

wisdom GPRC magazine

MARCH | 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Alumni Updates
In Our Wisdom
Recent Gifts
Celebrating 40 Years
of Wolves Volleyball

Ron **THOMSON**

Volleyball has been good to me

21st Century Homesteading Conference





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Photo: ©Sergei Belski Photography

inside



features

- In Our Wisdom Editorial **4**
- Wolves Volleyball and the Community **4**
- Alumnus: Rick Adair **6**
- Donor Profile: Bill & Maura Good Family **9**
- In Conversation: Ron Thomson **16**
- 21st Century Homesteading Conference **20**
- Alumnus: Bryan Lynch **28**

departments

- Recent Gifts **12**
- Alumni Updates **22**
- In Memoriam **26**

On the Cover: Ron Thomson / Sergei Belski Photography



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Wolves Volleyball and the Community

by Leigh Goldie

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Wolves Volleyball in ACAC, it's an appropriate time to reflect on the impact that the program has had on GPRC and the community.

GPRC first entered ACAC volleyball in the 1975-76 season as the Nordic Cubs and Nordic Wolves sporting the old brown and gold colours. That first year consisted of three tournaments and playoffs with a cast of student-athletes from around the Peace region, many of whom were sorely lacking in volleyball background but who were enthusiastic and willing to learn. From those humble beginnings we have established a strong tradition that includes multiple provincial and national medals, several All-Canadian and pro players and coaches who have been recognized at the national level. Now our colours are red, black, grey and white and both teams are known simply as the Wolves.

Over those 40 years the impact of the Wolves Volleyball program on the community has been significant. The Big Red High School tournament (initially known as the Brown and Gold) was introduced in 1978 and as many as 65 Peace area teams have competed each year since then. Hundreds of GPRC students had their first exposure to the College as a high school volleyball player in that tournament. In 1992, the Little Red Junior High tournament was added as an annual event, and that has served to bring even more young students through the College entrance. In addition, with the yearly player and coaching clinics conducted by the Wolves, there have been literally



thousands of students who have been associated with Wolves Volleyball programs.

Another facet of the program has been the development of the Wolves Volleyball Club. First established in 1984 with one Midget Boys team, the club has had as many as 22 teams in operation in one season including boys and girls from 12-21 years old. It has been a fertile ground for developing both players and coaches to move up the ranks to higher levels of play. Although only a few make it to the highest levels, it would be fair to say that the vast majority have learned both volleyball and life skills that have benefitted them as they continue on their journey. Many of these Wolves teams have won provincial and national medals and have been great representatives of the College and its values.

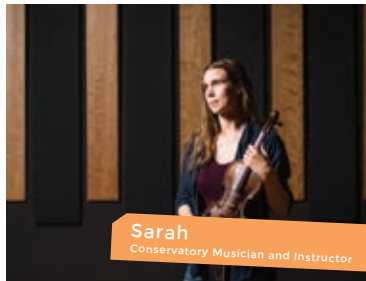
One of the absolute highlights of the 40 years was the hosting of CCAA Volleyball Nationals for five

consecutive years starting with the men from 1998-2000 and continuing through with the women in 2001 and 2002. These were amazing events that showcased the College and the best of college sports to the community. They brought the community into the College in large numbers as they cheered on the Wolves to podium finishes in four of the five years. They also brought the College community together in a way that had never been seen before as 300 volunteers from many different departments in the College worked side by side to make the tournaments huge successes.

Wolves Volleyball has developed into a highly recognizable brand for GPRC that has symbolized excellence and success. The club program has been a model for other sports clubs both locally and provincially. The GPRC Wolves teams have been exemplary representatives for GPRC as they have shown the value of combining academics with athletics. The various events, clinics and tournaments have served to add to the quality of life in the region while bringing countless people to the College. It's been a great 40 years and there is every indication that the next 40 will continue with the grand traditions established by the dedication and hard work of the people of the Wolf Pac. In the end, it all comes down to the people and there has been an endless stream of outstanding people including athletes, coaches, managers, parents, volunteers, sponsors and supporters. Working together, it's been a fun ride so far!

Once a Wolf, Always a Wolf!

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RICK ADAIR BOOKS without BORDERS

by April Weavell

When Rick Adair started his first year of University Transfer studies at Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) in 1974, the doors had just opened to the striking new facility designed by Canadian architect Douglas J. Cardinal. It was the era of “Trudeaumania,” and Adair recalls the buzz in the city generated by the visit of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his wife Margaret. He even had the fortune of brushing shoulders and exchanging a few brief words with the couple at an event he attended as Students’ Association President.

In his second year at the College, Rick continued his involvement in student politics, serving as student representative on the Board of Governors. He also became very active in college politics at a provincial level, working with students from other Alberta post-secondary institutions (including current Alberta NDP leader Brian Mason) to form the Federation of Alberta Students. He had a strong social conscience, a virtue that would later in life be a key driver in his decision (along with his future wife Joanne) to undertake two major literacy projects supporting education in third world countries.

Rick and Joanne met while studying at the University of Lethbridge (U of L). Each studied in programs that fostered a deep appreciation of the value of literacy. Rick transferred to the U of L after completing his first two years at GPRC. He enrolled in the U of L’s Bachelor of Arts program, with a major in Literature and a minor in Philosophy. Joanne earned a degree in Education, which would take her into the hallways

of elementary, junior and senior high schools.

Upon completion of university, the couple moved to Rick’s hometown of Grande Prairie. Rick’s family was well-established in the area: his parents farmed west of the city, and his mom was also a provincial court magistrate, as well as Alberta’s first female Justice of the Peace. Rick started a career with the Grande Prairie Fire Department. Joanne was offered a job teaching in the Grande Prairie Catholic School District. In 1990, Rick was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Grande Prairie Catholic School District. He served three of his nine years on the board as chair. He was also president of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association and was the Alberta Representative on the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees Association.

During his term with the Canadian association, Rick was asked to attend an international Catholic education convention in India. Joanne accompanied him to the convention, where they would come together with educators from countries around the world. They were humbled by the stories of educators living and teaching in extreme poverty, and inspired by their unwavering commitment to help their students learn to read and write in classrooms with few resources.

The couple was so moved by the experience and the stories that when they returned home to Canada, they felt called to help out in some way. They questioned how they could make a difference as the need seemed so great.

“Joanne and I decided that the most manageable approach was to ‘think

globally, act locally,’” says Rick. They made a plan, then engaged communities throughout the Peace to help bring it to fruition. The two rallied schools around the entire Peace Region to gather used textbooks and educational resource materials no longer in use. The books would be sent to impoverished schools in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. While at the conference in India, they had become acquainted with a priest who, without books and with only limited supplies, taught in the Dar es Salaam’s schools. The priest agreed to be their contact, and would make arrangements to distribute the books upon their arrival. It was critical to the success of the project to have a trusted contact “on the ground” within the country who could ensure the books would reach the hands of the students.

The response from not only Peace Region schools, but from communities, was overwhelming. Overall, approximately 50,000 textbooks were donated, enough to fill a 40 foot cargo container. Service groups, churches and private individuals donated funds to cover the overseas shipping costs. “People were really excited to be able to help,” says Rick. “I think the majority of people really want to do something, but just don’t have the time, or maybe aren’t sure how. Our project provided a convenient channel for people to give.”

The books were stored at an elementary school, and volunteers spent days combing through the piles, sorting books into sets, wrapping them, and labelling each package for the appropriate age group. Care was also taken to ensure the books were in good

– continued on page 30





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Donations from alumni, parents, corporations, foundations and friends have a direct impact on students at GPRC! Donations make a difference in the lives of students every day; aside from providing student comfort and financial aid, donations can encourage creative thought and the development of knowledge and experience that strengthen the fabric of our region, province, country and beyond!

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E218 Grande Prairie Campus or FAC116 Fairview Campus

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www.gprc.ab.ca/alumni/donations/

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Grande Prairie Regional College
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10726-106 Avenue, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4C4

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Donating to GPRC on line is easy, safe and secure. Visit www.gprc.ab.ca and click on the "Donating to GPRC" button on the home page.

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Excellence in Teaching Bursary established to honour parents

By the Good Family

In the late 1960's Bill and Maura left their home in England in response to a newspaper ad challenging young English teachers to "come and teach in the land of the moose". Their original plan was to spend one year teaching students in Northern Alberta. What followed were two long and rewarding careers in Education, in three different Northern Alberta communities, with the last four decades spent working with students and families in Grande Prairie.

The Bill and Maura Good Bursary for Teacher Education has been established by their family and friends to honour their contribution to Education in Northern Alberta, the hard work of Northern Alberta teachers and the excellence and commitment to Northern Alberta education provided by Grande Prairie Regional College.

When Bill and Maura settled in the Peace Country in the early 1970's they found the perfect place to raise their growing family and to continue their

careers in Education. Both of them spent all of their teaching careers with Grande Prairie Catholic Schools. Bill was the Principal at St. Mary's in Sexsmith, St. Clement, St. Patrick, St. Joseph and Kateri Mission Schools as well as serving as Deputy Superintendent. Maura stayed home to raise the family for several years before teaching for over 20 years at École St. Gerard. Upon his retirement in 1999, Bill began working with student teachers in the Teacher Education North (TEN) program at GPRC and continues in that role today.

Throughout their time in Grande Prairie, the College has played a key role both for Bill and Maura and each of their nine children. All of their children have benefitted from programs at GPRC over the years, with six having attended as full time students. Maura says, "our entire family has benefitted from the wide variety of individual courses, community sports programs, community camps, art, music and drama programs

etc. facilitated by the College."

It is because of the important role of education in Northern Alberta, both at the K-12 and post-secondary levels that Bill and Maura's children decided to establish this bursary. The family hopes that this scholarship will continue to support other students who want to take on the challenge of teaching "in the land of the moose".

The Bill and Maura Good Bursary for Teacher Education will be given annually to a third year student from Northern Alberta who is enrolled in the TEN program at GPRC. Consideration will be given to an applicant's financial need, commitment to academic achievement and involvement in community or extra-curricular activities. If there is no suitable applicant in any given year, the award may go to a student entering the TEN program.

Front Row (L-R): Andy, Elizabeth, Louise, Steve.
Back Row (L-R): Cathy, Mike, Bill, Maura, Tom, Chris
Missing from photo: Joe
Photo supplied by The Good Family





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2014 College Classic Winners

1st Team - Flagsticks
Len Brezac, Rob Neil, Lyle Carlstrom, Kim Drever

2nd Team - Mulligans
Toni Mizzaro, Damien Akhurst, Debbie Jorgenson, Joanne Wilson

3rd Team - McCullough Putters
Nick McCullough, Darla McCullough, Bruce McCullough, Pat McCullough

4th Team - ATB Loan Sharks
Greg Toews, Scott Bissell, Kevin Mack, Serge Martin

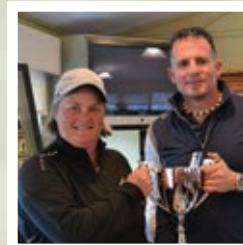
Random - Eagle Lies
Kevin Tink, Al Boyd, Natalia Reiman, Darcy Mayne

Low Gross Women's Boccioletti Cup
Rhona Law

Low Gross Men's McCullough Cup
Kevin Chrenek & Keith Aiken

Low Net Women's
Kim Drever

Low Net Men's
Wayne Lock



Low Gross Women's Boccioletti Cup
(L-R): Rhona Law with Ron Regnier of Canadian Tire



1st Team - Flagsticks
(L-R): Lyle Carlstrom, Kim Drever, Rob Neil and Len Brezac



Canadian Tire Drivers
(L-R): Dave LaCount, Ron Regnier, Joanne Aiken and Keith Aiken

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recent gifts



Thanks to the Alberta Culture Community Spirit grant, GPRC addressed technology needs during our recent classroom renovations. A grant in the amount of \$18,554.46 was put to use by incorporating SMART technology into classrooms.



Fred Gardner, Vice President Peace Region, RBC presents Don Gnatiuk, President & CEO of GPRC, with a cheque in the amount of \$20,000. The money supports Aboriginal services, the Business Case Team and a scholarship in the Business Department.



GPRC Fairview Lotto pool members Dianne Lund (in-trust manager) and Patricia Woronuk, donate lotto pool proceeds to Lyla Helle and Lisa Osterhold on behalf of the GPRC Fairview Student food bank.



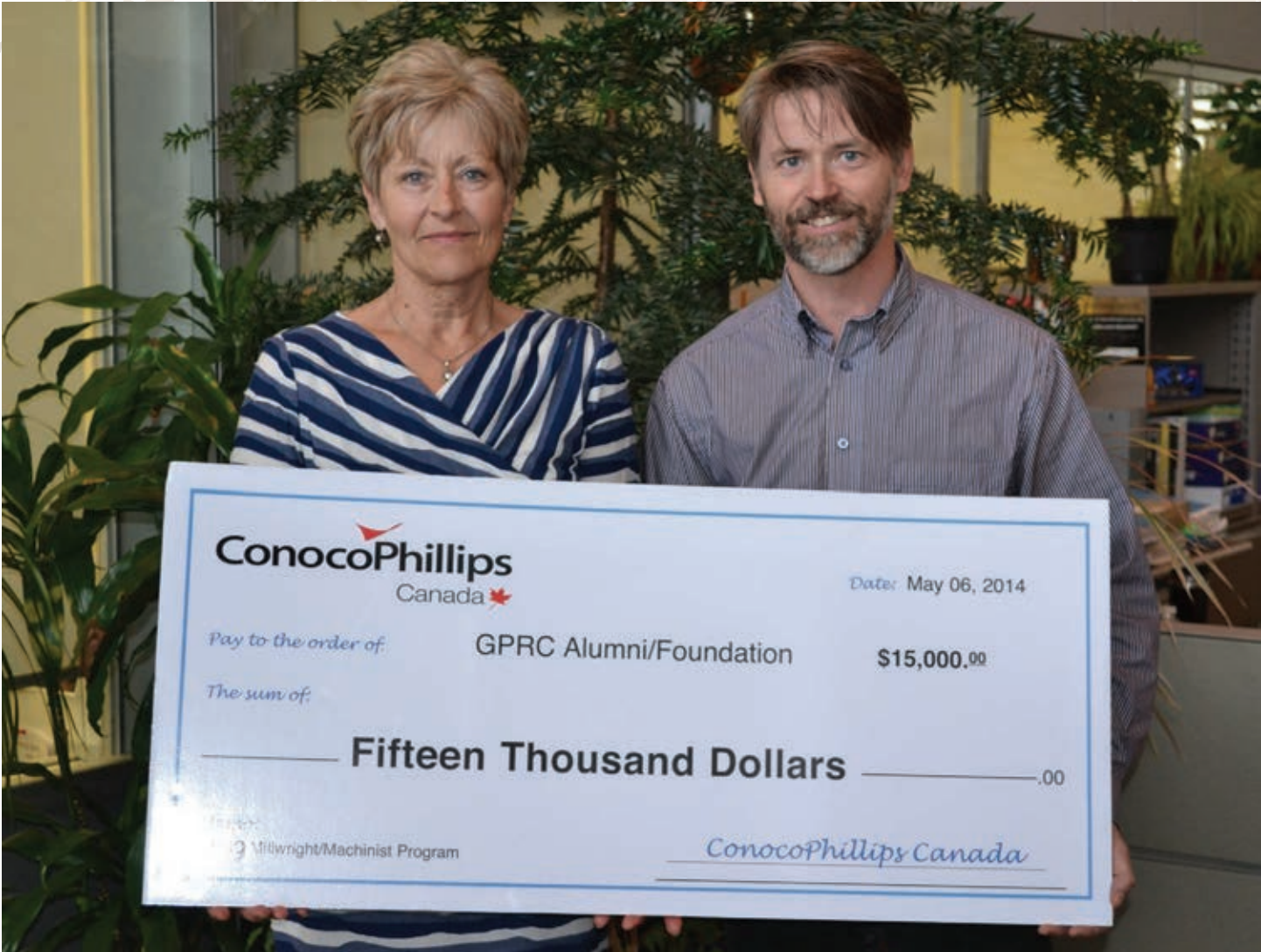
The ladies of Grande Prairie Royal Purple 107 added a \$5000 donation to their existing bursary for GPRC students. (L-R) Marlene Reddekopp, Sharon Annis, Carmen Haakstad, GPRC VP External Relations, Barb Childs, Irene Martens, Rita Gallinger.



Lance Leith of ATCO Gas presents Joanne Ballance, GPRC Alumni/Development Manager a cheque in support of the ATCO Gas Student Bursary program.



Rochelle Killins of IPAC Service Corp presents a \$2500 donation to Joanne Ballance, GPRC Alumni/Development Manager.



Marianne Haugli (retired) of the Grande Prairie Conoco Phillips Canada office presents Charles Sanderson, Chair of the Electrical and Millwright Department at GPRC with a cheque in the amount of \$15,000 to purchase machining lathes for the apprenticeship program.



Thank you to ConocoPhillips Canada for their \$5,000 donation to support Grade 7 Day.



Warren, from Pro Pack with Tim Boomgaarden and Tony Mann from Ariel Corporation, displaying the donation of a laser line bore system to the Millwright program.

recent gifts



Operation Christmas Child "elves" Dianne Lund, Faye Rendle, Lyla Helle, Erin Weeks, Jananne Lund, Lisa Osterhold. 20 boxes were created to be sent to children in need.



The 2014 Marketing Project Management class presents a cheque for \$4600 to Swan City Rotary members. The funds were raised during the annual Peace Country Idol contest, and will go to support Rotary projects in southern Ethiopia.



Martena Duda, Director of Sales and Kyla Hobbs, Front Desk Manager for Service Plus Inns & Suites, present Carmen Haakstad and Joanne Ballance from GPRC Community Relations with a cheque in the amount of \$8,058.68.



Students of Alexander Forbes - The Academy School, GPPSD # 2357, took on the challenge to "Scare Hunger" this Hallowe'en by collecting food donations while 'trick or treating'. They collected so much food that they filled the Room of Plenty shelves!



GPRC first period Plumber/Gasfitter B program helped complete a Habitat for Humanity build in Fairview



Randy Montgomery from the Alberta Automotive Recyclers and Dismantlers Association, presents Joanne Ballance with \$2,000 for awards in the General Mechanic program.



Graham Construction donated \$2,000 to the class project, Peace Country Idol and \$5,000 to the GPRC student marketing tour to San Francisco in February. Pictured here are a tour of the students on the construction site.



Recently GPRC Student's Association members and volunteers held their "Hope for Hunger" food drive, in support of Rotary House. In addition to the donation of food, they raised \$100 and volunteered their time on January 25th, helping to provide a warm meal for clients of Rotary House.



2014-15 GPRC Transitional Vocational Program students donated approx \$600 of goods to a needy family this Christmas

By Lynne Ness

The words “volleyball” and “Ron Thomson” have been pretty much synonymous at GPRC over the past 25 years. From the first time the 14-year-old from Chetwynd came to campus for a tournament, through his years as a Wolves player, to his long and illustrious career as Wolves Volleyball coach, Ron has given to the sport and volleyball has rewarded Ron.

“How did it all happen?” Ron has asked himself from time to time. Now an instructor and Chair of the Department of Physical Education and Kinesiology at GPRC, he can’t help but reflect on the journey that has brought him here. “It is quite interesting,” he muses. “I never thought all that would happen to me. It has been a lot of hard work over the years. And I ran into some good luck at times.”

“When I came out of high school I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do. I was missing Physics as a prerequisite, and I remember taking that with Devinder Sekhon - one of my favourite profs - and at that time I was terrified of physics, math, that side of things. I started at that and sort of progressed from there to do a Bachelor of Phys Ed. And then I had to take Biomechanics with Gordon Montford (who was also the volleyball coach at the time.) Biomechanics terrified me too, but I think it is one of my traits to work that much harder when I am scared of something, because that ended up being the class in which I got my highest mark! That fear is one thing that has driven me that way - and now I’m teaching Biomechanics!

“The memory of that fear helps me relate to the students in my class. I

WALL OF FAME

Wolves Athletics

Grande Prairie Regional College was founded in 1966 and was initially known as Grande Prairie Junior College. From the beginning sports have played an important role as part of student experience. In the early years the teams were known as the Cougars and Cubs as they participated in local leagues in sports such as basketball, football and hockey. The original leader of the physical education and athletic program was Dr. Ido Woldenberg. He was soon joined by Mike Pukashinski and together they developed the program and coached several of the teams during the 1970s.

In 1971-72, GPRC was admitted to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Association (ACAA) as an associate member. In 1972-73 the College became a full member of the ACAA and fielded men's and women's basketball teams. Ahead that time a name change was necessary as Mount Royal College had the rights to the name Cougars. GPRC's name thus became the Nordic Cubs and Nordic Wolves with the colors of brown and gold. Over the next several years, GPRC competed in several leagues and tournaments such as including volleyball, basketball, wrestling, golf, bowling, canoeing, figure skating, cross country running, badminton, curling and hockey.



Volleyball has been good to me

recognize that look of anxiety on their face and remember what it felt like.”

During the years that Ron Thomson was playing Wolves volleyball he found himself influenced by several great profs. Leigh Goldie, Ray Kardas, Harry Stevens, Gord Montford – all of them had a role in shaping the future for the young athlete. “I really liked what they were doing and I thought to myself that this could be a really good job some day.”

And a few years and a lot of hard work later, Ron had achieved his degree and was pursuing a career as a Volleyball coach. He had spent a little time around the National team and programs and was beginning to think that coaching at that level was something he was interested in pursuing. Ron was in the middle of making a change from Alberta Volleyball to BC Volleyball in 1991 when he got the course-changing phone call from Leigh Goldie. Gordon Montford was going on sabbatical leave and GPRC needed a volleyball coach.

“When Leigh called with that opportunity, I jumped at it. I thought I could come here for one year to get some experience and then move into university volleyball ranks and start to work my way up. . . and here I am, still at GPRC almost 25 years later!

“When you start coaching you are always striving to get to the university level. But those jobs are few and far between. By the time some good opportunities began to come my way, we had started a family here and I no longer wanted to leave. I decided to stay because I thought it was better for my family situation, and I was happy here! I have enjoyed it all the years I have been here. There was no real reason to leave. I was comfortable where I was and I did not want to uproot my family just to fulfill a personal dream. I am okay with that. I think I always have been – make the most of the situation you’re in is my philosophy.”

Before heading back to Alberta in 1991, Ron was talking to a coach friend in Vancouver, asking him what he knew about Grande Prairie. “Oh, they have a couple of players who are pretty decent,” Ron was told. That first year was one of the most interesting for Ron, because he was coming in blind without any idea who was here for players. “I remember that first day I walked into the

gym and saw what was there. I thought ‘Oh! There is some talent here!’”

Among that first team were players such as Jason Haldane, who would go on to become a member of Team Canada and an internationally recognized name in volleyball. “I could see there was a lot of talent, but it was untapped talent,” Ron says. “There was a lot of talent but they really didn’t know what direction to go. They were sort of raw players. That was my task: teach them the game; teach them how to compete in the game, how to work together as a team. I showed them some things that were happening in volleyball at the time across the country and around the world. I worked to bring them up to a new level of play. That was a rewarding year for me because they were just all over the place at the beginning. By the end of that year we were second in ACAC and ended up winning Bronze at Nationals!”

Ron credits that great first year with creating a bit of a spark and interest around volleyball – enough interest to

Excellence awards. He was head coach for the 1998 Canadian National Youth Men’s Team, and twice served as guest coach for the Canadian National Men’s Team. A long list of big names in volleyball were part of that journey, including Derek Nicoll, Brad Funk, Jason Haldane, and Ryan Pomeroy to name a few.

Ron Thomson stepped down from coaching for a few years while he focused on family and his teaching, then got back on the bench for a further six years with Wolves Women’s Volleyball – five years as head coach and one as assistant coach. Many talented players developed during those seasons, which were also rich with provincial and national achievement: four ACAC medals, two CCAA Nationals appearances including one Silver medal, and another ACAC Coach of the Year award. Not surprisingly, several of those players went on to play at University.

“Over the years while you are striving toward that National title, you come to realize that it is really about the process

“You sort of hope that how you taught them to play the game, the coaching you provided, had a positive influence on them, had something to do with their successes.” – Ron Thomson

start keeping some of the talented players here at home instead of being lured off to other institutions.

“The key from there was just to keep it going,” Ron says. “Once you get something going it is easier to keep it going. You have something to roll on. I have always said that being in a small centre such as Grande Prairie, it is much harder to turn things around. Once you get on a roll, you have to keep it going. If the program goes sideways or backwards it is much harder to turn things around in a small centre than in a big city.”

For 12 consecutive seasons (1991-2003) Ron Thomson’s Wolves were a top four team in the Alberta Conference, and a strong competitor at Nationals. They won eight ACAC medals and made six national championship appearances resulting in four CCAA medals. Coach Thomson has been recognized as one of the top college coaches in Canada, and awarded ACAC Coach of the Year four times, as well as two CCAA Coaching

and the journey – the process of getting there is what is important. I think I started to realize how tough it is to win a national championship from a small rural college like GPRC. We got very close a few times, but never quite made the Gold. A lot of our players went on to play really good volleyball at university. Some went on to win Nationals with their University teams. Some were recruited to Team Canada or international pro volleyball. Many got back involved with coaching.

“You sort of hope that how you taught them to play the game, the coaching you provided, had a positive influence on them, had something to do with their successes.”

It is clear that Coach Thomson’s Wolves still carry the influence of his guidance. A few months ago, Jason Haldane called from Azerbaijan where he was being interviewed for the position of coach for the National Team. “If I get the job,” he said, “I would really like you to come over and spend some time

coaching with me.” Although Haldane was not the successful candidate, the call and all that it represented was gratifying.

Being an instructor and department chair is also satisfying, and perhaps not so very far removed from coaching. Focusing on anything – whether a subject of study or a sport – includes understanding why things are being done as they are, Ron says. “At first I didn’t really like school, and studying, but then when you get to the point when you can study things you really have an interest in, that changes. One thing that has really driven me: my quest to understand why things are the way they are. I think in all the classes I teach I try to get that across to my students – don’t just accept things, try to understand why.”

Ron Thomson is no longer a full-time coach, but is enjoying the opportunity to coach his daughter’s U13 team and keeps his hand in that way. Now that he no longer travels for competitions or recruiting, he has more time for his family and to pursue personal interests such as golf. He continues to be passionate, though, about the importance of strong athletic programs in the community when it comes to keeping kids at home. “In the 80s and 90s it was easier to keep kids at home,” he says. “Now it is a bit different. People have saved a lot more money for education, right from when children are born, so the money is available to send them away. Still I think we can keep a lot of the kids home as long as our program is good. Over the years it has been a constant battle for us to try to keep our best players at home. It is important to any community to keep its younger generation home, and I believe that education and strong athletic programs are key to that.

“Volleyball has been good to me. It has been GOOD to me! My involvement with volleyball has created good memories, and taught me a lot. It has exposed me to good things in life, I met my wife through volleyball. A lot of my good friends are from volleyball. It has opened a lot of doors for me. When I think about any job that I have done, the places I have been, the people I have met . . . it started with volleyball. It has taught me a lot. A lot about myself. A lot about life. Volleyball has been good to me.”



Photo: ©Sergei Beiski Photography

21st Century Homesteading

Featuring prominent speakers on the various principles of permaculture, dealing with soil, water management, plants and animals on a small farm, acreage or in an urban setting!

Keynote - From the Wild

Kevin Kossowan will touch on his experiences with intensive urban gardening, operating an urban farm, foraging and other wild foods, urban hen keeping, beekeeping, root cellaring, home butchery, and so on.

Harvesting Wild Mushrooms

Ken Dies, an avid amateur in the art of mushroom harvesting, will take us through a pictorial guide on how to Harvest Wild Mushrooms within the three prairie provinces.

Heirloom Seed Starting

Wendy Smith, owner of Heritage Farm Nursery. Learn how to grow your own food in the north with Wendy. In this hands-on session, you will plant a variety of HEIRLOOM tomatoes and herbs to take home.

Permaculture 101

Claudia Bolli will provide an overview of permaculture ethics and principles, sector and zone analysis and other permaculture design methods. Subsequently, a conversation with acreage owner Johanne Kemp will illustrate how the family is creatively transforming some of the land into diverse, productive growing spaces with local resources.

Watershed Conservation

Cathy Newhook of Beaverlodge, is the President of the West County Watershed Society, and will discuss the importance of your small farm or acreage.

Keeping it Real

Do you know what isopropyl palmitate, and tocopheryl acetate are? These are the ingredients found in drug store hand cream that many of us use every day! Want to learn how to make your own product using natural, simple ingredients? Attend Eric Stromgren's hands-on session and learn how to turn beeswax into hand cream.



Claudia Bolli of Wild Green Garden Consulting shares her passion for growing food and creating healthy, edible landscapes through workshops, permaculture design, and greening projects with schools. Her education includes a Diploma in Biological Sciences, a Permaculture Design Certificate, Organic Master Gardener and Master Naturalist training, as well as, workshops from The Urban Farmer and other great teachers.

At the beginning of the session, Claudia will provide an overview of permaculture ethics and principles, sector and zone analysis and other permaculture design methods. Subsequently, a conversation with acreage owner Johanne Kemp will illustrate how the family is creatively transforming some of the land into diverse, productive growing spaces with local resources. The Kemp family's willingness to adapt, work together and experiment is an inspiring example of practical permaculture.



Ken Dies is the Peace Region Foray coordinator for the Alberta Mycological Society. He has published articles on harvesting wild mushrooms in "Rural Roots" magazine and is a regular contributor to the "Spore Print", a quarterly publication of the Alberta Mycological Society. As an avid outdoor photographer he has accumulated close to 100 different species of northern Alberta mushrooms, which can be viewed on his photo website.

In his presentation "Harvesting Wild Mushrooms - An Introduction", Ken will clearly explain the steps necessary to learn how to identify wild mushrooms. Part of the presentation includes photos, along with identification hints of twenty common edibles occurring in the Prairie Provinces.



Johanne Kemp lives in Wembley, AB with her husband Gord and their two children, on a 4 acre slice of previously cultivated prairie farmland. With both parents working full time hours and children involved in after school activities, Johanne's time and resources are limited as is her patience for weeding her alfalfa-quack-clover-thistle-dandelion invaded gardens! Using passion, motivation, cardboard dumpster hunting and sheet mulching with either soil or bark, Johanne is able to reap the benefits of practical permaculture - the art of diversity and conservation. Johanne's story is about searching for and finding local resources as well as thinking in terms of the resource's 'function' in order to create family empowerment by growing food mindfully and connecting with nature's backyard gifts.

Joining Claudia Bolli at this year's conference, Johanne will facilitate an introduction to the exciting possibilities of permaculture. At the beginning of the session, Claudia will provide an overview of permaculture ethics and principles, sector and zone analysis and other permaculture design methods. Subsequently, Johanne will illustrate how her family is creatively transforming some of the land into diverse, productive growing spaces with local resources. The Kemp family's willingness to adapt, work together and experiment is an inspiring example of practical permaculture.

Join us!

For this one day conference

Funding for the Conference includes, Walter Paszkowski Agriculture Legacy Endowment Fund, the CRI (Centre for Research & Innovation) and PARN (Peace Applied Research Network).

Permaculture in the Peace Country

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

GPRC Fairview Cost: \$75/person



Since 2005, **Kevin Kossowan** has diarized his life in the world of food via his website, www.kevinkossowan.com. He now writes, produces and directs, food and ag related film/videos about growing, gleaning, hunting, foraging, fishing, preserving, connecting with local farmers. Over the years, the website has won 'Best Seasonal/Local' in the Canadian Food Blog Awards, while additionally, Kevin has been featured in the Edmonton Journal, Calgary Herald, CBC.ca, CBC radio, CTV, CTV2 Alberta Primetime, and many other local, national, and international media. Currently a member of the City of Edmonton Food Council, he has done speaking engagements for the University of Alberta, MacEwan University, the Northern Alberta Teachers' Conference, Eat Alberta, Calgary Horticultural Society, Seedy Sunday, Edmonton Permaculture, and others.

His presentation "From The Wild - Cuisine du Terroir by way of Native Species" looks at the often overlooked wild species of our food supply. Flora and fauna that do and want to grow here without human intervention, that truly are what define our regional cuisine cultural heritage whether we're aware of it or not. From urban foraging for mushrooms and fruit, forest gardening, to hunting and fishing unfamiliar species and eating them nose to tail, this session will explore the role native species can play in our diet, how that might be sustainable, and how they're key to the future of our food culture.



Wendy Smith was born and raised in the Peace Region where she grew up in the family beekeeping operation of Sterling & Karen Smith. Her honeybee, leafcutter bee and seed production background led to a 12 year position at the Beaverlodge Research Farm as an agriculture research technician for soil science and apiculture research with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada. Now at the National Bee Diagnostic Centre, she focuses on working with beekeepers and lab diagnostic services. Away from the lab, Wendy works on a small mixed family farm and publishes Rural Roots Magazine, focusing on educational programming for classrooms and small farm producers in Western Canada. The Down to Earth classes offered by Heritage Farm help new and experienced gardeners explore northern horticulture practices using heirloom variety non-GMO plants and seeds. At this year's conference, Wendy will be providing a "hands-on" session about how to plant heirloom tomatoes and herbs to take home.



Catherine Newhook of Beaverlodge, has 30 years of experience as a contractor in the forestry sector, her company having planted over 300,000,000 trees. She is President of the West County Watershed Society, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, representing stewardship groups, as well as sitting on the Steering committee for the Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project. During her presentation, Cathy will discuss the importance of water management for your small farm or acreage.



Eric Stromgren is a graduate of UBC, having completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc., specializing in Conservation Biology. Currently an instructor of the GPRC Commercial Beekeeping Program, Eric is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biology at the University of Victoria. He's also the owner of Peace-Fraser Apiaries, a small beekeeping operation that provides inspection, consulting and education services to beekeepers in British Columbia.



To learn more contact 780.251.0119
kacurrie@gprc.ab.ca

To register contact 780.539.2975
1.888.539.4772

Continuing Education
GPRC

1974-1978

Bruce W. Bickle
Agriculture; Animal Health
Technology

Bruce now lives in Langley, BC.

1977-1979

Barb (Rieger)
Johnston
Office
Administration

Barb was the Executive Assistant to the Vice-President Academics and Research at Grande Prairie Regional College and is now enjoying retirement (and of course her grandchildren!) She also volunteered as Stage Manager at the 2014 GPRC President's Ball.



1983-1985

Leonard Benoit Joseph Dumont
Parts Program

Leonard is a Sales Person at Martin Deerline in Falher, AB.

1984-1986

Kelly A. Fitzpatrick-Stewart
Animal Health Technology

Kelly lives in Airdrie, AB.

1985-1987

Terri Stewart
Animal Health Technology

Terri now lives in Nottingham in the United Kingdom.

1987-1989

Kathleen T. Blais
Office Administration

Kathleen has retired from a career of over 23 years with the Grande Prairie Fire Department, and has moved to Salmon Arm, BC to be closer to family.

1989-1991

Roxanne June (Ruddock) Cote
Business Administration

My fondest memory is all the wonderful friends that I met and still keep in touch with. I have been working in Calgary at the Distress Centre since 2008 as the Resource Development Manager. I am pursuing an International Development career path and will keep you posted.

1990-1994

John A. Liley
Heavy Equipment Technician

John is currently working at Rocky Mountain Equipment in Grimshaw, AB as a Service Manager.

1990-1995

Darryl Doerkson
Business Administration

Involved with the Wolves (1991) Darryl currently works as a Senior Underwriter for Interior Equities Corporation in Kelowna, BC.

1992-1993

Andrew W. Buchen
Harley-Davidson® Technician

Andrew is currently Self-Employed as a Senior Illustrator & 3D Game Artist in Texas, USA.

1996-1998

Marilyn B. Cardinal
Office Administration/Professional

The same month that I graduated (May 1998), I had my first child, a son, moving from Grande Prairie to High Level in 2000 as a self-employed individual in the oilfield. I later began working in Child & Family Services finance. In 2001, I had my second son and in 2005, I had my third son. In 2006, I left my six year position to be a consultant for the same work duties for another First Nation Agency until 2010 when I had my fourth child, a daughter. During 2010-2012 I went to College for my Social Work Diploma. I got married in July 2011. I moved from High Level to Wabasca, Alberta in 2013 after accepting a Finance Manager position with Bigstone Health Commission.

1996-1998

Lana Delaney
Animal Health Technology

Lana Delaney is a graduate of the Animal Health Technology Program, and Equine Programs on the Fairview Campus and has gone on to be a specialized Equine Veterinarian who is very high in demand. She even has clients come from throughout the US, to her facility in Sherwood Park. Lana also gives back to Grande Prairie Regional College as she is a member of the GPRC AHT Advisory Committee.

GPRC Wolves Volleyball **40th Anniversary**

Richard Hosker

Originally from Fort St. John, B.C., Ritch demonstrated his athletic prowess early by capturing the North Peace Secondary School Athlete-of-the-Year in 1983. He then moved on to Grande Prairie Regional College where he was a volleyball standout for three seasons while also competing with the golf team. Over the course of his three years at GPRC, the volleyball team moved from also-ran status to capture the ACAC bronze medal in his last season.

During each of the 1984/85 & 1985/86 seasons, Ritch was voted



both an ACAC All-Star and the Grande Prairie Regional College Male Athlete-of-the-Year. In addition to his other awards, Ritch consistently captured All-Star and Most Valuable Player honours at numerous Tournaments.

He was an outstanding setter with the ability to attack when necessary. Ritch was generally recognized as the best one-on-one blocker in the league.

After leaving College, Ritch completed his Bachelor of Physical Education degree at the University of Alberta. He has remained active in sport working as a golf professional in Fort St. John and participating in volleyball, both as a player and a coach. Ritch has also taught in the Fort St. John School District.

The Doucette Sisters

From the small northern Alberta town of Falher came a group of sisters who displayed a volleyball brilliance that has seldom been seen. Isabelle Doucette established the tradition during the 1977-78 season and was followed by younger sisters Marie in 1982 and Dorine in 1983.

Isabelle Gervais (Doucette)

Isabelle participated in numerous sports while attending École Routhier in Falher and was named Athlete-of-the-year. She then attended the College in 1977-78. During that season she was team captain and most valuable player and was also voted GPRC Female Athlete-of-the-Year. With Isabelle leading the way the team captured silver medals in both ACAC and Four West competition.

After Grande Prairie Regional College, Isabelle attended the



University of Alberta and completed her Bachelor of Education degree. During that time she represented Alberta at the 1979 Canada Winter Games in Brandon and participated in the Western Canada Games in Saskatoon.

Marie Brucker (Doucette)

Marie was a multi-sport standout at École Routhier as she participated in track, basketball, fastball, curling, badminton, and volleyball. She captained the school volleyball team to the provincial championship in 1981.

In 1982, Marie joined the College team and played for two seasons as one of the outstanding middle players in the ACAC. She achieved ACAC All-Star status and was the 1983 Female Athlete-of-the-Year at Grande Prairie Regional College.

Following her time in Grande Prairie, Marie completed her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta and started a career as an elementary school teacher. She has remained active playing fastball and volleyball.



Dorine Smawley (Doucette)

Dorine was a standout athlete in high school as well.

Following Marie's footsteps she captained École Routhier to another provincial title in 1982. She also played on Alberta's provincial volleyball team in 1980 and 1981.

For the 1983-84 season, Dorine joined the GPRC women's volleyball team and, with sister Marie, led the team to the silver medal. For her efforts she was chosen as ACAC All-Star and received the Grande Prairie Regional College Female Athlete-of-the-Year award. The next season, Dorine moved on to Red Deer College where she was selected as a CCAA All-Canadian and received the Red Deer College Athlete-of-the-Year award.



1997-2000

Bryan Gill

Heavy Equipment Technician

Bryan now lives in Nova Scotia.

1998-2001

Chad A. MacDowell

Bachelor of Physical Education

Chad is currently self-employed at Kalamika Acro and Tumbling in Vernon, BC.

2002-2003

Heather Ray

Administrative Technologies

After completing the program at Grande Prairie Regional College I started as the receptionist at Husky in Grande Prairie. I then transferred to the Rainbow Lake Field and obtained my CAPP Production Accounting Diploma. I have since worked as a Senior Production Accountant for Talisman Edson Field office, as a Team Lead of the Administration for Penn West in Edmonton, and Coordinator of Product Traffic for Gibson's Energy in Edmonton,

before the move to Pembina in Drayton Valley. I have two boys, one of whom just graduated high school and will be attending Grande Prairie Regional College in September 2014. My other son is 13 and entering grade eight.

2010-2012

Matthew Dalen Bachelor of Music

Matthew Dalen, an alumni of GPRC's Bachelor of Music program has been offered a full tuition scholarship at the University of British Columbia to study with Patrick Raftery. Also scheduled to audition at the University of Toronto, the result was unavailable at press time.



2012-2013

Raistlin Van Spronsen

Transitional Vocational Program

I have been working at KFC in Dawson Creek for almost a year, and was promoted to Supervisor back in January. My favourite memory at GPRC was making videos in our town house.

2012-2013

Sylvia P. (Bogner) Ellison

Business Administration - Accounting

I enjoyed being part of the Business Case Team. I am currently working as an Accounts Payable Specialist at Competitive Edge Business Solutions here in Grande Prairie.

2012-2013

Viswanathan Subban Power Engineering

I have started working as a Shift Engineer in a brand new pilot project near Red Earth, Alberta. It's been a challenging and rewarding position. It was my pleasure to be a student at GPRC and to be an Alumnus.

The Funk Family

The Funk Family are four siblings who did not simply participate at the post-secondary sport level, they excelled. Rick, Brad, Tanya and Bryan all played with the GPRC Wolves earning individual acclaim while contributing to their teams' successes provincially and nationally.

Bryan (Bones) Funk

"Bones" played three seasons at GPRC, 1990/91 – 1992/93, and one at the University of Alberta. While with the Wolves, Bryan won a number of awards including a CCAA Athlete of the Month, two ACAC All Conference Team selections and a CCAA All Canadian. The teams won two ACAC Silver medals and a CCAA Bronze medal. Bryan was an Assistant Coach with the Wolves for five years which included two CCAA Silver medals and one CCAA Bronze medal.

Tanya Walker (nee Funk)

Tanya played two years with the GPRC Wolves, 1992/93 & 1993/94. Her solid play was instrumental in the Wolves winning an ACAC Silver medal while she amassed a number

of individual awards. Her awards include the Rookie of the Year, ACAC Athlete of the Week, ACAC All Conference Team and the CCAA Athlete of the Month Award. Tanya was a member of the Wolves Alumni team that won the Alberta Senior Women's Championships. Once her playing days were done she moved to coaching in the Wolves Club system and in the junior high school system. She has coached in Beaverlodge, Hythe and Elmworth.

Rick Funk

Rick played his entire career with the GPRC Wolves from 1997/98 to 2000/01. He was selected to two ACAC All Conference Teams and received a CCAA Athlete of the Month award. Rick was a member of the three teams that participated in the CCAA Nationals held at GPRC. The teams won two CCAA



Silver medals and one CCAA Bronze medal. Rick coached in the Wolves Club system and officiated at the ACAC level.

Brad Funk

Brad played with the GPRC Wolves in 1995/96, three seasons with the University of Alberta Golden Bears, and then returned to the 1999/00 Wolves. During his time at GPRC, he garnered two ACAC All Conference Team selections and was named to the CCAA Nationals Tournament All Star Team. The teams won an ACAC Silver medal and a CCAA Bronze medal. While attending the University of Alberta, Brad attended three CIS National Championships winning one National Title.

Team of 88-89 | High Achievers

Shane Sabatino (Prince George) SCP Human Resources, The Brick

Dale Oleschko (Fort St. John) National Director Learning and Development, The Brick

Sean Thorson (Hines Creek) Executive Director of Skills Canada (Ottawa)

Eric Sehn (Lac La Biche) former Dean and Campus Principal of Northern Lights College; now Dean of School of Trades and Technology, Camosun College (Victoria)

Darrel Robertson (Grimshaw) Superintendent, Edmonton Public Schools

Ryan Pomeroy

Ryan has had an exceptional volleyball career that includes playing with Canada's National



Program and playing professionally in Europe. He played with the GPRC Wolves Volleyball Program from 1997 to 2000. During that time, the Wolves Volleyball Team experienced their most successful medal run. The medals included 1

ACAC Bronze Medal, 2 ACAC Silver Medals, 1 CCAA Bronze Medal and 2 CCAA Silver Medals. These came as the College hosted the most successful back to back CCAA Men's Volleyball Nationals. Ryan was also named an ACAC All Star in two of his seasons.

Following his stellar career with the Wolves Ryan moved on to the University of Manitoba Bisons. During his time with the Bisons he was named first team All Canadian and won the CIS National Championship.

His success with college and

university volleyball carried over to his time with Canada's National Volleyball Program. Ryan was a part of the team that won Canada's first ever NORCECA Zone Championships and then placed 5th at the World Championships.

As he was not yet done playing the game, Ryan moved to Europe where he played professionally for 3 seasons. He played with teams in Germany, United Arab Emirates, and Portugal. Since his return home to Grande Prairie he has been active playing Senior Men's Volleyball and running Volleyball Camps.

Jason Haldane

The most decorated Wolves athlete of all time, Jason has performed at the highest levels in his sport. His career started at GPRC playing with the GPRC Wolves from 1990-1992. During that time, Jason earned two ACAC All Conference Team selections and a CCAA All Canadian. The team captured the ACAC Silver medal and the CCAA Bronze medal in the 1991-92 season.



Following an outstanding college career, Jason joined Canada's National team program and played professionally in Europe. In his 12 year tenure with the Canadian National Team, Jason played in more than 300 international matches. This included World Cups in 1995 and 2003 and World Championships in 1994, 1998, and 2002. He received

the Best Blocker Award at the 1995 World Cup held in Japan. As a member of Team Great Britain, Jason participated in the sport of volleyball at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

His professional career included playing in Belgium, France, Italy, Greece, Russia, Bulgaria and Turkey. Individually, he won the MVP Award at the 2001 France Cup and the 2001 Best Blocker Award in the Champions League. The team successes include the 1999 European Cup Champions, 2000 European Super Cup Champions, 2001 Champions League Champions, 2001, 2005, and 2006 French Cup Champions, 2003 Greek Champions, and 2008 Runner-up European Challenge Cup.

Jason has been playing volleyball at an international level for over 20 years and has been recognized as one of the best players in the world. To maintain this performance level for this period of time is a credit to his talent, his perseverance and his character.

Derek Nicoll

Derek played with the Wolves Volleyball Program from 1993 to 1996. During that period of time he achieved



many successes. These included being named Captain all 3 years, named an ACAC All Star all 3 years, ACAC Conference Champions in 1993, and being named CCAA All Canadian in 1996.

His success did not end there. He played with the University of Alberta Golden Bears Volleyball Program from 1996 to 1998. In that time he was named CIS Tournament All Canadian in 1998 the year he Co-Captained the team. The Golden

Bears also won the CIS National Championship in 1997 and the CIS Bronze Medal in 1998.

It has been stated that Derek changed the way volleyball was played due to his tenacity on the court. Not a tall player, he played tall. He was a force on the court and one that could not be underestimated. He paved the way for other players to take on roles not normally seen by players of that stature.

The volleyball career of Derek Nicoll did not end with playing. During his playing career Derek coached with the Volleyball Club program and carried on coaching after his playing days were done. He has coached with the NAIT Volleyball Program and the University of Alberta Golden Bears and the Harry Ainlay High School Boys Program.

Connect with us!

We are thrilled to be updating our existing alumni profile webpage with new members and the fantastic things they have done since leaving the walls of GPRC! Our grads are notorious for their commitment to enhancing the communities in which they live and it's time to celebrate that fact!

Have you, or do you know an alumnus that's doing exciting things or has been awarded for greatness in a particular area? We want to know about it!

Visit gprc.me/alumniachievements and tell us your story!

Help us recognize the achievements of GPRC Alumni

Alumni Award of Excellence

This award is intended to recognize specific, recent accomplishments of GPRC alumni.

Steps to the Greater Award

This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of GPRC alumni early in their careers or community service.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The most prestigious award of the GPRC Alumni/Foundation, this award was established to recognize GPRC alumni for outstanding accomplishments in their professions, and/or in service to their community, society or GPRC.

Members of the public and the College community are invited to submit nominations for these awards. Go to:

gprc.ab.ca/alumni

Submit before Dec 31 each year.



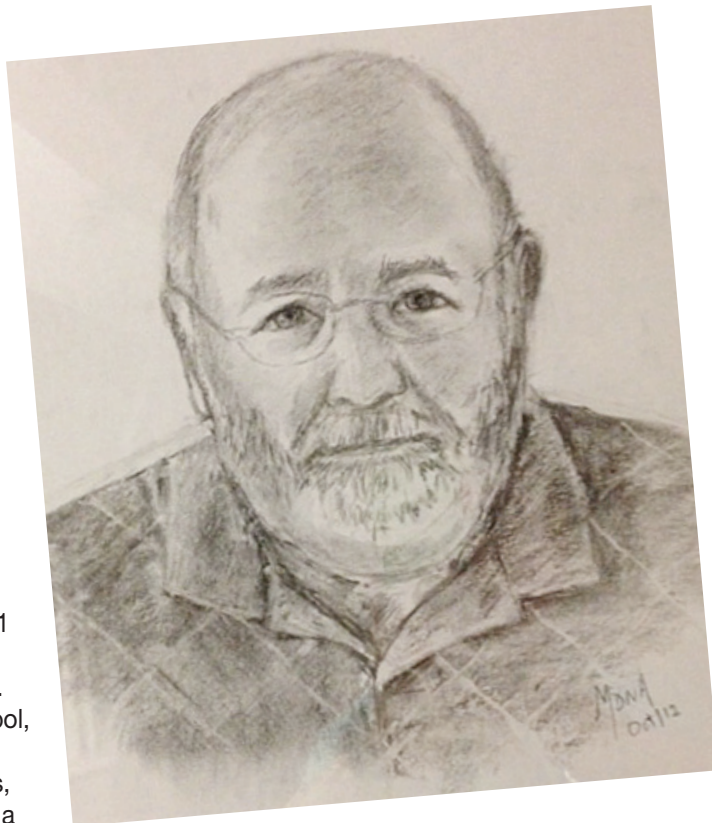
Jeffrey Bulcock

Jeffrey Wilson Bulcock was born December 10, 1931 in Cornholme, Yorkshire, England. After finishing school, Jeff attended the University of Leeds, England, receiving a B.A. degree before joining the Royal Air Force for four years of compulsory military training. There he served as an Educational Officer preparing recruits who were studying for promotions. During these years Jeff played soccer for Leeds and the RAF, travelling to many European cities for competitions.

Once he left the military at age 26, Jeff came to Canada to look at employment opportunities, which took him first to Cowichan Lake on Vancouver Island, where he taught English and Physical Education to junior high school students. He then decided to pursue teacher training at the University of British Columbia and while there he met the superintendent of the Trail, B.C. schools, who offered him a position teaching high school English. He also coached the Trail soccer team.

Two years later he decided to journey on, attending a summer session at the University of Alberta, teaching high school at Rocky Mountain House, then back to U. B. C. to complete his M. Ed degree.

It was during that time that Jeff



met and married Mona Beebe. Together they raised two sons.

From the summer of 1964 to the summer of 1966, Jeff attended the U of A., studying toward his M.A. in Sociology.

In the fall of 1966 when the newly formed Grande Prairie Junior College opened its doors, Jeff was one of the twelve inaugural instructors on staff.

In his three short years at the College Jeff proved to be a very popular instructor, a great researcher, a convincing leader and a very genuine individual. Each succeeding year of Jeff's teaching at the College resulted in an increase in the class size for his courses. Many students chose to take his course wherever they could fit it into their programs.

As a colleague, Jeff was a natural leader as displayed in his ability to direct conversation during brainstorming sessions at coffee breaks and lunch hours. He was well read and when he was not teaching he would prepare background information and templates that served as the basis for the Academic Staff Association By-laws, an Academic Council Constitution, as well as the

fundamentals for the Alberta Junior College Academic Staff Association By-laws. Jeff can be given credit for the inspiration and was the original researcher for the foundational by-laws and constitutions which continue today with most of those principles prevailing. Another important responsibility Jeff was assigned was Acting Dean in the absence of Henry Anderson, who took leave to work on his doctoral dissertation in Educational Administration.

While working on by-law and constitutional matters, Jeff served as President of the Academic Staff Association and Chairman of the Academic Council. In these elected roles he invited the Board of Governors, the student body and the non-academic staff employees to comment on the proposals for the by-laws and the constitutions as well as on the directions the College was taking. A strong sense of collegial governance prevailed.

Between 1966 and 1969 the Alberta Colleges Act was in its early stages of development. Premier Ernest Manning chaired a few of the original meetings where constituents of the College including Board, faculty, employees, and student members as well as members of the University of Alberta Extension Department gathered to discuss the basic parameters for a College Act. Matters such as regions served, type of Board, size, powers, basis of funding, types of programs and essential purpose were considered. Premier Manning clearly stated that as a politician, he needed legislation that was thorough and met the needs for a college system. It was now up to professionals, the students and the public to set out that model. Back in Grande Prairie, Jeff did not waste any time in coordinating a discussion of the issues and in preparing a position paper from the Academic Staff at the College to be considered by the Colleges Act review body. After the Colleges Act was passed, the faculty at Grande Prairie

Junior College believed that they had had an important influence on the final document.

Following Dr. Harry Quinn's tenure on the Alberta Colleges Commission, Jeff replaced him as the College's representative on the Commission, following an agreement to have representation from different regions of the province. Jeff also served on a committee to review the University Transfer Guide which examined equivalency of courses within universities and colleges with university transfer arrangements. During the 1966 to 1969 period, each university regulated the equivalence of courses from other institutions. A university transfer guide now set out which courses equated to courses at each university who offered university transfer arrangements.

Jeff's announcement of his resignation from the College left every one of his colleagues and friends in shock. However, his choice led him to a clear path toward his doctorate and to moving on to university teaching and research.

The fall of 1969 saw Jeff pursuing a Ph.D in Educational Foundations at the Ontario Institute for the Study of Education (OISE), University of Toronto. While there he met and worked with a visiting professor, Charles Bidwell, from the University of Chicago. From him Jeff learned how to analyse large data sets which changed his career path and opportunities in years to come.

In 1971 Jeff accepted a position in the Department of Educational Foundations at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's.

His influence became international when a year later he was awarded a Spencer Foundation Fellowship tenable at the University of Stockholm and funded by the Spencer Foundation and the university. While there Jeff worked on a large database of achievement scores of 10 and 14 year olds in 21 countries, and he taught Stockholm University researchers how to work with such large amounts of data. In

1975 he was invited back for another year to continue work on the IEA data.

During that time Jeff was also invited to the Institute of Research in Aspen, Colorado, and to the Max Plank Institute of Research in Berlin, as a visiting professor to assist with utilizing the IEA data.

Following Jeff's return to Memorial University, he was invited by the Australian Council of Educational Research in Melbourne as visiting professor for part of a summer and worked with researchers on the IEA data in both Melbourne and Canberra.

As well Jeff presented papers at numerous conferences, symposiums and world congresses across North America, Europe and Asia. At the same time he assisted more than 100 graduate students with their data analysis for their Master's Degrees. In 1988 Jeff and another Spencer Fellow from Memorial, Rod Clifton, won the R.W.B. Jackson Award for Research given by the Canadian Educational Research Association, the research arm of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education. Again they utilized the IEA data bank.

Jeff retired from Memorial University in 1996 and moved to Kelowna, B.C in 2008 shortly after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He died as a result of complications from his illness in January, 2012.

Jeff's legacy could be summed up in the words of one of his graduate students after Jeff's death, "He was kind and gentle and passionate about his discipline. He was also a great teacher." To that could also be added that his influence continues through his prolific writing during his professional career.

Jeff lives on in the memories of his devoted wife, Mona, their sons, Graham and Marty, and their families.

– Contributors: *Mona Beebe (Bulcock), Paul Lemay, and reviewed by Doris Hamerl, Bob Marston, LaRon Woolley*



Gordon Hugh Montford

Esteemed instructor and Volleyball coach Gordon Montford passed peacefully on October 26, 2014 at the Argyll Residence/Alzheimer's Unit, Sherbrooke Que. He was predeceased by his loving wife Jeannine Beaudet in 2013 from ALS.

Gord Montford strongly influenced the Wolves Volleyball program during his tenure as a kinesiology instructor and coach at GPRC and is warmly remembered by his former colleagues, students, and players. His obituary, notes that as well as his many other career accomplishments:

"He was a Retired Officer (Major) in the Canadian Armed Forces, primarily as an Air Force Navigator. He had a second career as a Kinesiology Instructor at Grande Prairie Regional College in Alberta and spent 10 yrs in Botswana teaching at the Tonota College and then five years at the University of Botswana putting together a Master's program to teach teachers in that country in the field of physical education. He was a loving Father, an avid and passionate physical educator and loved his sports, primarily volleyball. He volunteered/coached many sports including volleyball, football, hockey, baseball both at the High School and Civic levels."



by April Weavell

Every year, approximately 200 youth – Air Cadets from Alberta and British Columbia’s Peace Region – take to the skies in an engineless aircraft under the watchful eye of Captain Bryan Lynch, Commanding Officer of the Peace River Gliding Centre. For many of the 12 to 18-year-olds, the gliding program gives them their very first taste of flight.

Lynch has been in uniform since he was just 13-years-old, first donning the “Blues” as an Air Cadet at 577 Squadron in Grande Prairie. He had a keen interest in aviation, so joining Air Cadets seemed like a natural fit. When he completed the program, he had achieved the rank of Warrant Officer II, one of the highest levels a cadet can attain. And his “sky high” dream came to fruition: Lynch earned a scholarship and soloed in a glider.

For over three decades, Lynch has continued to stay active in the youth organization both as a volunteer, and as a reserve officer with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF).

“My philosophy has always been that if I want to make a real impact during my life, the best way to do that is through our youth,” he says. “When I was in the Air Cadet program, I learned a lot about people and about myself, so returning to the program as a volunteer seemed like a great way to mentor and support young people.”

Since 1983, he has held a range of positions with the Air Cadet program. In 1992, he took the helm at 577 Grande Prairie in a three-year term as



Bryan Lynch

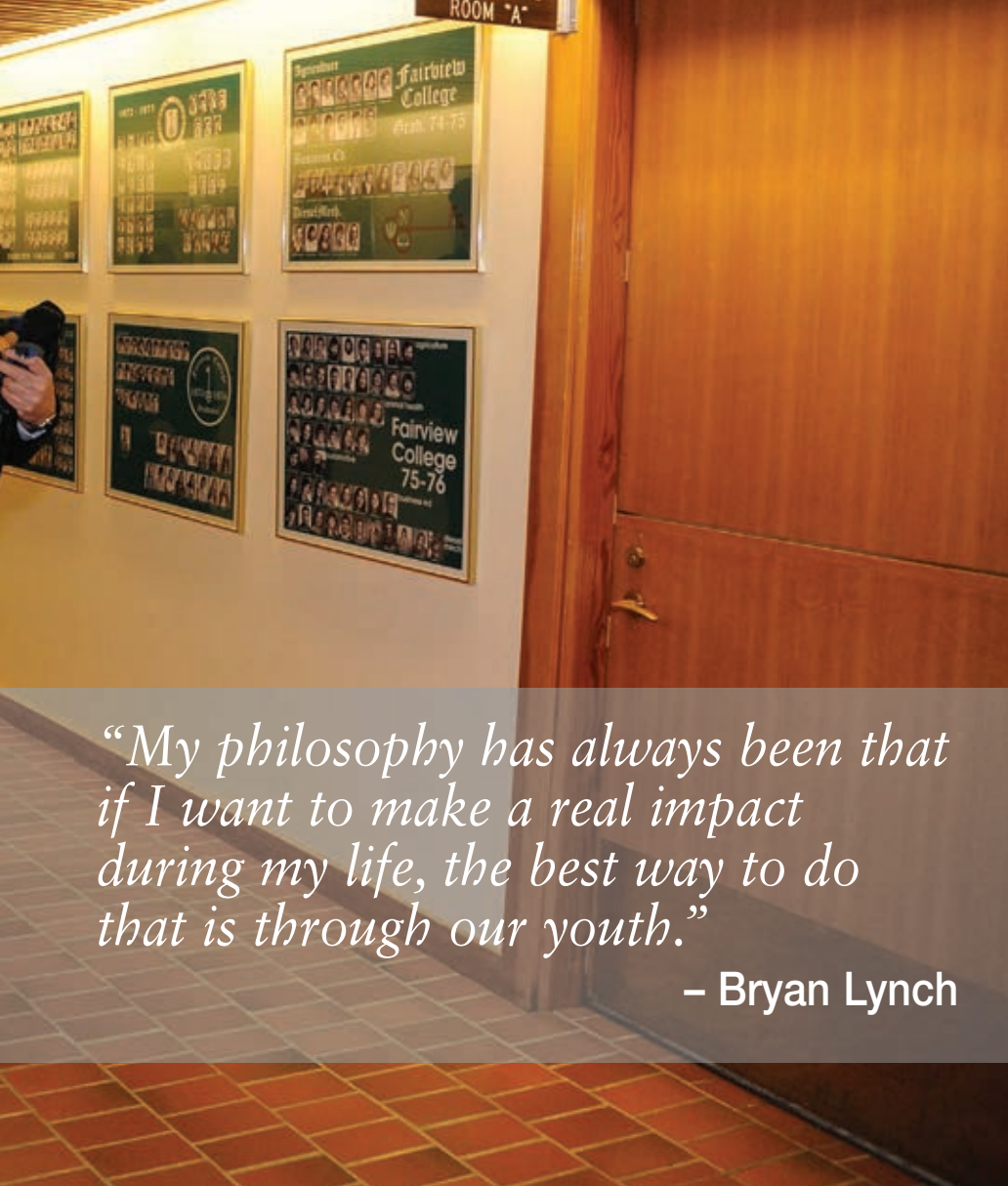
GPRC Alumnus Helping Youth Soar to New Heights

Commanding Officer, and was promoted to the rank of Captain. He currently oversees the squadron’s Duke of Edinburgh program – an international youth program that promotes community service and builds skills and self-confidence.

In conjunction with his roles at the squadron, in 1989 he stepped into a volunteer position at the Peace River Gliding Centre. Once again he climbed the ranks. In 1995, he was posted to the Gliding Centre as Deputy Commanding Officer. Nine years later, he was promoted to Commanding Officer, a position he holds today. Over the years, cadets from as far north as Dawson Creek, BC and Peace River to as far south as Whitecourt have caught a birds-eye glimpse of the world from the passenger seat of the Schwizer-232 glider flown by Lynch and the pilots he oversees.

Lynch has a diverse educational background that took him first to Edmonton, to apprentice as a Funeral Director, then back home to Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) where he was enrolled in the Computer Systems Technology Diploma Program from 1986-88. True to his nature, he was an active volunteer at GPRC. He served as student representative to the Computer Systems Department during his first year, and in his second year was elected VP Internal of the Students’ Association. He laughs, shaking his head as he recalls his hectic first year at GPRC, balancing his studies with his on-campus and Air Cadet volunteer work, all while holding five part-time jobs to pay off his new car.

A few years after graduating from GPRC, Lynch returned to class, this time taking his lessons from the cockpit. He picked up where he left off



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– Bryan Lynch

as a cadet, and completed his glider pilots' licence training. Four years later, he earned his private pilots' licence. He is currently a Glider Instructor Standards Pilot.

Three years ago, Lynch was appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Aides-de-Camp are selected from the Regular Forces, Reservists and the RCMP. In this honorary, volunteer position, Lynch acts as a liaison between local organizations and the Lieutenant Governor's office and assists the Lieutenant Governor when he is in the Grande Prairie area. While Lynch has had the opportunity to accompany His Honour to several events in the region, one of the most memorable was the GPRC Fairview Campus' 60th Anniversary celebration, held in 2011. As a GPRC alumnus and former GPRC Alumni board member, he says this

event held special meaning for him.

Today, Lynch works at Weyerhaeuser as an analyst and Data Centre Manager. He has three children with his wife Mary-Ann, who is a former GPRC music student and current adult voice instructor in the Conservatory. This spring he was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and in 2005 received the Alberta Centennial Medal, recognizing his extensive contributions to the community, particularly his work with young people. He is a powerful role model, with a sincere commitment to young people and to helping them recognize their individual talents and skills.

“I want to do what I can to provide young people with opportunities as they grow up,” he says. “It's important, I believe, to give each of them the very best chance for success.”

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– Rick Adair: continued from page 6

condition and that they were culturally sensitive. Two months later, and after a few challenges during shipping, the books were successfully distributed among 60 schools.

Energized by the tremendous response, and armed with a better understanding of how to run such a project, the Adairs set about gathering books for a second literacy project. Books, mostly readers and encyclopedias, were gathered and sent to an English-speaking region in Cameroon. Their contact, a nun who taught in the region, was eager to make arrangements for the books. This time they would box the books and mail about 1000 at a time. This method of transport proved to be cost-effective and very manageable; books could be sent as they were gathered.

Book drives were held, and parents and students in Grande Prairie schools were invited to clean out their closets and shelves and donate books they were no longer reading. Again, people responded in droves and again, the project was generously funded. Overall, 11,000 books were sorted and sent to Cameroon, where they were distributed to 10 schools without libraries. The nuns had not only arranged to have shelves built to store the books, but they developed a system of lending the books not only to students, but to people throughout the communities.

“It cost about fifty cents per book to mail the books – that’s mere pennies each time the book is read,” says Rick.

Today Rick and Joanne live west of Grande Prairie, where they have established a hobby farm raising bison on land farmed by Rick’s parents years ago. In 2011, Rick retired from his role

as Chief Fire Prevention Officer, after a long career with the fire department. He returned to work with the City for two years as construction manager for the new Westgate Fire Hall. Joanne continues to promote literacy at a local level, and is currently Literacy Intervention Lead, a special project coordinating literacy intervention programs in the Catholic School District. Throughout her 32-year career, she says literacy has always been a primary focus and “close to her heart” in her various roles as an educator.

“We know the role of literacy is key to raising populations out of poverty,” says Adair. “We also understand that the needs in the world are so great that it can feel overwhelming – it can be difficult to know how to help.

“For Joanne and me, the most important step was to make a decision to just do something.”



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