



Battle River Community Foundation

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Introducing our new assistant



Phyllis Robertson

As the Battle River Community Foundation grows, so does the need for administrative support.

David Stolee has been Executive Director of the Foundation for more than 10 years. In order to keep up with the organization's increasing demands, he has now been joined by Administrative Assistant Phyllis Robertson.

Phyllis worked in the Development Office of Augustana for 23 years and is very familiar with the type of work required to ensure that receipts are issued promptly, donor records are kept up to date and accounts are maintained and balanced.

In addition, Phyllis says she is "very impressed" with the work of the Foundation and is pleased to be part of such a worthy organization.

Having commenced her full-time duties in February, Phyllis is looking forward to learning even more about the Foundation and having the opportunity to meet its supporters.

Welcome back!

The Battle River Community Foundation would like to welcome Gerry Davis back to the Board table. Gerry served two terms as a Director (including one year as Board Chair) and retired at the end of 2006.

Effective January of 2008, Gerry returned to the Board, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Board member David Chamberlain.

As much as we welcome Gerry's return, the Battle River Community Foundation would also like to extend sincere thanks and best wishes to Dave for his years of service and ongoing support of the Battle River Community Foundation.



Gerry Davis



Dave Chamberlain



Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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Join us for our Open House and Donor Appreciation Night

The Battle River Community Foundation would like to invite you to attend our annual Open House and Donor Appreciation Night, taking place on Thursday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Norsemen Inn in Camrose.



LeRoy Johnson

The evening will feature an opportunity to meet members of the Foundation Board, as well as a review of the organization's growing granting program and asset base.

As well, Foundation supporter and retired MLA LeRoy Johnson will speak, providing reflections on community and the importance of supporting each other. In addition, Esther McDonald from the Camrose Association for Community living will discuss how her organization and its clients have benefited from the Battle River Community Foundation's support.

Please join us – we look forward to seeing you there!



Esther McDonald

Annual Hamburger Lunch draws crowd

A good crowd of professional advisors signed up for the seventh annual "Hamburger Lunch" sponsored by the Battle River Community Foundation on Wednesday, May 14.

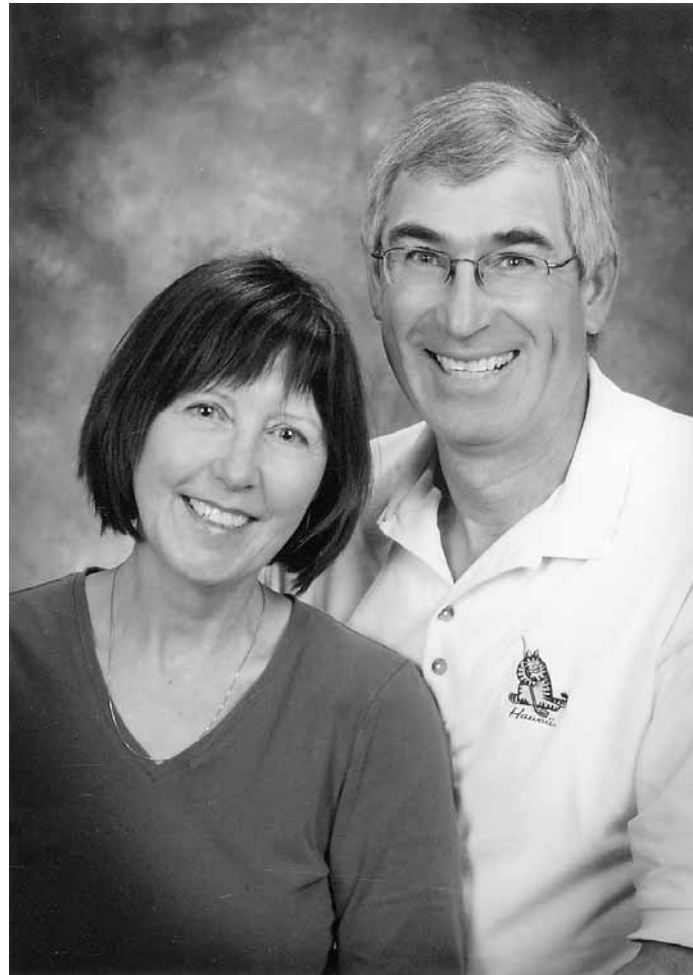
The Foundation invites professional advisors – financial planners, bankers, accountants and lawyers – to lunch once a year, in order to provide an update on the organization's activities.

In exchange, many local advisors take

the opportunity to make a financial contribution of \$500 or more, in support of the Foundation's operational costs.

Whether or not they contribute financially to the Foundation, professional advisors are a very important resource. Their input and advice to clients is critical to the success of the Foundation, and we are grateful to each of them for continually helping clients find ways to fulfill their personal goals for supporting the community.

Community Builders' Dinner raises more than \$25,000 for Flagstaff area



Mell and Jim Hampshire

The third Community Builders' Dinner to be held in Flagstaff County showed, once again, that there is a high level of enthusiasm and support for the community and the Battle River Community Foundation.

This year's featured community builders were Sedgewick-area residents Jim and Mell Hampshire. Jim is a home-town boy, while Mell hails originally from England. The couple met during Mell's 1975 visit to Canada and married shortly after.

They've been a strong presence in the local area, active in community projects such as the Alliance Ski Club, re-construction of the recreation complex, coaching sports and overseeing the library. In keeping with their international background, they've also played

a very significant part in ensuring local people are aware and involved in assisting other countries. For several years the couple, and Mell most intensely, actively arranged for children from Belarus (site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster) to spend summers with Sedgewick-area families.

Speakers at the April 12 tribute night included long-time friends and community residents Tom Moore, David Muirhead and Gwenda Poyser, along with the couple's daughter, Megan Hampshire.

A sold-out crowd at the Sedgewick Hall enjoyed a fine meal and fine tributes, and then continued the spirit of the evening by enthusiastically participating in a live auction. The first item up for bids, an English trifle, was a nod to Mell's heritage and generated lots of interest. The strong bidding continued as other items were brought out and sold. By evening's end more than \$25,000 was raised for the Battle River Community Foundation, in a fund that will bear the Hampshire name and benefit causes in the Sedgewick area.

Jim and Mell are delighted to support the Foundation, because it has a philosophy that mirrors their own. "We believe in rural communities," says Jim, "and we believe in working together to meet local needs. The Foundation provides funds that help small communities stay strong. We think that's worth supporting."

Mell also likes the fact that the Foundation maintains the principal of their fund and makes grants from the income. "I am so pleased that the fund will continue to make a difference – projects won't fall apart if we're not here to keep them going."

The Hampshires are the third couple from Flagstaff County to be celebrated through a Community Builders' Dinner. Harry and Fredella Anderson of Alliance were honoured in 2006 and Ralph and Ann Smith, of Lougheed, were recognized in 2007. Watch for information on the next Community Builders' Dinner being planned for October 17 in Camrose.

Fund established in honour of Camrose couple



Arie and Leny Vanderjagt

Arie and Leny Vanderjagt have made a mark on their community and on the hearts of their friends. Now, their friends have created a fund to ensure that mark will carry on for all time.

Both members of the couple were born in Holland. Leny's family immigrated to the Camrose area when she was a child and Arie came to Canada as a young adult, in pursuit of the Dutch-Canadian girl he had met when she was in Europe on vacation. The Vanderjagts made Camrose their adopted home – a place to work, volunteer and raise a family.

For more than 35 years, the couple has been participants in the activities of their chosen community. Arie, particularly, gave time and energy to support local projects, while Leny made sure things at home continued to run smoothly.

Projects varied from sitting on the Board of an organization serving people with developmental disabilities to building sets for the local theatre group.

As owners of Norvan Services, the couple has been able to financially support many

causes. As a builder, Arie has also been able to provide hands-on help and support to Habitat for Humanity. As a Rotarian, Arie has been involved in a wide range of local and international projects, too.

In 2003 Leny was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. She required surgery, significant lifestyle adjustments and a long period of recovery. The couple helped each other through that difficult time and began to embrace life's adventures once again, only to have Arie stricken with an asbestos-related cancer in 2007.

When it became clear that Arie's disease could not be cured, friends chose to establish the Arie and Leny Vanderjagt Fund through the Battle River Community Foundation, to celebrate the couple's long service to the community.

"Arie and Leny are special to us," says major donor Glen Vinet of Panhandle Productions, who started the fund along with the owner of Camrose Custom Cabinets. "We wanted to acknowledge them while Arie was able to enjoy hearing about it and to know that he would continue to make a difference in the community."

Another long-time friend, Battle River Community Foundation Board member Vivianne Grue, was also pleased to have the fund established.

"I am happy they can know how much they are appreciated for all they've done," she explains. "They've never asked for anything in return for what they do, but maybe we haven't said thank you often enough."

Arie and Leny were thrilled and sincerely touched by the creation of the fund. They designated programs for persons with disabilities as the recipients of the fund's proceeds.

Because Arie passed away on April 17, at the age of 60 years, Leny has been particularly gratified that the fund was established during Arie's lifetime.

"It meant so much to him to know that his friends were honouring him in this way."