



# RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 88 November 2016

### 50th anniversary highlights

Ranch Ehrlo celebrated its 50th anniversary milestone with several events across the province incorporating the staff, the community, and clients that the agency serves.

#### Regina celebration

On Sept. 29th the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina was bustling with hundreds of people to celebrate the past and welcome the future of Ranch Ehrlo Society with a banquet celebration.

The event was hosted by former Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon Barnhart and Rustie Dean of My92.1. Several dignitaries, community members, current and former staff, and several former Ranch Ehrlo Society youth were also in attendance.

Andrew Koster, chair of the Child Welfare League of Canada presented Ranch Ehrlo with a Special Recognition Award in commemoration of the 50th anniversary.

“The Child Welfare League of Canada applauds the commitment of the Ranch to improving entire communities through its outstanding programs,” Koster stated. “Stronger communities and supported families provide the best opportunities for children and youth.”

Keynote speaker Jeannette Walls gave an emotional, touching presentation following the vein of her bestselling memoir, *The Glass Castle*. She spoke about her difficult childhood, but the theme throughout was that we all have the power to shape and create our futures, regardless of our past – a message that resonates at Ranch Ehrlo Society as the agency works with children and families to overcome trauma and in turn build strong futures.

Over \$42,000 was raised to support Ehrlo Sport Venture programs.

#### Northern celebration

Matheson House in Prince Albert hosted a come and go for staff and community members alike on Sept. 15th.

The afternoon opened with Mayor Greg Dionne expressing his appreciation to the staff for the work they do.



50th celebration



DJ smudging with guests

Klassen House youth care worker DJ Maurice then gave a brief presentation on the healing properties of Chagas tea. The tea, made with the Chagas mushroom and a combination of other spices, is a “lost medicine”, Maurice explained. The mushrooms used in the presentation were harvested by Klassen youth on a camping trip this summer. DJ then distributed sage to those in attendance and showed them the proper way to smudge.

Cake, coffee, and Chagas tea were available as refreshments as staff and community members chatted in the spacious backyard and toured Matheson House.

### Pilot Butte powwow



On August 30th, Ranch Ehrlo’s Pilot Butte campus was temporarily transformed into a powwow ground and carnival.

Ranch staff and youth, along with their families and friends, and powwow dancers from all over came to the campus to take part in the festivities as dancers, singers, drummers, or spectators.

A supper was served and attendees had their fill of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and pop before heading back to the powwow tent to watch the adult categories of the competition.

The day was filled with smiles and laughter from all in attendance. Ranch Ehrlo’s 50th anniversary powwow will be tucked safely into the memory box of all who took part.

## Annual general meetings recaps



Andrea Brittin, Al Fraser, and Debbie McKague at Ranch Ehrlo AGM

The Ehrlo Child and Family Foundation (ECFF) and RES & E Holding Corporation AGMS were held back-to-back on Sept. 21st in Regina.

ECFF and RES & E Holding Corporation were established in 2006 to further the work and profile of Ranch Ehrlo Society, as well as to own and manage the property and buildings owned by the

Ranch and the former Ehrlo Community Services.

In response to the recommendations of an enterprise project steering committee, both AGMS approved the amalgamation of Ranch Ehrlo Society, Ehrlo Child and Family Foundation, and RES & E Holding Corporation. The current directors and officers will continue in their positions until the effective date of the amalgamation. The members also agreed that the amalgamated entity would adopt the Ranch Ehrlo Society bylaws, with minor amendments.

On Sept. 28th, the Ranch Ehrlo Society board of directors, staff, and members of the general public gathered at the Queensbury Convention Centre for the agency’s 50th Annual General Meeting.

CEO/president Andrea Brittin highlighted the work that has been done by Ranch Ehrlo Society to ensure that it continues to align with the agency’s new strategic plan. Lori Mann, vice-president of finance and administration, gave a summary of Ranch Ehrlo’s audited financial



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notice of the annual meeting.

Exiting board members Karen Bright and Al Fraser were thanked for their contributions while new members Dr. Jaime Lavallee and Gwen Kennedy were welcomed.

For more information about our annual report or our outcomes, please visit [erhlo.com](http://erhlo.com)

## New education program in Corman Park

A partnership that began nearly seven years ago has developed into a new education program for the Ellen Gunn Education Centre at Ranch Ehrlo Society's Corman Park campus - a day program for autistic students.

Ranch Ehrlo's relationship with the Saskatoon Public School Division (SPSD) grew from renting a classroom to providing space for day students in Ranch Ehrlo classes to creating this new program for autistic students.

A classroom at Ellen Gunn was set aside for the new program, equipped with sofas, large tables, and beanbag chairs instead of traditional desks. One teacher and two educational assistants, all with extensive experience working with autistic children, were hired and trained in agency-specific methods such as Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI). A van was purchased to transport the children from their homes in Saskatoon to the campus at Corman Park.

statements, but noted that the most important numbers for the agency could be found not in the financial statements but in the outcomes for the clients. The membership approved the proposed amalgamation agreement that was circulated earlier with the

Ellen Gunn Education Centre in Corman Park. "The kids now are settling in, they're getting into a routine."

Staff and students alike at Ellen Gunn have accepted the new students with ease, and collaboration between existing staff and the new staff hired for the program is strong.

"As for our kids – they don't see these children any different than they see themselves. They've welcomed these three new students with open arms."

## Ehrlo Sport Venture visits La Loche



Ojay, Amanda, and Filipe

In mid Sept. Ehrlo Sport Venture manager Amanda McConnell and employees Ojay Stein and Filipe Dos-Santos made the 800 km trek to the remote northern community of La Loche. They were there to facilitate leadership and sport training to the community's youth.

A community outreach worker identified youth aged 16 – 20 whom she believed would benefit from the training, and the Sport Venture crew worked with her to create the program. Youth who completed the training now have the opportunity to complete 60 hours of sports-related volunteer work within the community to receive a high school credit.

“As for our kids – they don't see these children any different than they see themselves.”

-Shawn Ly, director of education programs north

In September 2016, three autistic children, ages 11, 13, and 13, were officially enrolled in Corman Park's day student program.

"It's going well. We expected some hiccups at the beginning of the year, because for kids on the autism spectrum, change is not always a great thing," Shawn Ly, director of education programs north and principal at

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Sport Venture in LaLoche

“We didn’t want to go to La Loche and then leave and have nothing change,” McConnell explained. “What was really great is that we were able to help get the ball rolling and now the community is able to take over and do what works for them.”

Twelve youth completed the three day training. The mornings were dedicated to receiving *High 5* training and certification for young leaders. The afternoon was sport-specific training.

Youth had the opportunity to learn some of the “behind the scenes” of coaching – while most of them had played sports before, many were unsure of the “why” behind some of a coach’s decisions. They created practice plans and before the end of the weekend had the opportunity to become the coach and run their peers through a practice entirely designed by them.

“Our community outreach worker said they haven’t had anyone come to the community to provide training for their youth before, so she was beyond appreciative that we had made the trip,” McConnell added.

McConnell hopes Sport Venture will be able to offer sport and leadership training to other communities – particularly those that have a heavy concentration of youth that end up at Ranch Ehrlo receiving services.

“Young people are the heart and the future of these communities, so if we can help that way – we will.”

## Youth Activity Fair



The 5th annual Youth Activity Fair had over 500 visitors. Twenty exhibitors set up in the Gateway Mall and visitors ranged in age from children to older adults, many picking up information for their grandchildren.

## Monday Night Football



Ehrlo Monday Night Football wrap up in October. A huge thank you to Spencer Moore and Levi Steinhauer of the Saskatchewan Roughriders for spending the afternoon with us.

## Mmm mmm soup



Children at Ehrlo Early Learning Centre’s Gladys McDonald location had the opportunity to create chicken noodle soup from scratch. Experiential learning takes all forms at Ehrlo Early Learning Centres!

## Willow hunt



Jewison House is out looking for willow branches. The branches will be used to build a sweat lodge on the Pilot Butte campus.

## Community yoga

PAPER CRANE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS

### Gentle Yoga for Grief and Stress

with Karen Herriot

**3-4PM THURSDAYS  
STARTING SEPT 15TH**

**7 CLASS PASS FOR \$60 OR  
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WEAR SOMETHING COMFORTABLE AND STRETCHY AND PLEASE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT PREVIOUS YOGA EXPERIENCE AS NONE IS NECESSARY. BRING A YOGA MAT AND WATER BOTTLE (ALTHOUGH COMMUNAL MATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE AT THE STUDIO). PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A COUNSELLING GROUP. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING A JOURNAL IN CASE SOMETHING ARISES THAT YOU WISH TO REFLECT ON OR DISCUSS WITH YOUR SUPPORTS OR COUNSELLOR. (NANASTE)

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**PAPER CRANE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE YOGA STUDIO**  
1651 11TH AVE (ABOVE THE ARTFUL DODGER)

Refresh and relax with yoga teacher Karen every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. at Paper Crane Community Art Centre in Regina. All skill levels and drop-ins are welcome!