

Centennial Ambassadors' Biographies



James (Jim) Acton

Jim has been working on boards and foundations in the provincial and civic arenas for 40 years. He currently serves as the president of the Grand Trunk Recreation Area Council One, the Area Council Edmonton Society and the Alberta Provincial Parks Alumni. He is vice-president of the Edmonton International Baseball Foundation and a member of the Alberta Seniors Advisory Council and the Calder Seniors Drop-in Society. Jim has been honoured for his community contributions with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and the 125th Anniversary of the Canadian Confederation Commemorative Medal. He was also named Volunteer of the Year by the City of Edmonton. Recently, Jim retired from the Office of the Mayor in Edmonton. He is married with five children and eight grandchildren.

Mae Adamyk

For the last 11 years, Mae has been director of the St. Michael Agricultural Society and is a board member of the Hospital and Friends of the Ukrainian Village board. She is also a member of the Agriculture Hall of Fame Selection Committee. She has worked with the Kindergarten Association, the Lamont Figure Skating Association and is a member of Toastmistresses International. Along with an extensive career in the public service, where she served four terms as Reeve of the County of Lamont and as Vice Chair of the County of Lamont School Board, she served on the Ambulance Board and the Agricultural Service Board. She lives on a farm in the hamlet of St. Michael near Lamont and is a wife and mother to four children.

Karen Anderson

Karen is a businesswoman who takes time to contribute to her community. She currently serves on several boards including, the Breakfast for Learning Alberta Council, the Capital City Savings Kids Foundation, the Leaders of Tomorrow Program, the Spruce Grove Community Policing Advisory Committee and Vice Chair of Capital City Savings. Karen also devotes a great deal of her time to fundraising efforts, such as the annual golf tournament to raise funds for an emergency response vehicle for the Parkland Ambulance Authority. Karen, along with her husband, is the owner-operator of an electrical and instrumentation company, co-owner of Inner Radiance Day Spa and works with her husband and partner in an industrial camp catering business. Karen, a proud resident of Spruce Grove, is married with two grown children.

Jenine Arntzen

Jenine is a dedicated volunteer and youth leader. As one of the Young Leaders in rural Canada, Jenine is treasurer of the Future Alberta Beef Breeders group founded in 2003. The organization's programs allow youth to apply team building, leadership and other skills. This young leader is also past president of the Board of the Alberta Young Canadian Simmental Association. Jenine brings her passion for rural living and agriculture and how youth can positively impact communities across Alberta to all her volunteer efforts. Jenine, a resident of Sedgewick, enjoys spending time with her parents and sister showing cattle and playing and watching hockey.

Eleanor Art

Eleanor has served on various community association boards and fundraiser committees. Her volunteer work has involved organizing fundraisers and working with interdenominational events such as the Children's Festival, organizing special seasonal services and working with refugees. She enjoys reading, gardening, hiking and skiing. Eleanor is a widow with two sons and four grandchildren. She was married for 42 years and lives in Calgary.

Ken Balko

Ken is a third generation Albertan with 31 years of service with the Government of Alberta. Since retiring, he has been active in the Edmonton community serving with the Alberta Congress and helping promote healthy communities. Ken has been involved in sports, cultural and social issues within the community for many years.

The Honourable Tommy Banks, Senator

Before being appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2000, Tommy Banks enjoyed a successful 50-year international career as a musician. A Juno Award-winning musician, Mr. Banks has achieved a national and international reputation as conductor or music director for such signature events as the Royal Command Performance and the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. As founding Chairman of the Alberta Foundation for the Performing Arts, Mr. Banks has worked tirelessly to ensure that other promising musicians and performers receive the exposure they deserve across Canada. He is the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Alberta, the Sir Frederick Haultain Prize, the Alberta Order of Excellence and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. A Calgary-born lifelong Albertan, Mr. Banks moved to Edmonton in 1949. He and his wife still live in Edmonton, as do their grown children and their families.

William R. (Bill) Bauman

Bill is a well-respected community leader, who enjoys giving his time. He has served as president of many organizations, including the Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce, the Medicine Hat Cypress Club, the Medicine Hat Community Foundation and the Medicine Hat Shriners Children's Hospital Committee. He has been involved with the Friends of Medalta Society and co-chair of its fund development committee. Bill, now retired, has been a Medicine Hat resident for 31 years. He enjoys golfing, traveling, gardening and spending time with his family and grandchildren.

Sten Berg

Sten, a resident of Ardrossan, has contributed to his community for 44 years. Among his achievements, Sten served as a member of the first Alberta Trade Mission to Japan to introduce a concept of international trade that he had designed. He was also a Strathcona County councilor for six years. After 28 years in livestock production, Sten established an international consulting company specializing in agricultural project development. Using principles of environmental stewardship, Sten is involved in developing 68 acres of farm land into Cluster Country Residential, five kilometres east of Sherwood Park. Married for 50 years, Sten and his wife have four children and three grandchildren.

Geraldine Bidulock

Geraldine, a resident with pioneering roots in the Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills area, has brought much positive energy and added value to projects and events in the rural community. Contributing without compromise, and having achieved Provincial, Regional and even National Industry Council accolades, she balances her energies between business, home, community projects and family, including two grown daughters. Geraldine is a living organ donor, motivating her to further advocate donor awareness in Alberta.

Fred Bradley

Fred has a long history of community involvement in Alberta. He is a particularly active member in his home community of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. Fred serves on many boards and committees, including the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative, Crowsnest Pass Historical Corridor Advisory Committee, Crowsnest Pass Business Development Corporation and Crowsnest Learning Centre Corporation. He has extensive government and business experience both provincially and internationally. His interests include skiing, hiking, biking, coin collecting and beekeeping.

Jane Brenner

Jane has been active in many volunteer activities, including gathering her community together to celebrate National Volunteer Week. She has been Vice President for Volunteer Alberta and Vice Chair of the Alberta Association for Continuing Education. In 2000, the Community Network recognized Jane for her contribution to lifelong learning in Alberta. Jane is the Executive Director of the Taber and District Community Adult Learning Association. Married for 27 years with three adult children, Jane believes "nothing successful is ever done in isolation but rather through partnerships and collaboration."

Alice Brown

Alice is an active member of her community of Kathryn, near Calgary. Sitting on several boards, Alice has shared her time and expertise with organizations such as the Canada West Foundation, the University of Calgary Senate and the Olds College Board of Governors. She served on the Board of the Calgary Co-op for 22 years including one term as Chair. Alice has received several awards, including the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case. Alice is married with one daughter.

Diane Caleffi

Diane has dedicated time to her community as a member of Executive Women International and Safety Officer for the Calgary West Little League, providing CPR training. She has volunteered for the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelters Turning Points Dinner. Diane also sits on the Board of Directors of the Calgary Health Region, is a member of the Seniors Advisory Board for Alberta and works with the Social Care Facilities Review Committee. She now runs her own business, EA for a Day, which provides high-level executive/personal assistant care. Diane began her career in Calgary with the Calgary Police Service as an executive secretary where she worked in the Field Operations and Tactical Support Sections and with Olympic Security. Throughout the 1990s, she worked for TransAlta Corporation in various senior administrative roles. Diane and her husband have three children and two grandchildren with two more grandchildren on the way.

Tannia Cherniwchan

A graduate of the University of Alberta (B.Ed., Dip. in Ed. Admin.), Tannia is a recent retiree whose teaching career spanned 35 years. She is a founding member of the Athabasca & District Music Festival, Athabasca Ukrainian Folk Dance Club and was a member of the Athabasca Players, a locally established theatre group. Tannia was actively involved in the Guiding movement and offered piano and vocal lessons; she has worked with countless soloists and choirs in concerts and musical productions. She presently assists seniors with OAS and Special Needs Program applications and fundraising for community and charitable organizations. Tannia's priorities are traveling with her husband and spending quality time with family.

Larry Chorney

Larry's dedication to his community continues after retiring from an impressive 25 years of public administration service with the Town of Fairview. He has worked diligently to promote the Peace Region with a focus on development, beautification and the environment. One of his many accomplishments includes chairing the steering committee for the Communities in Bloom National Competition. Organizations such as the MacKenzie Forest Society, the Fairview Minor Hockey Association, the Fairview Curling Club, the Peace Curling Association and the Fort Dunvegan Historical Society have benefited from Larry's involvement. Larry is married with four children.

Donald Clarke, C.M.

Don is a dedicated volunteer who consistently gives back to the community by devoting his time and energy to leadership roles with non-profit organizations and sporting and civic events. His volunteer positions include past chairman of Goodwill, director of STARS air ambulance and chairman of the SPCA fundraising committee. He has also been active as the Alberta Director with the Council for Canadian Unity, Governor of the Edmonton International Baseball Foundation and is a founding Director of the Kids Kottage Foundation. Don also has a long history of involvement with the Edmonton Klondike Days Association. The recipient of numerous awards for his community work, Don is a former police officer and advertising manager. Don and his wife have two daughters and four grandsons.

Daniel Claypool

Daniel has served on the boards of many Alberta organizations and foundations, including the Devon Community Centre Building and Fundraising Committee, the Canadian Petroleum Interpretive Centre and the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame. He currently devotes volunteer time to the Leduc #1 Historical Society and the Devon Lions Club. Daniel has been recognized as Devon's Citizen of the Year and is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for his community dedication. He has 46 years experience in the upstream oil industry. Daniel is married with two children and three grandchildren.

Eldon Couey

Eldon has a long history of volunteerism, including serving as a Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer for many community organizations and fundraising events. Over 15 organizations have benefited from Eldon's dedication including the Little Britches Rodeo, which he has supported for over 40 years. His efforts have been honoured with the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Confederation. He was Mayor of High River for close to 10 years. Eldon has been married for 50 years and has three children and four grandsons.

Liliane Coutu-Maisonneuve

Liliane has been involved in the areas of agriculture, education and history with a variety of organizations such as the Alberta Canola Grower's Commission, the Société Généalogique du Nord-Ouest and the Royal Canadian Legion. Through her former position as coordinator of Heritage and History for the Association Canadienne-Française de l'Alberta, she promoted the contributions of Francophones and Métis to the development of Canada. Liliane, a Board member of the Historical Society of Alberta and a member of the Edmonton and District Historical Society, holds a Bachelor of Education degree and has taught in French immersion and francophone schools. Liliane co-operated a grain and oilseed farm in the Peace River Country for 23 years with her late husband. Liliane is proud to be the descendant of the first non-Aboriginal family to settle in Alberta, the grandparents of Louis Riel. She has two married children and three grandchildren.

Joe Couture

A Jasper resident for 40 years, Joe has been involved with many organizations, including the Jasper Chamber of Commerce, the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and the Jasper Tourism and Commerce Board. Joe is a Jasper Municipality Councillor. He encourages both Albertans and visitors to enjoy the history and beauty of the West Yellowhead Region. Joe is married with three daughters and four grandchildren.

Dr. Reg Crowshoe

Reg is a well-known Blackfoot ceremonialist who lives on the Piikani Nation in southern Alberta. A respected Elder, he is also executive director of the Oldman River Cultural Centre, president of the Board of Directors for the Niitsitapi Tourism Society of Alberta, board member of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Indian Village Committee and member of the Alberta Strategic Tourism Marketing Council. Reg also served on the Provincial Museum Aboriginal Advisory Committee, instrumental in the development of the Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture. Also a writer, Reg co-authored the publication, *Akak'stiman: a Blackfoot framework for decision-making and mediation processes*. He recently earned an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Calgary.

Scott Daley

Born in Nova Scotia, Scott calls Calgary home where he is active in his local community. Scott has served many organizations including the Northmount Kiwanis Club. He has also offered his time coaching soccer and hockey. Scott is assistant chairman of the Bottomlands Soccer Park Building Committee, chairman of the Renfrew Community Annual Clean Up, past president of the Renfrew Community Association, member of the Renfrew Community Planning Committee and the Alberta Chapter American Truck Historical Society. For 15 years, Scott has been a senior security consultant with ADT Security Services. He is married with two children.

Marg Day

Marg, one of the founding members of Edmonton's Londonderry community, has devoted her energy to the neighbourhood and the city for the last 37 years. She is currently the president of Londonderry Community League and has volunteered at the neighborhood school for over 30 years. Marg is past president of the Alberta Home and School Association. As an active member for the Boysdale Camp Foundation, Marg helped raise funds and coordinate a summer camp for Edmonton children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a camp. She has also served on the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and on the Muttart 2005 Grant Board. Marg is the current president for the German Canadian Culture Association and president elect for the Kiwanis Club.

Robert Dixon

A long-standing member of the Mannville Multi 4-H Club, Robert is active in many agricultural projects, including the cattle industry as a producer and the show circuit. His positive attitude, leadership and confidence are a result of several years of participation in community programs, public speaking competitions as well as his time spent as a 4-H youth. Robert makes a difference for agriculture in Alberta as an organizer and youth promoter. He is a 4-H Ambassador and a 2004 Premiers Award recipient.

Jack Donahue

Jack, a third generation native Calgarian, is actively involved in a number of community organizations, including the Calgary Prostate Cancer Foundation, Mount Royal College Foundation and Alberta's Promise. He has contributed his time and talent to organizations such as the National Hockey League Board of Governors, the Alberta Professional Sports Policy Committee, the Calgary Mustangs Junior Football Club, the Bow River Water Quality Task Force and Alberta's 100th Anniversary Strategy Committee as co-chair. Jack is a lawyer at Donahue Wells in Calgary. He is married with four daughters.

Brian Dunnigan

Brian has been an involved Edmontonian for 59 years having served on various sports-related organizations. He has a 20-year history with community hockey, first as a coach and manager, then as a hockey director. Brian served as the chair for Edmonton's Minor Hockey Week, the discipline chair of the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association and until recently he was the Edmonton's Zone 8 Representative to Hockey Alberta. For 25 years, he has been a member of the Gyro Club of Edmonton, a men's service club. Currently, Brian is on the Board of Directors for the Paralympic Sports Association, the organizing committee for hockey for the World Master's Games and the tournament committee for the annual Prairie Cup Old-timer's Hockey Tournament. The Edmonton Minor Hockey Association and Hockey Alberta have recognized Brian for his outstanding contributions to hockey programs. He has also been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for outstanding contributions to the community. He and his wife have lived in the community of Northmount for 33 years where they raised two children. Brian, now retired, worked for Telus for 35 years.

Donna Fong

Donna is a life-long resident of Edmonton who has worked with numerous organizations to enhance the quality of life in communities. She has been recognized three times by the University of Alberta Senate Community Service Recognition Program for her community service achievements. Some of her involvement includes: the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL), the University of Alberta's United Way Campaign Committee and READ IN literacy events. Donna is currently active with the Advisory Board for *Active Edmonton* and the Strathcona Centre Community League Board. Donna is the Research Manager of the Population Research Laboratory at the U of A. She is also a part-time staff member at the Centre for Reading & the Arts (Edmonton Public Library). Donna is married with two grown children. In 1996, the Fongs received the 1996 Urban Family Award for community service.

Dorothy French

Dorothy is an active volunteer having worked with such groups as the Wetoka Health Unit Board, Wetaskiwin Hospital Board, the Camrose Women's Shelter, the Social Services Appeal Board, the Library Board, Recreation Board and Girl Guides. Dorothy was mayor of Wetaskiwin and served as alderman for 17 years. She was also a teacher for seven years. Dorothy, who lives in Wetaskiwin, is married with two adult children.

George (Jock) Fyfe

Jock has served non-profit organizations in various capacities over the years, including general manager of the Sturgeon General Hospital Foundation, managing coordinator of the St. Albert Place Society and chairman of the Alberta Victims' Programs Assistance Committee. Jock is a former airline pilot. He is married and has one daughter.

Kenton Gan

Even though university studies take up much of Kenton's time, he always finds room in his schedule to give back to his community. Kenton spends time helping his peers through Youth One, a local on-line community support network, which works with depressed or suicidal youth. He also volunteers at the Royal Alexandra Hospital delivering newspapers and visiting patients. Having traveled across Canada representing Alberta at various national speech and debate tournaments, he shares his talents as a speech and debate coach at Old Scona Academic High School in Edmonton. Kenton is in his third year at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Science. His awards and scholarships include the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton Community Service Scholarship.

Dr. Charles Godbersson

A committed professional and dedicated volunteer, Charles is active in his Barrhead community. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Barrhead for over 30 years.

Erna Goertzen

As a resident of Coaldale, Alberta for 77 years, Erna has devoted time to this community in a variety of ways. In the 1960s, she was active in the Coaldale Home and School Association as president and secretary. She has been involved with various groups serving seniors, such as the Alberta Provincial Senior Citizens Advisory Council. Erna's dedication has earned the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and 125th Anniversary of the Canadian Confederation Commemorative Medal for significant contribution to the community. For the past 10 years, she has been president of the society that developed the Coaldale and District Gem of the West Museum. Erna is married with two children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Rusty Gutek

Rusty is a dedicated Albertan who spends time serving others in her community. She has been involved with teacher-parent associations, the University of Calgary Swim Club, the Calgary Stampede Show Band and the Disabled Sailing Association of Alberta. Rusty has also helped organize fundraising and social events for a local association. She is a medical laboratory technologist in Calgary, where she has lived for 32 years. Married with two daughters, Rusty recently became a proud grandmother.

Chief Frank T. Halcrow

Frank has been involved in many aspects of his First Nation community for over 30 years having an impact on First Nations people both locally and provincially. He has been the Hereditary Chief of the Kapawe'no First Nation in Grouard, for the last 32 years and the Grand Chief of the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council and of the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. In 1981, he founded the Alberta Indian Health Care Commission and continues to provide direction and advice. He has served as chairman of the Child Welfare Committee and as a member of the Indian Association of Alberta. He was also instrumental on the creation of the Treaty 8 Grand Council and the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council. Frank's dedication has earned him the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the 125th Anniversary of the Canadian Confederation Commemorative Medal and the Treaty 8 Centennial Recognition Award. He is married with seven children and lives on the Kapawe'no reserve.

Elmer Harke

Elmer has been involved in the community of Whitecourt for over 27 years. Among others, his community service highlights include work with the Lion's Club, the Vietnamese Refugee Integration Committee and a number of Whitecourt boards and committees including the Family and Community Support Services, Municipal Planning Commission, Whitecourt Landfill Society, the Library Board and the Seniors Lodge Expansion. Elmer served on Whitecourt Town council for 18 years. Born and raised in rural Alberta, Elmer is a teacher, father, husband and grandfather of five.

Mayor Vern Hartwell

Mayor of Strathcona County since 1995, Vern has held several positions within the volunteer and business community, including chairman of the 150th Boy Scouts Group, president of the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Strathcona Trade Fair. He is a firm believer in community involvement. As co-owner of Hartwell's Glass and Mirror Co. Ltd., he has supported and sponsored sporting, education, cultural and youth organizations and activities. He and his wife have three sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

Neil Hughes

Neil is a Calgarian involved in his community of Scarboro having served on the executive of the Scarboro Community Association for several years, most recently as president. He was also an active participant with the Area Council of the Federation of Calgary Communities and other community interest groups addressing local inner city issues such as property taxation and area development plans. Neil was born in Edmonton, where his maternal grandfather worked on the construction of the Alberta Legislature Building. At an early age, Neil moved to Calgary with his family. He studied History and Political Science at Mount Royal College in Calgary and the Universities of Calgary and Victoria. Neil began a career as a petroleum landman in Calgary where he became active in community and municipal affairs. Neil is married with two daughters.

William (Bill) Hull

Bill is very involved in his community both through volunteer efforts and business sponsorships of various events and fundraisers including the STARS "Vision Critical Capital Campaign." The former Red Deer councilor is a proud supporter of the Scott Tournament of Hearts, the Festival of Trees and the David Thompson Regional Hospital Foundation Cattle Round Up. He owns a successful liquor store in Red Deer. Bill and his wife have three adult children.

Betty Jackson

Betty, a member of the Swan River First Nation, has volunteered her time with a number of community organizations, including the Wabasca Hot Lunch Program, the Wabasca Diabetes Road Race and the Wabasca Housing Committee. Now retired, she graduated from Fairview College with an Early Childhood Certificate and from Northern Lakes College in the Clothing and Design Program. Betty, a widow, has six children, 20 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Victor Juba

Known as “Mr. Lloydminster,” Vic has benefited the Lloydminster community for 50 years. As chair of the 1982 Alberta Winter Games, Vic introduced cultural elements for the first time in the history of the games ensuring that art displays, theatre sport and musical performances took their place beside the traditional sporting events. Using his fundraising and community project development experience, Vic worked with members of Lloydminster’s Theatre Fundraising Committee to raise the \$2.3 million towards the costs of a community theatre that was later named in his honour. Vic has also been recognized with many awards, including Citizen of the Year and the Canada Certificate of Merit. Vic currently chairs the Lloydminster Games Society, the Museum Board and the Lloydminster Medical Recruitment Committee. Vic, who is married, had a career with Husky Oil that spanned 39 years.

Sylvia Kennedy

A 10-year resident of High Level, Sylvia participates in many local projects, Communities in Bloom, Canada Day, organizing the construction of the “World’s largest gate” welcoming NWT to the “Gateway to the South.” She is president of the High Level and District Chamber of Commerce, secretary of Fox Haven Golf and Country Club, chair of the Friends of Palliative Care and President of the Peace River PC Constituency. In 2001, Sylvia received the High Level Citizen of the Year Award and is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. Having earned her real estate agent license in 1994, Sylvia now co-owns Century 21 Realty in High Level. Sylvia is mother to two children.

Colleen Klein

Colleen is an active member of Alberta’s dedicated community of volunteers. While her role as wife of Premier Ralph Klein has given her the opportunity to support a variety of worthy causes, Colleen invests most of her time on those that contribute to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and youth. She is currently focused on initiatives that raise awareness of and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Aboriginal teen suicide. Colleen also works with a number of child and family service organizations focused on lessening the impact of high-risk behaviour and violence in the lives of children and families. Her efforts were recognized with an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Calgary, which she accepted on behalf of her fellow volunteers and the children she serves. Her past volunteer activities include duties as Chair of Alberta’s 100th Anniversary Strategy Committee. Colleen and Ralph Klein share five children, eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Heather Klimchuk

Heather makes time for her community while raising a young family. She has held many board positions and worked in volunteer recruitment, management and motivation. She is the co-chair of the Parent Council of Glenora Elementary School and has been the school’s volunteer coordinator. Heather is the dance director of St. Basil’s School of Ukrainian Dance and has been responsible for coordinating volunteers for the Bell Walk for Kids for the past two years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alberta. Heather is married with two children.

Grant Kowpak

Grant is Manager, Internal Audit at TransCanada and is very involved in the audit community of Alberta sharing his expertise and time. Grant holds Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Manitoba as well as his Certified Internal Auditor designation. He is past president of the Institute of Internal Auditors, Calgary Chapter. Grant is married with one son.

Raymond (Ray) Lee

Ray is a founding member and charter president of the Sien Lok Society of Calgary. He currently serves as a director and is spearheading a project to digitize Canadian-Chinese history, in a partnership with the University of Calgary, Simon Fraser University and the Ontario Historical Society. He also serves on the University of Calgary Senate and was a member of the Alberta Centennial Strategy Committee. His history of volunteerism includes appointments to various positions on city committees, as well as sports and community organizations. A native Albertan, the son of a Chinese immigrant of 1917, Ray resides in Calgary with his wife and three children.

Audrey Luft

Audrey is an active and dynamic member of the Edmonton community. She is President and Owner of the Alberta Franchise of Manpower Services and contributes much of her time through involvement on various boards, committees and foundations such as the NAIT Board of Governors, the Pilgrim's Hospice Society, the Alberta Heart Institute and is past chair of Edmonton Economic Development Corporation. Additionally, she is the current chair on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Audrey's dedication to the quality of life in the city of Edmonton has been an ongoing commitment. She has been recognized with numerous awards, the most recent being the City of Edmonton Citation Award. She has also received Global's Woman of Vision Award and Grant MacEwan College's prestigious Dr. Charles Allard Chair in Business award. Audrey was born in Eckville, Alberta and is the mother of two sons.

Wendy Lutzen-Askew

Wendy is a dedicated member of the Richmond-Knob Hill community of Calgary, where she has lived with her husband for 22 years. She was the treasurer of the Richmond-Knob Hill Community Association for three years and volunteered at the monthly bingos. From 1987 to 1999, while her children were in school, she chaired the school councils of Richmond Elementary, Mount Royal Junior High School and the Alternative High School. Wendy also participated on the Calgary Home and School Association in the late 1990s. She is still active in her community, volunteering at casinos. Wendy has been manager of production and revenue accounting at Canadian Natural Resources Limited for the past 13 years. A native Calgarian, Wendy is married with two sons.

Marian Majeau

Marian has always been involved with her community. She is currently working with the Rotary Club of Stony Plain, Foundation for the Health Centre, Parkland Potters Guild and the Stony Plain Public Library. She has an accounting diploma and is a past recipient of the Louise McKinney Scholarship for highest academic achievement. Marian is married with two daughters and three grandchildren.

Perky McCullough

Perky is a longtime volunteer in her community and throughout Alberta. She has helped organize and promote many local, provincial and national events and athletic games and championships. She brings enthusiasm and a wealth of organizational and public relations skills to her community involvement. Perky was inducted to the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 2004 in the multi-sport builder category. She is retired and lives in Grande Prairie. Perky is married with two sons, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Mayor W.J. (Bill) McQuesten

Committed to serving the Town of Lacombe, Bill has been involved with the Central Alberta Economic Partnership, the Lacombe Rotary Club, the Central Alberta Regional Trails and the Lacombe and District Recreation, Parks and Culture Board. He has also spent time volunteering with youth outreach programs. Bill is currently in his first term as Mayor of Lacombe, having served as a councillor from 1998 to 2001. Bill graduated from the University of Manitoba with a degree in Economics. He is married with two sons.

Margaret Minhinnett

Margaret has been a tireless community worker for over 30 years. She has worked with the Independent Order of Foresters and with various children's charities. Margaret is currently treasurer for the Tuxedo Park Community Association and has received the Outstanding Community Service Award from this organization. She has also received the Premier's Award for Outstanding Service to Alberta. Margaret and her husband are involved in many volunteer activities together.

Kristi Motley

Kristi actively participates on a number of councils, steering committees, and sport councils. Kristi was program coordinator with the Ponoka Family and Community Support Services Committee for eight years. Within this role, Kristi directed several programs that balanced community capacity building with volunteerism. She is a hockey parent who spends time participating in various parental activities. Kristi is married with three daughters and one son.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Murray

Jackie, a resident of Brooks, devotes countless hours to community service. She has worked with many local groups, including Seniors Outreach, Communities in Bloom and the Brooks Museum. Jackie is the recipient of the Brooks and District Citizen of the Year for 2002. Friends and family enjoy her enthusiasm, reliability and creativity. Jackie is married with four children, five grandchildren, four step grandchildren and one great grandson.

Pastor Thanh Nguyen

Born in Quang Ninh in North Vietnam, Thanh and his family moved to Edmonton in 1984. Thanh earned a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry in 1991, subsequently founding four Vietnamese churches. In 2002, he founded the Forest Lawn Bible College Society, leading to English as a second language classes in the community. By 2003, Forest Lawn Bible College was established with Thanh as founder and president. This fall, as director on the Board of Christian Aid Mission of Canada, Thanh plans to open a high school with Alberta curriculum in Vietnam. He is currently senior pastor of Agape Global Christian Ministries in Calgary. Thanh has been married for 32 years and has three children and five grandchildren.

Bobbi Okeymaw

Bobbi, a member of the Samson Cree Nation of Hobbema, is actively involved with organizations that benefit her community. She is a member of the Native Wellness Institute Advisory Board, the Alberta Aboriginal Festivities Committee, the Advisory Committee on Gambling and Problem Gambling in the Aboriginal Community, the Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Committee and the Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence. Bobbi is the executive director of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations. She is a mother of four grown children and a grandmother.

Diane Oxenford

For close to 30 years, Diane has volunteered in Alberta and in her country of origin, Australia. She is a member of the Rosedale Community League executive, and an active member of CONCERV (Concerned Citizens for Edmonton's River Valley). She has also been a tutor for the YMCA Enterprise Centre as well as a manuscript reader for Hodgepodge Books. She most recently worked at the Grey Nuns Hospital Health Resource Centre as a Facilitator for the Drinking Decisions Program. Diane has three children.

Pauline Phibbs

Pauline is a proud resident of Fort McMurray who has offered her time and skills to organizations such as the Unity House, the Historical Society Board, the Train Station Restoration Committee and the Business and Professional Women of Fort McMurray. She was instrumental in the creation of Fort McMurray's first SPCA in 1977, which is still in operation. Pauline has also chaired the Terry Fox Run for five years and has assisted with the community's first Festival of Trees and other fundraising efforts. A committed promoter of Fort McMurray, Pauline is executive director of the Fort McMurray City Centre Business Revitalization Zone and a strong proponent of cross-cultural training. She is married with three children and five grandchildren.

Barbara Poole

Barbara has committed over 35 years of her life to serving her community. She is active in various arts, community and social service organizations, including the National Theatre School, Canadian Decorative Arts group and is Governor of the Citadel. Her past activities include the University Hospital Foundation and the Winspear Centre for Music Campaign. Barbara has been consistently recognized for her efforts with numerous awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. She volunteers time with the Edmonton Opera, the Alberta Ballet and the Edmonton Art Gallery. Over the years, Barbara and her husband have been jointly recognized for their philanthropic support and community leadership. Barbara holds a Bachelor of Interior Design from the University of Manitoba. Born in Coronation, Alberta and now living in Edmonton, Barbara is married with three children.

Devinderjit (Dave) Purewal

Dave is the founder and president of the Edmonton Cultural Sports and Welfare Society. He has volunteered for numerous community organizations including the Central Probation Office, University of Alberta Hospital and the Burnwood Community League. He is a barrister and solicitor and Notary Public. A father of four children, Dave has been married for over 20 years.

Alison Redford

In her community and beyond, Alison is a vigorous advocate of human rights. She helped coordinate the first all-race elections in South Africa, from which Nelson Mandela became the first black president. Among her many other achievements, Alison was also a member of the Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund Advisory Committee. Alison, a Calgary lawyer, is married with one daughter.

Patricia Reid

Patricia, an Alberta resident for 48 years, has done extensive community work with a variety of organizations, mostly in the Grande Prairie area. She is currently President of the United Way of Grande Prairie and Region, a position she has held for 18 years. She has been a highly visible member of her community having founded local organizations, including the Community Foundation of Greater Grande Prairie. Patricia is married and has four daughters and six grandchildren.

Bas Roopnarine

Bas, an Edmonton resident for 29 years, has extensive community involvement, including working with the Knottwood Community League, the league's Neighbourhood Watch and the Millwoods Canada Day Celebration Committee. He immigrated to Canada 31 years ago from Trinidad and Tobago. Bas is married with three children and one grandchild.

Steven Rowe

After traveling around the world extensively, Steven has returned to Alberta for his last year of political science and Middle Eastern and African studies at the University of Alberta. Those who know Steven consider him a model of youth involvement. His community involvement has included volunteering at the food bank, year-round yard work for elderly neighbors and assisting people with disabilities. An Edmonton resident, Steven hopes to continue his education in the field of human security and peace building.

Jung-Suk Ryu

As an active volunteer, Jung-Suk encourages other young people to participate in their communities. He has been involved in a range of activities, such as volunteering at the University of Alberta Hospital and creating Harry Ainlay High School's volunteer club. In 2003, he received the Friends' Volunteer Achievement Award recognizing outstanding volunteer services for the hospital. Jung-Suk is a founding member of the local Korean chapter of the Lions Club. In 2002, Jung-Suk created the province-wide organization Speak Out!, connecting high school and university students with leaders from across the country. A second year Honours Political Science student of the U of A, Jung-Suk is a registered music teacher and has been a correspondent for *The Edmonton Journal* for the past two years.

Vic Sadlowski

Vic, a retired high school teacher, is a community supporter and volunteer. A well-respected principal at Bonnyville Centralized High School, Vic received the first (annual) provincial Garfield Weston Outstanding Principals Awards for Improvement in Academics in 2000, a Fraser Institute award that recognizes the exceptional leadership and commitment to education of principals. He is currently involved with the Bonnyville Health Foundation, director of the Bonnyville Jr. A. Pontiacs, an advocate for Bonnyville Victims Services and tutors high school math students. Vic is married with two children.

Irene Salisbury

Irene is a committed High Prairie resident responsible for launching the first Community Advisory Committee, resulting in the creation of the Citizens on Patrol Group and other policing initiatives. As a result of this involvement, Irene received the Solicitor General's Award for community policing. She also served on Town Council and the Community Futures Board helping to promote tourism in the area. Married with two sons and two grandchildren, Irene has received the Premier's Volunteer Award and is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.

Parmjit (Peter) Sandhu

Peter moved to Edmonton from Punjab, India in 1979. He has been a member of the board of directors of many organizations in Edmonton and has dedicated many hours to the Millcreek community. Peter was chosen as President of the Sikh Federation of Edmonton in the year 2000 for a four-year term. He is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. Peter is a successful Edmonton homebuilder. He and his wife have three children.

Dr. Horst Schmid

Born in Munich, Bavaria, Horst immigrated to Canada in 1952. In 1956, when he moved to Edmonton, Horst began his volunteer work with CKUA Radio hosting Music and News from the German-Speaking Countries of Europe for 10 years. Horst served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Avonmore from 1971-1986 holding ministerial positions including Minister of Culture and Minister of International Trade. In 1995, Horst started his own international trade business as president and CEO of Flying Eagle Resources Ltd. He continues volunteering in areas such as Aboriginal affairs, cultural heritage and businesses. Currently, Horst is a member of the Management Committee of Project Germany, established by the mayor of Edmonton to attract investment from Germany to the capital region. Horst has received several awards recognizing his service to Alberta, including the Honourary Doctorate of Law from the University of Alberta for his contributions to Alberta's cultural and economic advancement.

Danielle Schnurer

Community involvement and personal development is nothing new to Danielle. With over eight years experience in community programs such as 4-H and National Students Against Impaired Driving, she has become an outstanding community leader. Danielle exhibits a positive and energetic attitude in everything she does. Danielle is a Premier's Award recipient for Northeast Alberta and a 4-H Ambassador. Danielle has completed her first year of a Marketing and Human Resource degree at Augustana University College. She is from Elk Point.

Walter Sedler

Walter is an active volunteer in his Calgary community. He is a member of the Fort Calgary Historical Society and the Calgary Division RCMP Veterans. After serving in the RCMP for 35 years, he created Sedler Consulting in Calgary to provide specialized security consulting services to the oil and gas industry in Alberta and British Columbia. Walter fully retired in 2000 and now serves on his Condominium Board. He has been married for over 40 years and has two daughters.

Ian Seright

Ian, a resident of Calgary for 72 years, is known as the unofficial mayor of the Forest Lawn community. He is a celebrated pioneer of the community whose face, along with other pioneers, is immortalized on a mural at the corner of 31 street and 17 avenue in Calgary. Ian works tirelessly to help members of the community, especially fellow senior citizens. He has dedicated his time to a number of local community groups and has volunteered with events such as the Forest Lawn Parade. Community members paid tribute to Ian with the dedication of a special sensory room at the Hull TransAlta Community Connections Centre in Forest Lawn. Ian continues to volunteer with the Greater Forest Lawn Seniors and other organizations. He is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and the 125th Anniversary of the Canadian Confederation Commemorative Medal.

Gary Severtson

Gary is a former member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, serving 12 years. Throughout his volunteer career, Gary has been active in organizations such as the Innisfail Rotary Club, the Innisfail Jaycees, canvassing for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Innisfail Minor Hockey. He also serves on the Health Facilities Review Committee, the Alberta Health and Wellness Nomination Preview Panel and the Olds College Board of Governors. Gary operates a family farm near Innisfail.

A.E. (Ted) Smith

Ted is a founding member of the Highlands Historical Foundation. He currently sits on the board of the Family Council of the Allen Gray Continuing Care Centre and is the president of the Highlands Golf Club where he is chairman of the 75th anniversary committee. In 2003, Ted was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and received the Outstanding Service Award 2004 from the Gray House Guild. Ted, who lives in Edmonton, recently retired after a 27-year career at the Provincial Museum of Alberta. Ted and his wife have two children.

Catherine Smith

Catherine, a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003, has been serving the community of Medicine Hat for over 20 years. She has worked with many organizations, including Medicine Hat's Centennial 2005 Committee, Ecosystems and Risk Management Committee for Police Point Park, Communities in Bloom, Public Services Committee, Alberta Winter Games, Multiculturalism Education Fund Advisory Committee and Canada Senior Games. Catherine is a Medicine Hat city councillor. She is married with three children.

Rick Smith

Rick has called Calgary home for almost 50 years. Organizations such as the Calgary Cooperative Limited, the Alberta Tourism Partnership and the Calgary Convention and Visitors Bureau (Tourism Calgary) have all benefited from his active involvement. He was general manager of the Heritage Park Historical Village for the past 22 years and in June of 2004 was appointed executive director of the Heritage Park Foundation. In recognition of his community involvement, Rick has been honoured to receive the Don Sparrow Reach for the Stars Award (Travel Alberta) for his advocacy for Alberta tourism and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. Rick is married with two children.

Mayor Lou Soppit

As one of the longest-serving mayors in Alberta history, Lou is a dedicated member of the Town of Rocky Mountain House. Lou contributes his time and expertise to a variety of organizations and projects, such as Victim Services, Rocky Mountain Housing Coalition and the Regional Tourism Action Committee. In 1983, Lou was a founding member of the Rocky Mountain House Family and Community Support Services Committee, which helped to bring the program to the community. A believer in volunteerism, Lou created the Mayor's Recognition Awards for outstanding citizens in 1999. Lou is married with five children.

Karen Sorensen

Karen has been an active member of the Town of Banff for over 20 years. She dedicates her time to the Rotary Club of Banff, the International Student Exchange and fundraising for local schools. Karen currently sits on the 2005 Alberta Centennial Committee helping to coordinate events for the town. She has over 20 years of experience in the hotel and hospitality industry and has served as a Canadian Rockies Public School Board Trustee from 1996 to 2001. Married for 16 years with two children, Karen is the owner of Catalyst Enterprises Consulting.

James Stainton

James gives back to his community as mentor for blind children, helping them with basic social skills and providing them and their families with emotional support. He is active in local schools speaking on blindness to children, reading to classes, demonstrating technology and answering questions about blindness and its challenges. Currently, James is finishing a Bachelor of Arts at Athabasca University and plans to start a Masters in Child Psychology at Athabasca University. This year, he also plans to take Advanced Furniture Making at NAIT since woodworking is both a hobby and part time employment for James. James takes Judo twice a week and he enjoys both water and downhill skiing. This outstanding young person lives in Sherwood Park with his mother, father and two older siblings and his guide dog, Tyler.

Noreen Stuart

Noreen was born and raised in the Eckville area. After attending Red Deer College, she embarked on a marketing career in Red Deer. She served as the Marketing Manager for the Westerner Exposition Association for 14 years. Through her work, she was involved in the presentation of events like the 1994 Brier and the 1995 World Junior Hockey Championships. A previous 4-H Premier's Award recipient, she is still an active supporter of the 4-H public speaking program and other youth speaking initiatives. The Red Deer Hospice Society, the Knox Presbyterian Church Board of Managers and Grandview School have all benefited from her involvement. Noreen is married and has one son.

Marlin Styner

A quadriplegic since 1981, Marlin devotes his life to sharing his experience and speaking on topics such as injury prevention, overcoming personal and physical barriers and living with a disability. Marlin has been involved with the P.A.R.T.Y. Program (Prevent Alcohol and Risk related Trauma in Youth) since 1991 and the Smart Risk Heroes (an international injury prevention program). He also sits on numerous boards of directors, task forces, advisory boards and committees. Chairman of the Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School 10 and 20-year reunions, Marlin was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 1995. Marlin is married and works for the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta) in Red Deer.

Dr. Claudette Tardif

An active member of the Edmonton community, Claudette has served on many professional and community-based provincial and national organizations. Some of these include membership on the Board of Directors for the 2001 IAAF World Championships in Athletics, President of its Francophone Advisory Council, member of the organizing committee and co-chair of the international conference "Canada: Global Model for a Multicultural State." She is currently on the Steering Committee for the World Masters Games in 2005. Claudette's leadership and dedication have been recognized with honours such as the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the Order of *Le Conseil de la vie française en Amérique* and the Visibility Award from the *Association canadienne française de l'Alberta régionale d'Edmonton*. She is a professor and former Dean of Faculté Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta where she helped raise the profile of the Faculté and develop innovative academic programs. Claudette has three children and three grandsons.

Jo-Anne Teed

Many business and community groups in Calgary value Jo-Anne's energy and organizational skills. Jo-Anne is the creator and chair of Women Work Wonders, a yearly event celebrating the achievements of women. She is also a community association and public school volunteer having held positions on her local community association board and on three different school councils in her north east community. Jo-Anne is also active in the business community representing the floorcovering installer trade on various committees. Married with two teenaged boys, Jo-Anne and her husband are partners in a successful flooring business.

Dr. Howard Tennant

Howard is active on many boards both in Alberta and across Canada. He is Associate Chair of the Alberta Science and Research Authority, a member of the board of the National Research Council, the Board of Statistics Canada, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (Alberta). He is currently Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, 18th Air Defence Regiment RCA and Past President of the Kainai Chieftainship of the Blood Indian Reserve. Howard served as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lethbridge, where he is a Professor of Management. Howard and his wife have three children.

Lynnette Thompson

Lynette is currently very active in the Castle Downs Recreation Society, Cumberland Oxford Community League and is currently overseeing the building of a skateboard park next to the recreation centre. For more than 18 years, Lynette has served Edmonton and has laboured tirelessly for recreation and health opportunities such as the Castle Downs Spray Park and the North East Community Health Centre. She currently works as a licensed practical nurse. Lynette is married with three daughters.

Rita Thompson

Rita is a vital member of the Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills area devoting countless hours of volunteer work to her community. She has served on various boards, including the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues, the Alberta Association for Rehabilitation Centres, the Treaty 7 Full Citizenship Committee and Accredited Supports to the Community. Rita is a past president of the Olds and District Chamber of Commerce and is presently active on several committees. Rita currently devotes her time to the Olds Institute for Community and Regional Development. She has been recognized for her efforts with awards such as the Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year from the Olds and District Board of Trade and the Canada Volunteer Award and Certificate of Honour from Health Canada. Rita is married with children and grandchildren.

Russell Tynan

Russell is a native Calgarian well-known for his volunteerism. His extensive volunteer involvement includes chairing many Calgary Exhibition and Stampede committees, the Alberta Tourism Partnership and the Calgary Convention and Visitors Bureau. He has also volunteered with the Alberta Tourism Education Council and the Calgary Family Support Society. Currently, Russell is an active director of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. His 25-year management career has included serving as general manager of volunteers and venue operations for the XV Olympic Winter Games Organizing Committee. Russell is married with three daughters.

Wes van der Lee

Born in a Lamont hospital in 1927 to Alberta pioneers, Wes has been involved in many community activities including the Dutch Canadian Business Club and the Al Azhar Shriners. Now retired, he enjoyed a long career with Johns-Manville Corporation, rising to Western Canada Sales Manager. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture in 1951 from the University of Alberta. Wes is married and they have four children and 10 grandchildren.

Lynda Varzari

Lynda serves her Lethbridge community well with her involvement as past chair of the University of Lethbridge Faculty of Management Advisory Council, and a member of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Association of Professional Speakers Calgary Chapter and Alberta Trail Net Association. She is a distinguished alumni of Lethbridge Community College. Lynda is president of Varzari Communications Inc., a marketing and communication firm. When not working or fulfilling her community obligations, Lynda enjoys cycling, golf and traveling. Lynda is married with twins (a boy and a girl) and a stepdaughter.

Jeannette Vatter

Jeanette is an energetic member of the Town of Drayton Valley participating on boards and committees and in activities such as the beef support drive. She is vice-president for the Alberta Council on Aging and executive director for the Drayton Valley Community Foundation. Jeannette has used her talents to coordinate town events, including Culture in the Park and the official opening of the Drayton Valley Omniplex. She has received the Provincial Minister's Seniors Service Award and the Drayton Valley and District Chamber of Commerce Spirit Award for her service. Jeannette, now retired, held various positions at Amoco Canada Petroleum Company. She is married with two daughters.

Shawna Wallace

Shawna is an avid volunteer, advocate for youth and passionate about rural and community development. She currently holds positions on the National Rural Youth Council, National Rural Conference Steering Committee and the Alberta Rural Youth Council. Her time is also spent working on several projects with the Hanna Youth Club. The 21-year-old is taking time off from her studies at the University of Lethbridge where she is taking Canadian Studies and Community Development. She is currently working at the Town of Hanna as a Community Services Youth Programmer and Economic Development Assistant.

Lisa Walsh-Brost

Dynamic and giving of her time, Lisa created the North of McKnight Youth Council where she continues to volunteer and share her expertise. She also works bingos and special events for the Falconridge/Castleridge Community Association in Calgary, which for three consecutive years has honoured Lisa with its Volunteer of the Year Award. She is currently project manager with the Alberta Youth Network. In 2002, Lisa received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. Lisa is married with two children.

Constable Neville Wells

Neville is actively involved in planning committees and community events in Calgary, such as Black History Month, the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education and Citizenship Court Ceremonies. He immigrated to Canada in 1970 from Grenada, West Indies. In 1976, he became the second visible minority member of the Calgary Police Service. During his 25-year career, Neville worked in three of Calgary's eight Policing Districts and is viewed as a role model for Calgary's Black/Hispanic community. His outstanding service has been recognized through numerous awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Award and the Calgary Police Service Chief's Award for Community Service. Neville is a father of three children and grandfather of eight children.

Dr. Robert Westbury

Robert is a dedicated community volunteer who has given countless hours to a variety of charitable organizations. He has worked on over 25 committees, councils, boards and foundations, including the Bell Walk For Kids, the Citadel Theatre and the Kids Kottage Gala and chaired the 2004 Juno Awards Local Organizing committee. He currently volunteers with organizations such as the 2005 Masters Games Board of Governors, the Capital Region United Way, the Canada West Foundation and the Olympic Gold Medal Plates Dinner. His community service has been recognized with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. Additionally, Robert was named one of Alberta's 50 Most Influential by Alberta Venture in 2003 and 2004. Robert is the president of Context and Contacts Inc. and executive chair of the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research. Among his other academic credentials, Robert received his Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1974. Robert lives in Edmonton, is married and has two children and three grandchildren.

Bonnie White

During careers in education, public affairs and real estate, Bonnie has volunteered as a teacher, consultant, social director and media specialist. She has served on various provincial adoption councils, parents' advisory councils, community and club basketball organizations and a competitive swimming executive board. Bonnie holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Applied Communications from Mount Royal College in Calgary. She is also an agent with the Calgary Real Estate Board. Reared in Saskatchewan, Bonnie moved to Alberta in 1971. She is married with four children.

Gloria Wilkinson

Gloria has served her Calgary community for 40 years working with various organizations such as the University of Calgary Senate, the EPCOR Performing Arts Centre and Winning Women. She has also volunteered with a local group raising money for school libraries. A nurse by profession, Gloria served as Deputy Reeve of the Municipal District of Rockyview for nine years. Her community service has been recognized with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. Gloria is married, with two grown children and one granddaughter.

Gail (Gay) Young

Gay is an involved Edmontonian. She has volunteered with the Government House Foundation, the Hope Foundation of Alberta, the Florence E. Taylor Charitable Foundation and the Minerva Foundation. Gay has a Bachelor of Arts and a Teaching Certificate from the University of California. She is married with two children and six grandchildren.

Gail Zaplotinsky

Since 1998, Gail has been a councilor for the Village of Waskatenau, where she currently lives. She holds a Health Care Administration Certificate in Acute Care and a Health Care Administration Certificate in long term care, sharing her health care expertise with organizations such as the Smoky Lake Doctor Recruitment and Retention Committee and the Lakeland Community Health Council. She is currently working toward a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation. Gail is married with two daughters, one son and three granddaughters.

Gordon Zawaski

Gordon has been involved with local community organizations for about 15 years. A strong supporter of his Mill Woods community, Gordon has devoted time to the North Millbourne Community League, the Mill Woods Presidents Council, and the Mill Woods Canada Day Celebration. He is a current member of Mill Woods Canada Day Celebration Committee, chairperson of the Mill Woods Newsletter Committee and past chair of the Mill Woods Presidents Council. Born and raised in Edmonton and a resident of Mill Woods for 25 years, Gordon is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. He is married with two grown children and works for the federal government as a program consultant.

Donna Zwicker

Donna has been volunteering in Calgary in various capacities for the past 20 years. She is currently actively involved in the Parkdale Community, serving on the Community Association Board of Directors and chairing the Community Revitalization Project. Donna holds a Master of Arts (History) degree and lives in Parkdale with her spouse and their two children.

Honourary Centennial Ambassadors' Biographies



The Honourable Lois Hole, Lieutenant Government of Alberta

Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

Member, Order of Canada

Chancellor, Alberta Order of Excellence

Dame of Justice, Most Venerable Order

Of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem

Honourary Doctorate of Laws, University of Alberta

Honourary Doctorate, Athabasca University

Honourary Degree in Horticulture, Olds College

On December 9th, 1999, Prime Minister Jean Chretien, appointed successful businesswoman, best selling author, education advocate and community supporter, Lois Elsa Hole as Alberta's 15th Lieutenant Governor. She is the second woman in Alberta's history to serve as Lieutenant Governor.

Born and raised in Buchanan, Saskatchewan, Her Honour moved to Edmonton in her early teens and completed her secondary education at Strathcona Composite High School.

Widow of the late, Ted Hole, she has two sons: Bill and Jim and three grandchildren. She and her husband, Ted bought a mixed farm in St. Albert which they diversified into a vegetable and mixed garden business. In 1979 the farm was incorporated as Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd. and their sons joined the business full-time. It has since grown into one of the largest retail greenhouse operations in western Canada.

Her Honour served as a school trustee for the St. Albert School District #6 from 1981 to the fall of 1998. She previously served, for fourteen years, as a trustee and chairperson for the Sturgeon School Division and, for eleven years, as a member of the Athabasca University Governing Council. Her Honour has served as a director of the Farm Credit Corporation and as Honourary Chair for the 27th Canadian Congress on Criminal Justice and for the Children's Millennium Fund. She also served as a board member of the Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation, the Child & Adolescent Services Association and the Quality of Life Commission.

As Chancellor of the University of Alberta, Her Honour served as the titular head of the University, chairing all Senate meetings, serving as a member of the Board of Governors, representing the University at all ceremonial occasions and presiding over convocation to confer all degrees.

Her Honour is the author of six gardening books (all Canadian bestsellers) and a collection of life stories, photographs and growing information entitled "I'll Never Marry a Farmer". In the past, she has been a regular contributor to the Globe and Mail, Edmonton Journal, and the Edmonton Sun, and was the writer of the Canadian portion of the 1999 Old Farmer's Almanac Gardening Companion. She has appeared regularly on the "Grapevine" segment of CBC TV's Canadian Gardener.

In 1983, Her Honour was awarded an honorary doctorate from Athabasca University and in 1997 received a Distinguished Citizen Honourary Diploma in Business from Grant McEwan Community College. In 1995 she was named as both Edmonton Business and Professional Woman of the Year and as St. Albert's Citizen of the Year. In 1999 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. The University of Alberta awarded her a Honourary Doctorate of Laws in the year 2000. She was recently awarded the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Humanitarian Award (2003). She has been recognized by the military and most recently was bestowed an "Honourary Patricia" by the 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

The Lieutenant Governor has been recognized for her ongoing contributions to libraries, education and the arts by the establishment of The Lois Hole Library Legacy Program (2002), The Alberta School Boards "Lois Hole Lecture Series" (2003) and the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Program (2003).

Her Honour serves as Honourary Patron to numerous organizations. She was installed as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor on February 10th, 2000.

Premier Ralph Klein

Ralph Klein was elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party on December 5, 1992 and was sworn in as Alberta's 12th Premier on December 14 of that year. Several months later, in June 1993, Albertans gave his party a resounding victory in the provincial general election. In March 1997, Albertans returned Mr. Klein and his government to office for a second term with an increased majority.

That majority became even larger in March 2001, when the Progressive Conservative Party, led by Premier Klein, won 74 of the 83 seats in the Legislature. This is the second-largest majority government in the almost 100-year history of Alberta.

As Premier, and now into his third term, Mr. Klein has listened to Albertans by revamping and opening up the government's decision-making process, balancing the budget, and paying down the debt. He continues to listen to Albertans by developing a climate for creating the strongest economy, the lowest taxes, and the highest quality of life in Canada.

Ralph Philip Klein was born in Calgary November 1, 1942. Educated in Calgary, he interrupted his high school studies to enlist in the Canadian Air Force. Upon leaving the service, Mr. Klein completed his high school education, eventually becoming principal of the Calgary Business College.

From 1963 to 1969 Mr. Klein pursued a public relations career with the Alberta Division of the Red Cross and the United Way of Calgary and District. For the next 11 years, he was the Senior Civic Affairs reporter with CFCN Television and Radio.

On October 15, 1980 Ralph Klein was elected Calgary's 32nd Mayor, one of only two mayors born in the city. He was re-elected in 1983 and 1986. Mr. Klein's major accomplishments include the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, Calgary's Light Rail Transit System and protection of the Bow River.

Ralph Klein was elected MLA for Calgary-Elbow March 20, 1989 and on April 14, 1989 was appointed Minister of Environment. In that portfolio, Mr. Klein oversaw the development of the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, acknowledged as one of the most progressive environmental laws in Canada.

Over the years, Mr. Klein has received a number of honours and awards including the Order of St. John in 1986. In 1988, he received the Alberta Achievement Award, the Lion's Club Medal of Distinction for Service to Humanity, and was inducted into the Olympic Order. In 1989, he was selected as Calgarian of the Decade by the Calgary Herald. In 1992, he received a Governor General's Award and in 1993 he became the second white person in history to be adopted into the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation and was given the name Otskoipiiksi (Bluebird). In 1994 Premier Klein was named Man of the Year by the International Young Entrepreneurs Organization over Boris Yeltsin, also nominated that year; was awarded the Colin M. Brown Freedom Medal by the National Citizens' Coalition; and was named B'nai B'rith's Citizen of the Year. In 1995 he was named Calgary's Outstanding Citizen of the Century, and the first recipient of the Fraser Institute's International Fiscal Performance Award. In 1996, the Blood Tribe made Ralph Klein an honorary chief in the Kainai Chieftainship. In 1998, Premier Klein was distinguished with an Honorary Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). In June 2000, the Premier became an honorary degree recipient at Olds College, receiving the Agriculture Technology and Entrepreneurship Applied Degree. During a trip to China in June 2004, he received an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Political Science from Kangwon National University.

Mr. Klein lives in southwest Calgary with his wife, Colleen.

Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly

Ken Kowalski was elected to his seventh term as Member of the Legislative Assembly for Barrhead-Westlock on March 12, 2001 and elected Speaker of the 25th Legislative Assembly on April 9, 2001. First elected to the Alberta Legislature in a 1979 by-election, Mr. Kowalski was re-elected in 1982, 1986, 1989, 1993 and 1997 and 2001. In 1997, he was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and in 2001 was re-elected by acclamation as Speaker of the 25th Legislature.

In his capacity as Speaker, Mr. Kowalski serves as Chairman of the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services as well as President of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). He is a Past President of the Regional Executive Committee of the CPA. He has also served on the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

With Mr. Kowalski's support, Alberta was welcomed as an Associate Member of the Alberta Branch, America Region, of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) in August of 1998. He holds the position of Honourary President and has continually supported attendance at the annual regional meeting of the APF held in Canada by Alberta Francophone/francophile Members.

At the invitation of Speaker Kowalski in March of 1999, a ceremony celebrating "La semaine de la Francophonie" was held for the first time in the Legislative Assembly rotunda. The creation of the Alberta Francophone Secretariat was announced by the Premier at this first gathering. Celebration of this event continues to take place on an annual basis and is attended by high profile political dignitaries, members of the Francophone community and local school children who entertain attendees at these events. A reception then follows in the Legislature Library.

During his years as a teacher at the Barrhead High School Mr. Kowalski was instrumental in advocating and supporting the first French Immersion Program in Barrhead. Having studied French language in university Mr. Kowalski has always been a supporter of integrating French into the community.

Since he was first elected, Mr. Kowalski has held a variety of positions. He has served as Chair of the Select Committee on Surface Rights, Chair of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund Select Committee and as a member of the Syncrude Board of Directors. He was appointed Minister of the Environment and Minister of Alberta Public Safety Services in 1986. After re-election in 1989, Mr. Kowalski was appointed to Cabinet as Minister of Public Works, Supply and Services, responsible for Lotteries, Major Exhibitions and Fairs, Public Affairs Bureau, Public Safety Services, the Wild Rose Foundation and ACCESS Corporation. He has also served as Minister of Career Development and Employment and as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism responsible for Technology Research and Telecommunications, International Trade Offices and Lotteries.

He was Government House Leader from June 15, 1993 to December 15, 1993. Mr. Kowalski served as Deputy Premier from 1992 to 1994. In addition, Mr. Kowalski has served on the following committees:

- Agenda and Priorities Committee
- Treasury Board
- Standing Policy Committee on Natural Resources and Sustainable Development
- Government Caucus Committees: Agriculture, Education, Party Liaison and Decentralization

Mr. Kowalski has worked on both the national and the international stages. He was Alberta's Ministerial representatives to the 1994 Canadian internal trade discussions and was one of 12 Canadian signatories to the environment and sustainable development documents that were ultimately endorsed by the United Nations Assembly. As well, he was Alberta's signatory to the volunteer exchange agreement between the Province of Alberta and Hokkaido, Japan.

Mr. Kowalski has received a number of honours during his term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Most notably in August 1992 from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council Special Achievement Award; December, 1992 - Governor General's Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation; Mr. Kowalski was honoured on April 24, 1993 when The Alexis First Nations bestowed upon him the title of Honourary Chief Wa-she-zu-Chada-oo-sheqe-na (White Man with a Kind Heart). Most recently, the University of Alberta Graduate Students' Association "Distinguished Alumnus Award" was awarded by the Graduate Students' Association on February 27, 2004 to the Honourable Ken Kowalski

Kenneth Reginald Kowalski, was born September 27, 1945 in Bonnyville, Alberta, the son of Paul Kowalski and Mary Chachula. He was educated in Alberta in public schools and graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelors degree in History (1966) and a Masters degree in East Asian History (1970). He pursued education training following his studies at the University. Mr. Kowalski taught high school in Barrhead, Alberta from 1969 to 1974. During these years he served as Secretary of the Alberta Provincial Kinsmen Association in 1972; received the National Award in 1973 as editor of Canada's best Kinsmen Club Magazine; was a recipient of a Government of Alberta Achievement Award in 1973; and coached the National Reach for the Top High School Academic Championship Team from Barrhead in 1973.

In 1974 Mr. Kowalski joined the Government of Alberta as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Premier, Minister of Agriculture; from 1975 to 1977 he served as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Premier, Minister of Transportation; in 1977 he was appointed Chairman, Regional Transportation Services; and in 1979 was appointed Deputy Minister, Regional Transportation Services. He also served as Secretary of the Rural Development Cabinet Committee from 1974-77. In October, 1979, he resigned the position of Deputy Minister, Regional Transportation Services, to run for election as an M.L.A. in the Alberta Constituency of Barrhead.

Mr. Kowalski has served in the Alberta Legislature under the leadership of three Alberta Premiers, Peter Lougheed, Don Getty and Ralph Klein.

Reading, being a parliamentarian, and golf are Mr. Kowalski's three passions in life. As a determined advocate of volunteerism, he has served as President of the Board of the Winnifred Stewart Foundation. Mr. Kowalski has two children, Lori Anne and Michael Paul. He resides in Barrhead, Alberta.

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky

Gene Zwozdesky was elected to his third term as MLA for Edmonton-Mill Creek on March 21, 2001, and was subsequently appointed Minister of Community Development with responsibility for: arts, culture, and multiculturalism; human rights, citizenship and women's issues; sport, recreation and fitness; volunteerism; parks and protected areas; recreation trails and corridors; persons with developmental disabilities, the Brain Injury Initiative, protection-for-persons-in-care legislation, and the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities; historic sites, museums and interpretive centers; and the Alberta Centennial initiative.

He is also responsible for several grant-making bodies, including:

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts;
- Alberta Historical Resources Foundation;
- Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation;
- Wild Rose Foundation;
- Human Rights, Citizenship and Multicultural Education Fund;
- The Alberta Film Development Program; and
- The Centennial Legacies Grant Program and the Centennial Municipal Per Capita Grant Program.

Mr. Zwozdesky is the Deputy Government House Leader and is a Member of the Standing Policy Committee on Health and Community Living. Previously, he was the Associate Minister of Health and Wellness.

Gene Zwozdesky was born on July 24, 1948, in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, and was raised in rural Alberta, including Grand Centre, Hinton and Sangudo. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree (1968) and a Bachelor of Education degree (1976) from the University of Alberta. He also took courses in Public Administration from the Faculty of Extension at the U of A.

After university Mr. Zwozdesky worked as a teacher, administrator, professional musician, and businessman. He was the Executive Director of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Alberta Ukrainian Canadian Centennial Commission, as well as music director for the Shumka Dancers and Cheremosh Dancers. He also served as an executive member on many boards, including:

- Alberta Folk Arts Council
- Alberta Friends of Golf Association
- Alberta Recording Industry Association
- Edmonton Canada Day Committee
- Edmonton Heritage Festival Association
- Edmonton Folk Arts Council
- Edmonton Musicians' Association, honorary life member
- Edmonton Task Force on the Homeless (co-chair)
- Great Canadian Awards (co-founder)

Mr. Zwozdesky is currently a volunteer member of the:

- Alberta Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (Co-Chair)
- Alberta Friends of Golf Association (President)
- Big Miller Bandwagon Statue Project
- Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations
- Order of St. Andrew
- Rainbow Society
- St. John's Fraternal Society, and is a member of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, and SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada).

Mr. Zwozdesky has been a volunteer with the Youth Emergency Shelter, the Fringe Festival, and various other community and church organizations. He also served three years as a volunteer member on the Ukrainian Community Council Board of Capital City Savings, and has coached soccer, baseball and hockey teams in Edmonton. He is a volunteer auctioneer for charitable causes and is the Honourary Mayor of Kananaskis Country.

As a result of his extensive community involvement, Mr. Zwozdesky has received numerous awards and recognitions for his volunteer efforts, including:

- Alberta Association of Rehab Centres Trail Breaker Award
- Alberta Council of Ukrainian Arts Award
- Alberta Motion Picture Industry Film Composer Award
- Alberta Recording Industries Association (ARIA) Award of Distinction
- Blauen-Funken Prinzegarde Honourary Knight Award
- CFCW Canadian Ukrainian Music Hall of Fame
- City of Edmonton Ambassador Award for Business and Tourism
- Congress of Black Women of Canada Merit Award
- Council of India Societies Merit Award
- Edmonton Folk Arts Council Heritage Development Award
- Friends of Focus Award (for work with disability groups)
- Friends of Inner City Edmonton Appreciation Award
- Government of Canada Merit Award for Multiculturalism
- Lebanese Cultural Association (Lac La Biche) Honourary Member Award
- Pakistan Canada Association Community Service Award
- Province of Alberta Achievement Award for Culture
- Royal Canadian Legion Community Service Award
- Royal Canadian Norwood Legion Honourary Life Member Award
- Sikh Federation of Edmonton Outstanding Community Services Award
- Twin Parks Community League Honourary Life Member Award
- Ukrainian Canadian Social Services Certificate of Recognition
- Ukrainian Shumka Dancers Life-Time Member Award
- Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Recognition Award

Mr. Zwozdesky lives in Edmonton with his wife, Christine, and their two children.