

President/CEO Report

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

Ehrlo Early Learning Centre expands

issue 55, September 2010

In 2001, while on maternity leave, Karin Duff developed a proposal to establish a daycare for the employees of Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services. Ehrlo Daycare opened its doors in October 2002 at W.F. Ready School in Regina, with Duff assuming the role of director. Initially the Ehrlo Daycare (subsequently renamed Ehrlo Early Learning Centre or EELC) was developed for the exclusive use of Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Community Services employees.

"I know from personal experience that returning to work after the birth of a child can be difficult for a parent," said Duff. "However, if quality child care is available and parents are reassured that their child is being cared for in a nurturing and positive learning environment, it makes the return to the work place much easier. This peace of mind also translates into more productive and reliable employees."

After numerous inquiries and requests from the community, spaces were opened up to the general public in 2003. In August 2005 the program at W.F. Ready School expanded from 30 to 48 spaces to meet the growing demands in the community.

Duff bases the success of the centre to the program's philosophy which is based on that of Ranch Ehrlo Society. "We believe that children need social nourishment to develop as healthy

individuals. Children are most likely to achieve personal growth when they are provided with a loving environment," explains Duff. "We emphasize safety, trust, and routine."

This summer, after months of planning and developmental work, EELC expanded its program to four new sites, quadrupling the spaces available to the community.

In addition to the original site at W.F. Ready School, early learning programming is now available for 30 children at each of the sites at Imperial School, Gladys McDonald School, and Ruth Pawson School and for 45 children at Wilfrid Walker French Immersion School. Gladys McDonald and Ruth Pawson also offer before-and-after school programs in addition to the program at W.F. Ready School.

EELC child care spaces are licensed by the Early Learning and Child Care division of the Ministry of Education. The school age program adheres to the same policies, procedures, and hours of operation as the rest of the centre.

In 2008 EELC became the only child care centre in Saskatchewan to be accredited by the Council of Accreditation which ensures policies and procedures meet best practice standards.

For more information on EELC contact Karin Duff at 757-0581 (ext.229) or at karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca.

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

The warm heart of Africa

A secondment agreement between the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the University of Regina has provided Carole Bryant, vice-president of administration and quality improvement, with an opportunity to travel to Malawi, a landlocked country of 13 million in southeast Africa. Bryant first travelled to the country in January 2009 to assist the faculty of the Polytechnic (one of the constituent colleges of the University of Malawi) in developing a five-year strategic plan. The plan will provide a roadmap for the institution's proposed educational reform. This work was one component of a larger six-year, \$4 million project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"Despite all of these challenges, the people are warm and welcoming."

Carole Bryant

Malawi is among the world's least developed and most densely populated countries with an average life expectancy of 43.5 years and an infant mortality rate of 91 deaths per 1000. Over 15% of the adult population is living with HIV/AIDS and approximately 84,000 die each year from the disease.

"Despite all of these challenges, the people are warm and welcoming" said Bryant. "Malawi is known as the warm heart of Africa. It has a diverse population which is conservative and traditionally nonviolent. English is the official language and it is a haven for refugees from across the African continent."

Bryant returned to Malawi in July to present a one-day workshop on the implementation and monitoring of a strategic plan. She also assisted in developing a template for departmental annual work plans and participated in the official launch of the five-year strategic plan.

"It was a joy to work with this group of warm and dedicated professionals, who despite the challenges they face on a daily basis, are bettering the lives of those around them," said Bryant. "They have many options outside Malawi, but are committed to their people and their country."

The breakfast club

On the first Friday of each month, employees and youth from the Ranch Ehrlo Society volunteer to serve a hot breakfast at St. Paul's Cathedral in Regina to help feed the hungry in our community.

Ranch Ehrlo youth assist with setting up the auditorium, serving the pancakes and sausages, pouring juice, and cleaning up after breakfast. The agency has been participating in this program for approximately 15 years. Initially the breakfast was a joint partnership between the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the Regina Rotary Club, but for the past number of years Ranch Ehrlo has assumed sole responsibility for the event, which serves pancakes, sausages, hot and cold cereal to approximately 75 to 150 individuals each Friday morning.

"Initiatives such as this fall within the mandate of Ranch Ehrlo in that it supports the most vulnerable in the community," said Rick Norick, program director, who spearheads the program on behalf of the agency. "Giving back to the community is a priority at the agency and an integral part of our programming. Assisting others is also a positive experience for our youth, helping to provide them with a feeling of purpose and self-worth."

CIBC World Market Fund

Ranch Ehrlo Society in partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation continues to administer a CIBC Children's Miracle Fund for the Regina area. The original agreement was signed in December 2004 and to date over \$55,000 has been distributed to "enhance the physical, mental, social, and developmental wellbeing of disadvantaged, at-risk children and youth".

Funds, to a maximum of \$250 per child, are used to support arts and cultural activities, recreation and sports activities as well as education and personal needs.

For more information on the fund or to obtain an application form, contact Audra Hammer, program supervisor, Ehrlo Early Learning Centre at 751-4502 or audra.hammer@ranchehrlo.ca.

An awesome summer!

Notwithstanding the cooler, wet weather, the youth at Ranch Ehrlo had an “awesome summer” according to Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs. “This was one of the best summers in terms of successful camps and activities that I can remember.”

A number of youth had camping experiences outside the province, which included trips to Kananaskis, Waterton, Jasper, and Banff National Parks in Alberta, as well as Cherry Lake, BC, and Rushing River, ON. A few of the many sites visited within the province included Cypress Hills, Duck Mountain, Kenosee, Tobin Lake, La Ronge and Good Spirit Lake.

The highlight for many of the youth was the fly-in camps at Norbert and Dryer Lake. These camps have been closed for the last two years by conservation officers due to the bear population. The sites were reopened this year and hosted five successful camps. “The success of all the camps was due to sound planning and preparation by managers, youth, and staff,” said Meyer. “This speaks volumes to the high calibre of people we work with.”

An end-of-the-summer barbeque is being planned for September 16th, at the Pilot Butte campus, to provide youth and staff with an opportunity to share their many stories and experiences.

Adecco BBQ

Even though “Buffalo Days” are a thing of the past, one of the longstanding traditions during the Regina exhibition remains intact.

On August 5, 2010, a group of youth and staff from Ranch Ehrlo served hamburgers at the F.W. Hill Mall, in downtown Regina, as part of the annual BBQ hosted by Adecco, a human resources agency. The barbeque takes place each year during the week of the Regina exhibition. In addition to hamburgers and drinks, visitors had an opportunity to enjoy live stage performances on the mall. Approximately 250 hamburgers were sold and \$1200 was raised for recreational programming.

Corman Park busy summer

Jason Kotyk, director of programs at Corman Park reports on a busy and active summer. The school year ended with a very successful SRC organized track and field meet on June 25th. Youth from May and Welke units enjoyed camping experiences in July and August at Duck Mountain, Riding Mountain, Cypress Hills, Tobin Lake, Drumheller, and Waterton Park.

The campus itself is also being transformed. The outdoor hockey rink is being asphalted to become an all-season facility for skateboarding, basketball, rollerblading, biking, and skating. Although wet weather has created some delays in landscaping, over 100 trees were planted over the summer.

Ride for Refuge

Cameron Banning, unit manager at May House, is organizing a team of employees from Ranch Ehrlo to participate in *Ride for Refuge*, a charity that focuses on providing aid and support for refugees in North America and around the world.

“This will be great for our youth and is one of the reasons we entered a team in the event.”

Cameron Banning

The organization raises money for the underprivileged, exploited, and vulnerable. “In addition to supporting a great cause, the agency is eligible to receive 50% of all donations it raises back to purchase bikes or other recreation equipment,” said Banning. “This will be great for our youth and is one of the reasons we entered a team in the event.”

Banning will be taking part in the 25 km ride and expects to complete the course in 1.5 hours.

Ride for Refuge will take place on October 2nd, along the Meewasin Trail in Saskatoon. For more information on the ride or to make a contribution to *Team Ranch Ehrlo* contact cameron.banning@ranchehrlo.ca or go to www.rideforrefuge.org.

Concert proceeds to support Ranch Ehrlo

Canadian country music star Johnny Reid is on a 40 date cross-Canada tour to help raise funds and awareness for abused and neglected children and youth in this country.

Reid has teamed up with the Children's Aid Foundation to sell a custom teddy bear which will be available for purchase at all the performances, with 100% of the proceeds going to help children and youth in need. The Children's Aid Foundation will be contributing the proceeds from sales at Reid's five Saskatchewan shows to Ranch Ehrlo Society.

Reid will be performing in Prince Albert on September 18th, in Saskatoon on September 19th and 20th, and in Regina on September 22nd and 23rd.

If you would like to purchase a teddy bear or obtain more information on the Children's Aid Foundation contact Marion MacIver, executive vice-president, at 781-1814 or marion.maciver@ranchehrlo.ca.

Cultural activities in full swing

Nick Crighton, cultural coordinator, is excited about the many cultural and traditional opportunities that young people at the agency will have to participate in this fall.

The Ranch Ehrlo Powwow club begins its new season with four new instructors. The agency paid tribute to Kirby and Cheryl Littlelent, the previous instructors, in June at the Awards Night in Regina. The Littlelents have been working with the youth at Ranch Ehrlo for nearly 20 years. The Powwow club's first performance will be at the India Supper Night gala on September 25th at the Conexus Arts Centre. The club will also be performing at the opening of the riding arena at the Buckland Campus on October 5th.

Ranch Ehrlo classrooms attended Treaty 4 Days in Fort Qu'Appelle in September.

The days included dancing, arts, games, food, and history. "It is a great opportunity for youth to learn more about the rich history and culture of Aboriginal people," said Crighton.

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Nick Crighton

Many of the classrooms will also be attending the University of Regina's third annual tipi raising competition. Sponsored by the Aboriginal Students Centre, the goals of the competition are to provide Aboriginal cultural awareness and present the opportunity to interact and learn in a fun environment. The competition emphasizes the importance of tipi, culturally and educationally, while building the spirit of teamwork.

On Saturday, September 18th Dalla Vicenza and Kruzeniski youth will be participating in a cultural day camp that includes traditional ceremonies, hand games, tipi teachings, bannock making, and many other cultural activities.

For more information contact Nick Crighton at 781-1828 or nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca.

44th Annual General Meeting

The 44th annual general meeting of the Ranch Ehrlo Society will be held on Tuesday, September 28th at 12:15 p.m. at the West Harvest Inn in Regina. A copy of the 2009-2010 annual report will be available at www.ehrlo.com on September 29th.

Buckland riding arena complete

A new riding arena has been completed on the Buckland campus. The arena features approximately 17,500 square feet of riding space and will be home of the equine assisted learning program and the 4H light horse club. The facility includes four offices, a classroom and a multi-purpose mezzanine lounge on the second floor overlooking the corral. The grand opening will be held on Tuesday, October 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

Sport Venture receives major donation from the Power of Sport 4 Kids Program

The Sport Venture programs recently received a significant donation from the Power of Sport 4 Kids Program (POS4K) managed by the Forzani Group Ltd. The donation is only the second one ever to be made to a Saskatchewan organization by POS4K.

The Power of Sport 4 Kids is a nationwide program created to recognize groups and organizations that support at-risk or disadvantaged children and youth (between the ages of 5 to 18) who would benefit from the infusion of sports and activity in their lives. The POS4K fundraising initiatives provide the funds for a variety of sports equipment and accessories that will have the greatest impact to the children. This is the reason that Sport Venture was selected as a recipient this year.

POS4K has donated the following sporting goods for the Sport Venture recreational programs: 24 skateboards, 24 skipping ropes, 12 badminton sets, 6 dodgeballs, 6 outdoor kick balls, 18 mesh ball bags, 60 soccer balls, 40 pinnies, one street hockey set, 12-20 left handed baseball gloves, 6 pairs of roller blades, 6 soft skin speed skin balls, and 2 sets of team flag football sets.

“Since we received this donation, we have had a hard time keeping the sporting goods on the shelves,” said Laura Logan, Sport Venture manager. “Skateboards

“While used sporting goods donations are always appreciated, it is quite a luxury to have brand new equipment for the youth to use.”

Laura Logan

are a particularly hot commodity.”

“While used sporting goods donations are always appreciated, it is quite a luxury to have brand new equipment for the youth to use,” added Logan. “We really appreciate this generous donation which will enable many youth to participate in sports in the future.”

For more information on Sport Venture programs contact Laura Logan, manager at 751-2411.

ECS receives grants for Pre-Trades Construction Training

In June 2010, the Ehrlo Community Services Pre-Trades Construction Training Program received grants of \$178,149 from the provincial government and \$169,802 from the federal government to deliver pre-trades construction training to 12 youth.

The project, in partnership with Construction Careers Regina, had its first intake of six participants in June and a second intake will take place in early 2011.

“Through this project, young people will connect with resources and develop skills necessary to launch their career in the trades,” said Monica Rivers, vocational coordinator.

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Monica Rivers

The on-site work experience models a real construction crew, giving participants ample opportunity to learn and practice employability skills. Eligible work activities of youth participants will be documented by a journeyman carpenter, and submitted to the apprenticeship division of the Ministry of Education for credited hours toward level one carpentry apprenticeship training. Participants have the opportunity to earn approximately 900 hours toward their apprenticeship requirements. There are 7200 hours required to achieve journeyman status in the carpentry trade.

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

Additionally, classroom sessions are designed to enhance learning on the job and in the shop. The classroom sessions will promote skill development and comprehension for those who wish to proceed with level one training. Finally, the project ends with job placement where participants will be employed at their work experience placements and provided ongoing support initially by Ehrlo Community Services and then by Construction Careers Regina.

Job development will take place throughout the project for individual participants as they progress in their work experience and transition to job placement. Transitional support is provided to the youth as they move between program components or as they experience situations that affect their job such as issues related to housing, family, law, transportation, health and addictions.

India Supper Night

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Conexus Arts Centre

\$75.00 per person (\$35 tax receipt)

\$600 per Corporate (Group table of 8)

Dress: Formal evening attire

India Canada Association of Saskatchewan Inc., proudly presents *India Supper Night*: an elegant evening of Indian cuisine and entertainment. The evening will feature special guest, Mr. Ashok Das, Consul General of India from Vancouver along with guest speaker, Mr. Murray Oliver, journalist.

Net proceeds from the *India Supper Night* will go to Ehrlo Community Services. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Malcolm Neill at 781-1812.

Ehrlo Monday Night Football league off to a solid start

Ehrlo Monday Night Football (MNF) kicked off the 2010 season on August 30th at Mosaic Stadium. Members of the Regina Thunder and the Saskatchewan Roughriders, along with the MNF volunteer coaches, instructed skills stations for

approximately 100 children and youth who were in attendance. Regular league play started in September and continues through to the wrap-up tournament on October 24th at the Credit Union EventPlex.

Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan is the league sponsor and Evraz Place the wrap-up tournament sponsor. "Hats off" to all the volunteers, parents, and youth who attended the training camps despite the inclement weather.

ASIST training teaches essential suicide intervention skills

The ASIST workshop was once again a success with 29 individuals from 12 Ranch Ehrlo programs trained in suicide intervention.

"We have a short waitlist, so given the interest we may offer another ASIST training session in the New Year," said Dave Wiebe, special service coordinator, for Ehrlo Counselling Services.

Ehrlo Soccer league wraps-up another successful season

The 2010 Ehrlo Soccer league wrapped up another season on August 15th with its year-end tournament. With the additional age groups added this year, there were 85 participants making this the season with the greatest participation on record.

Crown Investments Corporation's generous sponsorship once again made the Ehrlo Soccer league a success.

Thank You to Wal-Mart North of Regina

Wal-Mart North in Regina donated \$250 to each of the Sport Venture leagues for the 2009-10 season. These donations helped to ensure that all of Sport Venture programs continued to operate to their full potential this year.