

# President/CEO *Report*

..... A monthly report on Ranch Ehrlo Society's activities .....

## ***Pawson Addresses World Forum on Child Welfare***

issue 40, September 2007

*During the course of any month, there are a number of activities which occur that go unreported to Board Members, our Senate, key Stakeholders and staff. This bi-monthly newsletter will attempt to capture some of that activity and give you a broader perspective on Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Community Services.*

Dr. Geoff Pawson  
President/CEO

Dr. Geoff Pawson has been recognized both provincially and nationally for his passion and commitment to the welfare of children. It is therefore not surprising that Pawson was invited to address the 2007 International Forum for Child Welfare in New Delhi, India.

Founded in Finland in 1989, the International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) is a world body dedicated to the rights and well being of children. With membership in 50 countries, IFCW regularly highlights key issues of children's rights and development through annual "world forums" which assemble delegates from around the world.

The theme of the 2007 World Forum, which was held August 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, was "Millennium Development Goals and their implications for children."

In addition to facilitating ways to achieve the millennium development goals (adopted by all United Nations members in 2000), the conference addressed contemporary issues in education as well as market forces and their impact on children's rights, promotion of gender equality, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal rights and the eradication of poverty.

Pawson participated in the panel discussion entitled "Global Partnership for Development". He shared his views on how the Ranch Ehrlo Society

developed new programs based in part on successful technology transfers with other countries such as Argentina and Cuba.

"These global partnerships are an effective mechanism to develop and disseminate information," said Pawson. "It forces you to think outside the box and create new and innovative programs." Pawson used the Ranch's Total Family Treatment Program, which was launched in September 2006, as an example of an innovative service that successfully integrated elements of programs learned through technology exchanges.

In addition to the World Forum sessions, conference delegates had an opportunity to visit a number of schools throughout New Delhi, including a number in the slums.

"The contrast between enormous wealth and abject poverty was at times overwhelming," said Marion MacIver, Executive Vice President, who was part of the Saskatchewan delegation. The number one priority in India is accessibility to education. In New Delhi alone there are over one million children who are not in school. "The trip certainly expanded your world view and brought a new sense of perspective to the challenges we face at Ranch Ehrlo," added MacIver.

Pawson also presented at the World Forum in 2005 in Tallinn, Estonia.

## ***Toward Respectful Treatment***

“Ensuring respectful treatment to children and youth in care is fundamental,” said Dr. Deb Parker-Loewen, Vice President Programs North during her presentation at the 4<sup>th</sup> Biannual Symposium of the Prairie Child Welfare Consortium (PCWC).

“Working with unique children and youth and ensuring they receive the treatment they need, while respecting their rights, backgrounds, culture, and language can be extremely challenging.”

“Ensuring respectful treatment to children and youth in care is fundamental.”

Deb Parker-Loewen

Parker-Loewen discussed some of the challenges encountered and strategies used to maintain a high level of competence at Ranch Ehrlo when dealing with children and youth. “Many of the young people we work with have experienced deep and pervasive pain and may act out

or withdraw,” said Parker-Loewen. “Our work is to create an environment within the group homes that offers youth a sense of ‘normality’, while caregivers respond to their pain and the behaviour caused by this pain.”

The PCWC is a tri-provincial and northern Aboriginal and mainstream network dedicated to advancing and strengthening education and training, policy, practice and research in aid of at-risk children and families. The theme of this year’s bi-annual symposium, held at the Regina Inn from September 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, was *Passion for Action: Building on Strength and Innovative Changes in Child and Family Services*.

Dr. Karl Mack, Director of Programs, also presented at the symposium on the multi-discipline collaborative clinical model. Mack spoke to the increase in the number of young people being referred to residential treatment with a variety of challenges related to developmental disabilities; he presented a clinical approach used at Ranch Ehrlo to meet the developmental needs of these young people.

Dr. Geoff Pawson, President and CEO served on the planning committee for the symposium, which included representatives from the Faculty of Social Work, Saskatchewan Community Resources as well as a number of First Nation Child and Family Services agencies.

One of the highlights of the symposium was the performance by the Ranch Ehrlo Society Pow Wow club at the opening reception on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### ***“Grey Cup” at Ehrlo Daycare***

Congratulations to Karin Duff, Director of Ehrlo Daycare for facilitating a successful fundraiser for the Regina Food Bank. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, a representative from Purolator Courier brought the Grey Cup to W.F. Ready School. As part of the Purolator Tackle Hunger Program, students were able to have their picture taken with the famous trophy in exchange for a donation of food. Four barrels of food supplies, and a small amount of cash, were collected for the Regina Food Bank, which is attempting to break its own Guinness World Record for the most food collected.

## ***Schaller Students to Participate in Safety Conference***

A number of youth, aged 10-13, from Schaller School will be participating in a Safety Conference at IPSCO Place in Regina on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The conference is being hosted by the *Keeping Our Community Safe* committee. Youth will participate in a number of sessions including:

- The Reality of Fire
- Escaping Fire
- Safe Cooking
- The Consequences of Fire Setting
- Safe Places-Safe People-Safe Situations.

“We are always looking for opportunities to have the students participate in community-based training opportunities,” said Corinna Hayden-Fidler, Director of Secondary and Vocational Programs. “Not only do they gain important information from the sessions but they learn to interact with their peers in the community.”

## ***Hilsden House To Receive Volunteer Recognition Award***

The youth from Hilsden House will be receiving an award from the Normanview West Community

“It is empowering for our young people to feel they are a contributing to the well-being of their community”

Joey Shaw  
Unit Manager

Association for their volunteer contributions to the community.

The youth from Hilsden House have been very active in the community since it opened in 2004 with “creek clean-up”, distributing the community association newsletter, participating in the Normanview Community Day Carnival and supervising the outdoor rink one night a week during the winter.

“It is empowering for our young people to feel they are a contributing to the well-being of their community and that their efforts are recognized,” said Joey Shaw, unit manager at Hilsden. “We’re very excited about the award.”

Shaw and caseworker Jolene Sikorski will accept the award on behalf of Hilsden House at the West Zone Board Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Senior Director of Finance***

Dr. Geoff Pawson, CEO, announced the appointment of Danny Wilson to the newly created position of Senior Director of Finance at the Ranch Ehrlo Society effective September 3, 2007.

Wilson is a chartered accountant with nearly 25 years of experience, eight with international CA firms and 17 with the Canada Revenue Agency. In August 2004, the Provincial Government seconded Wilson for a 20-month term as Chief Financial Officer at the Saskatchewan Centennial Office.

Wilson is an active volunteer who has served on a number of community boards including the Regina YMCA. His office is located at the Hudson Building at the Pilot Butte campus.

## ***Artist in Residence***

Amanda Scandrett is the new Artist in Residence (AIR) at the Ranch Ehrlo Society.

“I am very much looking forward to developing this new position which will support the influence of art as a means to enhancing the quality of life”

Amanda Scandrett  
Artist in Residence

The Ranch was successful in obtaining funding from the Saskatchewan Arts Board for a three-month development phase and one 12-month residency program for an AIR.

Scandrett comes to the Ranch from Kelowna B.C. where she served as Community and Education

Coordinator with the Rotary Centre for the Arts. She is a graduate from the University of Regina with a B.ED in Arts Education. Scandrett enjoys working in all media; her recent work includes installation, sculptural and multi-media.

The Artist in Residence will expand current Ranch Ehrlo programs such as the Pow Wow Club and the Story Telling Program; the artist will also create new programs that will reach the youth involved with the agency as well as the staff, board, volunteers, families and the broader community.

“I am very much looking forward to developing this new position which supports the influence of art as a means to enhancing the quality of life for everyone involved with the Ranch Ehrlo Society,” said Scandrett.

Scandrett’s work is currently on display at the SCES gallery located at 2431 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Regina.

*In a recent Letter to the Editor, the co-chairs of the 2007 North West International Rowing Association Championships thanked the volunteers who made the event such a success including “a great group of teens from Ranch Ehrlo”. Youth from Kruzeniski and Jewison units greatly impressed the organizers with their commitment and hard work on the project. “They listened well and performed their duties in a responsible and respectful manner,” added one member of the Rowing Club.*

## ***Equine Assisted Learning***

“Some of the joy in working with horses is they don’t let you cheat and their feedback is honest and instant,” reports Randy O’Shaughnessy, Director of Programs for Buckland/Prince Albert.

In a recent presentation to the Ranch Ehrlo Board of Directors, O’Shaughnessy reported that his goal is to have an equine assisted learning program, which goes well beyond trail riding, up and running at Buckland within the near future.

“Some of the joy in working with horses is they don’t let you cheat and their feedback is honest and instant.”

Randy  
O’Shaughnessy  
Program Director

Two members of the Buckland staff are being certified as equine assisted learning instructors and the horses are being prepared for the program. Most of the youth in programs north will eventually be participating.

“This program is an effective approach to personal development

through horsemanship in a fun and exciting atmosphere,” notes O’Shaughnessy. “The participants can gain a better understanding of themselves by engaging in exercises designed to help understand horsemanship, then bridge the gap between these exercises and real life.”

Other benefits of the program include the development of communication, problem-solving and team-building skills, the development of a personal work ethic and appropriate assertiveness, and the development of confidence.

## ***Caring Across the Boundaries***

*The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Family Services Saskatoon and the Ranch Ehrlo Society are hosting a 1 ½ day training program on October 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> at Dakota Dunes Casino. The session’s aim is to ensure that First Nations children can access a wide variety of social supports offered by the voluntary sector. For more information contact Deb Parker-Loewen at 659-3102.*

## ***Summer Activities***

Linda Meyer, Vice President Programs South reports on a very busy and rewarding summer for Ranch Ehrlo youth.

A number of youth had camping experiences outside the province, which included trips to Kananaskis and Waterton National Park in Alberta, Eco Valley, B.C., Clear Lake, Manitoba, and Lake of the Woods, Ontario. Within the province, youth traveled to Maple Creek, Cypress Hills, Greenwater Lake, Candle Lake, Jan Lake, Meadow Lake, Good Spirit Lake, Waskesiu and Madge Lake.

Due to the forest fire threat in northern Saskatchewan, only one program from the south went into the Ranch’s northern fly-in camp at Norbert Lake and it was evacuated after four days. “Several programs had to change their plans on very short notice and performed an admirable job in doing so,” said Meyer. “The ability of the managers, youth and staff to assess and create alternative camps and then implement each, as if it were only a minor bump in the road, says a lot about the calibre of people we work with,” added Randy O’Shaughnessy, Program Director at Buckland/Prince Albert.

## ***Class Visits Weyburn Red Wings***

Former Weyburn Red Wings coach, Bruce Thompson has 11 years of SJHL coaching experience, two SJHL coach-of-the-year awards and five years coaching the U or R Cougars hockey team. He is now a teacher at Ranch Ehrlo.

Thompson, who teaches at Schaller School, felt that it would be a great opportunity for his class to visit his former team and experience first hand the excitement of organized hockey. “As soon as the students entered the arena their eyes lit up with anticipation,” said Thompson. Their anticipation turned to excitement when they were introduced to members of the Red Wings, dressed in full uniform. As a token of their appreciation, the youth presented the team members with a poster to hang in their dressing room.

# *Ehrlo Community Services<sup>1</sup>*

## *City of Regina Housing Coordinator Speaks at AGM*

Bob Bjerke, Housing Coordinator, Urban Planning Division, City of Regina was the guest speaker at the Ehrlo Community Services Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, at the West Harvest Inn in Regina. Bjerke spoke about the need for a stable housing framework and funding at the national level and the challenges of meeting the needs of 15% of the population that that is either homeless or has inadequate housing.

“We appreciate your approach in working closely with others in the community to identify needs and then developing a plan...to meet those needs.”

Bob Bjerke  
Housing Co-ordinator

Bjerke also spoke about his relationship, and that of his colleagues at the City of Regina, with Ehrlo Community Services, particularly the partnerships with Ehrlo Housing. “Ehrlo Community Services has been a strong partner from the City’s perspective,” said Bjerke. “We appreciate your approach in working closely with others in the community to identify needs and then developing a plan, in collaboration with others, to meet those needs.” As an example of this collaboration Bjerke cited his work with Helen Finucane, Director of Community Programs, on the Healthy Home Project.

The Healthy Home Project was a demonstration project for inner-city housing that involved three levels of government as well as the Office of Energy Conservation and a number of private suppliers.

<sup>1</sup> ECS was established as a non-profit organization in 1995 with a mandate to provide community-based prevention and intervention services.

## *2007-2008 Ehrlo Board of Directors*

- Dale Chastkiewicz (Chair), President, CHAZ Sales
- Bob McEwen (Past Chair), President, Sun Electric
- Andrea Seale (Vice Chair), Lawyer
- Dave Abel, Regional Coordinator, RCMP Training Academy
- Leila Francis, Executive Director, Core Community Association
- Caron Hopfner, President, Partner Technologies Inc.
- Shirley Newhouse, Businessperson
- Janice Dohlen, Principal, Wascana Community School
- Gerry Welsh, Retired Businessman
- Brenda Mercer, Chair, North Central Community Association
- Donna Welke, Chair of the Ranch Ehrlo Society.

## *Avant-Garde Award Winners*

Lori Pawson, Principal Avant-Garde, would like to congratulate the following individuals from the College who were successful in the Allied Beauty Association competition held in Regina on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>:

- New talent—ladies cut and colour
- First Place—Chelsey Brack
  - Third Place—Charissa Chessal

Instructor Lenette Clark placed first in Ladies’ colour and cut and second in Men’s cut and colour.

Avant-Garde is located at 1033 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## *Ehrlo Counselling Services Training Workshops*

The fall has been a busy time for Dave Wiebe, Special Services Coordinator at Ehrlo Counselling Services. Ehrlo Counselling Services hosted two half-day workshops on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Regina United Way. Wiebe presented in the morning to an

audience of 28 participants on “SafeTALK”, a suicide alertness program developed by LivingWorks Education Inc. “This workshop was useful even for individuals who have had previous suicide intervention training,” said Wiebe. “The purpose of the session was to sensitize individuals to the signs of suicide and focused less on actual intervention.”

“The purpose of the session was to sensitize individuals to the signs of suicide and focused less on actual intervention.”

Dave Wiebe  
Coordinator

In the afternoon Crystal Day, Occupational Therapist with Regina Child and Youth Services provided information and strategies for helping those with sensory integration difficulties.

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Wiebe presented the SafeTALK session to 15 Federal

Youth Interns, in a program that is run through the YMCA of Regina.

Wiebe has also made a number of presentations on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). He delivered a one-half day training session for the workers at Transcona Park Child Care on September 8<sup>th</sup> and on September 25<sup>th</sup> presented to 15 RCMP officers as part of their operational orientation training.

### ***Happy Anniversary Barbeque***

Washington Park Place, which houses the Ehrlo Family program, celebrated five years of providing affordable housing and supports to young mothers and their children. “It was a beautiful day in the sunshine on June 21”, said Shelley Sayer, Program Manager. “The kids had a riot playing with new water sprinklers and wading pools, purchased with a donation from Schaller School students.”

### ***Monday Night Football Kick-Off***

The Ehrlo Monday Night Football League is enjoying another great season. The kick-off camp, which was held at Mosaic Stadium Practice Field on August 27<sup>th</sup>, featured members of the Roughriders and Prairie Thunder. “It’s great to have the ongoing support of the community for our

League,” said Kim Langston, Coordinator of the Ehrlo Sport Venture Program. “It makes an enormous difference to the young people.”

The Ehrlo Monday Night Football League is a free, co-ed inner-city touch football league for youth ages 8 to 18. The season runs Monday nights from August 27<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup> in six city zones.

Access Communication is this year’s title sponsor for the League with support from the Community Initiatives Fund, Saskatchewan Lotteries and the City of Regina. A special thank you to the Roughriders and the Regina Rams for providing game tickets to participants this season.

### ***Community Services Project***

Ehrlo Sport Venture Program has once again partnered with the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region to provide a bi-weekly sports program for clients of Child and Youth services. “Feedback from parents, clients, clinicians and facilitators has been positive,” said JoAnne Phillips, Manager of Child and Youth Mental Health with the Health Region. “We have been particularly impressed by the professional and caring conduct of your staff.”

“This is a model for recreational programming for young people in need,” added Malcolm Neill, Vice President of Ehrlo Community Services. “We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Health Region in the future.”

### ***Community Basketball Courts***

Ehrlo Sport Venture has partnered with the City of Regina to develop two half-court basketball courts at Sport Venture’s 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue location. The courts, which are located to the east of the Sport Venture Library, will be fenced in and lit until 11:00 p.m. daily. Ehrlo and the City of Regina’s Community Capital Partnership Program jointly funded the project, which is scheduled to be completed in the winter 2007.

Sun Electric donated the timer light for the courts and the Ranch Ehrlo Construction Training Crew will work on the fencing and basketball goals.