

SUMMER  
2006



# Wisdom

Grande Prairie Regional College Magazine

## THIS ISSUE

Piano Dedication

Get Ready Beijing;  
Gina Schmidt

Community is  
for Everyone





# A trusted name with a new face

A proud partner in our community



Our Grande Prairie store now has one of the largest selections of merchandise in Western Canada.

Visit us soon for all you need in:

- automotives
- gardening
- sports
- home decor
- kitchenware
- tools



11311-99 Street  
Grande Prairie  
Ph 780.539.9292  
Toll Free 1.888.440.8473

Open 7 days a week  
Monday - Saturday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Sunday & Holidays 9:00 am - 6:00 pm



# Inside

**THIS ISSUE**

**3** In Our Wisdom  
**Life as Hockey**  
– Jean Nordin



**4** Sense of Community  
**Donor News  
and Events**



**Piano Dedication**

**8** In Conversation  
**Thank You  
Beaverlodge,  
Get Ready Beijing**



Team Canada Volleyball  
Gina Schmidt  
– Lynne Ness

**12** Sharing Knowledge  
**Community is for  
Everyone**  
– Terrah Lindsay



**18** Alumni Profiles  
**Kim and Marianne Hartman**  
– Lynne Dulaney-MacNichol



**Kevin Birn**  
– Wanda Vivequin

**20** **Achievements**

**22** **Alumni Mailbag**



*Beloved GPRC mathematics instructor Jean Nordin was honoured twice this year: in May the GPRC Students' Association presented Ms. Nordin with the Award for Excellence in Teaching. In June, she was invited to be Convocation Speaker. The following comments have been excerpted from her Convocation address.*

Every year, I look forward to Convocation – the day our students achieve this part of their dreams. Some of the obstacles students have to overcome to get to this point are amazing, and along the way students have touched us and changed our lives as well. Each graduate has left a lasting impression on GPRC in some way or another.

Students are Number One for me. They are my #1 reason for doing what I do. In my math class – yes, math, the subject that most people love to hate – I do not only teach math. I also encourage my students to believe in themselves, to persevere, and to celebrate their individuality.

*– continued on page 7*



Wisdom is published three times annually as a service to the many constituents of Grande Prairie Regional College, by the Department of Community Relations.

Executive Director  
Editor-In-Chief  
Contributors

John Travis  
Lynne Ness  
Jean Nordin, Terrah Lindsay, Lynne Ness,  
Susan Thompson, Wanda Vivequin (courtesy  
of University of Alberta Business Alumni  
magazine), Lynne Dulaney-MacNichol  
(courtesy of University of Calgary OnCampus)  
Trina Irons, Irons Design  
Rob Ganzeveld, FX Photographic  
Robin Watson  
Susan Thompson

Design and layout  
Photography

Printing  
Wisdom invites your advertising, letters, and comments on this publication. Please direct your correspondence to Wisdom Magazine, Department of Community Relations Grande Prairie Regional College 10726 - 106 Avenue, Grande Prairie AB T8V 4C4

Editorial content 780-539-2951  
Advertising 780-539-2719  
Fax 780-539-2731  
Email wisdom@gprc.ab.ca

Postage for the Wisdom magazine is paid under a Canada Post

Corporation Canadian Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40048553  
Return undeliverable mail to:  
Wisdom Magazine  
Department of Community Relations  
Grande Prairie Regional College  
10726 - 106 Avenue  
Grande Prairie, AB  
T8V 4C4

# Piano Unveiling

## Young Chang Intermediate Concert Grand

*"A gift in Memory of Muriel L. Collins from Clement Ernest 2005"*



The Clem & Muriel Collins Legacy has provided a new piano for the stage of the Douglas J. Cardinal Performing Arts Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College. The gift was formally presented at the President's Awards Reception at GPRC in April, and celebrated with an inaugural piano concert by Montano Cabezas.

This gift is among the many contributions Clem Collins and the late Muriel Collins have made to Grande Prairie Regional College. Muriel Collins served as Chair of the College Board of Governors and as Chair of the 25th Anniversary Celebrations. Clem Collins has served as Chair of the Grande Prairie Regional College Foundation and was also involved in the Friends of the Grande Prairie

Regional College that hosted speakers who provided thought-provoking commentaries to our community. Clem and Muriel Collins were the first ever recipients of the Board of Governors Award of Distinction in 2004.

The late Muriel Collins was a strong advocate of this theatre being an integral part of the college; she fought fiercely to ensure that the theatre was constructed. Throughout the history of the theatre, Clem and Muriel attended and sponsored numerous fine arts events hosted in the concert hall. Muriel Collins was also known for her love of the piano. This Young Chang Intermediate Concert Grand has been presented in memory of Muriel L. Collins.



Volunteer Award winners  
Linda and Rhonda Side



Distinguished Alumni Award winner  
Koralee Samaroden (above) and  
Robert J. Maclean (right)



Board of Governors Award of  
Distinction Award winner  
Lyle Carlstrom





## MONTANO CABEZAS

Pianist Montano Cabezas was invited to perform the inaugural concert to dedicate the new piano which now graces the Douglas J. Cardinal Performing Arts Centre. The program he chose to perform was Sonata no.3 in b minor, op.58 (1844) - Frederic Chopin (1810-1849). The spectacular performance was acknowledged with a standing ovation by the guests in attendance at the President's Awards Reception.

Mr. Cabezas was born in Grande Prairie and studied with Carmen Bartel and Carmen Gorgichuk at the GPRC Music Conservatory. At the age of fifteen he moved to Edmonton to train at Alberta College's International Music Academy. Mr. Cabezas was awarded a Bachelor of Music with

Distinction from the University of Alberta in June 2005. He is currently a scholarship student at L'Université de Montréal where he is pursuing a Master's degree under renowned pedagogue Marc Durand. To further understand movement and corporal functioning related to music making, Mr. Cabezas is concurrently enrolled at Montreal's Centre de Formation where he is training to become a teacher of the Alexander Technique. Mr. Cabezas' concerts at the Festival on the St. Lawrence have been broadcast on CBC Radio. He is the recipient of prizes from the Ernesto Lejano and Clifford E. Lee Foundations, and was recently awarded the John Newman Memorial Scholarship for Contemporary Music.



# Thank You Sponsors, Golfers and Volunteers

*Well over \$45,000 raised  
for scholarships and  
bursaries at GPRC.*



First Place Team:  
Tom Clark  
Murray Driver  
Glenda Guy  
Lorraine Elhert



### Title Sponsor Canadian Tire

Royal LePage-The Realty Group  
Tolko Industries Ltd.  
Visa Rentals & Leasing

### Silver Sponsor Common Wealth Credit Union

**Hole Sponsors**  
Ainsworth Lumber Inc.  
Alberta Blue Cross  
AON Consulting  
Aquaterra  
Bell Distribution Inc.  
Bonnert's Energy Services Trust  
County of Grande Prairie  
Fletcher Mudryk and Co.  
Focus Corporation  
GPEC Consulting  
Lee's Sheet Metal Ltd.  
Remax  
Waylan Maintenance

### Banquet Sponsor Pepsi Bottling Group

### Shirt Sponsor Sportwear Plus

**Classic Sponsors**  
Great Northern Casino/ Service  
Plus Inns & Suites  
HWD Construction Ltd.  
RBC Dominion Securities  
Risley Equipment

**Prize Sponsors**  
ACO Liquor Store  
Action Sportswear  
Big Country XX Radio  
The Brick  
City of Grande Prairie  
ECHO Audio Video Unlimited  
EnCana  
Finning Canada  
GP Carland Nissan  
GP Promotional Products  
Grande Prairie Chrysler Ltd.  
Grande Prairie Hyundai  
Lauzon Home Appliances Ltd.  
Midwest Countrywide Home  
Furnishings  
No Need to Knock  
Play Fair Athletic Supply  
Pomeroy Group  
The Powder Room  
Prairie Mall Shopping Centre  
RBC Financial Group  
Roots

**Live Auction Sponsors**  
Gateway Wine & Liquor  
Marlin Travel  
Swan-E-Set Bay  
Urban Home  
V the Vacation Store

**Silent Auction Sponsors**  
Ernie's Sports Experts  
GPRC Fitness Centre  
GP Storm  
Nevada Bob's  
Optik 1000

**Gift in Kind**  
Earl's Restaurant  
Rentco  
Rocky Mountain Chocolate  
Factory

**College Classic Organizing  
Committee:**  
Jason Lainchbury, Chair  
Suzanne Dunn  
Bobby Martens  
Doug Morris  
Mario Paré  
Ron Thompson

**Hole-In-One Sponsors**  
ATB Financial  
Ken Sargent Pontiac Buick  
GMC / Sean Sargent Toyota

**Team Prize Sponsors**  
97.7 Sun FM Radio  
Curry's Jewelers  
Daler Pressure Systems  
Fountain Tire



Grande Prairie Regional College  
780-539-2905 • [www.gprc.ab.ca](http://www.gprc.ab.ca)



- continued from page 3

On Fridays, I wear one of my collection of hockey jerseys. The students wonder which one I will wear next. They always know it's Friday when they see me in my jersey. I like to think that a class is a bit like hockey! I'm the coach - teaching, encouraging and supporting my students to be the best they can be, to prepare a good defense and offense, and to have a few different plays ready for those times they are caught off guard. I encourage my "team" to keep to the timelines we must follow and to watch for offsides - and to avoid penalties by meeting deadlines.

So, where does the student fit in all this? Any guesses? The goalie! The goalie is the most important player on the ice! Even Gretzky could not win without a goalie! The puck or "buck" stops with each student.

GPRC has celebrated 40 years of grads...maybe 40 is a lucky number. This time next year will be 40 years since my Toronto Maple Leafs have won the Stanley Cup. Just maybe.....

Best wishes to all GPRC graduates. Congratulations on a game well played!!

- Jean Nordin



Low Gross:  
Ian Perry



Low Net Men's:  
Murray Driver

Low Net Women's:  
Wendy Tindall



# 40th Anniversary Edition

November 2006

Our next edition of Wisdom magazine will share some of the stories of the past four decades - and provide our readers with portraits of some of the students, faculty and staff who have been important to the growth and development of GPRC in its first 40 years.

If you would like to contribute your thoughts, photographs, or memories to this edition, please send us your submission before October 15, 2006.

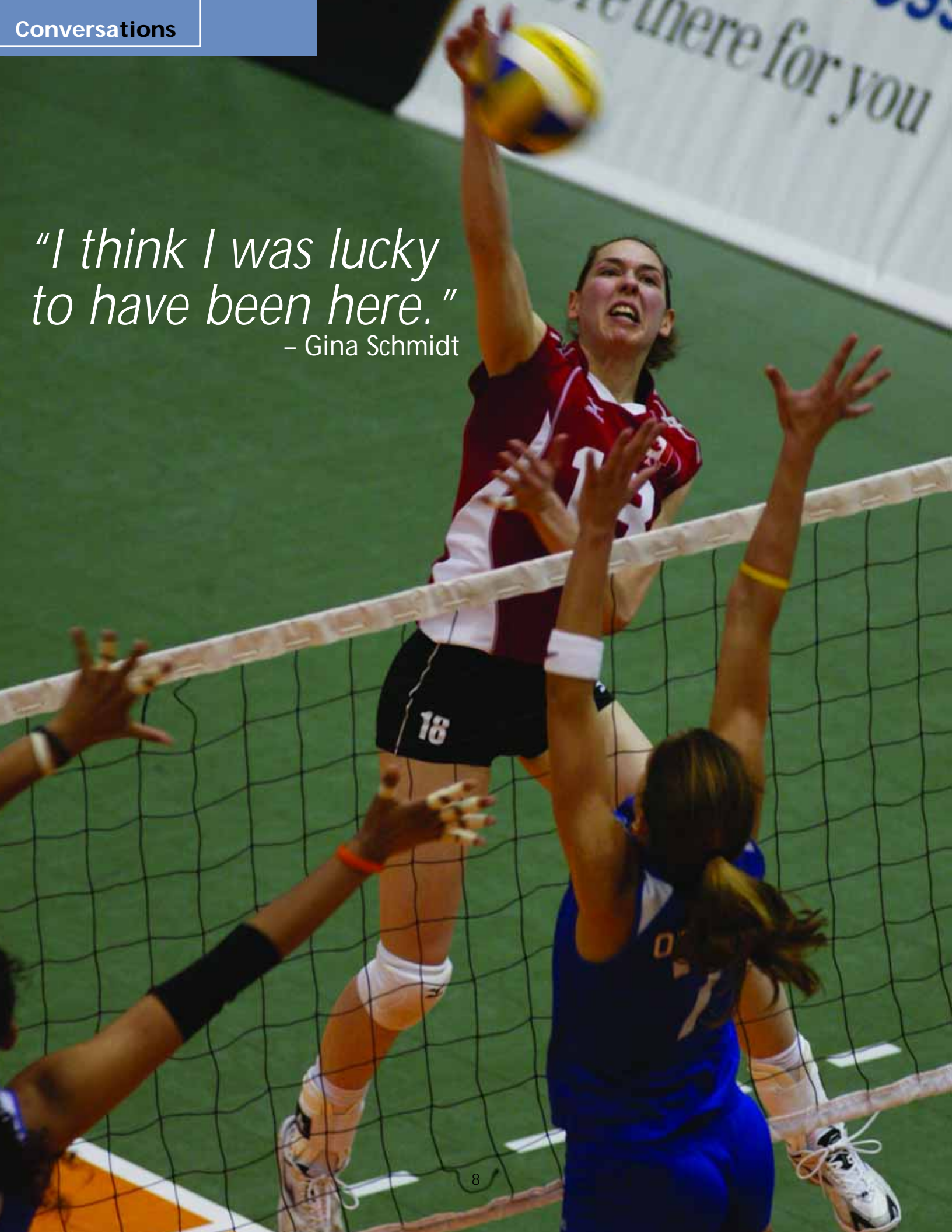
We look forward to hearing from you!

Grande Prairie Regional College - 40 years and growing!



*"I think I was lucky  
to have been here."*

– Gina Schmidt





# Thank You Beaverlodge, Get Ready **Beijing**

## Team Canada Volleyball Gina Schmidt

**W**hen elite athletes are on vacation, they don't simply drop into the lawn chair with a cool drink and some light reading. Volleyball Canada veteran Gina Schmidt was home in Beaverlodge for a few days, and was still flushed from her daily workout at the GPRC gym when she granted the Wisdom interview.

"Our strength coach said to stay active, but not to do anything tough. I chose to do a bit of cardio and some light weights, beginning with a 10 minute warmup, working 30 - 40 minutes with the weights, then finishing with 20 minutes of cardio."

Gina's vacation break at home came immediately following a successful game against Venezuela for 7th place at the Pan American Cup event in Puerto Rico in early July, so perhaps it is not too surprising that her fitness regime is the core of any day, whether vacation or not. Gina Schmidt and her team-mates are hoping to move Team Canada up ten notches in world standing by the

time they compete in the qualifying events prior to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

One would think that international competition at that level would be pretty heady stuff for a young woman whose athletic nurture was Beaverlodge High School and the GPRC Wolves Club Volleyball program. In fact, the Peace region is well respected for its development of elite athletes in several sports, and renowned as a "hotbed" for volleyball development.

But there must be something extra special in the water at Beaverlodge, a town of just over 2,000, which is currently proud to be home of World Junior Curling Champ Geoff Walker, and which has also had an international impact on women's volleyball. "People would say 'Beaverlodge High School?' and no one would take us seriously. But we had four Canada Games team athletes on our high school squad! That is incredible for a small town. We won a high school tourney in San Diego - our team from

Beaverlodge!"

There are numerous theories about what it takes to develop an elite athlete, and many studies and discussions among sports academics and officials around the issue of rural versus urban advantage. An accepted definition of an elite athlete is "one who competes in national sports events while still in high school or junior high." According to athletic researcher Dr. Basil Kavanagh, Memorial University, "Where a person lives, how many sports they participate in, the number of sports which provide training, and the number of competitions they take part in each year all determine whether an athlete becomes elite. The biggest single variable deciding if an athlete achieves elite status is whether they get access to elite coaching and facilities; their place of residence comes second."

"I was lucky because our little high school happened to have a great volleyball coach, Erin Martin," says Gina. "I was lucky I was from this area because of the Wolves Club







program at the College. We won provincials at all levels every year for the five years I was in the program - Bantam, Midget, Juve." She was also fortunate to have a family which was active in sports: her mother is a teacher and has coached several sports at the youth level, a brother is a professional hockey player, and Gina herself was encouraged to "play every sport imaginable" when she was growing up.

Gina was the only player from her club team who did not go on to play for GPRC once she graduated from high school. When it came time for that decision, she had been scouted by several US colleges offering full scholarships, and chose Oregon State University. "At different tournaments, such as Club nationals, coaches were there recruiting young players. After a few tournaments I got letters from California schools, Oregon, Colorado. I went on a few visits, and I liked Oregon so I chose there. It was a tough decision whether to go to the US or stay in Canada, but I wanted to do something different."

At the same time, she was eyeing Team Canada as a long-term goal. In 1998 the junior national program was re-established after a lapse of some 20 years. "I went to the National tryouts, and made that team. And then Coach Doug Reimer

(now UBC) had asked me to come to senior tryouts - not because he thought I'd make it onto any team, but just to get the experience of tryouts at that level. So when I was 18, I went to senior tryouts and just saw all these people who had played in the Olympics - and every year after that I would go to the tryouts. While I was at Oregon I didn't have the chance to be on the team because of the season, but I kept going to tryouts just to show my face and to show that I was interested. When I finished my degree, I went to tryouts and then I was available and made the team."

There are numerous "ifs" still between Gina Schmidt and the 2008 Olympic Games, and Team Canada must be among the top twelve in the world in order to play at the Olympics. But there is nothing "iffy" about her commitment to volleyball and the Olympic goal. She has been an elite athlete since junior high, and has competed in over seventy international competitions. In the four years she has held a spot on the national team (May to August) she has also played pro volleyball in Europe (September to April.) This year, Gina has made the decision to play just for Team Canada, and give up the professional volleyball in Europe in the winter, since that season overlaps with Team Canada training.

"I play a team sport, and there is no way to the Olympics without being a full-time part of Team Canada. I decided that being with the team full-time now in preparation for 2008 Olympics is the opportunity I want to pursue. I enjoy doing it so much it is kind of an easy decision to make. How many chances do you get to play for Team Canada - easy choice."

Getting to the Olympics is a gradual thing - not only as a team, but for Gina as an individual. "As you get higher in the volleyball world, you see more opportunities open to you. A friend of mine recently asked me about

that - 'did you always dream of making the Olympics' - and the truth is, I just played sports. If I had started hockey earlier, I may have continued in that. It wasn't that volleyball was always a special passion - it was the sport that I started early, and that I was good at, so I just kept going. And as I went on I'd set goals - for example getting accepted to the National Team. But it isn't as if when I was young I had this dream." Now, however, that goal is becoming more and more definite.

"This is my fourth year on the national team, and we average three tournaments a summer plus exhibition games. I know that even making it to the Olympics will be a big challenge for us. Team Canada is now ranked 22nd in the world, so there is work to be done in the next few years. Right now we are one major player short of being able to beat the team that knocked us out at World Championships - we have about a year and a half to move up from 22nd to among the top twelve. It won't be easy, but I think it is doable."

For past few years Gina has played summers with Team Canada (May-August) and then several of the players go to Europe for the pro season. This year Team Canada plans to play from May-December, so players have made that commitment, giving up pro-volleyball and setting their sights on the Olympic games





The team has been traveling from its training base in Winnipeg; to Toronto in May for a match against Poland; then back to Winnipeg to play a club team from Japan. The Pan American Cup in Puerto Rico was the first real tournament of the season, and the team was there for a total of 12 days. August brings a trip to Russia, and in November the team will be in Japan for a tour. Being comfortable with travel was another early advantage of being a young athlete in Beaverlodge, Alberta.

"We traveled back and forth to Grande Prairie twice each week for Club

Volleyball practices, and on weekends we always had to travel to tournaments," Gina explains. "Even that was good because it prepared me early, and has made it easier for me to seize opportunities such as the volleyball scholarship to university in Oregon, international travel with Team Canada and the past few years of pro volleyball seasons in Europe."

Gina has played pro volleyball in Europe for four years - not for the money but for quality of life. "I could be in Europe - earning enough to live on doing what I love, and with plenty of spare time."

Only a few months ago Gina was living as a pro volleyball player in France. She says the lifestyle all depends on where you are playing. "A friend of mine was making a significant amount of money playing in Turkey - she called it volleyball jail. They'd get up, drive to the gym, train three hours, they'd have to stay at the gym for lunch, sleep at the gym, then have a second practice, and come home at the end of the day, (6:00 pm). On my team in France, I might just have a practice from 8 - 10 at night and the day was mine except for three sessions of

- continued on page 17



Gina Schmidt

### Game days follow a common routine

"We do the same thing every day before we play. For a 2:00 pm game we get up around 6:45 - 7:00, have a quick snack and head to the gym. We practice from 8:00 - 9:30 - just light practice, serve-serve, maybe attacking for whoever wanted it, repetitions. Then we would come back and have our pre-game meal - a big hearty meal followed by an opportunity to go back to our rooms and do whatever we like - I might take a nap. We get ready for the game, get to the gym maybe 12:30, start our warm-up at 1:15, play at 2:00 and have the rest of the day off."

- Oregon State - Outside Power Hitter
- Team Canada 2003 and 2004 - Setter
- Team Canada 2005 - Outside Hitter
- Grenoble, 2005/2006 - Outside Hitter and replacement Setter
- Team Canada 2006 - Outside Hitter

instead. "The core of our team will be together for most of the year, which will make us that much stronger."

Building a strong team is the work of the coach, and most players have experienced a range of training styles over the years. "We are kind of at the whim of whoever the strength coach is," Gina says. "My university squad had the same strength coach as the football team. We did the wide receiver workout - we had to jump, and we had to explode. We got to be quite big, and joked that we looked like football players. I stopped fitting into my jeans during the season because our legs got so huge doing all those heavy squats and heavy bench press!"

Training workouts assigned for Team Canada right now might be only 40 to 45 minutes, but in intervals. "Maybe chin-ups alternating with pushups, then moving on to an exercise bike for cardio - sort of a circuit. Sometimes it is just weights, like Olympic lifting, power lifting, or squats - different kinds of workouts." Workouts, practise sessions, game days and competition tours are the focus for Gina and her teammates in the coming 16 months.





# Community Is

*"In our experience, people with labels want ordinary lives in the community. They want the same day-to-day things we all do: love, family, a job, a home, friends, money, control, fun, a belief in something and someone, a chance to contribute and ordinary experiences. Some people may need a little more support than usual to achieve these goals."*

– Jeffrey Strully and Laura Broderick,  
in an article for Inclusion Network

Jeffrey Strully is a noted expert, writer and speaker on issues of community inclusion, whose wisdom has enriched the community rehabilitation professionals of the Peace Region in print and in person. In March of this year, the annual Community Rehabilitation conference featured Jeffrey Strully during two days of professional development held at Grande Prairie Regional College.

A conference like this, a speaker like Strully, is one of the few moments in the year that draw attention to the profession of Community Rehabilitation, the people who have been drawn to it, and the people whose lives are affected - those with disabilities, and their families and greater community. Community Rehabilitation as a profession is most often practiced person-to-

person, as unobtrusively (and invisibly) as possible.

Getting together to discuss issues of inclusion is almost like dropping a pebble in a pond: it is important to me as an instructor to have continued learning and opportunities for new knowledge; it is important in our department, because it increases the sensitivity of our students, who will soon be among the caregivers in the community. Most of all, this moment of awareness, of learning, of understanding, will have an impact on the person in the community who will ultimately receive the support. The ripple effect of getting together, of learning together, continues to spread the impact of what we learn.

When Jeffrey Strully led our conference this year, he was reaffirming and reinforcing the con-

cept which is at the core of Community Rehabilitation: inclusion.

In terms of an ideal world, what is ideal for everybody varies. I have learned that what I think is right is not necessarily right for an individual and his or her family. For some families, a segregated school provides the best support for their child. - I used to have strong beliefs about doing things this way or that way . . . but after years in this program I realize more and more that each person, each family has different needs.

The ideal of inclusion means that individuals with disabilities are included in their communities, that they have access to the same opportunities and services as other people. This includes housing, education, employment and recreation. Inclusion recognizes that in



# For Everyone



order to participate or to be included it may be necessary to provide people with supports.

The students in our department were all in attendance, and in their comments afterward were unified in their new enthusiasm for the concepts of inclusion which this conference helped to bring into focus for them. We teach a course called Values and Issues, which is about individuals being in a community, being valued. The students were thrilled by Jeff Strully's message, by the fact that it reinforced what we teach in Values and Issues in a way that students found compelling - and they came away very keen to apply that message.

As an instructor I sometimes wonder, am I doing any good? Am I really making a difference? Are the things I am teaching actually going to get relayed through this

student into the community? And then we participate with our community in a conference such as this and I am once again aware of how much we have accomplished together for the people among us who live with disabilities.

The other side of that is that there are sometimes students who are really keen to make a big difference, to have a huge impact - and it is important to remind them that they can be making a big difference in someone's life without being able to see a big difference in that person's abilities.

It is a huge commitment and a community-wide effort to bring a high level speaker such as Jeffrey Strully here, but participants of each annual conference carry the information and support network with them back into their respective circles of influence, and sud-

denly the impact is also huge and community-wide.

*"The role of leadership in human service and education is to stand with people during their journey. It is our role to assist and support people as they define what they want in life. It is our role to be human, to be real and to listen, especially to people who don't talk with words. We must get to know people, to stand in their shoes, to be honest and loyal. Leaders must be truthful; see capacity, strength and talent in everyone. They must constantly look for another way of doing something when the answer isn't simple. Leadership is learning to be a midwife." Strully/Broderick*

**- Terrah Lindsay**





G P R C P R E S I D E N T ' S B A L L

Saturday, September 30, 2006  
Bowes Family Crystal Gardens

Champagne Reception 6:00 pm  
Dinner at 7:00 pm  
Dancing to The Retrofitz

*ruby anniversary*  
1966-2006



Proud to Support Our  
*Bright Stars of the  
 Future*

- Scholarships*
- Student Loans*
- No Fee Youth & Scholar Accounts*
- Internet and Telephone Banking*
- Student Credit Cards*



**Downtown Branch**  
 9930 99 Ave.  
 (780) 831-CWCU (2928)



**Patterson Village Branch**  
 (With Drive-Thru ATM) #18, 9701 84 Ave.  
 (780) 402-CWCU (2928)

Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association

**Service  
 Superstar**

**Have you met a  
 Service Superstar  
 today?  
 We want to  
 know about it!**

**Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association Presents  
 the Service Superstar Awards Program**

The Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association Service Superstar program is a customer service recognition program, honoring customer service excellence employees in the tourism, hospitality, retail and Nominees will be individuals who consistently distinguish themselves and offer exceptional customer service industries in the Grande Prairie Region. A weekly winner will be chosen, awarded and given media recognition. Nominees will be honored at a gala ceremony each year with the top three finalists in each category receiving special recognition.

The program will also incorporate an educational component. Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association would arrange to give short informative training sessions for staff. Many of these employees are the first point of contact for tourists and subsequently have a huge impact on visitors. First impressions are very important, and with the right training we can ensure that our Region conveys a positive image!

If you would like to be a participating sponsor or if you would like to recognize someone as a superstar send in your nomination using the online form at [www.northernvisitor.com](http://www.northernvisitor.com) or drop your entry in a ballot box at participating businesses.

Please contact Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association for more information at 780-539-7688.

**Be a star maker today!**



**BIG Reward**

You've worked hard for your education. So if you're a recent or soon-to-be college or university graduate....the Big GM Dealer has your reward for all that hard work!



Ask us how you can get  
**\$1000**  
 to spend on a new vehicle

*Only at the Big GM Dealer*

**KEN SARGENT**  
 Pontiac • Buick • GMC

12308 - 100 Street  
 Toll Free 1-888-532-8865  
 532-8865

email: [kensargentpontiac@gmcanada.com](mailto:kensargentpontiac@gmcanada.com)



**Grande Prairie Regional College proudly presents  
the 40th Anniversary Concert Series, beginning  
September 15 with I Musici of Montreal.**

This renowned Canadian chamber orchestra is known for its passionate performances of wonderfully beautiful melodies, and above all, the love of music.

September 15, 2006 – I Musici

January 16, 2007 – Trio Solisti with clarinetist Alan Kay

March 3, 2007 – Madrigal Singers

March 11, 2007 – Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal

April 14, 2007 – Isabel Bayrakdarian

I Musici promises you “the opportunity to savour outstanding music, chosen with care so as to convey the emotions that inspired their composers. Exceptional artists, programming that is open to the world’s cultures, astonishing sounds.”

For tickets to I Musici at the Cardinal Performing Arts Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College, call the GPLT box office at 780-538-1616.

This astounding series will continue January 16, 2007 with Trio Solisti, and clarinetist Alan Kay. This trio has thrilled audiences across North America, and has been described by the New York Times as “compelling and consistently brilliant.” Trio Solisti brings together three of the most sought-after artists of their generation: violinist Maria Bachmann, cellist Alexis Pia Gerlach, and pianist Jon Klibonoff.

On March 3, the U of A Madrigal Singers will bring the highly acclaimed concert choir of some 45 voices performing music of all periods and styles. The choir is led by Leonard Ratzlaff, now the chair of the Department of Music at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal will perform March 11, 2007. The group is internationally known for its energetic combination of ballet, jazz and modern dance. Dance enthusiasts should prepare to be amazed and thrilled with this performance!

Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, in concert April 14, 2007. Isabel Bayrakdarian has performed in virtually all the world’s major opera houses. She is admired as much for her stunning stage presence as for her uncommon musicality.

Four highly acclaimed performances, and a truly rare opportunity for audiences of western Canada: the 40th Anniversary Concert Series at Grande Prairie Regional College.

For tickets to I Musici, Trio Solisti, Madrigal Singers, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal or Isabel Bayrakdarian at the Cardinal Performing Arts Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College, call the GPLT box office at 780-538-1616 or visit our website [gprc.ab.ca](http://gprc.ab.ca).

**Trio Solisti**  
**JAN 16**

*40th Anniversary*  
**CONCERT SERIES**





- continued from page 11  
weight training each week - and we played on Saturday nights."

Gina knows she will miss things about living in Europe, but in addition to the potential for Olympic competition, she says there are benefits to be training with the best volleyball players in Canada. "Overseas there are always issues. Some members of the teams are not professionals, and maybe they don't have the same drive, the same work ethic. Both years in France I was playing with amateurs who were either in school or who had jobs, so we had to practice at night. There were three Canadians and one French player on our team this year who were pro - the rest were amateurs. They came to play volleyball after working a full day, and would have to play with the professional players who don't have to do other work besides volleyball. Training with people who have the same goals and the same mentality will be a nice change."

Volleyball is the number two participation sport in the world, second only to soccer. Team Canada women are currently ranked #22, men are #12. (Canada is ranked something like 83rd in soccer.) Even so, there is

limited public awareness of volleyball as a competitive Canadian sport. "I guess people really don't know much about Team Canada volleyball, because it is not at the forefront - we haven't made the Olympics in the past years. People know about the sports programs that are competing at that level - skiing, curling, skating, swimming, hockey - but they don't know about Canada's programs that are working their way up, like women's volleyball. Until we are among the top twelve in the world, even our own country won't know much about us.

"People hear that you are on the national team, and immediately say - oh, are you going to play in the Olympics? They don't realize that the national team has to qualify first.

"In countries where a lot of money and commitment has been put into development of a particular sport, there is often huge improvement in the national team. During my first season, we beat the Puerto Rico team five times in a row. Now they have a professional league program that helps develop their players - and this year they beat Brazil during pool play, before Brazil went on to win the tournament.

"Since the last Olympics, Canada has provided increased support to women's volleyball national team, but they will also give increased support based on results. If you're winning medals at the Olympics you're going to get more support than if you're not."

Gina Schmidt and Team Canada have their sights set on Beijing, 2008. And back in the town of Beaverlodge, Alberta, where "rural" seems to be an advantage, Gina Schmidt's parents don't dare pack up her room. After all, an elite athlete is a resident of the world.

- Lynne Ness



Doug Morris  
GPRC Alumni '80  
Wolves Wall of Fame  
Charter Member

- Investments
- Estate planning
- Employee benefits
- Life & Disability Insurance
- Critical Illness



**MORRIS FINANCIAL GROUP**

"Planning for Success"

Tel 780.532.4400  
Toll Free 1.800.645.3684  
email: mormman@telusplanet.net



At BDO, we think beyond the numbers to help you transform your business. Like you, we roll up our sleeves and get involved to make things happen. With innovative ideas and new strategies, we'll help you build your business better, faster, and smarter. Tap into the power of your potential. Choose a partner who sees things differently. [www.bdo.ca](http://www.bdo.ca)

For more information, please contact us: **780.539.7075**

**Assurance | Accounting | Taxation | Advisory Services**



**BDO Dunwoody LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
and Advisors



# Dynamic duo

*Mother and daughter earn social work degrees at the same time*



Students go to university to gain new experiences, follow their dreams, achieve their career goals

– and sometimes, to get away from their parents.

Not so for Kim Hartman. She entered the Faculty of Social Work's undergraduate program right alongside her mother, Marianne Hartman.

The mother-daughter duo received their BSW degrees together at the University of Calgary's convocation ceremony on June 9, where Kim also received one of the U of C Senate's 40th anniversary awards.

The Hartmans' road to convocation was a winding one.

After working in home care for many years as a licensed practical nurse, Marianne felt the need to make some life-altering decisions after recovering from breast cancer in 1999. Her only child, Kim,

was in her first year of physical education at Grande Prairie Regional College.

With her husband, Andy Fritsma, "extremely supportive" of his wife and stepdaughter's plans to change career paths, both Hartmans applied and were accepted into the BSW program at the Faculty of Social Work.

Kim, now 25, began her BSW studies at the U of C campus in September 2003, while Marianne, now 52, entered the faculty's Access program at the Grande Prairie site in January 2004. Both are enthusiastic about their respective student experiences.

"Being able to share what we were learning in the BSW program was wonderful," says Marianne. "We found a definite difference between Kim's more urban take on social work versus my more rural take, though – and we had a little bit of competition for marks!"

Both active in student governance, the Hartmans each received a student leadership award from the faculty – Marianne in 2005, Kim in

2006 – for their "significant enhancement of the educational experience" of their fellow students.

What's next for this dynamic duo? Marianne plans to continue working as a medical social worker with a long-term care focus at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Grande Prairie. "I'm heading to Guadalajara, Mexico for six months to volunteer in a local orphanage," says Kim, who then plans to return to Calgary and work in a hospital like her mom.

Any plans for graduate school? The two, still clad in their undergraduate convocation robes and mortar board caps, look at one another and laugh. "Don't tell my husband but... maybe!" says Marianne. "It's never too late to make changes in your life. Never say 'never' to opportunities."

*- Lynne Dulaney-MacNicol*

*Reprinted with permission from OnCampus, University of Calgary, Volume 3 Nov. 26, June 30 2006*



## Pizza is just the beginning!

Pizza • Pasta • Salads • Ribs • Sandwiches

- Licensed
- Dine In
- Take Out
- Delivery

Open  
late night  
7 days  
a week

12113-100th St • Grande Prairie

# 532-0310



Surf our menu @ [bostonpizza.com](http://bostonpizza.com)

© Boston Pizza Royalties Limited Partnership © Boston Pizza International Inc. 2003

# Kevin Birn

## Ambitious, Inquisitive, and Restless

*Alumnus Kevin Birn began his degree studies at GPRC, and was President of the GPRC Student's Association in 1997-1998.*

REMEMBER THE DAYS when real estate agents, armed with a bursting briefcase full of files, would drag their clients all over the city to ten different houses in one afternoon in a desperate attempt to find the ultimate dream home?

Clients would have to remember to wear slip-on shoes because of the countless times they would end up walking in their socks around yet another house, peering into cupboards, inspecting en-suites, and trying to predict the sun's progress throughout the day. Those times have changed and, with the Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver property markets on fire, the business of real estate is all about being alert, up to date, and staying on top of what is 'out there.'

Enter Kevin Birn, '01 BCom, and the team at RealPageMaker, a bunch of mainly University of Alberta graduates, who have come up with a fancy online software solution that keeps real estate agents and their clients right up to date.

Birn is a director of the company and in charge of business operations. Not bad for a young man who knew nothing about real estate before taking up a position as Marketing Manager in 2003. Born and raised in the same house, Birn's experience of real estate before taking up the job was restricted to occasionally glancing at the homes for sale in the



Edmonton Journal or wandering past a bus bench advertising a local sales guru.

"When I started with RealPageMaker, it was everything I had told myself I did not want to do – sales and cold calling – but the company's primary shareholder sold me on the idea," says Birn. "I knew zilch about real estate," he adds.

The company had, in fact, been started by two U of A engineering graduates who developed a program that allows real estate agents to provide an absolutely up-to-the-minute, customized listing service via their Website.

Utilizing the Internet, RealPageMaker delivers detailed real time buying and selling information from agents to their clients. RealPageMaker software is tailored to company specifications with special portals offered to clients seeking more sophisticated real estate tools.

With the Web now fully woven into most peoples' lives, it seems incredible that no one had developed such a program before, yet Birn says there was definitely a gap in the market. He says surveys have shown 84 percent of home buyers now use the Web to look

for real estate, which is a number he feels is far too conservative. Their business has gone from strength to strength with well over 1100 realtors in western Canada using RealPageMaker products. Western Canada is just the beginning: expansion plans to head into eastern Canada are on the table. Dovetailing onto RealPageMaker has been the creation of another company called NetAgent, which trains real estate agents in the skills of using the Internet to further business.

Birn describes himself as ambitious, inquisitive, and restless and these three things manifest themselves in a number of different ways in his life. A self-taught painter, Birn has created some stunning pieces that range from Mondrian-inspired linear paintings to pastels and realistic bold acrylics.

"Some of them are very whimsical and others are a chance to let off some steam," says Birn.

On top of all his work, Birn has also been working on his Masters in Economics. "I am very impatient and I always felt like I was not smart enough and needed to know more," says Birn. His thesis topic is: A market survey of the influences on pricing behaviour and an analysis of the impact of pricing behavior on competition. Juggling all these aspects of his life suits the energetic Birn. With the real estate market showing no signs of slowing down, Birn restless spirit is sure to remain challenged for years to come.

*- Wanda Vivequin*

Reprinted with permission from OnCampus, University of Calgary, Volume 3 Nov. 26, June 30 2006





(l-r) Weixing Tan, Chris Balaski, Cornelia Thomi, Leanna Penner, Joel Lajoie, Adrian Mielczrek, Charles Backman

The final graduates of the former Bachelor of Applied Forest Resource Management program at GPRC received their credentials at Convocation 2006. Graduates of this applied degree are highly valued employees of forestry industries throughout Canada, and throughout their careers will continue as a testament to the outstanding quality of the program design and instruction.

Through a collaboration with University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) students may now complete the first two years of the Bachelor of Natural Resource Management at GPRC, and transfer to UNBC for completion of either the Forestry or Wildlife and Fisheries specializations.

## AWARDS

Two GPRC students were recipients of the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award in 2006. The Métis Nation of Alberta offers awards in eight categories, with a total of 16 recipients throughout the province. Kenny Algona, Bachelor of Education student, was selected for the Culture and Heritage award, for his work toward preserving and promoting his Inuit culture and heritage. Bridgette Loonskin, student of Business Administration, received the Personal Achievement award, for overcoming challenges to achieve personal goals and self-betterment.

GPRC Psychology Instructor Cheryl Bereziuk has been honoured with the University Certificate in Counselling Women award from Athabasca University, and is recognized in the Honours List for Academic Achievement at Athabasca University.

Architect Douglas J. Cardinal, who designed the original GPRC building, recently traveled to Sophia Bulgaria for the 11th World Triennial of Architecture - Interarch 2006, hosted by the International Association of Architecture (IAA). He received the designation of IAA Professor of Contemporary Architecture and was awarded the rare title of IAA Academician as well.

The Corporate Edge Wellness Services (a program of the GPRC Be Fit For Life Centre) received a Premier's Awards for Healthy Workplaces for its work with the MD of Greenview. The Premier's Award acknowledges 12 Alberta employers who have helped get employees on the road to better health by making physical activity and healthy eating a part of the workday.

The Students' Association at GPRC has presented Ms. Jean Nordin with the Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2006. Jean Nordin has been teaching in Academic Upgrading throughout her 27-year career at GPRC. At present, she is also Chair of the department. The award annually recognizes an instructor based on nominations from students.

Dr. Jaroslav (Jerry) Petryshyn was selected for the Distinguished Employee Award 2006, based upon nomination by his peers and a rigorous selection process. The award was presented at the annual GPRC Employee Recognition ceremony in May.

The Jim MacIntyre CA Memorial Scholarship in Accounting has been awarded to Sarah Lawrence in recognition of superior academic achievement. Ms. Lawrence is entering her second year



© Registered trademark of Royal Bank of Canada.™ Trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.

## ~ Carry your dreams with you ~

Dreams and farming go hand in hand. And to help make your dreams a reality, you need a bank that understands agriculture. Our Farm Finance Professionals provide financial services, investment products and expert advice to more farmers and more farm families than any other bank in Canada. Whatever your dreams are, wherever you're going, we'll help you get there. Please drop in and see us at your local RBC Royal Bank branch or call us at 1-800 ROYAL® 7-0 (1-800-769-2570).

RBC Royal Bank  
9815 98 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 2E4  
Tel: (780) 538-6500 Fax: (780) 538-6568  
[www.rbcroyalbank.com/agriculture](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/agriculture)



of Business Administration at Grande Prairie Regional College. The scholarship is awarded to a current or former resident of the Peace River area currently registered in a recognized university program.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mr. Carl Edozien was elected President of the GPRC Students' Association, becoming the first international student to ever hold that position at the College.

Dr. Rick Erlendson became Chair of the Association of Alberta Deans of Business Schools in March 2006.

Ms. Jane Friesen was appointed Dean of the GPRC Division of Health and Wellness in June. She is responsible for the academic departments of Human Services, Nursing, and Physical Education, Athletics and Kinesiology.

Mr. Jim Smith, P. Eng., Chair of the GPRC Alumni/Foundation Board of Directors has been appointed as a Councillor of APEGGA (Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.)

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Charley Thomas Rink won the World Junior Curling Championships in March. Two of his rink members are GPRC stu-

dents and GPRC Wolves Curlers - Geoff Walker and Kyle Reynolds. Kyle is also a member of the Wolves Cross Country Running Team and Geoff is a member of the Wolves Badminton Program. This is the second team that has won the World Juniors and had players from our College. Heather Nedohin (Godberson) won the Women's in the mid 90's. Heather is a member of the Wolves Wall of Fame.

#### EXHIBITIONS

GPRC Fine Arts instructor Edward Bader, presented an exhibition of his digital images entitled *The Happy Wanderer: An Artist's Journey at the Banff Centre*. Some of his work may be viewed online at <http://artists.banff.org/bader> and at [www.saskatoonmountain.com](http://www.saskatoonmountain.com) <<http://www.saskatoonmountain.com>>

A solo exhibition of the art of Tina Martel, *Personal Geographics* was presented in The Mezzanine Gallery, The University of Calgary in February 2006.

#### PUBLISHED WORKS

Dr. Weixing Tan published an article in the February 2006 edition of the *Edge Forestry* magazine. The article discussed sapling growth research conducted by Dr. Tan on behalf of GPRC, in cooperation with Manning Diversified Forest Products and PHT Beaverlodge Nursery.

than a straight narrative, each writer was assigned a particular pivotal year in the Province's history from which a portrait could be woven. He describes the two-volume set as "an engaging, lively account which is academically sound, but which will also capture the interest of the general public."

Work on the project began in the early 1990s with an initial grant from the Centennial Legacies program. "We narrowed down a huge list of potential contributors in the selection of people who would write particular segments of Alberta's history," Petryshyn says. Among the contributors is Dr. Duff Crerar, instructor of history at GPRC and author of the book *Padres in No Man's Land*.

One aspect of this project which particularly pleases Petryshyn is that the book has been pre-paid for presentation to all schools, public libraries, and post-secondary institutions in the province. "It is good to know that it will be available for everyone."



Rachelle Troendle, GPRC Valedictorian 2006, grew up in the Sexsmith area, and has always been an active supporter of community activities and charities. She and her husband returned to the Grande Prairie area after a few years in Edmonton, and have both been pursuing further education. "My whole family is interested in life-long education," Rachelle says. "My mother just graduated from Northern Lakes College in Slave Lake, and my sister completed her Nursing degree at GPRC just a couple of years ago. It has been pretty inspiring for me to have everyone else in my family so committed to education at the same time!"

In the three years that she has been a student of GPRC, Rachelle Troendle has become known as a positive role model, a willing tutor, and a caring friend. She has pursued studies in liberal arts, and has completed her diploma in Administrative Technology, maintaining a GPA of 4.0 this year. At present, Rachelle Troendle is employed at GPRC in the department of Arts and Education, and she plans to eventually complete her Bachelor of Education degree here.



**Dr. Jaroslav (Jerry) Petryshyn** has authored and contributed to a number of historical books and publications during the years he has been teaching history at Grande Prairie Regional College. As President of the 2005 Alberta History Centennial Society, he is particularly proud of the two-volume work *Alberta Formed - Alberta Transformed*, released this spring.

*Alberta Formed - Alberta Transformed* features articles by more than 30 prominent scholars, covering a period of 12,000 years. "We took a rather innovative approach to this work," says Petryshyn, who has been involved with the project since 1987. "Rather



## GPRC Alumni

### '81 Adele Lapointe-Ethier (nee Lapointe)

Bachelor of Science 1977/78, Secretarial Certificate 80-81

Adele left GPRC as a qualified secretary and over the years, she has worked for several types of businesses, from construction companies to non-profit social agencies. She is currently the Development Officer for the Town of Stony Plain. "Participating on sports teams at GPRC made the academic years go by so much more easily...there was always something to look forward to apart from homework at the end of the day." Adele was on the bowling team at GPRC in 1978/79 and on the "Cubs" volleyball team in 1980/81. "We had lots of fun...the men's and women's teams even went to California from the proceeds of a bottle drive. I still keep in touch with some of my teammates after all these decades! Volleyball is still a part of my life and I play twice a week for the fun and exercise." Adele and her husband, Noel Ethier, have two children named, Mario and Corrine.

### '81 '81 Janice Mayer (nee Barabash)

University Transfer, 76-81

Janice attended GPRC from 1976-1978 and then worked for a few years before returning in the fall of 1981. She transferred to the University of Alberta in 1982 where she completed her BEd. For the first five years of her teaching career she taught in the Grande Prairie area. "In 1988, I married my husband Dennis and shortly after that, began to move around. First stop - Vanderhoof, BC. Thankfully this was a short stop! From there we moved to Clearwater, and then finally settled in Cranbrook in 1991". Janice is employed by the Southeast Kootenay School District where she enjoys teaching junior high. She and her husband have five children and six grandchildren.

### '87 Sandra Impey (nee Abbott-Brown)

Bachelor of Science - University Transfer, 86-87

"GPRC was a great starting point for me to return to school after a 10 year absence. The small class sizes and excellent instructors allowed me to achieve the GPA necessary to gain access to Rehab Medicine Faculty at the UofA. From GPRC, I transferred to the Occupational Therapy Program and graduated in 1990." Sandra is currently working as an Occupational Therapist and is a partner at Complete Rehab & Wellness Services in Grande Prairie.

### '91 Laura Hancharuk (nee Duperron)

Bachelor of Physical Education, 89-91

Laura is married to Michael Hancharuk and they have two young children. She has been running GPRC's Be Fit For Life Centre for the past 11 years and is a part-time instructor in the Physical Education Department. "I am currently working towards a Masters Degree in Applied Sport Science and hope to teach full-time at GPRC one day!"

### '95 Kerry Funk

General Studies, 93-95

Kerry grew up in Burns Lake, BC and was recruited in Grade 11 to play basketball at GPRC. Unsure about coming to Northern Alberta to attend college at first, she soon fell in love with the College and the athletics program. "I spent two of the best years of my life at GPRC playing for the Wolves. Athletics bring many students to GPRC for memories of a lifetime. It is such an ideal opportunity for northern students and I hope that students will continue to support the athletics program as it was such a valuable learning experience for me". Kerry is now a child therapist working for the Ministry of Children and Family Development in Prince Rupert, BC.

### '96 Stephanie Kvill (nee Heyn)

Business Administration - Computer Systems Technology, 93-96

Stephanie married her husband Paul in 1998 and they have four children ranging in age from five years old to 13 months old. She is the owner of an Orange Julius franchise in Grande Prairie and currently resides in Hinton with her young family.

### '04 Ashley McDonald

Business Administration - Marketing, 02-04

Since completing her Business Administration Certificate with a specialization in Marketing, Ashley is now employed as the Promotions Director at 97.7 SUN FM.

### '04 Fay Bredeson (nee Nilsson)

Music Diploma (Acoustic), 01-04

Fay resides in Camrose, Alberta and is currently attending the Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta to complete her Bachelor of Music degree. "My favorite memory is singing in the GPRC choir - great people, great music, and all the music instructors were awesome!"

### '04 Jenn Mallay

Bachelor of Applied Forest Resource Management, 00-04

Jenn is employed as a Forest Officer with the Government of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Public Land and Forests Division. She currently resides in Hinton, AB.

### '04 Tyne Colby

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, 02-04

"I am working as a full-time Flight EMT for Advanced Paramedic Ltd. (Alberta Air Ambulance) in Peace River, AB. My favorite parts of GPRC were the SPEAK retreats to start each academic year, and how could anyone forget Beth Goldie's hugs! I drop by GPRC every so often for one of those wonderful hugs!"



Send us your news! Update your info with current career news etc., and we will include you in an upcoming edition of Wisdom magazine.

Contact us at [www.gprc.ab.ca](http://www.gprc.ab.ca)

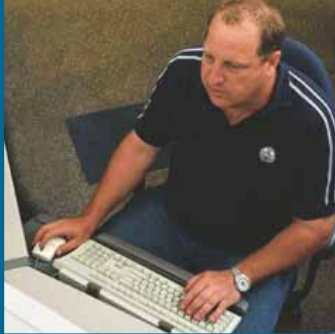
An advertisement for Butler HWD Construction Ltd. featuring a large image of a hand saw. The saw handle is on the left, and the blade extends to the right. On the blade, there is a circular emblem that says "CELEBRATING 20 YEARS". Below the saw, the text reads "Building to a Higher Standard" followed by "General • Commercial • Industrial • Renovation". In the bottom right corner, there are two logos: "We are a BUTLER Authorized Builder" and the "HWD CONSTRUCTION LTD." logo.

"Building to a Higher Standard"  
General • Commercial • Industrial • Renovation

We are a  
**BUTLER**  
Authorized Builder

**HWD**  
CONSTRUCTION LTD.

10533 - 98 Ave. • Grande Prairie, AB • 538 - 3616



# Our most valuable resource...

While EnCana is in the business of developing energy resources, we believe that the most valuable resources are the minds of the young people in our communities. We support programs that help to develop well-rounded responsible citizens.

EnCana is proud to support the Grande Prairie Regional College.

[www.encana.com](http://www.encana.com)





# 2005 *four time winner*



## Build with a Leader **Canadiana Homes**

# CANADIANA HOMES



Selected the 2002, 2003, 2004 *and* 2005 Dream Home Builder

Winner of the 2003, 2004 *and* 2005 Alberta Award of Merit in Housing

Winner of the 2002 Alberta Award of Merit Estate Category

Chosen 2001 Customer Choice Award Winner



**Call Today!**  
*Brad Jones* 831.6990



**CANADIANA HOMES LTD.**

**CUSTOM BUILDER**

*-SPEC HOMES-  
-CUSTOM HOMES-*

12615-100 St  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4H2  
780.513.2181



2002



2003



2004

Postage for the Wisdom magazine is paid under a Canada Post Corporation Canadian Publication Mail Agreement Number PM# 40048553