



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KELOWNA BOATING COMMUNITY HELPS CHILDREN

Burnaby, BC (June 22, 2010) – On Saturday, June 19, children who have special needs benefited from the generosity of the Kelowna boating community as local skippers from many Yacht Clubs, including Kelowna, Westbank and Summerland took to the waters of Okanagan Lake during the *Variety Boat for Hope*.

For the fourth consecutive year, over 200 children who have special needs, and their parents and siblings, dressed in their best pirate gear and set sail around Okanagan Lake for a fun-filled day of boating. Over 26 boats and crews and over 120 volunteers gave their time and energy to put smiles on the children's faces.

After a day on the water, the children were invited to *Treasure Island*, organized by the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs, where they enjoyed a BBQ feast, set in a carnival-like atmosphere. As they showed off their costumes and their loot, the children enjoyed a memorable day. Face painters, entertainers and clowns were just some of the features of the fun-filled land event, as the *Variety Boat for Hope* helped children who have special needs and allowed them to just be kids!

"Boat for Hope is one of our most unique events. It is incredible to see all these kids having so much fun and all the skippers dressed up. Kelowna is such a supportive community so it is great to be here and see everyone come together for the kids," said Barbie Hislop, executive director of Variety - The Children's Charity.

Boat for Hope is supported by the Kelowna Yacht Club as well as several local sponsors including Pharmasave, Nesters Market, the Kelowna Firefighters and a host of others. Donations can be made to Variety until June 25 at any Pharmasave location in the province. The money raised will help children who have special needs far beyond this day of fun.

For more information on Variety – The Children's Charity, visit www.variety.bc.ca

Variety – The Children's Charity raises funds and distributes grants to inspire hope, enrich lives, and build a better future for children in British Columbia who have special needs. Since 1965, Variety has raised over \$155 million for children and families in the province.

-30-

**For more information contact:
Danielle Lucas
Toll free 1.800.381.2040**

In partnership with

Variety – The Children's Charity
4300 Still Creek Drive, Burnaby, BC Canada V5C 6C6
Tel: 604.320.0505 · Toll Free in BC: 1.800.381.2040 · Fax: 604.320.0535 · www.variety.bc.ca

