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# CAMPUS CONNECTION

Keyano's Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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## Demers Contracting Services Ltd. named Partner of the Year at Keyano Foundation's Investor's Reception

The Keyano College Foundation hosted its annual Investor's Reception on February 9, and this year the Board of Governors was pleased to recognize Demers Contracting Services Ltd. as its

2009/2010 Partner of the Year.

An oilfield site development and maintenance contractor- Demers Contracting is owned and run by founder Mickey Demers, who has been a supporter of Keyano's many endeavours over the years.

A former member of the Keyano College Board of Governors; Demers has provided the College with significant support over the past 10 years. His activities range from entertainment sponsor for the annual Gala, corporate sponsor for the construction of the Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre, golf tournament sponsor and equipment sponsor - most recently he has donated a 2002 Caterpillar D8R Series II Crawler Tractor to the *Equipped for Future* campaign - Keyano Foundation's newest project in response to the Trades & Heavy Industrial Division's need to cut lease and purchase costs of equipment for use in training.

Dale Unruh, Chair, Keyano College Foundation explained the purpose of the Investor's Reception.

"This is our opportunity to acknowledge the many corporate and individual partners who support post-secondary education at Keyano College through scholarships, awards, bursaries and endowments, event sponsorships, program support, gift-in-kind contributions, and capital campaigns."

Lorraine Demers, Public Member, Board of Governors, Keyano College presented Mickey Demers with the award.

"Mickey has been an avid supporter of Keyano College both personally, and through his company. What makes a great partner? A company that cares - here's to the best brother-in-law in the world," Ms. Demers said.

Mickey Demers thanked the Foundation and the College on behalf of his family and staff.

"I continue to support the College because I know my investments make a difference for the College, students, and the workforce in this unique region. It's never about the awards, but I'm very honoured," Demers said.



L-R: Jim Foote, President, Keyano College with Mickey Demers, Partner of the Year, and Dale Unruh, Chair, Board of Directors, Keyano College Foundation. Photo Credit: Greg Halinda

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## **Circus anyone? Syncrude WinterPLAY promises to be bigger and better**

Local children are in for a treat - a circus is coming to town and they can join, without running away during the Syncrude WinterPLAY Festival, which starts on February 26 and runs until February 28.

Syncrude WinterPLAY is an extension of interPLAY, the annual summer arts festival, and once again will feature something for everyone.

"The Syncrude WinterPLAY Festival continues to grow in the third year of its evolution. Thanks to the leadership of Events Wood Buffalo (EWB) Executive Director Claude Giroux, the three-day event includes some innovative components that are sparking tremendous interest around the region," explains Russell Thomas, President, Events Wood Buffalo and Director, Marketing & Communications, Keyano College.

EWB, with assistance from ConocoPhillips, Suncor Energy, and Keyano College, is hosting a one week circus camp for children ages five to 17 called *Starfish Circus*. Almost at full capacity, the camp offers young people of the region the once-in-a-lifetime chance to run away and join the circus, without having to leave town.

"My six-year-old son Ben can't wait for the experience to begin, he is bubbling over with excitement," says Thomas.

The children will learn a variety of circus skills and perform on the Keyano Theatre mainstage as the opening act for *Stand Up 8*, a show featuring 12 professional circus performers from across North America. Returning to lead the camp are members of the Aerial Angels, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, who have delighted thousands during several appearances at the summer interPLAY Festival. *Stand Up 8* will be performed on February 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale at Keyano Box Office.

Keyano College is also the venue for KROCK's Hot Acts & Cool Plays, the one-act play regional competition for the Peace Country Zone. The production selected as Best Play will travel to the Provincial One Act Play Festival in Whitecourt.

"I am pleased to return to the stage with my buddy Kenny Jones in Caryl Churchill's *A Number* said Thomas.

"This is our third show in three years and it's fun to be working together again."

"We also have a fantastic director in Claude Giroux. We are excited to finish the rehearsal process and get this intriguing story about cloning in front of an audience."

There are two other plays being featured, both produced by Katie's Playhouse, *Time Flies* by David Ives and *The Ladykiller* by John S. Wells. KROCK's Hot Acts & Cool Plays will light up the Keyano Recital Theatre stage on February 26 and 27 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are on sale at Keyano Box Office. The Syncrude WinterPLAY Festival has an incredible set of activities and attractions based in the Suncor Community Leisure Centre on MacDonald Island. The Country 93.3/Rock 97.9 WinterPLAYLand will be set-up in the concourse and include street performers, face painters, magicians, balloon artists, marketplace and food vendors and so much more.

The MIX 103.7 Stadium (located on one of the fieldhouses) will include remote control bobsled racing, gyroscopes, bouncy castles, golf drive station, laser hockey and the MIX 103.7 Kickin' Karaoke Contest. KAOS 91.1 will also be hosting a *Hands for Haiti Touchdown Celebration* on Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. All the activities at MacDonald Island will be running on February 26 from noon to 5 p.m, and February 27 and 28 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is completely free.

"I'm excited about a lot of things," continued Thomas. "Most importantly, I'm excited about the growth of the festival and the amount of joy and excitement it will bring to what has been a long winter."

You can reach the Keyano Box Office via [www.keyano.ca/theatre](http://www.keyano.ca/theatre) and by calling 780-791-4990.

# Syncrude Winter PLAY

February 26 - 28, 2010 | MacDonald Island Park | Keyano College



**KEYANO COLLEGE | FEB 26 + 27 | 7 PM + 7:30 PM**  
**Starfish Circus & Stand Up Eight | Hot Acts & Cool Plays**  
**TICKETS: [www.keyano.ca/theatre](http://www.keyano.ca/theatre) | 780-791-4990**

**MACDONALD ISLAND PARK | FEB 26, 27 + 28 |**  
**WinterPLAYLand | MIXlympic Stadium**  
**FREE ADMISSION**



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## **Mayor and Council members tour Arts Centre - impressed with facilities and major donation announcement**

"Fantastic," pretty much summed up the reaction Mayor Melissa Blake and guests had after touring the Visual & Performing Arts (VPA) department at Keyano College on February 5.

Mayor Blake, Councillor Mike Allen, along with Kim Jenkins, Superintendent, Fort McMurray Catholic School Board of Education and Phil Meagher, Associate Superintendent, Fort McMurray Public Schools, were among the esteemed guests attending the tour of the Norm Weiss Arts Centre, where they also learned of a \$51,500 gift-in-kind donation of equipment to Keyano's Musical Instrument Repair (MIR) program by Rideau Music Inc. through the closure of their subsidiary shop Calgary Music Repair.

"We are delighted to find just the right home for our extensive selection of instrument parts and custom tools. It is wonderful to know that the equipment will be used as training tools for the Music Instrument Repair program at Keyano College and will ensure that expertise in the repair of instruments will continue to be available through the graduates of this unique program," said Lynden Gill, Owner, Rideau Music Inc.

The goal of the tour was to provide a firsthand look at our cultural facilities, instructional expertise and program excellence. Guests, which included media personnel from almost all the local outlets, spent time visiting a variety of different studios and performance spaces, getting a chance to experience each of the four disciplines taught in the Visual & Performing Arts department: music, visual art, drama and music instrument repair. They also enjoyed a learning seminar, or gab as it's referred to in the Musical Instrument Repair business, and heard international guests speak highly of the program.

Mayor Blake thanked the Visual & Performing department for arranging the tour and said Keyano continues to be a cultural hub for the community.

"It was fantastic to be exposed to the hidden gems - as we got a behind-the-scenes look. We want to have arts and culture in the community not only for our children, but also to create that sense of belonging. We have to promote the Arts Centre as much as we can," Mayor Blake enthused.

Sarah Ferguson, Drama Program Head, Keyano College, conducted the tour for the Drama program, and was delighted to see everyone impressed.

"I felt the tour was a great success. It provided the Mayor and other dignitaries an opportunity to see first-hand the great variety of things we do here in the VPA department. So much of our work takes place behind closed doors - classes, rehearsals, and studio work. The public sees the finished products - plays, music concerts, art work - but may not really understand the time and effort that goes into producing that work. They may also be unaware of the extensive training that is needed to be able to succeed in these artistic fields," said Ferguson.

"This tour went beyond just showing off our amazing facilities - which are envied by those at other post-secondary institutions. It was a positive step in both educating the representatives of our city about our programs and also emphasizing the value cultural activities like ours contribute to a growing and vibrant city," Ferguson added.

Al Adibi, Vice President, Finance and Administration and CFO, Keyano College hosted the tour along with Guy Harmer, Dean, Academic & Career Programs. They thanked the guests for attending the event and expressed their desire to work in collaboration with the Municipality as well as the school boards.

"We are in the middle of an arts and culture Renaissance in the Wood Buffalo region and Keyano

College is at its heart. We look forward to working with everyone to promote arts and culture," Harmer said.

Mike Durocher, Instructor, Musical Instrument Repair, Keyano College, was thrilled with the tour and being able to make the donation announcement.

"We can now give our students world-class instruction; some of this equipment dates back to the 1950s and was not available to them anymore. This is gold for us," Durocher said.



Mike Durocher (middle) shows Mayor Blake and Al Adibi, Vice President, Finance & Administration and CFO the items donated by Rideau Music.

## **Annual Career Fair touted a resounding success by community - 2000 attend**

Danielle Moore and Sarah Larson weren't sure what to expect from their first career fair - but Keyano's fourth annual Career & Summer Job Fair held on February 5 and 6, was everything and more than they expected with about 2000 visitors over the two days.

"It's great to have a Career Fair in our own backyard," said Larson, a first-year Office Administration student at Keyano College, who was looking for a summer job.

Moore, also a first-year Office Administration student at Keyano College, on the other hand was looking for immediate employment, and said the vast variety of employers helped immensely.

More than 40 companies and organizations were on location at the Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre for the event, which was held in conjunction with Alberta Employment & Immigration and Wood Buffalo Big Spirit. Eager members of the community showed up ahead of time in strong numbers even before doors open.

Exhibitors ranged from oil sands businesses to Keyano College, Fort McKay Group of Companies, St. John's Ambulance and Diversified, to name a few.

Madeleine Nixon, Recruitment Manager, Diversified Transportation Ltd. said the Fair was a great venue to meet potential employees.

"We are looking for everything from drivers, mechanics, to dispatchers. Keyano College is great to be hosting this event; the Centre is big facility here and we really appreciate the set-up time allotted for exhibitors" explained Nixon.

Crystal Baldwin-Danson, Counsellor, Counselling & Career Services, Keyano College helped oversee the event. She credits the Career Fair Committee and many volunteers for the stunning success of this year's event.

"This year an estimated 2000 visitors came through the doors, with the average age of attendees being between 18-35 years of age. Many were seeking employment, and wanting to make contact with employers, however, there were also many inquiries about furthering education and questions about programming here at Keyano College," Baldwin-Danson explained.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback from the exhibitors who felt that the Career Fair was well-organized, they enjoyed the guest speaker, Max Valiquette, Youth Culture & Marketing Expert. Volunteers were friendly and helpful, the food was awesome, and the connections they were able to make during the two days were beneficial. Many of the exhibitors said they are looking forward to attending again next year," she added.



BL-R: Natasha Newman, Student Recruitment Coordinator, Keyano College with Sadia Butt - a visitor to the event.

## Keyano adds mobile simulators to its fleet

You think you are about to hit something, after all you are driving a heavy hauler - but then you get your bearings and go back on the road. Driving trucks can be fun and nerve-wrecking, even if the experience is simulated - I found that out first hand along with about 50 people during an open house at Keyano's Suncor Energy Industrial Campus (SEIC) on January 28, which show-cased Keyano's new driver training simulators.

The new simulators, acquired for about \$2 million are a direct result of industry and community demand. The mobile unit features driving training courses, which can be taken to industry, or other clients. Courses such as Defensive Driving, Space Management and Adverse Conditions, to name a few are offered, and clients can practice driving snow ploughs, ambulances, or fire trucks.

The five stationary units will be used for the four-week Haul Truck Operator course, which will feature 15 students every month and started on February 1. Thanks to Syncrude Canada Limited, Suncor Energy and Shell Albian Sands - companies on the advisory committee for the program -- eligible students will be offered a three-month paid work term at the end of the course.

"Over 90 per cent of our students gain full-time employment with industry. We are grateful to the oil sands for this collaboration," said Janet Somerville, Coordinator, Heavy Equipment program.

Denis Vezina, Instructor, Heavy Haul Truck program, Keyano College, says the simulators are a great opportunity to provide students with hands-on training on cutting-edge technology.

"This is top line technology. Students learn to get comfortable with the vehicle, and build their confidence level as they go," he said.

Al Adibi, Vice President, Finance and CFO, Keyano College attended the event and said the simulators will not only "accelerate the program, but are in direct response to industry demand."

Jim Foote, President, Keyano College expressed his appreciation for the new addition to Keyano's fleet.

"Our Heavy Equipment Program has worked extensively with the Steering Committee members to find the best training solution to increase both the number of trained operators and the level of expertise of operators in our region. The haul-truck simulators increase the seat time for students and ensure that they adhere to mine site safety regulations prior to setting foot on a site," he said.

"The mobile driver training trailer will provide a safe learning environment for new and experienced drivers. Our partners have shown their significant support for simulator training at Keyano College. We'd like to thank Shell Canada and Suncor Energy for their \$600,000 in funding towards the purchase of these training tools," Foote added.



Ann Everatt, Vice President, Academic, Keyano College tries out one of the stationary mobile simulators. Back row L-R: Brendan Clarke, Associate Dean, Trades & Heavy Industrial Division, Keyano College, Roger Pomerleau from Vista - the company donated Haul Truck Operator computer-based training modules and Janet Somerville, Heavy Equipment, Program Coordinator, Keyano College.

## Renowned Olympic Coach shares *Great Traits of Champions*



Hold your arms out - don't be shy - hold them out, and now think of a truth, or something positive. Now ask someone to try to push them down. Repeat, with a negative thought, or by focusing on a lie - see the difference?

This awe-inspiring activity was one of the highlights of presentation by Debbie Muir, who was in town to headline Keyano's Enbridge Famous Five Speaker Series on January 28 at MacDonald Island Park in the Miskanaw Ballroom.

Nelda Schulte, Coordinator, Workforce Development, Keyano College organizes the Speaker Series. She said Muir not only impressed the audience but coached them through their questions as well.

"Debbie shared her stories of successes and failures along with her insights on how she overcame the challenges, including her own attitude shortcomings to help her swimmers and herself become

champions. She spoke to a full house in a friendly, accessible, very human tone. She was warmly received and the audience had many difficult questions for her which she coached us through. People stayed after the discussion to talk, have her sign her book and to thank her. The best leaders are those who work alongside you and Debbie exemplifies this trait," Schulte said.

Attended by about 80 people - the inspirational talk featured anecdotes from Muir's 27-year coaching career, which includes coaching Mark Tewksbury in 1991, when he went on to defeat American Jeff Rouse in 1992 during the Barcelona Olympics- coming up from behind and making the cover of *Time* magazine.

Both Muir and Tewksbury then went on to find Great Traits Inc. in 2008, a company which according to the official website "inspires possibility and excellence... (and) engages people to be champions in their own lives. Connecting individuals, teams and organizations to the fundamentals of achievers, leaders and legacy."

The duo also wrote *Great Traits of Champions*, from which Muir shared four tips on being a good leader, the power of being positive, and much more.

The first trait is to *Be Aware* - Muir touched on how people often are not aware of their own thoughts, especially negative ones and let the vicious circle impact them for the worse.

"As a leader you have the ability to influence others positively, or negatively. You need to take responsibility for what your thoughts are - according to a study we have 60,000 thoughts a day, of which 31,000 are negative; be aware of them and then change them," Muir emphasized.

She relayed stories about coaching Tewksbury who at one point wasn't thinking like a champion.

"We planned to defeat Jeff Rouse, which is the next trait - *Make a Plan*, and begin with the end in mind... next *Go The Distance* - on the way to your goal, you must be ready to persist through tough times and periods of hard work," Muir encouraged.

She also emphasized finding the time to have fun, while being goal-oriented, and being a team-player. "*Change Why Can't I? to Why Not Me!*" continued Muir, who will also be a coach mentor for the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

The final trait is to *Make Possible* - the embodiment of the "why not" attitude. She shared how she was recruited to start Own the Podium - an initiative which makes funding possible for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic athletes; and will be heading to Whistler to be a coach mentor.

"Look for the star in others, and create a lasting win. This is how legacy happens. The Famous Five embodied the trait of legacy, they were champions who made women's rights possible," said Muir.

The next event featuring Dr. Samantha Nutt, renowned humanitarian and Medical Doctor will take place on March 30 at MacDonald Island Park's Miskanaw Ballroom.

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## **Blake Crossley runs the Olympic Torch Relay**

He can't stop smiling about the experience. In fact, during our 30-minute interview, he just continued to smile as he spoke about running the Olympic Torch Relay - Blake Crossley is one happy guy nowadays.

Crossley is a Network Administrator at Keyano College. As you may recall, he had applied to run the relay through Coca-Cola last year, and was selected by The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay presented by Coca-Cola and RBC and supported by the Government of Canada.

On January 19, 2010 Crossley ran in Crossfield, Alberta, about 10 kilometres north of Airdrie. His childhood dream is now fulfilled, and he crossed one off his bucket list - talk about a major accomplishment.

"I can't tell you how great it felt. Curtis Myden, Olympic Swimmer, passed the torch on to me, and to see the children running alongside was just amazing. I felt like Mohammad Ali, in the Hollywood movie *Ali* - I'm still on cloud nine," said Crossley, who thanked Coca-Cola for taking such good care of him, as well as for their gifts.

Second on the relay route, Crossley ran far more than the usual 300-metre distance usually allotted to relay-runners, as children and adults alike requested his autograph and photo opportunities.

"I think I ran for about 10 minutes, because I had to go through the crowd to go to my starting point. It was such a high - I've been to many concerts, but have never experienced anything like this before," added Crossley.

The Olympic Torch, about one-metre long is now sitting on a high ledge in Crossley's living-room - at a focal point.

Will he do this again? You better believe it. In fact, next time Canada hosts the Olympics Crossley wants his sons to apply.

"It's one of the most beautiful memories of my life, and I want them to share in the experience" Crossley said.

Stay tuned for an updated story about Crossley's next adventure - running the Fort Chipewyan winter road for a fundraiser along with three of his friends. Read all about it in the next issue of *Campus Connection*.



Blake Crossley at the Olympic Torch Relay event in Crossfield. Photo Courtesy: Coca-Cola

## Keyano launches *Equipped for Future* - Finning Canada makes first commitment



The *Equipped for the Future* equipment project was launched last fall by the Keyano College Foundation in response to the Trades & Heavy Industrial Division's need to cut the lease and purchase costs of equipment for use in training offered at the Suncor Energy Industrial Campus.

Finning Canada has made the first gift-in-kind contribution to the project by donating a CAT 420 Backhoe Loader featuring a multipurpose bucket. Finning has arranged a long-term (five-year) fee-free lease arrangement that puts current equipment in the hands of our excellent instructors.

"Keyano College is seeking industry's support in securing vital pieces of equipment to continue to produce highly skilled equipment operators for our region. The Foundation is soliciting gifts of equipment and technology through gift-in-kind donations, fee-free leasing arrangements, or cash donations tagged to the purchase of specified machinery. We are delighted with Finning Canada's leadership contribution to the initiative," explains Angele Dobie, Manager, Fund Development, Keyano Foundation.

Larry Gouthro, General Manager, Oil Sands, Finning Canada, says the company is pleased to partner with Keyano College and the Trades & Heavy Industrial Division.

"This donation shows the long-term relationship we've had with Keyano College and we hope more industry participates in the Equipped for the Future initiative," Gouthro said.

"There is no better way to prepare for the next wave of expansion in our region than by providing the tools for the College to train the next generation of operators."

As a leader in heavy equipment training, Keyano College provides training on par with industrial and commercial standards. The challenge is to replace or renew equipment and technology on a continual basis.

Ann Everatt, Vice President, Academic, Keyano College notes, "If a company has equipment to donate as a gift-in-kind donation, or a fee-free lease arrangement, and can support Keyano College's training and education initiatives, we would like to partner with them. If possible, we request that equipment and technology donations be no older than five years and equipped with current technical features to ensure students receive quality training on equipment presently used in an industrial work environment."

The Foundation will issue a receipt for every cash or lease donation and the company will be recognized publicly based on the current value of the equipment (determined by a third party appraisal).

Some of the equipment required includes: bobcats, skid steer loaders, rough terrain forklifts, wheel loaders, and 320 excavators to name a few.

"This is a win-win situation, by equipping us with these donations; industry will equip themselves with future employees. Thank you Finning Canada for leading the way on this *Equipped for the Future* initiative," added Everatt.



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