



# RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 105 September 2019

### Camping program expansion

The newest addition to Ranch Ehrlo's therapeutic camping program has officially opened.

Ranch Ehrlo's camping program has long been an integral part of the agency's summer activities and is considered pivotal in a young person's experience at the Ranch. The newest site, equipped with a large three-season cabin and a garage for storage, is located at Heritage Lake. The property was formerly owned by Scouts Canada Saskatchewan, who transferred the provincial land lease to Ranch Ehrlo due to declining usage.

"Our intention with all our camp trips is to give young people an opportunity to play, have fun, and make life long positive memories. Over the next few years, we can systematically develop this property to become a great place for people to commune with nature," said Karl Mack, director of child and youth development.

Therapeutic camping services are one of the many ways we provide opportunities for participants to develop self-worth, personal responsibility, and a sense of connection to society and others. It is designed to promote self-efficacy and empowerment and is in line with several CARE principles.

Participants from our Buckland campus were able to help get the site ready for the summer. They worked with staff to place a new dock, generously donated by a local family, and built a swimming platform as well as some furniture for the site.

An official grand opening ceremony of the Heritage Lake site was held on July 24th,



We are guided by the CARE, Children And Residential Experiences: Creating Conditions for Change, multi-level model. We work to improve services for our clients through six practice principles:

developmentally  
focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

with roughly 50 people in attendance.

“It was a beautiful day,” said Ranch Ehrlo CEO Andrea Brittin. “The camp is a beautiful, peaceful place.”

## Camp for new Canadians



Since 2016, Ehrlo Sport Venture has been helping new Canadian youth learn a little more about their new home through the power of sport.

The camp runs for four days and focuses on a different sport each day. Over the years, participants have been exposed to lacrosse, rugby, football, baseball, basketball, road hockey, and cricket. Sport Venture teams up with various community groups, such as Elite Basketball Academy and the Regina Rugby Club to make the camp successful.

Almost 50 youth came out for this year’s camp, which featured baseball, basketball, rugby, and road hockey.

The camp was established when the Open Door Society reached out to Sport Venture and asked if they could help with planning recreation-related programming for their youth, and the number of participants has increased each year.

“This camp is an incredible opportunity for many of the youth to try out a sport that they have little or no experience in, and an opportunity to connect with community groups in case they want to continue on in a

particular sport,” explained Sport Venture manager Amanda McConnell.

“This is our way of using sport to help ease the transition for many of these young people into a new culture and community.”  
-Amanda McConnell, Sport Venture manager

“This is our way of using sport to help ease the transition for many of these young people into a new culture and community. It’s four days of fun, laughter, and learning – one of the highlights of Sport Ventures summer programming!”

## COA accreditation moving forward

We strongly believe that adhering to best practices, as well as continual evaluation, helps us strengthen our services for the clients and families we serve. For that reason, we are accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). We are currently preparing for re-accreditation which is required every four years.

The agency has recently completed the self-study phase of COA’s accreditation process. The self-study phase allows organizations to examine their current practices, celebrate their strengths, and identify areas for growth and improvement.

Over the course of several months, 35 team leads from across the agency worked in tandem to collect, compose, edit, and endorse the documentation required to prove to COA that we are fulfilling their assigned standard practices. Over 1,000 documents were submitted, including policies, reports, narratives, and case and personnel records to be analyzed by COA’s peer reviewers.

We have begun to prepare for the next and final step of the process, the site visit, to be held September 15 – 19th. The COA peer review team will visit the agency to witness firsthand the implementation of these standards. Following the site visit, COA will provide an extensive report to the agency outlining our strengths and opportunities for improvement.

## Pilot Butte campus roads to be named

As part of the ongoing process to revitalize our Pilot Butte campus, the executive team has recently selected names for each of the roads on campus. Naming the roads will provide easier access to first responders and vendors that may have to come out to campus.

“It will also make it easier for visitors, like parents who may be visiting for the first time, or for any staff that are unfamiliar with the campus,”





facilities manager Nicole Bonner explained.

In keeping with our traditional naming convention, each of the roads will bear the name of an important individual in Ranch Ehrlo's history - Dr. Geoff Pawson Drive, for our founder, Ryan Place, for former director

and vice president of residential care Bob Ryan, and McKague Crescent, for former board chair Debbie McKague.

A formal unveiling of road signage will take place at a later date.

## Summer work crew



Each summer, Ranch Ehrlo Society offers a seven week work training program for current and former participants to help improve work skills and work attitudes.

Summer work crew client Bill has been working with Ranch participants in one form or another for close to ten years.

He recalls that first job – emptying his entire basement so it could be reinforced – was a huge undertaking, and he knew he couldn't do it alone.

Since then, Bill has transitioned to having the Ranch's summer work crew do various jobs around his yard during the hot months. They've painted his garage and fence, moved things around his yard, and, most recently, laid bricks for him.

**“Our lives are going to be a lot better this summer because the crew was here.”**  
*-Bill, summer work crew client*

As a former teacher, Bill understands what is needed to help participants like those in our summer work crew feel that the work they complete is valued and important.

“I've been thrilled with the work they've done. It's a fabulous service.” He added, “Our lives are going to be a lot better this summer because the crew was here.”

The crew consists of approximately 12 participants, who are supervised

by Ranch staff during all the work they complete.

## New websites

We recently launched new public websites for Ranch Ehrlo, Ehrlo Early Learning Centre, Ehrlo Counselling, Ehrlo Housing, and Ehrlo Sport Venture. The URL, ehrlo.com, remains the same to find our sites. The new site has a much cleaner look and the navigation is more inline with current trends, including mobile navigation.

## True Colours donations



Ehrlo Counselling's True Colours youth group recently received some donations that will make a real difference in their ability to continue to provide valuable services to youth in the community.

Farm Credit Canada's Pride Committee chose True Colours to receive a \$500 donation. The cheque was presented by Elizabeth Bailey and Iza Parker of FCC on August 1st.

True Colours also received over \$200 from the staff at the Canada Life Cafeteria, who donated their tips during Pride Month.

The group was created for youth to have a safe space to discuss topics or raise questions related to sexual orientation or gender identity. The funds received will go toward rent for space where the group meets for the upcoming school year.

# Thank you to all our powwow sponsors

We had another successful powwow on August 29th and just wanted to take a moment to thank our sponsors who made it possible.

## Event sponsors



## Drummer/dancer sponsors



## Canteen sponsors



## Family carnival sponsors



## Print sponsor



## Northern trip



Our CEO Andrea Brittin (r), vice-president of residential services Malcolm Neill, and director of family programs, Patti Petrucka, visited the Northwest Territories and Yukon this summer to connect with some of the agencies we serve!

## PA staff association



Who says work is boring? Recently our PA staff association had the opportunity to test out a potential new activity for our WinterFest celebration: axe and knife throwing!

## Evacuees



In July, children from the evacuated Ontario reserve of Pikangikum First Nation had an opportunity to put that trouble behind them for an afternoon thanks to Ehrlo Sport Venture.

## Big catch



This young man tried fishing for his very first time. With the help of our youth care leader, who is an avid fisherman, he caught his first fish - an impressive northern Pike weighing 17 pounds!

## Toggle magazine



Our own director of IT Darcy Boyer was recently featured in Toggle magazine! The article featured our IT department and how they keep an organization the size of ours connected.