



Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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Celebrating true community builders

Every community has citizens who spend their lifetimes making their community a better place to live.

They care about their neighbours and the quality of life and opportunities available now and for future generations.

They have helped build and grow their communities into the beautiful and supportive places we live in today and want to leave the community strong for those who follow.

In this way, these citizens are doing very much what the Battle River Community Foundation is doing: providing strong and healthy environments for children; being flexible and positive in helping the community grow; and offering help to those facing a difficult time.

To highlight the importance of strengthening community life, the Battle River Community Foundation has begun a series of Community Builders Dinners to honour the people who



Fran and Dr. Red Elliott characterize the values we hold dear and to build endowment funds in their names, that will continue to strengthen the local communities forever.

The third such Community Builders' Dinner to take place in Camrose will be held on Friday, October 20, at the Norsemen Inn, celebrating the contributions of Dr. Red and Fran Elliott. The program after dinner will include a live auction and tributes from Cliff Drever, John Elliott, Berdie Fowler, Liz and Rob Rolf and Wynn McLean.

**Honouring
Dr. Red and Fran Elliott
Friday, October 20
Norsemen Inn, Camrose**

Tickets are available from any Battle River Community Foundation board member. Their names and phone numbers are on page 4.

Tickets are \$400 for a table of eight or \$50 each, including a donation of \$25 per ticket to the Fund to be created in honour of Red and Fran.

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Introducing Red and Fran

Red and Fran Elliott have spent a lifetime caring for others – through Red’s work as a vet; Fran’s years on the School Board; through raising five children and through all the ways in which they have participated in and supported the community in which they live.

But ask the Elliotts how they feel about being recognized by the Battle River Community Foundation as Community Builders worthy of tribute and the couple is likely to look a bit perplexed. Surely, they will tell you, there are others more worthy of this honour.

Indeed, it would be hard to find a local couple who has served the community for so long, or so well. In fact, it would be hard to find anyone who qualifies as “local” more than Red, who was born Albert Redmond Elliott on October 3, 1925, in St. Mary’s Hospital, Camrose – one of the first babies born in a facility that had just opened that year.

Red’s parents had come to Camrose in ’23, his father with an Agriculture degree and his mother a teacher. The couple bought a farm just west of town, where Camrose Composite High School and the Duggan Mall are now located.



Red bottle-feeding a lamb

Red grew up farming and working horses – he drove a team to haul grain from the farm to a waiting boxcar at age ten. Red credits his father with keeping him interested in agriculture. “Dad knew how to do pretty much everything with horses, cattle, pigs and as I got older he taught me, too.”



Red in the Navy

The senior Mr. Elliott served as an officer in WW II, while Red stayed in Camrose to mind the farm. When his Dad came home, Red jumped at

the chance to join the Navy, where he did a tour on iceberg patrol on a minesweeper in the Atlantic.

Post-war, Red attended Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. Coincidentally, a young woman named Frances Mary Hall had been born and raised in that community. After completing her education, she was working in a manufacturing office and enjoying the local nightlife.



Fran in Guelph

Red and Fran crossed paths at a community dance and, they say, have been dancing together ever since. Red graduated college on May 26, 1950. The couple married on May 27. “She wanted to be sure I could get a job before she married me,” Red jokes. Fran says it was more that she didn’t want him to get away.

Either way, once the vows were spoken Fran lent the newly graduated doctor enough money to buy a used car and the couple made their way to Camrose. For the next 55 years they lived in a white house on 48 Avenue, adjacent to the northwest corner of the high school grounds. They moved to a condo in 2005. The house was also home to Red’s business for many years and, as time went on, to their five children:

Anne (1952);
Rob (1954);
John (1956);
Howard (1957);
and Eric (1959).



The Elliott family in 1964

A new clinic was constructed in later years on 41 Street in Camrose.

In the early years most of Red’s work was conducted right at farms and he has fond memories of helping farmers make the transition to bringing their animals to the vet



Fran and Red dancing through life together

instead of having the vet come to them. Ask him to tell you about his Ford Econoline half-ton with the portable stock rack, in which he transported many a sick animal. “It took a while for farmers to adapt,” he recalls.

Despite the busy practice that often kept Red away from home and in which Fran helped with books and answering after hours calls; time required to shuttle kids to hockey and school events; Fran was always active in the community. She served in many capacities with the United Church; was a Charter member of the Camrose Children’s Centre Board; volunteered with the local Music Festival and sat on various other committees. Fran was an elected member of the Camrose School Board for nine years, serving two terms as Chair. In the early 1990s the



Business and Professional Women’s Club named her Woman of the Year.

Red has also been active in the church, has been a member of the Camrose Rotary Club since the early 1950s and has also served on the CRE Board. His picture hangs on the Agricultural Wall of Honour.

The couple have travelled to various places but a three-month mission to India, where Red acted as a consultant to dairy farmers through an organization called Canadian Executives Serving Overseas, is remembered by both Fran and Red as a “wonderful adventure”. Red also took a subsequent trip to Hungary through the same organization. On both journeys, he says, he had to really use his knowledge of animal nutrition because a big part of the problems faced by cattlemen in both countries was with feeding and ensuring their cattle received the right mix of nutrients. “I was really satisfied with being able to help solve some of their concerns,” Red recalls. “I felt I had made a difference to them.”

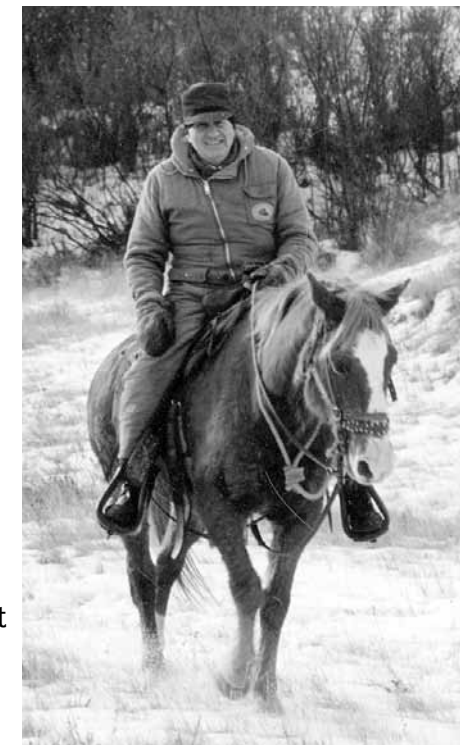
And making a difference is what it’s all about. That’s why Red and Fran have agreed to be celebrated as Community Builders – because proceeds from the event will be used to support local projects through the Battle River Community Foundation.

“I just think the Foundation is the best idea since sliced bread,” says Fran. “I really like the concept of investing wisely and using the interest, while keeping the principal intact.”

Red agrees, saying the Foundation is the best way he can see of helping with all the good projects going on in the local area.

The Elliotts have always believed in helping their neighbours and consider the Community Builders tribute a way of doing just that.

“What could be more thrilling,” they say, “than being told you’re being honoured with gifts to the community that will go on in perpetuity?”



About the Foundation

The Battle River Community Foundation was established in 1995 by a group of volunteers who were interested in creating a means of supporting the local area for years to come.

The Foundation is considered to be a unique organization because it exists strictly to support projects in east central Alberta. It can “fill in the gaps” and provide support to programs that are not funded by government but are essential to helping our local communities grow toward a healthy future.



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The generosity of local donors is what makes the Battle River Community Foundation work. Investing in the Foundation is like investing in a community savings account that will be there to help when there's a need.

Donors can give their funds to a general endowment fund; name a fund in honour of themselves or a loved one; create a fund that allows them to have input into the allocation of interest each year or even designate their gift in support of a particular cause.

Since its inception the assets of the Battle River Community Foundation have grown to nearly \$2.5 million, in a variety of funds. More than \$485,000 has been given back to communities throughout east central Alberta. In 2005 alone, more than \$120,500 was given to 15 different communities, to support projects as diverse as school breakfast programs; handicapped housing; programs that assist runaway youth; and enhancements for parks, playgrounds, arenas, museums, hospitals, campgrounds and cemeteries.

Each year the assets of the Battle River Community Foundation grow and make it an ever more significant source of funds for local projects. To find out more about how you can “give back”, contact any one of the Foundation board members listed.

Our thanks

This newsletter has been made possible through the generosity of Oregon Steel Mills – Camrose Pipe Company.

Doing business locally for 45 years, Camrose Pipe Company is now 100% part of the Oregon Steel Mills Corporation. The mill is happy to support the Battle River Community Foundation in its work to benefit the local area, in reflection of the commitment of Oregon Steel to community values.

“I am satisfied that the Battle River Community Foundation is a trusted organization that has taken a very key role in coordinating activities to the benefit of Camrose and the surrounding community,” says Slade van Rooyen, General Manager of Camrose Pipe Company.

Once again we thank Campipe for their sponsorship of this issue of *Giving Back*.

Please send me _____ tickets to the Elliott dinner

As part of our tribute to Red and Fran, we wish to make a gift of

\$2,500

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

\$100

Other _____

to be permanently invested in The Red and Fran Elliott Fund,
to support projects in the Battle River area forever

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please mail to Battle River Community Foundation,
Box 1122, Camrose, AB T4V 4E7, or see any of the board members