



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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community foundation of medicine hat and southeastern alberta **newsletter**

What a backdrop!

Esplanade Terrace provides stunning view for Founder's Day Picnic festivities

by Melissa Wannamaker

On June 19, the Foundation hosted the 9th annual Founder's Day Picnic. Over 75 donors, board members and grant recipients were able to enjoy the breathtaking view from atop the Esplanade Terrace. Wonderful scenery was not the only highlight; nearly \$30,000 was awarded to very worthwhile projects in Southeastern Alberta. It was a significant event as Grants Chair Kent Walker would be presenting his last grants as he has completed his term as director. Kathy Hern was also in attendance in her last formal role as Chair of the Foundation. In an emotional farewell speech she described the Foundation as "One of the best organizations!"

"One of the best organizations!"

- Kathy Hern

Seeing the excitement of the grant recipients is always a highlight. Nicona Brost accepted the grant on behalf of the Bonanza 2008, an annual Junior Hereford leadership & showmanship livestock event. Nicona, only 12

years old, delivered a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the 400 youth and their families that would be coming to the Hat. Janet Cook of AJ's Loan Cupboard also thanked donors for their contributions to the Foundation, as without their generosity the organization which provides medical aids to people in need would not be able to grow and support the growing number of people in need of medical equipment.

This year's picnic was proudly presented by Sihvon Carter Fisher Berger LLP. With their generous contribution and interest in our organizations work, we were able to host a first class event paying tribute to our many donors, acknowledging the work of our volunteers and applauding the contributions of various organizations in our community.

Executive Director, Mike Christie was thrilled to see so many people enjoying the day. "This picnic has become a real feature for friends of the Foundation; it's become an event people look forward to, they wonder what will we do next, the rooftop terrace was a great venue".



Photos by Susan Guerra

Community Foundation grant at work!

Bonanza 2008

by Nicona Brost

Greetings everyone!

Hi my name is Nicona Brost and I was a participant at Bonanza 2008 in Medicine Hat. Bonanza 2008 was such an honor this year as it was hosted in my hometown by the Alberta Junior Hereford Association, which I am a member of and helped organize this great event. It was a huge success with 235 head of cattle entered and 134 Junior participants. And when I say Juniors I mean kids from the age of 3 all the way to 21.

Things I enjoy about Bonanza is visiting my friends I have met from previous Bonanzas and showing my cattle. Entering all the competitions is fun too. This year I participated in Art, Literature, Photography, Showmanship, Grooming, Individual Judging, and Team Judging. I won many first place ribbons and won Reserve Junior Showmanship and Grooming. I was really proud when my partner, Adam Nixdorff, and I won the Team Judging competition for Team Alberta. I was the Judge and we beat all the other provinces. This is a huge honor as I am only 12 years old and all the other judges were Seniors (age 17-21). As well my hard work and dedication throughout the summer paid off as all my cattle placed no lower than second in the shows. In addition Champion Semen Donation Female and Reserve Champion Mature Cow were also awarded to me.

It was a hectic and busy week but I always look forward to the banquet and dance at the end. This is when the final aggregate awards are presented. This year I had enough points to win the Junior Aggregate Award. I will wear the new shiny belt buckle with pride. I was also shocked but very excited when my name was announced as winner of the Overall Grand Aggregate. I was so thrilled because it is usually the older Senior members who win this.

I met and made new friends again this year. I have many memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Bonanza is a great opportunity for youth to travel to other provinces, meet new people, and gain new experiences. I look forward to Bonanza 2009 in Princeton, B.C.

In closing it was such a thrill that the Community Foundation was a huge sponsor for this spectacular event. I would like to thank them for their generous support of Bonanza 2008. It is greatly appreciated.



Photos courtesy of Grant Rolston Photography



Board welcomes fresh faces

JANICE BLAIR

Janice has been a member of the Medicine Hat community since 1995. She has worked as a leader in the health system since 1979 and is currently the Vice President, Community Health with the Palliser Health Region. Her volunteer endeavours include her involvement with Holy Family Parish Catholic Women's League and the Medicine Hat Potter's Association. Janice is looking forward to contributing to the mission of the Foundation and working to improve the quality of life for the people in Southeastern Alberta.



LES ERICKSON

Les is proud to have been a "Hatter" for 30 years. In his professional life, he is the Branch Manager of Canadian Western Bank. He is no stranger to the not for profit world having been the General Manager of Entre-Corp Business Development Centre for 14 years. Les is excited about working with a group of dedicated community minded people and building lasting endowments to support community organizations, which he believes help the community to help themselves. He is also a dedicated Rotarian and a founding director of the Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp.



JAKOB PILLIBEIT

Jakob has already taken a lead role in the work of the Youth Committee and is excited to grow the integral program. In his professional life, Jakob is pastor and has served in many small communities around Medicine Hat, including Lldesleigh and Scandia. In addition he owns and operates a consulting and home renovations company. His volunteer involvement is deep rooted in youth, most recently serving as chair of two school councils in Medicine Hat.



Shann Snedden steps up

After four and a half years serving with the Board of the Foundation, Dr. Snedden has moved into the position of Chair. Shann has been involved in several of the Foundation's committees including: Community Leadership, Executive, Grants and the Youth committee which oversees our youth in philanthropy program. Shann has been involved in the development and delivery of several of the Foundation's programs including the Centennial Legacy Club and its annual legacy programs. More recently she has been instrumental in the production of our Vital Signs report and is passionate about delivering this quality of life publication to our community. Shann is looking forward to her role as Chair and leading the wonderful programs and activities we have planned over the next year.

Dr. Shann Snedden, Chair



Upcoming Events...

- Vital Signs Publication Launch
October 7, 2008
- Vital Conversations, Breakfast
October 14, 2008
- National Philanthropy Day
Annual Report Release
November 15th, 2008
- Chair's Reception
December 4, 2008

Call the office for further details on any of these events.

Commitment worthy of "Heritage" status

Bequests and other planned gifts are so important to the future of the Community Foundation that we have established a special way to recognize people who make this kind of commitment – Heritage Membership of the Legacy Club.

Heritage membership is designed to recognize and continue to honour those who have made provisions for a future gift through a bequest, life insurance, annuity, or trust agreement.

We have chosen the name "Heritage" as it is through your future gifts that the Community Foundation will endure to fulfill community needs. As you are aware, funds from the Foundation are used to support worthwhile community projects organized by charitable organizations within Southeastern Alberta for future generations.

Now we have the great pleasure of inviting our many friends and supporters to

become Heritage Members. Many donors may have already made provisions for a future gift to the Community Foundation and are therefore eligible for membership.

There are no dues or other obligations, but each Heritage Member of the Legacy Club will be invited as our guest to an annual recognition event and receive a certificate of membership and memento. With consent, names will be listed with other Heritage Members in our Annual Report and other publications.

We invite you to consider a bequest or other future gift provision and if possible, we would like to know if you have already arranged for this.

For more information about the Legacy Club, charitable organizations in Southeastern Alberta, wills and bequests, sample clauses, gifts of life insurance, or other future provisions, please contact us.

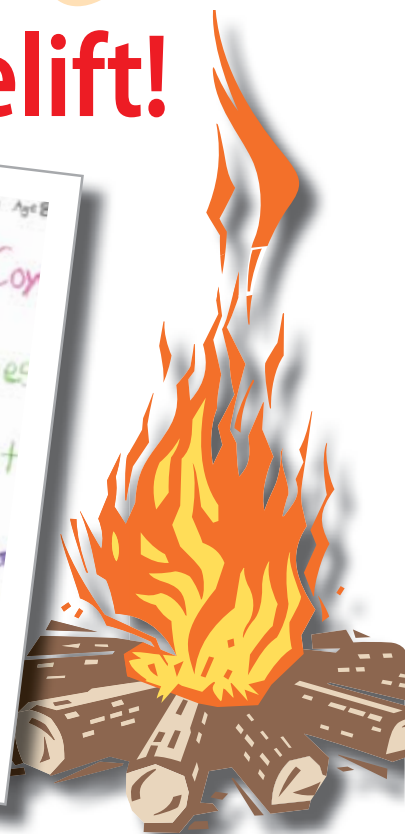
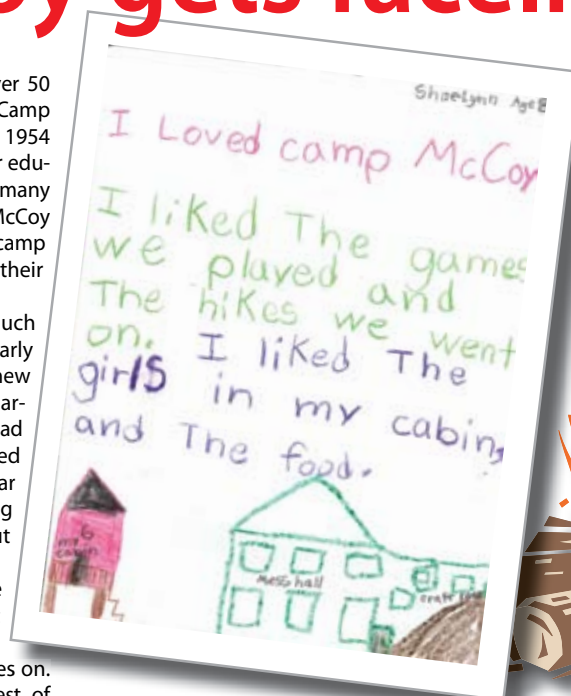
Camp McCoy gets facelift!

by Melissa Wannamaker

After serving local area children and youth for over 50 years, Camp McCoy was in need of a facelift. Camp McCoy has served as a summer youth camp since 1954 and in addition has provided a camp for grade 6 outdoor education students from all over the area to experience. For many in Medicine Hat and surrounding communities Camp McCoy was their first camp experience, including my own. The camp is proud to boast that many former campers now send their children and grandchildren

In the fall of 2007, the Foundation provided a much needed grant to the local charity to the tune of nearly \$25,000. This grant was to support millwork for the new kitchen, hall and restroom facilities. The main hall was clearly outdated with inadequate and well used facilities- I had used the same facilities nearly 20 years ago! I am pleased to hear that hundreds of local children and youth, this year were able to experience the new facility, my niece being one of them. She has not been able to stop talking about her camp experience.

Camp McCoy provides children with a chance to develop leadership skills, meet new friends, interact with positive adult role models, explore the outdoors, build confidence and learn new things. The list truly goes on. Congratulations Camp McCoy, you're looking good-best of luck in the next 50!





part three



"Do I need a will?"

What everyone should know about planned giving

by David Carter

The following is the third in a series of four articles by David J. Carter, BA, MA, LLB, RFM. David is a partner at Sihvon Carter Fisher & Berger, Barristers & Solicitors and a past chair of the Community Foundation.

Guardian

Your will permits you to designate a guardian of your minor children in the event of your death. Courts generally honour that appointment, which is very important if you and your spouse both die, or if you are concerned that your ex-spouse might restrict the contact of your family of origin with your children after you die.

Factors such as age, contact with and knowledge of your children, and values that are shared with you, are all important considerations in choosing a guardian. Location can be really important as well, particularly for older children who may be reluctant to move to another location. But, while your guardian has legal responsibility for your children, there is not an absolute requirement that the children actually reside with the guardian.

Personal Representative (Executor)

One of the principal reasons to have a will is to name one or more Personal Representatives who will actually carry out your wishes in an effective way. This is an onerous task and only a person who has agreed to be named should be considered. Age, honesty, and capability are all factors to be considered. Many parents are concerned about appointing their children – whether it is favoring one over another or how they will get along if appointed together. Often the addition of an uncle or close family friend who has the respect of your children can avoid unfortunate disputes among your children.

You can appoint more than one Personal Representative to act, but generally there would not be more than three. Consider providing for alternate Personal Representatives in the event that your named choices cannot act or die before they complete their task. If you do not name an alternate, the Personal Representative of your deceased Personal Representative will be tasked with the responsibility of completing your estate, something that person probably never contemplated when they agreed to their appointment.

In some instances, a corporate trustee, such as a trust company, may be appropriate. A corporate trustee is generally more interested in estates of significant size, and may be appropriate if there are testamentary trusts that may carry on for many years, or if there is no family member or close friend that you consider is appropriate for the task.

Taxes

One reason for an efficient administration of your estate is to minimize the amount of tax that is paid. On death, some of our assets transfer to our spouse or other beneficiaries without tax consequences. But, most of our assets are deemed to have been disposed of on death and there can be substantial capital gains and regular income taxes, notwithstanding that we do not have an "estate tax" as such. Taxes are paid out of the general estate or residue (that part of the estate that is left after specific gifts are distributed). Accordingly, it is generally unwise to try to divide up your estate by giving specific assets to designated beneficiaries. For example, if you will your registered investments (RRSPs or RIFs) to one beneficiary and the balance of your estate to another beneficiary, thinking that they will be more or less equal, the taxes on the RRSP will be paid out of the general estate and there will be a potentially very uneven distribution of your assets because of those taxes.

In some jurisdictions, such as Ontario, probate fees are legislated as taxes and are significant. In Alberta, we should be wary of suggestions to plan our estate in such a way as to avoid probate fees paid to the Court. An estate with a net value of \$250,000.00 pays \$400.00 in probate fees.

*Our Vision...
"Creating a better community,
today, tomorrow, FOREVER."*

Who are we...

The Community Foundation is a non-political, non-governmental registered public charity established in 1992 through an act of the Provincial Legislation by a group of dedicated community-minded citizens. The Foundation supports a wide variety of health, educational, social, cultural and community charitable needs in Medicine Hat and South Eastern Alberta.

The Community Foundation is truly achieving its mission of improving the quality of life for the people of South Eastern Alberta through developing permanent endowments, making responsible grants, and inspiring community leadership.

Our Current Board of Directors 2008/2009 are:

- Dr. Shann Snedden, Chair
- Mr. Ryan Jackson, Vice Chair
- Mr. Kelly Byers, Treasurer
- Mrs. Linda Lehr, Secretary
- Mrs. Cory Baksa
- Mrs. Janice Blair
- Ms. Stephanie Cleary
- Mr. Les Erickson
- Dr. Al Garden
- Ms. Carolyn Kawan
- Mrs. Sharran Kungel
- Mr. Jakob Pillibeit
- Mr. Ted Rodych
- Mr. Gary Stimson
- Mr. Clint Stromsmoe
- Ms. Kathy Mandeville, Past Chair
- Mr. Bill Bauman Mr. Garth Vallely, Honorary Directors

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Telephone 403-527-9038 • Fax 403-527-9204 • email: info@mhcf.ca • www.mhcf.ca
104, 430 6th Avenue S.E. Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 2S8

Mike Christie, Executive Director
Melissa Wannamaker, Executive Assistant