



Boys & Girls Club  
of Kingston & Area

# THE FIRST TEN YEARS

## 1992-2002

Presented by: Reg Shadbolt

*Another fine example of highly  
committed ordinary people doing  
extraordinary things for kids!*

**Waiting for ad**

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## GIVING HOPE FOR TOMORROW BY SHAPING LIVES TODAY

From the humble beginnings over 100 years ago of a single club in saint john, the boys and girls clubs of canada (bgcc) is now a multi-site, multi-purpose organization giving hope for a positive future to thousands of children and youth. Giving hope for tomorrow by shaping lives today.

Throughout the past century, boys and girls clubs in canada have provided safe, caring environments and stimulating programs for close to 3-million young canadians. The clubs have helped youth to play, learn and develop skills to help them achieve their full potential and grow up to be healthy, successful and active participants in society.

Every day, thousands of children receive nutritious meals, have the confidence to say “no” to drugs, enhance their education, and develop critical leadership skills due to the helping hand of the Boys and Girls clubs of Canada.

There are currently 99 local Boys and Girls Clubs across the country serving more than 200,000 young people in 650 community service locations. Each club offers a range of after-school programs that focus on nutrition, arts and crafts to computers, sports and recreation to youth leadership.

*The number of children-at-risk in our communities is increasing at a dizzying rate, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada provide safe, positive and stimulating environments that foster self-esteem and offer young people of all age's opportunities to explore their interests, overcome their challenges, discover their abilities, and pursue their dreams.*



## INTRODUCTION

The Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area officially opened in 1993 in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kingston. As the Rotarian who was invited by President Doug Forbes to play the lead role in transition, it is exciting after 20 years of rapid growth to know that over 2,000 children and youth were served in 2013. It's incredible to recall the humble beginnings when the major concerns were meeting the monthly payroll and finding a suitable location to organize programs.

From the interviews and the minutes of many meetings, I have tried to be as accurate as possible to include key dates and personnel. I accept complete responsibility for any errors or omissions which seem inevitable when so many people must be identified and heralded for their commitments, sacrifices, and perseverance. Their goal was to ensure these kids, regardless of the fact that many did not have the means to pay even modest registration fees, were assisted in a variety of ways.

As a Rotarian, I have been exceedingly proud to be part of this exciting story. Dozens of key people worked so hard and these kids knew it; they realized that there were people in the community who cared for their welfare and would do anything to help them.

Much appreciation to Tanya Westlake, Chris Carvalho, Lindsey Foster, and all who helped produce this story.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the many heroes and heroines who resolved so many conflicts while raising the hopes of so many children and youth in the first decade of the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area.

Sincerely,

Reg Shadbolt



## FROM PROGRAM TO CHARTER, WITH ROTARY'S HELP

The Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area began as an adjunct program offered in Kingston's north end by The Community Council of North Kingston. Financed primarily by government grants for youth employment and without wider community support, its future was in jeopardy.

At the same time, The Rotary Club of Kingston conducted a modified needs assessment in both the City of Kingston and Kingston Township to find a major project to assist children and youth in need. The Boys and Girls Club with a new clubhouse in the north end, Almost Home, and an accessible swimming pool were identified in the city and it was recognized that a new library was required in the west end.

**After presentations were made to Rotarians, it was decided that the on-and-off-again Boys and Girls Club needed the most help to survive. A proposal was prepared and approved by the 1988-89 Rotary Board of Directors led by President, Doug Forbes:**

1. \$300,000 was pledged for the first five years (5x \$60,000) to start and run an office;
2. The project would be evaluated after 4 years or one year in advance of the possible end of the commitment;
3. Rotarians would assist the Boys and Girls Club to seek funding from other agencies like the United Way;
4. Rotarians would serve as directors on the Board and assist in other ways when expertise was required;
5. The Rotary Club would help the Boys and Girls Club find a clubhouse. The City had offered space in Shannon Park.

There was a lot of excitement about what this larger support would mean to the children in the area, but the implementation stalled as the magnitude of the commitment caused initial anxiety among some Rotarians. In 1991-92, an independent feasibility study was commissioned by the Rotary Club of Kingston that was encouraging, but suggested that the clubhouse be deferred until it was certain that a Boys and Girls Club could raise at least \$285,000 a year from community sources.

In 1992-93, at a small meeting in Cam McBain's RBC Office, President Ron Southward challenged a few interested Rotarians to proceed or change the plans. Those present discussed the concept of purchasing a bungalow and raising its foundation so the children could use the enlarged basement for program activities! After a stimulating interaction with the enthusiastic Boys and Girls Club Director at that time, Heather Tobias, it was decided to continue with the approved plan and Reg Shadbolt agreed to be the liaison person.

In a section further along, the first chair of the Board, Floyd Patterson, describes the successful transition from a special, underfunded program to a fully chartered Boys and Girls Club in 1993. The dedication of so many community members allowed the local club to transition to become part of the national network of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. It is interesting to read in the minutes of the Board meetings about this period when agreements had to be drawn up, edited, revised, and approved. Letters were exchanged for clarification between the new Boys and Girls Club and the North Kingston Community Council, the previous sponsors and organizers.





When the plan was approved, Rotarians stepped up in a big way! They continue to do so whenever assistance is required. They have served as: fundraisers, directors on the Board, volunteers to work with children in the programs, insulation consultants, architects, representatives speaking at various community events, coaches, gardeners, and paddlers in dragon boat races!

Rotarian John Burrill served on the Board of Directors and was invited to become Executive Director in 1996; Gary McCabe joined Rotary, chose to assist the Boys and Girls Club in 1994, and he has been the Treasurer ever since; Rotarian Karen Sutherland has read to children, served on the Board, sat as Chair, and become – as the co-owner

with her husband of the local McDonald's restaurants – the significant corporate sponsor! Mark Santoni was the first Chair of fundraising for the Boys and Girls project and assumed the role as co-chair of the Syl Apps Celebrity Golf Classic. The late Larry Ritchie started a 4-H Club and novel garden plots in which the kids could grow vegetables in square foot sections. Vinnie Rebelo and the Melo family continue to offer overwhelming generosity whenever needed.

There are many examples in this story of Rotarians demonstrating "service above self", their universal commitment to place the needs of others before their own welfare.





## THE FIRST ROTARIAN HONOUR ROLL WITH THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The following Rotarians played significant roles in the development of the Boys and Girls Club in the early stages and the list will be extended later by many more like Jim Vowles, John Evans, Don Heath, Lindsey Foster, and Ray Quenneville, who continue to play leadership and supporting roles.

Richard Baccari	<i>Chair of the Bricks for Kids; The Syl Apps Classic</i>	Vinnie Rebelo	<i>Vice chair, and host of The Syl Apps Classic</i>
Sandy Berg	<i>The Dragon Boat Races and gardens</i>	Cyrus Regnart	<i>Board Member for maximum time of 8 years</i>
Adrienne Brown	<i>Children's gifts for their mothers</i>	Allan Rimoin	<i>Sponsorships for Golf for Kids</i>
Ron Brown	<i>Chair of two golf tournaments; co-chair of capital campaign</i>	Larry Ritchie	<i>Board Member; 4-H Club; gardens</i>
Ana Maria Fonseca	<i>Dragon boat races</i>	Mark Santoni	<i>Co-chair of Syl Apps; Chair of the original Rotary Committee</i>
Tom Burnside	<i>Sponsorships; capital; TDCT</i>	Reg Shadbolt	<i>Co-chair of capital; fundraising; liaison</i>
John Burrill	<i>Board Member; Executive Director</i>	Ron Southward	<i>Rotary Pres.; started the project in 1993</i>
Bill Coulter	<i>Vice chair of two golf tournaments, sponsorships</i>	Bruce Stickle	<i>sponsor, BMO; capital</i>
Lloyd Fleming	<i>Sponsorships, BMO</i>	Karen Sutherland	<i>Board Chair, volunteer, sponsor, cheerleader</i>
Douglas Forbes	<i>Pres. of Rotary when the BGC was selected in 1992</i>	Bernie Tennenhouse	<i>Board Member; strong advocate for extension</i>
Jim Gibbons	<i>Board Director; Chair, Kids for Kids</i>	Ken Thompson	<i>Fundraising: The supper program</i>
Alicia Gordon	<i>Board Member; fundraising by auction; basketball</i>	Jim Vowles	<i>Initiated and organized the annual Giggles &amp; Grapes' events for the endowment fund</i>
Adam Koven	<i>Board Member; fundraising: Food Fare and auction</i>	Dr. Michael Walker	<i>Board Member</i>
Cam McBain	<i>Board Member; RBC financial support; cheerleader</i>	Glenn Warner	<i>Sponsor, memorial donations; fundraising</i>
Gary McCabe	<i>Board Member; Treasurer</i>	Marijke Wilkens	<i>President of Rotary when the project was reviewed and extended</i>
Peter Merkley	<i>Basketball; support from RBC</i>		
Barry O'Connor	<i>Basketball; facilitator of school purchase</i>		
Jim Perry	<i>Vice Chair of Board; Syl Apps Classic</i>		
Ed Pearce	<i>Board Member, original fundraising</i>		
Cam Phibbs	<i>Board Member, sponsor of the Syl Apps</i>		





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## THE SYL APPS CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC, 1993-2013

When the Rotary Club of Kingston selected the Boys and Girls Club as its major project in 1992, it was apparent that a new fundraiser had to be created if the target of \$300,000 was to be reached in five years. The minutes of early meetings of the Board of the Boys and Girls Club reveal that Rotarians, assisted by fundraiser Perri Chapman, tried different ways to raise annual funds but the results were not close to what was required to keep the club solvent.

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In 1992, hosted by Vinnie Rebelo at The Ambassador Hotel, a number of Rotarians, friends, and community leaders met to discuss the possibilities. After extensive brainstorming and discussion, Mark Santoni, chair of the fundraising committee for this new project, referred to a celebrity golf event that he had seen on TSN. Former NHL star defenseman for the Toronto Maple Leafs, Jim Dorey, was invited to join the group and he offered to recruit Leafs' alumni.

Jim suggested using the name of a marquee former player to attract participants. Green lights were flashing, especially when the name of the former NHL great, provincial legislator, Syl Apps, was endorsed as the right kind of magnetic name that would motivate others to play and to sponsor.

Vinnie downplayed the formidable cost of hosting so many celebrities, when he offered his facilities and services with the exclamation, ***"No problem, let's do it for the kids!"***

Rotarians Reg Shadbolt and Bill Cleland approached Syl, a former Rotarian who lived locally, was confined to a wheelchair, required medical and personal care 24/7, and could only communicate with a Bliss Board and its symbolic framework. His attendant suggested that Reg put the request in writing. Shortly after the letter was sent, Reg received a call telling him that Mr. Apps would like to see him. When Reg approached Syl, his famous smile was broad as he helped Reg's fingers to go back and forth between "O" and "K". They were both thrilled and hugged each other when it became clear that Syl would be happy to help the kids.

Within days, the contract became legal and the "Syl Apps" name could be used in perpetuity as long as the event was to help children.







The pieces quickly came together as Mark Santoni and Jim Dorey agreed to co-chair the first Syl Apps Celebrity Golf Classic to be held in July of 1993 at the Garrison Golf Club, located at CFB Kingston. Rotarians Richard Baccari, with his military background, offered to approach CFB Kingston and John Keilty offered to solicit prizes; Norris McDonald from the Kingston Whig Standard would promote the event; and Vinnie would host the celebrities at The Ambassador Hotel and Convention Centre. A sponsoring team of three would pay \$1500 to play with an assigned celebrity. The "star was born"!

The Syl Apps Celebrity Golf Classic became one of the most prestigious events of its kind and raised over \$600,000 over 20 years for the kids. Year after year, celebrities like Bob Nevin, Walt Weir, Pierre Pilote, Gus Bodnar, Carl Brewer, Ross Brewitt, Rick Smith, Walt McKechnie, Kirk Muller, and Wayne Cashman were joined by many others. Perennial sponsors like Allstate, Dominion Insurance, Empire Life, The Ambassador Hotel and Convention Centre, CIBC Wood Gundy, and many others ensured that the Boys and Girls Club received a nice annual cheque. The spousal program became a popular feature for the partners of those playing in the tournament. Alicia Gordon, Dale Dorey, and Joanne Santoni were a big help with this one. The welcome reception on the tournament's eve that Vinnie hosted will always be remembered and appreciated by all of the participants. Many of the celebrities still keep in touch with their original team.

#### ***A few highlights from former organizers, sponsors, and participants:***

Reg Shadbolt fondly remembers how happy Syl Apps was when celebrities visited him each Friday morning before the afternoon tournament. Red Storey was a favorite and Dick Duff reminded Syl in loud terms at one of these interactions that it was the great left-wingers that carried the Leafs, not the centers who received too much credit!

Ken Stover provided a shuttle service for the celebrities and their equipment between the Garrison Golf Club and the Ambassador Hotel and Convention Centre. Red Storey was Ken's favourite celebrity.

The scrumptious surf and turf dinner prepared and served by the staff at the Vimy Officers' Mess on CFB Kingston.

As the first co-chair of this great fundraiser, Mark Santoni recalls the first year's post-dinner moonlight cruise on The Island Queen when a thunder and lightning storm lit up the sky but did not dampen any spirits!

In addition to the Glenn Warner's significant sponsorship through his company, Capital Movers and Storage, and his personal participation, he remembers when he met Ron Wicks, a former NHL referee, at another golfing event in Brampton, Ontario. Glenn invited him to play in the Syl Apps. Ron and his wife participated every year after.

Vinnie has great praise for Major Dave Nolan who was the Operations Officer for CFB Kingston and went above and beyond every year. He was a tremendous host for the tournament and its participants. Supported by each of the Base Commanders, Dave continued to be a key organizer after he retired from active service.

Co-chair, Jim Dorey loved the songwriter who performed at the banquet; Michael Burgess held the group in awe with his famous songs from The Phantom. Everyone laughed before Mario Faubert would launch his special rendition of Old MacDonald Had a Farm. And, all knew that Gilbert Perrault could stickhandle but were surprised to hear the Elvis favourites.



## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The 1993 minutes reveal that Pam Carson-Bell, John Kuhicek, Monique Calver, and Paul Turner led an increasing number of volunteers to offer basic recreational programs at various schools and church basements. At the same time, a keen social services student from Sir Sandford Fleming College was searching for placement in the Kingston Area, her home base.

Starting alphabetically in the phone book, Alicia Westlake tried Almost Home; the line was busy. She then tried the Boys and Girls Club and Monique Calver answered. Alicia was invited to do her three-month placement. After four months of programming, Alicia was hired in April as the program coordinator. She recalls how only three paid staff (John Burrill, Jen McKay, and herself) along with at least 30 volunteers attempted valiantly to run an increasing number of basic programs in such locations as St John's, Polson Park, Rideau Heights, a Compton Street townhouse, and Frontenac P.S.

The programs were offered from Monday to Thursday and included basic arts and crafts, sports and games, and of course the popular Friday night dances at a church on Weller Avenue. While they had some office space at Queen Street United Church, there was no home-base for the kids until January 1999 when the Boys and Girls Club opened the Robert Meek Community Youth Centre.

When the centre opened, Harold Parsons was hired as the new Program Director while Alicia continued to serve as coordinator. The initial program focus was to accommodate 4-12 year-olds for two hours in after-school activities and those 13 years of age and older from 6:30-8:30 pm. At that point, there was no educational support system to meet the needs of the kids with homework and other learning problems. Only two or three classrooms and the gym were available for programs but staff was determined to offer 5 hours of continuous programming from 3:00 until 8:00pm.

As programming moved towards a longer, continuous stretch, it became apparent that feeding the kids was an important component. Although some were going across the road to a grocery store, they would return with chips and other less desirable food products. Staff tried to accommodate some of the kids with pizza packets and hot dogs, which were stored in a small fridge and heated with a kitchen table stove.

Changes had to be made as the registration numbers increased quickly to more than 100 kids daily. A better system of feeding the groups was necessary; there was no outside playground; a couple of classrooms and the gym provided insufficient space; added support services were required; and better, alternatives programs had to be found for the teenagers who were dropping out because they didn't think it was cool to participate in children's activities.

In addition, there was little contact with parents. They would line up to register their children but would drop them off and leave. More high-risk kids needed one-on-one dialogue and counseling.

Fortunately, solutions were eventually found for most of these problems. The supper program was created; Karen Sutherland started the "Reading Club" and kids loved when someone read to them; the teen gained their own club-room; and a comprehensive playground was built.

When asked about the highlights from this era, Alicia quickly reiterated how much she loved to watch the kids that had grown up in the Youth Centre mature into impressive young adults who returned to become "fantastic" volunteers and role models. She was also thrilled at how the problems were resolved to offer five hours of continuous daily programming for over 100 children and youth.





# THE ROBERT MEEK COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRE, *JANUARY 1999*

The Kingston Social Planning Council identified areas of the city where families required social assistance. The aged, abandoned Robert Meek Public School sat empty at 559 Bagot Street in the centre of one of those areas. It would be an ideal location for helping many children in need, but at what cost? Was it in good shape? How could it be financed? The Frontenac County Board of Education sold it for \$150,000 and made the payments very easy to accommodate.

As interested supporters mulled about how to start, Ron Brown arranged for what became a famous breakfast at the La Salle Hotel with Bernie Robinson, John Wright, and Reg Shadbolt. Bernie and John had obviously collaborated before the meeting because they encouraged the purchase, offered to help financially, and agreed to cover any mortgage required to pay for the school. All left elated that the goal to provide a permanent home site for the Boys and Girls Club seemed possible and probable!

John Burrill, the Boys and Girls Club Executive Director, and the late Barry O'Connor, Director of the Frontenac County Board of Education, met and agreed that the building could be purchased and that favorable terms would be available for payment. It was agreed that the Board of Education would rent space for some of its special programs and the Boys and Girls Club could pay the mortgage without interest in lieu of this rental money. In other words, no money would change hands.

The Boys and Girls Club would assume ownership of the school to provide programs for needy children and not for any competitive alternatives that might attract children away from any of the public schools.

Cam Phibbs (Interprovincial Insulation) offered to remove the asbestos from the basement; the school board removed the contaminated soil from the south end of the building and playground; and John Wright (Geo. Wright and Sons) agreed to cover any boiler breakdowns before capital money was available. The Plumbers' Union, Local 229, offered to check and upgrade the older plumbing system that had been idle for some time.

Further, Rotarians Ron Brown and Reg Shadbolt offered to co-chair an extensive capital fundraising campaign with the goal of generating at least \$550,000 to pay for the building, provide a contingency fund of about \$100,000 for the boilers to be replaced, and begin an endowment fund with about \$100,000. The pace was rapid as the pieces fell into place!

Ron and Reg started the capital campaign to "sell" the existing classrooms for \$25,000 each and the community response was immediate. After a discussion with Michael Davies from the Davies Foundation about successful fundraising strategies, Michael offered to buy a classroom

from the Foundation and pay for it over two years. Bernie Robinson and John Wright offered to split the cost of one classroom and John was able to convince DuPont Canada and the TD Bank to buy one each. RBC presented the first cheque for \$10,000 to the campaign, Brit Smith called to offer \$5,000 from the Homestead Foundation, and The Sisters of Notre Dame, who operated the Charles Morrow Foundation, were the first from outside the city to buy a classroom. The Plumber's Union, Local 229, contributed the equivalent of \$29,000 in kind for repairs and upgrades that paid for their classroom. Shoppers Drug Mart bought a classroom.

Over \$600,000 was raised in a couple of years allowing the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston to assume ownership and move in to its highly anticipated and much-needed clubhouse in January 1999. Other local agencies that delivered services to youth-in-need were attracted to the facility. Youth Diversion and the Frontenac Board of Education became the first two partners to share the costs of operating the facility.

It was estimated that the Boys and Girls Club's share would be about \$30,000 annually. Once again, Ron Brown stepped up and created the Golf for Kids Annual Golf Tournament. He also convinced Trent Pharmaceuticals and the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club to share a large portion of the net proceeds from their annual charity golf tournament.

Naming rights for the new youth centre were quickly resolved when John Wright revealed that his Mother's name was "Meek" and he would like the name to be retained. It was agreed that the new facility would be called the Robert Meek Community Youth Centre. The Meek family was elated and made a donation to the capital campaign.

Research showed that when the original school was built in 1920, the chair of the school board for Kingston, Robert Meek, had wanted to add at least one classroom so that the people who lived in Cataraqui Ward would have a place to meet for their community events. As the managing editor of *The British Whig* and first chair of the School Board for the City of Kingston, he would have been delighted that the building would continue to be used so extensively for the children in that area of the city.

All are thrilled today that the facility is filled daily with contributing partners and children and youth who participate in programs offered throughout the building. The Robert Meek Community Youth Centre has become the hub of an extensive support system for children and youth from across the city and has become a model that other cities would like to emulate.



## Program Director, 1999 -2000, Harold Parsons

After the Boys and Girls Club moved into the Youth Centre in January 1999, Harold was hired from the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club to coordinate the programs. His first major task was to create and centralize new programs at the Youth Centre and then establish outreach programs. Because of his experience with the Ottawa Club, Harold was able to 'import' some of the more popular programs like the "Ottawa Senators" ball hockey as well as the first extensive Halloween and Christmas parties for the kids that still exist today.

At first, only two people – assisted by student volunteers – managed programming. Thanks to a federal grant for \$150,000 to provide employment opportunities for youth, Harold was able to hire 12 people to run after-school and evening programs for at-risk youth and cover some of the administrative costs to deliver the programs.

When the Boys and Girls Club first started in Kingston, the public perception was that the programs were free. The entry fees were modest but Harold succeeded in increasing revenues to improve the quality and diversity of programs offered. While fees for such programs as the summer camp were increased from \$25 to \$55 per week, many children who could not pay the full amount were still subsidized. Executive Director, John Burrill, once estimated that 70 % of the children were assisted financially to participate in all of the programs!



## Executive Director, May 2000 - , Harold Parsons.

In May 2000, Harold replaced John as Executive Director and continued to focus on program development and finding funding sources. He had to rotate staff so that the increasing number of kids (about 1,400) would receive at least 2 hours a week of programming at an increasing number of sites. One of his first major decisions was to reduce the number of the outreach sites and increase the offerings at The Robert Meek Centre to five days a week, in 5-hour blocks from 3:30 until 8:30 pm.

Another problem Harold faced was staff retention. Quality workers were in demand by other agencies that could pay them more and offer more security.

He recalls some of the highlights up until 2003:

- 1) The visibility of the club increased when he was able to hire more quality, local staff;
- 2) Karen Sutherland, the local owner of McDonald's came on board as a volunteer, board member, and sponsor;
- 3) The annual Whig Standard campaign that was started by columnist Jack Chiang and supported so well by the publisher, Fred LaFlamme;
- 4) His refusal to resort to negative descriptions of the kids' needs in order to gain more public support.

The public record shows how successful the Boys and Girls Club's movement became across Kingston and into neighboring towns and communities. Harold's original dream to make the Robert Meek Community Centre a true community hub was realized when the excessive number of routinely smashed clubhouse windows was reduced to virtually nil; the Boys and Girls Club became the lead provider of youth services in the region; and the necessary partnerships for success were increased.

The Board of Directors was committed to remain in the Robert Meek Community Youth Centre and to create a capital plan to replace and renovate the infrastructure. This amount was estimated at \$1-million and the plan outlined that funds would be allocated on an at-need basis for such things as heat, roof, and windows. The Building and Property Committee established a work plan that involved recruiting outside assistance from contractors.



## YOUTH DIVERSION: THE FIRST IN-HOUSE PARTNER AT THE ROBERT MEEK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Youth Diversion moved into the Robert Meek Community Centre in 2000. The program operated out of the second floor former grade 8 classrooms and the cloakroom was used for the offices. It quickly became apparent that the program would need more space and the old nurse's room became the head office. Over the next 3 years, the program operated from this space with other programs beginning to move into the second floor around it.

As the Boys and Girls Club programming increased, so did the Youth Diversion programs. By 2007, they needed more space and 'kicked out' the Boys and Girls Club from half of the old school library. In 2010, Youth Diversion assumed responsibility for the well-respected Kairos Rehabilitation Program and once again needed more space. The old staff room and half the old library were renovated to accommodate 6 counseling offices.

Currently, Youth Diversion occupies about 30% of the second floor and offers programs and services to about 1,400 promising youth between the ages of 9 and 24. The 16 staff members are augmented by over 150 volunteers who annually contribute nearly 15,000 hours of time.

The remaining classrooms on the second floor are occupied by complementary alternative education programs through both the Limestone and Algonquin Lakeshore School Boards.

The second floor is a community into itself ensuring that some of Kingston's most challenging and promising youth are supported regardless of their needs. All of the staff work collaboratively to support each other's programs and youth, and do many projects together.







# FROM THE PODIUM OF THE FIRST CHAIRS OF THE BOARD

Prior to 1993 when the Boys and Girls Club was a program feature of the Community Council of North Kingston, Floyd Patterson became the first chair of a modified 19-member board of directors. He accepted the position upon request at a special meeting of Rotarians and others interested in forming a bona fide Boys and Girls Club in Kingston.

Floyd remembers attending the first large organizational meeting held in the Artillery Park Pool Complex with a large number of Rotarians, city staff, and other local proponents. He assumed the Chair and threw out the challenge to the group to dream about what they would like to see happen locally. In this regard, he was encouraged by the personal promotion of Mayor Mills, who had visited the Boys and Girls Club in Ottawa and urged Kingston to start its own club.

Assisted by Heather Tobias, who had worked as Executive Director from a single room in the office of the Community Council of North Kingston, the new board was formed and included community enthusiasts like Dave Herrington and a number of Rotarians like Cam McBain, Jim Perry, Larry Ritchie, Cam Phibbs, and John Burrill.

The first small office space at 272 Wellington Street was rented from Rotarian Les Weatherby for \$700 a month, but there was no room to conduct any programs for children. However, the emerging club took giant steps forward when Peter Tobias, local lawyer and husband of Heather, assisted it to become legalized as an official chartered member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and obtain charitable status from Revenue Canada that would facilitate donations as income tax deductions. Dave Shurtliffe, a local chartered accountant, assisted the club to prepare its first budget and served as the first auditor.



John Burrill and Dave Herrington were pushing for new programs but a more spacious location was needed to consolidate the many outreach programs that were offered in various schools and churches. A move to the church hall of Queen Street United Church provided more administrative space but there were no activities for children on site. Meanwhile, community activists in Kingston Township wanted to start another Boys and Girls Club to combat youth unrest. The situation was resolved when Dee Peters and Werner Polsak joined the Board as the representatives of Kingston Township Community Police Liaison Committee and programs were offered in the Celebrity Sports World facility on Development Drive.

In 1996, Floyd's job at CKWS-TV was becoming more demanding and he was spending 14-16 hours a day developing new programs and hosting his own television program. He had spent 6 years on the Board of The Boys and Girls Club before handing the reins to Dave Herrington who led the new clubhouse movement. Heather Tobias left on maternity leave and was replaced by Ana Marie Pentland for a short time. Shane Ray became Executive Director for a brief period until Rotarian John Burrill, a director on the Board, took over the position. The faces were changing but the mission was undaunted!

There were numerous positive developments over this period of time:

- 1] Rotarian Gary McCabe became the Treasurer of the Club, a position that he has held and carried out his duties with efficiency ever since;
- 2] The Rotary Club of Kingston confirmed its master plan to support the Boys and Girls Club, and the first Syl Apps Celebrity Golf Classic was held in July of '94;
- 3] The Board applied for and received its official charter from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada;
- 4] Other dynamic Rotarians including Cam McBain, Cam Phibbs, Larry Ritchie, and Jim Perry joined the Board as directors who pushed for action plans, with results; and
- 5] The United Way accepted the Boys and Girls Club as a member agency and committed to financial support.



When asked to recall the highlights of his term of office as Chair of the Board of Directors, these three responses were given immediately by Dave:

- 1] The Rotary meeting at Rideau Acres when Reg Shadbolt announced that two local businessmen, John Wright and Bernie Robinson, would cover the risk for a mortgage, if required, to buy the Robert Meek School;
- 2] When the keen Rotarians came on the Board and elevated the planning process beyond the usual survival mode of, "Will we be in business for another month?"
- 3] The meeting in the renovated gymnasium when the Boys and Girls Club named the facility, ROTARY HALL

In 2003, two years after he became a director on the Board, Chris Stafford became its third Chair. As he recalled those years, survival was still the primary focus; it was a frustrating time with plenty of bad news. The demands for growth were exceeding the available resources; the boilers were falling apart and did collapse; the windows were porous; snow came through the doors; some outreach programs (Perth Road) had been cancelled; City Council was not offering any financial support; and there were serious discussions about selling the Robert Meek facility to keep solvent.

Optimistic and proud that he is, Chris quickly recalled how happy he was when McCoy Plumbing repaired the boilers at no cost; the Youth Forum – high-risk youth – made some meaningful recommendations and commitments; the ever-increasing demand for more programs from different parts of the city and beyond; and the tremendous support from The Syl Apps Celebrity Golf Classic, United Way, and Fred LaFlamme and Jack Chiang who ran the highly successful annual campaign sponsored by The Kingston Whig Standard.





## BUILDING FOR KIDS: THE “BUY-A-BRICK CAMPAIGN”, 2002

As the Boys and Girls Club staff tried to offer more programs to meet the increasing needs of the growing membership, it became apparent that the old gymnasium needed to be refurbished and upgraded. Led by Rotarian Richard Baccari, the three local Rotary Clubs agreed to collaborate and share the costs of the renovations as their tercentennial project.

The public canvass encouraged people to “buy a brick” in the facility for \$10.00 each. Roy Little and Tilly Nelson organized the details of the campaign that involved many high school students who joined Rotarians as they went door-to-door across the city. Over \$43,000 was raised from

this event and the names of the donors still adorn the wall on the second floor of the Youth Centre. More space had to be found for the many local doctors and dentists, who were encouraged by their representatives, Dr. John Rapin and Dr. Trev. Treleaven, to buy 100 or more bricks. The renovations cost about \$60,000 to complete.

To show its appreciation for the contribution by so many Rotarians in the development of The Robert Meek Community Youth Centre, the Board of Directors of The Boys and Girls Club named the refurbished gymnasium, ROTARY HALL.





## CHARITY GOLF FOR THE CAPITAL NEEDS OF THE YOUTH CENTRE

In 2001, Ron Brown assisted by Vice-Chair, Bill Coulter, launched "The Going for The Green" charity golf tournament at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. Presented as a consolidated mega charity event, the net proceeds were to be shared among different charities. Ron ensured that the Boys and Girls Club received at least \$25,000 annually to operate and maintain the Robert Meek Community Youth Centre.

Held on the last Friday in May, this prestigious event attracted top golfers in the region who welcomed the opportunity to play the pristine and challenging championship course. Eventually, Trent Pharmaceuticals was sold to Amerisource Bergen, which continued the sponsorship until 2012 when it was sold to a larger corporation that discontinued the sponsorship.

In addition, Ron Brown created and organized the unique "Golf for Kids Shootout" for The Ron Brown Trophy. Played at the Westbrook Golf Club, owners, Ken and Anita Harnden, along with a very cooperative staff, adjusted the course to challenge the players to shoot for a hole-in-one at each of the 18 holes. Pilot Insurance and Canadian Tire Cataraqui also provided major sponsorships that would allow the event to raise at least \$5,000 a year.

Rotarians played most of the supporting roles as spotters, sponsorship-seekers, and players, assisted ably by Kent Lloyd, Cynthia Cook-Brown, Anne and Nancy Spada, and Bev and Roy Partridge.





## THE KIDS FOR KIDS ANNUAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT, 1998



After the devastating ice storm in 1998 swept across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, Garry McColman and the late Jim Bennett founded the Kids for Kids Hockey Tournament to help families in need recover from the effects of the storm. The tournament was such a success that a number of local citizens like Joe Hawkins, Bill Hackett, and John Anderson got together and agreed to continue the annual tournament and turn over the net proceeds to local charities.

The neo natal intensive care unit at KGH was the first recipient and then the Boys and Girls Club was chosen to benefit from the net proceeds. It was agreed that the tournament would be at the end of the regular hockey season when there were sufficient vacancies in the local hotels and motels to accommodate the large number of teams and family members expected. It was decided that the tournament would be a fun event without body contact.

Up to and including 2013, this high profile event has raised at least \$25,000 for each of the charities by attracting a capacity number of teams (200) and their families to enjoy a fun weekend to conclude their seasons. Some of the features are:

- 1] A minimum number of three games are guaranteed;
- 2] Each player, coach, trainer and manager receives a commemorative tee shirt;
- 3] All of the local rinks including Napanee and Gananoque are fully utilized and paid for at the usual price for ice time, as are the referees and timekeepers;
- 4] Former Chief of Police, Bill Hackett, gets a large number of sponsors to pay for the comprehensive official program that contains discounts, maps, and articles about the charities that are supported. It is distributed without cost and yields over \$25,000 annually in net proceeds.
- 5] Hundreds of volunteers meet and greet at each arena; process and deliver the game results; operate the central headquarters; present the trophies to both the winners and the runners-up; assist with the skills contest for the novice players; and assist with the free barbeque that is offered without cost to everyone.
- 6] The shopping malls are full of bargain hunters looking for the discounts promoted for this event.
- 7] The magnetic skills contest for novices is organized by Bill Hackett, friends and family and sponsored so generously by Coca Cola and CIBC.

## THE UNITED WAY OF KINGSTON AND AREA: A VALUABLE CONTINUOUS PARTNER



It is recorded in the 1992 Board minutes that the Boys and Girls Club was invited to submit an application to the United Way by December 15th and include a copy of its budget and operating plan. The minutes of December 16th, 1992, recorded that: "Floyd and Heather met with United Way, Dec. 3, 1992 to notify them of the separation, [from the North Kingston Community Council], and to ask them for an advance on the monies allocated to the Club in 1993. The meeting went well and United Way did not see a problem with a funds advance."

It appears that \$11,112 was advanced in 1992 followed by an allocation of \$15,540.00 in 1993.

These allocations have increased gradually since that time and the United Way has provided another solid pillar of continuous financial support that has been so important in this story of the club's development.

This partnership has strengthened and developed over the years. United Way fundraisers visit the Boys and Girls Club frequently to observe firsthand how their support helps so many children and youth. For each United Way campaign, the children of the club are invited to make donations of pennies and change, and they watch the graphic results with much interest, and ownership.

To be supported as an agency of the United Way, the Boys and Girls Club cannot fundraise directly or assist other campaigns from September 1 - December 1 while the annual United Way campaign is underway. Historically, there have been a couple of situations that have required clarification but the partnership has strengthened with mutual respect.

The Boys and Girls Club and all of the United Way supported agencies must be highly accountable in order to receive funding, which is reviewed regularly by a Citizens Review panel.



## THE ANNUAL WHIG STANDARD PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

Each May, the Kingston Whig Standard conducts a public fundraising campaign for the Boys and Girls Club that is well supported by the community. During the month, the paper runs articles about the needs of the kids and the costs of providing these services. The programs are often subsidized because the charter of a Boys and Girls Club in Canada makes it mandatory to accept all children regardless of their ability to pay the full registration fees.

This campaign was started by the Whig after Executive Director, Harold Parsons and Reg Shadbolt had lunch with feature writer Jack Chiang. They requested that he support a new fund that had been created to provide petty cash to help children purchase small items like running shoes. He declined but offered to begin a more comprehensive campaign that continues today (even after Jack left the newspaper) and raises thousands of dollars annually to support the kids.

Jack recalls that they decided to use the same format as they did for the Salvation Army Campaign and concentrate the appeal during the month of May.

Some highlights that are recalled:

Ron and Karen Sutherland, the owners of the local McDonald's restaurants, were approached when they first arrived in Kingston in 2000. They responded quickly and generously in favour. Since that time, Karen became the vice chair of one of these campaigns; read to kids after school; became a director on the Board; and assumed the Chair. Indeed, McDonald's has become the largest annual sponsor of the Boys and Girls Club in Kingston! "As a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club, I have seen first hand how staff and volunteers carry out the most critical part of their mission statement that is, being exceptionally caring and respectful role models. It is this important job that impacts on the lives of children. In fact, a national survey showed us that many children credit their Boys and Girls Club leaders with having a major impact on their life choices. I am so pleased to be part of an organization that is truly life changing. I encourage you to partner with us in the Annual Kingston Whig-Standard Campaign. Become a partner and make a difference in our community." States Karen Sutherland.

Karen received an honorary degree from St. Lawrence College for her tireless efforts. She recalls how much the club owed Jack for his support, especially when the financial resources were inadequate to meet the needs. The Board was so encouraged when the Whig continued its support after Jack left to work in the provincial justice system.



## THE SUPPER PROGRAM

It became apparent that many of the kids participating in the after-school programs were not able to function properly without something to eat between 3:30 and 8:00 pm. Karen Sutherland remembers how fed up she was that hungry kids were taking food from others, many were eating junk food, and too many others went without. Motivated by the need, the Board of Directors approved a program to supply a basic nutritional daily meal to each participant when the Youth Centre was open.

Local community leaders like Jim Brown responded to the announcement and he arrived with a contractor, Dave Cupido, to see what alterations had to be made to serve food safely. It is a great humanitarian story to hear how they measured, discussed, and made plans to convert an old classroom into a cooking and dining area. The renovations were completed quickly and no invoice was ever sent to the Boys and Girls Club.

Rotarians like Karen, Larry Ritchie, Ken Thompson, and Reg Shadbolt decided that they could help by purchasing a steer and converting it into hamburger. They recall what fun it was at the Fall Fair, with some of the kids as witnesses, to bid on a steer in the auction.

This adventure did not play out completely that evening. Bill Greenlees, the owner of Pittsburgh Packers, offered to sell a steer at "rail" price and convert it without cost into packages of hamburger that could be stored in the freezer at the Youth Centre. This became an annual event that started each summer when Reg would contact about 20 others to donate \$100.00 each. This program continues today under



the leadership of Ken Thompson and has generated much support outside Rotary. In 2013, there were sufficient funds to purchase 2 steers and 1 pig at the Fall Fair auction!

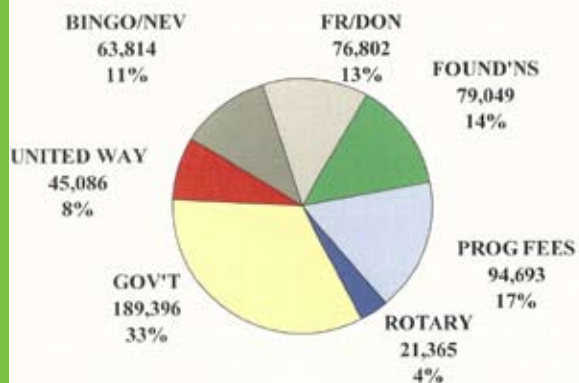
The Frontenac County Cattlemen's Association donates beef and a number of supporters buy a week's supply of groceries for about \$375.00 each. Audrey and Reg Shadbolt, along with their family and friends, were happy to begin the sponsorship of the Annual Christmas Dinner, a tradition that has continued to grow each year. Children are bussed to the club for turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce – the works! – A hearty meal that any family would relish on this special family occasion.



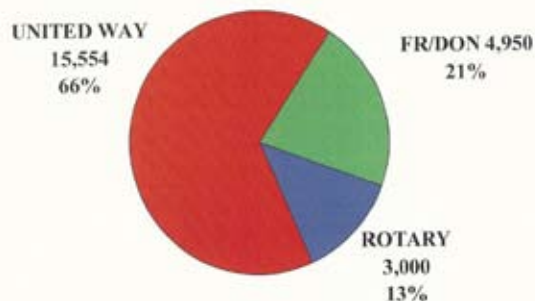
# THE FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 1993-2002

Prepared and Submitted by Gary McCabe who as a new Rotarian selected the Boys and Girls Club as a preferred project to support. He later became a board member and went on to act as the Treasurer, a position he still holds today.

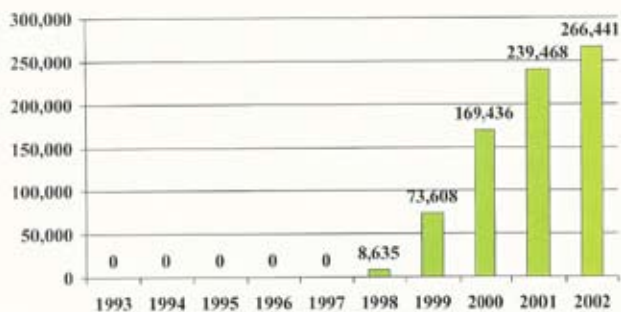
Boys & Girls Club Kingston Operating Revenue  
Year Ended March 31, 2002: \$570,205



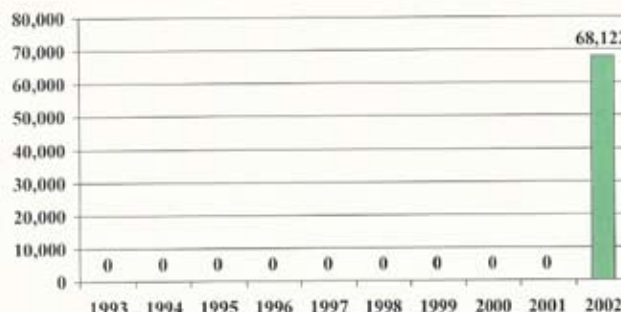
Boys & Girls Club Kingston Operating Revenue  
Year Ended March 31, 1993: \$23,504



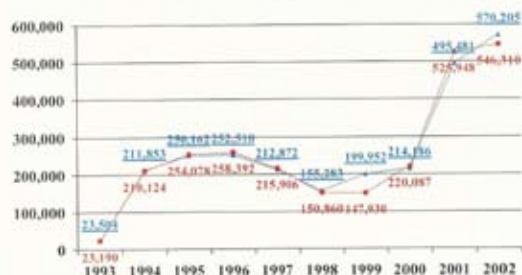
Boys & Girls Club Kingston Capital Fund  
Assets (net of liabilities) (As at Mar 31 Each Year)



Boys & Girls Club Kingston Endowment Fund  
Assets (net of liabilities) (As at Mar 31 Each Year)



Boys & Girls Club Kingston Operating Revenues & Expenses  
(For the Year Ended Mar 31 Each Year)







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harold Parsons – Executive Director

For many years, I have enjoyed listening to Reg Shadbolt, Ron Brown, Glenn Warner, Adam Koven, David Herrington, Jim Perry and many other community leaders who were involved in the Boys and Girls Club's success and development over the first 10 years of its existence.

It is always fulfilling to hear some form of congratulations on a new program, new funding, or on the growth, and then immediately hear about 'the way it was'.

It is also consoling to know that when things have been difficult, the organization has continued to persevere because the Boys and Girls Club is an essential resource to the children and youth of Kingston.

I acknowledge the support from the many people who you will read about, as well as some of the founding partner organizations and funders. It is important that we never forget who got us started, who had the vision, who believed in supporting children and youth, and who passed their wisdom and passion on to our staff, volunteers and members.

As new Board Members, staff, and sponsors join the Boys and Girls Club, I worry that the focus will be on the moment and that the history will be lost. This document ensures we have the information and that we can always learn from our past.

Proud supporters of



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of Kingston & Area**

for more than 25 years



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