



# Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

Volume 13, No.1

Camrose, Alberta

Spring 2011

## Join us for our annual open house and public meeting

The Battle River Community Foundation will be holding its annual open house and public meeting on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norsemen Inn, Camrose. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will join us.

The evening will include an opportunity to learn more about the recent accomplishments and future goals of the Foundation, hear from those who have benefitted from grants, and have the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors.

Special guest speaker for the evening will be Bonita Anderson, who has been Director of Development for the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta for the last six years. Bonita believes a significant success of Augustana in recent years has been reconnecting the community with the campus and engaging donors in the work of the campus and the success of the students.

She will be speaking about the web that community foundations weave in connecting people, passion and resources and the contribution they make to building healthy and vibrant communities.

We look forward to having you with us on June 1. See you at the Norsemen Inn!



*Bonita Anderson*

### Two copies of the newsletter?

If you received *Giving Back* in the mail, you will have received two copies. It is hoped that you will share the second copy with someone who may be interested in the work we do. If you feel that the Foundation is worthy of support, perhaps they will too.

We appreciate your assistance in helping to raise awareness of the Foundation throughout east central Alberta.

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# The Foundation Helps Support Families

Most parents think nothing of spending an occasional evening out without their children. Often the babysitter is a young teen from down the street or the child of family friends.

But for parents of children with challenging needs, finding a sitter is not so simple. Time away can be hard to schedule, as well as being time spent worrying about how both the child and the caregiver are coping.

That's why the Camrose Association for Community Living offers a family respite program – to ensure that both parents and children can have a positive experience when they are apart.

The Family Support Respite Program is a quality respite recreation program for children and youth with special needs between the ages of 4 and 16 years. The program assists families throughout East Central Alberta by providing temporary qualified care for children with special needs in order to allow family members time to take a break, to take care of personal matters, enjoy their leisure time, and be relieved of the stress that may be experienced while providing extra care for a child with special needs.

When the children are in the care of CAFCL, they participate in social, recreational and educational opportunities during evenings and every other Saturday in various facilities in and around the city. Participants meet new friends, experience new activities and learn new things.

The program is critical to keeping families healthy. “While many people who have never had to care for a family member with special needs think of respite as a break for recreation or a vacation, those who do have those responsibilities understand that respite is essential if they are to successfully continue to care for that person at home,” says CAFCL spokesperson Colleen Lindholm. “Abuse, neglect, surrender of the person for institutionalization, breakup of the family, and illness of the caregiver are all very real outcomes when quality respite is not available.”



Young people with care needs benefit from the programs and activities offered through the Family Support Respite Program, while parents can feel confident that their child is in good hands.

In spite of its importance, the family respite support program receives no government funding and exists solely through fees for service and the generosity of donors. This year, the Battle River Community Foundation has provided a \$2,500 grant to the program, so caregivers can be made available to families who need respite service.

The Camrose Association for Community Living has received a number of grants from the Battle River Community Foundation over the years and is grateful for the ongoing support.

In this era of rising costs and shrinking government support, having the Foundation as an option means a great deal. Lindholm explains, “Having the opportunity to access funding that might otherwise not be available is a vital resource to us as we continue to work toward our vision of a community that values and embraces all people.”

# Welcoming Two New Board Members

The Battle River Community Foundation is pleased to welcome two new faces to the Board table.

Effective January of this year, former Camrose Mayor Clarence Mastel and local lawyer Wayne Thronson have each been appointed to three-year terms on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Clarence Mastel arrived in Camrose in 1986 and soon became known for his strong volunteer ethic, as well as his business background and insight. He became Mayor in 2004 and served six years in that role, until the fall of 2010.

As a man experienced in serving on boards and committees at local, provincial and national levels, Clarence brings a broad and seasoned perspective to the Foundation. As well, he says his background will "broaden the circle" of people who are interested in supporting BRCF's work.

Clarence will serve on the Public Awareness Committee of the Foundation, as well as assisting with the Community Builders' Dinners and tribute nights.

"I'm looking forward to the continued growth of the Foundation," says Clarence. "This is an organization with big plans and big goals – I'm happy to be part of making those a reality."

Wayne Thronson is a 'local boy' who grew up in Camrose and returned to his hometown to practice after earning a law degree. A partner in Fielding and Company, Wayne was elected as a school board trustee in 1998 and then served as a city councilor from 2004 to 2010.

Like most people who choose to return to their roots, Wayne is proud of the area where he lives and wants to ensure there is benefit for future generations to live here, too.

"I love the concept of the Foundation," says Wayne. "It exists to provide grants that help people and improve lives. But first, the Foundation helps people who want to give, find ways to make their donations truly benefit the community. Everyone wants to feel they are making a difference and with the Foundation they are."

Wayne will serve on the Professional Advisors Luncheon committee, as well as assisting with Community Builders dinners.

The Foundation is very pleased to welcome both of these esteemed gentlemen to the Board.



*Clarence Mastel*



*Wayne Thronson*



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## **Making a Fun Place More Accessible**

All children love the bright colours and structures of playgrounds. But not all playgrounds are designed for children who have mobility issues.

In the Village of Lougheed, for example, the playground is used by children of all ages. But the rough surface makes it difficult for wheelchair-bound young ones to get around. Community members want to change that.

They have plans to extend the playground and put down a solid surface, making it more accessible. The Village received a grant of \$600 from the Battle River Community Foundation to assist with the project.

“Every contribution makes a difference,” says Brenda Grove of Lougheed, who has helped spearhead the project. “We always see information from the Foundation and it’s clear that they exist to help people. So we thought ‘why not’ invite them to be part of this.”

“It’s a long range project, but we’re excited about moving forward.”

## **Ofrim Project Management is the proud sponsor of this edition “Giving Back”**

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## **PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Norsemen Inn, Camrose**