



**Red Deer & District
Community Foundation
8th Annual**



RED DEER & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
all for community.

**WOMEN
OF
EXCELLENCE**

JUNE 9, 2015

Awards Gala

RED DEER & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Thank You...

The planning and implementation of a worthwhile and valuable initiative required vision and commitment – and the desire to ensure an unforgettable experience for everyone involved! The response we received as we began planning our eighth Annual Women of Excellence program was overwhelming, and the work that has taken place is, once again, simply amazing!

Thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors who supported the Women of Excellence awards and gala – quite simply, we could not have done it without each and every one of you. What would the awards and gala be without our community? Thank you for nominating your Women of Excellence candidate, thank you for attending our gala, and thank you for joining the Red Deer & District Community Foundation Board of Directors and staff in congratulating each and every Woman of Excellence who is being recognized this evening.

The Red Deer & District Community Foundation's goals focus on enhancing the quality of life of the entire community – from children to seniors, by working with organizations in human services, to the environment, to arts, culture, recreation and healthy lifestyles. We work with individuals to help them realize their charitable giving objectives and assist local organization in the development of programs and services that meet the needs, desires and passions of an ever changing community.

We sincerely welcome you and appreciate your support of the Awards and Gala, and look forward to your continuing support of the Red Deer & District Community Foundation as we work with you to create the best community for all.



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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Honors a woman, who for many years of her life, has been a role model, mentor and/or advocate for positive change. The recipient has been a Woman of Excellence who is dedicated to improving the lives of others throughout their lives – in their work, their homes, and their community activities. She has made a profound difference in the lives of those around her.



RBC
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*Lifetime Achievement
Award Recipient 2015*

Dorothy Dickson

AGRICULTURE

WE are innovative – leaders in our philosophies and demonstrate commitment to sustainable practices in agriculture.



Elna Edgar

Elna is a passionate farmer, who has always been involved in agriculture in the Innisfail area. She was a 10 year 4-H member, who won efficiency & club week awards. After graduating from Olds College, Elna and her husband Doug worked the family farm, Edgar Farms, while raising two daughters. She spearheaded the diversification of the once-traditional farm, creating the largest patch of delicious asparagus in Alberta, as well as 30 acres of other vegetables, all hand-picked and marketed direct to consumers at Farmers Markets & her farm store. To offer an “on farm experience” for customers, Elna created a hugely popular annual Asparagus Festival. She also increased productivity of the cow herd through selection, herd health, record keeping and breeding and markets all natural beef. Elna believes in the value of co-operative marketing; helping create and manage Innisfail Growers’ Coop and Country Drive. She volunteers extensively for Little Red Deer Dorcas Women’s Institute, Little Red Deer Hall Board, Innisfail Agricultural Society and Innisfail United Church. Elna has won many awards, as part of Edgar Farms, including Farm Family of the Year, Farm Direct Marketer of the Year and Innovation in Agriculture.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

WE demonstrate outstanding achievement in the expression, development, preservation, patronage and/or promotion of the performing, visual, literary or multi-media arts and/or cultural heritage.



Ellen Corea

Ellen grew up in Calgary and graduated with a degree in Fine Arts and Media Research from the Alberta College of Art in 1977. She also attended the University of Calgary, Emily Carr Fine Arts College and the Ontario College of Art. Ellen is a loving wife and the mother of two adult children and a proud grandmother. Despite having a full and busy family life Ellen continues to dedicate her time professionally and through her volunteerism to developing and promoting the arts. Her vision, creativity and enthusiasm are contagious. She is also an accomplished artist and painter. Currently, Ellen sits on several boards and committees including the Lacombe Arts Endowment Fund, serves as Treasurer for the Lacombe Performing Arts Centre Foundation and the Cranna Community Cultural Centre (C4) Initiative. Ellen is also involved with the Lacombe Historical Society and the Lacombe Heritage Steering Committee. Ellen is the Regional Archive Coordinator, Tourism Coordinator and Bookkeeper with the Lacombe and District Historical Society, and is also the Bookkeeper for the Lacombe Chamber of Commerce.

ATHLETICS, RECREATION AND FITNESS

WE participate, coach and mentor, serving as an inspiration to others through our example and accomplishments, thereby enhancing the physical well-being of the residents of Red Deer and Central Alberta.

*The **Consider** it Done Team*



Arlene Hjertaas

Arlene lives by her belief that exercise is fundamental to good health. She also believes the best exercise is the one you'll do! Soon after being introduced to Jazzercise in 1988, she obtained instructor certification and opened the first Jazzercise class in Red Deer. Her goal has always been to consistently teach safe, effective, motivating classes to help her customer's live healthier, happier lives through fitness. Her skills and knowledge as a Registered Nurse have been a very beneficial part of the journey. Arlene works as the Senior Advisor for Occupational Health Nursing for Alberta Health Services in the Employee Health & Wellness Department. She is married to her husband Randy for 35 years and is a mom of 2 daughters, Erin and Aubree. Arlene has been a resident of Red Deer since 1987.

BUSINESS AND THE PROFESSIONS

WE are acknowledged in their field for leadership and consistent commitment to excellence. WE leverage their achievements and management skills to facilitate change and create opportunities in either the for-profit and non-for-profit sectors. WE demonstrate a respect for and engagement with her community, clients/stakeholders and colleagues.



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Michelle Andrishak

Michelle is the Small Business Advisor at the Rural Alberta Business Centre in Rocky Mountain House. She is dedicated to the success of all businesses in Rocky Mountain House and surrounding communities. Her vision and enthusiasm have brought recognition to our communities through her work on the Central Alberta Business Innovation Conference, the Small Business Incubator model, high school business programs and community networks. From one-on-one business coaching to community showcases, Michelle is the driving force behind the success of small rural business and has renewed an excitement in the business communities of Central Alberta.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

WE have identified a local community need or issue and have provided effective initiative to inspire and pioneer meaningful change. WE are recognized as a source of strength and heart in their community, and harnesses the time, talent and capacity of others.

ATCO Gas



Tanya Schur

Tanya is a Blackfoot-Metis mother of two grown children. She holds a MA in Leadership Studies from the Royal Roads University, Victoria. Her focus of research was “creating harmony in diverse work groups”. Tanya is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Red Deer Native Friendship Centre; she follows the traditional teachings of the medicine wheel and is committed to Aboriginal community development and the empowerment of Aboriginal people. Tanya has worked tirelessly in the Aboriginal community to build a governance model that the community would endorse and be able to utilize to work on issues affecting the Aboriginal community. This initiative has now grown into the Red Deer Aboriginal Voices Society. Tanya is leading the Assoahum Centre Project, which is the affordable housing and cultural centre project envisioned by the Aboriginal community.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

WE are celebrated for outstanding achievement in practice, development and/or research in the educational system, employee development, community education or alternative programs.



Linda Moore Martin

Linda graduated from the Queen's University Nursing Program with a BScN in 1979. She worked as an educator at Red Deer Regional Hospital for a year before embarking on her career as an educator in the nursing program at Red Deer College. Linda taught nursing for many years before becoming the Chair of the Nursing Department. Linda completed her Master of Nursing degree from the University of Calgary with a focus on Women's Health. For the past six years, Linda was the Dean of the Division of Health, Science, Sport and Education, and this past year has been the Dean of the restructured RDC School of Health Sciences. Linda has maintained her registration and is proud to be a registered nurse.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WE have a solid vision of the future, and possess creativity and ingenuity that separates us from our peers. WE have taken an innovative approach to solving a problem, filling a need or breaking into a new market. WE have made sacrifices and risked a great deal to successfully manage, launch or revive a business, product service or community organization.

MNP
LLP



Brenda Kolasa

Brenda's entrepreneur career began in 1994, when she started her company, Visual Resolve Graphics. Over time she recognized that entrepreneurs faced similar issues – specifically a platform that offered businesses a reliable resource network. Her passion realized this unique concept in 2013, when she introduced Success4Business. This online Consortium and Annual Business Expo offers a range of resources: expert/mentor consultations, a diverse business directory, plus quality speakers, seminars and workshops. Acting as Producer and Facilitator, Brenda helps other businesses to grow and succeed. Brenda is actively involved in several organizations including Rotary Club East, Red Deer Leads Executive Association, Red Deer & District Chamber of Commerce, Red Deer Business Networking Group Meet-up, and the Professional Women's Network. Brenda received the Rotarian of the Year Award, from the Rotary Club East, two years in a row (2010 and 2011). Born and raised a Saskatchewan prairie girl, she became a proud Albertan in 1984. Brenda is married and a busy mother of two energetic teenagers.

ENVIRONMENT

WE are leaders in our philosophies, and demonstrate commitment to environment protection, conservation and sustainability.



Dorothy Dickson

Dorothy Dickson has long been an admirer and staunch advocate for the natural world. She has been involved with recycling programs and used pesticide container collections. She has worked with school curriculums to get more natural history into the schools, as well as teaching classes in elementary schools and helping teachers with projects. She has contributed to Red Deer Vision 2020 and other City planning documents. She has worked long and hard protecting our National and Provincial Parks as well as Natural Areas. Perhaps the best way to sum up Dorothy's work for the environment is what was written about her when she received the prestigious Douglas H. Pimlott Award and Honorary Lifetime Membership with the Canadian Nature Federation: "Dorothy is a tireless worker, deeply admired and respected by naturalists and environmentalists throughout Canada. Her decades-long efforts have educated and inspired teachers, youth, naturalists and Canadians to learn about nature and work towards its protection".

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

WE have experience outstanding achievement in promotion, education and/or involvement in the physical emotional and/or spiritual health and well-being of others.



**Making
Progress
Happen**



Brenda Reisman

Brenda is currently the President and CEO of Futures Resources Partners Inc., a human resources consulting company. She is a visionary, solutions focused strategist with 30 years of multi-faceted experience in operations, strategy development, leadership, change management and high-profile relationship management in multiple Provinces in Canada. A resourceful, passionate, high-energy leader and mentor with infectious enthusiasm and persuasive presentation and communications skills. She is adept at building high performance teams that leverage existing strengths and embrace continuous innovation to create customer focused value-add services for clients. Brenda's background includes twenty-five years in public sector health care and education, primarily focusing on providing leadership and direction for building sustainable organizations. She is a leader in the development of many tools for planning, managing and evaluating people practices in organizations. She holds a B. Admin, MBA and Certified Human Resources Professional Designation, along with many certifications in the fields of health care, facilitation and human resources consulting. Brenda has served on provincial and national committees, authored articles on sustainable workplaces, and attended as guest speaker and panelist at many public sector events focusing on the state of our workforce and innovative strategies for attraction, engagement, retention and succession planning.

HUMAN SERVICES

WE may work or volunteer in the for-profit or not-for-profit sectors and are acknowledged in their field for leadership, compassion and practice in human service programs and/or organizations within the community.



Holiday Inn
& Suites
Gasoline Alley



Ethel Suarez

Ethel has been a board member and volunteer for Central Alberta Refugee Effort (C.A.R.E.) for 34 years. Ethel and her family came to Red Deer in 1977 as political refugees. Since then, she has always been a champion, an inspiration and role model for immigrants and refugees in our community. As someone who had to flee her native country of Uruguay, she knows the challenges of adapting to a new country. Her mission has always been to help immigrants to adapt and integrate in Central Alberta. Ethel did that by volunteering for Amnesty International and as a volunteer translator for the RCMP, the courts, the hospital and other institutions. Her efforts have contributed to help building a stronger multicultural community. She was a recipient of the Mayor's Recognition Award in 2012 and the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Award in 2011.

YOUNG WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

WE are young (under age 25) and are respected for achievements and commitments to education and lifelong learning; work or career; and/or community. WE are a positive influence on our peers.



Kaitlin Crovet

Kaitlin is a community builder, volunteer and gem in the community of Lacombe. Kaitlin graduated from Burman University (formerly known as Canadian University College), with a degree in Business Administration in April of 2015. During her time in school, she helped organize Serve Lacombe, with over 200 faculty, staff and students volunteering their time for 22 different community projects in Lacombe and area. She volunteers as a swimmer with Special Olympians, a writer/reporter and volunteer for A Better World, non-profit organization improving the lives of people in 3rd world countries, a 4-H Public Speaking Judge, Founder/Director of Change for Change, and a grade 3 teacher in the Marshall Islands. She is a positive influence and role model in our community for volunteerism, embracing diversity, and creating cross-cultural opportunities.

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- Mary Kay Products by Wanda Zemplak
- MGM Ford Lincoln
- M & M Meat Shops
- Muse Clothing
- One Eleven Grill
- Only Women's Fitness
- Parkland Garden Centre
- Party Lite
- Pearson's Berry Farm
- Radisson – Red Deer
- Ramada – Kamloops
- Red Arrow Bus Line Company
- Red Boar Smokery
- Red Deer College
- Red Deer Lodge
- Red Deer Discount Golf Centre
- Red Stone Grill & Wine Bar
- River Bend Golf & Recreation Area
- Rivershore Golf Links
- Sentinel Storage
- Sheraton Red Deer Hotel
- Side Street Fashion & Accessories
- Sobey's Gaetz South
- Telus Community Ambassadors
- The Bra Lounge
- The Canadian Brewhouse
- The Coverall Shop
- The Farm Studio
- The Green Apple
- The Premium Beer Company
- Utopia Hair Studio
- Wallah Signs
- Wal-Mart Red Deer South Centre
- Westerner Park
- Wyntjes, Dianne
- Yard Yoga Alliance