



# RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 96 March 2018

## Lucky number seven!

For the 7th consecutive year, Ranch Ehrlo has been named one of Saskatchewan's Top Employers. The 2018 winners were announced in special supplements published in the Jan. 24th issues of the Regina LeaderPost and the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, and online at [eluta.ca](http://eluta.ca).

We're very proud of being chosen as a Top Employer, and would like to take this opportunity to give credit where credit is due – we owe this designation to the employees that make Ranch Ehrlo what it is!

To illustrate our point, we gathered comments from our clients received through a survey earlier this year. Our youth were asked, 'thinking about the adults working at your program, do you have one or two that are your favourite? What makes them your favourite?' The comments were made into a video and can be viewed online at [ehrlo.com](http://ehrlo.com)

## Youth heads to Saskatchewan Winter Games to wrestle

One youth from Mackay House travelled to North Battleford to compete against top athletes from across the province and western Canada.

Trevor\*, competed at the North Battleford 2018 Winter Games in wrestling. He has been at the Ranch for half a year and is in his first year on his high school wrestling team.

After hearing school announcements about a tryout, Trevor was reluctant to go but was convinced by his teacher Nolan Malbeuf. A few months later he was the only school team member chosen to represent at the Winter Games.

"Wrestling is a good contact sport," Trevor explained about why he likes the sport. "It's keeping me busy and I'm good at it."

"Trevor is a gifted athlete in many sports and to master wrestling so quickly is no surprise to the staff at MacKay," Mackay House unit manager Mike Deis stated.



Trevor\* in red during competition

During his week in competition, he stayed at the North Battleford Comprehensive High School which was turned into the athletes' village.

Getting to wrestle at this level was a lot of hard work. While prepping, Trevor tried to practice with his team everyday and for two nights a week he dropped in at the university.

When Trevor was asked about his success in the sport he didn't know what to attribute it to.

His teacher Malbeuf piped in, "He's super scrappy and he's naturally strong. His coach boasts about his strength."

Malbeuf went on to read a text message from his school coach about how well he did in competition. The text message included many compliments about his talent, as well as his respectfulness for the coach.

Malbeuf added, "Trevor is genuinely respectful and a really cool kid. He has a lot of strong qualities that can really set him up for success in life. He's good looking, smart, and teachable; he's got the goods."

*\*name changed*

## Sport Venture begins new program

Ehrlo Sport Venture has teamed up with The Regina Intersectoral Partnership (TRiP) to help our city's most vulnerable youth in a new way. TRiP is an initiative designed to improve community safety and well-being in Regina.

"TRiP just released their stats for the year, and it was identified that mentorship is a big area where the targets aren't reached," explained Amanda McConnell, Sport Venture manager. "It's a big gap in their programming."

Thus, the multi-sectoral mentorship program was born.

The program will see youth identified by TRiP as most in need of mentoring matched with caring, interested adults hired by Sport Venture. Each mentor will spend between 12 and 24 hours per month with their youth doing pro-social activities and simply spending time together.

"Even something as simple as taking these kids to Sport Venture's free sports leagues – for some kids, just having someone there to watch them or take them for hot chocolate after is important," McConnell said. "(The mentors will) just be sort of that caring adult that some of these kids may be lacking – it goes a long way even just having someone ask 'how was your day?'"

**“We’re hoping to help build some capacity within the youth.”**  
*Amanda McConnell, Ehrlo Sport Venture manager*

Overall, McConnell hopes that the program will provide the youth with opportunities for self-esteem and confidence building, as well as teaching them social skills and ways to connect with the community so that they may continue to experience the program's benefits even after it has wrapped up.

"We're hoping to help build some capacity within the youth," McConnell said. "If a mentor helps to get a youth involved in a community activity the hope is that maybe they would keep on with it because now they're comfortable and have formed that relationship."

The multi-sectoral mentorship program is running from February to the end of August, encompassing the summer months when many programs that TRiP's youth participate in take breaks or have reduced hours.

## Celebrating hometown hockey

What better way to celebrate Hockey Day in Canada or hometown hockey than playing on an outdoor rink?

Todd Strueby, born and raised in Lanigan, SK, is a retired professional hockey player and an Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) volunteer. Strueby has a storied hockey history – for many years, he bounced around minor leagues and the International Hockey League, and even played a few games with the Edmonton Oilers.

Strueby remembers when the OHL began 25 years ago, and had the opportunity to meet OHL founder Russ Matthews.

“I’ve always respected the initiative,” Strueby explained. “I thought, what a great opportunity to allow kids to play hockey the way I learned to play hockey. Just going out on the outdoor rink and getting a bunch of kids out there and a puck on the ice.”

However, it wasn’t until 25 years later, that Strueby began coaching at the Imperial Outdoor rink. In the past two years, Strueby has met countless youth who have helped him re-ignite his passion for hockey.

“This experience has rejuvenated my love for the game because these kids are there because they want to be there and they love hockey.”



Players at Grassick Rink

It’s this love of the game that inspired two outdoor events in February. Hockey Day in Canada was held on Feb. 10th at Cathedral and Rosemont rinks. Youth and families were invited to drop by the rinks to learn to play hockey or brush up on some drills. Hot chocolate and hot dogs were also available for players and spectators.

The following weekend, players and coaches of the OHL were at the Grassick Rink to be featured on Roger’s Hometown Hockey television program.

## Donations to Family Treatment Program make spirits bright



Grade 7/8 students in Pilot Butte, photo courtesy of @MrsMievresClass

“This was so terrific – seeing children and youth fundraise to help other children was amazing,

*-Patti Petruka, FTP director*

Christmas was even more magical for some parents and children in the Ranch’s Family Treatment Program (FTP) thanks to two generous donations in December.

Grade 7/8 students in Pilot Butte raised \$240 for the FTP.

“This was so terrific – seeing children and youth fundraise to help other children was amazing,” said FTP director Patti Petruka. Manager Jordan Hubick visited the school to accept the donation on behalf of the Family Treatment Program.

The money raised by the class was used toward purchasing a small gift for each child in the program. They received their gifts at a family Christmas celebration, where Santa himself attended to hand them out!

Bayer Crop Sciences also donated \$500 to the FTP.

“The Bayer Crop monies went to children who are reunifying to parental care,” explained Petruka. “Many of these families’ experience poverty and have minimal funds for Christmas celebrations – this donation allowed for each child to have a fantastic quality gift.”

“The families indicated that this was the best Christmas they have had – living with their children and being able to have gifts under the tree was amazing.”

We are no less thankful for donations received at any other time of the calendar year! Thank-you to Farm Credit Corporation for the \$500 earlier in 2017– each donation received goes a long way toward brightening the lives of our clients.

## Winterfests

It's winter at the Ranch and that only means one thing – the Northern and Southern annual winterfests!

Prince Albert kicked off the festivities on Feb. 16th at the Buckland campus. Throughout the day, the campus was visited by local dignitaries and many family members of Ranch youth and staff.

“Winterfest is part of the positive traditions and culture of the Ranch, and it promotes teamwork and sportsmanship,” Buckland campus director of residential services Kevin Mugford explained. “We believe it’s one more thing that we do that bonds staff and youth in terms of building relationships and working toward a common goal.”

The winter celebration in the south will take place on March 3rd, wrapping up with an awards presentation.

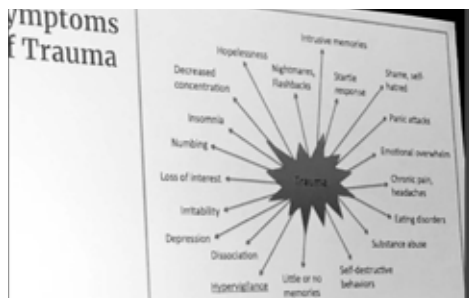


Ice sculpture



Fire building competition

## Conference



Donna Balkwill and Deena Hall from Ranch Ehrlo's family program presented at the Early Years Conference in Vancouver. The conference leads the field of professional development in early childhood development.

## New director of IT



Darcy Boyer started at the agency in Jan. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with all aspects of information technology delivery. He spent 16 years with Greystone Managed Investments, Inc. and most recently was vice president of Information Technology with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

## CARE training begins



The first group of agency leaders took CARE training Jan. 15th through mid Feb. The training involved 35 hours of facilitated, interactive, adult based reflective learning. Collaboration will now be held on the best approach to train the rest of our staff. Through CARE principles, children, youth, adults, families, and employees work together to achieve their full potential.

## Helmets to India



Ehrlo Sport Venture sent 295 hockey helmets to five villages in India so even more youth were able to benefit for the power of sport while playing safe.

## Welding art



A Ranch youth has found talent and passion in metalworking. The youth, a student at Balfour Collegiate, picked up a welding class in September. Since then he has become a master of his craft. He is able to explain the process that goes into each piece in succinct, easy to understand terms, and has created several impressive works, including the one shown above!