

# *The Inaugural Women of Excellence*

## *Awards Gala*

*October 8, 2008*



## *Award Recipients, Nominees and Sponsors*

**Agriculture and Environment– BDO Dunwoody LLP Chartered Accountants and  
Advisors**

*Award Nominees: Dale Christian & Myrna Pearman*

*Award Recipient: Dale Christian*



Dale and her husband farm along the Medicine and Red Deer Rivers. Dale was very active in the growth and production of their farm business, which was innovative in their time, bringing the first round baler to the community as well as a successful herd health program with purebred stock in their commercial beef herd. She knew that a progressive attitude proceed a successful business. Her family grew up to be farmers that share the attitude of healthy air, water, and soil. She believes you cannot have one without the others, nothing is more important that these three and they are needed for survival! Dale is very supportive of local community organizations that help people become informed of government, agriculture and environmental issues.

## Arts, Culture and Heritage– Sunworks

*Award Nominees: Lynda Adams & Betty Wulff*

*Award Recipient: Lynda Adams*



Lynda received her Master's degree from the Laban Centre for Dance and Movement in London, England, and has been actively teaching in the theatre studies facility at Red Deer College since 2002. When not on-site at RDC, Lynda is busy creating theatrical work with colleagues and former students across the country, assuming her role as curriculum director for Artstrek, a theatre program for teens or scheming on how to build on the success of Scripts at Work-Central Alberta Playwright Series, an initiative she co-founded in 2003. She is on the board of directors of both Culture Link and Prime Stock Theatre and was part of the creative team involved in staging the spectacular Red Deer downtown events for the 2006 Alberta Summer Games.

## Athletics, Recreation and Fitness– Red Deer Lodge

*Award Nominees: Charlene Andrew & Jean Brooks*

*Award Recipient : Charlene Andrew*



A fitness instructor, personal trainer, volunteer, and mother, Char Andrew has been a group fitness instructor for 18 years. Herself an accomplished tri-athlete, she initiated and led a beginner triathlon training group, overseeing the training of 100 women over the past 5 years. Through her work as a trainer/instructor, Char has empowered many women to continue on their fitness journey, contributing to overall health of the community. She volunteers in a variety of community events-leading warm-ups for charity fund raiser walks, encouraging others to attend events as volunteers and cheerleaders, has participated on the executive of the Red Deer Marlins Summer Swim Club as well as the Red Deer Go-Girls Program which exposes Grade 5 girls to the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle.

## **Business and the Professions– Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)**

*Award Nominees: Margaret Anderson, Sharon Eistetter, Elaine McFadden & Mildred Munro*

*Award Recipient: Sharon Eistetter*



Working for Farm Credit Canada since 1979, Sharon serves as the District Director for FCC's Central Alberta business unit, where she leads a team of 28 individuals, managing a loan portfolio of more than \$800 million with 2,200 customers—the second largest district portfolio in Farm Credit Canada. Sharon is viewed as an inspirational and motivational leader who cares deeply about the success and well-being of her people. She is passionate about agriculture and her passion is shared with her team members— her mentorship and guidance has influenced many young agriculture professionals, particularly young women working in the agriculture industry. Sharon has been active in organizations locally ( Scouts, Girl Guides, Agri-Trade) and with provincial professional associations.

## **Community Buidling– ATCO Gas**

*Award Nominees: Jaqui Joys, Veana Lanz, Valerie Sandall, Arlana Tanner*

*Award Recipient: Jaqui Joys*



Jaqui Joys moved to Red Deer in 2002. She quickly became involved in the community as a transferring Rotarian. Her experience in the performing arts resulted in her being hired to develop CentreFest— Red Deer's first Street Performers' Festival. Jaqui has also served on various boards: Central Alberta Women's Outreach, the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra and ultimately the Lending Cupboard. Being a newcomer herself, she developed the Newcomer's 40+ group for women new to the city or having experienced significant lifestyle changes. In 2006, she founded the Lending Cupboard Society, whose mandate is to provide free medical equipment to the people of Red Deer and surrounding area at no cost, no qualifying and for as long as it is needed.

## Education and Training– Pamela Schwartz Photography and the Printing Place

*Award Nominees: Sheila McKay, Dawna Mislán & Carrie Thomas-Gering*

*Award Recipient: Sheila McKay*



Sheila has been a Registered Nurse for over 30 and has worked in a variety of practice areas including medicine, emergency, ICU and public health. Most recently she was Program Chair for the Red Deer College/U of A collaborative degree program where she is now an instructor in the first year of the program. In her role at RDC, she has not only provided great learning experiences to nursing students but has instilled a passion for the profession and a commitment to personal care. She has been a role model and mentor to other Faculty Members in health programs and many other programs at the college. Her enthusiastic and constructive approach to teaching and learning has been an inspiration to students and faculty colleagues alike.

## Entrepreneurship– Alberta Women Entrepreneurship (AWE)

*Award Nominees: Kim Berube, Sherall Kennedy & Shelley Ralston*

*Award Recipient: Shelley Ralston*



Shelley started her career in the fast paced corporate world quickly climbing the ladder due to her natural ability to lead, and soon finding herself in roles such as the General Manager of Alberta at Xerox Canada and the Director of Alberta Public Sector at TELUS. In 2005 Shelley decided to leave the corporate world and enter into the exciting world of entrepreneurship by establishing Graden Systems, which in the past 3 1/2 years experienced 200% growth. Currently a Board Member of the Rotary Club of Red Deer, and a Board Member of the Women's Leadership Foundation, she is also an Account Executive for United Way of Central Alberta, a member of the Alberta Chapter for Room to Read.

## Health and Wellness– David Thompson Health Region (DTHR)

*Award Nominees: Dr. Maureen McCall, Heather Moon, Dr. Nellie Randomsky & Candace Spurell*

*Award Recipient: Dr. Maureen McCall*



Dr. Maureen McCall has demonstrated a passion for family health, particularly women’s health issues, throughout her career as a primary care physician spanning over 20 years. She has extensive Canadian and international experience in sexual , reproductive and maternal health. Dr. McCall was instrumental in leading the establishment of a Sexual Assault Response Team at Red Deer Regional Hospital and serves as the Team’s Medical Director. Her commitment to health extends beyond Central Alberta to special international initiatives in Uganda, Laos, Nepal, Indonesia and Nicaragua. On the home front, she provides care for a significant number of immigrant patients from Central and South America and Asia.

**Human Services– Hon. Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, MLA, Red Deer North & Cal Dallas, MLA, Red Deer South**

*Award Nominees: Sandra Birse, Dagmar Hargreaves, Janessa McCormack & Patricia Turnbull*

*Award Recipient: Patricia Turnbull*



Patricia has worked in the human services sector since she was 15 years old! Her initial volunteer work was with individuals with developmental disabilities. She has worked in psychiatric hospitals and provided outreach services to individuals with disabilities. Currently the Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, she has encouraged a culture that treats individuals with dignity and respect, provided services in direct partnership with other organizations, spent the necessary time to build and maintain partnerships with organizations and individuals, and to create affordable housing units available for low income individuals and families in Red Deer. A past chair of the Red Deer Housing Committee, Patricia worked with the Mayor and City of Red Deer to establish a Mayor’s Task Force for Ending Homelessness in 10 Years.

## Young Woman of Excellence– Community Savings

*Award Nominees: Erin Konsmo, Aleah Ross*

*Award Recipient: Aleah Ross*



Aleah is a fifteen year-old Grade Nine graduate who has achieved Honours with Distinction throughout her education. She is an accomplished student, athlete and musician. She volunteers her time at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, the City of Red Deer, and the Red Deer Public Library, where she also holds a part time job as a Page. In her spare time she plays Violin in the Red Deer College Senior Youth Orchestra and raises money for many causes close to her heart, including wildlife conservation. Aleah lives her life with positive spirit, integrity and energy, and in the process is a role model for all girls– she is the first one to celebrate the successes of others, or help a fellow human or animal in need.

## Lifetime Achievement Award– Red Deer College

### *Award Recipient: Mildred Munro*



Involved in Pine Lake Sand and Gravel, a family business since 1960, Mrs. Munro was a part of a husband-wife team that built their successful aggregate processing business in the Central Alberta region. When her husband passed away in 1984, after a lengthy illness, she added her husband's work to her own. Her son became very involved with the business and the two of them worked together until her son's untimely death in 1991. This amazing Woman of Excellence demonstrated superior courage with that loss as she also had to endure forced legal shut down of the company during the settlement of the estate. At age 74, she restructured the company and begun operating it on her own, hiring some of her son's former employees. Now– at age 91– this Woman of Excellence continues to operate this business. She works 8-10 hour days running the office and the production operations.

Among many other things, Mrs. Munro has been involved with the Delburne and Red Deer East 4H Clubs, has sponsored the Delburne Rodeo, donates to the Pine Lake Anglican church to assist with the maintenance of the grounds and the cemetery, volunteers and donates to the Pine Lake Hub community centre, is an active member of the Pine Lake Women's Institute, supports the Clean Lake Society at Pine Lake, and worked tirelessly to try to prevent the landfill that was built near Pine Lake because she was concerned about the possible pollution to ground water and to a stream that empties into Pine Lake.

Mildred has demonstrated pioneer spirit and courage throughout her life. She finds time for family, friends, and volunteer work. Her ability to handle adversity and difficult situations while maintaining a positive focus is an inspiration for women everywhere. Her company is family oriented and she treats her employees with respect and consideration, allowing them flexibility and time off for family related events or difficulties.

She is extremely reliable, considerate and honest in business and in her personal relationships. She demonstrates that you don't have to be "tough" to operate successfully in a male-dominated industry. Prompt, courteous service and a quality product that the company stands behind have kept her in business for 49 years!

As one of the letters of support for her nomination says..." in a work world of men, Mildred Munro showed that a woman can do what needs to be done to run a successful business, to contribute to the community and to do so without compromising her femininity. She truly has "broken new ground" and dissolved "old barriers" in a quiet, effective, and lasting way".

## Lifetime Achievement Award– Red Deer College

### *Award Recipient: Joan Donald*



This Woman of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Recipient has also worked with her husband in a variety of petroleum marketing business and an investment and real estate company. Moving to Red Deer in 1964, they established Parkland Oil Products Ltd., which was sold in 1971. From 1977-2001 she was a Director and the Assistant Corporate Secretary of Parkland Industries Ltd. working in public and investor relations, Annual meetings and all Board of Directors planning. During that time, she served a four year term on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Energy Company Ltd. (now EnCanada Corp.). She is currently a Director of Parkland Income Fund and Vice President of Parkland Properties Ltd.

In addition to a highly successful professional career, this Woman of Excellence has made a tireless and never ending commitment to this community. She is a former member of the Board of Governors of Red Deer College, and a former trustee of the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre Foundation Board. She was instrumental in starting the first Festival of Trees event in Red Deer, raising funds for hospital equipment and she Co-Chaired a very successful STARS Capital Campaign for Central Alberta. Over many years of tireless community service, she has been involved with organizations such as the Golden Circle, Girl Guides of Canada, Waskasoo Handicapped Riding Association, the Quarter Horse Association of Alberta, and the Canadian Cancer Society, Red Deer Unit Relay for Life.

She has worked diligently assisting organizations raise funds for the essential programs and services they provide to our community. Some of those projects include the Library Information Common at Red Deer College, Red Deer Hospice, and the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre.

Her commitment to the Westerner Exposition has been long standing and exemplary! She chaired various horse shows for nearly 20 years, served on the Westerner Board of Directors and as President she organized the update of the Association by-laws, organized the hiring of a new General Manager, worked on strengthening the Board of Directors, instigated governance and guidelines to the operations of the Association, started the first Long Service Awards for the Westerner Employees and improved lines of communication with the community by the use of new releases and a quarterly newsletter. All of this was in her role as a volunteer! Amazing!

In 2002 this Woman of Excellence received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of significant achievement and distinguished service to the community.