



ERECS Retirement Parties:

Lois Greabeiel

Monday, June 2, 2008

Faculty Club of the U of A
(11435 Saskatchewan Drive, Ed.)

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Tickets - \$20.00 payable to
Consulting Services, Queen Elizabeth H.S

RSVP by May 20

Contact Edna McLafferty at
(780) 472-4454

Judy Miller

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mayfair Golf and Country Club
(9450 Groat Road NW, Ed.)

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Tickets - \$22.00 payable to
Consulting Services, Queen Elizabeth H.S

RSVP and payment by June 9

Contact Beryl Rowell at
(780) 472-4455

Other Interesting Tidbits

www.familyconnect.org/parentsites.asp?SectionID=81&TopicID=375

New web community brings together parents of visually impaired children. FamilyConnect gives parents access to message boards where they can talk to other parents, watch compelling videos featuring real-life families, access parenting articles, a mom-authored blog, a glossary of more than 30 eye conditions, and links to local resources. Site also features sections dedicated to multiple disabilities, technology, education, and every age group from infants to teens

Interested in a Men's Retreat?

Don Cameron is interested in finding out if dads would be interested in getting together to share insights, provide networking and mentoring, and mainly support one another in our special role in the raising of our disabled children. He wants to hear from you.

Contact Don at: dwuc@telus.net or (780) 481-1061



Technology available from ASVI

Perkins Braille Program

Perkins Braille are available for loan to families.
Application can be found at: www.asviedmonton.org

Victor Streams

Get the latest in digital playback devices from the ASVI.
E-mail info@asviedmonton.org for more info or
complete a technology application, found at www.asviedmonton.org

Note: Funding and technology loans may be available for many items. Email:
info@asviedmonton.org for applications and more information

ASVI Executive Members:

Past President: Linda Stirrett
President: Kelly Baldock
Vice President: Garnet Boutette
Secretary: Maren Hasse
Treasurer: Edna McLafferty

Members at Large:

Debbie Royer
Niels Nicolajsen
Bonnie Beattie
Lawana Titiryn
Anita Rolleman
John Andrekson
Sue Mitchell
Eveline de Wildt

Visit our website to e-mail any member of the executive.

www.asviedmonton.org

Website Sources...

www.asrab.ab.ca

Alberta Sports & Recreation Association
for the Blind

www.afb.org/braillebug/games.asp

Games and information site

www.actionfund.org/freebooksmain.htm

Free braille books

www.braillebibles.org

Free braille bibles

www.nbp.org (National Braille Press)

Braille and audio books and other items

was no ordinary kid. Amber had determination, raw talent, and that greatest quality of all top athletes – heart. She had lost her eyesight four years earlier due to a brain tumor. She had been through things most children and their families could never even imagine. And she was stronger for it, ambitious, and full of life. Andrew moved to Drayton Valley without hesitation, and was soon coaching the girl that had changed the direction of his career.

During the summer of 2007, Amber began to compete in higher-level competitions, and was improving steadily. Although still only thirteen years old, she was starting to show what she was made of. She joined the Drayton Valley Swim Club, a year-round competitive club that would allow her access to more serious competition. After competitions at the Alberta Summer Games, the Western Canada Games, and the CanAm Games during the summer and fall of 2007, Andrew knew for certain that he was dealing with a serious athlete. Amber, by then, held the Canadian record in four events and was ranked around twentieth in the world in the one hundred metre freestyle.

Andrew met with Amber and her father one day in November to discuss her goals and future. Amber told them about her desire to go to the Olympics, and it was just what Andrew had been hoping to hear. It meant a huge commitment from her family, both financially and time-wise, and he laid it out for Amber’s Dad so he could think about it. There wasn’t much to think about. Amber had the talent and the desire. They would do what they could to make it happen.

Amber and Andrew set their sights on the Paralympic trials in April 2008. Amber trained for about ten hours per week, combining dry land, core exercises to help improve her overall strength, with swimming skill development in the water. “My hardest job in coaching Amber is to remember that she is only fourteen,” states Andrew. “I have to find the balance all the time – pushing, but not pushing so hard that she’ll burn out. She is already a surprisingly strong girl. As her swimming technique and skills develop, it will only help her use that strength better.”

Amber’s physical strength and swim times improved consistently. By the time they headed to Montreal, she was as ready as she’d ever been for that level of competition, although neither Andrew nor anyone else really expected that she would make it this time around. She had made it onto the National Development Team months before, but this was normally only a first step toward future Olympics.

At the end of the week of trials, Amber had not only qualified for a spot on the Canadian Team, but was now ranked tenth in the world in the one hundred metre freestyle, a huge improvement in just over six months.

What’s in store for Amber before Beijing? She and her guide dog, Tom, along with her Mom (as her tapper and official chaperone) are heading to Germany in May for a week-long Olympic training camp and meet, where Amber hopes to better her Canadian speed records, and then the family heads to Victoria, BC., for the CanAms.

“Amber’s greatest strength is her ability to focus and not get distracted by all the stuff going on around her,” says Andrew. “I expect that she’ll be able to make it into the top eight swimmers [at the Paralympics]. Other than that, who knows? She’s still very young. If we do things right, I see world records in her future. She’s that good.”

Amber’s Mom, Cheryl, her Dad, Wade, and sister, Aundrea, are all enormously proud of her and looking forward to the trip to China. “We will be there cheering her on from the crowd – something we don’t get to do very often as we are usually serving as tappers,” explains her Mom. “She may not hear us – but the rest of the facility certainly will!”

On behalf of ASVI and all of your friends, a huge GOOD LUCK, Amber. We are all proud of you and will be with you all the way to China and back!



Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired

Edmonton District

New Membership or Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please register me for the 2005 – 2006 membership year. I have enclosed my \$5.00 membership fee.

I would like to help out in the following ways:

- Phoning committee: _____
- Casino volunteer: _____
- Fundraising: _____
- Special event planning: _____
- Sit on the executive: _____
- Committee work: _____
(bursary, equipment)

I have the following suggestions as topics for general meetings:

I would like to see the ASVI improve its services by becoming more active in the following areas:

Please mail this form with your membership fee of \$5.00 to:

**ASVI Edmonton District
12010 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5K 0P3
Phone 780-453-8345**

Cheques should be made payable to ASVI