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**"Building the best foundation  
for our children's future."**



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# CDC Brouhaha

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to 2009!!

In celebration of Project Build-A-Fort we have a new look and name for our newsletter! Need to know what the word 'Brouhaha' means? Find the definition on page 3.

## Project Build-A-Fort Update

It is with great excitement that we share with you our first Project Build-A-Fort update. After many years of fundraising and months of planning, the Child Development Centre has broken ground for the new building expansion/renovation project. The preparation and planning that has occurred up to this point has been very extensive. On March 6th, 2008 the CDC held an Open House where the concept and design was first unveiled to the public. Since that time, the CDC has finalized the floor plans, prepared the

building site, and began demolition of part of the old building to prepare for the new construction. Hip Architect is the Edmonton firm assigned to the architectural component of the project and local company WL Construction is the construction management company.

Through community support, fundraising efforts, and grants/proposals, the CDC has raised over 1 million dollars towards this project. However, there is still a long way to go with the goal being an additional 1.7 million

It is our desire to continue to be a leader in early childhood development and early intervention by being able to enhance the services we offer to our community and families through the Project Build-A-Fort expansion.



**Architectural Rendering of  
the  
New CDC Building**

See pictures of our building under construction on page 4.

## Investing in our Children ~ Moose FM

Since the Child Development Centre's beginnings in 1973, there has been a very consistent force that has helped us move forward, the amazing support of our community. In this little section it is our desire to highlight different businesses and individuals that have invested in the children of the CDC.

Moose FM has been involved with the CDC for the past five years. They are major supporters of our annual talent show through promotion and live broadcast of the show. To further benefit the CDC, Moose FM started "A Day for the Kids," a fundraising drive the day before our pledges for the benefit of the CDC. True to form, Moose FM also partnered with us during our First Annual Project Build-A-Fort Golf Tournament this past year through Media sponsorship.

In conversation with Adam Raeburn, Program Director for Moose FM, we asked him why did Moose FM choose to become so involved with the CDC? His response, "Because of the programs and services offered to our community. In northern areas it is difficult to find services

for families with children with special needs as well as preschool spaces. The types of services you offer means that parents don't have to travel to find services, as travel just adds so many more problems for these families." He stated that he knew that the CDC was a valuable resource when he spoke with parents and families involved with our services and they had nothing but kind words in regards to our program delivery and staff, and that the CDC was very successful with the children they served.

The Fort St John Child Development Centre is very thankful for the ongoing support of Fort St John's own, Moose FM, and we look forward to the years of partnership ahead of us. Their ongoing support and fundraising efforts on our behalf are truly making a difference in our community.

## Highlights from the CDC Annual General Meeting

The Fort St John Child Development Centre held their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. The meeting was filled with engaging discussion and information sharing. The AGM highlighted the Centre's activities over the past year as well as looking towards the future. Reports were submitted by the President of the Board, Shannon Stewart, the Medical Director, Dr. Richard Moody, and Penny Gagnon, the Executive Director of the CDC. Conversations were very interactive during the Executive Directors report as she presented those in attendance with highlights from last year's Day for the Kids and Talent

Show which saw the community rally behind the CDC with over \$102,000 raised! She also shared about the successful Open House at the Centre which was the official unveiling of Project Build-A-Fort. Time was spent updating those in attendance in regards to the CDC's building expansion.

The new board of directors was voted in with all previous members allowing their names to stand with the addition of 1 new member.

Overall, it was a successful and engaging evening that was full of information and encouragement as the CDC enters into this next year.

Membership is still available for any individuals that would like to be more involved with the CDC. Please contact the front desk for more information on how to become a member.

*The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.*  
- Vince Lombardi

## Introducing our 2008-2009 Board of Directors.



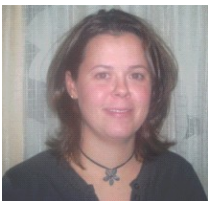
**Shannon Stewart**  
President

My name is Shannon Stewart and I am a stay at home mom to two beautiful boys, Jonathan age 6, and Ryan age 1. Before I had my children I was a primary school teacher but I have chosen to stay at home with my boys for as long as I can. I was introduced to the Child Development Center through my son Jonathan and got involved with the preschool PAC. It was through the PAC that I became active on the board. I am just starting my second year as board president and feel very lucky to work with such great board members and the amazing staff of the Child Development Center.



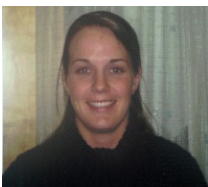
**Kelly Ballard**  
Vice President

"Kelly Ballard is the Vice President of the CDC Board and has been with the CDC (started on the Foundation Board) since the Spring of 2006. She is an accountant who runs a part-time consulting business in town and from her home. When she is not working or volunteering, she is raising her two daughters in the countryside just north of Fort St. John. Kelly came to Fort St. John from Calgary in 2001 and has since grown to love the small-town lifestyle of the Peace region. Her eldest daughter started Preschool at the CDC this past September and will continue on for two years at which time her youngest daughter will hopefully be able to start her two year stint at the Centre's Preschool. Kelly enjoys keeping herself busy with her volunteer work and being involved in what her children are doing. She is now able to see the Centre on a day-to-day basis as well as at the Board level and is proud to be associated with such a well-respected organization with a great staff of professionals."



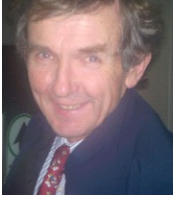
**Angela Kosick**  
Treasurer

As one who was born and raised in Fort St John, I enjoy our beautiful Peace Country. I attended college and received my diploma in Land and Resource Management. I was married in Mexico, and now have 3 amazing children; twins that are 2 years of age, and a five year old that attended the CDC and loved every moment of it! I am a stay at home mom who enjoys playing soccer, baseball, and volleyball. I have been on the CDC board for 1 year as Secretary, and look forward to my second year in that same position.



**Dayna Ross**  
Treasurer

I was born and raised in Fort St John. I attended Northern Lights College for two years and then moved to Calgary to finish my Applied Business Administration Degree with a major in accounting. I am currently enrolled in the CGA program. I am done all the courses and exams with only the work experience portion to go. I have 8 months before I can apply for the first time but will likely not get the designation for about 2 years. I got married on May 29, 2008 in Mexico.



**Dr. Richard Mbody**  
Director

Having arrived in Fort St John in 1976 I had only been in town for 6 months when I had been "encouraged" to become Medical Director at the CDC and ex-officio member of the Board. This goes to show that it was just as hard to get Board members in 1976 as it is in 2008! Although my full time role is that of a family doctor, working at the CDC has been a special pleasure. I get to work with an inspiring array of staff members, inspiring parents and, of course, inspiring kids. It has been a great pleasure to see what that CDC can do for special needs children, and witness these children as they become adults contributing in so many ways to the community in which we live.



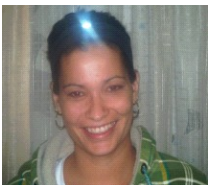
**Julie Ziebart**  
Director

I have served the CDC board since the late 90's, when I was invited to volunteer by one of my mentors, Mary Fus. I have been in Fort St. John for over 30 years. I earned my Bachelor of Commerce degree from UBC in 1995, and earned my Chartered Accountant designation in 1998. I am married to Kelly Ziebart, also from Fort St. John, and we have two children, Jacob and Isabella, who both attended two years at the CDC pre-school. I am a partner at Meyers Norris Penny LLP, a full-service accounting and business advisory firm, where I provide client services one-on-one to many local business owners. Being on the board has been a wonderful opportunity for me to serve the community, and I am looking forward to what the future brings to the CDC.



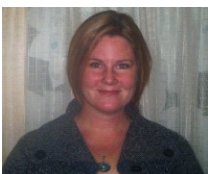
**Jennifer Szoo**  
Director

I was born and raised in Fort St John in a family of 5. After high school, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from the University of Calgary and returned to Fort St John where I met my husband Dale Szoo. We have three wonderful children: Victoria, Carmyn and Colin who keep me on my toes. Dale and I have been operating a Snap On Tools franchise in the area for the past 9 years, Dale sells the tools and I take care of the bookkeeping. On top of driving my children around to their activities, I also manage to work one day a week at the Pharmacy and Wellness Centre as a pharmacy technician. My favorite past times are running, golfing, and skiing with my family.



**Darcy Wheeler**  
Director

Darcy is our newest board member and we look forward to formally introducing you to her in our next edition of the CDC Brouhaha.



The Board of Directors and staff would like to thank **Heather Reese** for her time spent on the CDC Board of Directors during 2008. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

### BROUHABA

*(noun)* excited public interest, discussion, or the like, as the clamor attending some sensational event; hullabaloo

Visit our website at [www.cdcsj.ca](http://www.cdcsj.ca) to learn more about our programs and services. Online donations are now available through our website.



The CDC is CARF Accredited



## The CDC “UNDER CONSTRUCTION”

### Build-A-Fort Notes:

- **Main Entrance and Reception has been moved to side, Tree Fort door.**
- **Old preschools and reception area are under demolition to prepare for the expansion.**
- **Staff is committed to maintaining services as usual to the best of their ability.**
- **Projected time frame is completion of new expansion Spring/Summer 2010.**

The noise of construction is mingling in the air with the happy sound of children playing at the CDC. As those of you who frequent our doors have observed, we are well under way with our expansion project. The Pre-school rooms have been moved and are functioning happily in their new classrooms. The playground is also moved, and the children are enjoying the new space. The old classrooms are demolished, and demolition has made its way into our old main entrance and reception area. Key changes to note for all or our families and the community is that our main entrance and reception area has been moved to our side entrance that is shared with the Tree Fort Classroom. There is a new wall in our once circular hallway that has made it a ‘U’ shape. Our Family Room has been split in half to fit in the new reception area and still provide a useable space for our families and staff. Staff have moved into shared office spaces, and our Occupational Therapy room will now be combined with our Physiotherapy room.

The new Early Learning Program playground is now on the opposite end of our building, but still loads of fun!!



The CDC team is living out the quote from Francis Ford Coppola, “Anything you build on a large scale or with intense passion invites chaos.” At times it feels chaotic around here, but essentially it is short term pain for the long term gain of an amazing new building. As staff, we are adapting to the limited space caused by the construction project and assure you that we are committed to continuing to provide the quality of service we have always provided - it may look a little different, but it will continue to be given with the highest standards.



Old playground is now a full-time construction zone, preparing for the new building’s foundation.

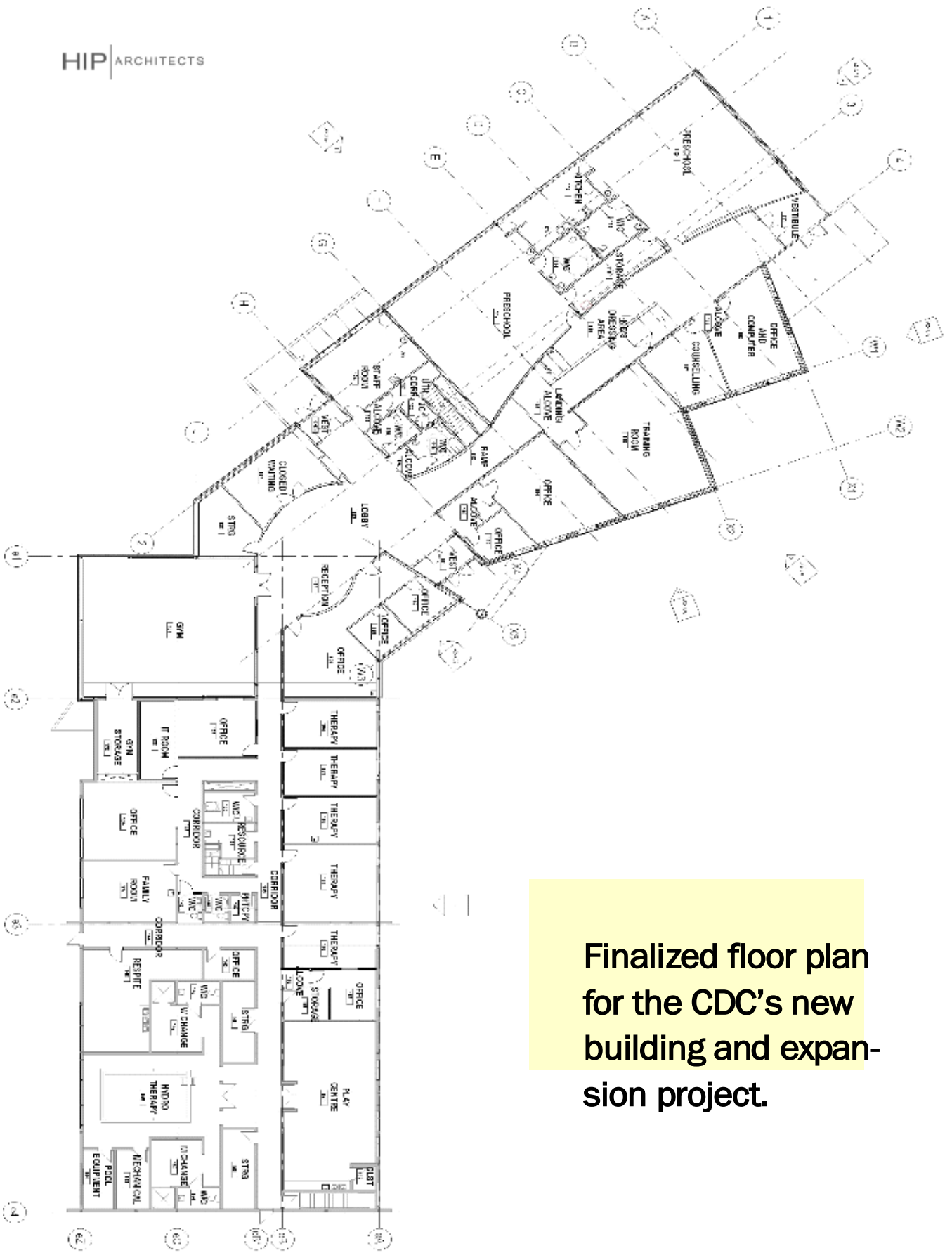


Preparing for the new reception area which was constructed by using half of our Family Room.

We are excited to continue to showcase to you our progress during the expansion process, and are happy to answer any question you may have.

“ Anything you build on a larger scale or with intense passion invites chaos. ”

-Francis Fort Coppola



Finalized floor plan for the CDC's new building and expansion project.

## CDC Program News

### Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy

We would like to introduce the newest member of the Early Intervention Team.....(drum roll please)....**Emily Jackson**. Emily is our new therapy assistant and we are very happy she has chosen our centre as the place to start her career. She brings a breadth of knowledge, positive energy and creativity to the Centre and the families we work with.



Emily Jackson - Therapy Assistant

"Hello everyone. I have recently completed my Therapist Assistant Diploma at Okanagan College and decided to move from the Okanagan Valley up to Fort St. John to work at the CDC. I had the opportunity in June to work at the Fort St. John CDC for a practicum in which I enjoyed working with the Community and Staff. For hobbies I enjoy playing soccer, being in the outdoors and baking. I look forward to the new learning opportunities and experiences here in the North."

### Early Learning Program

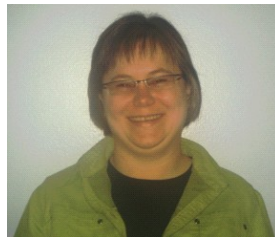
The CDC has adopted a new early learning curriculum that we are excited to introduce to our students. Our two classroom teachers, Cindy Singer and Mary Czerwinski travelled to Washington this past summer to train and learn about the new curriculum, *Creative Curriculum*. In the next few issues, we will be highlighting some of the learning goals and activities the students will be participating in.



Sunflower Room  
Tuesday, Thursday Morning Class

### Speech Language Pathology

The Child Development Centre is excited to announce that we have a new Speech/Language Pathologist that has joined our CDC team. Her name is Lisa Kalis and she has moved to Fort St John with her husband and two children from Regina, SK. Lisa graduated from the University of Alberta with a Master's degree in Speech Lan-



Lisa Kalis - Speech/Language Pathologist

guage Pathology. Since then, Lisa has worked at the CDC in Terrace and Dawson Creek, as well as with the School Districts in Terrace, Dawson Creek and Regina. "I can't wait to meet you and begin working with you to help you achieve your communication goals for your children."

### Infant Development Program

Learn to Massage Your Baby with the CDC's Certified Infant Massage Instructors!

"Massaging your baby is a tactile translation of love, security, and physical comfort—a dance between you and your baby."

The CDC's **Infant Massage Classes** begin **January 12th** thru to **February 2nd**. The class runs on **Mondays** from **10:30am** to **11:30am** at **Child Care Resource and Referrals 10441-100th Ave**.

Please phone the CDC at 250-785-3200 to register for this free class.

*"...in serving the best interests of children, we serve the best interests of all humanity."*

-- Carol Bellamy

## Roots

### In Memory of Roy and Anne Ohland

Thank you to Thelma Ostero for her donation of \$10,000 in memory of her parents, Roy and Anne Ohland.

Roy is remembered as a man who found joy in helping his neighbors and friends. He found great gratification in working with his hands and sharing his talents with others. As a craftsman and grandfather he began building *little diggers* for children. When one of his grandsons turned 2, the child's uncle gave him a digger for his birthday; Roy took one look at the digger and said, "I could build that!" The rest is history as the saying goes, and Roy spent much of his time in his shop making hundreds of diggers which he sent all over. Four of his wonderful diggers Roy donated to the Child Development Centre preschool playground. He

was sure that the eye-hand coordination that the diggers required would be excellent for the children. He loved kids and loved doing anything to help them. As a resident of Baldonnel, and then Taylor, from 1928 until his recent passing, Roy lived and invested himself in our community. We are proud that he valued the work of the CDC and gave a part of himself to us; we celebrate his kindness and generosity. Every time a child gets onto one of his diggers and a smile escapes their lips – Roy is thanked once again!



**The children of the CDC love Roy's Digger**

The CDC would also like to acknowledge Roy and Anne's daughter, Thelma Ostero, for the donation of \$10,000 from their estate. You inherited your parents' kindness and generosity, thank you.



## 35th Annual CDC Talent Show

### *A Night of Stars*

*"Celebrating our Past, Present, and Future"*

We invite you to remember our past, experience our present, and invest in our future. This year's Annual CDC Talent Show will be helping to fund our exciting building expansion, Project Build-A-Fort.

**Friday, March 6th, 2009**

Fundraising

★ Goal ★

★ \$200,000 ★

★ Proceeds to go directly to ★

★ Project Build-A-Fort ★

## Our Financial Partners



## Helping us Grow!!

### 1st Annual CDC Golf Tournament – A Swingin' Success!

The CDC would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals that helped make our first annual golf tournament a fun-filled success. After a thrilling 9-Hole best ball tournament, the golfers retired to the tent to enjoy great food and fun. Local business and individuals donated items for our silent auction, ticketed draws, door prizes, and tournament prizes. After the fun was done, and clean-up over, your support raised over \$12,000.000 which went directly towards our Project Build-A-Fort building expansion.

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Thelma Osterro  
Tom's Construction  
VE Brandle Ltd.  
WL Construction

\* The CDC sincerely apologizes to any business or individual that we may have failed to acknowledge in this list. We encourage you to call and inform us so that we may correct our oversight in our next issue. Thank you so much for your understanding.