

President/CEO *Report*

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

Agency reorganization announced

Dr. Geoff Pawson, president and chief executive officer, recently announced reorganization in the responsibilities of the agency's senior leadership. "These changes are being introduced to facilitate the decision made last fall to amalgamate the Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services," said Pawson.

Following their respective annual general meetings, the membership of the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the membership of Ehrlo Community Services agreed to amalgamate the two agencies at a special members meeting held on September 28, 2010. The effective date of the amalgamation will be May 31, 2011.

Linda Meyer will assume the new role of vice-president of treatment and research. Meyer, who formerly held the position of vice-president of programs, will be responsible for clinical services in the north and south, the Clinical Assessment Resource team, Ehrlo Counselling Services, special clinical program support, and the recently announced group foster care program. She will continue to maintain oversight for the Family Treatment Program.

Malcolm Neill will assume the responsibility of vice-president of residential services. Neill, who was formerly vice-president of Ehrlo Community Services, will have responsibility for all of the residential programs in the agency as well as retain oversight for Ehrlo Housing.

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Dr. Marion MacIver continues with her role as executive vice-president and director of education for the agency. In addition to the education programs in the north and south, MacIver will assume responsibility for the Early Learning (childcare) programs, Avant-Garde college, and the construction careers program.

Carole Bryant retains her responsibilities as vice-president of administration and quality improvement. In addition to having oversight for human resources, information technology, communications, and administrative support, Bryant will assume responsibility for resource development and Ehrlo Sport Venture and related programs.

Directors responsible for facilities, special projects, and finance will continue to report directly to the president and chief executive officer.

Although further changes and adjustments may be required, this realignment will move the amalgamated agency forward in providing outstanding service delivery to clients and the community. "Amalgamating the two agencies will augment programs, streamline services, and provide a seamless continuum of service delivery," added Pawson.

Although the amalgamation of the two agencies is not effective until May 31, 2011, the above reorganizational changes take effect on February 14, 2011.

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

Grand opening of EELC sites

Government Services Minister Laura Ross, representatives from the Ranch Ehrlo Society, and Regina Public Schools, gathered on December 7, 2010 to celebrate the opening of 135 new licensed child care spaces at Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (EELC). In addition to new spaces at Wilfrid Walker School, where the grand opening was held, the new spaces are located at Imperial, Ruth Pawson, and Gladys McDonald Schools.

"I feel the success of the centre is due in part to its philosophy, which is based on that of the Ranch Ehrlo Society."

Deb Jordan

The Government of Saskatchewan provided more than \$1.8 million for the four new centres, including more than \$1.32 million for school-based capital renovations and \$527,500 for space development, early learning materials, and equipment and furniture.

Carole Bryant, vice-president of administration and

quality improvement, who was master of ceremonies for the event, paid tribute to EELC director Karin Duff. "Karin has been the director of EELC since the centre opened and has taken the program from one consisting of two children to what it is today. She has worked tirelessly in the development of the original location at W.F. Ready School and was instrumental in the development of the four new sites we are paying tribute to today."

Deb Jordan, Ranch Ehrlo Society board chair, also spoke on behalf of the agency. "I feel the success of the centre is due to its philosophy, which is based on that of the 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."

For more information on the Ehrlo Early Learning Centre contact Karin Duff at 757-0581 or at karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca

Community Christmas

On Saturday, December 18th, the youth and staff at Kruzeniski House hosted a community Christmas party for 15 youth they "adopted" within their community. The party was made possible by a fundraising raffle which raised over \$2200 to buy gifts and food hampers for the youth and their families.

"Being a part of this means a lot to our family."
Becky

Early in the festivities, Santa arrived to hand out gifts and spread Christmas cheer. After the presents were opened, everyone visited and enjoyed Christmas treats in the spirit of the season. Later the youth from Kruzeniski presented food hampers to the adopted youth and their families.

"Being a part of this means a lot to our family," said Becky, a former Kruzeniski youth who still lives in the neighbourhood. "We are not a rich family, so this party helps us by providing our kids with gifts and food for our Christmas supper. It also brings our community together."

Community Christmas is part of Kruzeniski House's ongoing "Community Helping Hands" project.

Communications coordinator

Trudy Bosch has joined the Ranch Ehrlo Society as its new communications coordinator, effective January 4th.

Bosch has over 10 years of experience in the communications field, including experience in the non-profit arena. In addition to doing contract work, Bosch has worked as a communications officer and marketing project manager for the Canadian Cancer Society. She was also news editor for the Grenfell Sun/Broadview Express.

Bosch's office is located at 104-2022 Cornwall Street in Regina and she can be reached at 751-5684 or by email at trudy.bosch@ranchehrlo.ca.

Ranch Ehrlo “Goes Greener”

Ranch Ehrlo Society has incorporated recycling into its day-to-day operations for a number of years. A successful pilot program to place outdoor recycling bins at some of the residential units was recently completed and will serve to keep the momentum going with past recycling initiatives.

“In response to the pilot, the agency will be placing outdoor recycling bins for all the units with five or more clients,” said Jane Powell, director of special projects who was instrumental in getting the project launched. “The recycling bins will be delivered in the new year along with instructions for recycling.”

This recycling initiative will also create jobs for students in the agency’s Community Vocational Education Program (CVEP). In addition to being good for the environment, the project will enable students to gain work experience. CVEP will operate the curb-side recycling program where it picks up each unit’s recycling for a cost of \$5.00 per trip.

For more information on Ranch Ehrlo’s recycling program contact Jane Powell at 751-3871 or email at jane.powell@ranchehrlo.ca.

A proud generation

Nick Crighton, cultural coordinator, has been selected as one of role models for *A Proud Generation* calendar showcasing the talents and accomplishments of young aboriginal people.

“The First Nations, Metis, and Inuit youth participating in this calendar have shown a commitment to live healthy, responsible and productive lifestyles,” said Crighton. “Their accomplishments and successes have made them leaders and they are living proof that dreams, hopes and ambitions can come true.”

Calendars are \$20 and the proceeds go to fund aboriginal youth scholarships in Saskatchewan.

To purchase a calendar or for more information on cultural programming at Ranch Ehrlo contact Nick Crighton at nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca

Ranch Ehrlo welcomes technology exchange student

As part of the ongoing technology exchange between the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the Estudios y Proyectos agency in Argentina, Emiliano Mazziero arrived in Regina on December 30, 2010. Mazziero is enrolled in the A Plus Certification program delivered through Ranch Ehrlo’s Schaller College. Ranch Ehrlo Society had earlier donated 10 computers to facilitate a computer literacy program for vulnerable aboriginal youth near the Argentina-Chile border.

“We have made life-long friendships based upon mutual respect and common interest”

Jane Powell

Mazziero’s visit was initiated by Ted Reed, senior systems administrator, who attended the official opening of the program in the Mendoza region. Reed recommended that Ranch Ehrlo sponsor one individual to attend Schaller College to be trained in computer technology. Mazziero was the successful candidate.

Following completion of his certification, Mazziero will return home in March with the necessary skills and abilities to successfully maintain the computers, which allow approximately 40 students from poor schools in the region to learn computer skills.

Mazziero, who is residing with board chair, Deb Jordan and her husband, has already experienced some Canadian traditions including ice skating, skiing and watching hockey games. “Deb and David are just wonderful—they just make me feel like I was back at home,” said Mazziero. “The training is really good too. Don, the teacher is really helpful and he is there any time you need to ask something.”

“It is an absolute delight to host this exchange,” said Jane Powell, director of special programs who assisted in organizing the exchange. “Not only have both organizations learned a great deal, we have made life-long friendships based upon mutual respect and common interests.”

New parented group home program

The Ranch Ehrlo Society is poised to launch a new parented group home program. The program will meet the expanding needs of children in care who require active and structured treatment within a home setting.

“The primary goal of the program is to provide supportive and loving family environment in which children and youth, with minimal to moderate social and emotional problems, may develop to their full potential,” said Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs. “The program will also be used to transition young people from residential care to community living.”

The agency will be seeking professional caregivers with past training and natural abilities to work with children. Caregivers will be provided with training, clinical and consultative support, and respite services, including access to a 24-hour on-call system. Caregivers will assume responsibilities for treatment planning and implementation as well as ensuring that youth is actively involved with their birth family and community.

For more information on the Parented Group Home program contact Lisa Neill at 781-1840 or email at lisa.neill@ranchehrlo.ca.

Donation to Programs North Outdoor Hockey League

The Ranch Ehrlo Society Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) in Prince Albert received a welcome donation on January 7th at the Prince Albert Raider’s hockey game.

Randy O’Shaughnessy, senior director of programs north accepted a cheque for \$10,000 from RBC at the game. These funds will support the drop-in league that is free of charge for all participants. The money will be used to pay for items such as helmets, sticks, and jerseys.

Each week during the winter, youth can attend their local outdoor rink to learn skills and enjoy the

game of hockey.

“The 2011 league is shaping up to have more youth registered than ever before,” said O’Shaughnessy. “Organizers are anticipating over 100 hockey players will register for the season.”

The league is open to all ages, but focuses on youth from eight to 14 years of age.

For more information on the league contact Randy O’Shaughnessy at 765-2807 or email at randy.oshaughnessy@ranchehrlo.ca.

Healing through humour

Don Burnstick, a Cree from the Alexander First Nation near Edmonton, was in Regina on January 27th and 28th to present two workshops for both the educational staff and over 100 youth at the agency.

Burnstick, whose early life on the streets of Edmonton was very violent, turned his life around and now shares his story with others. Burnstick has been involved with the healing/personal wellness movement for the past 20 years and utilizes humour and performance to provide a holistic approach to healing. His message speaks to a proud heritage, the importance of healing through humour and his continuing desire to leave a better world for our future generations.

Literacy partnerships

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has once again entered into a unique partnership with the Faculty of Education to deliver a literacy program to the students in the Schaller Education program. This is the third year that the agency and the University of Regina have engaged in this partnership.

From February 1st to April 30th, fourth-year education students in their final semester of an education reading class will work one-to-one with 30 Ranch students to help them improve their reading skills.

Hayley Maurer, principal and Faculty of Education professor, Dr. Fatima Purbhai-Ilich, are overseeing the project.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

Proposed “pocket units” approved by City Council

Despite some minor neighbourhood pushback, Regina City Council approved the “pocket-housing” apartment building proposed by Ehrlo Community Services for the 1700 block of Montreal Street.

The “pocket suite” is designed for young singles transitioning from foster homes, group homes, or other transitional types of housing to independent living. The concept was taken from an award-winning Winnipeg development, which spearheaded the roughly 200-square foot, self-contained

style of apartment in inner-city areas.

“I’m confident that over time, this development will prove to be a vibrant part of the community with very few negatives.”

Malcolm Neill

Malcolm Neill, vice-president of Ehrlo Community Services, said he hopes neighbours will find the project to be positive for the area.

“I think it’s important to listen to all the concerns,” said Neill. “I’m confident that over time, this development will prove to be a vibrant part of the community with very few negatives.”

Eight small units in the apartment building will provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and allow people a greater amount of independence.

The next step is to submit the drawings and plans in order to obtain the necessary building permits. Construction of this project will involve the Ehrlo Pre-Trades Construction program.

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

KidSport and Conexus sponsor OHL season

Joe Daniels, a representative from KidSport, presented a \$15,000 cheque to the Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) at the league kick-off on December 6th.

Conexus, a previous sponsor of the league, has once again signed on as an OHL supporter in the amount of \$10,000.

Both sponsorships will enable the OHL to have another successful season. The funds will be used to cover the cost of the equipment, as well as cover rink rentals for the tournaments.

Avant-Garde chosen as site for journey person exam

The Saskatchewan Apprentice and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) has selected Avant-Garde college as the venue to hold the

esthetician journey person exams for this year.

Lori Pawson, principal and manager of Avant-Garde, was excited about this opportunity for the college.

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Esthetics became a designated trade in 2009. Similar to all other trades, there are exams open to all estheticians who wish to obtain their journey person status in the profession.

Sport Venture launches 18th OHL season

On Monday, December 6, 2010 the Ehrlo Sport Venture program held a celebration to kick-off its 18th annual OHL season.

Sport Venture program manager, Laura Logan, delivered a speech to a room full of volunteers, sponsors and participants. During her speech Logan paid tribute to the many OHL sponsors and volunteers to let them know how much their support is appreciated.

“Without the tremendous support of our sponsors and volunteers, the OHL would not exist,” explained Logan.

MLA Trent Wotherspoon and MLA Warren McCall were also on hand to show their support as both are regular OHL volunteers.

“Sport Venture, OHL, and Ehrlo are all great assets to our community,” said Wotherspoon. “I am pleased to support these great programs.”

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MLA Trent Wotherspoon

Many of the players were fitted for hockey equipment during Monday's kickoff. The event also included a shinny game that featured four members of the WHL's Regina Pats — Chandler Stephenson, Michael Sagen, Tyler Pavkovich and Juraj Roznik. The Pat's mascot

K-9 was also in attendance.

"We're looking forward to a big year," said Logan. "I had so much anxiety coming up to Monday's kickoff. Then, when everything falls into place so easily, it's exciting. When you see the kids feeling so good, it makes everything worthwhile."

New intern at Ehrlo Counselling

Sophie Grahame is interning on a part-time basis with Ehrlo Counselling Services to complete her masters of social work practicum. Currently, Grahame holds both a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of social work degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Grahame was previously employed for 10 years at Regina Child and Youth Services. While there, she had great mentorship and worked with fantastic

colleagues. Grahame noted that after having the opportunity to work with Ehrlo Counselling over the last two years, she chose Ehrlo Counselling for her internship placement.

“Clinicians have a high level of commitment to meeting the needs of their clients.”

Sophie Grahame

Grahame's newest mentor is Ehrlo Counselling counsellor, Kate Langen, who is her clinical supervisor. “I am very lucky to have Kate as my clinical supervisor,” said Grahame. “She has such strong clinical training and is such a great

therapist.”

When discussing her experience with Ehrlo Counselling, Grahame explained that the clinicians have done an amazing job of creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for her and their clients. Grahame also noted that the “Clinicians have a high level of commitment to meeting the needs of their clients,” said Grahame. “This is something I really appreciate.”

Avant-Garde enjoys many program successes

February registration for the Avant-Garde cosmetology program has set a record for a February intake. There are 15 registrations as compared to the usual four or five.

Avant-Garde's partnership with Albert Community School is progressing and the school continues to bring students in for free haircuts bi-monthly.

Avant-Garde also engaged in a partnership with the Balfour Tutorial Program late last year and it has proven useful for the young mothers involved. They get exposure to a potential career field as well as the chance to improve their personal image in an affordable manner.

“We continue to offer discount services for the Balfour tutorial program,” said Lori Pawson, principal and manager of the college. “The young mothers are very pleased with the services and it allows us to give back to the community.”