

Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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Celebrating two special citizens

Each year the Battle River Community Foundation teams up with different central Alberta communities to honour and celebrate special citizens who have played a significant part in building the towns and counties in which they live.

The people who are feted are those who demonstrate characteristics of giving, caring and compassion, and put a priority on meeting the needs of others, just like the Battle River Community Foundation.

This fall, the Foundation is pleased to be hosting its sixth annual Community Builders Tribute Night in the City of Camrose, and to be recognizing the contributions of dedicated volunteers Bernie and Jeanette Boser.

The Tribute Night will take place at the Norsemen Inn, on Friday, October 16. Reverend Brian Hunter will be the Master of Ceremonies for the grand event. In addition to tributes from a variety of presenters, the evening will feature a live auction of Boser-related treasures by auctioneer Doug Johnson.

Another highlight of the evening will occur when all in attendance will rise to sing a special song for Bernie and Jeanette. This segment will be led and directed by Dr. John Howard, who also wrote the lyrics.

You are invited to be a part of this evening of fun and laughter honoring the Bosers. All proceeds will be placed in the Bernie and Jeanette Boser Fund, to benefit worthwhile projects in the Camrose area forever.

Tickets can be purchased from the Battle River Community Foundation office, by calling 780-679-0449 or from individual members of the Foundation Board. Tickets are \$60 each or can be purchased in tables of 8 for \$480.



Bernie and Jeanette Boser

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Reading U makes everyone feel good

We all imagine that children spend their summer away from school being carefree, playing with their friends and having adventures. This summer a group of Camrose students did all of those things while improving their literacy.

Thirty-five students between the ages of 7 and 10 years, all in grades 2 and 3, took part in the first-ever Reading University in July, with a goal of improving their reading and comprehension skills. The program was developed based on the belief that students who do not read at grade level by the end of grade three struggle to succeed in learning as they get older. The hope was that students, under the direction of eight enthusiastic young staff members, would have so much fun at Reading University that they'd forget they were also learning.



Reading University students practiced their literacy skills by playing various word games.

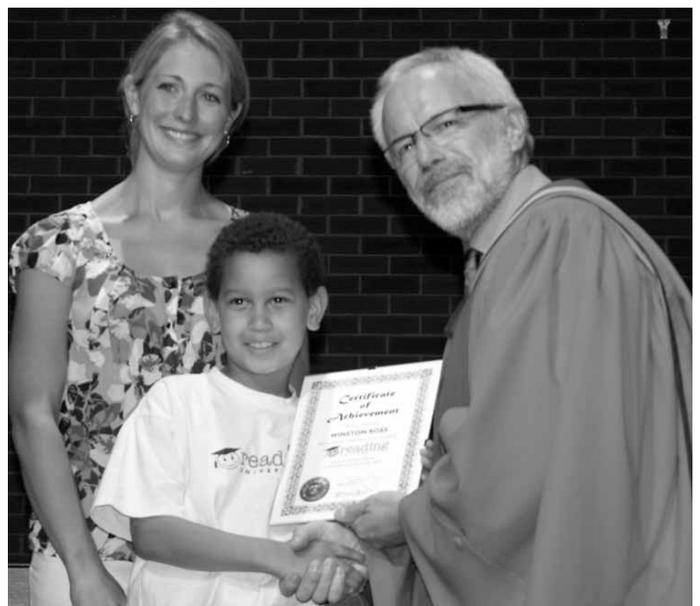
By all reports, Reading University met its goals. A joint project between the Battle River Community Foundation and Battle River School Division, with support from Augustana Campus – University of Alberta, Camrose Adult Read and Write and the Camrose Adult Learning Council, as well as a number of local funders, such as Central Agencies / the Mayer family; the Norsemen Inn / Joe and Paula Cramer; Camrose Booster Ltd. / the Fowler family; David and Helen Samm; the Alberta Teachers' Association; and the Augustana Faculty Association, Reading University is a true example of how communities can work together to make a difference.

The Foundation spearheaded the fundraising, while the school division prepared the program and recruited the students. Augustana offered the facility and other organizations assisted with planning, preparation of materials and volunteer recruitment.

On “graduation day” July 31, everyone had positive things to say. The students were excited about everything from having lunch in the university cafeteria to being picked up at their house by a school bus; from getting to read using a computer to meeting new friends; from going on trips to museums to playing word games. Organizers and volunteers were equally enthusiastic about their experience.

But perhaps most revealing were the comments of parents. One mother broke down while trying to outline to organizers the impact the program has had on her daughter. “She’s so much more confident,” the Mom explained. “She’ll pick up a book on her own now. She even wants to go to the library!”

Another parent added that her son had never been able to understand words on a page and had felt overwhelmed by trying. “I’ve watched him sound out words at home in the evenings this month and today he helped read a poem out loud in front of a whole group. I can’t even tell you what that means to me.”



Accompanied by his Reading University teacher, Katherine Cook, Winston Ross receives his certificate of achievement from Augustana Dean, Dr. Roger Epp, who dressed in his ceremonial robes for the occasion.

All about Bernie and Jeanette Boser

Bernie and Jeanette Boser are well known in the Camrose area for their many volunteer contributions.

The couple have spent a lifetime giving back to the communities they have called home. Both Bernie and Jeanette believe strongly in the concept of service beyond self and give freely of their time to support causes in which they believe.

The Bosers arrived in Camrose in 1973, after spending 13 years in Wilkie, Saskatchewan. Bernie was manager of the Camrose Co-op from that time until his retirement in 1996, after 36 years on the job. Jeanette raised the couple's three children, Kelly, Laurie and Jason, then worked in a variety of businesses.

Even with a chock full work and family schedule, the Bosers have always found time to be active community citizens. The couple has a binder full of certificates and thank you notes from organizations as diverse as the Knights of Columbus, the Handi-van Society, the Chamber of Commerce, the Augustana Scholarship Committee, the Camrose Winter Games, the Senior Centre Society, the Merry Christmas Fund and many more.

Jeanette credits Bernie (whom she calls Bernard) with being the driver of their volunteer commitments. "We're a team," she says. "We work together. So whatever he was involved with I was involved with, too. Bernard is a born leader. It doesn't take long for people to recognize that. He's got charisma and they want to help him make a difference."

Bernie, on the other hand, says the impact the couple have made on the community is a result of the efforts of many people. "We've been so fortunate to have all of those people who have helped us. We couldn't have done any of the things we've done without that."

Bernie and Jeanette feel strongly about the role the Foundation plays and believe it is also an important part of our community's success.

"It's an excellent organization," says Bernie. "They've really done a lot to assist this whole region and we want to see it continue to grow."

"There are so many different projects," adds Jeanette. "They help in such a variety of ways."

Because of the range of programs, the Bosers have chosen to have proceeds from their dinner placed in the Community Fund with allocations decided by the Foundation granting authority.

"We've been involved in so many things, it would be hard for us to choose," Jeanette explains. "The Foundation is in tune with needs. Issues get brought to them that we may not even know about, so we'll let them decide."

Despite all their community work over the years, both Bernie and Jeanette are uncomfortable with the idea of being in the spotlight. "I guess it's okay to be the centre of attention when you're doing a job," Bernie reflects, "but just for being yourself? Well, we don't like that."

But the couple has agreed to let the spotlight shine on them for one night, for the benefit of the Battle River Community Foundation.

"That gives us a chance to say thanks to the community for letting us be involved and letting us get to know so many terrific people," says Bernie. "And hopefully it will assist the Foundation to help others."



Bernie and Jeanette Boser



Battle River Community Foundation

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Introducing our newest Board member

The Battle River Community Foundation welcomes Dr. By Reesor as the newest member of its Board of Directors.

Appointed to the BRCF Board earlier this year, Dr. Reesor is a Professor of Political Science who taught in Camrose from 1965 to 1967 and again from 1970 until his retirement.

He and his wife, Sue, have long been aware of the work done by the Battle River Community Foundation and have always thought the organization played an important role.

Dr. Reesor says he was pleased to be asked to be part of the Foundation,

because it fits well with his personal philosophy of giving back to the community. Over the years Dr. Reesor has been active in such things as the United Church, Meals on Wheels, the Camrose Association for Community Living, the Family Violence Action Society and the Camrose and District Music Festival.

“The community has been good to us. Now that I am retired I can turn even more attention to giving back,” Dr. Reesor explains. “It’s easy to be in a community, but more difficult to be of a community. I think this will be a very fulfilling way to make an impact on the local area.”



By Reesor

As part of our tribute to Bernie and Jeanette Boser,
we wish to make a gift of

<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

to be permanently invested in the Bernie and Jeanette Boser Fund

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

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