

# Ronald McDonald House®

Celebrating 15 years in Vancouver



## NEWS

FALL 1998

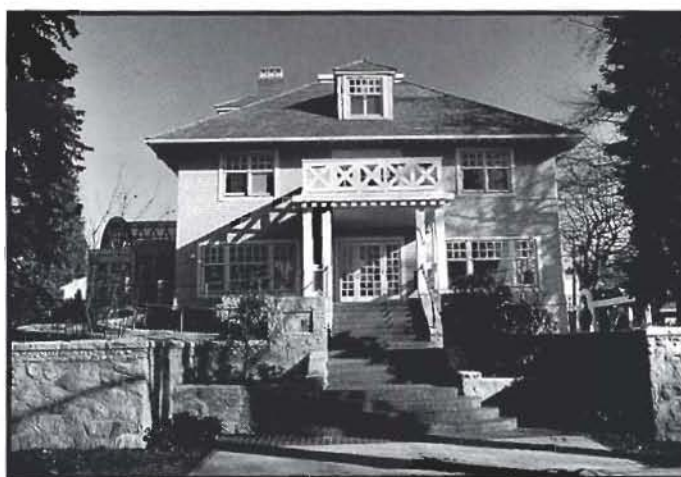
### 1997-98 Board of Directors

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*Ann Goodliffe, House Manager*  
*Peggy Naples, Administration*

### The House That Thrives on Love



**B**C's Ronald McDonald House will be 15 years old on October 4. This is truly a "House That Love Built" — from the founding Directors who developed the concept to reality; to the thousands and thousands of people who donated and continue to give time, dollars, goods and services, and caring; to the families who stay at the House and love and support each other through some of the toughest times of their lives. Our House thrives on love.

Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver consists of 14 guest rooms, a large kitchen, family room, living room, playroom, library, office, and beautiful gardens highlighted with a children's playground and playhouse. Since opening, the House has been full most of the time, with families from around B.C., the Yukon, and Northwest Territories who have a child being treated for a serious illness at a medical facility in Vancouver. Often their stay is weeks or even months long.

The House is one of more than 180 such facilities worldwide. McDonald's Restaurants provides seed capital and on-going support for specific projects, but local Societies raise funds for day-to-day operations, upkeep, and maintenance of the facilities.

#### FIRST HOUSE BUILT IN PHILADELPHIA

The very first Ronald McDonald House was built in 1968 in Philadelphia from a concept championed by Philadelphia Eagles player Fred Hill, whose daughter was diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia. Fred recognized the need for a "home away from home" for families of children with serious illnesses. The leadership and actions of Fred and his team mates led to the development of Ronald McDonald Houses.

#### B.C.'S RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

In Vancouver, Joan Williams, who had seen the Ronald McDonald House in Toronto under construction while her daughter Nonie was in Sick Children's Hospital there, was one of the key people to launch our House. The local McDonald's Restaurants already were wanting to develop a House here, but needed the right people to

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## October 8 is our 15th Birthday — LET'S DO CAKE!

**R**onald McDonald House is 15 years old! Join us for birthday cake at the House on Thursday, October 8th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. ♥



## Celebrate With Us at the Lions Game October 9

**A**s part of the birthday celebration, the B.C. Lions are supporting us at the Home Game against the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Friday, October 9th. They have donated SCADS of tickets for friends and families of the Ronald McDonald House. There will be a special birthday presentation during the half time show — so join us at the game, and bring your friends and family! Call the House at 736-2957 for further information, then drop in to pick up your free tickets. ♥

## Order Your Christmas Cards Today!

**W**ith September comes the long-awaited beginning of school, a well deserved Indian Summer, the Canucks training camp (minus our friend Trevor) and the kick-off for the Vancouver Ronald McDonald House annual Christmas card campaign. Christmas cards continue to be one of our most successful fundraising events each year and contribute significantly towards the House's \$180,000 operating budget. Since it's inception seven years ago, the Christmas card campaign has raised over \$260,000 and we plan to make 1998 a record breaking year!

This year's collection showcases the designs of five local artists; two of last year's favourites by Ted Hanison and Eileen Mosca plus three new designs by Bruce Ambrose, Janet Cummings, and Hilary Morris. This unique selection of cards is perfect for your personal and/or corporate greetings.

Orders of 100 cards or more can be personalized with one of eight different greetings. Corporate orders placed by October 16th, will receive a 20% discount. To order just fill out the order form in the enclosed brochure and fax it to 983-4263. Christmas cards can also be ordered pre-packaged with envelopes in bundles of 12 with standard greetings. A variety pack of 30 of our most popular cards from past seasons is also available.

We would like to thank Hemlock Printers and Island Paper Mills for their continued support, all the local artists who donate their designs, and all of you who continue to support "The House That Love Built" by ordering our Christmas Cards. ♥

## Get Your Entertainment '99 Coupon Books!

**T**his fall, Vancouver's RMH will once again be selling the Entertainment coupon books. The books are a tremendous value, with coupons for hundreds of restaurants across BC, ranging from casual munchies to fine dining. However, restaurants are just the beginning. The Entertainment 1999 book also offers a vast array of coupons for travel, recreational events and venues, shopping discounts, and hotel accommodations throughout Canada and the U.S.

One word of warning — get your order in early. According to House manager, Ann Goodliffe, just days after she returned the last few unsold books to the supplier last fall, a number of people called to place orders. So don't miss out! Order your Entertainment 1999 coupon book today and save money while you support Ronald McDonald House. ♥

*entertainment.*

## Wish List

*Two highchairs*



*Two umbrella-type strollers*



*Christmas gift items for children,  
teens and adults*



*baking supplies (flour,  
sugar, nuts, dried fruit, shortening)*



*Colour copier*



*PC compatible scanner*





## Message from the President...

**F**all is in the air and we at Ronald McDonald House are celebrating 15 years of helping families.

Ronald McDonald House is 15 years old! Join us for birthday cake at the House on Thursday, October 8, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

As part of the birthday celebration, the B.C. Lions are supporting us at the Home Game against the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Friday, October 9. They have donated SCADS of tickets for friends and families of the Ronald McDonald House. There will be a special birthday presentation during the half time show — so join us at the game, and bring your friends and family! Call the House at 736-2957 for further information.

Our House had a very busy summer! With the joint funding from Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Canucks Family Carnival, and Variety Club we have completed the renovation of our playroom. Our newly completed playroom has a whole new face-lift, which is inviting to all ages, whether it's being used for watching a video, playing foosball or just relaxing as a family.

During our closure we also renovated the top floor of our House with a continuation of our Adopt-A-Room program. It's hard to believe four years have passed since we began this program. I am pleased to say that we have many new and returning adoptors this year. Our bedrooms will be available for viewing during our birthday celebrations.

Our Board of Directors are going to be minus two of its members come the fall season. We say good-bye to Sandra Quinn and Barbara Ulmer. We thank both individuals for their valuable contributions to the Board. Our Board looks forward to two upcoming events — our Annual General Meeting in November, 1998 and our strategic planning retreat at the end of November.

Our annual Ronald McDonald House Invitational held at University Golf Course was again very successful, raising over \$75,000, and our Island Golf Tournament was also a huge success, raising over \$30,000!

I've said it before, but I don't think I can say it enough — the back bone of the House is our family of volunteers and we definitely have the best. Thank you everyone for all your hard work!


Pam Keith



## The House that Love (& Loonies!) Built

**R**onald McDonald House's Loonies for Love campaign kicks off October 1. As part of the campaign, volunteers will pass on cans for coin collection to various business establishments such as General Motors, Royal Bank branches, IGA markets and other local stores. At the end of October, the Royal Bank will gather up the filled cans and tally up the totals. Mayors across the province have been asked to officially declare October as Ronald McDonald House Month, and in an unofficial count, about 60 mayors have responded favourably so far.

As a part of Loonies for Love, campaign organizers have created the Loonie Lunchtime Line-up. In this event, students from approximately 75 BC elementary schools will be given cans to collect coins from friends and family or through local community events and activities. Once the loonies have been collected, they will be lined up in each school's gym, and the line of loonies measured. The school with the longest line of loonies will win an Apple Computer system for the benefit of all its students. Parents get involved as representatives by going to their children's schools and speaking to the students about the fundraiser and the Ronald McDonald House.

The purpose of these "loony" events is to increase province-wide awareness of the goals and services of Vancouver's Ronald McDonald House and its relevance to the people of B.C. In spreading the word about the House, the fundraiser also helps to create a sense of connection between families and the House by establishing an avenue for friends to stay involved in its operations. So start saving your loonies now! 

### THE HOUSE THAT THRIVES ON LOVE

*Continued from page 1*

get the idea off the ground. Joan helped to assemble a Board of Directors that came together in the fall of 1979, and there's been no looking back since then.

The location of the new Children's Hospital, which opened in 1982, was a key factor in the location of our Ronald McDonald House. The House needed to be conveniently located so families could go back and forth easily to the hospital.

#### AT FIRST, NEIGHBOURS OBJECTED

The first house purchased had to be sold when neighbours objected to its use as a Ronald McDonald House. When the house at King Edward Avenue and Angus Drive was purchased, the former owner helped tremendously by hosting coffee groups to introduce the neighbours to the concept of a Ronald McDonald House. With that understanding, our neighbours became some of our most active volunteers during the early years.

McDonald's Restaurants, the Variety Club of British Columbia, the Vancouver Whitecaps, B.C. Lotteries, along with other organizations and individuals from around the province contributed to the building of the House.

The house that was purchased was virtually rebuilt, starting early in 1982. Meanwhile committees were organized; policies were developed; funds were raised to finish, furnish, and open the House; and awareness of the new facility was built.

#### FROM THE START, A SPECIAL PLACE

Just before the House opened, it was featured for five days as a "Designer Home." "The first day, we were supposed to open at 10:00 AM and by 9:30 there was a line-up almost around the block," Joan recalls. "We ran out of coffee and food, and at the end of the first day we had to organize volunteers to clean up the House for the next day. People were very generous, and gave thousands of dollars during those five days."

To create greater awareness and to get communities involved, letters were sent to hospital guilds around the province as well as in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, asking them to make and donate a quilt for the House.

The response was overwhelming. More than 80 beautifully hand-crafted quilts were received. "We were so thrilled we held a quilt show to display them," says Joan.

Entertainer Rolf Harris presented a concert at the House and during the performance, painted one of his famous murals.

These were but a few of the wonderful ways that people helped to launch Ronald McDonald House in a very special manner.

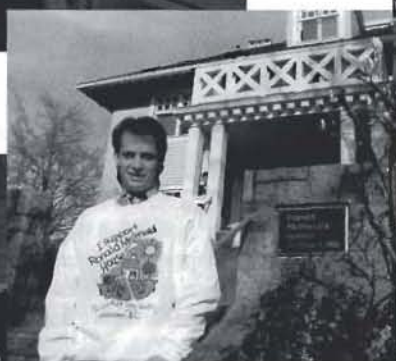
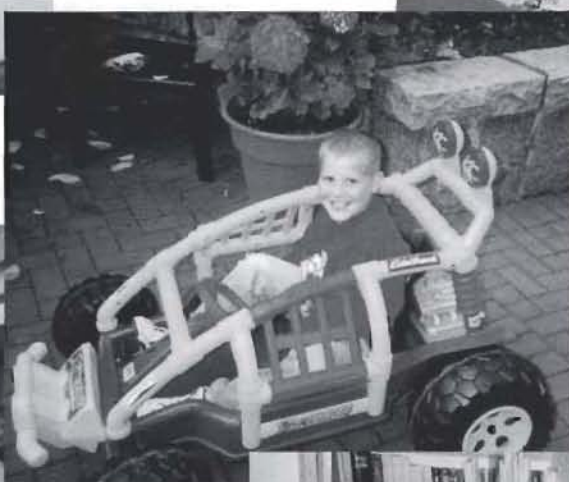
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# 15 Years of Memories







## THE HOUSE THAT THRIVES ON LOVE

*Continued from page 3*

### CELEBRATIONS

Over the years the House has held New Year's Eve parties, Valentines parties, Easter egg hunts, barbecues, Hallowe'en pumpkin-carving and dress-up parties, Christmas parties and birthday parties galore. "A birthday is never missed," says one parent, "and Christmas is a very special celebration." While there are many sad times at the House, there also are many happy occasions and celebrations as often as possible. Those who have stayed at the House gather each July in the Okanagan for the annual Family Reunion. At the end of the weekend, helium balloons are released in memory of the children who died.

### FUNDRAISING

The fundraising is endless, with events including the annual B.C. Media Invitational Golf Tournament, the Arbutus Ridge Invitational Golf Tournament, Christmas cards, cookbooks, Loonies for Love, "A Night of Hearts," a "No Show Ball," and a Wild Mushroom Dinner. Corporations and organizations have been generous with their donations and sharing of funds from events and activities such as McDonald's McHappy Days, Hatz Off to Kids Day, Canuck's Family Carnival, Canadian Plus Foundation's "Wings of Hope," Capilano Suspension Bridge's Annual 1889 Days, and Charity Wine Festival.

Our "Adopt-a-Room" program, started in 1994, has been a huge success in keeping our guest rooms especially attractive, cozy and comfortable for our families. All the rooms are refurbished every four years, thanks to the corporations and families who adopt the rooms.

Others have contributed significant funds through "Planned Giving." Slowly, our endowment fund is growing.

### MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Each year there is at least one major renovation project. For two weeks in early June, the House is closed to allow these major repairs and changes to be done. One year, a whole new kitchen was built, another time, the playroom was redone, the garden was created, the washrooms were renovated. Some years, the mechanical systems in the House are replaced and upgraded or floors are resurfaced. There's always something that needs to be done to keep the House in top condition for our very special guests.

### PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

What really makes this House the "home away from home" for so many people, year after year, is our staff and volunteers. "Ann (Goodliffe, our House Manager) and Peggy (Naples, Administrative Assistant) make the House a home," says one parent who has spent months at the House while her child was being treated. "Ann's always there to listen and to talk to," says another. "The volunteers made us feel so welcome," says another.

During our first 15 years, our Ronald McDonald House has been blessed in so many ways, and that in turn, has enabled us to help families who needed a place to stay and supportive people around them while their child was being treated for a serious illness. Our goals don't change. We want to continue to be a safe, loving, and comfortable home away from home for these families. We're counting on everyone's continuing support.





## Sun Shines on Ronald McDonald House Invitational

**T**he Ronald McDonald House Invitational Golf Tournament (formerly the BC Media Invitational Golf Tournament) took place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998 at the University Golf Club. It was a sell-out event, with 180 golfers raising over \$75,000 (an increase of \$10,000 from last year). The weather was sunny for a change, and a great time was had by all.

Special thanks to Dueck on Marine, Global TV, our hole sponsors (see side-bar), the hardworking tournament committee, and Dave Randorf, our Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer. See you next year! ♥

## 1998 Family Reunion

**R**onald McDonald House's annual Family Reunion was held in Kelowna on the weekend of July 10-12. With about seventy people in attendance at the Sunday barbeque, this year's Family Reunion was the largest in the four years that the event has been taking place.

The Family Reunion provided an opportunity for families who have stayed at the House to spend time together. Families who had not seen each other for many months connected almost instantly, says House manager, Ann Goodliffe. Ann adds that this year's reunion truly demonstrated the family connections fostered through Ronald McDonald House.

On Friday and Saturday, people took part in various activities around Kelowna, including golf, go-karting, shopping and swimming. The main event, a barbeque, took place on Sunday at Keloyna Park. The families also participated in a dedication to those children who have passed away. In remembrance, messages were placed in balloons which were then set free by children at the reunion.

Thanks to the efforts of Ann and a dedicated group of volunteers, the 1998 Family Reunion was a great success. Special thanks also to Barbara Ulmer, Brenda Wadella, Bev and Bob Fincaryk, Diane Dollman and Ron Dollman. ♥

### Hole Sponsors:

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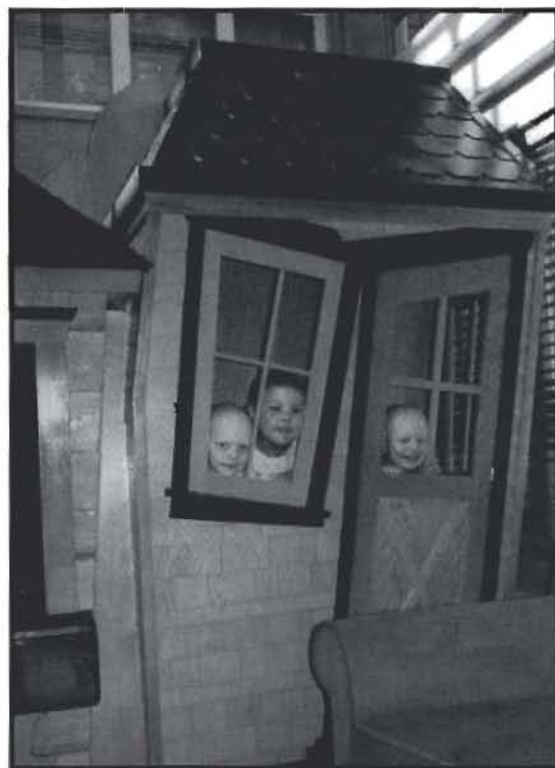


## Spring Renovations Spruce Up Bedrooms and Play Room

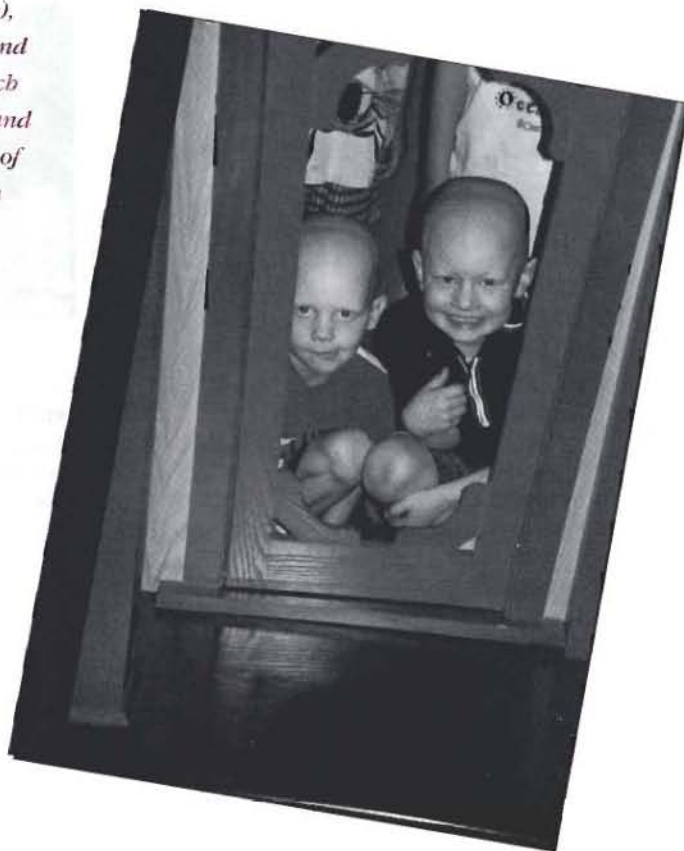
As it does each year, Vancouver's Ronald McDonald House recently closed from June 6<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> for two weeks of major cleaning and renovations followed by a "Spring Fling" weekend where volunteers did the final surface cleaning and final sprucing up.

During the House closure, five third-floor bedrooms received a much-needed refurbishing through the "Adopt A Room" program. The most dramatic changes, however, took place in the playroom, which received a fresh new coat of paint, new blinds, up-graded lighting and improved heating. Volunteers also created a colourful "village" in the playroom, with playhouses and TV and video game units all fashioned into playhouses, and a storage cabinet transformed into a town clock. Bright, playfully designed couches and carpets completed the new look, which has received raves from families and kids returning to the House. The playroom renovations "thrilled the kids, the playroom is like a wonderland now," said Ann Goodliffe, house manager.

Special thanks to the approximately 40 hard working volunteers who helped during the Spring Fling weekend. We hope to see you next year! Our warmest thanks also to our sponsors, including Service Master, All Star Window, Genesis, and Easy Care Carpet Cleaners. ♥



*Enjoying the newly renovated playroom are: Ryan Wilson (Burns Lake), Jobnatban and Kattlyn Neitsch (Westbank), and Isaac Moore of Fort Nelson*



## Ronald McDonald House

### A Gift of Love

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4116 Angus Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4H9

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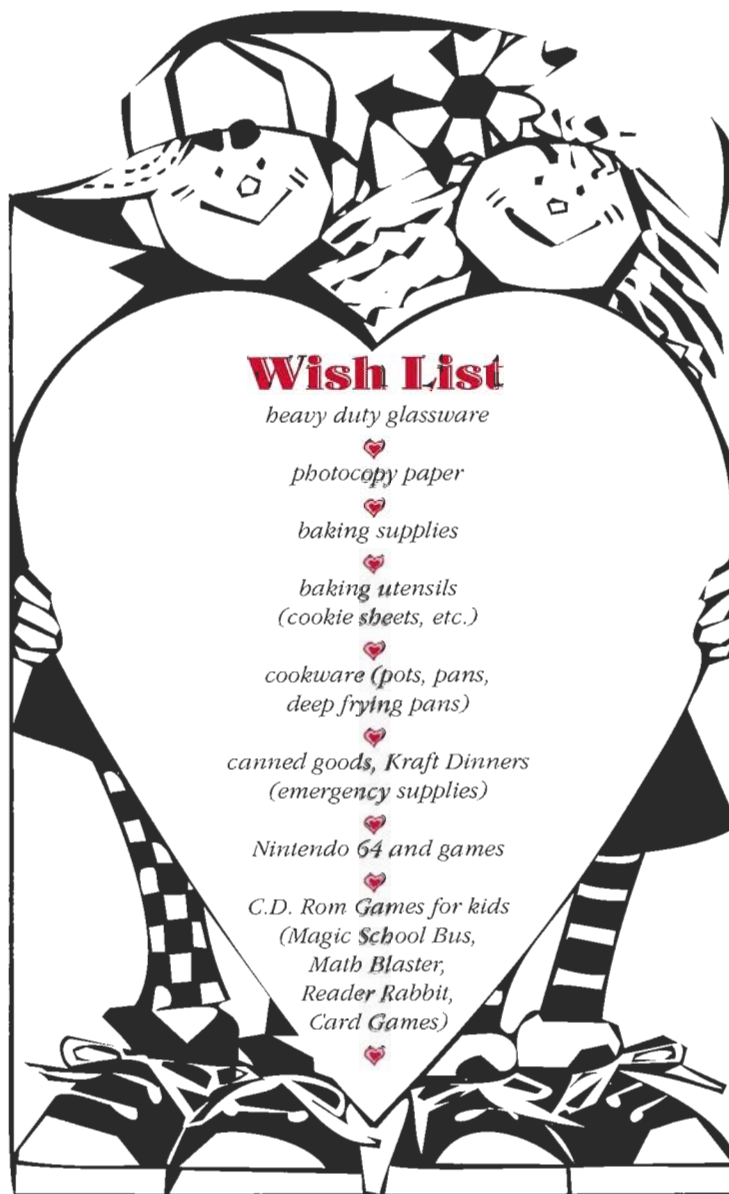
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