

Casimir J. Broda

Entrepreneur and businessman, Casimir Broda has the spirit of a true Saskatchewan pioneer.

In 1957, he created the Broda Group in Kamsack, beginning with just one gravel truck. Since then, his company has expanded to become one of Western Canada's leading earthmovers and railway ballast suppliers with a client list that includes CN Rail, CP Rail, Cameco and PCS Corporation. Their growth encompasses all areas of heavy construction, road construction, mine development, site works and concrete plants.

Mr. Broda has developed a world-class construction company that employs approximately 400 workers in various construction sectors and contributes to the economy of many Saskatchewan communities.

Operating from the Lakehead to the Pacific, Broda Group has played an important role in the northern regions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Under Mr. Broda's leadership, his company has constructed many segments of road networks in these regions, offering employment opportunities and bringing services needed for the economic development of northern communities.

Mr. Broda's company played a major role in the Regina Wascana Lake Urban Revitalization, more commonly known as the "Big Dig." The \$18 million project to deepen Wascana Lake took place through the winter of 2004. Over 1.3 million cubic metres of soil was removed from the lake bottom in 78 days.

He is a member of the Kamsack Knights of Columbus, the Saskatchewan Roadbuilders' Association, and the Saskatchewan Construction Association. Mr. Broda is known for many charitable works and has made significant donations to his church and community.

Under his leadership, the Broda Group has received the Gold Seal Certification from the Canadian Construction Association, Innovation in Action Award from the Saskatchewan Construction Association, the Most Unique Project in 2004 from the Saskatchewan Road Builders Association. Mr. Broda was named Kamsack's Most Outstanding Citizen in 1974.

Casimir J. Broda (306) 542-2905 Kamsack

Dr. Sharon A. Butala, O.C., LL.D.

Dr. Sharon Butala is known across the country for connecting the spiritual lives of people to the land, particularly in southern Saskatchewan, through her writing and nature conservancy.

Author of 16 books and five plays, including *The Perfection of the Morning*, which made the Globe and Mail's Canadian bestseller list in 1994, her fiction and non-fiction works are equally engaging. Her works span both popular and academic audiences and are often taught and studied in schools and universities.

In 1996, along with her late husband Peter, Dr. Butala made a significant donation of approximately 1,100 acres of unbroken pasture land to the Nature Conservatory of Canada in order to establish the Old Man on His Back Prairie and Heritage Conservation Area, preserving forever a large intact section of prairie in a landscape constantly threatened by cultivation.

Dr. Butala has also made a significant contribution to the cultural and artistic development of Eastend, now a richly creative community. She started the Eastend Arts Council over 25 years ago and played an important role in preserving Stegner House, the early home of the internationally-known writer Wallace Stegner. The house is now a living museum, offering short-term residencies to writers. As well, she was a driving force behind the Writing the Land Conference held in Eastend in 1994 that brought writers from across the province and the country.

She has received the Silver Award for Fiction from the National Magazine Awards; Award for First Paperback Fiction, Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters; Non-Fiction Awards, Saskatchewan Book Awards 1994 and 2005; Saskatchewan Gold Award, Western Magazine Awards 1992, 1993 and 1996; and the Writer's Trust of Canada Marian Engel Prize, awarded for her entire body of work.

Dr. Butala is a recipient of a Doctor of Laws and a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa), University of Saskatchewan, the Canada 125 Commemorative Medal, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, and was invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2001.

Dr. Sharon Butala (403) 238-8151 Calgary

Elder Alma Kytwayhat

Elder Alma Kytwayhat from the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation has been a catalyst of change. As an ambassador of a 7,000 year-old history and pipe keeper, Elder Kytwayhat has made connections with the province's youth, teachers, and leaders to build understanding and a harmonious future for all Saskatchewan citizens.

She has played a significant role in building respect for Cree language, culture and spirituality, teaching students in schools and promoting greater understanding and respect. She is responsible for educating 7,000 Saskatchewan teachers on the history, meaning and future of treaties and the treaty relationship in our province. She also provided input on Teaching Treaties in the Classroom.

Elder Kytwayhat is currently Elder-in-Residence for the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, an Elder on the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission and was appointed as a member of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Senate in 2007.

She has done extensive work with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. With her late husband Simon, she served as Elder-in-Residence for the Bold Eagle program, an Army Reserve Basic Military Qualification course designed for Aboriginal youth.

She is a member of the Treaty Commissioner's Speaker's Bureau and a participant of both the Treaty Learning Network and the Exploratory Treaty Table. She has served as Elder and cultural advisor for the First Nations Summer Games and a participant in the 2006 Treaty Mace Runner Ceremony.

Her extensive knowledge of traditional healing remedies has been shared on television and she was a featured Elder in the Treaty Message Minutes on CTV in 2006. That same year she participated in the 100th anniversary of the first opening of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

Elder Kytwayhat has received the Lifetime Achievement Award, Women of the Dawn First Nations Award, Citizen of the Year, Indian Government Category, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations' Circle of Honour, and is listed on the Honor Wall of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. She is also the recipient of the Canada 125 Commemorative Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

Elder Alma Kytwayhat (306) 380-9846 Saskatoon

Jack MacKenzie

Community leader, educator and volunteer, Jack MacKenzie has demonstrated an unparalleled dedication and passion for physical education and Saskatchewan nature.

After leaving the Brandon School Board in Manitoba, Mr. MacKenzie joined the Regina Board of Education in 1956, and was instrumental in innovative curriculum development in outdoor and physical education. In 1967, he worked part time as a physical education consultant in order to devote time to co-founding Saskairie, an outdoor educational centre in the Moose Mountains that serves southern Saskatchewan. In 1978, he worked with community groups and associate schools in the Scott Collegiate area as vice principal on special assignment.

In 1999, the Regina School Board named Jack MacKenzie Elementary School in his honour. To acknowledge this recognition, Mr. MacKenzie commissioned an artist to sculpt *The Joy of Effort*, a bronze statue of children and created the Joy of Effort Award, given annually to the student best exhibiting the joy of effort and achievement. He also established a charitable foundation for elementary schools to implement acts of kindness for vulnerable persons or environments.

He organized canoe trips with Cree youth and leaders in Northern Saskatchewan and worked with the Discovery Channel to develop a series of educational films about learning and teaching in outdoor environments. He also developed instructional videos on Camp Craft for the Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon.

He has served as president to a number of organizations including the Saskatchewan Camping Association, Regina Natural History Society, and Saskatchewan Physical Education Association, as well as founder of the Saskatchewan Outdoor Education Association. He was also chosen by Air Canada to be the subject of an in-flight vignette about 12 of the country's top Canadians.

Mr. Mackenzie is the recipient of the R. Tait McKenzie Award of Honour, Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the top national physical health education organization. In 2007, he was inducted as a Fellow of the North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance.

Jack MacKenzie (306) 789-3360 Regina

Arne F. Petersen

Arne F. Petersen has been an influential entrepreneur in Saskatchewan for several decades, who has been recognized internationally for enhancing the community of Prince Albert and helping to put Saskatchewan on the destination map.

In 1975, he began his own business, Precision Service and Engineering, designing and building equipment for the orient strand board (OSB) industry. He soon became known as an international leader in the development of OSB plants, playing a role in the design or construction of all but one of 76 plants worldwide. His company directly employed hundreds of people and numerous others benefited from his impact on the forestry industry.

Mr. Petersen's work has made a substantial boost to Saskatchewan's tourism industry. In 1993, he began work on the Elk Ridge Golf and Conference Centre Inc. resort project on the outskirts of Prince Albert National Park, which now has a Canada Select Four Star designation. He worked to ensure that the environmental impact of the project was minimal showcasing the grandeur of the region.

This four-season resort in northern Saskatchewan represents an investment in excess of \$45 million. It features 27 holes of golf on three courses, a hotel, convention centre, three restaurants, pavilion, pro shop, wedding chapel, condominiums, town houses, RV park, private residential lots and a staff housing facility for 96 people. The resort employs 150 people in summer and 60 more year round, and is in essence, a small municipality.

Mr. Petersen's was instrumental in advocating new legislation that would allow fractional ownership of resort properties. As a tourism operator he has hosted many charity golf tournaments as well as a CPGA tournament. He has also used his earth moving equipment to create a toboggan hill for children of the Montreal Lake Band.

Mr. Petersen was selected as a finalist for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur Award in 2003. Elk Ridge has been recognized by the Canadian Professional Golf Association as the 2007 Resort of the Year.

Arne Petersen (306) 961-6678 Emma Lake

William Shurniak, LL.D.

An exemplary ambassador of Saskatchewan, William Shurniak has sought to create entrepreneurial, educational and cultural networks, and opportunities for the citizens of Saskatchewan.

In 1999, he created an annual scholarship at the University of Saskatchewan for youth from rural Saskatchewan. For the first several years that he funded the Shurniak Scholarship, he did so despite living in Hong Kong and then Australia.

After returning to Saskatchewan in 2005, he opened the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia, sharing his international art collection with the community. His international career in banking and corporate finance led him to make many friends around the world and many of them have visited him in Saskatchewan and attended the gallery's grand opening.

The gallery has attracted approximately 50,000 visitors to Assiniboia, playing a significant role in increasing tourism in the area and making a town of 2,800 people a destination of choice. He further supports the Saskatchewan arts community by hosting exhibitions of works of art by Saskatchewan artists.

In support of his province, he has continually promoted Southern Saskatchewan to his visitors. He has often taken guests, driving them himself or, on occasion, by chartered bus, on tour of the area, which invariably included picnic lunches in one of the parks.

Mr. Shurniak has provided the Assiniboia and District Arts Council with a fully furnished office in the gallery and space for their travelling exhibitions. Space is also provided to other non-profit groups including the Community Choir. Art programs for children are held in the gallery as well as school group tours.

He is a director of a number of companies in Canada and overseas and supports many community initiatives including the new Communities in Bloom park in Assiniboia. He also supports aspiring young artists, and art, recreation and cultural organizations including the Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts, Regina Symphony Orchestra, and the Trans Canada Trail.

Mr. Shurniak is the recipient of a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from the University of Saskatchewan.

William Shurniak (306) 263-2170 Limerick

Geoffrey Ursell

Born in Moose Jaw, author and composer Geoffrey Ursell has spent a lifetime giving voice to, and celebrating Saskatchewan. As an editor and publisher he has helped many other writers do the same.

In 1975, he and three writers from Moose Jaw founded the nationally celebrated literary publishing house, Coteau Books. He currently serves as its president and publisher. A founder of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group and the Saskatchewan Playwrights' Centre, Mr. Ursell served as president for both. He's also been president of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, vice president of Saskatchewan ACTRA, writer-in-residence at the Saskatoon and Winnipeg public libraries, editor-in-chief of *Grain* magazine, and a member of the Minister's Advisory Committee for the Status of the Artist and the Saskatchewan Trust Cultural Committee.

He has written or co-written several musicals that have been produced by Saskatchewan theatres including *Gold on Ice*, about the Sandra Schmirler curling team, *Winning the Prairie Gamble* and *Year of the Moose*. His stage adaptation of Martha Blum's novel *The Walnut Tree*, opened the 2009-10 season at Persephone Theatre in Saskatoon. He has also written songs for plays by other writers.

He created the CBC docudrama, *Distant Battles*, about the 1885 Métis Resistance. He has also co-creator and co-producer of the preschool television series *Prairie Berry Pie*, broadcast on SCN, Global, and APTN. His short stories, poems, and songs have appeared in numerous anthologies and periodicals.

Mr. Ursell received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Manitoba, and his Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of London (England). His novel, *Perdue*, won the *Books in Canada* Best First Novel Award, and his stage plays have won three national playwriting awards. His first full-length play, *The Running of the Deer*, won the Clifford E. Lee National Playwriting Award. His musical, *Saskatoon Pie*, won Persephone Theatre's National Playwriting Competition, and has been produced three times by the theatre. He is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

Geoffrey Ursell (306) 955-1912 Saskatoon