



Heritage Club Member Profile: **Les Pearson**

Les Pearson has been a resident of Medicine Hat since he and his late wife Louise moved in 1996 to be closer to their aging parents. Excited to join a community they had already spent a lot of time visiting, Les became the first Principal of Eagle Butte high school and his wife found a teaching job in Bow Island.

They settled into the area and quickly fell in love with the giving spirit of Hatters. They met so many residents who, like them, had strong family ties, a sense of heritage, and priorities that focused on community and support.

One of Les' favourite things about this community, especially as he has watched it grow over the years, is its diversity and welcoming energy. He calls Medicine Hat "inclusive, a community where everyone belongs, and where individuals are welcome to be themselves."

To encourage that supportive and welcoming energy, Les and his wife volunteered frequently in the city and helped establish the Medicine Hat's Folk Music Club and the Tongue on the Post winter music festival after visiting and enjoying other festivals in surrounding areas. Les says that without the collaboration and support of the community, the festival never would have taken off as it has.

Another point of pride for Les was the role he had in transitioning St. Joseph's Home into the Hospice it is today.

His friend Jan Dynes knew Les loved to organize things, so she approached him with the idea. She had worked in the Cancer Care Centre and after an informal working committee formed, they toured to Calgary, Red Deer, and Lethbridge, getting ideas before being approached by Covenant Health (who eventually stepped in to fund the transition and costs to run it, offering a quieter space for families and friends to gather with those they love).

When speaking with Les, it is obvious that Louise loved her community as much as her husband, giving so much of her time as a teacher until retirement in 2001, then volunteering with Saamis Immigration, welcoming new citizens and helping them overcome the language barrier as they settled into Medicine Hat and the surrounding area.

When asked why he and his wife have pledged their support as Heritage Club members of the Community Foundation, Les quickly replied, "It's a gift that keeps on giving." He has sat on countless boards that depend on public support and grants like the ones the CFSEA provides.

"The tremendous good that the Community Foundation does in this area is just an example of the way in which we can share the bounty we've been given with others. The satisfaction that comes from helping our neighbours and those who need it is contagious and makes you want to do even more. Thankfully, we have wonderful agencies like the Community Foundation to help us do just that."

Interested in joining our Heritage Club?
Email chris@cfsea.ca or call 403-527-9038



Meet our new Investment Management Firm: Leith Wheeler

Every five years, the CFSEA issues a Request for Proposals to investment management firms to ensure we have the best possible protection of assets and investment return rate.

This year, we had 10 submissions, which a sub-committee of the Finance and Audit Committee short-listed to three firms for an interview (one local; two out of town).

After careful analysis and debate, the Board of Directors approved the recommendation to move our Endowment Fund from Jarislowsky Fraser to Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel.

Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel was founded in Vancouver in 1982 by Murray Leith and Bill

Wheeler and was built on the belief that a successful investment manager must not only produce excellent long term returns, but also stand up for its clients' interests and be committed to open and straightforward communication.

This philosophy has stood the test of time, as they currently manage over \$18 billion of a diverse group of Foundations, pensions, First Nations, universities, corporations, professional organizations, and families across Canada.

For more information about Leith Wheeler, visit their website leithwheeler.com.



Heritage Club Member Profile: Adele Armstrong

The late Adele (Havard) Armstrong became a CFSEA Heritage Club member on Sept 17th, 2009 and was a well-known musician and lifetime resident of Medicine Hat.

Teacher, lecturer, composer, singer, concert accompanist, organist, actress, director – Adele was the ultimate entertainer.

In her home studio over a teaching span of more than 50 years, thousands of students prepared for piano and vocal exams, festival competitions, and performances. Her career as church organist and director began in her late teens when she provided musical leadership at Westminster United Church and then later as organist at

Fifth Avenue United Church devoting decades of service to the church.

Her community choirs – children, youth, adults – staged musical performances in the Spring and Christmas seasons. Founder and director of five city choirs: The Teen Tones, The Saamis Singers, The Kodaly Children's Choir, the Adele Armstrong Singers Mixed Chorus, and The Armstrong Ladies Choir, all competed, toured, and recorded for over four decades winning local, provincial, national, and international awards.

Her devotion to musical leadership earned her multiple awards including Medicine Hat's Outstanding Citizen and Citizen of the Year, The Sir Frederick Haultain Provincial Award for Arts and Sciences, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

As a thank you to the community that nurtured her musical soul, Adele has left an estate gift that will be allocated to the City of Medicine Hat Arts and Heritage Fund here at the CFSEA.

We are grateful to Adele and all our Heritage Club members for their generosity and connection to this wonderful community.

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