

History of the Club

1978 - Betty Bishop founded the Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club and operated out of the K.S.S. gym which burnt to the ground in 1979. The club then moved to Dayton Rd. Betty later moved to Banff and started Banff Springs Gymnastics.

1981- Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club became an incorporated organization with a membership of 75

1985 – Membership of 350 – this large increase came from the efforts of Sandy Fugger and Linda Mervyn who started a preschool gymnastics program.

1986 - Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club moved to Hunter Court

1986 – Hosted our 1st Ogopogo Competition

1984 – Leslie Lightfoot was hired as Head Coach

1987 – Lisa Thompson was hired as Head Coach

1989 – Todd Millway was hired as Head Coach

1996 – Ron McLeod was hired as Head Coach

1997 – Hosted our 1st Cobweb Competition

1994 - Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club moved to Sexsmith Rd

1996 - The Trampoline and Tumbling Program was introduced at the club

1999 – Hosted Provincial Championships for Artistic Gymnastics

2000 - Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club moved to Penno Rd to a temporary facility while trying to work out a partnership with the City of Kelowna

2000 – Jennifer Dober was hired as Head Coach

2001 November - Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club moved to their current facility on Hartman Rd with the new name of Okanagan Gymnastics Centre. In Partnership with the City of Kelowna and spear headed by Jennifer Charles, and the many volunteers this dream became possible. Membership was 547 members

2002 August – Membership of 1020

2003 August – Membership of 1277

2004 July – Hosted Indo Pacific Games for Trampoline & Tumbling

2005 August – Membership of 1649

2005 – Jennifer Dober wins coach of the year, presented by OGC

2006 – Sergei Chelest was hired as Head Coach

2006 – Heather Ivanitz is the Zone 2 representative

2006 August – Membership of 1700

2006 - Okanagan Gymnastics Centre introduced a Men's Artistic Gymnastics program

2006 - Changed to the new logo to represent the multi discipline organization

2007 August – Membership of 1800

2007 September - Angelo Despotas named National Coach of the Year by Gymnastics BC

2007 September – Received award for Provincial level Trampoline Gymnastics Club of the Year from Gymnastics BC

2008 – Opened the new 2400 sq ft. expansion bringing the total facility size to 15 000 sq ft. and a membership of over 2000

2008 September – Received award for Provincial level Trampoline Gymnastics Club of the Year from Gymnastics BC

2009 March – Hosted Elite Canada for Trampoline & Tumbling

2009 June – Membership of 2200

2009 June – Proud recipients of the **Ed Brougham Club Award** – from Gymnastics Canada. We are the #1 Club in Canada! This award is presented to the club who has demonstrated growth in membership, growth in disciplines, participation in courses and the hosting of events.

2009 September – **Sergei Chelest** wins the Gladys Hartley Provincial Coach of the Year Award from Gymnastics BC

2009 September – Received award for Provincial level Trampoline Gymnastics Club of the Year from Gymnastics BC

Past Presidents' of the Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club

1978	Betty Bishop
1982 – 1985	Mervyn Andrews
1990 – 1992	Bob Bartlett
1993 – 1995	Cathy Villar
1995 – 1996	Les Milton
1996 - 1997	Rhonda Baldwin
1997 – 1999	Brenda Williamson

Past Presidents' of the Okanagan Gymnastics Centre

1999 - 2001	Daryl Leung
2001 – 2004	Jennifer Charles
2005 – 2006	Dave Atkinson
2007 – 2009	Stephen Ott
2010 -	Lori Briggs

Honorary Members

1986	Mervyn Andrews
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Head Coaches

1991 - 1996	Todd Millway
1996 - 2000	Ron McLeod
2000 - 2005	Jennifer Dober
2006 - present	Sergei Chelest

Club Administrators

1996 – 1997	Pat Reeve
1997 – 2001	Ron McLeod
2001 - 2005	Kari Purvis
2005 - 2007	Sally Lockhart
2007 - present	Anita Ott

Highlights & Past Champions

Artistic Gymnastics

1984

Heather Yule (Andrews) and Jeanette Hrubes formerly Kokanee athletes moved to Vancouver to train under Bruce Medd and later Sonya Koblakova of Czechoslovakia. They attended Sentinal Secondary School in the morning and trained in the afternoons. This was in 1985 until 1988. These two athletes were chosen to participate in the "Best Ever Programme." Even though they were in Vancouver they still retained their membership in the Okanagan Kokanees Gymnastics Club and competed under that banner.

Heather's accomplishments

1987 12th Elite Canada
 1st B.C. Elite Senior champion
 2nd on Beam Canada Winter Games
 13th Olympic Trials

1986 13th Canada Winter Games & 2nd on Beam
 1st B.C. Elite Junior Champion
 1st Canadian Junior Champion, 1st on Beam, 2nd Bars, 5th on
 Floor and Choreography award for floor

1985 5th Elite Canada (Senior)

1984 1st B.C. Elite Novice Champion

Jeanette later carried on to become one of BC's first gymnasts to obtain a US scholarship and became a Florida Gator.

1987 Olympic Trials
 Canada Winter Games

1990

Tanya McCormick earned High Performance Status and competed at National Championships

1998

Sarah Charles competed in Women's Artistic National Novice at National Championships in Hamilton, ON

2004

Marleigh Gaber Western Canadian Champion for Level 4 Tyro

2005

Marleigh Gaber earned High Performance Status and competed in Women's Artistic National Novice at National Championships in Vancouver, BC

Melissa Rutter competed in Women's Artistic National Novice at National Championships in Vancouver, BC

Jesse Jakins Western Canadian Balance Beam Champion Level 4 Novice

2006

Jesse Jakins competed in Women's Artistic National Open at National Championships in Quebec City, QB

2007

Marleigh Gaber competed in Women's Artistic National open at National Championships in Regina, SK

2009

Adele Lefevre Western Canadian Champion for Pre-Novice Elite

Makinli Handley Western Canadian Balance Beam and Floor Champion Level 5 Tyro

Trampoline & Tumbling

2003

Sarah Charles Senior Women's Double Mini

- **WORLD CHAMPION**

2004

Sarah Charles Senior Women's Double Mini Champion

- Canadian Championships
- World Cup
- Indo-Pacific Championships
- Pan Am Games

Senior Women's Trampoline Champion

- Pan Am Games

2005

Sarah Charles Senior Women's Double Mini Champion

- Canada Cup
- World Games

Curtis Gerein

Men's Novice 10-14 years Tumbling Champion

- Canada Cup

Men's Novice 10-14 years Double Mini Champion

- *Canada Cup*

Men's Novice 10-14 years Double Mini Champion

- *Canadian Championships*

Men's Novice 10-14 years Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Canadian Championships*

Luke Friesen

Men's Novice 10-14 years Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Canadian Championships*

2006

Curtis Gerein

Men's 13-14 years Double Mini Champion

- *Indo-Pacific Championships*

Men's 13-14 years Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Indo-Pacific Championships*

Men's Youth Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Canadian Championships*

Men's Youth Double Mini Champion

- *Canadian Classic.*

Nelson Murray

Men's 13-14 Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Indo-Pacific Championships*

Luke Friesen

Men's 15-16 Double Mini Champion

- *Indo-Pacific Championships*

Men's Youth Double Mini Champion

- *Canada Cup*

Men's Youth Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Canadian Championships.*

Alana McLellan

Women's Youth Double Mini Champion

- *Canadian Classic*

2007

Curtis Gerein

Men's Junior Tumbling Champion

- *World Cup*

Men's Junior Double Mini Champion

- *World Cup*

Men's Youth Synchronized Trampoline Champion

- *Canadian Championships.*

Ethan McLeary

Men's Novice 10-14 Double Mini Champion

- *Canada Cup*

- *Canadian Championships*

Luke Friesen *Men's Youth Double Mini Champion*
• *Canada vs Great Britain Challenge*
Men's Youth Synchronized Trampoline Champion
• *Canadian Championships*
Men's Youth Double Mini Champion
• *Canadian Championships*
Men's Youth Double Mini Champion
• *Canada Cup.*

2008

Ethan McLeary *Men's Novice 10-14 years Trampoline Champion*
Men's Novice 10-14 years Double Mini Champion
Men's Novice 10-14 years Tumbling Champion
• *Canadian Championships*
Men's Novice 10-14 years Double Mini Champion
• *Canada Cup*
Men's Novice 13-14 years Tumbling Champion
• *Indo-Pacific Championships*

Russell Canning *Men's Novice 15+ years Double Mini Champion*
• *Canadian Championships*

Curtis Gerein *Men's 15-16 years Double Mini Champion*
• *Youth Indo-Pacific Championships*
Men's Youth Trampoline Champion
Men's Youth Synchronized Trampoline Champion
• *Canada Cup*

Ben Goossen & Nelson Murray
Men's Youth Synchronized Trampoline Champions
• *Pan AM Championships*

2009

Curtis Gerein & Luke Friesen
Men's Senior Synchronized Trampoline Champions
• *Canadian Championships*

Gymnastics BC Awards – Athletes

2007 – Curtis Gerein – *Outstanding Male Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year*

2007 - Trevir Stirling – Provincial Level Male Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2007 – Jade Wolf – Provincial Level Female Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2008 – Curtis Gerein – Outstanding Male Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2008 – Tyler Hutchison - Provincial Level Male Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2008 – Ethan McLeary – National Level Male Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2008 - Carli Gruber – Provincial Level Female Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2008 – Danielle Gruber - Provincial Level Female Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2009 – Curtis Gerein – Outstanding Male Trampoline Gymnastics Athlete of the Year

2009 – Luke Friesen and Curtis Gerein – Canadian National Team Recognition