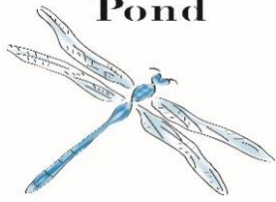


**Dragonfly  
Pond**



FAMILY SOCIETY

# The Pond

Winter 2023 SUPER EDITION



**Board of Directors**

Michelle Allin

Rachel McWhirter

Nicole Baker

Victoria Umunna

Arianne Allen

Ron Smith

Together We Will Fly....

Our programs are made possible by the generous support of

Community Granting organizations:

Community Foundation South Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton Beer Blocks,

United Way British Columbia, First West Endowment Fund, Canada Safeway

**Dragonfly Pond Family Society**

250-490-3305

[dragonfly@vip.net](mailto:dragonfly@vip.net)

[www.dragonflypondsociety.com](http://www.dragonflypondsociety.com)

**PO Box 23011, Penticton B.C. V2A 8L7**

NEW ADDRESS!!

## Family Get Togethers

In May we went to Ethos Parkour for some fun climbing, jumping and learning to land properly.

In June we went to Meeples and Milkshakes Board Game Café on Father's Day to enjoy some family time playing games and having snacks together!

In Sept we went to Safety Village for some outdoor fun on a beautiful sunny day! We enjoyed treats from Tim Hortons (Thanks!!) and had lots of fun biking, scootering, and jumping in the bouncy house. Many new families came out and were able to connect with other local families.



In Oct we did tree planting with the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society at the Skaha Park Pond to make it friendlier for Monarch butterflies. We learned about their migration, lifecycle, and dug for and planted trees.

In Nov we had a movie together at the Landmark Cinema in Penticton- Lyle Lyle Crocodile. What a great family movie that so many of our families enjoyed together in an inclusive and understanding environment. It was some of our members first movie at the theatre!! 😊



Look forward to more Family Get Togethers coming out soon! Tubing at Apex, Spring Bingo and more. Keep your eye on your inbox each month for our activities to land there!

# Dragonflies and Minnows Summer 2022

This summer we had 20 days of summer programming! Thank you to United Way British Columbia for funding our Summer program and making this all possible.

Our weeks were filled with Stand up Paddleboarding, Kayaking with Hoodoo Adventures, visiting Linden Gardens, Horseback riding, Bowling at Roll N Stones, visiting Agur Lake Accessible Camp, going to a hobby farm, doing a water marbling workshop, and more!

We also had days at the community center filled with floor hockey, free play and the big trikes. Families were able to swim after and make connections. We had volunteers from our local diverse-abilities community help out at our programs. Our Art in the Park was a big hit with lots of fun in the park. Thanks to Sarah for her thought out and adaptable art and craft activities.

We booked a bus and families had a fun ride out to Kangaroo Creek Farm in Kelowna, and in the same week we had a bus ride south to the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos.

Thanks for everyone who was able to come out to our Summer Program!



Funded by



Working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island



## The Uniquely Fashionable Fashion Show 2022

This fall we were able to host our Fashion Show again. This much loved event took place at the Penticton Lakeside Resort on November 30. This event saw 48 models take to the stage to strut their stuff and feel the love of the community surround them. Models ranged in age from 3-56, and are all members of our local communities. This event is not run as a fundraiser, but as a community inspired event, and is supported by funds raised through the years leading up to it, as well as the raffle draw at the event.

The Penticton Vees came out to be our volunteer escorts on the runway, as did members of the Pen-Hi Leadership team. Harvee also made an appearance to cheer our models on and walk the runway with some of them. Each model picked out their song to walk to played by DJ Shakes at the event.

We had photographers David Secor and Jenny Popoff capture amazing moments of the event (David doing stills/formal, and Jenny doing runway/candid shots). We want to thank them so much for their contribution to the event. The stylists of PUMP Hair Salon also spent the day doing the hair of our models into the beautiful styles that graced our runway, as well as doing touch ups at the event! Thank you!!

This event takes a large number of volunteers- we need volunteers checking in ticketholders, volunteers with models in the holding room, makeup applicers, emcee's, supervisors, escorts, and more! Another large volunteer role was filled by Traci Fladager, who has been involved with Dragonfly Pond and the Fashion Show since the start. She is a crucial member of the team with her community connections, passion for the event and community, and ability to coordinate such a large event. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers- you are so appreciated for everything you do for us!

The event started in the afternoon with models coming to see the set up and practice running the walkway to help with confidence and familiarity for the event. At 5pm, volunteers arrived to get oriented with the set-up, learn their roles, and be ready to greet the models. Models and their families started to arrive at 6pm, giving time for models to visit with others, play games and get photos taken. Ticketholders were able to eat from the selection of finger foods available at the event. At 7pm, our emcee's, who stepped in last minute when our planned emcee came down unwell, started the event with a land acknowledgement and a quick introduction.

Our event went on and all had so much fun!!

At the end of the event, the Raffle Draw was done and our winners were announced! The prizes went to: 1- WestJet Flights- Tracy Wardley 2- Vitamin King Basket- Connie Alves 3- OKGN Livin- Kevin McIntosh 4- Rancho Vignola Basket- Wendy Kenward. Thank you to everyone who entered and helped support the event this year.

On the following page are some photos from the fashion show courtesy of David Secor Photography. More photos will be posted to the website when they are available.



## Christmas party 2022

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> saw the return of our annual in-person Christmas Party. It has been 3 years since our last one in person, and did we ever have fun together!! We gathered in the afternoon at the gymnasium of Holy Cross School. There were nametags for the caregivers so they were able to meet and mingle with each other.

The food table was filled with sandwiches, fruit skewers, trays of cut veggies, fruit plates and more provided through a grant from Canada Safeway to keep our families happy and healthy! We were also treated to coffee, hot chocolate and donuts provided by our local Tim Hortons for our families to keep energized through the party.

There was sugar cookie decorating with Margeurita at one table (yummm!) and bag decorating at another with Katie so everyone had something to take their goodies home in. Sarah had two tables of Christmas crafts for our families to do some fun, adaptable Christmas crafts to take home. Thanks to Velda and Sarah's daughter for supporting our families with these crafts.

Families were quick to come together and put benches down the middle of the gym so families could play around with basketballs, volleyballs, and roller boards. Everyone had space enough to burn some energy or sit and enjoy their creations and a snack.

At 2:30pm Santa and his Elf stopped by to give each child at the party a gift just for them! It was so nice to have them come by and take photos with each kiddo as they received their gift from him. We really loved having him make a special visit to our party just for these amazing kiddos!!

Thanks to: the CFSOS for their continued financial sponsorship of this program, as well as the Knights of Pythias for their ongoing financial support towards our Christmas Party. Tim Hortons and Safeway for their generous contributions to keeping our families fed!

This year we also received a grant from the First West Foundation to put together Turkey Dinner Food Hampers for families that asked for them. We had 29 families ask for the Turkey Dinner packages. These each included Stove top, cranberry sauce, gravy packets, canned corn and beans, pancake mix, breakfast syrup, Fresh veggies (lettuce, carrots, potatoes, squash, Brussel sprouts, onions), dinner buns, orange juice, garlic and dried apple slices. They were either picked up at the party by attending families or delivered at another time.

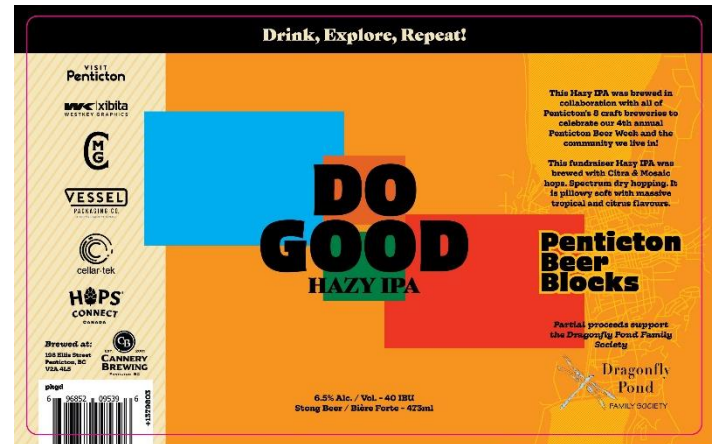
Each of the families also left with a special craft and activity package from Sprott Shaw's Lunch with Santa. For the past two years, they have been doing a virtual event and we have been purchasing their take home packages for our families Christmas packs. They agreed to put together special packages for us to continue on this great partnership even though they returned to an in-person event! Thanks Sprott Shaw!!



## Donor Spotlight

The Penticton Beer Blocks Fundraiser chose us as their charity to benefit from the beer collaboration produced this year, the Do Good Hazy IPA.

A portion of all sales of the Do Good Hazy IPA was donated to Dragonfly Pond, resulting in a donation of **\$3,333.20** towards our Respiatality program for 2022/2023 & 2023/2024. Thank You!!!



## Volunteer Opportunities & Events

### Our Board of Directors

If you or anyone you know of an individual that is interested in joining our Board, please contact Tricia at [dragonfly@vip.net](mailto:dragonfly@vip.net) for more details or to sign up. We are looking for board members that might be interested in the governance of Dragonfly Pond Society, as well as supporting our fundraising initiatives. We meet once a month for a board meeting, and correspond via email mostly.

### Dragonflies and Minnows Spring and Summer

We will need volunteers to help with our Dragonflies and Minnow Spring and Summer Program. They will be needed to help at the Community Centre with the set-up, running and take down of the gymnasium time. We will also need Volunteers for the Summer programs. Volunteers can be any member of our community, including individuals that have aged out of Dragonfly Pond, but would like to come back and support our programs, with a caregiver as needed.

If you would like to volunteer with a program or fundraiser, please contact program coordinator Tricia for more details @ 250-490-3305 or by emailing [dragonfly@vip.net](mailto:dragonfly@vip.net)

[QuickLink:](#) (each issue, this section will provide a link to a resource for our families!)

## Access 2 Card

<https://access2card.ca/about-us/>

### About the Access 2 Card program

Easter Seals Canada's award winning Access 2 Card program was launched in 2004 with support from Cineplex Entertainment and a group of national disability organizations. The Access 2 Card program helps to ensure that entertainment, cultural and recreational opportunities are more available and accessible to all. Managed and administered by Easter Seals Canada (located in Toronto), the Access 2 Card program has grown to reach over 100,000 Canadians who are living with disabilities, and includes over 500 participating partner venues across the country.

With the support of all our proud partner venues and fantastic cardholders, Access 2 has emerged as a national leader in helping create opportunities for individuals with disabilities and raising awareness about the importance of accessible venues.

#### **DRAGONFLY POND FAMILY SOCIETY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO SUPPORTED BY...**

*United Way British Columbia, Community Foundation South Okanagan Similkameen, First West Foundation, Ministry of Child and Family Development, Penticton Beer Blocks, Lakeside Resort, Ramada Penticton Hotel & Suites, Fairfield Penticton, The Pasta Factory, Canada Safeway, City of Penticton, Husdons Bay, Penticton Herald, Elephant Island Winery, Tim Hortons, Knights of Pythias, Penticton Pain Clinic, CUPE LOCAL 523, private consultants, community members, family members, foundations, community agencies & service providers*

