

PRESIDENT/CEO report

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Ranch employee presents at WorldForum

Recently, a group of employees attended the 2011 International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) in Melbourne, Australia. President and CEO, Geoff Pawson was accompanied by Marion MacIver, executive vice-president and director of education, Bree Füssel, director of Ehrlo Counselling, and Deb Jordan, past-chair of the board of directors.

Founded in Finland in 1989, the 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 "WorldForums" which assemble delegates from around the world.

The theme of the 2011 World Forum, which was held October 18th - 21st, was Education and Children's Well-being - Philosophy, Policy and Practice. Approximately 220 delegates were in attendance. The event was co-hosted by OzChild Children Australia Inc., Anglicare Victoria, The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc. and ForChildren (Australia) Inc.

In addition to exploring and sharing information on practices, and innovative approaches to child welfare, the WorldForum provided an opportunity for delegates to come together with other leaders, practitioners and managers from around the world to share information and focus on common issues. There was strong emphasis at this WorldForum on the importance of education for children and how organizations can equip them with the appropriate resources to allow them to reach their full potential.

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- Marion MacIver, executive vice-president and director of education

“Geoff sees this as an opportunity for our staff to see a world perspective for child welfare as opposed to only a provincial or national perspective,” explained MacIver. “It is an excellent learning opportunity and allows staff to link to other like organizations to broaden their contacts, support, and knowledge-base.”

MacIver presented at a break-out session and spoke on her doctorate research, entitled *Education in alternative settings: Aboriginal students' perspectives on factors influencing high school completion*. Her main goal in presenting her findings was to increase awareness of the issues facing Canadian aboriginal students in completing high school.

“Stepping away from theory and actually talking to aboriginal students to see what they perceive as the issues and solutions is key,” maintains MacIver.

MacIver has been asked to present her research in Washington, DC in February 2012 at the *CWLA Aboriginal/Indian Conference*. She will build into this presentation the Ranch education model and the overall treatment model for the Ranch with the four cornerstones (work, recreation, education, and treatment), which she feels exemplify most of what her research demonstrates should be done.

For more information on the World Forum visit www.worldforum2011.org.

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



Ranch Ehrlo Society



Family Treatment Program right on target

Sandra D. Arthur, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, PIP, a trainer and consultant for the Institute for Family Development, was in Regina from November 1 – 4, 2011 administering the Homebuilders CORE training to all Family Treatment Program (FTP) employees.

Home Builders is an intensive in-home crisis intervention and family treatment program designed to keep children and families safe, prevent the unnecessary out-of-home placement of children, and to safely reunify children and families. This program is highly utilized in 40 American states, and is utilized internationally in Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Finland, Germany, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

“The FTP staff was excited to have the opportunity to participate in the training and felt that all the information was pertinent to the work that they are doing with families,” observed Patti Petrucka, clinical manager. “There was excitement in the team as the training incorporated significant opportunity to role-play skills to ensure a level of competence was achieved.”

Arthur highlighted three key lessons she hoped the staff would take away from training. First, within the core training, she hoped that staff gained a clearer understanding of how important the engagement piece is (relationship building).

Second, Arthur hoped that staff would understand and feel more comfortable using active listening as a primary strategy for engaging and assessing, de-escalating, and teaching. She also wanted them to understand the basics of how the model focuses on teaching and how the teaching process is an active process.

Finally, she emphasized that active listening is key to effectively communicating with families. This includes good eye contact, head nods, acknowledging the other person, repeating back and paraphrasing that you understand, and taking a guess at the feelings behind the words. In other words, the speaker really knows that the listener has heard and understood their perspective.

With the training almost complete, Arthur spoke to her experience saying, “It’s been great to have

this opportunity to come. I found Patti and her team very receptive. They are right on target with the work they are doing, so I am really impressed.”

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David Rivers, senior director, echoed Arthur saying, “The Ranch’s formula for excellence has long been to connect staff with ongoing training or education, and Patti is to be commended for her leadership in this regard.”

Official naming ceremony

The Buckland Centre Riding Arena has a new name; the Donalda Hansen Centre for Equine Therapy. The official naming ceremony took place on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 in front of Ranch youth, staff, board members, family, and friends in the arena on the Ranch Ehrlo Buckland Campus.

Donalda was born and raised in Prince Albert. She has been a teacher and a school administrator for the past 30 years, retiring last year. Donalda was also a member of the Ranch Ehrlo Society board from November 2006 to June 2010.

Following opening remarks, Donalda and her husband Wayne, were surprised with a presentation of flowers from their two daughters, one doing her medical residency at the U of S, the other studying at Simon Fraser University. Ranch youth and the musical drill team then took centre stage in the arena and performed a musical ride.



Randy O’Shaughnessy (left front), Geoff Pawson (back row), Donalda Hansen (front middle), and Kevin Mugford (right front) partook in the celebrations for the newly named *Donalda Hansen Centre for Equine Therapy*

Stories matter...

Do you know a current or former Ranch youth, employee, and/or board member with a story to tell? Ranch Ehrlo Society invites them to tell their story or make a statement about their time at the Ranch. It is important for the society to record its history to ensure that the heritage of Ranch Ehrlo is preserved. The stories will be compiled into a history book written by Geoff Pawson, Ranch Ehrlo CEO and President.

If you or someone you know would like to share a story, please contact Jane Powell-Showchuk directly at 751-3871 to arrange an appointment.

OHL kicks-off 19th season

On Thursday, November 10, 2011 the Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) kicked-off its 19th season. Everyone in attendance was there to celebrate another great season of outdoor hockey in Regina and to also thank the RBC Foundation for their generous \$35,000 donation to the OHL. The program included an RBC cheque presentation, guest speaker Amy Alsop (RBC Olympian), Dress a champion, and a shinny game.

Approximately 400 young people participate in the league which operates for 14 weeks a year in seven inner-city communities in Regina. Last year, with the support of RBC Foundation, the program expanded to Prince Albert where approximately 100 participants played on two outdoor rinks.

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- Laura Logan, manager of Sport Venture

“The funds donated this year will be used to expand the league into Saskatoon and purchase new jerseys, new hockey equipment, and assist in covering some travel and administrative costs in Regina,” explained Laura Logan, manager of Sport Venture. “By removing the barriers of equipment cost, transportation and registration fees, the RBC Foundation will help support hundreds of underprivileged young people to experience the enduring benefits that physical activity and team sports can provide.”

Peterson House volunteers

Volunteering has long been an important tradition at Ranch Ehrlo. Volunteering helps youth to develop resumes and to obtain employment while at the same time developing a good sense of community and self-worth. Volunteers make the Ehrlo Sport Venture program possible and they also help govern and provide leadership to the Ranch.

Peterson House exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism. Three of its youth Dakota P., Kendall G., and Alice L. help out regularly with the St. Paul's breakfast. Alice L. recently spent time volunteering with the Wascana Women's Progress Club helping out with the festival of trees, which raises money for palliative care. In recognition of Alice's efforts, she received a decorated tree.

Throughout October, the entire group volunteered time on weekends and cleaned up two local parks in the north central community, in which they live. They were also busy picking potatoes for the food bank.

“I am really happy with the youth and staff for their hard work and I continue to seek out opportunities for the youth to get involved in their communities while developing their resumes,” said Greg Ruud, unit manager. “An important thing for Peterson House youth I think, is for the youth to play a role in taking care of the actual community in which they live.”

Sport Venture receives generous donation

Canadian country music star Johnny Reid teamed up with the Children's Aid Foundation to sell a custom teddy bear at all his concerts last year with 100% of the proceeds going to help children and youth in need. The Children's Aid Foundation, which has a long-standing partnership with the Ranch Ehrlo Society, designated the funds from Reid's five Saskatchewan concerts to be directed to Ranch Ehrlo's Sport Venture program.

On October 27, 2011 a cheque was presented to Laura Logan, the manager of Ehrlo Sport Venture from Len Gamache, president of the Children's Aid Foundation for the sales at the Saskatchewan concerts totaling \$16,318.



Sport Venture is presented a cheque for \$16,318 from the Children's Aid Foundation.

The Children's Aid Foundation is a national organization committed to improving the lives of abused, neglected and at-risk children and youth through prevention, enrichment and education. Their mandate complements that of the Ehrlo Sport Venture program, which aims to provide inner-city youth and families with control of, and access to, recreation programs by reducing the barriers to participation in sport and physical activity.

Survey results are in...

As part of its commitment to excellence and quality improvement initiatives, the Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (EELC) conducted its annual parent satisfaction survey. This was the eighth year that the survey has been conducted at W.F. Ready and the first time at the four new locations (Gladys McDonald, Imperial, Ruth Pawson, Wilfrid Walker), which all opened this past year.

Overall, the feedback from parents is positive, indicating that the vast majority are satisfied with the care provided to their children, and many parents indicated that the EELC exceeds their expectations in childcare. Two areas of strength were identified across all five locations – staff (who were seen as friendly, professional, approachable) and activities and programming.

Karin Duff, director of Early Learning, is excited by the survey results noting, “All parents’ concerns were discussed amongst the staff in order to address them to the best of our ability. We will incorporate any suggestions that are beneficial to the program and are consistent with our philosophy and approach.” EELC has also just completed its COA accreditation process whereby no recommendations for changes were made, acknowledging that it is meeting best practice requirements.

Nunavut, volleyball, and Inuit culture

Five Ranch Ehrlo employees recently travelled to Iqaluit, Nunavut from October 24 - 31, 2011 to host a Volleyball Canada camp and learn about the Inuit culture. The group included Scott Schutz, head coach for Volleyball Canada and Ranch Ehrlo teacher, Brian Bernauer, assistant instructor and teacher, Noah Roellchen-Pfohl, assistant instructor and teacher, Hayley Maurer, principal, and Nick Crighton, cultural coordinator. This trip was an initiative started by the Ranch Ehrlo Society in partnership with Volleyball Canada and Sport Nunavut. Funding and financial support were provided by the Government of Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Ranch Ehrlo Society.

All five employees were extremely well received by the residents of Iqaluit. Their lodging provided a breathtaking view of Frobisher Bay, allowing them to watch the tide flow in and out. “We were even able to walk all the way out to the water as far as we could at low tide,” recalled Hayley Maurer, principal.

The main purpose of this trip was to hold a high quality volleyball camp for both youth and coaches in the Iqaluit area. It was a great opportunity to promote and bring awareness of the sport of volleyball to the Iqaluit area, to provide a recreational service for all ages, to



Scott Schutz, Brian Bernauer, Noah-Roellchen-Pfohl, Hayley Maurer, and Nick Crighton with students of Aqsarniit School in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

bring professional development to the coaches in the area, and to help identify athletes for Volleyball Canada.

“Overall I think the trip went extremely well volleyball-wise,” said Schutz. “We coached and taught over 350 students between grades 4 to 12. We had 100 percent participation in each class and all of the students were excited, eager and tried exceptionally hard.”

Additionally, this trip provided an opportunity to introduce frontline Ranch Ehrlo staff to the Iqaluit community and increase awareness of the Ranch Ehrlo treatment model.

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- Scott Schutz, Ranch Ehrlo teacher

“Some of the youth who come to the Ranch have never learned or have lost their language, culture, and traditions. The Ranch believes that during the treatment process it is important that the youth have the opportunity to learn their culture and incorporate it into their lives,” explained Crighton.

Crighton is committed to learning Inuit cultural practices, and for this reason, he accompanied the group to help ensure that the youth continue to speak their language and practice their traditions.

By all accounts, the trip was outstanding. All five employees thoroughly enjoyed their time in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The group had the opportunity to learn about aspects of the Inuit culture, which they plan to pass along to other Ranch employees. Further, the group encountered graduates of the Ranch program who were doing well, reinforcing that what the Ranch is doing is effective.

“Overall, we feel blessed to have had this amazing opportunity,” said Maurer on behalf of her coworkers. “The Inuit people are interesting and truly lovely in so many ways.”