



Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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Celebrating Community Builders

Camrose couple Ken and Shirley Rostad will be in the spotlight on Friday, October 20, receiving the honour of being celebrated at this year's Community Builders Tribute Night.

Ken and Shirley have called Camrose home for 38 years and, during that time, have contributed to the community's wellbeing through their work in business, volunteer activities and both municipal and provincial politics.

Shirley was a founding partner in the local accounting firm of Tien Rostad, while Ken served as a lawyer, City Councillor, MLA / Cabinet Minister and Judge.

As committed Church attendees, active community members and parents of three children, each half of the couple have also been active volunteers, in everything from their congregation to the Lions and Rotary Clubs to Centra Cam, Minor Hockey, The Bethany Group, school music parents, Augustana and more.

The Rostads' special evening, taking place at the Norsemen Inn, will see attendees enjoying a quality meal and even better speakers as the couple's children Kyle, Kelsey and Karsten, Ken's former Deputy Minister Neil McCrank, as well as long-time friends David Stolee and Lorne and Shirley Smeland, take the stage to share stories and highlight the couple's philosophy of community support. Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Don Hutchinson.



Ken and Shirley Rostad

One of the highlights of every Community Builders event is the live auction, which provides the opportunity for generous bidding on a variety of items – some of which will be unique and definitely priceless. Seasoned auctioneer Ron Pederson will bring his own brand of humour and encouragement to the auction process. Items on the bidding list include a jailer's key. As Judge Rostad explains, "I can't give anyone a 'get out of jail free' card, but I can give them the key to a cell."

Only 400 tickets are available. They can be purchased from Battle River Community Foundation Board members or through the BRCF office at 780-679-0449. The evening is sure to sell out, so get your tickets quickly.

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Ken and Shirley Rostad make

Ken and Shirley Rostad, have made their home in Camrose for 38 years, but have spent a lifetime learning to make the most of any opportunity that comes their way – even if it wasn't in their original plans.

Both the Rostads have Saskatchewan roots. Born in Yorkton in 1941, to a family whose focus was on food production, Ken graduated school in Shaunavon and attended University to study accounting, obtaining a Commerce degree in 1967.

In addition to his degree from the U of S, Ken had a stint working in a bank, took a year of an MBA program, worked for Shell Oil and then moved to Toronto to work for Simpson Sears as a buyer / sales manager.

Shirley was born in Foam Lake in 1955, where her father ran a Ford dealership and Esso bulk fuel location. When the business was destroyed by fire, the family moved first to Prince Albert and then, in 1964 when Shirley was nine, made the journey to Camrose to purchase the existing Chrysler and New Holland dealerships. Shirley graduated high school in Camrose and then moved on to the University of Alberta, where she enrolled in Science.

It wasn't long before Shirley realized that Science was not her passion and made the switch to accounting. Upon completing University, she began articling with Price Waterhouse in Edmonton. It was an era when women were just beginning to move into leadership positions with major firms and Shirley's goal was to be the first woman partner at her firm.

Ken, meanwhile, returned to the University of Saskatchewan in 1976, to study law. During that time his friend in Saskatchewan had a sister who was Shirley's work mate and study partner in Edmonton.

The rest, as they say, is history.

While finishing law school Ken travelled back and forth to Edmonton to visit Shirley and the two married in 1979. They made the decision to settle in Camrose, where Ken joined the legal firm of Gaede and Fielding, while Shirley and her brother Doug Tien (who was also an accountant) started their own firm. "We were our own bosses," she remembers, "but we opened our doors without having a single client. We literally built our business from the ground up. Being in a smaller community allowed us the flexibility to also raise our families



Shirley Rostad and Doug Tien, partners and siblings.

and be active in our community in ways that a big city firm would not have made possible."

The couple's three children – Kyle, Kelsey and Karsten – joined the family in 1981, 1988 and 1991. During those days both Shirley and Ken took on volunteer roles, in everything from the Rotary and Lions Clubs to Centra Cam, the Children's Centre Board and sports teams, music programs and their church.

Shirley explains that being an active community citizen comes naturally when you are involved in business. "When you work with clients you realize that there are lots of ways in which the community is good to you, and you want to give back to that."

Ken agrees, adding "you don't join an organization as a volunteer because you don't care – it's because



The Rostad family.

the most of every opportunity

you do care and you want to add something to the community.”

Ken’s career path took additional turns when he first became a City Councillor and was then elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the spring of 1986. He served three terms with the Provincial government and was privileged to be in Cabinet throughout his eleven years in office, serving as Attorney General, Solicitor General, Minister of Housing and Native Affairs, Minister of Justice and Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

“I was so fortunate,” he says. “As a Minister you get exposure to so many different perspectives and learn so much about the policies, practices and priorities of others. I’m very grateful for the opportunities that I was given.”

A year after his retirement from elected office Ken was appointed a Provincial Court Judge, first in Edmonton, then Wetaskiwin and finally settled on the bench in Camrose and surrounding area.



Shirley and Ken hosting a function at Government House.

Ken stepped down from full time work in 2011 and hung up his gavel completely in 2015. Shirley and her brother merged their firm, Tien Rostad, with Grant Thornton in 2011 and she retired from the practice completely at the end of 2013.

Being recognized as Community Builders isn’t really a comfortable role for the couple. They have always contributed to the world around them for their own satisfaction, they say, and definitely not for the recognition.



Ken and granddaughter Eleanor, along with her Dad Kyle.

But here, as in all things, Ken and Shirley recognize the opportunities this event provides and want to make the most of it. “It’s a chance to make people aware that there is another side to being a citizen of the community,” says Shirley. “The Foundation makes it possible for people who want to contribute financially to have a place to put their funds that they can trust. The Foundation will steward their dollars and ensure important causes are supported. It’s nice for small organizations to have this group available to support them and, in a sense, fundraise for them.”

As a result, the low-key couple will allow themselves to be in the spotlight on the evening of Friday, October 20. Their intent is to bolster both the image and the coffers of the Foundation, while enjoying the opportunity for good fellowship and an entertaining evening.



Ken (right) with outgoing Premier Don Getty (centre) at the swearing in of new Premier Ralph Klein (left).



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In accordance with the
Alberta Charitable Fund-raising
Act, we are pleased to provide
the following information:

“With this newsletter,
the BRCF hopes to raise \$5,000
with costs of \$2,000.”

How you can put your beliefs into action, too

Ken and Shirley Rostad have given their time, their passion and their resources to supporting the community in which they've lived and worked.

The Camrose couple see the Battle River Community Foundation as an organization that also works to ensure the success of the local area, by providing a venue for donors and a source of funding for important local causes.

“The Battle River Community Foundation acts as a steward for people's donations,” says Shirley, “to ensure those funds are used to make our community stronger. We believe in being part of that.”

There are many ways in which you can put the Foundation to work for causes that are important to you as well.

You may choose to start a fund that will make ongoing donations to a cause you wish to support. If you want to start a fund that is more general in nature and can be used to support a variety of needs in the local area, the Foundation can help with that, too.

Gifts to the Foundation do not need to be large. You can also choose to make the Foundation the recipient of donations in memory or honour of people who are important in your life. You may also make the Foundation a beneficiary of your estate.

“The Foundation has a broad perspective on what the community needs,” says Ken. “Their support helps small organizations do great things for local citizens.”

However you choose to contribute, supporting the Battle River Community Foundation helps create a legacy of making our local communities great places to live, work and raise a family. The Foundation's Board members and staff (listed at left) are all happy to talk with you about creating a fund that meets your needs.

Proud sponsor of this issue of Giving Back...

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