



# Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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## December giving can lead to April receiving

December is typically known as the season of giving. But it's also the season to think about how you'll maximize your tax benefits next April. The Battle River Community Foundation can help.

As the end of the year approaches, now is the perfect time to set up a fund through the Foundation and, as an Alberta taxpayer, generate a tax savings of 50% of your gifted amount. Donations can be made in the form of:

- Cash;
- Securities (you are not required to pay the capital gains if the securities are being donated)

With a gift to the Foundation you can have

input into how your donation is used, or, if you'd prefer, you can set up a fund within the Community Fund that will be directed to meet the communities' greatest needs on an annual basis. If your donation is \$10,000 or more, you can even put your name on it.

The Christmas season is also a perfect time to set up funds or make donations in honour of special people – in memory of family members, in celebration of special occasions or as a Christmas gift for those who have "everything".

Start a fund or make a donation before December 31. Talk to your financial advisor or a Board member with the Battle River Community Foundation to get sound advice on the best way for you to give and receive.

### Inside this issue we celebrate

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### Did you know?

This newsletter is intended to celebrate the people who support the Battle River Community Foundation and the organizations or individuals who benefit from the programs the Foundation supports. It's also intended to encourage others to add their names to the growing list of enthusiastic BRCF supporters. The publication and distribution of this newsletter will cost about \$1,500 and BRCF expects to generate about \$20,000 in donor support. Thank you for your generosity!

# A program that truly makes a difference

Kelsey Winterhalt has a bright smile, bright eyes and a bright, enthusiastic outlook on life. She loves to have new experiences and adventures. And that's exactly what she gets by participating in the Camrose Association for Community Living's Kandu Camp Summer Program.

Through the Summer Program, which takes place during July and August when school is not in session, Kelsey gets to go swimming; take bus trips to places like Millennium Place in Sherwood Park or the Boston Pizza kitchen to learn how to make pizza; and much more.

According to Kelsey's mother Sheila, the 17-year-old has participated in the CAFCL program for about six years. Before that, Sheila says, Kelsey found her summers to be very long and very boring. Sure, there were camps and activities available but, until the CAFCL program came along, none of them were right for the Camrose grade 11 student.

Kelsey is confined to a wheelchair, has very limited use of her hands and uses technology to support her in speaking. She is tube fed and needs assistance with many things that most other people take for granted.

The Kandu Camp Summer Program is designed specifically for children with challenges and needs. For example, the field trips take place using a wheelchair accessible van and travel only to places where the kids can be sure they will be able to get in the door and enjoy all that the site has to offer.

"If you haven't lived with a person who has limited ability," says Sheila, "you may not even realize the challenges that person faces to get

into a building or even play a game. The staff of this summer program is trained and aware of the issues the children face."

According to Esther MacDonald, of the Camrose Association for Community Living, the Summer Program served more than 37 children last year between 7 and 17 years of age and cost about \$1,500 per student to run. Much of the funding was obtained through government grants, with a portion also provided by the Battle River Community Foundation.

"The Foundation makes such a difference to our community," Esther says. "There are significant costs to our programs that funding does not cover. Every year we receive support from the Foundation for some aspect of our programming and it truly does make a difference."

"It's an incredibly important program," says Sheila of Kandu Camp. "I'm so grateful that Kelsey has been able to be part of it. She's had great experiences, she's made new friends and I think this program has helped build her sense of confidence and belonging. It would be tough for us to come up with the whole cost, but the benefits to Kelsey have been priceless."

Esther points out that the program is also a benefit to the families of children who need extra assistance because it allows family members to be confident in the care their children are receiving while they are away from home.

"I can't trust just anyone to spend the day with Kelsey," Sheila explains. "I need to ensure that they are aware and capable of meeting my child's needs. This program has made it possible for me to go to work and be confident that Kelsey is being well cared for and also having fun."



*Left: Kelsey Winterhalt (left) and her aide, Melanie Millang, on a wagon ride during Kandu Summer Camp.*

*Right: Participants in the Kandu Summer Camp have travelled to the Edmonton Space and Science Centre, among many other field trip locations, in recent years.*



# Friesens believe giving helped them become part of the community

Abe and Ethel Friesen moved to Camrose in 1999. They had no family ties here, but knew a number of people through their involvement with square dancing and Abe's many years with Rotary clubs.

They chose the community because it was beautiful and friendly and they liked the housing opportunities. As a relatively newly married couple they were looking for a place where they could settle in and feel at home.

Abe had retired following a 43-year career with CIBC that saw him and his family move to communities throughout the province. Ethel, whose first husband was a construction manager, had lived in so many Alberta and Saskatchewan communities she couldn't even list them. The move to Camrose, she says, was number 31.

Abe and Ethel are both from Saskatchewan originally and were acquainted for many years. In fact, they joke that Ethel was at both of Abe's weddings – but only once as the bride. The couple, who both lost their first spouses after lengthy marriages, socialized periodically throughout their adult lives, whenever their paths happened to cross or they found themselves living in communities close together.

Ethel had been widowed for three years, when Abe "called for a date". Ethel might have turned him down, except for the urging of a friend, but has no regrets about deciding to accept. The couple will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary next spring.

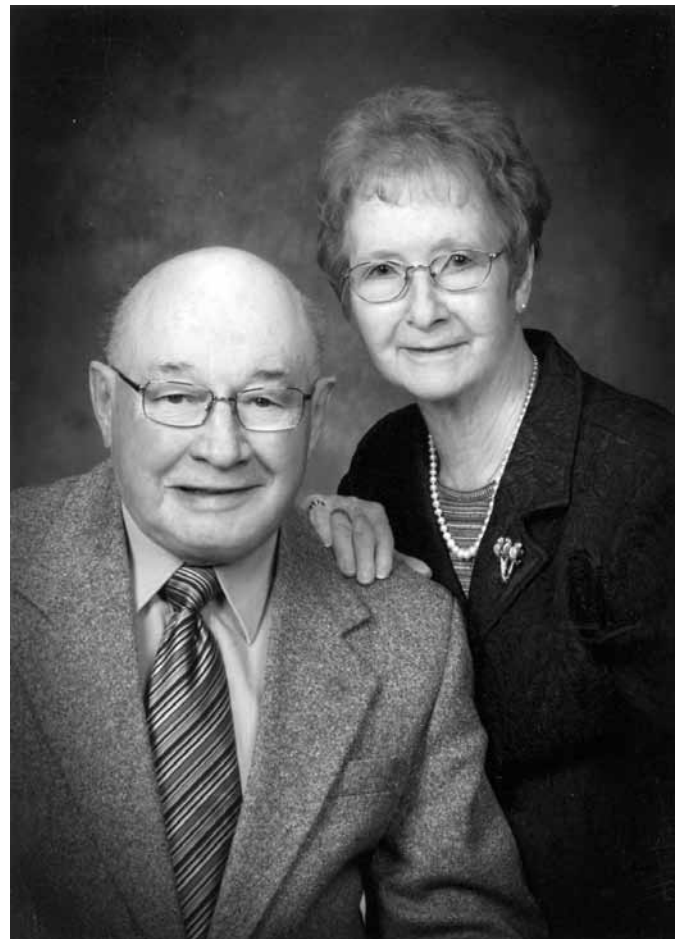
At ages 84 and 86 the Friesens are content. Between them they have five living children and one son who is deceased, along with 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They enjoy time spent with friends and being as active as they wish to be in local activities.

When they first arrived in Camrose and had no real local ties, they thought supporting the Battle River Community Foundation would

be a good way to start building them. They established a fund, which they have added to every year that is intended to support youth projects. "Someone needs to look after the children," they say. "We can't have children on the street. Not in any community."

The Friesens have attended virtually every community builders dinner, found many ways to be involved citizens and are enjoying their days very much. They like the idea that the Battle River Community Foundation will help them continue to be active contributors to the community for a long time. "It covers so many things," says Ethel. "It also covers a large area."

We like the idea that a lot of people can get a bit of help."



*Abe and Ethel Friesen*



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## **Thanks for a great evening!**

The annual Community Builders Dinner held in Camrose this fall, celebrating Alan and Valerie Fielding, has generated more than \$44,000 for the Battle River Community Foundation.

Proceeds from the evening's ticket sales, combined with the generous amounts paid for auction items, brought in \$34,000. In addition to that, the Battle River Credit Union, whose Board Alan has guided for many years, established a \$10,000 fund in the Fielding name and pledged to add \$5,000 to it on an annual basis.

The Foundation extends its sincere thanks to all of those who attended and all of those who gave so generously. It was a terrific event, celebrating very deserving people, and the true beneficiaries will be the organizations and individuals of Camrose and surrounding area.



*Valerie and Alan Fielding*

## **Thank you for your support!**

Interested in going electronic?

We hope you're pleased when you see each issue of *Giving Back* arrive in your mailbox. But maybe you'd rather that mailbox was on your computer than your doorstep.

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