

# Newsletter



*Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of the Georgian Triangle*

January 2011

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## *A Message from the Executive Director – Karen Webb*

### ***Happy New Year Everyone!***

*I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. We had our second agency Christmas Party at Collingwood's youth centre, The Door. It was another very successful celebration for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Family in spite of the cold winds endured along the parade route.*

*Big thanks to our Littles and Bigs that helped hand out candy canes and Timbit coupons during the parade. Also, a Big thanks to Board Member Doug Paul, who kindly pulls the agency's Christmas float each year! It just wouldn't be the same without Doug's smiling face, waving to all the kids wearing his Santa hat.*

*Doug also ensures that the float is road worthy – this time round our float needed a tire. Thanks to McKee Tire, the Big Brothers Big Sisters float remains road worthy.*

*We are also pleased to announce that the Santa Claus Parade Committee of Collingwood Downtown awarded the Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas float second place amongst the Service Club/Non-Profit Association category floats. The agency was awarded a cheque for \$60.*

*Thanks to all the Bigs and Littles that dressed in pyjamas and housecoats.*

### **Great News**

*The agency sailed through the accreditation process, thanks to everyone's collaborative efforts. We are now waiting for our final report from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, after which an official news release will be sent to our local media. This is a process the agency formally goes through once every five years.*

*The staff at this agency and the board members overseeing this agency are all top notch! We, as a Big Brother Big Sister family, should be proud!*

### **Contact us:**

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## **Big Thanks**

We are pleased to announce that The Village at Blue Mountain Foundation recently presented a cheque to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Georgian Triangle for \$13,000! Sending kids to camp is important to this agency and this grant will ensure that our Georgian Triangle Littles have this opportunity again in 2011.

## **2011 Tim Hortons Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake**

Bowl for Kids' Sake is our most important fundraiser of the year! Once again, we are pleased to announce that **Tim Hortons** is our Title Sponsor and **Investors Group** is our Signature Sponsor.

Bowling is earlier this year, so we are busily recruiting teams. Our Kick off is **Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** at **Georgian Bowl** in Collingwood between 1:00 and 2:30 P.M. Our bowling event will run for three weeks at the Georgian Bowl with the last day of bowling on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our second bowling location is **Meaford Bowl** – this event is on **Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 9:00 A.M. with a formal kick off at 12:15 P.M., sponsored by Meaford's, New Orleans Pizza.

A second day of bowling in Meaford will start at 5:00 P.M. til close on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Big thanks to our hosting bowling alleys, Georgian Bowl in Collingwood and Meaford Bowl in Meaford! Come out celebrate with us!

This year's grand prizes for the most funds raised include:

- **First Prize** - Stowe Vermont condominium for a week, thanks to Wayne Noble of Noble Insurance.
- **Second Prize** - 2011/2012 Super Pass for Blue Mountain. .
- **Third Prize** - Foursome of Golf including carts at Cranberry Resort.
- **Fourth Prize** - One night at the Clearview Station B & B in Creemore. Thanks to Clearview Station Caboose Bed & Breakfast – Dave Huskinson

The Team raising the most funds will receive six gift certificates to Tholos Restaurant in the Village at Blue.

Everyone raising \$50 or more receives a prize including gift cards from Tim Hortons, The Huron Club Restaurant, Dairy Queen (Collingwood and Stayner), Rogers Video, A&W, Toppers Pizza and Cold Stone Creamery. At Meaford Bowl gift cards include, Tim Hortons (Meaford and Thornbury), The Leaky Canoe, Thornbury's New Orleans Pizza and Collingwood's Cold Stone Creamery.

A bowling event is simply not complete without lane sponsors and draw prizes. A Big Thanks to this year's supporters who will be listed on our web for six months and will be thanked in the newspaper.

NEED MONEY?

Ask Pat!

Pat Lalonde, Mortgage Agent  
Toll free 1-888-587-5645  
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CAPITAL CORPORATION  
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Fax 1-866-370-4596 or 705-444-9852  
needmoney@sympatico.ca



## **Georgian Triangle High School Challenge**

***New this year is a friendly high school challenge. The high school bowling party will take place at Georgian Bowl, Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have fund raising teams from all the high schools in our service area.***

*Students raising the most funds can win: an iPod Touch sponsored by Pat Lalonde, Mortgage Agent – Need Money? Ask Pat!, an Eco-adventure Tour for Two at Scenic Caves, sponsored by Scenic Caves, Nature Adventures; a Day at Blue for Two, includes passes, rentals, eats and treats sponsored by Destination Blue and a 21 speed bike donated by our Title Sponsor, Tim Hortons.*

*The high school team raising the most funds receives free Cineplex movie and popcorn for six, thanks to Collingwood's Cineplex Theatre. The second place team receives six large Toppers Pizza gift certificates. Everyone raising \$50 or more receives a prize including gift cards from Tim Hortons, A&W and Cold Stone Creamery.*

## **Bowling Pin Ups**

*Local merchants are supporting Big Brother Big Sisters by having "A change of shoes can change a Life" pin-ups available. Simply drop a toonie in the container, write your name on the pin-up which is then displayed letting people know you have supported kids in the Georgian Triangle.*

*Look for the pin-ups and support, Life is a Slice, in New Lowell, Foodland in Creemore and the IDA Pharmacy in Wasaga Beach.*

*Remember, a change of shoes can change a life! And, as our volunteers can attest, the life you change may be your own!*

*See you at the bowling alley!*

***Big thanks to our 2011 Volunteer Bowling Committee members for their ongoing dedication and commitment.***

***Thank you, Tanja Prica, Sue Taylor and Kathy Weiss. These three gals are worth their weight in gold. And thanks Sue for the fabulous job you do on our newsletter!***





**A Message from Casework  
Manager –  
Cathy Couttie**



**Happy New Year!**

*I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. My New Year's resolution is to keep my files up to date and beautiful, having finished our accreditation process.*

**Traditional Match Program**

*The traditional match program has the most stringent guidelines as far as reporting goes. I am asked to hear from Bigs, Littles and parents/guardians according to the schedule below.*

*Thank you in advance for your efforts. It is part of keeping everyone safe.*



<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTACT</b>	<b>PERSONS INVOLVED</b>
1 <sup>ST</sup> month	Personal and/or Telephone	Weekly contact. Telephone contact with the volunteer (Big), parent/guardian, child.
2-6 months	Personal and/or Telephone	Monthly contact with volunteer (Big), parent/guardian, child
By the end of the first 4 months	IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS	An in-person interview must be held with the parent/guardian and the child.
7-12 months	Personal and/or Telephone/ email for every other visit	Bi-monthly contact with volunteer (Big), parent/guardian, child
Annually (on or about the anniversary of the match)	IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS	With the volunteer (Big), parent/guardian, child
After 12 months	Personal and /or Telephone/ email	Quarterly contact with volunteer (Big), parent/guardian, child
At the time of closing	IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS	With the volunteer (Big), parent/guardian, child



*Enjoying a game of foosball!*

- Julie Buckley, member of Alpine Ski Club and Jan Trude for helping out with skis and snowboards! Thanks to the Bigs and Littles who came out to the picture so close to Christmas.
- Craigeleith Ski Club for 2 free ski passes and then some more as Bowl for Kids prizes. Craigeleith Ski Club helps us out every year!
- Hamper Help – a Big thank you to the following for your help and generosity at Christmas; Jeff, Maria and the staff at the Wasaga Beach Royal Bank, Donna and family for braving the weather and dropping off a great hamper. Thank you to Sophie, Dan, Mary-Anne, Tammy and the Collingwood Under 16 Trailblazers for all your help. Thank you to Mark and Dee-Anne from Bullpen PR Agency and their families.
- Westin Trillium House and Plunge for a great day out and a delicious lunch!

#### **Welcome New Matches**

- Chai and Gabby
- Trevor and Patrick
- Dayna and Katie
- Rob and Blake
- Pete and Eddie

#### **Kids, Cops and Communities (Little's only program)** **X-Country Skiing at Highlands Nordic** **Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Skis will be provided. Please dress warm and bring a water bottle along with you. We will ski on a lit trail and hang out with some of our great OPP officers.*

**When:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011

**Time:** 5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

*Light dinner provided at 5:15 p.m. **Please RSVP, as spots are limited!***

#### **Skating at Wasaga Beach Arena**

*John Stransky, from the Investor's Group and Big Brother Pete have organized our annual skate at Wasaga Beach Arena.*

**When:** Friday, April 1, 2011

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

*We will try to arrange skates for anyone who does not have a pair. Please let us know your size. **Please RSVP at 445-2330.** Thank you to John for covering the ice time.*



*Special Times for Bigs & Littles*



**Ruth & Latysha**

**Cookies - Decorating Night**



**Having fun by the water!**



**A Message from In-School  
Mentoring and Sandparents  
Caseworker –  
Christy Coutts**

### **In-School Mentoring/Sandparents**

Anyone who volunteers as an **In-school mentor** will be able to tell you what an ideal volunteer opportunity it is.

For a commitment of only one hour a week, you have a chance to be a kid again. You can play board games or cards, indulge your artistic side and create something original or hang out in a school playground or gym. The possibilities are endless. In the process, you will develop a friendship with a child and know that you are helping that young person reach his or her full potential.

The **Sandparent Program** offers a similar opportunity in terms of time. Our Sandparents spend up to an hour each week reading or doing other literacy based activities with a child aged three to six. The program takes place in daycare facilities and kindergartens.

For more information about either of these programs, **call Christy at 445-2330.**

### **Homework Club**

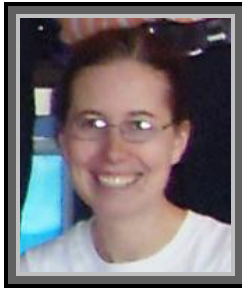
Our **Homework Club** runs each Tuesday afternoon in the library at Mountain View School. We start with a healthy snack and follow up with about an hour devoted to homework and projects.

Secondary school student volunteers work one to one with the children as tutors.

We currently have a few spots open in the group, so if you think your child would benefit from taking part, please give **Christy a call at 445-2330**



**180 Group Kids at Byng - Dec. 2010**



**A Message from Group Mentoring Caseworker – Tabetha Terrell**

Since our last newsletter, BBBS family and friends have been on many amazing adventures. To list a few, trampolining, Rounds Ranch, pumpkin carving, a werewolf game night, a small group trip to the science centre, swimming at Plunge, cookie decorating, paintballing, the Collingwood Parade, and Christmas party at The Door Youth Centre.

A BIG thanks to Big Brother Mark, Big Brother Dick, Big Sister Tanja, the Ontario Science Centre, Plunge, The Westin Trillium House, the OPP and The Door for BIG fun and lots of laughs.

Upcoming is the Bowl for Kids Sake kick off on February 12<sup>th</sup> at Georgian Bowl in Collingwood. Littles are invited to come out and show their awesome bowling skills and play along with local celebs from across the Georgian Triangle.

Also, our annual sledding day and party at Big Brother Dick's is fast approaching. The tentative date is March 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending, please call the BBBS office to confirm your attendance. Dig out those sleds. It is bound to be a great time!

A **BIG farewell to Big Sister Tanja** as she heads out into new life adventures and leaves the Big Brothers Big Sisters Georgian Triangle agency. We wish her the best of luck in all of her future adventures and hope to see her back real soon for a visit.

Tanja we will miss you! You have been a friend to many, a master planner, and of course a life changer. A BIG BIG Thanks from all of the Littles, co-volunteers and staff.

Activities and In-School programming continues to seek volunteers for programming. If you are interested in helping at one-time events, or helping in a 5 week – 5 session after school program, **please call the office at 445-2330 or email Tabetha at [Tabethabbbsgtri@aol.com](mailto:Tabethabbbsgtri@aol.com).**



**Best of luck Tanja - we'll miss you!**

