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BACi Summer BBQ (see page 10)

Mission

The Association, through innovative programs and exceptional facilities exists to:

- Empower people to live their lives by respecting their choices
- Assist in the learning, development and growth of all individuals
- Ensure that people are connected to family and friends
- Support families to provide the best care for their children
- Advocate, by raising community awareness, for individuals with disabilities.

Vision

Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI) serves individuals of all ages with disabilities together with their families, provides an infant development program and offers child care for all children.

BACI advocates that all individuals are accepted and valued members of the community who, in their own way, contribute to society.

Editor

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*Fergus McCann
President*

“There are three committees that we would like to see established in the coming months and, as usual, we are seeking interested people to join any or all of them.”

The usual practice in these little notes from the side of my desk is to review what we've been up to at BACI. However, having recently completed the year in review that is our Annual General Meeting, I'd like to actually look ahead this time around.

There are three committees that we would like to see established in the coming months and, as usual, we are seeking interested people to join any or all of them.

One of the most important needs from my perspective is the formation of a Political Action Committee to ensure that BACI's interests and concerns are brought to the attention of all parties in the upcoming Provincial Election. We are less than a year away from electing a new provincial government and this is an important time to make sure that those people running as representatives of Burnaby's citizens are aware of all their constituents.

BACI would also like to form an Education Scholarship Committee to come up with a way to recognize and reward students with disabilities who will be seeking to continue their education. At Clint Morrison's retirement party, his fellow workers were very generous in donating to BACI and we have seed money of over \$1,000 to start this project – one of the strategic goals of the Association.

And last but not least, at the suggestion of *Lois Godfrey* we are hoping to set up an ongoing Board Governance Committee with an eye to ensuring that our Board Manuals are kept current and reflect good governance models. This committee would also be asked to assist with the Nomination Committee in its search for good Board candidates.

Put on your thinking caps, consider participating, and call 604-299-7851 to let Tanya know of your interest.

Have a great what's-left-of-a-rapidly-going-by summer...



Lois Woolley receiving thanks for the money she raised for BACI at her annual plant sale.



A few months ago, BACI sent a letter to the *Honourable Christy Clark, Minister of Children and Family Development*. In the letter, BACI strongly stated:

Opposition to any further funding cuts to services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Furthermore, BACI requested that the Ministry restore funding levels to address the ever-growing waitlists across the province, and to ensure people live safe and healthy lives. "It is not morally right to make further cuts to this vulnerable population by jeopardizing their safety and health."

The Ministry must honour their commitment to self-advocates across British Columbia, guaranteeing their representation on the Community Living BC Board. "It is the right decision for self-advocates to have a voting position on the CLBC Board."

BACI requested a meeting with Ms. Clark to further discuss these matters. Although initially skeptical that an actual meeting would take place, we are happy to report that Ms. Clark's office contacted us and agreed to meet. On July 7th, *Deputy Minister Alison MacPhail* and *Assistant Deputy Minister Robyn Syme* came to Still Creek and met with a small group – Gerry Juzenas, Fergus McCann, Bridget Nairn, Patrice Pratt and Tanya Sather – representing the voices and stories

of our families and self-advocates.

Fergus spoke about BACI and the impact of funding reductions over the past. He reiterated BACI's support of community governance, but expressed worry about the apparent loss of the families' voice and power in this process. Fergus also shared his family's story and addressed his specific concerns about transitional times for individuals and families. He reminded Ms. MacPhail and Ms. Syme that during transitions, as from child to adulthood, families feel vulnerable and uncertain. They need reassurance and action to show that this crucial time will be family-driven, not institutional.

Gerry, as always, told his story with honesty and openness. He shared the times in his life that were sad and lonely. He also shared the joy and satisfaction of being recently elected as a Vice President on BACI's Board, of being a part of the United Way Speaker's Bureau, and of participating in numerous other committees and boards throughout BC. Gerry wants a self-advocate's voice to be on the CLBC Board.

Bridget spoke from two perspectives— as a senior family member and as the Chair of our Seniors' Committee. In a heartfelt manner, Bridget spoke about the fears our senior families have regarding the care of their sons and daughters. She also talked about the changing needs of

seniors and the government's responsibility to address those needs.

Patrice also spoke from two perspectives – as a parent and as the new Chair of the Sharing Our Future Foundation. Patrice told Ms. MacPhail and Ms. Syme what it feels like to be a parent with a child needing services and the difference that services can make. Patrice also spoke of the fundraising challenges to offset significant budget reductions.

Finally, we shared the perspective of a service provider and employer. Over the past year, BACI has endured an accumulative budget reduction of 10%. Consequently, the organization has had to make significant changes to meet the reductions. BACI has participated in the budget reductions, but it is time the government explore other ways/bodies to meet its budget targets. Our individuals, families, and staff have felt devalued and disempowered as a result of the reductions. We also provided statistics on the waitlists for early intervention supports like the Infant Development Programs and therapists, and talked about the challenges and cost inefficiencies of having services regulated by multiple regulatory bodies.

Ms. MacPhail and Ms. Syme did what we asked them to do, they listened, and we appreciate that a great deal! After each person spoke, they responded. Of course, not

every response seemed favourable, but on the other hand, some of their responses were quite favourable and demonstrated at least an intention for positive changes in the future. One commitment we received from them – there are no further planned budget reductions.

This meeting was a time for BACI to speak and to be heard. BACI wants to be at the table talking to those who need to listen. Both Ms. MacPhail and Ms. Syme invited BACI to continue the dialogue and share our concerns or observations about needed systemic changes. They also asked that the voices of BACI continue to share their thoughts and insights with them. All of us happily agreed to do that!

We did not walk away feeling completely hopeful, but this was a good first step.

In closing, BACI would like to thank Ms. MacPhail, Ms. Syme, and Ms. Clark for responding to our letter. They took the time to meet with us and we are very grateful for that. Ms. Syme left BACI and stated, "This is a very welcoming place."

On a personal note, we would like to thank Gerry, Fergus, Bridget, and Patrice for giving their time, insights, thoughts, and hearts on behalf of the BACI families and individuals.

*Tanya Sather &
Richard Faucher*



Gold Pin Recognition Award for Service

Annie Wolverton was presented by the BC Association of Infant Development Consultants with a gold baby pin this June to congratulate her on attaining a year-long Fellowship in the Infant Mental Health Program at BC Children's Hospital, to honour her years of service with the Burnaby-New Westminister IDP, and to recognize her as the longest-running Regional Advisor. The gold pin is the highest honour given to a Consultant and she will wear it well.

The Bigger Picture

One link in the chain: The Burnaby – New Westminister Infant Development Program (IDP) is one link in a chain of 52 IDP's that serve almost all areas of BC. Each program has a different sponsoring agency, ranging from public health units and hospitals to community agencies like BACI. Collectively, we are very far flung – from Fort Nelson to the Queen Charlotte Islands, and from Cranbrook to the Lower Mainland – so we maintain a few strong links to keep us all in touch.

For one, we are guided by the *Provincial Infant Development Advisor, Dana Brymelsen* and by our own Policy and Procedures Manual. Dana has been involved in the Infant Program from its inception 32 years ago, and twice yearly she organizes Provincial In-service training for all of us to meet, greet and learn.

Secondly, there are our four fearless Regional Advisors who are divided

into the Lower Mainland, North, Central/South East, and Vancouver Island/Coastal Regions. They set up local In-service sessions and provide resources and supports to the Infant Consultants in their region.

Finally, most of us are members of the BC Association of Infant Development Consultants, or BCAIDC, a registered non-profit society

formed to promote ethical and professional standards among its membership. It also promotes public awareness of early intervention and of the Infant Development Programs in British Columbia.

Most importantly, the BCAIDC serves to promote the exchange of information between professionals working in the field of early intervention.

“Currently the BCAIDC is working on creating a Certification process for Infant Consultants which we are very excited about.”

Did you know?

BC Infant Development Programs have a great website, www.idpofbc.ca, where you can find a program, ask a question on our web forum, find training and job opportunities, become a member of the BCAIDC and even purchase our logo mugs, keychains and pins.

A Certificate and Diploma Program in Infant Development is now available through the University of British Columbia. Follow the links on the IDP website for more information.

News from Children's Services



The continued commitment from our staff and families working together allows our programs to meet budget targets and remain financially stable.

Children's Services staff enjoyed a day of First Aid training in April. The opportunity to refresh our skills and share some laughs was enjoyed by all. A special thank you to all the families for their support while we closed the daycares for the day. The continued commitment from our staff and families working together allows our programs to meet budget targets and remain financially stable.

We have recently gained approval for the opening of the South Slope Out of School Care program. South Slope is located next to Fair Haven Children's Centre and will enable us to provide continued care to many families we currently serve. The need for Out of School Care in the South Burnaby area is clear by the extensive wait list we have been collecting. It is our goal to be open for September 2004, and anticipate it will be a huge success. Special thanks to our

Executive Directors *Tanya Sather* and *Richard Faucher*, and to the BACI Board for their support through this process.

Fair Haven Children's Centre and Variety Children's Centre both held their annual picnic this June. Sunny weather and an abundance of great food led to big turnouts for both events. Families enjoyed meeting other families and watching their children play and interact. This is also the time that we say goodbye to the children moving on and thank all the parents for sharing their children with us every day.

Fair Haven Children's Centre and Variety Children's Center received funding through the Emergency Repair and Replacement Grant. This enabled Variety to replace their nap mats, purchase a new climbing mat for infants, and buy mirrors for their program. Fair Haven replaced their toddler chairs, easel, and high

chair pads, and purchased new floor mats and a new climbing mat for infants.

Variety Children's Centre is preparing for the arrival of a new playground. The new structure will replace the aging Over Three climber and slide. The new wheelchair accessible playground will provide a safe yet challenging opportunity for the children.

Fair Haven Children's Center continues to enjoy monthly visits with the Fair Haven Seniors. Recently, we participated together in drumming classes, making picture frames and creating personal door hangers. All involved cherish these multi-generational opportunities. Fair Haven Children's Centre's Over Three Program recently focused on the World for their monthly theme. This multicultural theme included books, songs, art and of course food. One activity involved making sushi. The children prepared the wrap, added

their preferred ingredients and rolled their own rolls. What a great snack!

Fair Haven Kindergarten children enjoyed a special last day on June 30th that included a trip to McDonalds, Bowling, and playing at a park. It was a fun way to say goodbye to friends and celebrate the end of the school year.

Brentwood Park and Twelfth Avenue Out of School Care programs are in full swing for the summer. The busy schedule of trips and activities leaves little time for resting but the kids love it!

Thank you to Cumberland for sharing your Van. Your generosity is truly appreciated.



Victory Home

As many people are aware, Willow Clinic will soon be closing and the people who live there will need new homes in the community. BACi was given the opportunity to submit proposals on how we could serve some of those individuals. In April, we received confirmation that BACi was chosen to provide a home and day services to two individuals who are living at Willow.

During the past few months there has been a lot of work done to make preparations for their move. Many BACi staff have spent time visiting these individuals at Willow Clinic, getting to know them and starting to build relationships. Our home on Marlborough Street (previously Southview and then

Outreach Services) has been re-named Victory Home and has been specially renovated to meet the needs of these two people.

On June 28th we held an Open House at Victory Home which was attended by former Southview staff, ministry staff and the staff from Willow Clinic who wanted to see the individuals' new home. On June 29th one of the individuals moved into his new home and quickly made himself comfortable, enjoying his spacious new apartment, his own private garden and the ability to set his own schedule. Since his move, this gentleman has also had the opportunity to reconnect with people he knew in his past. Staff at Victory continue to work hard to pre-

pare for his roommate's arrival on July 21st.

“We would like to welcome these individuals back into their community and wish them all the best in their new home.”

Fun in the Sun!

The Summer Teen Program has gotten off to a fantastic start this year! We have an enthusiastic group of teens that have so far enjoyed major events such as mini golf, lunch at Granville Island and the Watermania pool.

When we are not visiting a major attraction the teens love to visit parks and beaches throughout the Lower Mainland, where we play a variety of sports games such as soccer, basketball, velcro catch and football. Between events we have a number of talented beaders, specializing in gecko key-chains, and some world class Uno players.

The teens are looking forward to more Friday Barbecues at the beach as well as a trip to Splashdown Waterslides, Grouse Mountain and, of course, our annual trip to Playland. We're all looking forward to some more great weather to go with our great times!

Heather Malone

Who Are The People In Our BACI Neighbourhood?



BACI's Woodshop Has A Long and Proud History

When *Ron Merkley* arrived here in 1987, his assignment was building cedar fences with the participants in a program that was then operating out of Burnaby Heights. All these years later he can reduce his experience with the Woodshop's twelve long-time participants to this simple statement: "We like to see them happy."

Ron and his colleague *Pratap Singh* gave me a tour of the site the other day, pointing out a new piece of sanding machinery that had just been added to their tool set. Pratap explained that funds raised by the sale of Woodshop products, like the wonderfully sturdy picnic tables made out of re-cycled telephone poles from BC Hydro, are re-invested in

upgrades that keep the shop humming along safely.

The safe teaching of woodworking skills is the mandate of these two dedicated BACI staff, and Pratap shows me the jigs he has fashioned that allow the program participants to learn to cut and shape the wood into an impressive variety of artifacts.

The participants go through the day in a relaxed way. They're keen to demonstrate their wares and the process of turning the raw materials into finished products. The smell of cedar is everywhere in the shop.

Stan Fell greets me with a big smile. He's been coming to the Woodshop for nearly thirty years – hard to imagine, but true. When Ron arrived, Stan taught him how to assemble the toys that were then a staple of the Woodshop's output. Ron, in turn, has

helped Stan to expand his woodworking skills.

Stan works out back behind the main space of the shop under a tarp. His specialty is staining the cedar parts before they are put together. Stan grins when he tells me, "Nobody bothers me out here..."

Back inside the shop Ron and Pratap take a finely-crafted cedar box down from a shelf in the office. The Woodshop fashioned two hundred of these boxes for the IOC countries that bid, recently, on the 2010 Winter Olympics. They are both obviously pleased with this and the many other achievements of the Woodshop crew.

Before I leave, Pratap describes the Woodshop's annual participation in Burnaby's Discovery Days in early July. The group at the shop turned out miniature boats for three

hundred children. It's this kind of involvement with community that makes the staff and participants beam with pride when they talk about their solid standing as representatives of BACI in the larger community.

John Daly



Ron Merkley

The Beat Goes On!

The highlight of the session comes when Barbara invites the players to “Rumble!” and they play spontaneously as Barbara moves her arms up and down to signify louder and softer dynamics.



The Drumming Circle officially begins every Tuesday at Still Creek at 12:30 pm, but you can hear the sound of drums pounding by a quarter past twelve – evidence that the drumming participants are eager to begin.

Barbara Karmazyn, the activity facilitator, stands at the center of the circle, facing out toward the participants and conducting the exercises with an enthusiasm that must be seen to be believed. Her energy is contagious and soon all the members of the group are united in a joyful sound.

Barbara runs artsplay and she uses her specialized training to provide a musical environment where BACI participants learn a wide range

of skills, using the drumming exercises as the medium. She trained with Arthur Hull in Hawaii, and she comes to us bearing his received wisdom: there may be nothing that communicates more powerfully than the ancient code of the drumbeat.

Each session begins and ends with a special drum greeting. The members of the group hit their drum two times and repeat the words “heart...beat...heart...beat”. This focuses the group and helps individuals harmonize their breathing with the pulse of the drum.

One cannot join the Drumming Circle without being impressed by the strong sense of community that the activities inspire. There are many practical skills taught as well. Careful listening and eye-to-eye contact are encouraged as Barbara leads each member of the group in playing drumbeats. It's wonderful to watch these excited drummers learn to follow direction and play their instruments more expertly as the sessions progress.

The highlight of the session comes when Barbara in-

vides the players to “Rumble!” and they play spontaneously as Barbara moves her arms up and down to signify louder and softer dynamics. The Drumming Circle has been a wonderful addition to the range of learning experiences we are happy to provide at BACI.

John Daly

Home Sweet Home

The flowers are blooming, the patio furniture has already been used, and our daughter, *Cydney Wong*, has been in her new place for two months now. Her care workers/friends have been invaluable in making this dream of having such a comfortable, brand new home become a reality for her. Cydney has asked us over for dessert and often comes for visits and overnight stays as she is only three blocks away from home.

Perhaps transition was so smooth and easy for Cydney as her home is situated in the neighborhood she grew up in. Transition, on the other hand, seems to be harder for us as parents. Having a child with a

disability who relies on you so much for their care is unlike a typical 22 year-old moving out of the home.

“We would again like to thank the City of Burnaby, Jim Bosa and the Appia Development Group, Gary Morrey, and BACI for their support in making it possible for her to live independently in the community.”

Nellie Wong



Seniors' Committee Report

On Sunday, May 16th, 2004, the Committee on Seniors' Issues hosted their Annual Celebration of Spring for the senior members and their families. It was a wonderful event with 78 people in attendance.

There was terrific and varied entertainment. *Faruk Jarej* and his father started off with playing "O Canada" on the keyboard, and provided some very catchy dance music later in the program. *Selena Lepper* sang to "Sometimes When We Touch" in her very sweet voice. While the guests

enjoyed a tasty lunch, six students from our music program performed a "Welcome Song" which honoured the elders and each other. The "*Filby Court Six*" gave a karaoke-style performance of "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree", which was great fun. For a special treat, a young Indo-Canadian dancer performed an Indian dance in her native costume. To close the program, *Greg Schiller* entertained us on the piano with the classical number "Nocturn" by Frederic

Chopin, and on a lighter side, "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. With such a full program, the time just flew by and we had many compliments on the event and the food.

We were honoured that *Mr. and Mrs. Paul Godfrey* shared the celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary with us.

In talking to some parents, we heard how pleased they were that our gatherings always include the families, giving those whose family members live away from them

an opportunity to spend time together. The word also seems to be spreading outside the Association about our friendly and hospitable gatherings. Our thanks to the staff who assisted us in putting the event together.

Congratulations to BACI's New Board of Directors

Merrilyn Cook, Vice President
Rachel Goddyn, 2 year term
Anna Henesey, 2 year term
Shahista Jaffer, Self Advocate Rep
Zaheda Jiwa, 2 year term
Gerry Juzenas, Vice President
James Lepper, 1 year term
Fergus McCann, President
Paul Miller, 2 year term
Clint Morrison, 1 year term
Bridget Nairn, 2 year term
Troy Nikolai, Treasurer
Scott Strandberg, 1 year term

Congratulations to the new Sharing Our Future Foundation's Board of Directors for 2004/2005:

Patrice Pratt, Chair
Emma Stevens, Vice Chair
Ray Lord, Past Chair
Mayor Derek Corrigan, Hon. Chair
Ernie Bodie, Director
Grace Hyun, Director
Fergus McCann, Director
Mario McNally, Director
Ken Tunnicliffe, Director
Richard Lee, MLA, Advisory
Gary Morrey, Advisory

Thank you to all outgoing members of BACI's Board of Directors

Randolph Bruce, Vice President
Mario McNally, Vice President
Jordana Pratt, Self Advocate
Carol Stinson, Past President

New Board of Directors





Hard working staff serve up juicy burgers.

This year, the BBQ happened with one big difference. Other than some support from Laurel Charnetski, the BBQ was fully planned by a group of self advocates in the Celebration Crew.

A Very BACI Bar-B-Q

Each year, BACI hosts a Bar-B-Q on the last Friday in June that heralds the start of summer. This year, the BBQ happened with one big difference. Other than some support from *Laurel Charnetski*, the BBQ was fully planned by a group of self advocates in the Celebration Crew. For five weeks, the group held weekly planning sessions to

decide on the theme, food, decorations, and entertainment that would fit within their set budget. The group thoughtfully planned a BBQ that would appeal to a wide group of people, and went out and found volunteers to help on the day of the event. The group created 300 flower lei necklaces for the guests and painted surfboards and tribal masks to bring across the tropical theme. Thanks to the artistic talent of *Richard*

Boswell, we also had a fun photo booth called "BACI Watch". Mendhi tattoos, drumming, karaoke, and tropical beach music got the crowd interacting and enjoying the day. Close to 300 people came out to celebrate the start of summer!

No event is successful without a large and enthusiastic group of volunteers, and we were fortunate to have a lot of people helping. Thanks

to all who helped, and to all who came to enjoy a fun day of celebrating.

Laurel Charnetski



So Many BBQ Events This Year...



Good friends



Karaoke singing



Body painting



Great food



Crazy beach fun



BACI Mark Your Calendar Events

Learn about Accreditation and What it Means for You

Informational sessions will be held for families and individuals supported by BACI to learn about how this process impacts the services they receive. A mail-out with registration information will follow soon or, if you wish to register now, please select ONE of the following evenings and contact *Kam* at 604-299-7851:

October 19th, 26th, and November 9th (6-9pm).

This free information session will include dinner and, if needed, childcare.

Cornerstones

The next Cornerstones session for BACI staff will be held August 25th, 2004.

To register, please contact *Tanya Sather* at 604-299-7851.

BACI 2004/05 Meeting Dates

GENERAL MEETINGS

Nov 4th, 2004

March 31st, 2005

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 29th, 2005

2004 Award Winners



Barbara Roy's son receives the Marvin Germaine Award on her behalf from Sue Morrison.



Marlene Gough receives BACI's Volunteer of the Year Award from Richard Faucher.



Stan Fell receives BACI's Lifetime Member Award from Gerry Juzenas.



In Loving Memory of

Ken Tsoi-A-Sue

&

*Michael Kahma
who recently passed.*

*They will both
be greatly missed.*



BACI Membership Renewal

A reminder that if you haven't yet renewed your annual membership with BACI, now's the time to do it. A mere \$5.00 fee entitles you to be kept in the loop on the latest BACI news and initiatives. Receive copies of our newsletter and updates on important (or fun!) goings on.

To renew, either drop by the Still Creek reception desk at 2702 Norland, or call 604-299-7851.

Thank You

The individuals from Deer Lake House would like to say Thank You to BACI's Katimavik students *Stephen* and *Diana*, summer students *Jessie*, *Tiffany*, *Joey* and *Zack*, and BACI staff *Mary Penrice*, *Julie Vegsund* and *Mark Briggs*, for giving their home a wonderful makeover.

While the Deer Lake individuals were away at camp, everyone joined in and spent the week painting the interior of the house. After long days and nights and many coats of

paint, the house looks clean, fresh and homey.

Burnaby Discovery Days

On July 4th, 2004, many BACI volunteers came out to help local children build 250 wooden boats out of kits made by BACI's woodshop. The annual event went without a hitch. Thank you to all our volunteers from the Board of Directors, woodshop, and residential programs. Thanks also to the individuals who came to support us. See you next year!

You're Invited!

On behalf of the Vocational Committee, we would like to invite you to join us at the next meeting on September 28th. The meeting will take place in the Still Creek Board Room from 10am until noon. The committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month (except the summer & December). Currently, the Vocational Committee is made up of a small number of family members and caregivers, but we are always looking for new families to join and offer their ideas and suggestions.

The meetings are a time and place for families to give their input, to learn about the services, to receive updates from the staff, and to connect with other families. The Vocational Committee believes this committee is important for the planning and support the individuals in Action Packaging and the Woodshop receive. *For more information please call Dave Woolacott at 604.292.1282*



Goodbye For Now

Annie Wolverton, our Manager of the Infant Development Program (IDP), is taking a one-year leave of absence from BACI. It began on July 1st.

Annie was offered an exciting opportunity at BC Children's Hospital. She will complete a one-year fellowship in their Infant Mental Health Program – the only person other than a pediatrician to be given this opportunity.

Although we'll miss Annie, we're extremely happy she was awarded this much-deserved opportunity. Annie has been with BACI for over 15 years and throughout that time has demonstrated the utmost commitment and respect to the thousands of families she's supported.

Over the next year, Jas Sidhu, our Manager of Children's Services, will assume the manager's role in IDP.

Please join us in wishing Annie the very best with her

fellowship. We look forward to her return in one year's time.

Goodbye Forever

Toni Brown, our Manager of Human Resources & Quality Assurance, will be leaving BACI on July 28th and moving to Calgary. Toni has worked for BACI for almost eight years. Over that time, in various positions, she has continually demonstrated a strong vision and commitment to improving the lives of those we serve. We'll miss Toni's leadership, enthusiasm, honesty, spirit, integrity, and sharp sense of humour.

Please join us in wishing Toni and her family the very best with her move and great adventures, good times (although occasionally chilly and snowy), and much happiness in Calgary.



Congratulations to the parents of New BACI Babies!

Congratulations to Rob Dean and family for the new baby that arrived recently.

Kathy and Nick Garai had a baby boy on May 25th. This is Kathy's second child. Congratulations.

First Aid Training

September 8th and 9th from 9 am-1 pm, or 4 pm-8 pm.

Please sign up for two 4-hour sessions to complete the 8-hour course.

Telephone 604-292-1272 to register.

More Employee Goodbyes

These people have recently left BACI or are leaving it soon. We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavours.

- Kevin Renaud
- Sheri Rempl
- Susan Durnford
- June Crawford
- Nancy Laird
- Georgina Rubner

Wellness Committee

Hello to everyone from the Wellness Committee. We are trying to implement suggestions from the Employee Wellness Survey, so you will have noticed a few new things happening over the past month.

Pilates classes are running and we will run another series if we can get commitment from enough people to attend. Please call Jas Sidhu at 604-292-1290 if you are interested.

We had a recent pub night at the Shark Club and will arrange another in a few months time.

The Hiking Club should start in August or September. Please keep the suggestions coming in.

The Wellness Committee appreciates any comments you have to make!

We are here to help make you happy!

BCACL AGM and Conference in Kamloops

BACI sent three self advocates to attend this year's BC Association for Community Living AGM and Conference in Kamloops from June 10 - 13, 2004. *Gerry Juzenas* and *Christina Toningas* drove up in *Gregg Schiller's* car and they met up with *Matthew Gotrot*, who came by bus. We had a great time.

Gerry is a long-time self advocate representative and he supported the two youth self advocates who had never been to a conference before. It was quite an experience meeting over 125 self advocates from all over BC.

The workshops gave us good information on speaking up for ourselves and using theatre and art to show our abilities. We had a great time at the dance after the banquet and danced all night long. We especially had fun at the BCACL Self Advocacy Caucus elections. During the voting for representatives from each region, everyone was allowed to go up to the microphone and tell jokes. Some were pretty good and some were pretty bad also.

Our favourite joke was: "What do you call the national bird of Afghanistan? DUCK".

Representation Agreements

Thanks to a very successful lobby by self advocates and family members from BACI, and by 200 other community groups in BC representing people with various disabilities and seniors, the government decided to keep the Representation Agreement Act as the official legal tool for all citizens.

Everyone in BC can still choose the people they trust in their lives (not including staff and other paid people) to be their Representatives to advocate for them in the four major areas of life: Health, Legal, Financial, and Daily Living/Personal Supports. So if anyone is unable to make important decisions, the people you trust have the power to make sure your wishes are heard and followed until you are ready to take control of your life again and make decisions yourself.

Gregg Schiller is able to help everyone at BACI make their own Representation Agreement and get it registered. There are no costs involved for Gregg's time to help you. No matter how a person communicates, the law recognizes that everyone in BC can have a Representation Agreement.

Please make an appointment to see Gregg at Still Creek at 604-299-7851 and get your Representation Agreement done today.



Express Yourself Through Music

Gregg Schiller is teaching a class on expressing yourself through music. Gregg plays various piano pieces live for the students while they draw to the music. Then they can discuss their drawings and the emotions the music made them feel.

All this helps the students to unlock memories, deal with various emotions, create stories and use their imaginations to create beautiful images to help deal with various issues in life while developing a healthy appreciation for classical music.

This is a fun class to share your personal stories and everyone feels safe to talk about their feelings openly.

If you would like to register for this class in September, or check it out now over the summer months, please contact *Laurel* or *Denise* at 604-299-7851.

**Celebrating Our Diversity!
Summer 2004**

Buddhism

- Aug 31 Ullambana
- Oct 3 Pavarana
- Oct 3 Founders' Day

Christianity

- Aug 6 Transfiguration Day
- Oct 5 World Communion Sunday

Islam

- Sept 11 Paryushana-parva
- Sept 18 Samvatsari (Day of Forgiveness)
- Sept 18 Dshalakshani-parva
- Sept 27 Ananta-chaturdasi
- Sept 28 Ksamavani

Sikhism-Nanakshahi

- Sept 1 First Parkash

Hinduism

- Aug 30 Raksha Bandhan
- Sept 6 Sri Krishna Jayanti
- Sept 17 Ganesh Chaturthi

Judaism

- Sept 27-28 Yom Kippar

Shinto

- July 30 Oh-harai-taisal
- Sept 23 Shuki-sorei-sai

Statutory Holidays

- Aug 2 BC Day
- Sept 6 Labour Day

Philia Poster Contest Winners



FIRST PRIZE
Action Packaging



SECOND PRIZE
Denise Cheung
John Speckman
Lorraine Chomechko



THIRD PRIZE
Surrinder

Philia Bowling Blast

The "Philia Bowling Blast" is happening on August 5th.
Stay tuned for more information on the time and location!