

Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

Volume 7, No. 1

Camrose, Alberta

Christmas 2004

Building Strong Communities

Strong communities are the result of people working together, using their skills, sharing their time and resources, and supporting each other. On October 29 the Battle River Community Foundation held its first Community Builders Dinner. First to be recognized were Joe and Phyllis Voytechek who have made outstanding contributions to building this community through their work with young people.

The members of the Foundation Board wish to

thank the Voytecheks for allowing us to highlight them and in so doing bring attention to the difference each of us can make. We also want to thank all those who generously donated to the Joe and Phyllis Voytechek Fund, which now stands at \$25,000.

The goal of the BRCF is to build strong communities for the future. Recognizing people like the Voytecheks reminds us all what a wonderful community we have.



Matt Carre of Nokian Tyres Canada and Jack Heller of Kal Tire presented a cheque for \$10,000 to the Joe and Phyllis Voytechek Endowment Fund. The presentation was made on behalf of Dennis Gaede, president of Nokian Tyres North America, a former player for Joe.

Inside This Issue

- Irving Fund starts giving back Page 2
- Persons start new fund Page 3
- Faces of the board are changing Page 4

Irving Fund starts giving back

Denise Irving felt strongly about literacy and the power of reading.

A few years ago, Denise worked with representatives of the Battle River Community Foundation and her legal and financial advisors to establish a fund that would benefit the Camrose Public Library. Denise also arranged for proceeds from her estate to be added to the fund at a future date.

Denise passed away in 2003, and now that her estate has been settled, the Ross and Denise Irving Fund has reached \$279,684.

The first grant from the fund, of \$1400, was made to the Camrose Public Library this fall. The grant is the income available from Denise's original gift. Next year the grant will be income from the new, higher amount.

Members of the Camrose Public Library Board take their role of carrying out Denise Irving's wishes very seriously. "We're honoured by Mrs. Irving's generosity," says Library Board Chair Donna Phillips. "We share her belief in



Ross and Denise Irving



Battle River Community Foundation chairman Blain Fowler presents the first grant from the Ross and Denise Irving endowment fund to Jo-Anne Cooper, Director, Camrose Public Library.

the importance of literacy and in making reading materials and information accessible to everyone."

The Library Board is not making any hasty decisions about how to spend their annual gift. "We've created a set of guidelines for the funds, to help us make the best possible use of the gift," explains Donna. "This gift is going to have a positive impact on the Library – and on the community – for a long time, so we want to start it off right."

The guidelines encourage members of the Board and staff to carefully review the needs of the Library and the needs of the community before making any decisions. Purchases made through the grant will be used for materials of various kinds, from books and tapes to resource items and equipment. The first purchases are expected to be made by the summer of 2005.

Thanks to the foresight of Denise Irving, that will be only the beginning of what promises to be a long and meaningful opportunity for the Camrose Public Library to continue in its role of providing current and useful information resources to people of the local area.

Persons start new fund

Alver and Arlene Person love their community.

Alver and Arlene were both born and raised locally – Alver in East Hay Lakes and Arlene in Armena.

They have been active participants in all aspects of community life and feel they have received far more than they have given.

They've run a business, raised a family and been involved in the community in many ways, from the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce to being active in sports and their church.

Alver was part of the Augustana scholarship committee for years and both Alver and Arlene were instrumental in the success of The Bethany Group's recent capital campaign.



At the time of their marriage in 1959, Alver and Arlene agreed to set aside 10% of their earnings each month for charity. They've never wavered from that decision. Supporting everything from the MS Society, Cancer Society and Heart and Stroke Foundation to the Food Bank and much more has brought the Persons great joy.

"Even when times were tight for us," Arlene recalls, "we believed there were others whose needs were greater."

Alver and Arlene, who owned Burgar Funeral Home for about 25 years, have retired now. In September Alver turned 80, while Arlene is a bit younger. Their love of the community and their desire to help others remains very strong. That's why the Persons have chosen to make a \$10,000 gift to the Battle River Community Foundation.

"It's really in gratitude for the privilege of living in this community," Arlene explains. "We and our children and our grandchildren have always been able to access everything we need – medical, social, cultural or sports related. For that we're grateful and we're happy to be able to play a small part in keeping those things going."

Alver and Arlene have put no strings on their gift, leaving the decisions about what projects to support to the Foundation's Board.

"We can't predict where our community's greatest needs will be down the road," Arlene says. "That will be for a future Board to decide. We trust the members of the Foundation to be good stewards and represent us well."

Alver and Arlene Person, with Battle River Community Foundation Executive Director Dave Stolee, celebrate the creation of their new fund.

Environmental Initiative enters its second year

The Environmental Initiative offered through the Battle River Community Foundation is entering its second year.

The program is made possible by a grant from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and is intended to help identify and address environmental concerns in the Battle River area.

The first year's work included meeting with various stakeholders to discuss and prioritize local issues, as well as hosting a conference on the topic of the Battle River Watershed, featuring nationally recognized speakers and participants from provincial and local governments, as well as

agricultural producers.

The second year will have a greater emphasis on establishing an Environmental Legacy Endowment Fund, as well as continuing to build understanding of the local eco-system. There are projects being planned particularly to increase the awareness among young people.

A second water conference will also take place in the spring.

The environmental initiative is under the guidance of Camrose-based agronomist and consultant David Samm.



Battle River Community Foundation

Telephone: (780)679-8785
Box 1122, Camrose, AB T4V 4E7
Email: brcf@telusplanet.net

Blain Fowler, Chairman
(780) 672-3142

Ken Drever, Vice Chair
(780) 672-4651

Darrell Rosland, Secretary
(780) 672-4491

Arnold Malone, Treasurer
(780) 679-2335

Dana Andreassen, Director
(780) 672-2964

Joan Baumle, Director
(780) 679-0028

Bob Bell, Director
(780) 672-2355

David Chamberlain, Director
(780) 672-5530

Gerry Davis, Director
(780) 672-7761

Corey Kudrowich, Director
(780) 679-5085

Tom Kuntz, Director
(780) 672-7096

Dave Stolee, Executive Director
(780) 679-8785

Response Card

Please send me

- the last annual report of the Foundation
- more information about making a planned gift
- more information related to

Name _____

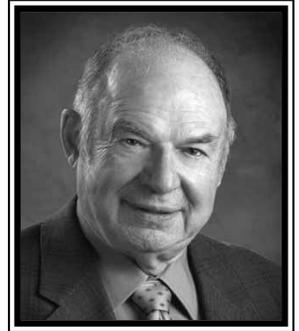
Address _____

Phone _____

Faces of the Board changing

The Board of the Battle River Community Foundation undergoes a bit of a facelift every January, as a few members step down and new ones step up.

This year the Foundation will bid farewell to one of its original members, as Ken Drever leaves the group. Ken served as chair of the Board for four years and has been very instrumental in establishing a number of funds – particularly in the Hardisty area.

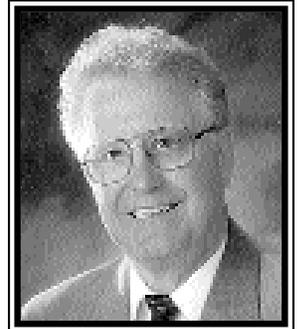


Ken Drever

Darrell Rosland will also be leaving the Foundation Board, after six years. Darrell's presence and support were very much appreciated by his fellow Board members.



Dave Chamberlain



Darrell Rosland

Two newcomers will be taking their places at the table. Joining the Foundation will be Dave Chamberlain



Corey Kudrowich

and Corey Kudrowich. Dave is a long-time local resident who acts as a financial advisor through the Battle River Credit Union. Corey, who grew up in Ryley, is a Senior Financial Consultant with the Investors Group in Camrose.

Both Corey and David are long-time supporters of the Foundation who strongly believe in the concept of a community savings account, as do the organizations that they represent. The Battle River Credit Union has contributed over \$30,000 since

2000 and Investors Group this year pledged a second \$10,000 over the next three years.

We look forward to getting to know and work with these enthusiastic gentlemen in the months and years ahead.

It's time to give!

It is the season to be jolly. It is also the season to wrap up your finances and consider a charitable donation in order to change your tax situation.

Making a charitable gift will bring significant tax credits.

The Battle River Community Foundation not only assists local causes to continue their good work, it provides tax receipts for all gifts.

Talk to any one of the Foundation Board members to arrange your charitable gift before the tax year ends December 31.