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January 15, 2010 - Campus Connection Vol. 46

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

Keyano's Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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## In This Issue

- [Excitement grows for Preston Manning visit to headline The Global Address Speaker Series at Keyano](#)
  - [Renowned Olympic Swimming Coach to headline next Enbridge Famous Five Speakers Series event](#)
  - [Power Engineering student wins national award for outstanding achievement](#)
  - [Power Engineering student remembered for his smile and friendly demeanour](#)
  - [Peter Ellis wins Cultural Achievement Award](#)
  - [Keyano opens printshop to foster art in the community](#)
  - [Curtis J. Phillips - Play-by-Play Announcer](#)
  - [Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge - call for submissions](#)
  - [Where In The World Were You Born?](#)
  - [Office of the Registrar spreads holiday cheer among sick children](#)
  - [Photos and Fun at the Wood Buffalo Photography Club](#)
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## Excitement grows for Preston Manning visit to headline The Global Address Speaker Series at Keyano

*"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do and how to do it."*

This quote from Abraham Lincoln will be the basis of Preston Manning's address as he discusses the political future of Alberta, in particular, what the next chapter in Alberta's development will look like during The Global Address on January 21, 2010 on Keyano Theatre's Mainstage.

Mr. Manning is a great Canadian political visionary who has tirelessly championed the cause of democratic and political reform. He founded two political parties - the Reform Party and the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance - both of which became the official Opposition on the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Manning served as the Leader of the Opposition from 1997 to 2000.



Dennis Westergaard, Political Science Instructor, Keyano College is looking forward to the event.

"I'm thrilled that a politician of this magnitude will be coming to Keyano College, and am looking forward to meeting and shaking hands with him," said Westergaard.

As founder, President and CEO of the [Manning Centre for Building Democracy](#), Mr. Manning continues his lifelong commitment to improving Canada's democracy.

"The work he is doing with the Manning Centre is some of the most important work of his life. He is revitalizing democracy in Canada," added Westergaard.

During his talk, he will look at Alberta's performance in six crucial areas of development, and will offer his insights into actions that can be taken to improve, or maintain, that performance. The six crucial areas are: handling of public money (fiscal responsibility); balanced economic growth; environmental conservation; health and education; democratic participation and leadership on the national stage.

Westergaard is looking forward to Mr. Manning's thoughts about Canada and Alberta's place in the Confederation and the discussion of the provincial fiscal climate.

"Fort McMurray is the heart of the Alberta economy and that makes Alberta very important to the nation. I'm interested in hearing his thoughts," Westergaard added.

Westergaard is promoting the event to his Political Science students as well, who he says would benefit from the talk immensely.

"Just to be able to hear a politician of this caliber is great for students. He has a wealth of knowledge about Canada and Alberta and practically found the current party in Government," he said.

The Global Address at Keyano College has a focus to bring about a variety of world-class perspectives and ideas to Wood Buffalo. It has been sponsored in part by the Shell Campus Ambassador Program, Country 93.3, Rock 97.9 and the *Fort McMurray Today*.

Tickets are \$23 available at the Keyano Box Office, 780-791-4990 and can be purchased online at [www.keyano.ca/theatre](http://www.keyano.ca/theatre) (press the "Tickets" tab to begin your purchase).

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## Renowned Olympic Swimming Coach to headline next Enbridge Famous Five Speakers Series event

The pursuit of excellence and cultivating it in others - Debbie Muir can describe her life-long goal succinctly this way. She'll be heading to Fort McMurray on January 28 to share this message in the Enbridge Famous Five Speaker Series.

Debbie Muir is one of Canada's most recognized and celebrated coaches. She'll be headlining the fourth event of the series at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre.

An international medalist in the sport of synchronized swimming, Debbie became the head coach of the Canadian National Synchronized Swimming team in 1976. Just two years later she led her swimmers to two world championship titles in Berlin, Germany - a first for Canada. Four years later this remarkable accomplishment was repeated with two gold medals at the world championships in Guayaquil, Ecuador.



In its debut on the Olympic program, Muir coached her synchronized swimmers to two Olympic silver medals at the Los Angeles games in 1984. Three world championship titles followed in Madrid, Spain, two years later. In 1988, Debbie coached Carolyn Waldo and Michelle Cameron to the pinnacle of sport success, winning two Olympic gold medals and securing her position as one of the world's greatest synchronized swimming coaches.

"I'm all about achieving excellence and how to be a champion personally and professionally," said Muir during a phone interview from Calgary.

She says everyone can achieve success and help others achieve success by following some basics.

"A leader is someone who helps others achieve their highest level of performance," Muir said.

In 2008 Muir took her search for excellence a step further and co-founded Great Traits Inc. along with Mark Tewksbury. According to its website, the company inspires possibility and excellence, and connects individuals, teams and organizations to the fundamentals of achievers, leaders and legacy.

For excellence in leading athletes to their best possible results, Muir was named Alberta's Coach of the Decade. She was twice honoured by the YWCA as a Woman of Distinction and in honour of Women's History Month, Debbie was recently named one of the four greatest female coaches of all time by the Coaching Association of Canada.

Muir's first book, *The Great Traits of Champions*, co-authored with Tewksbury, captures the fundamental traits that have made her one of the world's coaching greats.

**For tickets call: 780-715-3903**

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## Power Engineering student wins national award for outstanding achievement

Brian Gamble started the New Year with a great piece of news: He won the 2008-2009 PanGlobal Training Systems Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Gamble, 29, enrolled in Keyano's Fourth Class Power Engineering Program in 2007. He was announced as the winner for his combined College program and SOPEEC (Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee) exam average of 92.18 per cent on January 4, beating out thousands of students from across the nation. The results are tabulated following the completion of the Alberta Boilers Safety Association (ABSA) exam.

Currently, he is enrolled in Keyano's online Third Class - Part B initiative. Speaking to *Campus Connection* from his home in Calgary, Gamble said the award was completely unexpected, but felt good.



"It is good to be recognized for the hard work I did. I had great instructors at Keyano College like Frank Yin and Eric Wheeler who were very helpful and prepared me for actual field work," said Gamble, who completed a work term with Suncor Firebag.

Eric Wheeler, Gamble's Power Engineering Instructor at the College says Gamble is an excellent student.

"Brian is a hard-worker. He is a quiet guy who always gets top grades. Our program at Keyano College is outstanding - it attracts top students," Wheeler explained.

The purpose of the PanGlobal Training Systems award is to publicly acknowledge the efforts of a Fourth Class Power Engineering student and the instructors whose combined perseverance enabled this achievement.

A prize of \$1,000 comes with the award as well as a trip to the award ceremony, which will take place this year in Saint John, NB, in June where Gamble will be honoured during an IPECC (Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee) meeting, which represents educators, training providers and industry from across Canada.

Elizabeth Ross, Program Manager, Power Engineering, Keyano College is excited about the award.

"This national recognition shows what an outstanding program we have at Keyano College and what a small college can do for its students. We have a tough screening process featuring interviews and are very proud of Brian," Ross enthused.

Gamble is the second student from Keyano to win this prestigious award. Sholeh Kazemi won in 2006.

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**Power Engineer student remembered for his smile and friendly demeanour**

When you ask people about Zuber Omer, that's the first thing they talk about - his smile, which never left him. Keyano College solemnly announces the passing on of Omer, a second-year Power Engineering student, who succumbed to injuries from a car accident on December 31.

Born and raised in the Oromiya region of Ethiopia (the map of Ethiopia depicts the Oromia region where Zuber Omer was from), Omer was 32 years old, and met with the accident on December 27 when he was driving from Fort McMurray to Edmonton.

A political refugee, Omer moved to Canada in 2007 when his cousin Mustefa Ebro sponsored him. An emotional Ebro wrote about his cousin from Winnipeg.

"Zuber was an honour student in high school. He attended medical school at the University of Dilla in southern Ethiopia, and fled when he realized his life was in danger every day due to (political persecutions). Zuber then immigrated to Kenya in 2001 along with over 300 Oromo students including myself from different universities," recalls Ebro.

"After living with me for a month, Zuber moved to Calgary for a job opportunity and finally moved to Fort McMurray for a better position and education. Zuber was an inspiration for me and all Oromo students, in particular political refugees. He was an organizer and supporter for the cause he believed in and he was known for his good deeds to the last minute of his life," Ebro continues.

"Zuber's death was the worst news and experience I have had to deal with. I would like to thank the staff and students at Keyano College for giving me this chance to speak about him and for your kindness and support offered during this difficult time - on behalf of myself, the community of Oromo and all of Zuber's family members," he added.

Speaking of family, Omer had six brothers and one sister, all of whom he was financially supporting along with his mother back in Ethiopia.

Eric Wheeler, Instructor, Power Engineering, Keyano College, taught Omer. He remembers Omer for his smile and recalls how pleasant an individual he was.

"The smile was always there," says Wheeler.

"Omer did very well in all his classes. We'll miss him surely," Wheeler added.

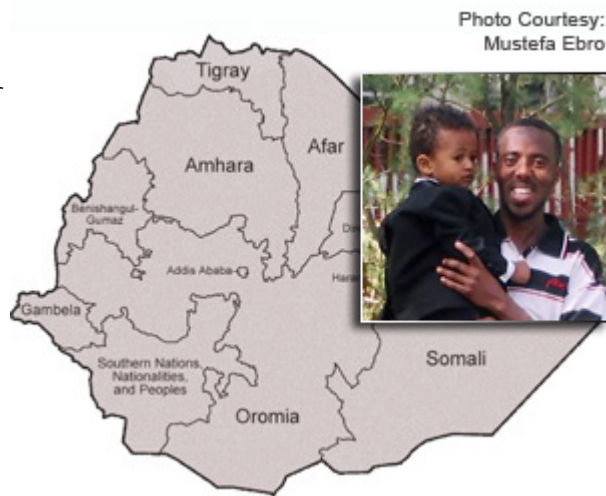
Mohammad Abdi and Ziyad Khan remember their friend and class-mate for the very same reasons.

"I never saw him depressed. He was very positive. Zuber was more than a friend, he was like a brother to me," said Abdi.

Khan agrees. He remembers Omer for being a devout Muslim and as someone who was always ready to help others and a good student.

"He always participated in class. Zuber was an intellectual who looked out for everyone," Khan said.

Our thoughts and wishes go out to Zuber's family.



Donations to the Zuber Omer Fund can be made to the Keyano College Cashier, which will be directed to Omer's family in Ethiopia.

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## Peter Ellis wins Cultural Achievement Award



Peter Ellis with the Keyano Clearwater Quartet

His name has been synonymous with making beautiful music in our community for two decades and now the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is honouring Peter Ellis for these endeavours with a Civic Award in the Cultural Achievement category on January 21.

Ellis chairs the Visual & Performing Arts department at Keyano, and has been with the College for over 20 years. He has seen the then fledgling Visual & Performing Art department grow into a provincially recognized program boasting 14 full-time staff and faculty as well as a number of contract instructors.

Originally from England, Ellis, 68, holds a Masters in Music from Cambridge University and still returns to study chamber music at the prestigious institute along with his sisters who play the violin and piano. He moved to Fort McMurray in 1988 to join Keyano as a sabbatical replacement.

"We didn't have a Music program per se back then," recalled Ellis. The choir, the concert and jazz bands, plus a Music 100 class were the only components at the time.

Ellis oversees the Keyano Community Choir and has been Music Director for almost 25 Keyano Theatre productions. He took a step back from the latter when he took over as Chair in 2003.

His diligence for the world of music stretches farther than Keyano - he has been directing the Anglican Church's choir for 20 years now and ensures his students make their presence known by volunteering for the Sunday service as well as in different community venues such as the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre and the Golden Years Society.

When not engrossed with music the maestro likes to spend time on the golf course.

"I've been known to murder a golf course," he laughs.

A modest Ellis says he is "thrilled" with the award, and wished to thank Russell Thomas, Director, Marketing & Communications, Keyano College for nominating him.

Thomas has known Ellis for over 10 years. He says the award is a "testament to his dedication to, and love for the arts."

"Watching Peter on stage during *A Winter Affair of the Arts*, (annual Visual & Performing Arts department event) leading the choir as they filled the space with incredible harmonies, and anchoring the Keyano Clearwater Quartet, his continuing contributions to the cultural richness of Fort McMurray is beyond compare. Here at Keyano College, Peter has been a mentor and teacher to hundreds of students and colleagues. He has also been music director for many Keyano Theatre musicals over the years, shows that inspired several generations of performers and patrons," Thomas enthused.

Congratulations Peter!

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## Keyano opens printshop to foster art in the community

Here's Keyano's New Year's gift for the artists in our community - the printshop will be open for renting to qualified printmakers effective immediately.

Located in the Norm Weiss Art Centre, the state-of-the-art printshop provides print-artists with the ability to produce work in a professional, safe environment. It is designed and built to provide educational opportunities for Art & Design students and is equipped with facilities to print lithography, silkscreen, relief and copper etching.

The idea of opening the printshop to community renters was born from two needs explains Robin Smith Peck, Art Instructor, Keyano College, and a print artist.

"Firstly, we want to participate in creating an art community in Fort McMurray. The number one road block to developing a practicing community of artists in our city is the lack of available, affordable studio space. Exhibition opportunities are interconnected to that need. Printmakers, traditionally share space and equipment and as there is no community shop our thought was that Keyano could contribute by opening our shop up to community printmakers."

The second reason has to do with graduating students. Keyano College is graduating/training approximately five printmakers per year.

"These beginning printmakers have nowhere in the city to continue practicing their art. By opening up the Keyano Printshop for rental by these artists we are again contributing to the art community as a whole and while making our printmaking program more desirable to interested community members. People are more likely to learn a new medium if they know that they can continue practicing it once they are finished classes," Smith Peck continues.

Available equipment includes an etching press used for copper etching and intaglio/relief printing; lithographic press for stone and plate lithography and silkscreen area including vacuum table, screens and exposure unit.

Due to the highly technical nature of printmaking, all renters must go through an admission interview to gain access to the printshop facility. At this time, artists must show technical proficiency and be prepared to discuss their planned use for shop equipment.

### **Intaglio & Relief Rental Rates:**

Monthly: \$160 fee covers studio time for one month  
And includes ferric chloride, solvents and select grounds.

### **Silkscreen Rental Rates:**

Monthly: \$160 fee covers studio time for one month  
Plus: \$25 emulsion, degreaser and reclaimer  
Plus: \$80.00 refundable deposit per screen

**For interviews, call Robin Smith Peck at 780-792-5607  
or e-mail [robin.smith-peck@keyano.ca](mailto:robin.smith-peck@keyano.ca).**

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## Curtis J. Phillips - Play-by-Play Announcer



Curtis J. Phillips is a well-known Fort McMurryite.

Curtis J. Phillips needs no introduction. The Huskies play-by-play announcer is a walking encyclopedia of Wood Buffalo sport history; and has been a tireless promoter for the region - writing, broadcasting and initiating many events over the years.

He moved to Fort McMurray in 1982 to join the *Fort McMurray Today* as sports and entertainment editor - a position he held until 1989. Television beckoned and Curtis then went on to work for CFRN and ABC Cable, a predecessor to the local Shaw community station.

Curtis's passion for the region is evident in his voice when he speaks to you. He firmly believes in giving back to the community and has volunteered for over 45 local groups ranging from overseeing Special Olympics to bringing in the Edmonton Eskimos for fundraisers and co-founding the Wood Buffalo Hall of Fame situated in the Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre - he does it all tirelessly.

During the Coldwell Banker Fort McMurray 2009 CCAA Men's Volleyball National Championship hosted by Keyano College in March, 2009 - Curtis researched and provided play-by-play for all 13 games of the prestigious tournament. His expertise during the National Championship reached 13,000 homes over the course of the week, highlighting Keyano College and Fort McMurray, through the webcasts.

Curtis's affinity for the Huskies is evident in his weekly columns - he now writes two weekly features for *Connect* - Fort McMurray's weekly magazine.

Keyano's Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre, Curtis says, is "poised for the future." He is proud of Keyano College and the leaps and bounds the sports program has made over the years.

His website [www.frozenhoops.com](http://www.frozenhoops.com) pays homage to his favourite sport: basketball. A sport historian also, he is currently writing four books, two of which are about basketball: *Frozen Hoops: the Top 150 Canadian Basketball Players of All time*, and *Silver Slams: Basketball at the Movies*. Another book slated for publication soon is about William McMurray, the town's namesake.

A summary of his many awards include: Coach of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and a national "Above and Beyond" recognition as well as Father of the Year award, which is dearest to him.

Curtis is married to Diane, his wife of 25 years and has three children.

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## Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge - call for submissions

Budding history writers at Keyano College have a wonderful opportunity to display their talents for the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge.

A free, annual competition, the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge, according to the official website is an initiative of "The Historica-Dominion Institute and is made possible by a dedicated group of individuals and organizations. We would like to thank the ongoing support of our

presenting sponsor Enbridge Inc. as well as our supporting sponsors: TD Bank Financial Group, Vale Inco, Imperial Oil, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, and The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine."

Participants are required to create a short story that explores a moment or theme in Aboriginal history. The event selected should be tied to Canada's past and/or your ancestral history. It can date as far back as a traditional legend or as recently as the June 2008 apology for residential schools. We encourage you to be creative in your choice of writing styles.

Stories in each age category will be judged by an expert panel of Aboriginal leaders and authors on the Advisory Committee, which includes luminaries like Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, and Honorary Patron, Phil Fontaine, Former Chief, Assembly of First Nations; and authors like Lee Maracle who authored *Bobbi Lee* (1990) and *Ravensong* (1995); as well as Tantoo Cardinal, renowned actress originally from Anzac whose many film and television credits include *Dances With Wolves*, *Black Robe*, *Legends of the Fall* among many others.

First place winners in each age category will receive a \$2000 cash prize; an all-expenses paid trip for two to a major Canadian city to receive their award at a special reception with a group of Aboriginal leaders and authors; and an excerpt from their story published in *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine*.

Second place finalists in each age category will receive a \$1000 cash prize; third place finalists in each age category will receive a \$500 cash prize along with prizes for the fourth to tenth places.

#### Contest Rules:

- Participants must be of Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Inuit and Métis).
- The age categories are 14-18 and 19-29.
- Stories in the 14-18 age category should be no longer than 1400 words.
- Stories in the 19-29 age category should be no longer than 2000 words.
- Along with your creative writing, please complete a [Participant Submission Form](#) and 200-400 word Author's Statement that explains why you chose to write about the historical event you selected.
- As the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge is an educational program for young Canadians, we ask that you refrain from including inappropriate or profane language or content in your writing.

#### How to Submit:

You can send your entry by March 31, 2010 in one of the following ways:

1. Online ([click here](#))
  2. By email to [challenge@historica-dominion.ca](mailto:challenge@historica-dominion.ca)
  3. By mail to: The Historica-Dominion Institute  
43 Front St. East, Suite 301  
Toronto, ON  
M5E 1B3
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## Where In The World Were You Born?



Where In the World Were You Born?  
Participate today.

That would be Karachi, Pakistan for me. How about you? Keyano staff and faculty are invited to partake in a new initiative called Where In The World Were You Born?

Led by the Keyano Library, Where In the World Were You Born features a world map about 45x70 inches right outside the Library where students and staff mark off their places of birth. You'll see a bevy of countries ranging from Sri Lanka to Cuba to French Polynesia for a total of 19 countries as well as nine Canadian provinces.

Circulation Clerk, Audrey Oake pitched the idea for the project.

"I was inspired by a display that I saw at the Queen Elizabeth II Library at Memorial University of Newfoundland. They had a world map as well as a Newfoundland map. When I saw the maps, I thought what a great idea this would be for Keyano College," shared Oake.

Prince Edward Island, and the territories of Nunavut and the Yukon still have no takers. It is interesting to see the map punctuated by over 90 push-pins and even more interesting to learn the names of different spots - Canadian and international. There's Cardston, Alberta; Cebu, Philippines; and Antofagasta, Chile to name a few.

"As a retired social studies teacher, geography has always been an interest of mine. Now when students come to the Library from various countries around the world, it amazes me that I'm actually speaking to people from Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan or Sri Lanka. These far-away places are ones that I taught my students about in Junior High," said Oake.

Student and staff response so far has been great says Oake. However, she encourages everyone to partake in the project.

"The goal of the project is to highlight Keyano as a global village. It reflects the transience of population in the world today, that people move from place to place, meet other cultures, and discover how much they have in common," she explained.

So if you haven't already, head down to the Library and let us know Where in the World Were You Born?

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## Office of the Registrar spreads holiday cheer among sick children

Last year when Candice Crossley's son ended up spending a night at the hospital she left with a resolve - to donate new toys to the facility. Thanks to her colleagues in the Office of the Registrar, she put her plan to action and Christmas came early to the young patients in the Pediatrics department.

Crossley, is the Office Manager for the Office of the Registrar, Keyano College. She and 16 of her colleagues got together and raised about \$400 to donate to the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre as well as two boxes full of toys and books.

"I have two boys so I have spent some time at the hospital. When I pitched the idea to our department everyone just ran with it," explains Crossley.

Funds were raised during internal College events. The Office of the Registrar picks a local charity every holiday season to donate to.

"Leo Jacobs, Associate Vice President, External Division, Keyano College donated \$165 in our name to the hospital. We were touched by everyone's help," Crossley added.

The staff made sure all the toys met the hospital's guidelines. Andrea Tubbs, Spokesperson for the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre Foundation says the donation of toys and cash to the Pediatrics department means the children who are patients at the hospital will have a more comfortable stay.

"The manager of the Pediatrics department, Monique Janes intends to use the cash donation to purchase portable DVD players; this means patients will be able to stay in the comfort of their own room to watch a movie. From any additional funds Monique is planning to develop small gift bags for patients to take home with Play Dough, crayons and colouring books," Tubbs explained.

Thank you so much to everyone at Keyano College who donated towards the collection from the Office of the Registrar and especially to the registrar department for thinking of the Pediatrics department at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre."



Candice Crossley, first from left along with the staff from the Office of the Registrar and the hospital.

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## Photos and Fun at the Wood Buffalo Photography Club

Calling all shutterbugs! If you think you have the eye for capturing beauty with a camera then the Wood Buffalo Photography Club is looking for you.

The Wood Buffalo Photography Club, a group of amateur photographers, was founded in 2008 by Zoran Knezic, Building Operator, Keyano College, along with Rick Hawkins, a long-time resident of Fort McMurray and a photography enthusiast.

"I had bought a digital camera and was looking to join a photography club. Our main goal is photography education and try to improve individual skills. We support the community and try to have as much fun as we can while doing all this," Knezic explains.



The club made of about 100 active members has taken complimentary public pictures at Family Safety Day, an annual event hosted by Safe Community Wood Buffalo with the event's mascot, as well as at Heritage Day.

Knezic says the idea is to broaden member horizons by providing them opportunities to help the community with local events simultaneously.

"We are not competing with professional photographers. We try to learn as much we can about photography by sharing our experiences. There is a learning part with different presentations on photography during our meetings, buy/sell and an exchange corner, picture critiquing, ask an expert and lots of other fun stuff," he continued.

The group also takes field trips around the Wood Buffalo region looking for unique photo opportunities.

Knezic wished to thank Syncrude for providing them with a meeting room free of charge at the Bob Lamb Industry Education Centre. The club is open to everybody regardless of skill and type of camera. Meetings are held every second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

For more information, or to join the club, contact Zoran at: [zoran.knezic@keyano.ca](mailto:zoran.knezic@keyano.ca) or 780-598-9714.



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**Editorial Board:**

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**Editor** - Heather Rice  
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**Photographer** - Sean McLennan

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please contact Kiran at [kiran.malik-khan@keyano.ca](mailto:kiran.malik-khan@keyano.ca).

*Campus Connection* reserves the right to edit submissions.

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