

ROB COULTER

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

Graduates



Robert Michael Coulter, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. **Coulter** of Grande Prairie, recently graduated in Architectural Technology from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He is employed with the City of Grande prairie.

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Amateur photog in the Olympics

Herald-Tribune staff

It took three applications, but Rob Coulter's photo of Grande Prairie is going to the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games.

Coulter's shot is entered in the Olympic Arts Festival. His candid photo of the city was taken from Borstad Point in Muskoseepi Park, and includes 214 Place and the Muskoseepi park Pavilion.

As far as is known, he's the city's only competitor in any aspect of the Olympics.

"They were looking for something that was distinctive to Grande Prairie, something that couldn't be mistaken for anything else," said Coulter, a city draftsman. "I thought those were two things in Grande Prairie that people identified with most."

Coulter's other entries included a sunset photo also taken from Borstad Point that included the college, and another shot of the college from the north side of the Bear Creek reservoir.

All photos selected to go to the Calgary display will travel on a national exhibition following the Olympics.

The contest, originally scheduled to end last September, was pressed into early December as the city tried to garner more support from the public.

Response fell well below the anticipated 300 applications that the community services department was hoping to display in public showings this year and next.

Part of the reason for the lack of entries were the rules governing the contest, said Hazel Potter of community services.

"The . . . pictures had to be framed," she said. "Because we were not offering a prize people were not willing to spend money on framing."

Some professional photographers from the city expressed interest in the contest but were dissuaded from entering because once a photo was entered it became city



Rob Coulter and his winner

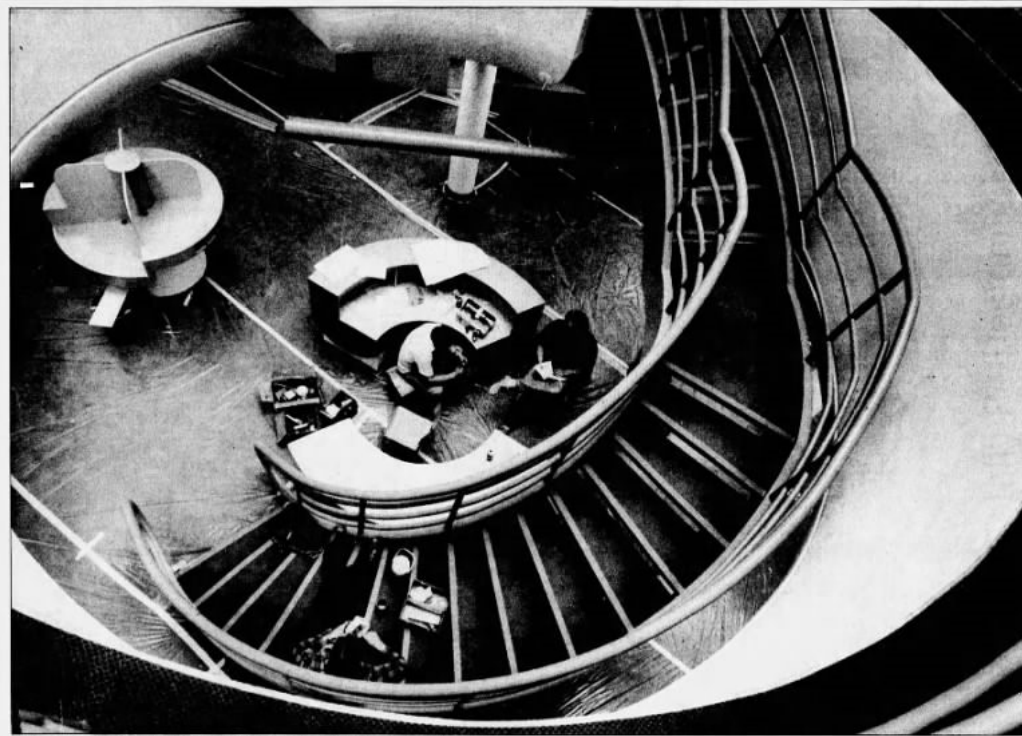
property, added Potter.

Plans to auction the best three in the Prairie Gallery's Dream Auction next year may still materialize as the city still has Coulter's other entries and two others provided by another photographer.

When response didn't grow the city even agreed to accept entries that weren't framed to encourage more participants.

Stephen Mah, the runnerup, was the first person to enter the contest.

COMMUNITY LIVING



Electricians break for lunch around the curving staircase in the nearly completed Library.



A brightly lit hallway joins the new building with the old on two levels.

Story by John Eamon
Photos by Rick Rycroft

A marriage of design

College expansion challenges architect, students and staff

What does \$34.5 million buy these days?

For the architect of Grande Prairie Regional College's expansion project, it buys the opportunity to work on a Douglas Cardinal building, an "architectural landmark."

For students, faculty and staff, it buys confusion and the joys of a spanking new building.

Since work began on the college expansion in May 1989, construction workers have been rubbing elbows with students and staff. Workers are also crawling over the outside of the building scheduled to be completed in November.

The project had a somewhat controversial beginning when the college decided to use a local architect instead of Cardinal, the original designer and a renowned architect. Cardinal felt the college was tampering with his creation.

But local architect Roger Field, of the Grande Prairie firm Field, Field and Field, says he's satisfied the expansion has respected the Cardinal design.

Field says the expansion reflects and complements the original design.

"In our original proposal, there were a lot of people who said it couldn't be done. But I haven't heard anybody who has not said the new addition blends in very well with the old college."

"We respected the uniqueness of the existing college and did not try to take away from the distinction it has in the community, Canada, and the world, as far as an architectural landmark."

The new building, although larger than the Cardinal building, sits on a lower plane, allowing the old building to remain the focal point of the college.



"It's way better than the old one. It was so crowded there we didn't have enough room."

Julie Dink, a biology instructor teaching her first year at GPRC, says the quality of education has been enhanced in the two new biology labs.

Physed instructor Leigh Goldie says the new gymnasium is an "outstanding facility" both for the college and the community.

"With such a big gym, there's a possibility of it feeling sterile and bleak," says Goldie, "but this one is very warm and comfortable even for its size."

Second-year physed student Will Gibbs, 19, says the new classrooms are larger and have better desks and equipment than the old portables he called home last year.

"When it's finished, it's going to be one of the best colleges in the province," says Gibbs.

But as with most moves, and most construction projects, there have been headaches. At one point in the late fall, cold winter winds made life in parts of the expansion building less than enjoyable.

As for the design, Rob Coulter, a 25-year-old education student with a background in architectural drafting, admires the blend of differences in the two buildings.

"It's a nice contrast," says Coulter, who has classes in both ends. "With the Cardinal design, it's dark. There's a lot of energy and bright colors at this end."

And academic development student Dean Rycroft, 24, who uses a wheelchair, says there were some mistakes made in terms of accessibility. "But they're redoing it," he says.

But Rycroft notes there's more to life at GPRC than the new building. "It's the instructors that make the difference."

The new building may resemble the old on the outside, but some of that resemblance ends on the inside. Curved hallways and round rooms have given way to straight halls and rectangular classes.

The more conventional rooms are cheaper and more functional, says Field. Interviews with staff revealed that some of the original "round and irregular classrooms" were poor teaching spaces, he says.

Students and staff seem to be enjoying their new surroundings despite the extra-curricular activity of laborers and tradesmen.

JoAnne Snydmiller, a 27-year-old university transfer student who works part-time in the chemistry labs, says things are still a bit disorganized but the extra work getting the labs up and running over the last six months has been worth it.

"Things are bigger and newer, we have more room for everything," says Snydmiller. "It was kind of cramped (in the Cardinal building)."

"It's lovely here, a nice place," says lab technician Ottavia Pillay.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



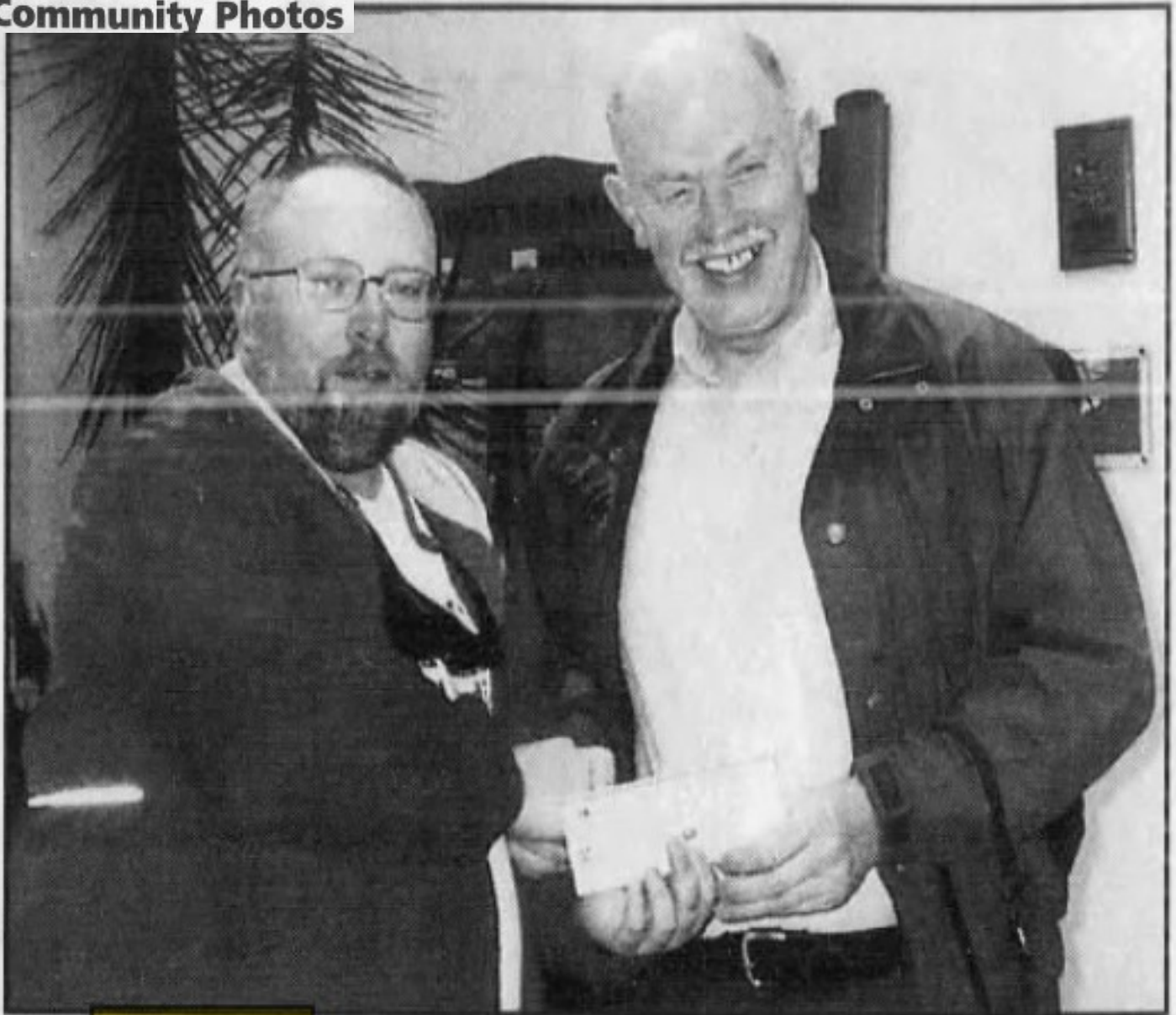
Sarmaga - **Coulter**

Janet & Garry Sarmaga of Bezanson, Alberta are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Tammy Jane, to Robert Michael **Coulter**, son of Donna & Lynne **Coulter** of Grande Prairie, Alberta. The marriage is to take place on May 22, 1993, at Bezanson.

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Community Photos



Rob Coulter of the Grande Prairie Lions presents a \$1,000 cheque to CNIB district co-ordinator and fellow Lion, **Brian Vey**.

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Obituaries



COULTER, Robert Michael -

Born May 5, 1965. Died August 14, 2014

It is with extreme sadness we announce the sudden passing of our beloved husband and son, Robert Michael Coulter, at his home in Grande Prairie. Born in Drumheller, Rob and his family moved to Sherwood Park, then to a farm in the Ponoka area before finally settling in Grande Prairie in 1980. Rob

attended Grande Prairie Composite High School, graduating in 1984. He moved to Edmonton to attend N.A.I.T., becoming a draftsman and working for, among others, the City of Grande Prairie. Returning to school in 1991 at the Grande Prairie Regional College, he met his wife, Tammy Sarmaga, while they were both beginning their Bachelors of Education degrees. They married May 22, 1993 and moved to Edmonton where Rob finished his degree in 1995. In his almost 20 years of teaching, both as a substitute and full time teacher, Rob touched the lives over 4,000 students. He was most happy in the classroom, sharing his love of reading and learning, and was proud when he could help a student have, as he called it, "the lightbulb moment." A Lion for over 12 years, Rob was passionate about the various projects of the Grande Prairie Lions Club, serving as President, Vice-President and his favorite, Tail Twister. His variety of ways to "fine" the other members often left them laughing. He was most passionate about the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program which provides Canine Vision, Hearing Ear, Seizure Response, Autism Assistance, Diabetic Alert, and Service Dog Guides for those with disabilities. Rob is survived by his wife, Tammy, mother Donna, father Lynne, brother Ken, in-laws, Garry and Janet Sarmaga, sister-and brother in-law, Glenda and Craig Stride, nieces Kendra and Kathleen Coulter and Sarah-Anne Stride, nephew Geoffrey Stride, and many friends and family around the world. A memorial service for Rob will be held at the Lions Learning Centre at 9625 Prairie Road, Grande Prairie, AB on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations made be made to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program www.dogguides.com or to a charity of one's choice. Care and arrangements entrusted to Bear Creek Funeral Home Grande Prairie 780-830-7742 www.bearcreekfuneral.com

