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The Riverview Boys & Girls Club received funding from Rogers' Raising The Grade program to support the creation of a new tech centre at the facility in the Coverdale Rec Centre. Matt McKeigan, left, is the education co-ordinator for the centre, seen here with Cameron Bowie. PHOTO: GREG ADEN/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Boys & Girls Club goes high-tech

Education Rogers
Communications supplies
Riverview club with new
computers for tech centre

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The Boys & Girls Club of Riverview has gone high-tech, and they're inviting the rest of the community to join them.

Yesterday, the club's new tech centre officially opened. Decked out with several new Dell computers that are loaded with software, and a smartboard on the way, the centre will enhance club activities while also opening up new opportunities for the broader community.

"This is huge for the club," said club executive director Lynda Carey. "The clubs across Canada, there's only 36 right now that have this program, and we're only the seventh in the Maritimes. So to be able to have this opportunity for the Town of Riverview, it's huge."

The tech centre is the result of a big

helping hand from Rogers Communications through its Youth Fund and Raising The Grade program.

The company donated about \$50,000 to renovate and supply electronics to the club, located in Riverview's Coverdale Centre. The town, which owns the building, donated the space which had been a revenue-generating meeting room.

And the Boys & Girls Club will use the room to not only offer state of the art programming to its members, but they will also open it up to Anglophone East School District students and members of the community.

The club will also benefit from Rogers' Raising the Grade grant, valued at about \$45,000 and renewable over five years. It will help provide staff and programming to help high school students with their schooling and to build a vision for their futures.

"We're going to reach out to difference organizations, different businesses in the greater Moncton area who have staff who are looking for this great volunteer opportunity to come in and say, 'This is my skill set, this is my passion, let me share it with you,'" Carey said.

Club education co-ordinator Matt McKeigan said he is looking to build a network of professionals willing to donate their time.

"We're really excited to be able to finally get this program off the ground and running," he said. "We have a lot of youth already interested and we're looking forward to getting new people in the program."

Heather Robinson, public affairs and communications manager with Rogers, said the Raising the Grade program has been a success in other communities where it's provided opportunities for youth.

"We've seen young people who've started the program now graduating from high school, getting scholarships, getting bursaries, seeing their dreams come true and it's with this confidence that they didn't have when they first walked in," she said.

The Rogers call centre in Moncton raised about \$40,000 over the course of the year for the centre, but all Rogers call centres in Canada also contributed through ongoing fundraising efforts. They agreed that the Riverview club would be the beneficiary this year.