



Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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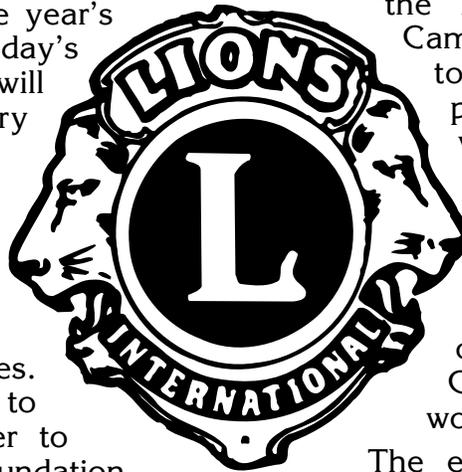
April 2009

Join us for our Open House!

The Battle River Community Foundation is hosting its Annual Open House on Tuesday, May 26 at the Norsemen Inn.

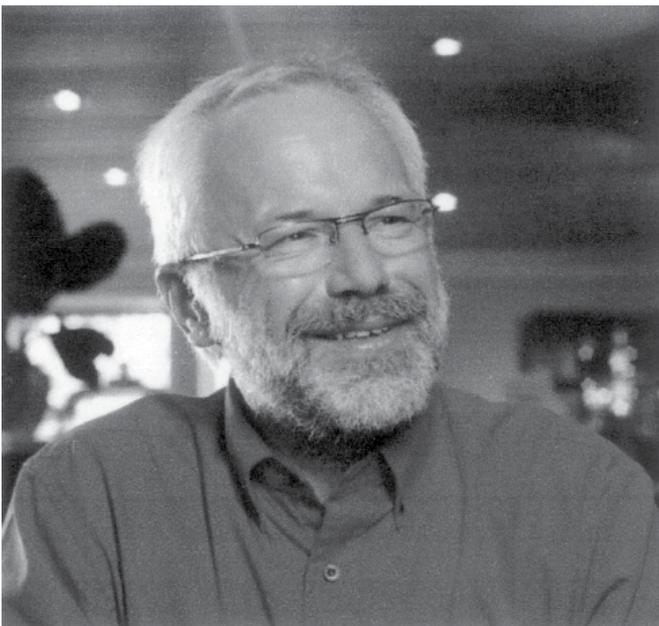
In addition to an update on the year's activities and a frank review of today's financial realities, the evening will include comments from two very special speakers.

Jim Taylor, of the Camrose Lions Club, will speak about the importance of leaving a legacy. After more than 50 years of operation the local club has decided to wind down its activities. The membership has chosen to turn more than \$170,000 over to the Battle River Community Foundation, to ensure ongoing support for its priority charities in the years to come.



In addition, Dr. Roger Epp, Dean of the Augustana Campus, University of Alberta, will be a featured speaker. Dr. Epp says, "the Battle River region, including Camrose, faces a challenge familiar to almost all non-metropolitan places: that of retaining people, wealth and knowledge within their communities. The opportunities for what I call 'reversing the flow' and for reinvestment in the region involve educational institutions, community organizations and the Battle River Community Foundation in shared work."

The evening gets underway at 7:30 p.m. Please join us!



Dr. Roger Epp

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Bidding farewell to Dave Stolee

After 14 years of exemplary service, Dave Stolee stepped down as Executive Director of the Battle River Community Foundation on March 31.

Mr. Stolee has been with the Foundation since its inception in 1995, when he was appointed to the very first Board of Directors. He served as Treasurer until 1998, when the organization had grown enough to hire a “very part time” staff person and he accepted the job.

In his role as Executive Director, Mr. Stolee says he has felt privileged to be part of the progress and growth of the Battle River Community Foundation. “We started, literally, with nothing,” he recalls. “And we’ve grown into an organization that can make a real difference.”

Mr. Stolee says he has enjoyed working with donors to the Foundation. “There are so many people who believe deeply in the philosophy of giving back. It’s been very gratifying to meet those people and help them support the communities and projects that are important to them.”

“In my time, we’ve given more than one million dollars back to the communities of the Battle River area,” he says. “Big or small, every

donation has made a difference.”

Battle River Community Foundation Board Chair Blain Fowler has true admiration for Dave Stolee and for the clear-headed

and positive way in which he has provided guidance and behind-the-scenes support to the Foundation.

“We have been very fortunate to have Dave Stolee working with us in our first decade. He has been an exceptional staff member and we wish him all the best in whatever he chooses to do in the future.”

Despite Mr. Stolee’s long history with the Foundation, Mr. Fowler is confident in the future of the organization. “That’s the beauty of an organization that is specifically set up to carry on for the long term and continue to meet the needs of the community,” he explains. “We have policies and processes that make it possible for us to pick up and move forward, even as the people involved change.”



Welcoming Kerry Grettum

The Battle River Community Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of Kerry Grettum for the position of Executive Director, effective April 1, 2009.

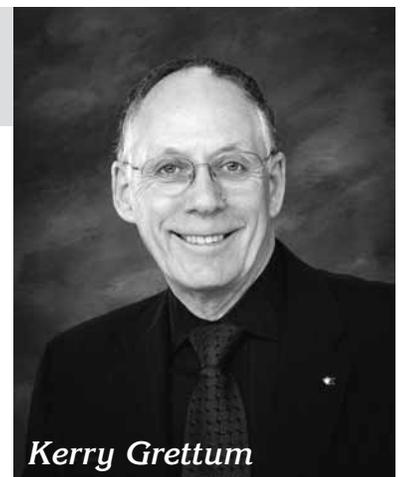
Mr. Grettum is a long-time resident of the Camrose area, having grown up in the community. He and his family moved to Bittern Lake in 1993, after living in Calgary for several years.

Since his return, Mr. Grettum has served five years as Mayor of Bittern Lake, as well as taking on the role of President of the Camrose Chamber of Commerce in 2001. He was the owner of Cleaner’s Choice Drycleaning for 10 years and in 2007 accepted a 10-year appointment as Federal Returning Officer for this area.

Mr. Grettum is pleased to take on the position of

Executive Director for the Battle River Community Foundation, saying he is looking forward to being involved in an organization which positively impacts communities in east central Alberta.

“I’ve known of the Foundation for many years and like the positive ways in which it provides support,” Mr. Grettum states. “It has a great reputation and has grown tremendously since it began. I want to continue to assist that growth and be part of the success of communities.”



Grants being presented

Representatives of the Battle River Community Foundation have been busy in recent months, visiting organizations and presenting grant cheques based on income from the 2008 year. Below is a small sample of the grants that have been given to organizations throughout east central Alberta.



Anita Miller, Mayor of the Town of Hardisty, accepts a \$600 grant on behalf of the Hardisty United Church Camp from Ken Drever, past chair of the Battle River Community Foundation. The funds were generated through the Ian Harrison Memorial Fund and will be used to provide new beds and mattresses at the camp.



Community Foundation board member James Mayer presents a cheque to Camrose Association For Community Living board member Colin Atkinson. CAFCL received a total of \$8,300 from the Foundation, for such items as TIPS program materials, as well as transportation, wages and supplies for the summer camp program. The grants were generated through the Community Fund; the Ricky James Hillaby Memorial Fund; the Jeff Blaeser Memorial Fund and the Camrose and District Thrift Shop Fund.



Battle River School Division received \$6,000 in support to offset the costs of offering a one-week canoe trip for junior or senior high students of promise within the Camrose area. These students are chosen because of their leadership ability or because they might benefit from a personal growth experience. Assistant Superintendent Rick Jarrett accepts a cheque from, left, Dave Stolee of Battle River Community Foundation and, right, Ray Hook of the Rotary Club of Camrose, whose fund made this donation possible.



Phyllis Robertson (left), administrative assistant at the Battle River Community Foundation presents a grant of \$250 to Marge Johnson, director of the Strome Community Church. The grant was generated through the Frank and Mabel Lindsay Angus Robson Fund.



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Celebrating Doreen and Irving Bell

The community of Hardisty gathered to celebrate long time citizens Doreen and Irving Bell on April 4, as well as to support the Battle River Community Foundation.

The Bells were the honoured guests at a Community Builders Dinner, organized on behalf of the Battle River Community Foundation to recognize those people who give time and energy and truly make a difference to the quality of life in their community.

Doreen and Irving were feted by their family and friends, as well as local dignitaries, in front of a crowd of more than 150 people. Speakers included Battle River Wainwright MLA Doug Griffiths, Hardisty Mayor Anita Miller, grandson Ryan, friends Don Addie and Jerri Lynn Burden (sending a written message through her son), Minister Doug Coubrough and Doreen's sister Carol.

The evening also featured a live auction led by Dale Jones and Harry Anderson, who encouraged audience members to open their wallets and be generous in their support.

By evening's end the community had contributed \$15,455 to the Battle River Community Foundation.

Proceeds from the Community Builders Dinner will be added to a fund created in the Bell's name. Income from the Doreen and Irving Bell Fund will be used to support projects in the Hardisty area for years to come.



Doreen and Irving Bell

Photo courtesy of The Community Press

**Annual Open House
Tuesday, May 26
7:30 p.m.
Norsemen Inn**