



# Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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## “Life changing” scholarships awarded

When members of the MacDonald family set up two scholarships in memory of their parents, they wanted to celebrate the fact that their parents were strong supporters of education. They also wanted to make gaining post-secondary schooling a little less financially stressful.

The MacDonalds awarded two \$11,000 scholarships this fall – one for a 2009 high school grad from Camrose County now attending an academic institution and one for a 2009 grad from Camrose County enrolled in a trades program. Applicants for these two scholarships – the largest given out by the Battle River Community Foundation – were selected based on academic performance, community involvement and level of need.

According to Stan MacDonald, who established the fund along with his brother Gordon, his sister Jean Scullion and Jean’s son Ronald Brimacombe, the family is well aware that getting an education costs far more than the price of tuition. “In addition to tuition and books there are all sorts of living expenses,” he explains. “It can be tough. We’re very pleased to be able to make it easier.”

Megan Braseth of Bashaw, who is studying Education at Red Deer College and Cory Yuha of Bawlf who is studying to be an electrician, were selected as this year’s recipients. While the two students both expressed appreciation and gratitude to their generous benefactors, it was Cory who summed up what the scholarship means. “Honestly,” he said as he accepted his cheque, “I’m so grateful. This is life changing for me.”



*Presenting a \$11,000 scholarship to Megan Braseth were: (left to right) Battle River School Division assistant superintendent Rick Jarrett, Gordon and Stan MacDonald (sons of W.F. and Margaret MacDonald), and Battle River Community Foundation board chair Blain Fowler.*



*Presenting a \$11,000 scholarship to Cory Yuha were: (left to right) BRSD assistant superintendent Rick Jarrett, Stan and Gordon MacDonald (sons of W.F. and Margaret MacDonald), and Battle River Community Foundation board member James Mayer.*

## Frank and June Meraw remembered BRCF

Frank and June Meraw enjoyed life. They skied, they sailed, and in their later years they spent summers at the lake and winters in their fifth wheel. But when it came time to decide how to allocate their estate, the Meraws agreed that there was no place like home.

Frank was born in Winnipeg in 1931 and met June when he was attending the U of A, studying for his B.Comm degree. June was an Edmonton girl, born in 1932, who worked for the accounting firm Winspear Higgins.

The couple married months after Frank finished school in 1953 and returned to Camrose. Frank joined his mother in the family business, Meraw's 5¢ to \$1.00 Store, in due course assuming full ownership. June transferred to the Camrose office of Winspear Higgins, spending her working years in a succession of accounting offices, concluding her career with Dodsworth and Dey.

Upon the arrival of "box stores" into the community, the couple sold the business and moved to southern Alberta, where they both worked in the accounting field. Soon the pull of home brought them back to Camrose, where Frank operated an accounting firm until his retirement in 1992.

Over the years Frank and June had the energy and resources to enjoy their spare time. June, especially, was a dedicated Edmonton Eskimos fan and the couple held season's tickets for many years. Even after June's health declined and she was no longer able to attend in person, "game day" would find her cheering in front of the television set at home.

The couple did a lot of skiing and even had a small ski shop in the back of their store for a time. They also enjoyed sailing and Frank, who had been a Sea Cadet as a youth and was active in the Camrose Flying Club as well, took a Power Squadron sailing course, to learn navigation and other skills. The couple sailed off the west coast of B.C. with friends and also owned a lovely lot at Pigeon Lake, where Tom recalls "they were happy to go sailing anytime, with anyone who was willing."

During their later years, when they wintered in a warmer climate down south, the couple took courses at the university in Casa Grande

and even hiked into the Grand Canyon. June's deteriorating health kept them close to home for a time and she passed away in April of 2004. Frank passed away in December of 2008.

The couple left instructions for a portion of their estate to be given to the Battle River Community Foundation. To date, more than \$150,000 has been received, with \$50,000 being allocated to the Community Fund and more than \$90,000 being used to establish an Administration Endowment Fund in the couple's name. A further \$10,000 was used as "flow-through" grant money in 2009. With some real estate still to be sold, an additional sum is expected to be added to the couple's endowment when it is available.

"We're grateful to people like Frank and June," says Battle River Community Foundation Chair Blain Fowler. "They planned ahead and thought about all the good their assets could do for the local community. It's an honour for us to establish a fund in their names and to make grants that will support the area in which the Meraws lived and worked."



*Frank and June Meraw*

# Community Builders' Dinners raise funds

You may not think Doug and Helen Coubrough have anything much in common with Bernie and Jeanette Boser.

After all, one couple lives in Irma, the other in Camrose. One couple has worked in the business sector for years, the other has a background in education and the ministry.

But underneath the surface, both couples are true examples of the type of dedicated volunteers whose support of their community has made a genuine difference to the quality of life.

And both couples have recently been celebrated by their families, friends and communities as the honourees at Battle River Community Foundation Community Builders dinners.

A dinner was held for the Bosers on Friday, October 16, in Camrose. A dinner was held for the Coubroughs on Friday, October 23, in Irma.



*Jeanette and Bernie Boser*

Both evenings featured fond memories, tributes and friendly roasting of the guests of honour, as well as the auction of several items. All proceeds from each event were placed with the Foundation, to start funds in each couple's name. Between the two evenings, over \$32,000 was raised.

In the years ahead, interest from these funds will be used to support causes and projects in the communities of Irma and Camrose.

The two dinners held this fall were part of a series of such events that the Battle River Community Foundation has hosted in recent years, honouring individuals and couples in Camrose, Forestburg, Hardisty, Irma, Killam, Loughheed and Sedgewick. The events have brought more than \$200,000 into the Foundation, all of which is invested, with proceeds going back to the communities from which they came.

More dinners are planned for 2010 – watch for details about dates, locations and who will be celebrated.



*Helen and Doug Coubrough*

## 'Tis the season for charitable giving

A charitable legacy isn't just for the very wealthy. It's for anyone who wants to continue to support a cause in which they believe, even after their death.

According to the financial advisors at Investors Group, this is a good time of year to set up a charitable legacy gift through the Battle River Community Foundation. Donations made before the end of December can be used to positively impact your tax situation for the 2009 year, allowing you to both give and receive!

Talk to any BRCF Board member or your own financial advisor for more information.



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## Camrose Children's Centre receives grant for upgrading

The Camrose Children's Centre has provided a warm and caring environment to generations of pre-school age children.

But in recent years the centre's 25-year-old facility has been in need of repair and rejuvenation and the Battle River Community Foundation has decided to help.

A grant of \$6000

was given to the Centre to be used for upgrading furniture and equipment.

According to the Centre's Business Manager, Linda English, the funds have been used for the purchase of new "cozy chairs" for the children, and soft rugs where children gather for story time. The grant has also made it possible to purchase storage cupboards, where out-of-season toys and other items can be stored.

"Our facility plays such an important role in the development of its clients," English says. "It's important to the children's wellbeing that our facility is safe, comfortable and tidy."

"We've been working hard to upgrade our building and equipment, both inside and out. We are very grateful to organizations such as the Battle River Community Foundation, which has chosen to provide financial assistance to us. Without these grants we wouldn't be able to keep up with the needs of our aging building and ensure our children have a place they like to come to every day."



*Battle River Community Foundation director Gerry Davis and Doreen Walline, representing the family of the Late Harry M. Kuntz, present a \$6,000 grant to Camrose Children's Centre program director Gail Moulder (right).*



*Children gather on soft, colourful rugs to enjoy the daily story time.*