



ISSUE 03 JUNE 2010

Leadership Victoria

Alumni Newsletter

Creating leadership connections with Australia

AN INSIDE VIEW OF ANOTHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

By John Carlow and Catherine Goldwater

Our very own Wendy Harris (07-08 graduate) has introduced me to an Australian leadership graduate now living here in Victoria. Wendy thought I might find it interesting to meet someone from the other side of the world who was as passionate about the subject of leadership as we are.

with Catherine Goldwater who is also, in her own way, a graduate of "Leadership Victoria" herself. Catherine hails from the state of Victoria in Australia and travelled over 8,000 miles to relocate to Victoria, BC in September 2007.

Catherine is a 2004 graduate of the Community Leadership Loddon Murray ("CLLM") (<http://www.lmclp.org.au>), a model similar to our Leadership Victoria training. Since its inception in 1998 the

So here I am sitting in the Black Stilt



4 THE 2009/10 COHORT
Projects at a glance

5 ALUMNI SOCIAL EVENTS
Reconnecting and giving back

6 2009/10 GRADUATION

Australia *cont.*

LMCLP has inspired and assisted hundreds of people from all walks of life to make a significant difference in their local communities and the wider region. Over the din of the coffee shop we had a great discussion about our two programs and our individual training experiences. Catherine has a lovely personality and great taste in movies and music – we both love 'Pirate Radio'. I thought you might enjoy hearing some of the nuts and bolts about the CLLM program, and comparing differences.

The CLLM program in Australia runs between February and November each year. Like us, they do most of their training during the winter months, breaking for the summer over Christmas. Participants are required to attend 4 multi-day retreats during the year; and 2 program days each month, as well as launch and graduation evenings.

I remember back to our Leadership Victoria opening retreat and initially thinking what a long trip it was to Lake Cowichan – and having to stay for 3 days! Catherine explains that the region covered by CLLM is very large and normal program days were scattered right across the region, with no program day ever in the same place.

The most distance Catherine travelled for a normal program day was 290 kilometres each way – or about 3 hours 30 minutes driving added to each end of the day.

These distances encouraged participants to car pool, not only to share the cost of fuel, but to share

the driving. Catherine told me she clocked 25,000 k in her new car in 2004, most of it attending CLLM training. Puts my moaning about travelling to Colwood in perspective!

The tyranny of distance meant that participants at one end of the region would often open their homes to those having to travel to a program day, with plenty of opportunities during the year to return the favour.

This level of hospitality, coupled with the many hours spent on the road with other participants, meant that



many close friendships were forged during the "leadership year".

Participation in the CLLM is approximately \$600 per year for each participant. Some are able to pay themselves; others can apply for scholarships or sponsorships.

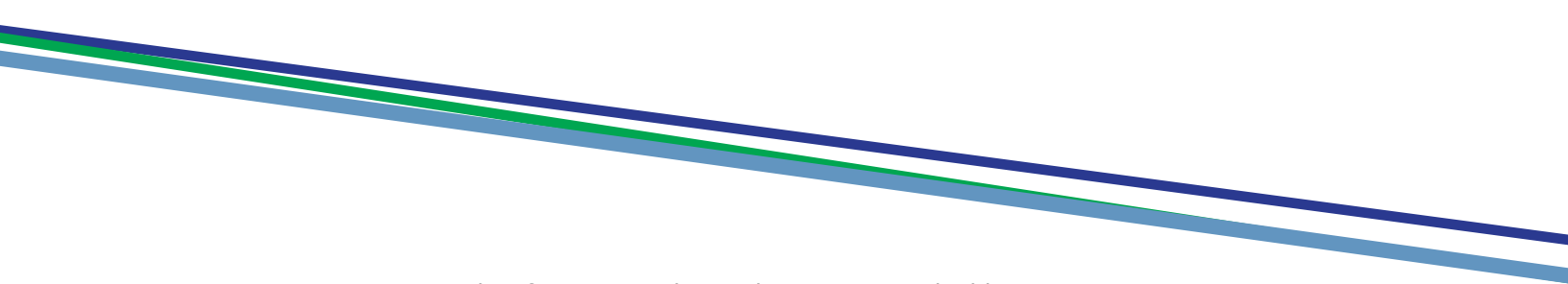
Sponsorships are likely to come from organizations such as the Dairy Farmers Association, Grain Growers, various local governments, etc. as the intake region is largely agricultural. Attendance from work and travel time is left to the participant to cover.

On average, each CLLM year has about 25 participants, with diverse backgrounds, interests and education. The one thing that binds them all together is their passion for their local communities. The diversity also meant from some interesting debates! 100% attendance is expected; anything less than 80% attendance means automatic disqualification from that year's program. Very rarely does anyone pull out, once they've committed to a learning year.

Catherine explained that CLLM program days were very intense, with alternating days being a longer day (7:30am till 10:00pm) and one shorter (7:30am till 5:00pm). Both individual and team input were highly valued during each program day. Participants were expected to contribute 100% to all activities.

Every participant had a different role to play each program day – from pre-planning and organization skills (who's speaking, what do they need, what time speakers need to arrive, etc); time keeping (not letting speakers run overtime, making sure all the activities planned will fit in the day); meeting chair (introductions, keeper of the peace); media officer (preparing and distributing press releases, getting photos); sheepdog (herding people from one place to another, head counts on buses, lost stuff); evaluation (focusing tired minds at the end of the day to do the required "reflection").

The purpose of these roles was to provide each participant with tangible skills they could use in their



own communities. Doing each of these jobs also pushed participants out of their normal comfort zones – everyone had to have a go at public speaking, for example, whether they liked it or not!

Similar to LV, CLLM participants are involved in community projects through their learning year. Catherine's project involved the development of an online database to house CLLM's "Skills Bank". Catherine explains the Skills Bank program (and her database) is still going strong with participation now of over 250 graduates. Skills Bank provides ongoing opportunities for graduates to continue to use (and improve) their leadership skills post-graduation by providing a free community service – matching communities with need to graduates with skills. To quote the Skills Bank website:

"Graduates are able to contribute their skills to not-for-profit organisations in a variety of ways including ... facilitation, motivational speaking opportunities, strategic planning and restoring community building. Many not-for-profit organisations require the perspective of an outsider, or a new set of skills to help remain a productive, vital and relevant part of their local community."

What a fantastic program and lasting legacy of the leadership program.

I remember taking many valuable lessons and experiences from my year of LV leadership training and wondered what Catherine valued most in lessons learned through her year. She spoke fondly of lasting friendships, inspiring leaders, learning the art of reflection, and conquering the fear of public speaking. She also mentioned humility, and I suspect there might be a funny story behind that statement. Perhaps another time ...

Catherine has worked closely with CLLM post graduation and has stayed connected since. I look forward to further discussions with Catherine about her experiences – maybe even some of the funny stories. Being Facebook friends only helps to make sure that happens!

Catherine's favorite leadership quote:

'Leadership is rather hard to define, but most easily recognized when it is missing.'

Prof. Mick Dodson,
Australian National University,
Member of the Yawuru peoples,
Western Australia

The 2009/2010 cohort

AT A GLANCE

Victoria Micro Lending Society Mentoring Program

Object: Increase the success of the Victoria Community Micro Lending Society by designing a mentor program for its borrowers.

Approximately 15 volunteer business-experienced mentors will be recruited and trained to work with the initial five business start-up borrowers from the Micro Lending Society. The project will form the base for future mentor recruitment and establish a network of support for Micro Lending borrowers.

Volunteer Trail Ambassadors Program

Object: Create and recruit volunteers who will provide information and assistance to users of Greater Victoria's walking/biking trail network.

A sustainable program will be designed and implemented that engages existing trail users to be "ambassadors" or information/assistance providers to other trail users. New and generally younger volunteers will be targeted who have the knowledge, skills and familiarity to assist anyone encountered on a trail in their neighbourhood.

The Art of Re-Gifting

Object: To raise awareness and increase support of the arts in Victoria through a unique event.

Three visual artists will each give a piece of art to four Victoria arts organizations, who will then – in some creative manner – re-gift the pieces to each other at a public event organized by the CAP team and co-hosted by the four artists and the four organizations.

community partnerships between Power to Be and Mary's Therapeutic Farm, Essencia Gardens and Woodwynn Farm.



The Art of Re-gifting team

Green Acres

Object: To create a project in partnership with Power to Be Adventure Therapy Society that would grow community relationships, leadership and food.

Developed and implemented creative garden-focused activities intended to broaden and enhance the therapeutic experiences for three Power to Be youth groups.

These activities strengthened the

Alumni social events

RECONNECTING AND GIVING BACK

The Leadership Victoria Alumni Committee hosted our first mingle social event on Thursday, March 25th. Glo Europub provided a warm and welcoming environment for Leadership Victoria Alumni to reconnect and catch up with old classmates as well as meet other Alumni from different years.

In the spirit of giving back to the community and in honour of this year's Lifetime Achievement award

winner Reverend Tom Oshiro, attendees raised over \$100 dollars in addition to non-perishable items collected for The Mustard Seed Food Bank. Many door prizes were won and an enjoyable time was had by all. A special thank-you to Leadership Victoria for sponsoring the tasty appetizers at the event. Thank-you to all who attended and for your generous contributions.

There's more....

Come out and meet the latest graduates of the Leadership Victoria program at our next mingle event that is scheduled for Thursday, June 24th at Vista 18, starting at 5:30pm. It would be great to get representation from many years to join in as we welcome the new Leadership Victoria Alumni! Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more information closer to the date.



Alumni gather to reconnect and give back during a social event at Glo Europub

The 2009/2010 cohort graduation

INVITATION

You're Invited to Join us as we Celebrate the Accomplishments of our Class of 2010

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
University Club, University of Victoria
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Graduation Ceremony with Reception to follow

Please RSVP by June 7, 2010
Call (250) 386-2269, Ext. 34
or email layla@leadershipvictoria.ca

Seating is limited for this free event.

Thank you to the generous support of our sponsors, the University of Victoria and Thrifty Foods.

Class Reps

Class Reps are members of the Alumni Committee that have volunteered to be the liaison between you and the Committee! You may receive emails from your Class Rep from time to time.

2009: Sara Wegwitz swegwitz@uvic.ca & Shawn Steele shawn.steele@shaw.ca

2008: John Carlow jdcarrow@gmail.com

2007: Brenda Kennedy andrewbrenda@shaw.ca

2006: Heather Regan hregan@uvic.ca

2005: Marguerite Casey-Wolnicki mcasey@uvic.ca & Barb Patterson barb_patterson@scotiamcleod.com

2004: Bonnie Hallett bonnieh@uvic.ca

2003: Vacant! Interested? Send one of the other Class Reps an email!