

President/CEO *Report*

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

Grand Opening of Corman Park Campus

issue 42, February 2008

*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

On December 14, 2007 the Ranch Ehrlo Society hosted an open house to officially mark the opening of its Corman Park campus. Initially scheduled to open in the fall of 2006, the event was especially meaningful for all those involved in the project. "Today marks the realization of a vision that the Ranch has had since its inception in 1966—to have a presence in all three major areas of the province" said Dr. Geoff Pawson, founder and President/CEO. "Youth who need help can now receive it throughout the province, allowing them to remain connected to family members."

Following tours of the on-site facilities, which include the *Tim Young Administration Building, Ellen Gunn Education Centre, Frank May House*, guests gathered at *Donna Welke House* for a short program and reception.

Following Pawson's opening remarks, the audience heard from special guests Justice Ellen Gunn, Donna Welke, Frank May and Tim Young, who were recognized for their contributions to Ranch Ehrlo. Justice Ellen Gunn spoke about her experience with Ranch Ehrlo as legal counsel at the Public Inquiry into the Wilderness Challenge Program during the summer of 1977. "Over the course of the 22 days of the hearing, I saw respect for the work of Ranch Ehrlo increase markedly," said Gunn. "I knew this was an agency I could proudly support." Gunn served as a board member from 1979 to 1984.

Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services, brought greetings from the provincial government, acknowledging the importance of the Ranch's work in Saskatchewan. She also shared a personal anecdote about how the Ranch brought meaning to the life of a close friend, who has since deceased. RM Corman Park deputy reeve, Joanne Janzen extended a welcome to the Ranch on behalf of the Corman Park council, wishing the agency success in working with the young people in the Saskatoon area.

Organizers of the event were pleased with the turnout of approximately 150 guests, that included members of the community, service agencies, the judiciary, several provincial MLA's and the local media. Many residents surrounding the campus were also in attendance to meet and get to know their new "neighbours".

Following the open house, Delbert Kirsch, Batoche Constituency MLA, announced the opening at the December 17th sitting of the Legislative Assembly. "It is with pride that this government recognizes the contribution made by Ranch Ehrlo Society," said Kirsch. "The government is sure the Corman Park campus will be a success and will help many young people realize their full potential."

The Corman Park campus is located on a 77-acre parcel of land, approximately 10 kilometres north-east of Saskatoon.

RES & E Holding Company Established

Along with the growth in size and the expansion in the delivery of services, the Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services have also acquired considerable property and buildings over the past number of years.

“The boards of directors felt it was their responsibility to focus on the delivery of treatment services and not the management of property.”

Danny Wilson

As early as 2002, the boards of the two agencies passed resolutions to divest their land and buildings to a holding company. RES & E Holding Corporation was incorporated under *The Non-Profit Corporations Act* in November 2005.

“The boards of directors

felt it was their responsibility to focus on the delivery of treatment services and not the management of property,” said Danny Wilson, senior director of finance, who is overseeing the transfer. “With property and buildings totalling nearly \$16 million it is prudent to have an entity devoted solely to the management and growth of these assets.”

Peter Hoffmann serves as voluntary president and CEO of the holding company; Deb Jordan is chair of the board, Caron Hopfner is vice-chair and Punam Burnett acts as secretary/treasurer. The other board members are Shirley Newhouse, Harvey Lammer and Gerry Welsh.

RES & E Holding Corporation has contracted with Ranch Ehrlo Society to provide ongoing accounting services and supports.

For more information on RES and E Holding company contact Danny Wilson at 781-1840 or at danny.wilson@ranchehrlo.ca.

Shea Haverstock, Communications Coordinator for the Ranch Ehrlo Society is now located at 101-2022 Cornwall Street in Regina. Haverstock can be contacted by phone at 751-5684 or by e-mail at shea.haverstock@ranchehrlo.ca.

Ehrlo Daycare Feedback Survey

A recent Ehrlo Daycare parent survey reflects a high level of satisfaction with the centre. The survey requested feedback on a number of topics. For all areas surveyed the majority of responses were either “exceeds expectations” or “exceptional”. Strengths included quality of staff, quality of programmes, and the location. Areas listed for improvement included improved structure for school age program, more flexibility for summer placement, and better communication.

For more information on Ehrlo Daycare contact Karin Duff at 751-2722.

Changes in Education Team

As Marion MacIver assumes additional responsibilities in her new role as executive vice president at Ranch Ehrlo, she is pleased to announce the appointment of Hayley Maurer as principal of the Schaller intake and elementary education programs and Brenda Fiddler as principal of the northern education programs. Maurer, who recently returned from educational leave, has taught at the Ranch for 11 years. Fiddler, formerly vice principal in the Prince Albert education program, has also been with the agency for 11 years. Corrina Hayden-Fidler continues in her role as director/principal of secondary and vocational programs. .

In addition to retaining her responsibility as director of education, MacIver, who was appointed executive vice president in September 2007, will be facilitating board governance, overseeing agency organization redesign and working to streamline the budgeting process at the agency.

Focus '91 Winner

Congratulations to Patricia T., a Ranch Ehrlo student at Cochrane High School, who has been recognized for her contribution to her school. In a project jointly sponsored by the *Focus 91 Photography* and the two school boards, 5 students from every high school will be featured in a travel gallery of student portraits and autobiographies to be displayed in various malls throughout the city.

Arts Programs Thriving

“We have set up a variety of arts programs to address individual, group, community and family needs and interests,” said Amanda Scandrett, Ranch Ehrlo Society’s artist in residence.

“Programming ranges from arts activities with a therapeutic and expressive focus, to various arts projects and events.”

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Amanda Scandrett

Throughout February and March, Scandrett will be visiting Schaller classrooms to conduct workshops on graffiti art, including the history and contemporary aspects of graffiti, and the connections and differences between graffiti and vandalism.

Scandrett was successful in receiving an ArtsSmart grant

from the Sasaktchewan Arts Board to allow hip hop recording artists to conduct workshops and create hip hop compositions with 10 Schaller classes. A CD release party will be held at *The Exchange* in Regina on May 3rd; all are welcome to attend and a free performance will be given by the artists involved.

In addition to the ArtsSmarts grant, Scandrett also received a Project Assistance grant to bring in local artists to conduct free community workshops on hip hop dance, song writing and computer/digital arts. Workshops will be held in April and May.

For more information on the Ranch Ehrlo arts program contact Scandrett at 751-2489 or amanada.scandrett@ranchehrlo.ca.

Contemporary Art Exhibit

Amanda Scandrett is currently working with Ranch Ehrlo youth to create artwork for an exhibition at the Alternator Gallery for Contemporary Art in Kelowna, BC. The exhibit will be a collaboration between Scandrett and the youth that depicts themes such as individual expression, the meaning of youth who are at-risk, and the effects of labelling within our society. The exhibit takes place from April 11th to May 16th in Kelowna.

Research Project to Assist Youth

Dr. Karl Mack, director of programs, is overseeing Ranch Ehrlo’s involvement in a research project with Sharon McKay and Dr. Robert Twigg of the Faculty of Social Work. The study will determine what life skills youth returning to rural and northern communities need in order to reintegrate into these communities in a way that will significantly reduce the likelihood of them re-entering the treatment or correction systems.

“It is assumed that both Ranch Ehrlo and northern and rural communities will be able to use the results of the study to develop the capacity to more successfully reintegrate youth to their home communities,” said Mack. “The results of this study may also suggest ways that youth can be kept in their home communities when they need services, and in an ideal world, what could be done to prevent the youth from even needing outside intervention,” he added.

Winter Festivals

Plans are well underway for the 2008 Winterfest scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd at the Pilot Butte campus. The day starts out with a pancake breakfast at the Liskie gym, followed by jam can curling, clothing relays, toboggan races, smooch races, snowshoe races, hockey showdowns, football toss, pillow fights, egg relay, bell-kick and tug o’war. In addition to these games and events, there will be a “banner contest”. Points are allocated for individual and team events as well as for the banner contest.

The Prince Albert/Buckland and Cormon Park Winterfest will be held on Friday, February 22nd. Activities planned include relay races, bell-kick, egg toss, a shinny tournament and a wiener-roast.

Congratulations to 10 year old Vayda Kotyk (daughter of unit manager Jason Kotyk) who leads the atom hockey league with 82 goals and 30 assists. Vayda’s talent was recognized at the February 2nd Regina Pat’s game where, as “7th Player”, she skated with the team during the warm up and was on the ice for the singing of O’Canada.

Cultural Coordinator Appointed

Sonia Roy joins Ranch Ehrlo Society in the new position of cultural coordinator. “I hope to bring a better understanding of our First Nations’ teachings,” said Roy. “I know that these universal teachings will enhance the ability of all young people to deal with life’s ups and downs.”

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Sonia Roy

Roy’s responsibilities are to coordinate staff cultural training, liaise with outside agencies regarding cultural programming options, facilitate resource acquisition for residential units and classrooms and provide leadership to the Ranch Ehrlo cultural program committee.

Roy has a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Indigenous Studies. She was brought up with

traditional teachings and is a member of the Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation.

Roy can be contacted at 751-5686 or at sonia.roy@ranchehrlo.ca.

CIBC Children’s Miracle Fund

Ranch Ehrlo Society and the Children’s Aid Foundation have once again renewed their partnership agreement to provide a CIBC Children’s Miracle Fund for the Regina area. The original agreement was signed in December 2004 and to date over \$30,000 has been distributed to “enhance the physical, mental, social and developmental wellbeing of disadvantaged, at-risk children and youth”.

“Thanks to this fund I have been able to enrol clients in activities such as horseback riding lessons, basketball, soccer, football and various other leisure activities,” writes Marlene Brenzil, clinical social worker with the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region. “These children and youth have been given the opportunity to participate in pro-social activities; engaging in such activities is a

protective factor against the development of further mental health problems and anti-social behaviour”.

For more information on the Children’s Miracle Fund contact Karin Duff, fund coordinator, at 751-2772 or karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca.

Program Changes

Linda Meyer, vice president programs south, advises of some program changes in two of the Ranch Ehrlo units in Regina. Fitch House has been converted to a program for five individuals with developmental disabilities. Jillings House will be transferred to the Ranch Ehrlo Family Treatment Program, which continues to expand and requires additional facilities. Youth from Jillings will be transferred to a rental property on Quinn Drive. “We’re continually reviewing our programs to ensure we’re best meeting the needs of the young people in our programs,” said Meyer.

Thank you from Manitoba

“We pondered how we might provide a similar operation in Manitoba, duplicating your many wonderful practices and philosophy”

Billie Schibler
Children’s
Advocate
Manitoba

Dr. Geoff Pawson, President and CEO, recently received a note from the Billie Schibler, Children’s Advocate for Manitoba. Schibler and the Minister of Family Services and Housing, Honourable Gord Mackintosh, along with other Manitoba government officials, visited the Ranch Ehrlo Society last summer.

“Malcolm [Neill] and Linda [Meyer] were exceptional in touring us through the various facilities and providing answers

to our many questions,” writes Schibler.

“Each of us left Regina with creative thoughts racing through our heads. We pondered how we might provide a similar operation in Manitoba, duplicating your many wonderful practices and philosophy in the best interest of children and youth,” she added.

A “sedentary nomad” figurine was presented to the agency as a memento of the visit.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

Ken Dryden Meets the OHL

On the afternoon of Friday, January 18th, the Outdoor Hockey League had the unique privilege of meeting hockey legend Ken Dryden. While in Regina, Dryden took some time out to visit the Grassick Park rink, where he signed autographs and posed for a few pictures before getting out on the ice with the kids (and volunteers) for a quick boot hockey game.

“We are very thankful to Mr. Dryden for his time. It was definitely the highlight of the OHL season.”

Kim Langston

Ken Dryden is best known for his years on the ice with the Montreal Canadians from 1971-1979, winning six Stanley Cups and establishing himself as the NHL’s premier goalie.

“We are very thankful to Mr. Dryden for his time”, said Sport Venture coordinator, Kim Langston. “It was definitely the highlight of the OHL season!”

Holiday Generosity Benefits Ehrlo Counselling Services

Chocolates by Bernard Callebaut store owner, David Loblaw, proudly presented a cheque for over \$1,200 to Ehrlo Counselling Services director, Bree Fiissel and Ehrlo Community Services vice president, Malcolm Neill following a very popular in-store contest over the Christmas season.

The contest/fundraiser sent one lucky customer home with a 30-pound chocolate Santa. The proceeds from draw entries went directly to funding pro-bono counselling services at Ehrlo Counselling Services.

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

A New Look for Sport Venture

Development of the side-lot at the Sport Venture Library (SVL), located at 2730-5th Avenue, has been completed and is now ready for use!

Through a partnership with the City of Regina, the east side of the SVL building has been transformed into a platform that will be used as a basketball court and shinny pad for community use. Another of Sport Venture’s ongoing sponsors, Sun Electric, generously donated and installed a timed light which keeps the pad lit from sun-down until 11:00 p.m. daily.

2008 Avant-Garde Fashion Show Tickets Now Available

The 4th annual Avant-Garde High Fashion & Hair Show is set to take place on April 26, 2008 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina.

The show will highlight the latest trends in fashion by five local designers, models by Stages Modeling Agency, performers from the Martin School of Dance, and hair and make-up by Avant-Garde College. Guests can also look forward to the Moulin Rouge fantasy competition, giving students the opportunity to explore their creative talents in hair and make-up design. The evening will also include a silent auction, cash bar and appetizers.

Tickets are \$35.00 each and are on sale now at Avant-Garde College, 1033 8th Avenue. All funds raised will go towards two bursaries for Cosmetology and Esthetics.

Destination: Guatemala

This year's winner of Operation Sunshine, Dave Wiebe, has officially announced his winning destination. “I am *eagerly* awaiting the final two weeks of February, in which I will be travelling to Guatemala”, said Wiebe. In addition to other prize draws, Operation Sunshine, sponsored by the Ranch staff association, provides for one employee to receive approximately \$5000 in cash plus an extra 10 days of holidays.

FASD Training Series

Ehrlo Counselling Services, along with several other community agencies, organized the very successful four-part FASD training series in January and February. Speakers included Dr. Susan Petryk, a Developmental Paediatrician from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Kim Skidmore, a parent from Lumsden, and several other professionals representing agencies providing services for children with FASD.

Ehrlo's Dave Wiebe continues to provide FASD training for a variety of groups and agencies, including teams from Ranch Ehrlo and the RCMP.

9th Annual Coca-Cola Cup

On March 8th and 9th the OHL will be hosting its annual Coca-Cola Cup year-end tournament at the Pense Memorial Rink. Atom and Bantam division players will be going head-to-head to defend the glory of their city rinks – and it always promises to be great competition!

Many thanks go out to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company for its continued support, providing the ice-time and beverages for this tournament.

2008 Ehrlo Golf Classic

Attention golfers! The 2008 Ehrlo Golf Classic is set to go Monday, June 2nd at the Royal Regina Golf Course.

For registration and sponsorship information, contact Malcolm Neill at 781-1812 or Shea Haverstock at 751-5684.

15th Anniversary of the OHL

On Sunday, December 16, 2007 friends of the Outdoor Hockey League gathered at Grassick Park rink for the "Back to the Heart: 15 Years of the OHL in Regina" celebration.

Members of the Regina Pats, the Regina Pat Canadians and the University of Regina Cougars hockey teams came out for a community skate. Everyone in attendance enjoyed an old-fashioned hot-dog roast, an anniversary cake and hot chocolate. Thanks to everyone who came out to help celebrate 15 years of helping young people play Canada's favourite game.

Fantasy Food 2008

The Fantasy Food 2008 Gala is taking place on Saturday, March 29th at the Saskatchewan Science Centre. This event has become known as one of Regina's premier culinary events; including tasting booths from over 30 local restaurants, microbreweries and wine merchants, live entertainment, and a live and silent auction. Part of the proceeds goes to Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs. For more information and tickets contact Kim Langston at 751-2411.

Bob Ryan Football Tournament

The first annual Bob Ryan University of Regina Scholarship Touch Football Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Regina Rugby Fields.

The tournament will begin at 10:00 a.m., with each game being scheduled for 45 minutes. Food and drink services will be available throughout the day along with a variety of entertainment.

This is a great opportunity to support a worthwhile cause and have some fun in honour of an outstanding individual. Organizers are expecting the tournament to be sell-out.

Bob Ryan worked at the Ranch Ehrlo Society for over 30 years. He died in December 2006 at the age of 54.

Registration deadline is Friday, February 22nd. For more information or to register a team, please contact Scott MacAulay, University of Regina Rams at 585-5483 or Chris Ashman at 501-2626.