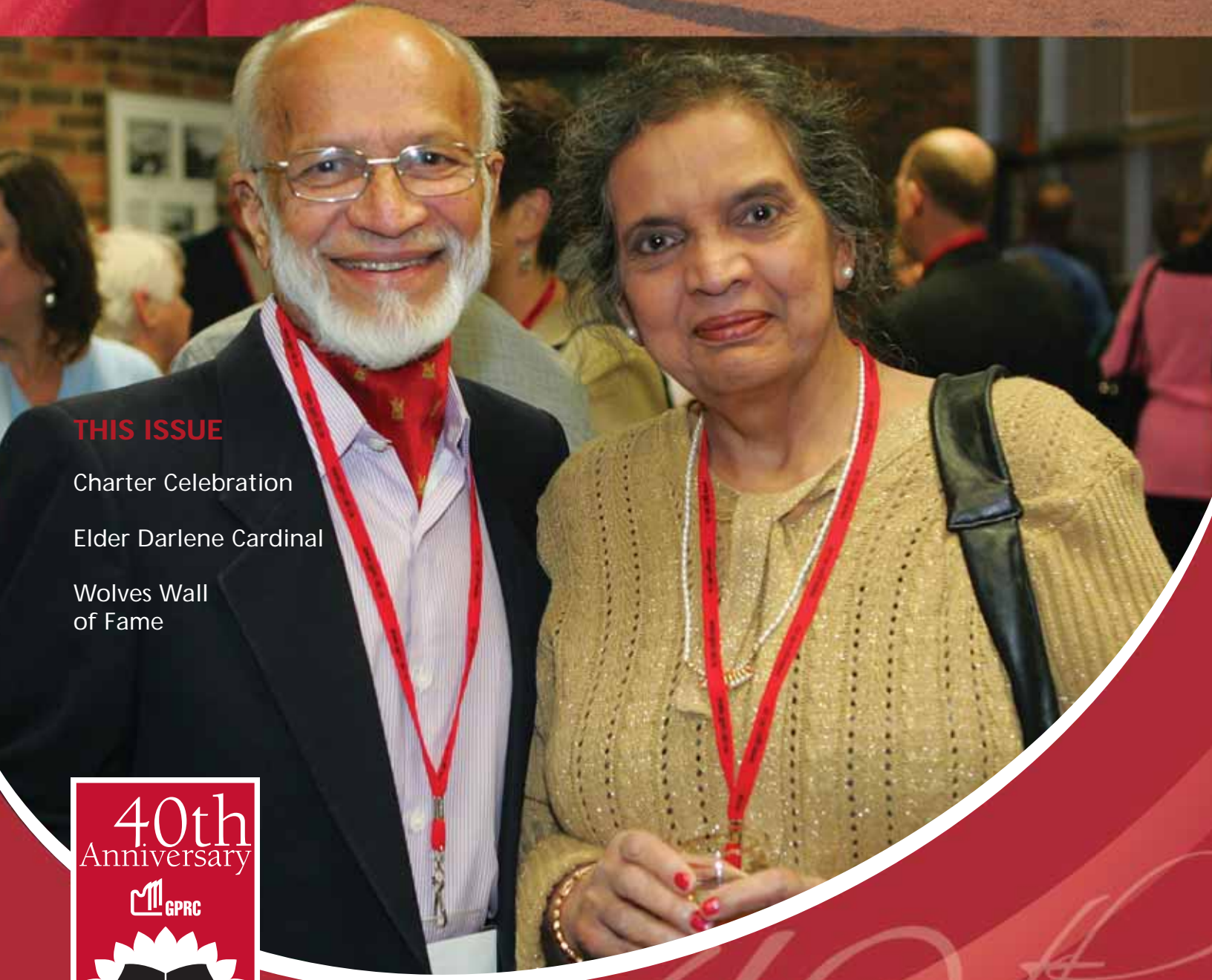


Special  
Anniversary  
Edition  
2006-2007



# Wisdom

Grande Prairie Regional College Magazine



## THIS ISSUE

Charter Celebration

Elder Darlene Cardinal

Wolves Wall  
of Fame

40th  
Anniversary



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REGIONAL COLLEGE**  
Established 1966

40th

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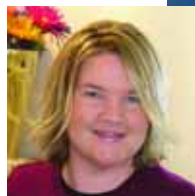
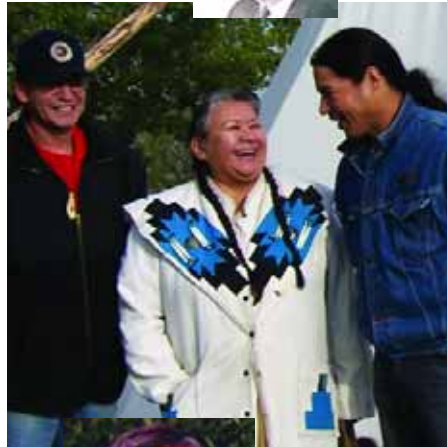
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On our cover: Sukumar and Nalini Nayar are two of the former tenured faculty who attended the Charter Celebration held in honour of the 40th Anniversary of GPRC. Nalini Nayar was an instructor in the Academic Development department for 15 years, retiring in 1989. Sukumar Nayar was instructor and chairperson of Visual and Performing Arts from 1972 to 1986, and during his tenure established the drama program and launched the College Players theatre group.



Harry Quinn was a member of the first Board of Governors of the College and shares some early history.

The idea of establishing a Junior College in Grande Prairie was conceived in the late 1950's, but it wasn't until May 7, 1963 that the first concrete steps were taken. A meeting was called by the Grande Prairie Public School Board and all interested parties were invited to attend. Dr Swift, Deputy Minister of Education and Dr Smith, from the University of Alberta, were invited to attend and outline the procedures that had to be followed in order to establish a College.

The meeting agreed that a Junior College should be established, with its home base in Grande Prairie, but that it should perceive its role as fulfilling the educational needs of the adults of the Peace River Country, wherever and whenever possible. An advisory board was established at this meeting with representatives from the school districts that were present – namely G.P Public, G.P. Separate, G.P. County, Spirit River, and East Smoky. The G.P. Public Board agreed to be the sponsoring Board as required in the Act.

Over the next couple of years a lot of work went on behind the scenes, fulfilling all the requirements necessary to actually start the College. The vast majority of this work was done by Frank Riddle, Superintendent of the G.P. School Division. While this necessary task was being carried out, members of the Peace River Graduate Association were busy

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Wisdom is published three times annually as a service to the many constituents of Grande Prairie Regional College, by the Department of Community Relations.

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Wisdom invites your advertising, letters, and comments on this publication. Please direct your correspondence to Wisdom Magazine, Department of Community Relations Grande Prairie Regional College 10726 - 106 Avenue, Grande Prairie AB T8V 4C4

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Wisdom Magazine

Department of Community Relations

Grande Prairie Regional College

10726 - 106 Avenue

Grande Prairie, AB

T8V 4C4

Postage for the Wisdom magazine is paid under a Canada Post Corporation Canadian Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40048553

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promoting the idea of a College by visiting Home and School meetings, Chambers of Commerce, Service Clubs and School Boards all over the Peace River District. Moral support was easy to obtain, but financial support was harder to come by.

In the Spring of 1965 the three Grande Prairie School Boards decided to go ahead on their own, as financial support was not forthcoming from the other boards in the region, and signed a participation agreement on April 12, 1965. On April 6, 1965, word had been received that the University of Alberta had approved affiliation of the College with their institution.

On May 11, 1965 an Order in Council was passed by the Alberta Cabinet, establishing the Grande Prairie Junior College and naming its first Board of Governors: Mrs. Marie McIntosh and Mr. Ed Martin, representing G.P. Public School Board; Mr. Bernard Liland, representing G.P. County School Board; and Dr. Harry Quinn, representing G.P. Separate School Board. Mr. Ted Hays was named the first Secretary Treasurer by the board and Mr. Frank Riddle was named Director.

The first two bylaws of the Board of Governors, and I believe they are still in place today, were:

1.1 The College shall be developed as a regionally oriented post-secondary institution, to provide as broad a range of educational programs as may be feasible, within the limits of reasonable economics.

1.2 The College shall be established as a regionally oriented community college, and shall, as far as resources permit, make provisions for development of various programs of interest and value to residents, at centres within the region, that are served by the College.

Final preparations were made over the next year, so the College could open in the fall of 1966. Mr. Henry Anderson was hired as Dean and arrived in August of 1966.

The College opened its doors in September 1966 and admitted 69 full time students (46 from the city and county and 23 from the region) and 43 students in evening classes. There were 15 staff members, some full-time and some part-time. The first budget called for revenue and expenditures to reach \$81,600.00. Student fees were set at \$150.00 for students from participating Boards and \$300.00 for other students. The College was housed in the Central Park School (Prairie Art Gallery Building now) and the labs in the high school across the street were used for the science courses. Only first year University courses were offered the first year.

Over the ensuing years, more and more programs and courses were developed and offered. Academic Upgrading was started in 1967, Business and Secretarial training in 1968 (after the purchase of the capital assets of this program from the Sisters of the Holy Cross,) Performing Arts, Industrial Training, Second year University, many programs in the region both credit and non credit, and the list goes on and on.

A permanent home was needed, as space requirements were becoming a major concern for the Board. Douglas Cardinal was hired in 1969 to design and build the first phase of the present building. In May of 1971 the name of

the College was changed to Grande Prairie Regional College and construction started on our new campus in 1972. The building was completed, except for the auditorium, in fall of 1974. The auditorium was finished in 1976 and Premier Peter Lougheed and other Government officials, along with other dignitaries from the city and region, joined us for our 10th anniversary celebration and dedication of the building.

I was privileged to host Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip and Prime Minister Trudeau and his wife Margaret, when they visited our College. They were all impressed with our beautiful building. Can you believe the original building cost just over 6 million dollars! Quite a bargain at today's prices.

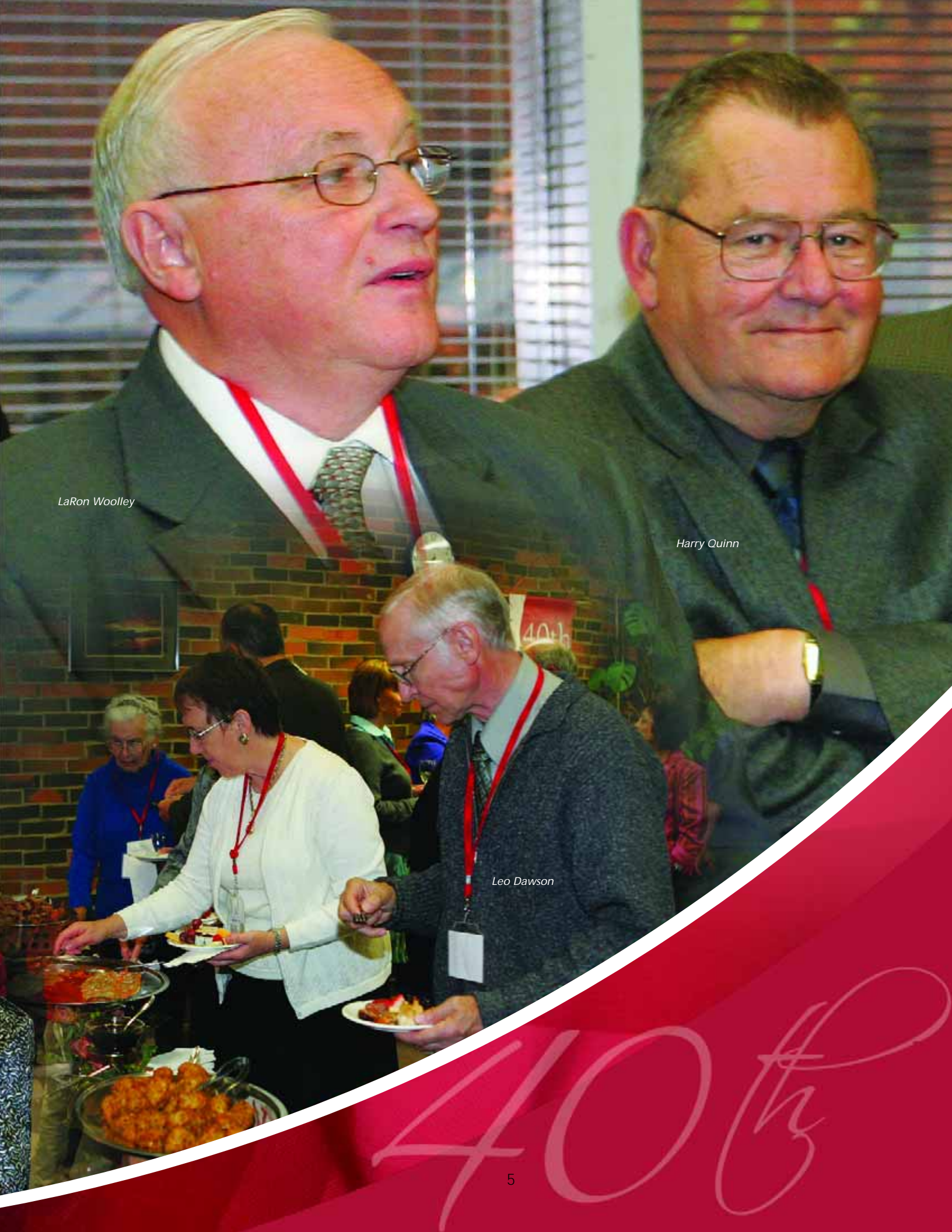
The College has carried on for 30 more years and is now celebrating 40 years of providing educational opportunities for many, many people. I am proud to have been a part of this early history. I still get excited and feel proud, whenever I am in the building. Keep up the good work and all the best for the next 40 years!

- Harry Quinn



Rick Beeson

Hazel Patterson



LaRon Woolley

Harry Quinn

Leo Dawson

40th

# an untold story



*Carmen Haakstad*

This story has been untold... because he (Henry Anderson) said to me "lets keep this conversation between you and I" ... that was 26 years ago when Henry Anderson

was the College President and I was the Director Curator of the Prairie Art Gallery. I honored his request until upon his death just a few years ago but I have never told it publicly. I am sure he would give me permission if he were alive today.

It was a cold winter day in February and I was sitting at my desk when I looked up and saw the College President coming in, walking towards me in his fur coat and hat. For a 23-year-old, fresh out of College, it was a bit unnerving to have the College President pay me a personal visit. I had seen him in the

newspaper but had never met him, and I was in awe of this man who had the vision to build a College with beautiful architecture, which was rare in western Alberta.

I also knew why he was probably coming to see me: the Daily Herald-Tribune had interviewed me two days earlier about the future of the Prairie Gallery. If my memory serves me correctly the headline read something like "Gallery without a home - GPRC needs their building for future expansion." We needed to find a new home for the Gallery, so we went public with the College's intentions which had been announced to our Board of Directors via a letter signed by Mr. Anderson. Lane Borstad (the chair of our board at the time) and I decided our best strategy to find a new location for the Gallery was to go to the media. The ensuing story made the College look like the bad guy, hence the visit!

Henry Anderson told me that "the College is a great supporter of the visual arts" and that he liked what we were doing in expanding the visual arts in Grande Prairie, concluding that if we needed this building they could make other plans. I replied that "With all due respect, Mr. Anderson, we don't want this building. It has too low a ceiling, there are plug-ins at waist height about every six feet, florescent lights..." and my list went on. I explained that the building was a portable Chemistry Lab and was not the best for displaying art and our city and artists deserved better. "Besides," I continued, "we think the City should help fund a public art gallery and we are looking at the school building across the street that is owned by the City, but which they are planning to demolish. We think it should be saved and become the City's public art gallery."

Well, he listened and thought for



*Douglas Cardinal*

*Henry Anderson*

awhile and said "What a great idea... so if you do not want our building we will proceed with our plans and pretend we did even have this discussion." And the rest is history; the portable Chemistry lab was moved to the campus and we went to work fund raising and negotiating with the City, Province and national museums of Canada. That decision saved one of our historical buildings from the wrecking ball, and the existing PAG opened in 1985.

Fast forward to the year 2000 ... I became the Executive Director of the GPRC Advancement department and while reviewing the files saw that Mr. Anderson has been an annual donor since he left as President. I called to thank him for his annual donation and for all the things he done for our community. He was living in Edmonton and I was amazed he remembered our discussion about the Gallery. I asked him if he would

come to Grande Prairie to a special dinner to honor him and Douglas Cardinal. He said he was not going out to many public functions but if Douglas was going to be there he would make a special consideration to attend. I said "Great, now all I have to do is get Douglas Cardinal to come!"

A few phone calls later, they had both agreed to come. I was so excited I sent an email to "all staff" that the first president and first architect were coming to a special dinner to honor their vision for building the first phase of the College. I could hardly hold back my excitement and our department began the preparations.

Henry Anderson's daughter Brenda, who lives in Texas and his son from Calgary were contacted and they were planning to attend and were so pleased that the College was going to honour their

father. Douglas Cardinal's son Brett was also coming; he told us "Dad has always had a special spot for Grande Prairie Regional College and for Mr. Anderson."

Then two weeks after confirming their attendance I received a call from Henry's son. "Carmen, our father died this week, and we wanted you to know how excited he was that he was coming to Grande Prairie to see all his friends and Douglas." It was a very sad time but the family still wanted to come and participate in the dinner so we continued with our plans. The dinner was a very historical moment for the College and for those who attended, one we will always remember.

And for me, Dr. Henry Anderson will always be integral to my memories of Grande Prairie Regional College and the Prairie Art Gallery.

*- Carmen Haakstad*



*Brenda  
Anderson*

*Douglas  
Cardinal*

# Life Can Be Challenging

By Margaret Penner, charter student of Grande Prairie Junior College, 1966



"I'll go anywhere, even if it means moving to the sticks of northern Alberta, as long as I can have a say in my children's education!" explained my husband, Peter emphatically. He was responding to my plea of "We can't stay here forever!" - namely, on the edge of a Hutterite colony in southern Alberta where he was teaching.

It wasn't that we had any complaints, except that they were too good to us. Like clockwork, at the

end of every day our children were picked up by the school girls for their daily tour of the colony. I feared their psyche might become conditioned by the 'group mentality.' Perhaps they would forever feel they belonged to the colony??

They were still too young to notice that they were the only ones clad in bright colours. We looked to the far north, but eventually settled for the De Bolt area in 1960.

Were we in the sticks? We wondered, when we saw nothing but trees and came to the end of the pavement shortly after Whitecourt. What a relief to see pavement again before hitting Valleyview! Here we saw evidence of a bustling economy and an expanding civilization but there were no phone lines to our teacherage. Small country schools could still be found, but were rapidly being amalgamated. We even heard rumours of a college coming to Grande Prairie some day but that didn't concern us because Peter had his first year of University and I was a happy busy mother at home. Besides teaching, Peter had also taken on a small country congregation who showered us with love and appreciation, garden vegetables and wild meat. The dual work load, however, proved too much and suddenly



we were in crisis. Would I be willing to support the family? "No way!" Ten years ago I had given up pursuing a career to become a wife and a mother.

Reluctantly and with trepidation I became willing. The local options for work were nil. This could be long term, and then education would be beneficial. Suddenly the rumours we had heard about a college were crucial to our future. Even though it was Saturday, Dean Henry Anderson willingly invited me to come in for a consultation. His graciousness and calm put me at ease. Late registration was no problem. The excitement in the building was palpable! Every application added more proof to the necessity for a Junior College in the North. By now enrolment had already far exceeded the expectations of the planners who had begun work ten years ago.

Dean Anderson personally checked my qualifications and expressed joy that this institution was meeting the needs of 'older' people as well. I felt genuinely welcomed and made to feel at home. I was now registered as a charter student of Grande Prairie Junior College, the newest institution of its kind in the province; then reality struck me. At HOME were our five children, three of whom were preschoolers, who knew nothing of the plans my husband and I had just made! To top it all off, **CLASSES BEGAN ON MONDAY!**

Our oldest two boys were excited at the prospect of having Daddy ride the school bus with them. We were thankful that in those days there were no restrictions prohibiting that. A gal only in her teens was willing to move in to be our preschooler's nanny. What a precious jewel she proved to be. She cooked, baked, washed and cleaned. I never needed to worry.

Then we had to tell my parents who lived nearby. Working mothers in those days were not necessarily understood. What an encouragement when they listened and

then even gave us their blessing. We knew their prayers would be undergirding our new venture. Friends and family, even the church, would eventually get to know. But before I could panic, it was time to drive the 40 miles to class in the only car we owned.

Young faces filled the halls of the College. The majority of the 69 full-time students came right out of high school. I was met with loud boisterous talking and laughing - not intimidating but refreshing! A few older students were there as well, but where were the instructors? I soon learned who they were, and realized that several of them were younger than I. What a fine group of people who influenced our lives through their instruction and friendships. We were challenged in our classes to make a difference in the vocation of our choosing.

I never felt excluded in class, but I didn't become part of the social fabric of the College. The newly renovated Wapiti Dorm was the official residence for the students from surrounding areas. Others resided at home. As I listened to the students' social plans for the evenings or weekends, I knew where I belonged: at home! The result was that I never got to know many of the students personally. At our recent 40th anniversary, I learned that the students had lovingly dubbed me "the mature student with a family at home." Nevertheless, lasting friendships were made that year. Saturday classes accommodated ten local teachers, bringing the number of part-time students to 40.

The recent collapse of the roof of the Prairie Art Gallery was bittersweet. This building brought back so many memories! Known as Central Park

School, it housed the College in its inaugural year 1966-1967. It was there for the 40th Anniversary. It had been erected the same year my husband was born. Had it also completed its task and was it time to pass on the torch?

Both Peter and I, during successful teaching careers, have been able to complete our BEd degrees at the College primarily through extension courses offered by the University of Alberta. Several of our children have also attended, and now in retirement it is a joy to have the grandchildren benefit from this local post-secondary institution. It is their time to take up the challenge.

We have watched the fledgling College grow and expand from the small two-storey building with eight classrooms to the unique multi-building complex on the highway bypass. No small feat! Our prayer is that it may continue to expand to become the University of the North. As our alumni publication challenges us to wisdom, we concur that the attendees of the future may never bypass true Wisdom, namely, to know how to apply the knowledge learned to life's incredible challenges day by day. As a family, we are grateful for the opportunities this college has afforded us.

*- Margaret Penner*

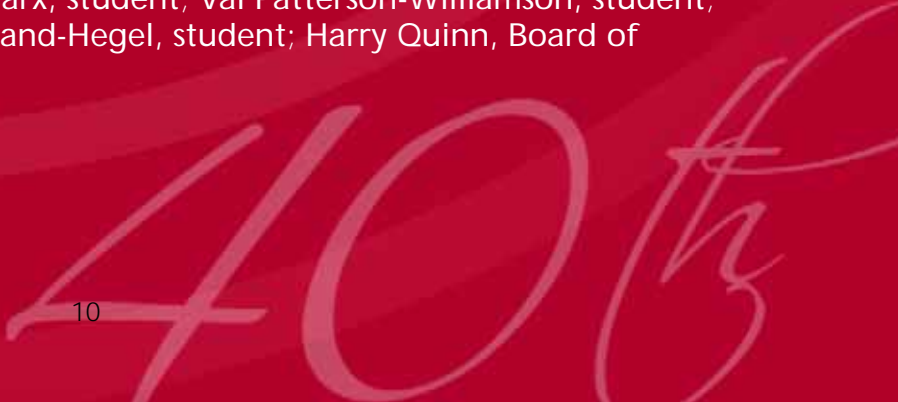
40th



Grande Prairie Regional College celebrated its 40th Anniversary over the past year, including a Charter Celebration in September which was attended by these members of the Charter faculty and staff:

L-R seated: Hazel (Beeson) Patterson, staff; Margaret Howey, student; Margaret Penner, student; Ruth McNaughton-Enns, student; Cheryl Widdifield-Marx, student.

L-R standing: Paul Lemay, faculty; Terry Williamson, student; LaRon Woolley, faculty; Gerald Nelson, faculty; Jack Field, student; Will Marx, student; Val Patterson-Williamson, student; David McNaughton, student; Darlene Mosand-Hegel, student; Harry Quinn, Board of Governors.



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# Go and Learn - Come Back and Teach your People

*Acting on the Words of  
her Father: Elder Darlene  
Cardinal*

"It is the teachings you give that make you an Elder," according to Darlene Cardinal. "To do that, you have to see yourself as an Elder, as someone who can teach."

Elder Darlene Cardinal is widely known as a resource for the Aboriginal community: teacher, counselor, consultant, advocate, and tireless volunteer. She has sat with Elders throughout Canada, asking questions, finding parallels in the teachings from Elders of all directions - and passing on the wisdom. From her Headstart class of pre-schoolers to groups of troubled youth or the adults learning Cree in an evening class, Darlene Cardinal takes the message that "this is who you are; this is your culture."

And from the Friendship Centre to the College, the Rotary Club to Provincial and Federal Boards or Committees, Darlene Cardinal is a teacher, role model, and representative of her culture: an Elder.

"It is the community that has made me an Elder. The community appoints you, chooses you. The first time I was called an Elder, I just kind of shook and swallowed; then I said thank you, and accepted the honour. It is an honour to be an Elder, and it is the teachings you give that make you an Elder, someone who can teach. Sometimes it kind of floors me a little. Being an Elder you are first of all a role model, and you represent the community. If you are going to be looked up to, if you

are respected, you have to respect yourself, you have to set the right example... and then one of the hardest parts is to be humble." This comment brings a chortle from a friend and colleague sitting in on the conversation, and Darlene laughs at herself.

"It is true," she admits, "that I like to give my opinions strong. Sometimes I would like to get angry, when I watch someone making the same life mistakes over and over, but there is always a better way to teach a person. When I look at people now, I try not to judge them too quickly. And I believe once people find out who they are, where they belong, that will make them strong.

"This is what I strive for - to teach the people who they are. When I started to do my cultural teachings, I went into libraries, bars, hospitals, schools - I interviewed anyone and everyone. What is your culture? A lot of people didn't know.

"I believe in everybody following their culture. I think everyone should be able to say 'I am Canadian - but I am also French, or Aboriginal, or German, or whatever.' Know yourself, and respect who and what you are."

Darlene Cardinal was a GPRC student in 1977 - the only visible aboriginal student on campus. She was a single mother of three sons, divorced from a violent marriage. "I ended up in Grande Prairie, suddenly without my house, my car,

*“This is what I strive for - to teach the people who they are.”*

– Darlene Cardinal

my good job in High Prairie. But I found out who I really am.

“When I started going to College it was hard. I had no income except unemployment insurance - \$450 a month to support myself and my three children. There was no funding support available for Aboriginal students then. There were many, many tears, and a lot of anger while I went to school full time and worked two jobs - as a pump jockey and in a lounge. But my family was behind me 100%, filling my freezer with moosemeat and fish and ducks, and babysitting my boys while I worked or studied.

“My father was very adamant that we don’t go on welfare. As long as you have arms and legs, you get out and work for what you need. Even today among my brothers and sisters, if one of us is down and out we all chip in whatever way we can. We don’t go on welfare. So I needed to get a good job - and I knew that I needed more education.

“Education was another thing my father was adamant about. My father was always strong in education. He didn’t read and write, but he was still a successful businessman. I was the oldest of the girls. I used to read everything for him - once when he had to go to court over a property issue, I went with him and read the court documents for him.

“On his death bed that same winter I moved here from High Prairie, my father told me ‘Go out

and learn from the white man and come back and teach your people.’ I have always remembered his words.”

Darlene Cardinal enrolled in the Secretarial Sciences program at GPRC - and was the only visible Aboriginal student on campus. “For a while it was hard, but then I made some friends within my class, and gradually got to know more and more people. I was never really outside my element, because I was very happy to be learning. My thought was always ‘I am doing this for my future, for my sons’ futures.”

There was always prejudice to be faced - but the Cardinal family had been taught to meet prejudice by laughing. “We were always told that those are small brains who treat you like that. Don’t deal with that. You have better things to do.”

Before long, someone asked Darlene to run for Student Council, others encouraged her - and she was elected the representative for her department. “At that time every meeting we had with the Board of Governors, we talked about the need for student residence here. I was adamant about it; here I was, a single mother with three children, paying most of my income for rent. They used me quite a bit as an example of why student residence was needed.”

For the first ten years after she graduated, Darlene worked and continued to learn - first at Procter & Gamble, then with Nova, while

her sons finished high school and went on to advanced education in trades, social work, and cooking respectively. “Then I figured, okay, I have learned from the white man. Now I am going to work with my people.”

Darlene got a job at the Friendship Centre in Red Deer, was elected to the National Association of Friendship Centres and was given the national portfolio as Elder for Youth. “I had the opportunity of meeting Elders from across the country. I would interview them, learn about the Elders’ teachings, and whatever I learned I would put down in writing.”

Through all this Darlene found parallels in teachings from all the directions, from the BC potlatches to the northern Cree sweat lodges. She notes that the medicine wheels had different birds or animals depending on the region, but the attributes are the same. “For example, the Whale of the west coast, the Buffalo of the plains, and the Turtle of the east all represent the same qualities: strong, steady, knowledgeable.”

At the same time, the Friendship Centre in Red Deer was looking for a teacher of the Cree language, and no one was available. Darlene Cardinal had spoken both Cree and French as a child before going to residential school, and still knew a few words, but her skills were rusty.

“What I did was I went to the Elders in Hobbema, and sat with them and said, ‘speak to me in



Cree.' For the first little while they laughed at me, but I was persistent. I believe whatever language we spoke first is embedded in us, and it comes quicker when we decide to pick it up again. I felt confident that I could learn, and that they could teach me. So every word I learned, I wrote down in alphabetical order. I started by teaching those words to my classes. Then I taught little sentences, and so on. Now I have developed a course in Cree language, and have it on cassettes. I am going to put it on CD."

These days, Darlene teaches Cree language in a GPRC evening class. And she speaks Cree with the children and youth to whom she is giving cultural instruction. In fact, she speaks Cree wherever and whenever she pleases - and knows the power of the freedom to express your own culture. "I was in the produce department of the grocery store one day, and realized that I was surrounded by people speaking many different languages. And yet we were ashamed to speak our own First language in public. Why should we be? That was when I made the commitment to myself that I would finish my book on the Cree language, and that I would teach Cree. Now I speak Cree wherever. If people don't like it, then come to Cree classes and find out what I am saying!"

Darlene Cardinal now has her own company - DarCar

- continued on page 30



# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## CONCERT SERIES

The final concert of the GPRC 40th Anniversary Concert Series left an audience warmed and thrilled by the musicianship and artistry of soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian and pianist Serouj Kradjian. Performances by these internationally acclaimed Canadians are rare in Western Canada, and even rarer in the intimacy of a concert hall such as the DJ Cardinal Performing Arts Centre. The audience of approximately 250 included those who had come from Edmonton and even Calgary to take advantage of the opportunity to hear this music in such a setting.

Concert attendees noted the openness and warmth of Bayrakdarian's performance, which included a classical repertoire of "art song" from composers such as Schubert, Viardot, Rossini and Obradors. "This has been so wonderful I don't want to leave!" exclaimed one audience member after the performance. Isabel Bayrakdarian and Serouj Kradjian made an appearance in the concourse following the performance, where they graciously signed programs and posters for enthusiastic admirers.

This concert closed a celebratory season which began in September with I Musici, a chamber orchestra from Montreal. In January, music lovers enjoyed the chamber group Trio Solisti from New York, together with clarinetist Alan Kay. The Madrigal Singers and Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal (BJM Danse) continued the 40th Anniversary Concert Series in celebration of the establishment of Grande Prairie Regional College in 1966. The April 14 performance by Juno award winning Isabel Bayrakdarian provided a spectacular conclusion to this series of fabulous musicians and artists.

In addition to celebrating the 40th Anniversary of GPRC, this series has also been a meaningful celebration of the restoration of the DJ Cardinal Performing Arts Centre, which was accomplished through the generosity of donors including Swan City Rotary Club, which contributed \$100,000, and Ainsworth Lumber, Alliance Pipeline, Annie Get Your Gun Production, Canadian Heritage, CANFOR, City of Grande Prairie, Clem & Muriel Collins, Community Foundation of Greater Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Amateur Games Society, Great Northern Casino/Service Plus Hospitality Ltd., Investors Group Financial Services, Ken Sargent Pontiac Buick, Meyers Norris Penny & Co, Northern Sound Hearing Clinic and Windsor Motors, each of whom contributed between \$10,000 and \$40,000 to the restoration project.

The Young Chang Intermediate Concert Grand piano played by Serouj Kradjian was presented to the College last year in memory of Muriel Collins.

GPRC looks forward to hosting future concerts for the enjoyment of our audiences in this amazing world-class concert venue.







*Thank you!*



Together we set a new record, raising the most money ever in the history of the Ball - more than \$69,000 to provide scholarships and bursaries for students of GPRC

*ruby anniversary*

*1966-2006*

Please join us for the 2007 President's Ball October 20



Sheila Elliot

**AWARDS**

**30 Years Nursing - long service award 2006**

GPRC Nursing instructor **Sheila Elliot** received an award celebrating her 30th year in nursing. The recognition was presented in Edmonton by Sheila McKay, president of the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA).

**Leigh Goldie recipient of George Repka Award**

GPRC instructor **Leigh Goldie** is the 2007 recipient of the George Repka Award. The award is presented annually by the City of Grande Prairie to recognize those who have significantly contributed in a voluntary capacity to the improvement of the quality of life within our community in areas of recreation, culture or social services.

Leigh Goldie is recognized for his long-standing contributions to the community in a variety of capacities for the past 30 years. "His mentorship and inspiration has been a positive influence on the lives of many people in the community. Mr. Goldie is an enthusiastic volunteer for all local events. He was the Mayor of the Athletes Village in the 1995 Canada Winter Games; he volunteered for the Royal Bank Cup and the Ford World Women's Curling Championship. He also sat on the City's Pursuit of Excellence Committee for many years." The Mayor and Council presented Mr. Leigh Goldie with the

George Repka Award at City Hall in January, 2007.

**Bill Shaw Students' Association Award for Excellence in Teaching**

GPRC Academic Upgrading instructor **Bill Shaw** has been a coach and teacher in Grande Prairie for the past 27 years. He was nominated by students in his classes for the Students' Association Award for Excellence

in Teaching.

"In my experience as a student, Mr. William Shaw (or Bill as we call him) is one of the most patient, helpful and caring teachers I have ever met. His door is always open to anyone who needs to talk no matter the subject. He keeps his class's fun and entertaining while maintaining a good course load. When I started out in CP100 I could not type at all and was getting very frustrated. In the end, with Bills' excellent motivational skills, I passed with an "A", and have moved to the next step in the department. I would never made it through if it was not for Bill and his compassion."

"I do care a lot for the students," says Shaw. "This award is certainly an honour. There are many great instructors, people who are phenomenal teachers, here at GPRC, and I am very gratified to have been selected for this award from the students."

Bill Shaw has coached throughout his life, and is an active volunteer in the community. "I like to use coaching skills in the classroom - we are a team, and I encourage a supportive, relaxed learning environment," he says.



**APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

**Don Gnatiuk** was appointed President and CEO of Grande Prairie Regional



Bill Shaw

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College effective May 01, 2007. The Board of Governors and the College Community enthusiastically welcome Don Gnatiuk as President.

**Rory Tarant** was elected President of the Students' Association of Grande Prairie Regional College, effective June 01, 2007. Tarant is a Bachelor of Arts student at GPRC.

**Charles Sanderson** was elected President of the Employees' Association of Grande Prairie Regional College, effective June 01, 2007. Sanderson is Electrician and Safety Codes Officer in Campus Operations at GPRC.

#### EXHIBITIONS

GPRC Fine Arts instructor **Tina Martel** was featured in the exhibition "We like Shiny Things" with fellow artists Sarah Alford and Joyce Goodman at The Prairie Art Gallery in October and November of 2006.

#### PUBLISHED WORKS

GPRC History instructor **Dr. Jaroslav (Jerry) Petryshyn** published an article "Hub of the Peace - Dunvegan" in the Fall 2006 issue of LEGACY, a magazine published by Alberta Heritage Resources.

#### ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

##### Soccer All Conference

Wolves player Sydney Spencer was named to the ACAC Women's All Conference Team as a Defender and **Chris Dewhirst** was made Goalkeeper for the ACAC Men's All Conference Team.

GPRC Wolves are proud to congratulate Wolves Alumna **Claire Paterson** (now coaching at King's University College in Edmonton) who has been named ACAC Women's Coach of the Year.

##### Badminton

In February 2007, **Brian Sherk**, GPRC Wolves, was recognized as the CCAA Badminton Player of the Month for Alberta. This is a tremendous honour for Brian and GPRC.

##### Volleyball

Four GPRC Wolves players were named to ACAC Volleyball All Conference teams in 2007: Women: **Kristen Roberts**; Men: **Elijah Muennich**, **Matthew Clegg**, and **Don MacNeill**. Congratulations to these exceptional athletes on their performances



#### Distinguished Employee Award 2007 Jill Thomson

**Jill Thomson** was named Distinguished Employee 2007 at the Employee Recognition ceremonies on May 10. Jill was commended for her passion for her work and for students. The committee noted that her depth of knowledge is respected throughout the College, and that colleagues are frequently heard to say "what would we do without her?" Jill Thomson began more than 25 years ago as an instructional assistant and instructor, and is now Assistant Registrar, Records in the department of Student Services.

this year and the recognition they have received from the ACAC coaches.

**Elijah Muennich** was named to the CCAA All Canadian Volleyball Team, one of three players from Alberta who made the standard. This is a credit to Elijah and his dedication to the game, as well as due recognition for the GPRC Wolves Volleyball Program by the rest of Canada.

**Grace Scott**, GPRC Wolves Women's Volleyball Coach has been selected as the 2006/07 ACAC Women's Volleyball Coach of the Year.

##### Curling

The Wolves Women's Curling Team won ACAC Gold for 2007. The team dominated the Women's division, not losing a game through the three tournaments. The rink is skipped by **Carrie Anne Sallows**, who also competed in the Canadian Junior Curling event, and coached by **Caryl Sallows** and **Garth Finlay**.

##### Swimming

**Andrew Poznikoff** was selected to the ACAC All Conference Team, who dominated the competition in Breaststroke. Andrew joins a list of outstanding GPRC swimmers who continue to hold ACAC Swim Records. Wolves Swimming alumni swimmers **Chris Razeau** and **Norah Vogan** are still listed in the record books for their outstanding performances.

##### CCAA Academic All Canadian

Athletes achieving this distinction have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and have been selected for the All Conference Team. The four athletes are: **Brian Sherk**, Badminton, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology; **Jennifer Seemann**, Basketball, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; **Sean Hawryluk**, Cross Country Running, Engineering; **Chris Dewhirst**, Soccer, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. Congratulations to these fine students on their achievement.



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## GPRC alumni

### Alumni Updates from the 1st Graduating Class of Business Degree Completion at GPRC (1997)

#### Scott Oakford

"I articulated as a CA student with Collins Barrow in Drayton Valley for two years (1997-1999) after graduating from GPRC in 1997. I moved back to Grande Prairie in the fall of 1999 where I have remained for the past eight years. I continued my articling with Davis, Kohlsmith & Kay (1999-2006) obtaining my CA designation in 2002. I worked for the firm for about 6 and half years after which I decided to move on from public practice to an industry position. In 2006 I was hired as an Assistant Controller with Formula Powell, an oil-field trucking company, however, my position lasted just under a year as another position was offered to me in industry. For the past four months I have been working for Vidar Forest Technologies, a log harvest and hauling company. My position title here is that of 'accountant', but I have been in charge of overseeing day-to-day accounting activities as well as reviewing potential new software programs, checking on daily cash flow and acting as a liaison with the staff, bank, leasing company and accountants as I issue monthly financials. It has been a rewarding and exciting career so far with plenty of opportunity in the Grande Prairie area to be paid well for a position that suites one's interests.

Outside of working I enjoy playing golf and slo-pitch baseball in the summer as well as playing pool, reading, skating and watching hockey in the longer winter months. I also enjoy tending to my yard and spending time with friends. I purchased my first home a couple of years ago in Grande Prairie before the market prices had started to increase drastically. I am still single, but am kept quite busy with work and play. I have been involved with the CA Club in Grande Prairie having acted as both secretary and treasurer and note that the club has given out several scholar-

ships and bursaries to GPRC students in the Commerce program over the years. A big "Thank You" to Yvonne Carlstrom at the college for her work in this area. I still receive the 'Thank you' notes from students who have obtained money and recognition from these scholarships. I share these notes with my fellow CAs as we continue to meet 6 times per year at CA Club."



#### Tracy Somerville

"After graduation, I worked at a local chartered accounting firm for five years where I gained much experience in audit, tax

and financial statement preparation. I then took two years to expand my knowledge base and obtain my Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta with a major in business and minor in fine arts. For the past three years, I have enjoyed a successful career at Fuller & Associates Chartered Accounts in Grande Prairie where we provide a wide variety of tax and financial planning services, and I am planning to enroll in the two-year In-Depth Tax course through the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants in the fall.

In addition to work and education, I have dedicated much of my time to volunteering at the local hospital, painting in my basement art studio, and enjoying worldwide travel to many countries including Jamaica, Greece, Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland and Great Britain, as well as planning for another extensive trip to New York and the Caribbean later this year. I am glad that I was able to complete my Bachelor of Commerce degree in Grande Prairie as I was able to be with my friends and family, as well as network with local business people who have become very influential in my endeavors today."

#### Norm Guindon

"After graduating with by Bachelor of Commerce I was hired by a local accounting firm in Grande Prairie. I articulated with the accounting firm and obtained my Chartered Accounting designation in the spring of 2000. I remained with the accounting office for seven years and eventually became Senior Manager at the firm. I met Tracey, my beautiful wife, at the accounting office where we both worked. We got married in January 2005 on a beautiful beach in Costa Rica while on vacation. In 2004 I left public accounting practice and was hired as the Chief Financial Officer of a construction company called Albrico Services (1982) Ltd. I currently work out of the company's head office located in Grande Prairie."



#### Mike Guindon

"After completing my Bachelor of Commerce in 1997, I began working for Grant Thornton Chartered

Accountants in Peace River. Four years later, I decided that public practice was not for me, so I took a job at Northland School Division and quickly moved into the Assistant Secretary Treasurer position. My responsibilities included preparation of the financial statements, dealing with the Auditor General, preparing the budget, and supervising the accounting staff members. I recently decided to take on the challenge of becoming the Secretary Treasurer for Northland School Division. This position involves less direct involvement in the actual accounting for the school division and more overall management. I have many wonderful memories of GPRC. Some of my most vivid memories include meeting my wife Roxane who is also a GPRC Bachelor of Commerce graduate. We camp and bike together as much as possible and we celebrated the birth of our daughter, Natalie, last September. Who knows – maybe she will carry on the family tradition and be a GPRC graduate around the year 2028."



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**Tracy Frith**

“Since grad I worked in public practice for about 8 years and achieved my Chartered Accountant designation during that

time. I have been working in industry over the past 2 years and am currently in the oil and gas sector working for Canadian Natural Resources Limited in Calgary in the Financial Control Reporting group as a Financial Analyst.

I manage and play on a co-ed recreational soccer team and have been the captain of this team for indoor and outdoor seasons for five years now. I have recently joined CNRL's Dragon Boat team where the race and festival will take place at the end of August. I also enjoy curling during the winter months and belong to a team here in Calgary among many other activities.”

**Craig Trithardt**

We were unable to reach Craig, but it is rumored that he is a CA working in Alberta.

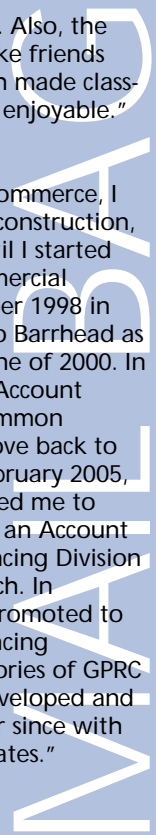
**Tannis Gnam (Nee: McLarty)**

“After graduating in April 1997 from GPRC with a Bachelor of Commerce, I was married in August 1997 (Fairview, AB) and then moved to Canmore, Alberta that same month. We lived there for four years where I articulated with Collins Barrow and passed my UFE in November 1999 to get my Chartered Accountant designation in 2000. During this time I took a few of my courses to prepare for the UFE in Edmonton...I was glad to see a few familiar faces as Norm and Craig (also graduates from GPRC) taking the same course! In August 2000 we had our first child (Carson) and in June 2001 we re-located to St. Albert, Alberta. I worked for Donnelly & Company in Edmonton for two years. In October 2002 we had our second child (Hayden) and later moved back to Fairview in June 2003. Since being back in Fairview, I have worked for Dechant & Company part-time and we had our third child (Avery) in June 2005. My fondest memory of GPRC was the closeness shared with my classmates and instructors. We were a small class and therefore, got to

know each other very well. Also, the instructors became more like friends rather than teachers, which made classes much more relaxed and enjoyable.”

**Jeff Veitenheimer**

“After completing my B. Commerce, I worked a few odd jobs in construction, managing a restaurant until I started with Scotiabank as a Commercial Account Officer in December 1998 in Peace River. I transferred to Barrhead as an Account Manager in June of 2000. In January of 2004 I took an Account Manager position with Common Wealth Credit Union to move back to Grande Prairie. Then in February 2005, a friend from GPRC recruited me to Canadian Western bank as an Account Manager, Equipment Financing Division at the Grande Prairie branch. In September of 2006 I was promoted to Manager, Equipment Financing Division. My favorite memories of GPRC are the friendships that developed and have been maintained ever since with many of my former classmates.”



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# Wolves

## Wall of Fame



### Ralph Brust

Ralph attended E.W. Pratt High School in High Prairie where he competed in basketball, volleyball, track and field, and curling. After being named best male

athlete in curling and volleyball, he enrolled in the Bachelor of Physical Education program at Grande Prairie Regional College in 1985.

While at the College, Ralph established himself as one of the top curlers in Wolves history. In 1987, he skipped the mixed curling team (Karen Brust, Todd Zukewich and Rhonda Berg) to both the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference and Canadian College Athletic Association titles. As a result, he was awarded the best curler trophy and was named Grande Prairie Regional College's Male Athlete-of-the-Year.

Ralph went on to finish his Bachelor of Physical Education degree at the University of Alberta

and has continued to curl at a high level. He has played second for the Mike Vavrek rink, twice runner-up at the Alberta Tankard. Ralph won the 1994 Alberta mixed Championship and finished 4th at the Canadian Mixed Championship.



### Shelly Comadina

Shelly enrolled at Grande Prairie Regional College after attending the Prince Rupert High School where she enjoyed a successful basketball

career as a member of the Rainbirds.

While at the College, Shelly distinguished herself as the leading member of the Lady Wolves from 1987 to 1989. During that time she led the team in scoring, steals and minutes played and was awarded ACAC All Conference status in 1989. The highlight of her career was being named an All-Star at the 1989 CCAA National Championships

as the Lady Wolves captured the bronze medal.

Shelly was the Lady Wolves MVP in 1988 and again in 1989 when she was also honoured as Grande Prairie Regional College's Female Athlete-of-the-Year.

Shelly is currently living on the West Coast where she is furthering her studies in Physical Education.

### The Doucette Sisters

From the small northern Alberta town of Falher came a group of sisters who displayed a volleyball brilliance that has seldom been seen. Isabelle Doucette established the tradition during the 1977-78 season and was followed by younger sisters Marie in 1982 and Dorine in 1983.



### Isabelle Gervais (Doucette)

Isabelle participated in numerous sports while attending École Routhier in Falher and was named Athlete-

Grizzly Fine Art Photography

# GPRC Athletics honours these individuals from its proud history in a display near the GPRC Gymnasium.

of-the-year. She then attended the college in 1977-78. During that season she was team captain and most valuable player and was also voted GPRC Female Athlete-of-the-Year. With Isabelle leading the way the team captured silver medals in both ACAC and Four West competition.

After Grande Prairie Regional College, Isabelle attended the University of Alberta and completed her Bachelor of Education degree. During that time she represented Alberta at the 1979 Canada Winter Games in Brandon and participated in the Western Canada Games in Saskatoon.



**Marie Brucker (Doucette)**

Marie was a multi-sport standout at École Routhier as she participated in track, basketball, fastball, curling, badminton, and volleyball. She

captained the school volleyball team to the provincial champi-

onship in 1981.

In 1982, Marie joined the college team and played for two seasons as one of the outstanding middle players in the ACAC. She achieved ACAC All-Star status and was the 1983 Female Athlete-of-the-Year at Grande Prairie Regional College.

Following her time in Grande Prairie, Marie completed her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta and started a career as an elementary school teacher. She has remained active playing fastball and volleyball.



**Dorine Smawley (Doucette)**

Dorine was a standout athlete in high school as well. Following Marie's footsteps she captained École Routhier to another provincial title in 1982. She also played on Alberta's provincial volleyball team in 1980 and 1981.

For the 1983-84 season, Dorine

joined the GPRC women's volleyball team and, with sister Marie, led the team to the silver medal. For her efforts she was chosen as ACAC All-Star and received the Grande Prairie Regional College Female Athlete-of-the-Year award. The next season, Dorine moved on to Red Deer College where she was selected as a CCAA All-Canadian and received the Red Deer College Athlete-of-the-Year award.



**Hideo Fukushima**

Hideo was one of the driving forces behind the development of the Grande Prairie Regional College Physical Education and Athletics program throughout the 1970's. At various times he served as an instructor, basketball coach, department chairman, and athletic director. As a tireless organizer of clinics and tournaments, he was instrumental in the growth of athletics through-

out the Peace Region. He served on a committee that helped develop the National Coaching Certification Program, and also made a lasting contribution in founding the Wolves Mini-Basketball program which has seen thousands of Grande Prairie's children participate over the years.

In addition to the major roles he played within the Physical Education and Athletic Department, Hideo was heavily involved in all other aspects of college life. He was an inspiration to all with his contagious enthusiasm and positive outlook.

Since leaving the college, Hideo has continued his involvement with sports as an avid participant. Within the community he continues to be active in a number of different organizations such as Summer Games 2000, the Real Estate Board and Rotary Club.

*(Editor's Note: This year Hideo and Marian Fukushima are the honorary chairs of the annual College Classic Golf Tournament)*



**Heather Godberson**

Heather came to Grande Prairie in 1993 from Fort St. John and became the most successful curler to emerge from the powerful Wolves program.

During her two years with the Wolves, Heather skipped the women's team to two ACAC gold medals and was selected as the all-star skip for both the 1993-94 and 1994-95 seasons. In recognition of her outstanding performances at GPRC, she was a co-winner of the Female Athlete of the Year award in 1994-95.

As much as Heather enjoyed tremendous success at GPRC, it was only the beginning for her as she moved into junior and ladies competition. In 1996, she was the skip of the Alberta team that eventually swept to victory at the Canadian Junior and World Junior

Championships. Heather was then the third on the 1998 Alberta and Canadian championship rink that finished with a bronze medal at the 1998 World Curling Championships. At the 1999 Canadian Ladies Championships, her Team Canada rink finished a close second, and Heather was selected as the all-star third at the event.



**Richard Hosker**

Originally from Fort St. John, B.C., Ritch demonstrated his athletic prowess early by capturing the North Peace Secondary School Athlete-of-the-Year in

1983. He then moved on to Grande Prairie Regional College where he was a volleyball standout for three seasons while also competing with the golf team. Over the course of his three years at GPRC, the volley-

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ball team moved from also-ran status to capture the ACAC bronze medal in his last season.

During each of the 1984/85 & 1985/86 seasons, Ritch was voted both an ACAC All-Star and the Grande Prairie Regional College Male Athlete-of-the-Year. In addition to his other awards, Ritch consistently captured All-Star and Most Valuable Player honours at numerous Tournaments.

He was an outstanding setter with the ability to attack when necessary. Ritch was generally recognized as the best one-on-one blocker in the league.

After leaving College, Ritch completed his Bachelor of Physical Education degree at the University of Alberta. He has remained active in sport working as a golf professional in Fort St. John and participating in volleyball, both as a player and a coach. Ritch has also taught in the Fort St. John School District.



**Patti Lanigan (nee Johnson)**

Patti graduated from E.W. Pratt High School in High Prairie, and enrolled in the Bachelor of Physical Education program at Grande

Prairie Regional College in 1983. At the college, she distinguished herself as a basketball player.

The womens' Wolves basketball team was the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference gold medal winner in 1984-85 and Patti achieved many individual honors as a team member. She was chosen to the ACAC First All-Star Team, averaging 20 points per game. She was named Most Valuable Player in three Canadian Colleges Athletic Association Championship games, averaging 28 points per game, leading the team to a bronze medal. Patti was Grande Prairie Regional

College's Athlete-of-the-Year for 1984-85. She also won a silver medal with the Laurentian University basketball team at the Canadian University Championships in 1987.

Patti went on to earn an Honor's Degree in Physical Education and Health at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario (1987) and then a Recreation Therapy Diploma from Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta (1991).



**Doug Morris**

Doug started his long association with Grande Prairie Regional College in 1976 as a student-athlete. Over the course of three seasons, he played basket-

ball, volleyball, golf and badminton. In 1978 and 1980 he was awarded the badminton Most



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Valuable Player. While still a player, Doug assumed the coaching duties in 1979 and over the years has guided the team to bronze medals in 1988 and 1989 and a silver medal in 1992. Doug was named ACAC Coach-of-the-Year in an unprecedented four consecutive seasons from 1987 to 1990 and was selected as the CCAA Badminton Coach-of-the-Year in 1986-87.

As a tireless promoter of badminton in the Peace Region and throughout the province, Doug has conducted numerous camps and clinics and hosted several tournaments. His volunteer contribution is considerable; he has formerly been the President of the Alberta Badminton Association, ACAC Badminton Convenor, a Director of Badminton Canada, Tournament chairperson for the 1993 CCAA National Championships, and the Badminton Director for the 1995 Canada Winter Games bid committee.

An enthusiastic supporter of the College, Doug has been a long time

member of the Wolf Pac Booster Club, including two terms as Chairman. He serves as a member of the Grande Prairie Regional College Alumni Foundation, and has formerly acted as Vice-Chairman of the College Classic Golf Committee.



### **Kelly Ohlhauser**

Kelly Ohlhauser came to Grande Prairie Regional College in 1984 to become the Wolves Men's and Women's Basketball Coach. He held

both of these coaching positions for 17 years. He was one of only three people in North America to hold both coach positions in a post-secondary league.

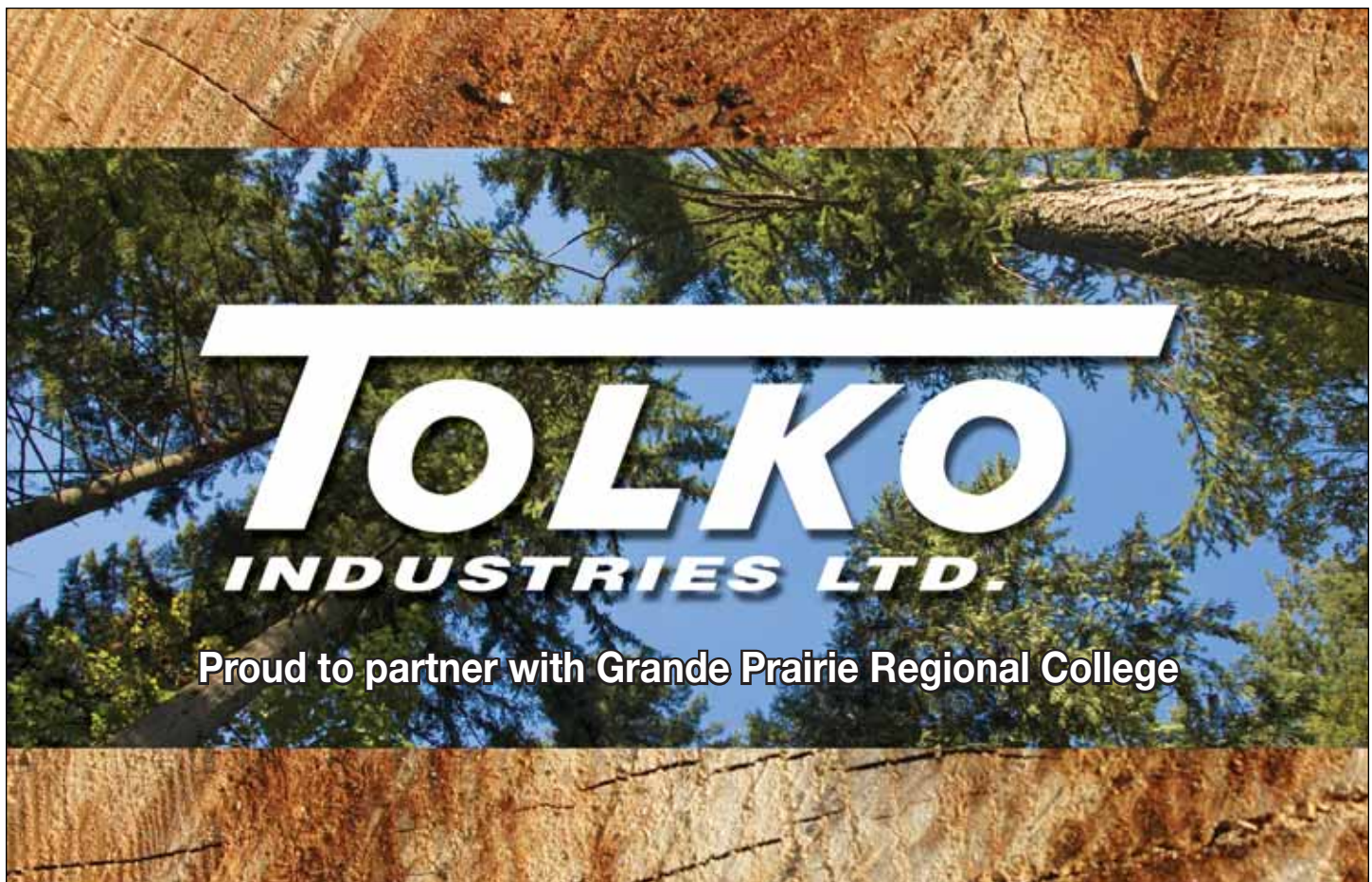
Upon completion of his 17 years, or 34 seasons, Kelly has left an impressive record. Over the years, his players have received 29 ACAC

All-Conference Awards and three CCAA All-Canadian Awards. His teams have achieved two bronze medals at the national level, and two ACAC Championships, one each to the men and the women.

Kelly Ohlhauser has been widely honoured and recognized for his coaching abilities. He has coached over 1000 games, was named ACAC Coach-of-the-Year 4 times, twice as Men's Basketball Coach, and twice as Women's Basketball Coach. He was named national CCAA Coach-of-the-Year, Women's Basketball, in 1988.

Kelly considered it a privilege to work with these players over the 17 years. He said the young people on his teams enriched his life. The same can be said for how he has enriched his players' lives.

The dedication and commitment he gave to his players development and his unbridled passion and love for the game of basketball are his legacy.





**Greg Sale**

Greg came to GPRC for the 1991-92 season after playing for D.P. Todd Secondary in Prince George. He was instrumental in a dramatic turnaround in the

Wolves' fortunes as he eventually led the team to a thrilling ACAC championship in 1992-93. His impressive list of personal accomplishments included two team MVP awards, two ACAC All-Conference team selections, an ACAC Academic All-Conference award, a CCAA Academic All-Canadian award, an all-star selection at the 1993 CCAA National Championships, and the 1992-93 GPRC Male Athlete of the Year award.

After two years in Grande Prairie, Greg moved on to the University of Alberta where his talent and superior work ethic continued to make him worthy of being closely associated with success. Greg played a key role for the Golden Bears as they won CIAU National Championships in his first two years in Edmonton, and finished second at Nationals in his third and final year of eligibility at the UofA.

Greg graduated from UofA in 1996 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and then successfully articulated to become a chartered accountant. He continued his involvement in basketball in his native Prince George by coaching at the College of New Caledonia as well as the University of Northern British Columbia.



**Lee Tipman**

Lee came to Grande Prairie Regional College in 1973 as a Bachelor of Physical Education student. While at the college, he competed in basketball, bad-

minton and cross-country running.

He received the award as top Bachelor of Physical Education student and was named GPRC's Male Athlete-of-the-Year in 1974.

Following his time at Grande Prairie Regional College, Lee attended the University of Calgary where he played volleyball for the Dinosaurs. He was named a Western Canadian All-Star in 1977 as the Dinosaur's won the Western Canadian Championships.

Since graduating with his Bachelor of Physical Education degree in 1977, Lee taught school in Grimshaw for 19 years, obtained his masters degree in Educational Administration from the UofC in 1996, becoming the principal of David Thompson High School in Condor, Alberta.

Lee continued to play volleyball at a high level as a member of senior provincial championship teams. He also distinguished himself as a badminton and volleyball coach at the high school level with provincial gold medals in both sports. In addition to receiving coaching and teaching excellence awards, Lee has been a mentor to several former players who are coaching volleyball at the post-secondary level. At the time of his induction to the Wall of Fame Lee was the assistant coach with the Red Deer College Kings Men's Volleyball team.



**Bob Waldenberger**

Bob arrived at the college in 1966 from the University of Oregon. He was one of the original faculty members of this college and proceeded to establish the Department

of Physical Education and Athletics. During the early years, Bob not only taught physical education courses and directed student services, but also kept busy with a heavy coaching load. His coaching duties over the years included volleyball, football, basketball, hockey

and golf. He completed his Ph.D. in Physical Education at the University of Oregon in 1975. Bob was also very involved in college committee work and served a term as President of the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference.

In addition to providing leadership in the college program Bob coached hockey, golf, skiing and gymnastics in the Grande Prairie Community. Bob is a Grande Prairie Gymniks founder and acted as the President of this organization. He was also a founding member of the Coaching Association of Canada's National Coaching Certification Program.

Since leaving the college in 1980 to pursue a business career, Bob has maintained a college connection by serving as a member of the Board of Governors from 1985 to 1991. He was Vice Chairman of the board for a term and Chairman of the Building Committee for the new college expansion project. He was also a member of the 25th Anniversary Committee.

Bob's legacy lives through the creation of an atmosphere of commitment and excellence, starting in 1966 carried forward to the present time.



## Access to the Future Fund

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The Access to the Future Fund is part of the Alberta government's commitment to save today's non renewable resource revenues for future Albertans.

"Alberta's advanced learning system just received another substantial financial boost," Advanced Education and Technology Minister Dave Hancock said. "By tripling this year's investment towards the Access to the Future Fund, we're showing that we're serious about securing a bright and prosperous future for Albertans through education. Since launching the Fund, there has been even greater interest among Albertans for investing in the province's post-secondary system."

*— Alberta Government news release November 2005.*

The Access to the Future Fund was introduced in Bill 1 this spring. Surplus revenue is being invested in an endowment fund and interest will be used to provide matching grants to stimulate private, industry, and other contributions to the advanced learning system as well as seed money for innovations in the post secondary system.

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More information on the Access to the Future Fund is available at: [www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/news/](http://www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/news/)




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*“Convocation Speaker 2007 – Dr. Connie Korpan, instructor and researcher, Faculty of Arts and Education.”*

*Celebrating Convocation 2007, June 16.*



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**Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association Presents the Service Superstar Awards Program**


The Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association Service Superstar program is a customer service recognition program, honoring customer service excellence employees in the tourism, hospitality, retail and Nominees will be individuals who consistently distinguish themselves and offer exceptional customer service industries in the Grande Prairie Region. A weekly winner will be chosen, awarded and given media recognition. Nominees will be honored at a gala ceremony each year with the top three finalists in each category receiving special recognition.

The program will also incorporate an educational component. Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association would arrange to give short informative training sessions for staff. Many of these employees are the first point of contact for tourists and subsequently have a huge impact on visitors. First impressions are very important, and with the right training we can ensure that our Region conveys a positive image!

If you would like to be a participating sponsor or if you would like to recognize someone as a superstar send in your nomination using the online form at [www.northernvisitor.com](http://www.northernvisitor.com) or drop your entry in a ballot box at participating businesses.

Please contact Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association for more information at 780-539-7688.

**Be a star maker today!**



**Recent Retirements**



L-R: Don Brown and Bill Fletcher



Gail Sherman

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Developments - still working for Native people. She has contracts with Social Services, Native Counselling, Mountain Plains, and the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre - and also sits on a total of eight boards, including Network agency, Safe Communities, Festival of Trees, Suicide Prevention, National Aboriginal Day, and the provincial Urban Aboriginal Métis Rural Settlement Framework committee. She is frequently invited to come to the College and visit with students or participate in special celebrations. Her door is always open to those who need support or encouragement. "When people bring me questions or problems, I answer the best that I know how. If I come across an Elder, I will ask what they think and I try to give people as many different concepts from different elders."

"On my phone message, my recording is 'Remember: you are good stuff, and don't let anyone else tell you different.' The phone has rung in the middle of the night, and I mumble a sleepy hello to someone who says "oh, I didn't want you to answer the phone! I just wanted to hear your message!"

Darlene Cardinal knows from personal experience that people who face prejudice need encour-

agement - and that her people continue to face prejudice.

"Educated people are not so apt to show prejudice these days, but in the general workforce there is still prejudice. It angered me last November when the Edmonton Sun ran a story about a well-known fast food chain which was quoted as saying they would have to shut down due to shortage of staff - or they would have to 'break down and hire Aboriginal people.' I was outraged that they would publish such a comment.

"Youth read this, they hear about it, and it hurts. A lot of kids today will dye their hair, wear white makeup to hide their Aboriginal ancestry - or else they'll wear hoodies and try to copy the aggressive attitudes of other visible minorities.

"Things are getting better, though. 20 years ago, not very many Aboriginal people went to high school or college because of prejudice, and because of the residential schools. The grandparents and parents did not want their children to go through all the bad experiences that they had been through. When I started working for the Friendship Centre, there were no Aboriginal students among the grade 12 graduates in Red Deer that year. Two years later there were six, after we had hired

Aboriginal workers and begun a series of school visits. Now, 15 years later, there are more and more every year. It excites me to see more Aboriginal people going on to complete their education, get their degrees."

Elder Darlene Cardinal knows that it is important to concentrate on what she can do rather than being upset about what others say or do. "Part of my meditation in the morning is not to surround myself with angry people. Life is too short. It doesn't help. Go out and do better things. "

Doing better things means giving her time, her knowledge, her energy to help teach her people.

"Children and youth need to know who they are. They need to understand - I am Aboriginal, Métis, First Nation. They need to know, this is what Aboriginals are. We wear the sash; we carry the eagle feather. We have that teaching in our minds, we know who we are, rather than just a melting pot of Canadians. I ask the children "who are you?" I show them pictures from the past, pictures of their ancestors. Now they are proud to say "I am Aboriginal."

"This is what I strive for - to teach the people who they are. This is my role as an Elder of my community."

- Lynne Ness

 **Boston Pizza**

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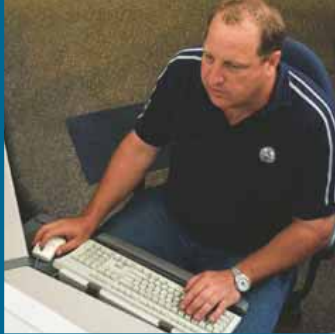
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