



## **2008 Lois Hole Adult Learner Award**

This award was presented to Dave Chorney for his outstanding commitment to his own learning. Dave came to the Centre because his wife thought it was time for him to learn to read. At 32 years of age with a full time job and a young family, Dave struggled with words like “mother” and “our”. He didn’t know how to spell his wife or daughter’s name and he couldn’t put a sentence together. At the Centre Dave was

paired with his tutor Deanna and the two set out to teach Dave how to read. Often Deanna would come in for their meetings at the Centre and find that Dave had been there for over an hour already working on his literacy skills.

Dave was recently reassessed and he had gone up 2 levels in reading. This is an amazing accomplishment as the experts say it is very difficult for adults to improve their reading level at this rate. Some believe it takes at least 100 hours of instruction to increase one grade level and Dave had gone up to 2 levels in 80 hours of work with his tutor. Today Dave can write a full paragraph and knows when he has misspelled a word. Most importantly, he now reads to his two little girls every day bringing him closer to his family and teaching them the joy of reading.



## **2008 Lois Hole Community Leadership Award**

This award was presented to the Edmonton Journal for their Raise-a-Reader program. Raise-a-Reader is a unique project designed to raise awareness and raise money for family literacy programs throughout Edmonton and area. The Edmonton Journal’s annual fund-raising campaign culminates on Raise-a-Reader Day where more than 200 volunteers take to the streets to raise awareness of the importance

of literacy and to seek donations in exchange for a newspaper. They commit extensive promotional and editorial support as well as staff resources to Raise-a-Reader Day. They provide a variety of ads using local celebrities as the hook to attract attention to the campaign. The initial campaign, in 2002, raised \$18,000 - last year, more than \$100,000 was donated to a wide variety of family literacy programs. Hundreds of children and families have benefited from the Raise-a-Reader campaign and the promotional and editorial support that the Edmonton Journal provides is an invaluable resource in building public awareness of the importance of family literacy.