

# and now, the brent and woofy show!

## DAVID MORRISON

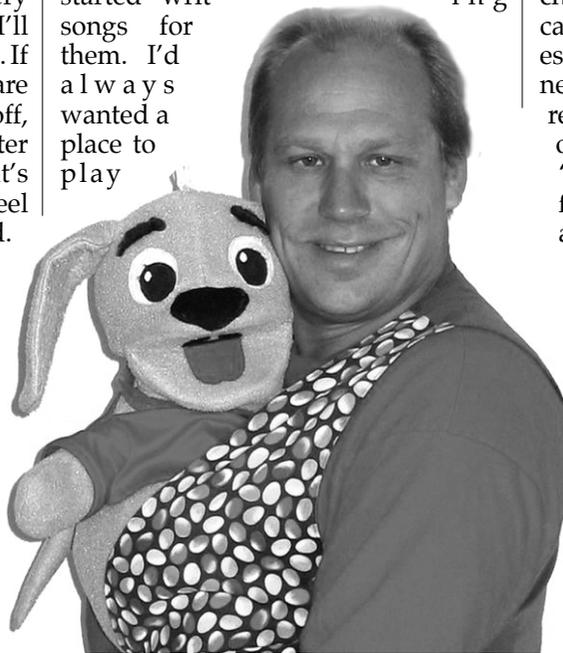
Not blessed in life with the joyous role of parenthood, my skills in keeping kids entertained are at best woefully unpracticed. When a situation demands that I turn on the buffoonery in the name of a toddler's chuckle, I'll rarely receive the hoped-for reaction. If I'm lucky, I might get that blank stare of disdain only a kid can truly pull off, or else the little sweetie will just totter off to play with a spoon. I must say it's most disconcerting, making me feel nine-parts ogre, one part dullard.

Consequently, I can only regard people such as family entertainer and CHLY programmer **Brent Boehler** with envy. "I can make kids laugh just by looking at them," he says. And having spent a mere twenty minutes in his company, I can well believe it. He's an effervescent funny guy, a natural, especially when giving life to his hand puppet companion **Woofy**, a wonderfully daft dog character vocalised not dissimilarly to Yogi Bear.

Every Saturday morning for the last year-and-a-bit, Brent & Woofy have taken over the CHLY studio to present a high-octane hour of lunacy aimed squarely at an audience of two-to-twelve-year olds and their families. More often than not, there'll be a guest from the community to contribute to the mayhem. For a man and fabric pooch with no previous radio experience be-

tween them, it's proven a surprise hit.

Recalling how he evolved from a bar circuit singer-songwriter to full-time family entertainer, Boehler says: "I played in bars from '82 until about '93, but when my kids were two or three years old, I started writing songs for them. I'd always wanted a place to play



other than bars, where I could actually have a career. I just started writing songs and doing puppet shows and it fell right into place."

It sure has fallen into place, with Boehler calling on an ever-expanding cast to suit the job in hand. When not accompanied by his faithful cloth hound, he might transform into Ban-

jo the Clown, Brenton the Magician or—one can only imagine—Tarzan's Dad. And perhaps you have need of a Nerd-O-Gram? Or someone happy to deliver balloons dressed top-to-toe as a chicken? Then Boehler's your man.

He performs at scores of shows and children's parties every year, each occasion providing magical memories—especially of the things kids say. "I'll never forget this little girl with bright red hair," he begins in recollection of one particularly amusing encounter; "she's got this puzzled look on her face. I said, 'honey, what's wrong?' and she said 'your hair is broken!' That's what I love about kids—they're so brutally honest," Boehler chuckles, lifting his ball cap to display a denuded cranium.

With *The Brent & Woofy Show's* first anniversary already under their belts in 2008, Boehler and his material mutt have another biggie upcoming. "I have plans to have a huge *Brent & Woofy* fifteenth birthday party this year," the human of the partnership reveals.

Upon his mischievous master's instruction to bid me farewell as I prepared to leave, Woofy barked: "Get the hell out!" I laughed like a drain, of course—such are the comedic skills of Nanaimo's finest broken-haired family entertainer.

Catch the Brent and Woofy Show, Saturdays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am on CHLY 101.7FM <[www.chly.ca](http://www.chly.ca)>

For more information, visit <[www.bbshows.ca](http://www.bbshows.ca)> or call (250) 753-6657.