



### Ranch Ehrlo employee visits Labrador

Ranch Ehrlo has long been a place where youth from the most eastern part of Canada have come to heal. Now, the Ranch has gone to them.

Dr. Karl Mack, senior director of residential treatment, recently returned from a two-week trip to Sheshatchiu, Labrador, an Innu federal reserve. During his time there, Mack shared knowledge and trained 15 staff from three separate community programs.

“The people from Sheshatchiu are concerned about the need to send children and adolescents all the way from Labrador to Saskatchewan for intervention programs,” Mack explained. “So they’re trying to build capacity within their home communities in order to keep these kids at home.”

During the two weeks Mack spent much of the time leading intensive, contextual-based training, based on the needs in the community.

Because the training was so successful, the Ranch is now looking at how it can expand on the training offered. Part of this will involve building an ongoing supportive relationship so that we can learn from the community and adapt our program to meet those needs.

But his time in Sheshatchiu wasn’t without challenges. Many of the

residents speak Innu and the language barrier created a unique situation, because many English terms have no direct translation. By allowing time for those who are fluent in both languages to discuss the concepts, the barrier was broken and the teaching was able to be applied to the Innu culture.

Mack felt honoured to have the opportunity to share knowledge with the people of Sheshatchiu but credits much of his expertise to Ranch Ehrlo staff that came before him.

“The challenge is rewarding. None of the knowledge belongs to me. I stand on the shoulders of many giants. These are all gifts that have been shared with me by people like Dr. Pawson, Jim Ennis, and Bob Bodner,” Mack explained. “Now it’s my turn to share those gifts with other people.”



Christmas sleigh ride  
at Buckland campus

# Art from the Heart



Ranch Ehrlo's artists showed off their paintings and pictures at the 2015 Art from the Heart Reception.

Staff and families had the opportunity to get the first glimpse of the Art from the Heart calendars at the reception held on Dec. 17th at Schaller school. The calendar was unveiled and the artists had the opportunity to showcase their work and sign autographs for those in attendance.

This year marks the 11th year for the calendar, a project conceptualized by former cultural coordinator Al Dufor and realized by dozens of talented youth.

Approximately 1,000 calendars are printed each year and distributed to Ranch youth, staff, board members, and partnering agencies. The calendars are used as a public relations piece and not as a fundraising tool.

## Goodbye Rick

After a long and varied career with Ranch Ehrlo Society spanning over 37 years, Rick Norick has decided to retire.

Norick began his official career with the Ranch in 1978, volunteering for a half year before being put on the payroll. His first job



was a youth care worker, but he filled many roles in the organization during his career – unit manager, assistant director of education, and director of residential treatment.

Aside from the chance to fill several roles in the organization, Norick is grateful for the autonomy he was given to plan experiences for the youth in his care.

“I was fortunate enough back in the early 80s to take a group home to California for a month,” he recalled. “It took a lot of hard work but it was a great experience for the kids at that time. These things I can look back on and think, ‘well, not many people have that.’”

“ I want to be remembered as a man who loved working with kids and tried to bring some hope to their future. ”

-Rick Norick

Norick has mixed emotions about his retirement but feels confident in the future of the organization that was his home base for so many years.

“One of the things that I’ll look back on is how much the agency has grown since I first started,” Norick said. “I think when Geoff Pawson was around, he was a visionary. And he always looked at what community needs there were, and tried to develop services to meet those needs. So we’ve grown and there’s a continuum of care that’s been developed over the years.”

“I’m going to miss a lot of those things, because it was always a good feeling to be driving out to Pilot Butte.” He added, “I want to be remembered as a man who loved working with kids and tried to bring some hope to their future.”

## Treatment Foster Care workshop

A new season of annual workshops for Treatment Foster Care program participants has begun, with a focus on collaboration for reunification of families, foster parents, and children. The workshops are open to both foster and biological family members and provide an opportunity for all participants to learn and build supportive relationships with one another. This year’s workshop theme is ‘Strong Minds, Strong Families, Strong Communities.’

“At the first workshop, we looked at answering the question, ‘what do we need to do to take care of ourselves?’” explained Lisa Neill, senior program manager for the Treatment Foster Care program. The focus expanded to teaching the participants – particularly the youth – the idea that we cannot control others, only ourselves and our reactions to situations.



The second workshop will look at the traditional role of families in general and specifically, each individual’s role in a family.

## Equine program expansion

Did you know Buckland campus’ Equine Assisted Therapy (E.A.T.) program extends beyond Ranch youth?

The E.A.T. program is one of the reasons Ranch Ehrlo stands out above many other treatment centres. During the school year, youth from the Buckland and Corman Park campuses participate in the program regularly. In the summer months southern youth and their families make the trip up for the summer horse camps.

But since last spring, the E.A.T. program has been offering sessions to the Prince Albert Treatment Centre’s “Mom and Me” group every six weeks. The group is for mothers with addictions, and works to reunite the mothers with their children.

“We get new moms and kids every session,” explained E.A.T. program leader Amanda Snell. “They participate in an E.A.L. (Equine Assisted Learning) session focusing on building trust and communication, and a lot of confidence building – mostly with the mothers.”

Participants learn many valuable lessons during a session that they are able to apply throughout the course of their treatment – lessons in trust and confidence, leadership, and communication.

Overall, the program expansion is seen by Buckland staff as an excellent way to integrate Ranch activities within the community of Prince Albert.

## Intake process changes

Dionne Baergen, the residential director at Corman Park, has taken on the leadership of a new intake process in addition to her regular duties at the campus outside of Saskatoon.

“Baergen will be fantastic in this new role. She has the skill and the knowledge to place youth in programs that will address their needs. She will also offer a consistent process for future intakes which positions the clients and the Ranch for the best possible treatment outcomes,” stated Malcolm Neill, vice-president of residential services at Ranch Ehrlo.

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-Malcolm Neill

In response to a review, Baergen will work with stakeholders in the Ranch, as well as referrers, and clients to determine the best placement options. She will also have authority over admittance and placement.

Baergen is now the point person on all inquires to the youth residential programs – from referral inquiry, through gathering of information, determination of program fit to client need, and to placement. She will also respond to fast-track situations with high priority clients.

## Long time OHL volunteer passes

“He saw a need, and he filled it.”

That’s how Susan Lytle, fellow Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) volunteer and long-time friend of Lorne Mitchell describes him, and she’s certain many others would feel the same way.

Mitchell volunteered at the OHL’s Imperial Rink for over 20 years. He passed away on Oct. 28th at the age of 76.

“He had a passion for the OHL,” Lytle explained. “He truly wanted to give back to his community.”

Mitchell was known for going above and beyond the call of duty as a volunteer. He fixed up a room at the Imperial rink at his own expense so the youth would have somewhere warmer to suit up and the OHL’s equipment could be organized.



“A lot of people got their inspiration from Lorne. Here was this older person, who was still very active, very caring, leading the way, being a good example and a role model,” Lytle said. “He showed other volunteers how it should be done.”

Volunteers and participants alike, particularly those tied to the Imperial Rink, will forever miss the heart that Mitchell brought to his position.

“This just needs to be a call for volunteers. Be a part of what Lorne believed in and did his whole life – see the need and fill it,” Lytle concluded

## Emergency receiving fills important void

Sometimes, it seems that the at-risk youth of our province have nowhere to go. Ranch Ehrlo’s Emergency Receiving Program is here to help address the problem in the Regina area, no matter the time of day.

Typically, the program receives children one or two at a time. Sometimes a situation will arise where the numbers are much higher. At the end of October, emergency services intake staff received a call at 4 a.m. and learned of five youth who needed a safe place to stay. In spite of the late hour staff were immediately available to receive the youth, who were placed in group homes at the Pilot Butte campus.

For employees involved in the program the priority remains the same, regardless of the numbers – to provide the highest quality of care for the youth until a suitable long-term solution can be worked out.

“Someone from Mobile Crisis Services (MCS) or the Ministry of Social Services will call. If it’s determined that there is no safe place for the youth to go, they come to us,” explained Shayne Logan, Rorison House unit manager.

“From the point of view of Mobile Crisis Services, this partnership has been a resounding success,” said Jan Thorson, MCS assistant executive director. “For many years, finding temporary placements for youth in this age group was a constant struggle for our agency. We rarely had enough

placements, and often found ourselves in a position where we had no placement at all.”

Without Ranch Ehrlo’s emergency receiving program, both MCS and the Ministry would be left with almost no options for urgent, short-term placements, explained Thorson.

“For our staff, there is the additional bonus of knowing that the youth being placed will be in a modern, age appropriate facility which will provide for their immediate needs and where the staff will advocate for them. The youth are welcomed, and made to feel at home quickly.”

## Bayer CropScience donation

Ranch Ehrlo Society was honoured to be chosen by Bayer CropScience as a recipient of their community investment program for 2015. Specifically, Bayer wanted to lend support to the Family Treatment Program and Paper Crane Community Arts Centre.

Bayer CropScience employees raise \$2,690 in cash for the agency with a 50/50 draw at their annual Christmas function. Additionally, each attendee donated a small item from a wish list submitted from the two programs. The items will go a long way in ensuring these programs continue to run smoothly for the upcoming year.

## 50th celebration update

Tickets will be on sale in the new year for Ranch Ehrlo’s 50th anniversary celebration.

The event will be held on September 29, 2016, at the Queensbury Centre in Regina to



celebrate our past and welcome the future with our keynote speaker, renowned author, Jeanette Walls. More details will follow in the next CEO report.

