

# President/CEO *Report*

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

## *An African Experience*

issue 47, February 2009

*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

A Participation Agreement between the University of Regina and the Ranch Ehrlo Society enabled Carole Bryant, vice-president of administration, to travel to Blantyre, Malawi to assist a team from the Polytechnic (a constituent college of the University of Malawi) with strategic planning and the development of stakeholder input instruments. Malawi, a small land-locked country south of the equator, is bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zambia. With a population of 12 million, the per capita income of this agro-based economy is U.S. \$250.

Bryant's work is part of a larger socio-economic development project between the University of Regina and SIAST and the University of Malawi and the Malawi Polytechnic. *Socio-economic Development in Malawi through Technical, Entrepreneurial, Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) Reform* is a six-year, \$4 million project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The project has several components including capacity building in the areas of policy and planning, management development, curriculum development, research, and distance education. In addition, the project addresses the cross-cutting themes of gender equality, HIV/AIDS, and environmental issues.

Bryant, serving as team lead, was in Malawi for a two-week period from January 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Along with Dan MacKay, Dean of Business Studies at SIAST and Kenneth Gondwe, Dean of Engineering at the Polytechnic, Bryant developed and facilitated a two-day workshop entitled *Strengthening Skills in Strategic Planning*.

The 50 participants included the principal, vice-principal, deans and department heads, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Education, CIDA, industry, and the students' union. "This was a very well-educated and experienced group of individuals who have had training in strategic planning," said Bryant. "They all knew the theory but admitted that they experienced difficulties in implementing the plan; most of our time was therefore spent brainstorming and sharing experiences on what works."

Following the workshop, Bryant and MacKay stayed on to work with the Malawian team to develop and pilot an industry stakeholder survey.

"It was an incredible experience," said Bryant. "I'm very grateful to Dr. Geoff Pawson and the Ranch Ehrlo Society for allowing me to participate in the project and for providing me with an experience of a lifetime."

## ***Life Space Crisis Intervention***

“Informative”, “passionate”, “entertaining” were just a few terms used by Ranch Ehrlo employees to describe a recent training event with Mark Freado, Director of Re-Education, Training and Consultation at the Pressley Ridge Institute in Columbus, Ohio. Freado, a senior trainer of Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI), specializes in interventions for at-risk and disadvantaged children, adolescents, and their families. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, at a time when most other Americans were watching the inauguration of the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Freado was in Regina speaking to approximately 175 Ranch Ehrlo employees on the use of Life Space Crisis Intervention when working with traumatized youth.

“Handled well, a crisis provides an opportunity for young people to learn new ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving.”

David Rivers

“LSCI is a therapeutic process that helps us to use the crisis of a young person as an opportunity for understanding, problem-solving, and growth,” said David Rivers, director of residential programs who helped organize the training session. “It is an approach that is consistent with our philosophy and values, and complements our TCI training;

handled well, a crisis provides an opportunity for young people to learn new ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving.”

The participants learned that LSCI training is grounded on a number of specific competencies for resolving crisis and reducing disruptive behaviour. According to Freado, traditional crisis intervention, which relies on de-escalation, restraint, and exclusion, does not help youth correct their chronic patterns of self-defeating behaviours. Referencing Fritz Redl and the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, Freado stated that fundamental to the approach is “seeking to understand, rather than to be understood.”

Additional information on Life Space Crisis Intervention is available at [www.lsci.org](http://www.lsci.org)

## ***Matheson House Adopts a Family***

Youth and staff at Matheson House in Prince Albert embraced the holiday spirit by “adopting” a local family for the Christmas season. The family, identified through the Westview Community School, consisted of a mom, dad, and children aged 16, 13, 12, 10, and 8.

“The children were very excited to receive the gifts and the entire family was very grateful for all that they received.”

Jeff Krafchuk

The youth and staff raised \$300 to purchase gifts and groceries for the family. Other donations of food, clothing, winter jackets, bedding, and a television were also collected. On December 16<sup>th</sup> the goods were delivered to the family. “The children were very excited to receive the gifts and the entire family was

very grateful for all they had received,” said Jeff Krafchuk, unit manager at Matheson. “Everyone from Matheson truly enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit.”

Krafchuk expressed a special thank you to Ingrid Sinoski, house mother, who initiated what he described as a wonderful experience for everyone.

## ***Clinical Assessment and Resource Services***

Carmel Kleisinger, director of the recently established Ranch Ehrlo Society Clinical Assessment and Resource Services, advises that the program has entered into a one-year contract to provide assessment services for residents of Four Directions, a 24-bed residential and stabilization facility operated by the Yorkton Tribal Council. The clinic will provide educational assessments as well as assessments for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, complex trauma, executive dysfunction, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, and pervasive development disorders.

## ***“Pawson” Approved***

In a recent letter to the agency, His Worship Pat Fiacco, Mayor of Regina, advised that the Regina Civic Naming Committee has approved the use of “Pawson” at its December 4, 2008 meeting. In his letter of congratulations, Fiacco writes, “Geoffrey Pawson’s achievements in the founding of the Ranch Ehrlo Society in 1966 and the field of social work led to the appointment as a member of the Order of Canada, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, an honorary degree from the University of Regina, and has made Regina a better place to live, work, and raise a family.”

“I am pleased that ‘Pawson’ will some day be one of our parks and the City of Regina can celebrate his achievements”

Mayor Pat  
Fiacco

Because there is already a Pawson Street, the name will be added to the Master List of Park Names only. As Regina grows, park names are selected from the list by community groups and developers and are ultimately approved by city council.

“I am pleased that ‘Pawson’ will some day be one of our parks and the City of Regina

can celebrate his achievements,” Fiacco concluded in his letter.

## ***Computers to Argentina***

Jane Powell, director of special programs, has provided an update on the agency’s mission to send 10 computers to a project working with aboriginal adolescents in Mendoza Province near the Argentina-Chile border.

After three years of effort, the computers were finally trucked to Miami and then shipped to Port of San Antonio, Chili in October 2008. Overcoming additional delays, including lack of staff in the customs office in Chili to authorize the computers entry into Argentina and an expired Argentinean import license, the computers are now in the office of Estudio y Proyectos in Argentina awaiting secure transportation to the project site.

## ***ArtsSmarts Funding***

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has received funding from the Saskatchewan Arts Board ArtsSmarts program for a second year. The funding will allow Amanda Scandrett, artist-in-residence, to hire hip hop artists to work with Ranch Ehrlo students at the Schaller Education Centre and Regina elementary classrooms to compose hip hop songs with each class.

Last year Scandrett, in collaboration with hip hop performers InfoRed and Merky Waters, facilitated the creation of a *New Education* CD. The CD was the culmination of a number of workshops and recording sessions and was debuted at a CD release party held at *The Exchange*.

For more information on the Ranch Ehrlo Society Artist-in-Residence program contact Amanda Scandrett at 751-2489.

## ***Go Oilers!!***

The old adage about a silver lining in every cloud could certainly apply to the aftermath of tornados that hit the Buckland campus in August 2008. Money earned from cutting and hauling firewood from the uprooted trees allowed the youth from Alex Guy house to travel to Edmonton to watch the Edmonton Oilers play the Dallas Stars on the evening of January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Initially working to replenish their work fund for the upcoming summer camping season, the youth quickly realized how lucrative their hard work was. “With funds earned from the weekly Tuesday evening and Sunday afternoon schedule of cutting and hauling firewood to neighbourhood clients, the youth began talking about the possibility of using a portion of their funds to attend an Edmonton Oilers game,” said Ron Schlamp, unit manager.

“After we received the necessary approval and the arrangements made for the trip, the youth were very eager--making signs, learning about the teams, and sharing their excitement with the families,” said Schlamp. “It was a great experience for all!”

## ***Cultural Winter Party***

Despite the cold weather, guests at the Cultural Winter Party, held on January 24<sup>th</sup> at Schaller Education Centre, had an enjoyable afternoon of sleigh rides, tipi teachings, traditional Cree hand games, and oral story-telling. “It was an opportunity for our youth to connect with community Elders and traditional guests in a day of fun activities,” said Sonia Roy, cultural co-ordinator.

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Sonia Roy

The visiting Elders and guests were impressed by the turnout, with many commenting on the good behaviour of all the participants. In return for sharing their knowledge, some of the Elders and guests were treated to “sharing of knowledge” by other aboriginal groups thanks to the Inuit and Dene participants.

“The visiting Elders and guests are looking forward to their involvement in future Ranch activities,” added Roy.

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority provided financial support for the event. There was also a collection bin set up for food bank donations.

For more information on cultural activities at the Ranch Ehrlo Society contact Sonia Roy at 751-5686.

## ***Family Preservation***

The Ranch Ehrlo Society Family Treatment Program has received funds from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to provide specialized training in the areas of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and family preservation for individuals with complex needs. The training, which will be delivered through a series of workshops held in February and March, will be available to both Ranch Ehrlo staff and other support service providers working directly

with the homeless individuals and families in the community.

Since its inception in September 2006, the Family Treatment Program has expanded its range of services in the community. The program offices and family counselling centre are located at 1817 MacKay Street. For more information on the Family Treatment Program contact Patti Petrucka, clinical manager, at 757-0571.

## ***Intensive Training Workshop***

With support from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, a three-day intensive training program for staff working in the Family Treatment Program has been scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Facilitated by Mary Fischer of the Institute for Family Development in Federal Way, Washington, the staff will receive training in engagement and motivation of reluctant clients; assessment, goal setting and resources; behaviour strategies for children and families; and enhancing client motivation. Following the intensive training, a one-day open forum will be held for the broader community on the fundamentals of family preservation practice.

## ***Winter Festivals***

Plans are well underway for the 2009 Winterfests. The Regina/Pilot Butte Winterfest is scheduled for Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Pilot Butte campus. The day starts out with a pancake breakfast at the Liski 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 Corman Park Winterfest will be held on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Buckland campus. Activities planned include relay races, bell-kick, egg toss, a shinny tournament and a wiener-roast.

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

## ***2009 Avant-Garde Fashion Show Will Be a “Classic”***

The 2009 Avant-Garde High Fashion and Hair show is coming up on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Conexus Arts Centre. This annual event is a fundraiser for two full bursaries towards the cosmetology and esthetic programs offered at Avant-Garde College. The bursary program is targeted toward those individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enrol in programs due to financial barriers.

“The fashion show provides an outstanding opportunity for our students to put their skills to the test in ‘real life’ setting,”

*Lori Pawson,  
Principal of  
Avant-Garde  
College*

Organizers of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the fashion show have made some exciting changes for this year and are taking what they consider to be a more ‘classic’ approach to the event. The silent auction is being replaced with a trade show consisting of 20 booths, at a cost of \$300 each, available to beauty industry professionals looking to showcase their businesses

and products. The other major change is this year’s Fantasy Competition which will have local salons competing against each other rather than the students of the college.

Students will have a chance to showcase their skills by working with local designers and professional models to display the latest trends in fashion and to highlight the cutting-edge styles of hair and makeup.

“The fashion show provides an outstanding opportunity for our students to put their skills to the test in ‘real life’ setting,” said Lori Pawson,

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

principal of Avant-Garde College. By participating in the show, students will also have their work professionally photographed for their individual portfolios.

Tickets are \$40.00 each and are available at Avant-Garde College, 1033 - 8th Ave. in Regina. Each ticket sold will also be put in the grand prize draw for a complete makeover.

## ***Cognitive Disability Strategy Service Provider Program***

Since the end of the two-year pilot project in March of 2008, there has been a growing need in the community for trained service providers to meet the individual needs of clients of the Cognitive Disability Strategy. After 10 months of negotiations, Ehrlo Counselling Services has signed an agreement with the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region (RQHR) to once again host the coordinator position.

The \$70,000 funding comes through a partnership with the RQHR, Ministry of Social Services (regionally and provincially), and Provincial Corrections. The special services coordinator will organize, train, and screen individuals who can become mentors and service providers for people suffering from cognitive disabilities. ECS will also be providing training to foster families referred by the Ministry of Social Services.

Dave Wiebe will be completing the responsibilities of this contract with assistance from the team at ECS for approximately one year. The Cognitive Disability Steering Committee will be working on securing ongoing funding for the position.

## ***Sport Venture Respite Recreation Program Praised***

The Ehrlo Sport Venture Respite Recreation and Arts & Crafts program has received rave reviews

following the opening sessions of the program in 2008, with a significant amount of activity also planned for 2009.

In December 2008, Ehrlo Sport Venture programs completed the initial set of sessions for the Respite Recreation Program in the first year of annualized funding from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Child & Youth Services. Although a similar contract existed for two years prior, this is the first year that annualized funding was made available to expand the program and ensure continuous program provision.

Funding by RQHR, in the amount of \$52,000, has been provided to Ehrlo Sport Venture programs for the provision of three programs: Respite Recreation, Arts & Crafts, and the Day Camps programs.

The Respite Recreation Program is designed for children between the ages of 7 and 12 who have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). It is a varied sports program that provides four hours of recreation to the children each week (Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings). The Arts & Crafts program is designed for children between the ages of 7 and 12 (split into two age groups) with internalizing emotional disorders (depression, anxiety, etc.). As the name suggests, this is an arts and crafts program that provides 1.25 hours of art to the children each week.

Krista Rainville, community recreation worker at Sport Venture, was hired in August 2008 to facilitate the programs. From September through December of 2008 she led two separate groups of children through three programs designed to provide respite for parents, while providing positive, pro-social activities for the children. The children active in these groups were referred to the program by their social workers at Child & Youth Services.

Over the Christmas break Rainville also led the first of a series of day camps which was operated out of the Glencairn Recreation Centre and included activities such as varied sports, crafts, Christmas baking.

The program has been met with a very positive response from the children, their parents, and the supervising staff with the RQHR Child & Youth Services.

The Respite Recreation and Arts & Crafts programs started up again the week of January 11th and will run in 12-week sessions through to May. Day Camps are scheduled April 13-17, June 29-July 3, July 6-10, July 13-17 and July 27-31.

### ***New Practicum Students at Ehrlo Counselling***

Ehrlo Counselling Services welcomes Jaclyn East and Pratima Pathuk, two new practicum students, to the program.

East is in the process of completing her bachelor of social work degree and is working with Ryan Labatt on the Cognitive Disability strategy. She is also employed with Ranch Ehrlo Society and is working with individuals in the developmental disabilities program.

Pratima Pathuk comes to Ehrlo Counselling as an international student from India. She is working on achieving her masters in counselling and is working with all of the counselling staff at ECS.

### ***OHL Volunteer Chosen for Olympic Torch Relay***

Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League volunteer coach, Caleb Taylor, has been chosen as a participant in the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay when it passes through Saskatchewan.

Taylor, a third year coach with the League, was interviewed by CTV's Canada AM on February 3<sup>rd</sup> about his involvement with the OHL. It was this involvement that helped him earn a spot as a torchbearer. The interview, which took place at an OHL game at Regina's Imperial rink, will be aired February 12<sup>th</sup>.