



# Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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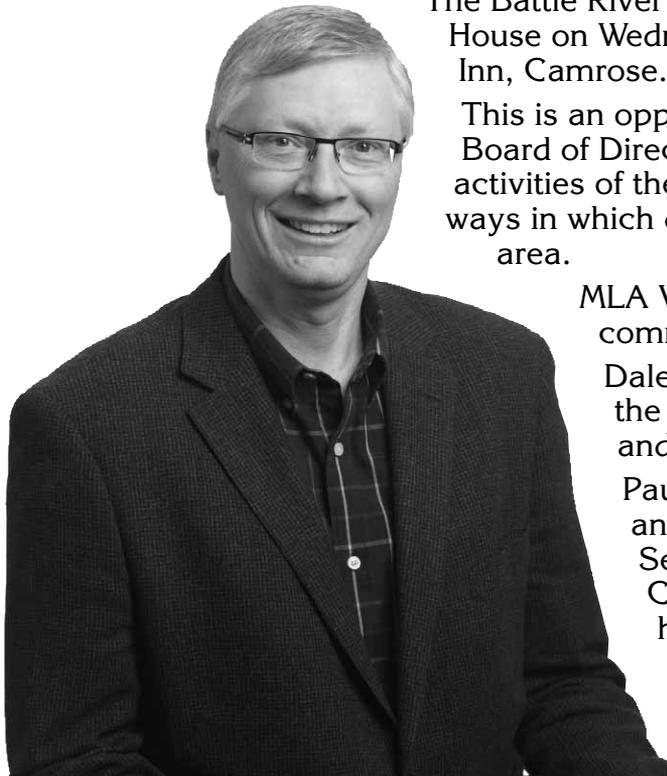
Camrose, Alberta

May 2012

## Open House set for 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The Battle River Community Foundation will be hosting its Open House on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norsemen Inn, Camrose.

This is an opportunity to visit with members of the BRCF Board of Directors, hear a summary of the events and activities of the last 12 months and learn more about all the ways in which donor contributions are “doing good” in the local area.



MLA Verlyn Olson will speak on the importance of a community foundation to our community.

Dale Powell, a donor, will talk about why he thinks the community foundation is important and why he and his wife, Cheryl, have chosen to support it.

Paul Lange, who teaches at Charlie Killam School, and Sgt. John Fernhout, of the Camrose Police Service, will speak about the Youth Leadership Canoe Adventure, its impact on participants and how grants from the Battle River Community Foundation have helped with their mission.

We look forward to having you with us on Wednesday, June 6th. See you at the Norsemen Inn!

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### 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.

# The Melody Lingers On...

Bob and Val Bailey have just had every parent's worst nightmare come to life. Last September the Camrose couple experienced the sudden loss of their child, through a tragic accident.

Their son, PJ, was 19 years of age and seemed to have a bright future ahead of him. He'd graduated high school, spent a year studying music at Grant MacEwan and was about to embark on an apprenticeship as a mechanic at an Edmonton car dealership, with the hope of owning his own business someday. But fate took a different turn and on the evening of September 22 PJ was involved in a vehicle accident. He died in the early hours of September 23, with his parents and friends by his side.



*PJ Bailey on his high school graduation day in 2010*

Bob and Val, along with their daughters Brittany and Halley, are trying to find their way back from the overwhelming grief of losing their beautiful son and brother. They've chosen to celebrate the wonderful person that PJ was by remembering his talents, his skills and ensuring that, though his life was short, his legacy will remain for a long, long time.

"I know all parents feel this," says Val, "but honestly, PJ was as close to the perfect son as we could have asked for. I don't mean perfect in the sense that he never made mistakes but he was kind and caring, he went out of his way to help people, and he was very talented. We were always so proud of him."

PJ came by his musical talent honestly – Bob is a band teacher and Val has been involved in music her whole life. Both PJ's sisters are very musical and are now involved in the music industry. PJ played the trumpet and was also recognized as a star performer in both the local dance academy and the local amateur theatre group. His mechanical inclination, on the other hand, was a mystery to his parents.

"He sure didn't learn that from us," says Bob, with a smile. "We were definitely surprised and grateful to have someone in the family who could fix things!"

PJ's death led to an outpouring of emotion throughout the Camrose community and beyond – to the campus where he had studied music and to the dealership where he had just begun to settle in to a new career path.

Bob and Val say "words cannot describe" what the love and support from those who knew PJ has meant to the family he left behind. As parents, they have chosen to establish the PJ Bailey Fund through the Battle River Community Foundation, to ensure that PJ's love of music and his mechanical inclination make it possible for others to enjoy both of those pursuits.

In order to get the fund off to a good start, Bob and Val are organizing a fund-raising concert called *The Melody Lingers On . . . A Tribute to PJ Bailey*. The show takes place on Friday, May 18 at the Bailey Theatre in Camrose, with all the performers donating their time and talent to this worthy cause.

The evening of live performance will feature the unveiling of a song written specifically for PJ, as well as music and theatre contributions from a variety of professionals and local groups with which PJ was affiliated. Tickets are going quickly, but anyone who is not able to get a seat is still welcome to contribute to the PJ Bailey Fund, by contacting the Battle River Community Foundation.

Bob and Val know that nothing will bring their son back to them. But they find comfort in knowing that, with the help of the foundation, PJ's name will remain and his passions will be shared with others.

**THE MELODY LINGERS ON**  
A CONCERT TRIBUTE TO PJ BAILEY

All proceeds to the Battle River Community Foundation - PJ Bailey Fund

**FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M.**  
The Bailey Theatre, Camrose

Featuring the world premiere of  
**SONG FOR PJ**  
(a big band jazz ballad)  
composed by Allan Gilliland

**FEATURED GUESTS FROM:**

**EDMONTON**  
The River City Big Band  
(with composer Allan Gilliland and directed by Larry Schrum)  
Joel Gray, Trumpet  
Ray Baril, Saxophone  
Inna Luzanac, Piano

**VICTORIA**  
Brittany Bailey, Jazz & Contemporary Vocals  
Halley Bailey, Mezzo-Soprano

**CAMROSE AND AUGUSTANA**  
Kathleen Corcoran, Soprano  
Paul "Sparky" Johnson  
Dave McDougall  
Simply Brass  
Blue Thistle  
Victoria Carlson, Percussion  
**CHORAZZI!** (directed by Tom Spila)  
Camrose Academy of Dance Senior Lyrical Dance Troupe

**PJ REMEMBERED**

**TICKETS: \$37 per person**

Available in advance at  
The Bailey Theatre Ticket Outlet  
and at [www.baileytheatre.com](http://www.baileytheatre.com)

Donations in lieu of ticket purchases  
also welcome at the BRCF  
(PJ Bailey Fund).

## Lunch in Norm's favourite place

When Norm and Betty Mayer were honoured as Community Builders by the Battle River Community Foundation last fall, one of the items offered for auction was dinner with the Camrose couple at Norm's favourite place, his office.

The opportunity was purchased by Phyllis and Arne Hansen, of HNH Cat Contractors Ltd. of Stony Plain, for the generous price of \$4,000.00.

Shown being served by Vivianne Grue, Vice-Chair of the Battle River Community Foundation, are (seated) Phyllis and Arne with their granddaughter, Aubrey Viel and (standing) Norm and Betty Mayer and mutual friend, Shirley Rostad.





## **Battle River Community Foundation**

**TELEPHONE and FAX:**  
780-679-0449

Box 1122  
Camrose, AB  
T4V 4E7

**EMAIL:** info@brcf.ca

**WEBSITE:** www.brcf.ca

### **BOARD CHAIR**

Blain Fowler  
780-672-3142

### **VICE-CHAIR**

Vivianne Grue  
780-672-9624

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James Mayer  
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780-679-5085

Clarence Mastel  
780-679-7714

David Ofrim  
780-672-3534

By Reesor  
780-672-5709

Wayne Thronson  
780-672-8851

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Ken Drever  
780-672-4651

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Kerry Grettum  
780-679-0449

## **Tapping Out for a Brighter Tomorrow**

It is no secret that time, effort and money invested in prevention saves communities many times that investment in intervention costs. That's one of the compelling reasons for addressing issues with youth before they escalate into adult-sized crises.

With support from Battle River Community Foundation in 2011 and 2012, the Family Violence Action Society is working with junior-high youth identified by their school. Within the school setting, many of these youth have been noted for varying degrees of angry outbursts, bullying or being bullied, lack of self-governance or a general lack of cohesiveness with their classmates.

At the invitation of the school, the FVAS youth facilitators have had the privilege of connecting with three distinct groups of these youth so far. With no set curriculum, and only 42 minutes of class time weekly for eight weeks, facilitators probe to uncover the real issues that are masked by defiant behaviour. Students' lack of belief in their own worth and an absence of hope for a bright future are common themes in their outlook on life. When asked if they knew why they were invited into the group, one group responded, "Because we're the worst class ever!"

The Tap Out Club, with its inference to combative sports, was created by Family Violence Action Society not to promote violence, but to drive home the deeper meaning: knowing when to step back, to throw in the towel, to walk away. Tap Out seeks to identify the many emotions teens "wrestle" with each day, and provide tangible steps to deal with those emotions. Each group that engages in The Tap Out Club works to create its own code of behaviour. Respect for others, decisions by consensus, consistent procedures and other group norms form a healthy foundation for interaction within the club.

What changes for these students when they engage in The Tap Out Club? They gain an awareness of how their mood and general attitude affect not only them, but also those around them. They begin to think proactively and try to affect a positive outcome.

The Tap Out Club challenges these students to think about who they are. Recognize their talents, their gifts. Consider how they present themselves to the world. Think about what they want their future to look like and how THEY are going to make that happen.

The Tap Out Club has adopted a mantra that ends their Tap Out time each week. It is an adaptation of a poem well-known in 12-step circles. It helps the students to carry with them the seeds of change that are planted and nurtured within Tap Out Club.

*Just for today, I will let go of anger.*

*Just for today, I will let go of worry.*

*Just for today, I will give thanks for my many blessings.*

*Just for today, I will do my work honestly.*

*Just for today, I will be kind to every living thing.*

Submitted by Sheralyn Dobos  
Program Director  
Family Violence Action Society



**Proud sponsor  
of this edition of  
Giving Back**