



YMCA-YWCA
of the Central Okanagan

*We build strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.*

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 14, 2009

Taking the Plunge for Charity

Brent Hobbs committed to swimming across Okanagan lake without a wetsuit if the community raised \$5,000 for the Variety Radiothon today before he was scheduled to “take the plunge”. At 10am today, that goal was surpassed and Hobbs is now preparing for his swim scheduled for 3:30pm starting from City Park.

Inspired by a local radio DJ’s dip into the lake to raise \$1,000 for Variety - The Children’s Charity, Brent Hobbs and the YMCA-YWCA of Central Okanagan worked together to top that and raise \$5,000 - money that will help local kids! Brent will swim from City Park all along the span of the bridge with Y Lifeguards volunteering and cheering him on.

Also cheering him on will be some of the kids from the Kelowna Family YMCA-YWCA’s Y Knot Abilities Program. Hobbs is swimming without a wetsuit to show his support for this program which is sponsored by Variety - the Children’s Charity and the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign. Y Knot is a swim program for children ages 6-16 with physical disabilities and their able-bodied siblings where the goal is to have fun and develop aquatics skills. Participants learn to focus on their abilities while developing strength, independence, and confidence.

With the current water temperature of Okanagan Lake, Hobbs will need to focus on his abilities and muster up incredible strength and courage to be able to complete this swim without a wet suit! Campion Boats has donated a boat to accompany Brent during his swim across Okanagan Lake.

On July 8, 2008, Brent Hobbs accomplished a lifelong dream and swam the English Channel without a wetsuit in a time of 10 hours and 44 minutes. Today, Brent volunteers as the ambassador for the Y Knot Abilities Swim Program because he believes that all children, financially or physically challenged, should have access to recreation.

We invite members of the community and media to join us at City Park today at 3:30pm to support Brent Hobbs and to also call 250-763-6840 to make a donation to the Variety Radiothon.

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Kelowna Family Y – H2O Adventure & Fitness Centre – Out of School Care – Career Contact Centre for Youth
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