



Annual Report 2013-2014

Protecting our land, preserving our legacy

Edmonton and Area Land Trust
9910-103 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2V7
Tel: 780 483-7578; Fax: 780 483-7627; Website:
www.ealt.ca
Charitable Number: 85470 1356 RR0001

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Message from our Chair


Land conservation and stewardship awareness in Edmonton and the surrounding region continues to grow by leaps and bounds. I am amazed with how many property inquiries our staff receive. Our organization is also busy with the maintenance and stewardship of our existing properties, collaboration with partners, grant raising and spreading the word about EALT. It is an exciting time to be a member of the EALT board of directors. Pam Wight, our Executive Director, Rebecca Ellis, our Project Coordinator and Stephanie Weizenbach, our Outreach Coordinator, work tirelessly to promote and move the organization forward. They are 100% committed to EALT, and our success is largely due to their efforts.

In the past year, EALT has continued to grow and find opportunities to celebrate our success. A brief summary of the year's highlights include:

- Celebrated the securement of our sixth property, named Boisvert's GreenWoods, an 80 acre parcel north of the Town of Morinville in Sturgeon County.
- Continued to steward over 1,200 acres of natural areas in the Edmonton region.
- Communication, communication & more communication. Watch for us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Flickr and YouTube.
- Celebrated with our Executive Director, Pam Wight, who received the Edgar T. Jones Conservation Award from the Edmonton Nature Club.
- Held our second annual Nature's Nourishment local food dinner and fundraiser at Prairie Gardens, near Bon Accord, with 108 guests. Watch the EALT website for details on our third annual Nature's Nourishment event in early September 2015.
- Published a Children's Activity Booklet and Butterfly Identification Guide, to complement our Species at Risk in Alberta Guide.
- Appointed four new board members: Jane Maze, Barry McDonald, Dr. Ian Montgomerie and Angela Weaver.

Our greatest challenge as an organization for 2015 is to work towards secure, stable funding and improve our fundraising capabilities. We have quickly come to realize that the opportunities, energy and desire to preserve natural areas in the region are plentiful. Unfortunately, the acquisition and stewardship of these lands is a costly and ongoing process. Our Board and supporters need to outreach to the region's business community and continue to spread the word about EALT to our neighbours and friends.

As chair of the board, I want to thank all of our donors, partners, advisors, volunteers and especially our board members and staff for their contributions over the past year. Our organization could not function without volunteers and the efforts of many.



Glen Thoman
Chair of the Edmonton and Area Land Trust



Board of Directors

Glen Thoman, Chair

Project Manager
Al-Terra Engineering

Patty Walker, Secretary

Corporate Strategy Director
City of Fort Saskatchewan

Krista Tremblett

Engagement Specialist
Alberta Environmental Monitoring,
Evaluation and Reporting Agency

Grant Pearsell

Director, City of Edmonton
Parks and Biodiversity

Patricia McKendrick

President
Master Gardeners Association of Alberta,
and Edmonton Horticultural Society

Douwe Vanderwel

Supervisor, Planning and Engineering
City of Edmonton, Corporate Properties
Branch

Martin Garber-Conrad, Treasurer

Chief Executive Officer
Edmonton Community Foundation

Allan Bolstad

Executive Director
Edmonton Federation of Community
Leagues

Dr. Raquel Feroe

Physician
LifeMark Health Institute

Dr. Ian Montgomerie

President
IMI Strategics

Barry McDonald

Newspaper Reporter
Pipestone Flyer

Angela Weaver

Legal Counsel
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.

Jane Maze

Alberta Human Rights Commission

EALT welcomes Sina Kazemi, Community Service-Learning Non-Profit Board Intern from the University of Alberta. Sina will learn about board activities, while completing a project to benefit our conservation efforts.

We are thankful for the entire Board of Directors who give their time to work for the Edmonton and Area Land Trust. We would also like to thank our board members who completed their terms in 2014:

Tom Andersen, Manager, Commercial Construction

Andrew Tait, Principal Owner, Helm Safety Training

Ryan Clarke, Senior Tax Accountant, Faber LLP, Tax Department

Sarah Dixon, Intergovernmental Officer, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Land Stewardship and Securement Activities

Securement

2014 marked the securement of our sixth property, named Boisvert's GreenWoods, after the family who donated the land. This 80 acre property north of Morinville is a valuable refuge for wildlife and a stepping stone for their movement throughout the landscape. We already have pictures of moose and deer roaming this beautiful forested place, taken with a wildlife motion sensor camera, and launched our field season enthusiastically by installing nest boxes for chickadees, with the 111th LDS Scout group.



Stewardship

We continued to steward over 1,200 acres of natural areas in the Edmonton region in 2014, with several large projects completed. Our Glory Hills property received a brand new fence along the east boundary, funded by a grant from EPCOR, with several gates and stiles installed at strategic points to allow foot access. Our very helpful local stewards maintain the network of trails on this property all year long, making it a beautiful place to enjoy hiking, photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Our resident loons return year after year to the lake at Glory Hills, and visitors are bound to catch a glimpse of them or hear their haunting yodels during a visit in spring or early summer.



This year volunteers removed barbed wire from fences that aren't appropriate for wildlife, because the wire is either too high for animals to jump over or too low for young wildlife to crawl under, or grown into trees or vegetation. An amazing 9.5 klms of old barbed wire was removed from our Glory Hills, Golden Ranches, Ministik and Boisvert's GreenWoods lands! Removing and modifying the fences on our lands in this way makes them safer for wildlife as they move in and through our properties.

Invasive plants are always a concern, and need annual work. We tackled these weeds at several of our properties this year with a variety of methods and with the incredible help of our dedicated volunteers. Keeping invasive plants in check on our lands ensures that the native vegetation continues to thrive, providing important habitat for wildlife for nesting, foraging, and shelter.

In a new partnership with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, we launched *Wildlife into the Wild*, where rehabilitated wildlife are released into the wild to make our properties their home. This year we released fox kits, muskrat, ducklings, skunk kits and young ravens onto our lands. We also began a partnership with Leaf2Wing and planted milkweed seeds at our Pipestone Creek property, to create habitat for butterflies such as Monarchs.



In 2014, we began the process for several more property securements that we expect to come to fruition relatively soon. This included many discussions with landowners, site visits, report preparation and grant applications in anticipation of a busy year of natural areas securement.

Natural Areas in the City of Edmonton

In early 2014, an Order in Council enabled a Conservation Easement to be registered against the Larch Sanctuary lands within Whitemud Creek Nature Reserve. We are working with the City of Edmonton to

implement this. EALT commissioned the required Baseline Documentation Report and submitted this to the City in mid fall. We now await the registration of the CE on title with the City, and thereafter will collaborate on the development of the Natural Area Management Plan.

Land Stewardship and Securement Activities

Education

EALT staff and volunteers are proud of creating a [Children's Activity Booklet](#) which complements our [Species at Risk in Alberta Guide](#). This booklet spreads awareness about many species at risk, and is a learning tool for conservation for young people and both are the first such guides in Alberta.

EALT and volunteers also produced a [Butterfly Identification Guide](#) to help visitors of EALT Conservation Lands identify common butterflies. The brochure aims to spark interest in butterfly species and conservation.



We worked with several classes from the University of Alberta through the Community Service-Learning Program, completing projects related to a variety of topics, including communications plans, ecological and Aboriginal history of the Golden Ranches area, snowmobile use around Pipestone Creek, and environmental toxins. EALT continues to build on relationships with educational institutions for our mutual benefit and practical learning.

EALT also teamed up with the Serving Communities Internship Program to recruit student interns to assist in researching options for a spring fundraiser, and examining methods for testing water quality.

Communications and Outreach

We continue to improve our communications. Our e-newsletter and volunteer network emails are now mobile friendly and we are continually updating our website. EALT also joined LinkedIn to add to our network of social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Flickr and YouTube.

EALT engaged in many education and outreach activities in 2014. Staff and volunteers hosted information booths at the City Market Downtown, Old Strathcona Farmers' Market, Seedy Sunday, Earth Day Festival, Migratory Bird Day, John Janzen Nature Centre, Blue Dot Tour, and Edmonton Timeraiser. Presentations were made to the Canadian Bar Association, International Right of Way Association, Fort Saskatchewan Rotary Club, King's University College, Master Naturalists' Program, Strathearn Scouts, and Goldbar Preschool. EALT also hosted the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance's Sturgeon Watershed Committee Tour at Boisvert's Greenwood Conservation Lands, to discuss private conservation benefits and partnership possibilities.

EALT's 2nd Annual *Nature's Nourishment* event was another great success! The event was promoted by The Tomato Magazine, CORUS Radio, and numerous community event calendars. EALT welcomed 108 guests at a local farm, who all enjoyed a gourmet, wine-paired meal, creatively crafted by award-winning Chef Blair Lebsack and his culinary team.



Fundraising and Grant-raising

Fundraising Campaign

In 2014, we extended our fundraising focus to include crowd-funding campaigns including the successful *Give Wildlife a Home*, Giving Tuesday campaign and three charitable gift item campaigns for the giving season. We also promoted our charitable profile through ATB Cares, which matches donations by 15% and covers transaction fees.

Our main fundraising focus was an electronic appeal in late fall. This is increasingly successful, and we very much appreciate those who have chosen monthly support via Canada Helps, including those who gave anonymously. We'd also like to thank the following individuals and businesses who gave generously to EALT.

Steward \$5,000 - \$9,999

Brookfield Residential

Supporter \$1,000 - \$2,499

Diana Baragar

AB Chapter Canadian Land
Reclamation Association

Darryl Hay

John Maude & Susan Quinn
Charitable Foundation

Robert Schille

Friend \$100 - \$999

Al-Terra Engineering Ltd.

Mary Bailey

Sarah Bailey

Michaela Bily

Mary Binette

Ronald Bjorge

Halina Boisvert

Allan Bolstad

Brendan Bolstad

Grant Burchnall

Margaret Campbell

Jayne Carre

Gisele Chevalier

Jill Clayton

Richard C. Clayton

Stephen Copen

Wendy Davis

Sharon Downs

Rebecca Ellis

Raquel Feroe

Amelie Fontaine

Jayne Galanka

Martin Garber-Conrad

Jim Gendron

Anne Gregory

Lauralee Harrison

Anne Henderson

Joanne Homik

Clare & Thomasine Irwin

William & Denyse Jopling

Hubert Kammerer

Gordon Kerr

K & J Kouri

Janet Kuperus

Loren Labonte

Tara Lawrence

Nancy MacDonald

Peter & Cheryl Mahaffy

C. Michael May

Janice McCrum

Susan McKay

Patricia McKenrick

Melcor Developments Ltd.

Mary Lou Myles

Kentia Naud

Grant Pearsell

Jeffrey Pearson

John & Caroline Perry

Margaret Reine

Darryl Rewniak

Bill Reynolds

Martin Roland

Kim Sanderson

Fran Savage

Chantel Smith

Staples Advantage

Robert Swart

Dolores Tewitz

Donna Tribe

Susan Ulna

Douwe Vanderwel

Jim Visser

Patricia Walker

Jay White

Pamela Wight

Janet Wright

Wildbird General Store

Donors up to \$100

Wendy Allsopp	Ron Horton	Glenn Sinclair
Teresa Androschuk	Shannon Lemire	Mark Tempest
John & Ann Ashton	Carol Misana	Raymond Theriault
Laura Campbell	Tessa Owen	Sylvia Titchener
ATB Cares	Cathy Pye	Larry Vande Griend
Megan Engel	Howard Randall	Brett Wilcoxon
Nancy Fletcher	Colleen Raymond	
Walter Harris	David Rose	

EALT has been building endowments held at the Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to benefit EALT's perpetual conservation. We are grateful to the ECF for receiving donations to these funds, which now include the following, and to which all are welcome to contribute:

Capital and Conservation Funds

- *EALT Capital Fund* – Supports securement of new properties
- *North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society Capital Fund* – Supports conservation of natural lands in the City of Edmonton
- *EALT Operating Endowment Fund* – Supports ongoing operational costs, all of which are critical for conservation activities, but difficult to fund through other means
- *Noni Lee Conservation Endowment* – Supports operations for conservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity

Natural Area Stewardship Funds

- *EALT Conservation Endowment Fund* – Supports stewardship of our properties
- *Betty Fisher Fund* – Supports biodiversity and ecological integrity of *EALT* lands
- *Ross and Eleanor Wein Family Fund* – Supports land stewardship activities and projects
- *Russell Family Conservation Fund* – Supports conservation of natural ecosystems and cultural heritage landscapes
- *Prairie Crocus Conservation Fund* – Supports biodiversity and ecological integrity of *EALT* lands
- *Livia Stoke Foundation EALT Fund* – Supports biodiversity and ecological integrity of *EALT* lands
- *Ministik Stewardship Endowment Fund* – Supports stewardship of our Ministik property
- *Pipestone Creek Endowment Fund* – Supports stewardship of our Pipestone Creek property
- *Boisvert's GreenWoods Endowment Fund* – Supports stewardship of our Boisvert's GreenWoods property

Agricultural Funds

- *EALT Agricultural Legacy Fund* – Supports securement and stewardship of agricultural lands

We also received donations from other funds held at the ECF: Cinders Fund, Ross & Eleanor Wein Family Fund, Andrekson Family Fund, John & Leni Honsaker Fund, Abstractive Consulting Community Fund, and an anonymous donor. In addition, we are aware of the following individual donors to ECF funds in favour of EALT: Carl Reine, Nexen, Allan Bolstad, Riverbend Gardens Ltd., Donald & Carol Inglis, James Visser, Ove & Susan Minsos, Russell family & friends, Betty Fisher, Raquel Feroe & Eric Gormley, Livia Stoyke family & friends, Harry Stelfox, Esther Ondrak, Allan Bolstad, Pam Wight, Katherine & Ronnie Ploit & family, Jennifer Wight & Orlando Martinez. We thank all other donors to EALT funds held at the ECF, who gave anonymously.

We are grateful to Wetaskiwin County for waiving property taxes for our Pipestone Creek property.

We'd also like to thank the donors to our collections boxes, and to the businesses which display them: the Wildbird General Store, Wild Birds Unlimited, Earths General Store, and others.

Many thanks, you all make conservation possible!

Awards and Grants

EALT was delighted that our Executive Director, Pam Wight, received the Edmonton Nature Club's *Edgar T. Jones Conservation Award*. This award acknowledges an individual who has made a significant contribution to the knowledge, appreciation, or conservation of nature in the Edmonton region.

Several grants enabled stewardship tasks at our properties this year, such as collecting baseline data, removing old barbed wire, installing a new wildlife-friendly fence, and for equipment and training. We are grateful to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, EPCOR, Alberta Conservation Association, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and Norcross Wildlife Foundation for their support.



Volunteers

The Edmonton and Area Land Trust is grateful to the many volunteers who make our work possible. Their dedication and hard work have resulted in great gains for conservation. Many thanks!

Dillon Abma
Adwoa Adasi
Bob Affleck
Nazar Al-Haddad
Halcyee Anderson
Fariba Asadi
Erin Beardy

Carlos Beca
Lisa Bergen
Amelie Bigras
John Boeglin
Mary-Jo Boeglin
Allan Bolstad
Brendan Bolstad

Stephanie Boonstra
Andy Boyd
Jayne Carre
Frances Cearn
Robert Chamberlain
Shibi Chandy
Ryan Clarke

Dawne Colwell	Nicholas Korn	Elizabeth Rydz
Ray Cromie	Naomi Korner	Richard Schultz
Jennifer Dagsvik	Patrick Kyle	Rod Sebastian
Gerry Davis	Jordie Law	Yike Shen
Sarah Dixon	Marc LeBlanc	Tony Sneep
Louise Dorner	Haopu Li	Susan Spyker
Janice Duncan	Laura Linares	Aurana Srithavatchai
Dave Ealey	Preshani Maistry	Monica Storch
Alie Ellis	Megan Maloney	Andy Tait
Andy Ellis	Katie Marginet	Mark L. Tempest
Andreas Enggist	Heather Marshall	Raymond Theriault
Raquel Feroe	Nicole Martin	Glen Thoman
Betty Fisher	John Maude	Adrian Thyse
Blaze Flewell	Jane Maze	Krista Tremblett
Jean Fukushima	Barry McDonald	Donna Tribe
Martin Garber-Conrad	Patricia McKendrick	Vicki Trombley
Dave Gibson	Andy Monteith	Larry Vande Griend
Karen Gibson	Dorothy Monteith	Douwe Vanderwel
Sandi Giesler	Ian Montgomerie	George von Platen
Conrad Gietz	Terry Nickerson	Glenys von Platen
Jo-Ann Gray	Alice Olayiwola	Fred Vuong
Anne Gregory	Carleen Paltzat	Patty Walker
Cassandra Guzzo	Nikki Paskar	Tao Wang
Hasan Hamze	Grant Pearsell	Yifu Wang
Anne Henderson	Sarah Pearson	Doug Webster
Natalie Hillbretcht	Ronnie Ploit	William Weizenbach
Aleksandra Janowicz	Kevin Quinn	A.J. Wells
Sina Kazemi	Colleen Raymond	Katy Wu
Walter Kehl	Hil Reine	Qiaochu Yu
Janelle King	Marg Reine	Tetyana Zuk
Patty Klak	Bill Reynolds	
	Dave Rose	

Thank you also, to Kevin, Andrew, Evan, and Zachary of the 111th LDS Scout Troop for building and installing nest boxes at our newest property, Boisvert's GreenWoods.

EALT Financial Highlights

Edmonton and Area Land Trust

Statement of Operations

January 2, 2013 to December 31, 2013

UNRESTRICTED REVENUE:

Grants - Edmonton Community Foundation	\$105,788
- Culture and Community Spirit.....	16,516
Donations - Edmonton Community Foundation.....	29,667
- Other.....	18,593
Fundraising, interest and other	18,110
Total unrestricted revenue	<u>188,674</u>

RESTRICTED REVENUE:

Grants (Note 4)	180,743
Amortization of deferred revenue (Note 4).....	<u>2,868</u>
Total restricted revenue	<u>183,611</u>

TOTAL REVENUE..... 372,285

EXPENSES:

Advertising and promotion	11,214
Appraisal fees	12,785
Amortization	3,510
Board meetings.....	917
Communication	3,372
Conference fees	-
Consulting fees	-
Endowment contribution	108,585
Fundraising	3,286
Goods and services tax	1,260
Insurance	4,514
Interest and bank charges	159
Office.....	6,279
Professional fees	11,022
Property taxes	2,022
Salary and benefits	162,987
Subcontract.....	2,101
Travel	<u>7,771</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES..... 341,784

EXCESS OF (EXPENSES) REVENUE FOR THE YEAR \$ 30,501

Edmonton and Area Land Trust
Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash	\$64,260
Term deposits	332,012
Accounts receivable	3,107
Prepaid expenses	<u>3,239</u>

Total current assets 402,618

Ecologically Valuable Land 4,337,925

Equipment (Note 3) 17,893

TOTAL ASSETS \$4,758,436

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,080
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	70,237

Total current liabilities 78,317

Deferred Revenue (Note 4) 18,128

Net Assets:

Invested in ecologically valuable land	4,337,925
Invested in equipment	2,114
Unrestricted	321,952

Total net assets 4,661,991

TOTAL \$4,758,436

The Edmonton and Area Land Trust was audited for the year 2013. The financial statements are excerpted from the audited statements, and exclude the audit report and notes. A complete copy of the auditor's report is available on request.