 1990, the Association opened its sixth group home close to shopping, college and recreational facilities. The four residents who moved in attended work sites in the Cloverdale and Surrey areas. BC Housing and Management and Ministry of Social Services and Families provided funding for the home. Improvements were also made to the Associations first three homes.



1991

New President

In 1991, Peter Winford stepped down as Association President to be replaced by David H. Goodwin, a man with a social work and legal background.

The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Foundation

By 1991 the Association's Endowment Fund had grown to \$375,000 through incremental transfers of capital surplus funds. Over the years this fund had generated thousands of dollars in interest income, all used for the operation of the Treatment Centre while leaving the principle untouched.

In a move long championed by founding board-member Norm Sherritt, the Board created the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Foundation with the goal of insuring a perpetual source of funding. It was an entirely new entity dedicated solely to the fiscal management of the existing endowment fund and development of new sources of revenue for current and future requirements of the Association's growing number of activities. While independent of the Association, Foundation membership was reserved exclusively to LFVCPA board-members and a minimum of 60% of LFVCPA Board members were required to sit on the Foundation board at any one time.

Treatment Centre Implements Family Centered Care

Two years of studies and collaboration with other organizations throughout North America by Steering Group, comprised of Janette Thomas, parent and Board member, Judit Spence, Director of Physiotherapy, and John Maddalozzo, Centre Coordinator, culminated in creation, development, and training for implementation of Family Centered Care at the Children's Treatment Centre. This change in approach to treatment affected every department of the Centre and took significant efforts by all to minimize disruption of services as staff and families adapted to the new holistic approach. As the benefits rapidly became apparent, staff members began receiving invitations from other area facilities to present workshops on their experience. Computers were purchased for therapists to use for scheduling, charting, and statistics.

Staff of Association's Six Group Homes Unionise

Staff at all six group homes operated by the Association sought and were granted certification in the British Columbia Provincial Employees Union. Negotiations began on the employees first Collective Agreement.

Donor's Wall Unveiled

A "Friends of the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association" donors wall was unveiled as a lasting recognition for the generous support over the years to the work of the Association. To mark the occasion, the Ladies Auxiliary pledged \$231,000; the proceeds from the sale of the original location of their Whalley thrift shop to the Foundation and an additional \$40,000 to the Centre.

Ladies Auxiliary Turn 30

Since forming in 1961 to replace funding no longer available through the Easter Seals campaign, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association had raised an astonishing \$600,000; all dedicated to the operation of the Children's Treatment Centre. During some of the more difficult years for the Centre, the Auxiliary's fundraising was all that kept the wolves from the door.

While the group's activities formally began in 1961, it must be said that this group of dedicated women had been working hard behind the scenes since before the formation of the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association. These ladies were the original transportation system for their cerebral palsied children and were among the first to volunteer, along with their friends, to accompany the children when the LFVCPA formed to raise funds and provided a centralised transportation system in 1953/4.



One of the Ladies Auxiliary first major fundraisers was a garden party at the home of Mrs. C. G. Brown on July 15, 1961. Quickly, with the help of the Kiwassa Club, the ladies went into the Christmas candy wreath business, then on to making, collecting, and selling handicrafts, strawberry teas, manning booths at charity bazaars, eventually opening and operating thrift shops in Whalley, Newton, and Cloverdale. These thrift shops annually generated the bulk of their funds.

Over the thirty years, countless volunteers had tirelessly given thousands of hours of their precious time and energy for a multitude of creative events and sometimes just plain tedious tasks. Since the very beginning of the LFVCPA, members of the Ladies Auxiliary had quite literally been everywhere and anywhere they were needed, doing whatever was required. The very personification of caring mothers around the world, with their compassion, creativity, and at times, gritty determination, the Ladies Auxiliary were always at the very heart of the Children's Treatment Centre.

One can never underestimate the important contribution these women made not just financially to the Association and the Children's Treatment Centre, but by their example, to the community at large.



1992-1993

Seven Years Of Expansion Turn To Deficit

Despite its first operating deficit since 1985, staff and program levels were maintained as the Association favoured a longer-term solution to the budget shortfall. Janet Robbins left her position after 12 years as Head of Residential Services.

In efforts to diversify funding sources, the Association followed the Auxiliary's successful lead, opening the "Common Cents Thrift Centre" in Langley. The Auxiliary transferred their Cloverdale Thrift Shop to the Association. The Auxiliary would continue to supply the Association's thrift shops with quality sorted used items as well as handicrafts and baked goods while continuing to operate their own Whalley and Newton shops.

Centre and Lookout Pre-school Employees Unionize

Pre-school staff at the Children's Development Centre and Lookout Pre-school were certified with the Health Sciences Association of British Columbia. Director Joanne Marshall resigned to accept a position at the L.E.A.P. Program in Delta.

And Now Ladies, It's Official

The Ladies Auxiliary developed an official constitution and bylaws and registered their organization Auxiliary to the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Lower Fraser Valley with the Registrar of Companies.

Fundraising Foundation Renamed

To reflect its wider mandate and the increasing role of the organization provincially, The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association Foundation was renamed, the Child Development Foundation of British Columbia.

1993-1995

The Times of Living Uncertainly

Major shifts at various government Ministries suggested a move toward consolidation of health services toward Regional Health Boards. This put into question many sources and methods of government funding upon which the Association's many activities had long depended.

By this time, 70% of the Child Development Centre's funding came from the Ministries of Health and of Social Services. 97% of Pre-school and Residential Services were funded by the Government of British Columbia. In both areas, salaries were the largest single cost at 70% and 75% respectively. Meanwhile, government funding, nearly static for the same period, was now threatening to shrink. With the rapidly growing shortfall between operating costs and sources of new revenue, consolidation became the watchword for 1993.

While services at the centre had been moving towards an increasingly holistic and family centred approach, government-funding agencies became increasingly focused on specific treatment areas such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and communication therapy.

Gaming & Fundraising Become Increasingly Important Sources of Revenue

Bingo and Gaming continued to be a key revenue source along with fundraising through "Voices of India", Ninth annual "Slide-a-thon", "International Dinner", and the annual "Festival of Lights", being among the more memorable occasions. Despite these and many other events, the Association's activities continued to contract but were unable to avoid another deficit budget.

Consolidation

The Langley thrift shop closed. Efforts were focused on maximizing the potential of the Cloverdale Common Cents thrift shop. Old Yale Road group home was closed and residents moved to the Villa.

Norm Sherritt resigns from Board after 40 years

The Association's first President, Norm Sherritt, resigned after 40 years on the Board. Norm and his wife Mabel Sherritt were among the first group of concerned parents who formed the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association back in 1953 to provide logistical and financial support to families grappling with their child's mysterious disability, while working tirelessly to ensure these children were offered every possible opportunity to develop to their full potential. Over the years, Norm served as president from 1953 to 1958, he was chairman of the "Ways and Means Committee", developing then carrying out with remarkable precision and foresight, a detailed three year plan to design, raise funds, then build, what was then referred to as a "Fringe Clinic" (in relation to the only existing CP facility in British Columbia, operating out of the G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre in Vancouver). Norm worked tirelessly on countless committees and was instrumental in steering the Board toward the creation of an Endowment Fund to ensure a perpetual source of operating income for the Children's Development Centre.



1995-1996

BC Government Begins Consolidation Toward Regional Health Boards

David Goodwin stepped down as President of the Association after eight years. Marilyn Watts, a seven-year member of the Board became President. As the government moved toward Regional Health Boards, the Association continued “consolidation” with the closure of the Villa and Parkland group homes. The Child Development Centres remained outside the Regional Health Board jurisdiction despite much uncertainty on this matter.

Government Policy Shifts Away from Institutionalization

Changing government policy and budget constraints led to the closure of many institutions without reallocating resources for these people. Facilities like the Child Development Centre were inundated with demands for services that had been provided by the now-closed institutions. The Centre’s long-standing and tenuously developed relationship with both levels of government was sorely strained during this period. Governments repeatedly attempted to impose conditions on shrinking funding that had not existed before.

What’s in a Name? A Lot - The South Fraser Child Development Centre

In October 1996, in order to reflect the geographical area that the centre served (Delta, Surrey, White Rock, and Langley) and to help alleviate confusion over its sources of ongoing funding, the Variety Child Development Centre changed its name to South Fraser Child Development Centre.

1996-1998

The Centre Fights for its Very Existence

The Centre found itself in the position of being one of many sub-contractors vying to offer services to either the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Children and Families. The government appeared to be working through its own learning curve as each solicited proposal was met with a modified request for yet another proposal. This became an all out struggle involving Board members, Centre staff members, parents, and volunteers, each in his or her own way fighting for the continued existence of the Child Development Centre as they knew it. Board President Marilyn Watts described this period of the Associations evolution as “Hurry up and wait”.



So Now We Are a Special Needs Agency

Top Association and Centre people spent increasing energies on lobbying, restructuring, drafting and redrafting proposals in an all out effort to remain appropriately positioned to receive essential continued government support for their services and programs. The Centre slowly emerged as THE “Special Needs Agency” for Surrey, Delta, Langley and White Rock.

Ken Spratt Technical Services Workshop

The BC Lions Society committed to a five-year \$125,000 dollar contribution to fund the Centre’s Technical Services Workshop in honour of long-time volunteer and innovator Ken Spratt.

Doris Skelton Honoured

Long-time generous financial supporter and volunteer Mrs. Doris Skelton was honoured at the Centre with a Tea. Centre children presented Mrs. Skelton with flowers.

Auxiliary Closes Newton Thrift Shop

1998-1999

The Child Development Centre Expands its Mandate With New Team

With new Association President Ken McBain, the South Fraser Child Development Centre officially expanded its mandate to accommodate an increasing diversity of disabled children not only the neurologically impaired. Children could now be referred by parents, caregivers, or other community professionals, or their physician, to any of the services available at the centre. All referrals would be evaluated by the centre's developmental paediatrician.

1999-2000

Board Begins Extensive "Issues and Solutions Review"

Ian Moody resigned as Executive Director and Ken McBain and the Board recruited Gerard Bremault as the new Executive Director in the fall of 1999. With past years of consecutive deficit budgets, the Board and their new Executive Director took strong measures to balance the books. Exciting new fund-raising events were planned and all treatment areas were examined for ways to shave costs. As has happened so often in the centre's history, all hands pitched in to maintain services while finding ways to save money.

2000-2001

Association's Bold Plans for the New Century

Association President Ken McBain and Executive Director Gerard Bremault delivered a joint 27-page Annual Report, which gave a detailed assessment of all aspects of the organizations current state, and set out ambitious goals for the future of both the Association and the Child Development Centre. The Board and Administrative staff participated in a growing number of administrative committees carrying out ever more complex functions within the agency:

Executive Committee
Finance Committee
Fundraising Cabinet
Gala Committee
Labour Management Committee
Accreditation Committee
Parent Advisory Committee

A List Of Agency Objectives Are Drawn Up:

1. To be a refuge of support and resources; less institutional
2. To provide quality and breadth of services
3. To be viable, robust and visible



4. To provide Family Centred Care
5. To implement a form of measurement
6. To be a leader in the field in BC
7. To be financially self-sufficient
8. To emphasise/reflect diversity

Back in the Black!

Significant new support from its primary funding source in addition to community fundraising efforts, new fundraising initiatives and significant spending restraints enabled the Association to boast a year end surplus significantly offsetting the previous nine years accumulated deficits.

Some Impressive Statistics

The Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association annual operating budget reached approximately \$5M. The Association employed in excess of 150 professional health sector staff working at five sites.

New Website and Important Infrastructure Upgrades

Delta Communications John Thomas along with "Two Cyber Guys and a Girl" made the Centre's full-function website a reality. New computers and phone system made everyone's job easier and banking and internet services were enhanced.

Three New Senior Staff

Developmental Paediatrician Dr. Alison Laswick, formerly of Sunnyhill, joined the agency bringing a wealth of specialized paediatric knowledge to the agency and community.

Director of Financial Development

Judy Krawchuk joined the team from the Heart and Stroke Foundation bringing along extensive private sector experience in sales and marketing.

Director of Psychology

Dr. Jeanine Harper was promoted to this position from her role as a Psychologist with SFCDC, after an extended vacancy due to funding challenges.

New Surrey/White Rock Supported Child Care Program

The program brought together the joint expertise of SFCDC and Kensington Green under the auspices of SFCDC to provide coordinated, consistently high-quality supported child care services to over 240 children in the Surrey/White Rock area across 65 child care centers.

Accreditation Process Begun

The beginning of the lengthy but vital process of accreditation began with the formation of an accreditation committee and adoption of a policy of "Continuous Improvement".

Job Action

The Centre experienced job action in 2000/2001. The Board's Labour Management Committee worked closely with the H.S.A. labour relations officer to resolve a dispute with unionised employees as quickly as possible. During the job action, everyone did their best to minimise the impact of the job action on the Centre's clients and activities.



Mother Nature

On February 28th, 2001, an earthquake centred at Seattle shook the Centre and everyone was evacuated until the Centre could be examined for damage. Fortunately none occurred but a thorough examination of all safety and security procedures was conducted. Later in the year, flooding due to heavy rainfall caused significant damage to the site and the building's electrical systems. Drainage and roofing were improved to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

Loss of Loved Ones

2001 sadly brought the tragic loss of one of the Centre's "Extended Family". The untimely death Tracy Basham deeply affected many people including staff, volunteers, and client families who either knew Tracy directly or her mother, Heather Basham, a long-standing and highly valued staff member of the Centre.

2001 also saw the passing of Mr. and Mrs. Barr, Mrs. Doris Skelton, and Mrs. Coutts – all long-standing supporters of the Centre whose generosity included contributing to the founding of the Centre, building much of its original equipment, volunteering on the Board of Directors, fund-raising through the Ladies Auxiliary and many donations over the years. They cared deeply for the well-being of the children and contributed greatly of themselves to support them. Their generosity of spirit will long be remembered.

2001-2002

New Langley Child Development Centre Opens

In a first of its kind collaboration between two local non-profit, charitable agencies; The LFCPA and Options co-located in the opening of the new South Fraser Child Development Centre in Langley in October 2001. Operating at Suite 103 – 5844 Glover Road, this site is tailor made to provide therapy to children and families of Langley.

A Flurry of Fundraising Events

In partnership with the Pacific International Street Rod Association a handbuilt 1928 street rod was raffled off raising close to \$70,000 for the centre. The First Annual Walk Run and Roll event raised \$20,000. The First annual Autumn Interlude hosted by Guildford Town Centre raised \$7,000. The Second annual Gala of Hope held at the Northview Golf and Country Club raised \$33,000. The Christmas Gift Wrap Booth at Willowbrook Shopping Centre raised \$10,000.

Golf tournaments hosted by:
Fraser Valley/Eidelwiess (Prospera),
Delta Scottsdale Lions,
and TD Canada Trust raised \$23,000.



Huge Expansion of Services Across Every Department

Revenues increased 33% from the flurry of fundraising and greatly increased provincial government support. With the opening of the new Langley Site, as well as the new partnership for Surrey/White Rock Supported Child Care Program, the number of children served increased dramatically:

- Communication services up 73%
- 1. Supported Child Care in Surrey/White Rock up 40%
- 2. Supported Child Care in North Delta up 57%
- 3. Occupational Therapy up 5%
- 4. Physiotherapy up 8%

Behind this remarkable increase in services provided to children, the SFCDC saw their staff grow by 24% including three new faces and the restructuring of senior positions:

Associate Executive Director: Margaret Duncan, MSW, RSW

Director of Finance & Administration: Kagnev Asaye, CGA

Director of Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy: Judit Spence

Director of Communication Therapy: Christy Faraher-Amidon

2002-2003

More Service Expansion But We Still Can't Keep Up!

While the increases were more modest than the previous year, service increased by up to 27% in Physiotherapy, Family Services, Developmental Medicine, Communication Therapy and Psychology. And, in a first for the South Fraser Region, a part-time Dietitian joined the Centre's Eating Skills Team through the cooperative efforts of Surrey Memorial Hospital.



Despite all these efforts to increase service, ever increasing service needs have now pushed waitlists for many services to more than one year.

Group Homes Transferred

Faced with high service needs and waitlists, the Board made the tough choice to focus the Centre on its core business of providing medical rehabilitation services and related support services to children and youth with disabilities and their families. After much heart wrenching transition planning, the transfer of the two remaining group homes to other specialized adult service providers was finalized in 2002-2003 and the Residential Services Department closed. Newton Place services are now provided by ARCUS Community Resources and Bear Creek & Guildford Glen services are now provided by Howe Sound Rehabilitation Services Society.

A Strange New Habit: Being in the Black!

For the fourth year running, the Centre posted a modest year end surplus. Factoring out the departure of Residential Services, revenues were increased by 7.5% from \$5.75M in the previous year to \$6.2M for 2002/2003. Could this new habit catch on?

The Board Takes Its Governance to a New Level

The Centre has grown to be a substantial business requiring formal systems, policies and procedures at all levels. On December 18, 2002 the Board of Directors adopted an extensive set of governance policies derived from John Carver and titled "Board of Directors Governance Policies, Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association". The new Governance Policies incorporated the Board's 2002 Planning and that of its working groups. Key features of the new Governance Policies:

- A Focus on whole of Board Governance authority and responsibility
 - Board Governance exercised through Policy
 - Clear Board and Board Officer Roles
 - Board Governance is clearly distinguished from Executive Management
 - The Chief Executive Role and its relationship to the Board is clearly defined
- In addition, at the September 2002 AGM, special resolutions reflecting these governance initiatives were passed and subsequently adopted by the Registrar of Companies for British Columbia to improve the clarity and functionality of the Constitution and By-Laws.

2003-2004

The Black Habit Continues & Services to Children Dramatically Benefit

Notwithstanding the vagaries of funding and the imposition of significant cost increases, the Centre somehow managed to again balance the books to the positive side of the ledger. Annual revenues have now reached \$6.6M and, factoring out the transfer of Residential Services, have increased by 67% since 1999-2000. The most dramatic increases in services since then have been in Communication Therapy (up 99%) and Supported Child Care (up 269%).



The South Fraser Child Development Centre Reaches Fifty Year Milestone
 Visit the South Fraser Child Development Centre today at its Surrey location and you will be astounded at the 40,000 square foot multi-disciplinary facility and its range of clinical and support services. But even more impressive is the continued grassroots involvement of the community and the parents of the children the centre serves. This has been true from the very beginning and is particularly evident in the following insert, reproduced with permission, from the Surrey Leader.

JOIN US AS  WE CELEBRATE

Gerard Bremault
 Executive Director
 South Fraser Child Development Centre



**Every Child
 Deserves
 Growth and
 Support**

For 50 years the South Fraser Child Development Centre has provided supportive services to families who are raising children with developmental disabilities. The Centre has based its principles on the philosophy that the best way to meet the needs of children is to support and build on the strength of their families. Families have the capacity to raise a child with a disability, especially when they receive support from friends, neighbors, human service professionals and other community members. Executive Director, Gerard Bremault explains, "Our services are provided through a collaborative team effort that includes children and their families as well as our professionals to ensure we address the goals and values of each family." Parents are viewed as the best allies in all activity that serves the child. The child and parents are considered to be in the best position to know the needs, to aid in finding solutions, and to choose the kinds of supports that will help them to care for their child with a disability. "Instead of a top down service, we appreciate the significance of each family's input."

South Fraser Child Development Centre provides care to children from birth to age 19. The Centre offers a number of services including communication therapy, family services, medical referrals and assessments, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, supported child care, integrated preschools, psychology services, recreation therapy and specialty services. Bremault details, "Our approach is to offer ongoing therapy and the acceptance, love, nurturing, security, and recognition of each child's unique gifts."

...continued on page 22

**CELEBRATING
 50
 YEARS**

of
 continuous
 service



**South Fraser
 Child Development Centre**

Operated by Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association



Serving children with special needs and their families 1954-2004.

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

"Proud supporters of the South Fraser Child Development Centre for 6 years!"

We are looking forward to working together for the years to come.

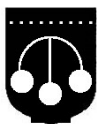


HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY

Delta Cable congratulates the **South Fraser Child Development Centre** on their 50th Anniversary and for all the wonderful services they provide to children of British Columbia with special needs. We're proud to have been a small part of your success through fund-raising and community awareness programs.



A proud supporter of the South Fraser Child Development Centre since 1998.



Common Exchange
Offering Collateral Loans Secured by Personal Estate Items

Congratulations

South Fraser Child Development Centre

Common Exchange Ltd. is proud to be an ongoing supporter of the annual GALA of HOPE.

We look forward to our continued involvement in this very worthwhile fundraising event.

Common Exchange is a new age pawnbroker providing small short term loans to customers who are usually not able to obtain small credit through regular financial institutions. All our loans are secured by personal estate items. Common Exchange Pawnbrokers has 8 locations in the Lower Mainland.

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Every Child Deserves Growth and Support
continued from front page...

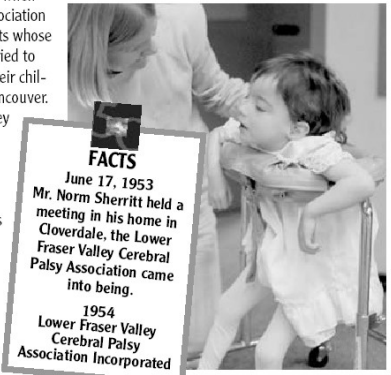
Each year, South Fraser Child Development Centre serves over 1800 children with developmental delays or disabilities from Delta, Surrey, White Rock and Langley. The health care professionals provide therapeutic programs to children with special needs and offer support services to their families. Bremault describes, "Our care is given in an open, supportive environment. We offer an integrated team approach to treating each child's needs. Our staffing complement includes pediatricians, pediatric nurse practitioners, family counselors, and social workers. It is flexible, individualized, and recognizes that families and individuals are diverse, and therefore have separate and unique needs."

The Centre's mission dates back to 1953 when the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association (LFVCPA) was formed by a group of parents whose children had Cerebral Palsy. They initially tried to collaborate to provide transportation for their children to attend the G.F. Strong Centre in Vancouver. As the population in the Lower Fraser Valley grew, the Association realized that a Child Development Centre was needed in their own community.

While all of the original clients of the Centre were planned for their needs, it was quickly realized that other children with physical disabilities would benefit from these services in their own community. Support grew and so did the needs of the facility as more and more students sought guidance. The Centre then opened its mandate to include children with many

other developmental disabilities and special needs. "The most outstanding thing is that parents, who gathered in a living room 50 years ago, started this organization to help their own children. We are now a large vibrant organization with a staff of over 140, providing medical rehab and therapy at three locations. The Centre has pioneered many breakthroughs for individuals with special needs. It is incredible it all grew from the seed of concerned families half a decade ago."

All children with disabilities deserve the services and supports that they need to live a happy and enriched life that supports the needs of the child and their families. At South Fraser Child Development Centre, children can find the help they need to communicate with the world around them. It is a place where every program is designed to meet the child's needs.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ON YOUR

50th ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for all that you do.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Jessica Dyck – Age 19

Since she was little, Jessica Dyck's father always made sure she understood that she could talk to him about anything, he has always been there for her, and continues to be her biggest cheerleader to this day. "I don't know what I'd do without my Dad, he has always helped me, he has always been there for me," Jessica enthuses. "My dad has always made me feel I could do anything, and he has always pushed me to work my hardest, he has helped me to become independent."

Jessica's father has taught her in order to achieve her dreams; she needs to believe that she can accomplish them. That even the slightest bit of self-doubt can throw her goals off track, so she has kept her head high and believed she can do anything that she sets her mind to. This fall, Jessica will begin a new dream. She has been accepted at Douglas College and will start a four year program to become a social worker. "I want to help disabled kids," she explains. "Just like the therapists and counselors at South Fraser Child Development Centre helped me."

Jessica started therapy at the centre when she was just age two and continued right up until this year. As a young child she received occupational therapy for her mobility, and then had physical therapy twice a week until she was age twelve. Despite her mild cerebral palsy, she has never used a wheelchair. She started with a walker, and eventually switched to use of two canes, and now gets by on just one cane. "My dad walks with me each night, and I am trying to walk around the block without a cane, I am doing okay, but I am a bit dangerous, because I can't stop without a cane!" she describes laughing. "Judith, My therapist at the centre, has managed to get a scooter donated for me to use when I start school this fall. I need it because I can't carry the weight of the books, so it will make things so much easier."

Along with her father and therapists at the centre, Jessica has been lucky to be surrounded by a nurturing mother, older sister, and a twin brother, who does not have Cerebral Palsy. "I feel so lucky to have the family that I have and such great friends. A new friend, Gary, is encouraging and kind and has helped me learn how to use mind

over matter in the most difficult situations." Jessica is bubbly, positive, and up beat, but admits she gets down about her disability on occasion, "It's only normal to be depressed once in a while; but I have a great friend Marco, who I met through the centre when I was in pre-school. He also has Cerebral Palsy, I can always talk to him whenever something is frustrating me."

The support and love that Jessica gives and gets from her family, friends, and the centre is evident in the person she is today. "I try never to look at my disability as a disadvantage. It is who I am, and I am proud of that. People do not need to feel bad for me, just accept me for being me!" The warmth and sincerity in which she speaks these words lets you know that those who are close to Jessica are fortunate to have such a vibrant and extraordinary young woman in their lives.



Jaskaran Bola – Age 17

Jaskaran Bola doesn't view her Cerebral Palsy as a setback. "I have always had it," she articulates. "It's given me more opportunities. It's made me a more independent and outgoing individual, if I want to succeed, I need be this way."

Jaskaran has definitely shown she can be a success in whatever she chooses to do. At 17, she will complete her high school education, graduating from Princess Margaret Secondary this month. She plans to attend Kwantlen

College this September, and work towards an eventual career in either law or psychology. "I think more services are needed for people in tough situations, and that there should be better resources. I have been lucky with my care at South Fraser Child Development Centre, and I want to help other people with what they need."

From the time she was a toddler of 1, the centre has been part of her life. Jaskaran has had therapy from this early age and continues with her physiotherapy to this day. "The therapists have always been great and supportive. They have helped me learn new things and get interested in new activities. Frannie Cruise is the Recreational Therapist and she has been really helpful. She got me interested in wheelchair tennis, I have been doing it for two years now and I really like it!" Jaskaran has also benefited from swimming lessons and weight training at the centre and has taken part in the annual Run, Walk and Roll for our Kids.

At high school, Jaskaran is active with her group of friends and enjoys her Community Leadership class. One of the projects that she completed in the class was compiling memory books for children in Foster Care. Jaskaran was responsible for putting together all the important documents, photographs and letters for foster children. "It really was fun to do, and I felt good knowing I was helping a child who might not have a lot of backing in his life." At school, Jaskaran says that sometimes when she meets new people they are worried that they might offend her or think

that she cannot participate in "regular" activities. "I can do anything, all sports and activities can somehow be modified. People don't need to worry about insulting me, they won't. I will always answer any respectful questions people have about my disability."

All youth, regardless of their abilities, need and deserve the opportunity to be involved in activities to help them uncover their own special skills and interests. Jaskaran has clearly shown that her talents and capabilities are never-ending.



FACTS
1954
Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association becomes a charter member of the United Good Neighbour organization better known as "United Way"

1960
Marjorie Hardy hired as Executive Director

FACTS
1961
On property belonging to Surrey Memorial Hospital the foundation was laid for the treatment centre with labour provided by Van Zor Grotto

1961
21 ladies form an Auxiliary to the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!

We are both pleased and proud to have served this facility for the past two decades. We most certainly wish them every success in continuing their important work.

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Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!



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Congratulations on your **50th Anniversary**

Proud to support the South Fraser Child Development Centre for 4 years!



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

COME TO OUR REUNION

South Fraser Child Development Centre is celebrating 50 years of continuous service for children with special needs and their families in the South Fraser Region. Our 50th Anniversary will be celebrated with a special evening to give clients, parents, care-givers, staff, volunteers, board members and donors a chance to re-kindle friendships and share their meaningful experiences with clients, parents and care-givers, staff and donors both past and present on Friday, October 15th, 2004 at 9460-140th Street, Surrey.

Please help us get the word out to everyone who has been associated with the centre over the past 50 years and have them RSVP their attendance and forward a current email address or mailing address to Judy at 604-587-4279 or by email at judy@sfdc.bc.ca. so we can forward all of the details of the event. We would like to ask guests to write something special for the South Fraser Child Development Centre 50th Anniversary Reunion, your recollections, memorabilia special photos and tributes will be placed in a time capsule in our 50th Anniversary Project our "Garden of Giving".



FACTS
 1971
 Marks the beginning of a long relationship between Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association and Tent 47 of the Variety Club.
 1978
 25 years of service, this year saw a record number of 100 new referrals

Give from the Heart



South Fraser Child Development Centre
 Operated by Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association

The children of South Fraser Child Development Centre need your help! Your tax deductible gift provides hope to children with special needs and their families. The centre receives 70 percent of its operating budget from government contracts. It must raise the remaining 30 percent from charitable donations.

YOUR DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation payable to South Fraser Child Development Centre.

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500

I prefer to donate _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone Number _____

I would prefer to make my donation on my:

Visa Mastercard American Express

Expiry Date _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax deductible receipt. Donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a copy of our 50th Anniversary Celebration Book which tells the story of South Fraser Child Development Centre and ensures that all those people whose faith, labour, determination and love who built this facility will not be forgotten, but it also shows that when a community works together toward a common goal, anything is possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Charitable Registration Number 10764 6408 RR0001
 Please consider us in your gift and estate planning.
 Planned gifts provide funding for essential services for special needs children and their families.

Yes, I'd like to make a difference that matters.



FACTS
 1979
Lookout Preschool opens in Delta
 1982
Endowment Fund- Association's first foray into Investment Funding
 1983
Inflation Continues to Outpace Funding
 1989
New Faces, A New Building, A New Mission, A New Logo
 1990
After 29 years on the Board Steve Piskorik steps down



SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PROVIDES:

- the only "one-stop-shop" for children with special needs and their families in the South Fraser Region providing specialized pediatric psychologists, social workers, early childhood educators, supported child care consultants, recreation specialists and technicians, a dietitian and a Doctor specializing in developmental paediatrics
- the only community based "eating skills team" of specialists in the Lower Mainland who work with children who have disabilities and eating difficulties
- specialists in assistive technology for communication to prescribe an adapt state of the art computer and communication technology for children of pre-school age
- an equipment team providing full evaluation for seating and mobility
- on-site equipment manufacturing and adaptation
- on-site casting and splinting services
- an extensive equipment & toy loan program
- parent classes and training programs for early childhood educators
- recreation therapy with an indoor hydrotherapy pool with a water temperature of 92 degrees
- an orthopaedic clinic and dietitian services in association with Surrey Memorial Hospital
- convenient access to staff of the Ministry of Children & Family Development located on our second floor
- interpreter services

South Fraser Child Development Centre in Surrey, is our primary and largest site at 40,000 square feet. It is a regional children's neurological facility offering therapeutic services to children with disabilities and support to families residing throughout the South Fraser Region in Surrey, Delta, Langley and White Rock. The Centre serves children from birth to 19 years of age with a variety of neurological, orthopedic, development and learning difficulties including cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, down syndrome, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, brain injuries and infections, seizure disorders and other developmental disabilities.

South Fraser Child Development Centre in Langley, is our newest location and opened in October 2001 extending the above therapies on-site at 5844 Glover Road in Langley. Lookout Preschool serves children from 30 months to 6 years of age in North Delta, including children with disabilities.

smiles for you...

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Paul Scholefield – Age 12

As Alison Scholefield speaks of her 12 year old son Paul, and Paul's two sisters, she sounds like any other Mom; she expresses her love and frustrations, she wants to make her children feel secure, and she hopes to build their self esteem. She talks openly about the need for change as your child grows. Alison and her husband have three very different children, who, like all children, each have their own interests and activities. Although Paul has left hemiplegia cerebral palsy, (hemi meaning half and affecting one side of body, either right or left), he is as involved and active of any of his family members. All of her children are not the same — but Alison ensures they have the same opportunities.

Because of a concern with his arm at birth, the Scholefield family had regular contact with a pediatrician during the first few months of his birth. By 12 months, the family was aware Paul was not developing properly and began seeing a specialist. Interestingly, it was a family friend who taught special needs children who first diagnosed Paul with having Cerebral Palsy. This led to more doctors, and finally a referral to South Fraser Child Development Centre. "Although my husband and I knew something was medically wrong, the diagnosis was overwhelming, there was so much to take in, so much to learn," Alison recalls.

"The services at the centre helped everything fall into place, and helped us get back to a life of normalcy," recounts Alison. The centre's programs are family-centered in which professionals and families work together with the child in specific activities. Educators, physical and occupational therapists, social workers, speech- language pathologists, psychologists and physicians can assist families by providing information and education.

Paul spent his first two years of pre-school at Lookout Preschool which is part of the South Fraser Child Development Centre umbrella

and followed his pre-school activities with therapy each afternoon. After another year of pre-school at Sunshine Hills, Paul started attending a Catholic elementary school where his older sister was enrolled.

At his school, Paul has been fortunate to have consistency with his Teaching Assistant, who has been supportive and an advocate for Paul. His mother details; "Paul is happy at school. Despite the fact his left hand is not useful, he has adapted to everything using one hand. He enjoys playing sports with the other boys at recess, and he loves to talk hockey. He will tackle any math problem if we relate it to the Canucks!"

Paul is also active outside his school-work; he attends a boys group at the centre monthly, is a whiz on the computer, and is now following the European Soccer finals. Earlier this year he played the drum one handed in his school band and even performed an awe-inspiring solo. Last year he ran the entire 4k of the annual Run/Walk/Roll for our kids to raise funds for the centre. "He chased after him with his wheelchair, but he never used it," laughs Alison. This year Paul was determined to do it again, when he took part in the run. "He amazes us with what he can accomplish. When I look at him and see the concentration in his face, and then his wide smile, it just makes everything okay, everything we do is worthwhile."



**The Kaweski Kids
Damien 11, Alexa 5, Natasha 9, Samantha 7**

Much of how parents raise a child with a disability will depend on the family's personal beliefs about childrearing, and the nature of his or her disability. For Corinna and Andrew Kaweski, parents of four active children, including two with a chronic genetic disorder, life continues as usual. "We are just a normal family with normal ups and downs like any other family." An important point to remember is that most of the regular child-raising issues that apply when raising any child, apply to children with disabilities. They may not go through stages at the same age, at the same rate, but they are children and kids are kids.

The Kaweski's two oldest children; Damien and Natasha, were diagnosed with their disorder early in life and referred to the South Fraser Child Development Centre. The children's disability limits their mobility and growth, and both Damien and Natasha use electric wheelchairs. The centre has assisted the Kaweski family with referrals, surgeries and on-going therapies. Both children also took part in a fit and fun program at the centre and Damien enjoys participating in a boys group at the centre each month.

The Kaweski children attend public school in North Delta and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of several com-

panions. Damien is crazy about the Canucks, and regularly plays hockey and basketball with his buddies at school. Natasha is interested in crafts and sewing and loves to read. "They are extremely supportive of one another," conveys Corinna, "They are in tune to one another's needs and can help each other out through a rough patch." Corinna remembers a time when Natasha was feeling particularly down about her short stature, when Damien

quipped, "It's not all that bad, we'll get McDonalds meals for life," he said referring to his sisters and his small size. His comments brought a tearful sister to giggles.

The siblings are also supportive of their younger sisters, "they play with them, read to them, and have fun with them," articulates Corinna, "of course they also squabble and fight with them. I think the best times we have is when everyone is content, when we are enjoying a family activity like visiting the aquarium or the park, or just talking about our day at the dinner table." The Kaweski's are truly a remarkable, yet a regular family.



Ambassadors of the year

**Benjamin Dooley
Age 7-1/2**

When Terry and Pauline Dooley's baby was a week overdue, they went for a routine sonogram to check the positioning of the child they were anxiously awaiting for. What they found out instead astounded them, as they learned their first born child would be born with Spina Bifida.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect caused by the failure of the fetus's spine to close properly during the first month of pregnancy. Infants born with Spina Bifida sometimes have an open lesion on their spine where significant damage to the nerves and spinal cord has occurred. Although the spinal opening can be surgically repaired shortly after birth, the nerve damage is permanent, resulting in varying degrees of paralysis of the lower limbs.

Right after their son Benjamin was born, the doctors at Children's Hospital referred the Dooley family to South Fraser Child Development Centre. When Benjamin was two years old he

started his treatment at the centre-including occupational, speech, and physiotherapies. Benjamin has excelled with all of his programs at the centre. He is now an outgoing and academically strong grade two student attending Bear



Creek Elementary School in Surrey. "He is a great kid; he is very bright and does well at school," describes his father Terry.

Benjamin has acted as a youth leader and the ambassador of South Fraser Child Development Centre for the last four years. In this role he has attended functions and fund raisers on behalf of the centre. "It has made him famous among his friends and schoolmates," jokes his Dad. Benjamin also has interests in a broad range of activities, he is a beaver in the boy scouts program, and will become a cub this fall. He is also active with horseback riding, wheelchair basketball, and swimming and the LOVES hockey. "He loves the Canucks, he thinks he'll play goalie for them one day!" chuckles Terry.

The Dooley family has progressed leaps and bounds on their family journey since their initial shock almost 8 years ago. "Our life would not be the same without Benjamin. He is a pure joy," says his father happily.

FACTS
 1991 Treatment Centre Implements Family Centred Care
 1994-1995 Norm Sherritt resigns after 40 Years on the Board
 2000/2 Dr. Alison Laswick joins our team as the new Developmental Paediatrician
 Accreditation Process Begins

Emily Anderson – Age 11

Emily Anderson was born with Spina Bifida. Incredibly, her mother Gerry Morris had a background working with children with special needs. Although it made her an informed and knowledgeable parent, the diagnosis was still startling for the family.

Emily has been involved with the South Fraser Child Development Centre since she was a toddler and has attended regular therapy and sports programs there. "We have been very fortunate with our experiences with South Fraser," comments Gerry, "It makes it so easy to have everything that Emily needs under one roof." Emily is now a bright and active grade 5 student at Old Yale Elementary School. "The centre has helped her settle into her school routine and have facilitated getting us whatever adaptive measures Emily needs for her education," remarks Gerry.

Outside of school, Emily is involved in a long list of diverse activities. She takes part in wheelchair sports camps, loves swimming, basketball, and horseback riding and

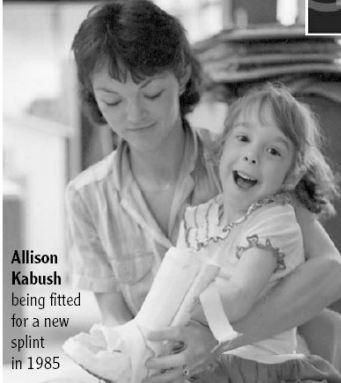


CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Daryl Hendrickson poses for the camera in 1977



Allison Kabush being fitted for a new splint in 1985



Lillian McGuire – Age 6

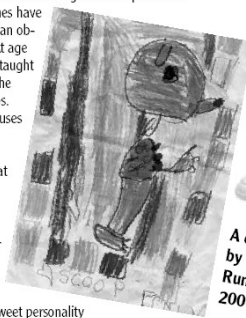
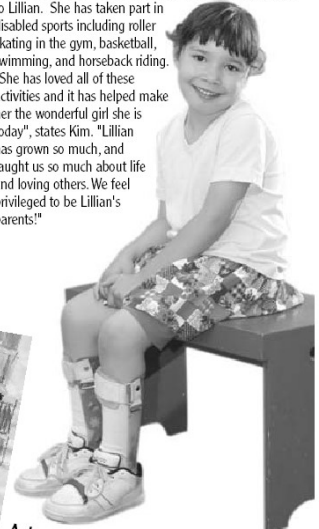
The key to raising a child with developmental disabilities is respect: respect for their uniqueness, respect for their opinions and ideas and respect for their dreams. Lillian and James McGuire are fortunate to have Kim and James McNeill as their guardians. Kim and James are responsive and flexible parents who will go to bat for their children if needed, and continually celebrate their children as the greatest joy in their lives.

The McNeill's feel extremely fortunate to have found themselves at the South Fraser Child Development Centre after receiving custody of the children four years ago. "I honestly do not know where I would be without the South Fraser Child Development Centre" Kim explains, "It has been a complete world of information, resources, and communication opportunities for both of us and the children. The centre has helped us with everything from specific diagnoses, funding connections, adaptive products and recreational activities."

Lillian was diagnosed with mild spastic Cerebral Palsy when she was just over two years old. Children with spastic Cerebral Palsy often have stiff and jerky movements. They often have a hard time moving from one position to another, and often times have difficulty letting go of an object with their hand. At age two, Lillian had to be taught to crawl; now at six, she can take unaided steps. She also occasionally uses a walker, she has no speech problems, and she is mainstreamed at Kennedy Trail Elementary School. Kim enthuses "Lillian is a little social butterfly. She is outgoing, vivacious, and bubbly. People are just drawn to her by her sweet personality

and beautiful smile. She has a way of making the gloomiest day bearable. She loves school and the children there love her and treat her as just one of the kids!"

Physiotherapists and Occupational therapists at the centre have brought recreation and meaningful activities to Lillian. She has taken part in disabled sports including roller skating in the gym, basketball, swimming, and horseback riding. "She has loved all of these activities and it has helped make her the wonderful girl she is today", states Kim. "Lillian has grown so much, and taught us so much about life and loving others. We feel privileged to be Lillian's parents!"



A drawing of Scoop The News Hound by Lillian McGuire at the Run, Walk & Roll for our kids 2004 Event.



HAMILTON DUNCAN ARMSTRONG & STEWART BUSINESS LAWYERS

Congratulations

Surrey Office
#1450 - 13401 108th Ave.,
Surrey, B.C. V3T 5T3
Tel: 604-581-4677 Fax: 604-581-5947

White Rock Office
#404 - 1688 152nd Street
White Rock, B.C. V4A 4N2
Tel: 604-536-1076 Fax: 604-542-5722

www.hdas.com

G&F Financial Group and United Savings Credit Union have now merged!

WE CONTINUE TO BE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF

The South Fraser Child Development Centre

Visit one of our Surrey Branches

Surrey Branch
Fleetwood Park Village
101-15910 Fraser Highway
604.599.6177

Nordel Branch
Nordel Way & 120th Street
Opening September 2004

With 11 more branches to serve you!

SOUND FINANCIAL PRODUCTS WITH A CREDIT UNION ADVANTAGE



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S & R Sawmills is proud to support the South Fraser Child Development Centre

Here's to 50 years of success!!! Congratulations



S AND R Sawmills Ltd.

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Tel: (604) 888-0022 Fax: (604) 888-3387

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Marie Cusson - Age 4

Marie Cusson came into the world 8 weeks before her due date, but since her very first day she has always been a strong and determined child! When Marie was just 2 days old she developed a staph skin infection. Unfortunately the staph bacteria entered Marie's bloodstream through a break in her skin, and because of her very weak immune system this eventually led to abnormal development of Marie's hip; Hip Dysplasia.

Very early in her life, the Cusson's family physician, Dr. Michael Bassett, referred Marie to South Fraser Child Development Centre. At 18 months Marie started physiotherapy while she went through a series of casts and braces to improve her condition. Melanie asserts "I honestly am so grateful for the centre.

Everyone there is just awesome; I can't imagine where we'd be without them. 95% of our

doctors were telling us Marie would never walk; I only wish they could see her now!"

Marie is an outgoing and enthusiastic child with a zest for life. She walks without a walker or cane, but because her right leg is 3 cm shorter than her left, she wears special shoes with a lift to even out the height difference. "Marie can do anything! She

loves the climbing wall at the centre, she adores bike riding, and is a great runner!" enthuses Melanie. "The physiotherapy she does at the centre incorporates the activities like climbing and swimming that she loves, so she is always excited to go! We seriously could not manage without their help the medical and physiotherapy costs alone would wipe us out."

Melanie and Dave are proud of the passionate and outgoing child that Marie has continued to be since her birth 4 years ago. "Nothing stops her, she is a strong girl leading a successful and normal life, we couldn't be prouder."



We are proud to help support the South Fraser Child Development Centre in their fundraising efforts as they strive to provide a variety of services to special needs children in the South Fraser Region.

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!

99
NURSERY & FLORIST

9376 King George Hwy., Surrey
604-584-6555

STOP ...not our kids!

Congratulations to the South Fraser Child Development Centre on 50 years of serving children and families in our communities.

DELTA SHOPPERS MALL

82ND AND SCOTT ROAD

The TD Commercial Banking Centre

in Surrey
Congratulates

South Fraser Child Development Centre

for 50 years of Outstanding Service to Children with Special Needs and their Families

TD Commercial Banking

Fraser Valley Commercial Banking Group
10435 King George Highway, Surrey, BC V3T 2W7

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SOUTH FRASER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Partners for 50 years



Partners in caring: The Leader and South Fraser Child Development Centre

A lot gets written about the importance of partnerships. Like most things, there are "partnerships" and then there are "partnerships". South Fraser Child Development Centre has had the good fortune to have a genuine partner in the Leader for many years. As far as I can tell they've been with us for all of our 50 years - kind of like a 75 year old brother. I've been Executive Director of the Centre for almost five years and they have always been there for us. And they were there for our children and families well before I arrived on the scene.

And when I say been there, I truly mean they have pulled out the stops to support the children and families we serve. They don't just provide a fantastic means of communicating about South Fraser Child Development Centre to this community. They roll up their sleeves and lead by example. Bruce ran puffing to the finish line of our 2004 Run Walk and Roll Event for our kids at Bear Creek Park just as his wife Shelley passed him while our young ambassador Benjamin rolled by in his wheelchair. Karla worked feverishly with the organizing committee and volunteers to pull all the sponsors and teams together to produce the event in the first place. Then we all came together for the second annual Leader Awards night that Judy from our Centre had worked with the Leader and many other community organizations to help organize and select the worthy award

recipients. And then it was off to plan for our fall Gala and our fiftieth anniversary celebrations and for this insert and...well you get the picture. We work together - a lot. There are hundreds of hours that Bruce, Karla and their teams put in above and beyond their already deadline crazed work schedules to help us.

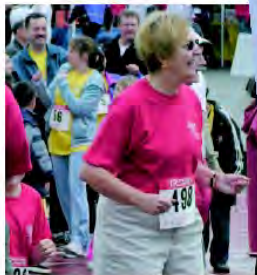
Why? It's apparent to me that these individuals and their team of people who make up the Leader genuinely care about this community, about the children with developmental disabilities and their families that we have the honour of serving on behalf of the Region communities of the South Fraser. There is an old saying that actions speak louder than words. Ironically, for an organization whose business it is to craft words and present them to you, the Leader has a knack for its actions speaking even louder than its words. Their moniker isn't just lip service - they are "The Leader".

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Children and Families of the South Fraser Child Development Centre we'd like to thank our genuine partners for all their dedicated support. We couldn't have done this for 50 years without them, or without you - THANK YOU!

Gerard Bremault, MSW, RSW
Executive Director
South Fraser Child Development Centre

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

- Win a 1973 Corvette! Appraised market value \$20,000.00. Tickets \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. Call 604-584-1361 to charge by phone or visit our website at www.sfcddc.bc.ca. Draw Date September 18, 2004.
- 9th Annual Prospera Golf Tournament- Hazelmere Golf & Country Club-Thursday, July 15th, 2004. For more information etoews@prosperacreditunion.ca, or call Erin at 604-864-6543.
- The Rotary Clubs of Surrey and Guildford Autumn Interlude Wine Festival-Saturday, October 2nd, 2004 at Guildford Town Centre, for tickets 604-597-4844.
- 50th Anniversary Reunion Friday, October 15th, 2004 at South Fraser Child Development Centre.
- 5th Annual 50th Anniversary "Gala of Hope" at Northview Golf & Country Club, November 6th, 2004. For tickets call Chris at 604-584-1361, local 2280.



The **Leader**

Accreditation Milestone Highlights Service Quality

The above stories from the children and families served by the Centre tell the story of the Centre's purpose for being - service. In 2003-2004 a very significant milestone was achieved in the Centre's ongoing commitment to the "continuous quality improvement" of its services. In September 2004, CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) announced that South Fraser Child Development Centre has been accredited for a period of three years for its Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation Programs - Multiple Service (Pediatric Family Centred) through each of its three sites in Surrey, Langley and Delta. This is the first accreditation that the international accrediting commission has awarded to South Fraser Child Development Centre. This accreditation outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the standards established by CARF. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation outcome has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable!

An Award Winning Performance!

In October 2004 the South Fraser Child Development Centre was honoured by the Surrey Chamber of Commerce Surrey Business Excellence Awards as the 2004 "Not-for-Profit of the Year".

An Impressive Resume

These business accolades formally acknowledged what many families had come to know and appreciate over the past 50 years – the Centre's excellence as the only "one-stop shop" in the South Fraser region providing comprehensive services to children from birth to 19 years and their families in all the following areas:

- Casting and Splinting
- Communication Therapy
- Developmental Medicine
- Eating Skills Team
- Equipment Team
- Family Services and Support Groups
- Hydrotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Preschool Programs
- Psychology
- Recreation Therapy
- Supported Child Care
- Technical Services

The Mission of Today's Child Development Centre...

...is to be a place where children and youth with developmental disabilities and their families can get their questions answered and their needs met in a caring environment.

Philosophy

The provision of services to children and youth with developmental disabilities and their families shall be based on the following beliefs:

All children and youth with developmental disabilities have the right to high quality programs and services, which facilitate their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Programs and services should be community-based, foster integration of children with disabilities into the community, be readily accessible, and developed to meet the individual needs of the children and youth, parents, and organizations served.

Effective programs and services focus on the child and youth using a family-centred care approach.

Programs and services will be provided through a collaborative team effort that includes children and youth, parents and professionals working in an atmosphere of equality and mutual respect.

Today's Board of Directors and Executive

In the beginning, and for many years, almost all the members of the executive were parents of cerebral palsied children. Just as the Child Development Centre has broadened its mandate, with increasingly complex demands and responsibilities, so has it broadened its leadership.

Today's Board of Directors and Executive are a diverse team from all walks of life. While there are still members of this team who have disabled children and bring an important perspective to the Board's work, most are trained professionals with a wide range of skills who come from many different walks of community life.

Our Modern Day Heroes

Without the support of our current volunteers, committee members and fundraising supporters and Centre Ambassadors we simply could not keep pace with the continuing needs for our services in the fastest growing region in Canada. There have been thousands of supporters over the past 50 years. To all of you who have supported us, our heartfelt thanks. A few of these supporters are featured below from the Centre's current fundraising efforts:

Major events and support during the 2003/2004 fiscal year are featured on the pages that follow and include:

- *Gala of Hope*
- *Prospera Charity Golf Tournament*
- *Surrey Fire Fighters Casting and Splinting Room Sponsorship*
- *Run, Walk and Roll*
- *Corvette Raffle*
- *Transcontinental Clothing Banks*
- *Willowbrook Shopping Centre Charity Gift Wrap*
- *Rotary Clubs of Surrey and Guildford Wine Festival (Autumn Interlude) at Guildford Town Centre*

Additionally, the following activities and events were also held which supported the South Fraser Child Development Centre and/or our community:

Golf Tournaments: The Delta Scottsdale Lions hosted a tournament on our behalf.

Santa Breakfast: The 2nd Annual "Santa Breakfast" at Guildford Town Centre helped raise the centre's profile and \$1,200 for the centre.

Family Christmas Party: Many thanks to Sharon and Dwayne for the 2nd successful Family Christmas Party at The Roadhouse Eatery in White Rock. Families from South Fraser Child Development Centre were treated to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Children had a visit with Santa and received a wonderful gift thanks to Santa and the Peace Arch Rotary Club. Thank you to Handi-Dart and our many volunteers.

Involvement in Awards & Professional Development: Judy assisted with the 2nd Annual LEADER Awards, is on the Surrey Business Excellence Awards Committee and is the Chair for the Fraser Valley Chapter of the Association for Fundraising Professionals.

It's a Wrap at Scottsdale Centre: Celebrity Christmas Gift wrapping.

99 Nursery Poinsetta Sale: Raise \$1,021 for our kids.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



South Fraser Child Development Centre

Operated by Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy Association

Serving children with special needs and their families 1954 - 2004.

9460 - 140th Street, Surrey, BC V3V 5Z4

Telephone 604-584-1361 Fax 604-583-5113

Website www.sfcdc.bc.ca

Although every effort was made to include as many individuals, service organizations, businesses, donors, partners, board members and staff of South Fraser Child Development Centre in this 50th Anniversary Celebration book, we may have inadvertently missed someone or something in our history. We apologize for any omissions.