



Annual Report 2012-2013

Protecting our land, preserving our legacy

Edmonton and Area Land Trust
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Photos: Dorothy Monteith, Colleen Raymond and EALT

Message from our Chair

Another year has come and passed quickly. As the board chair of the Edmonton Area Land Trust (EALT), my role is supported by dedicated staff, board members and volunteers. Our organization continues to be busy with the investigation of property inquiries, maintenance of our existing properties, collaboration with partners and spreading the word about EALT. It is exciting to be a member of the EALT board of directors and be a part of such a dynamic organization. Pam Wight, our Executive Director, Rebecca Ellis, our Project Coordinator, and Stephanie May, our new Conservation Officer, 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 gain momentum and celebrate our success. A brief summary of the year's highlights include:

- Honored recipient of a 2013 Emerald Award in the not-for-profit category.
- Celebrated five years of EALT operation with our open house "Celebrating Conservation" at the Old Timers' Cabin.
- Held our first annual Nature's Nourishment local food dinner and fundraiser at Prairie Gardens, near Bon Accord.
- Celebrated the grand opening of our Pipestone Creek property in Wetaskawin County with local residents and elected officials.
- Continued to work on land acquisition and conservation easement leads.
- Published a Guide to Species at Risk in Alberta, the first of its kind in the Province.
- Welcomed a new staff member, Stephanie May, who is EALT's enthusiastic Conservation Officer.
- Appointed three new board members: Ryan Clarke, Sarah Dixon and Patricia Walker.
- Updated the EALT Business Plan and Strategic Plan, including a successful one-day board retreat to work on the plans.

In 2014, EALT will be hosting our second annual Nature's Nourishment event at Prairie Gardens in early September.

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. Attitudes toward land conservation in the region continue to be progressive and we foresee many new opportunities for long term preservation of our natural areas in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Thoman".

Glen Thoman
Chair of the Edmonton and Area Land Trust

Board of Directors

Glen Thoman, Chair

Project Manager
Al-Terra Engineering

Krista Tremblett, Secretary

Acting Section Head
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource
Development

Grant Pearsell

Director, City of Edmonton
Office of Natural Areas

Patricia McKendrick

President
Master Gardeners Association of Alberta

Douwe Vanderwel

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

Allan Bolstad

Executive Director
Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

Patty Walker

Corporate Strategy Director
City of Fort Saskatchewan

Martin Garber-Conrad, Treasurer

Chief Executive Officer
Edmonton Community Foundation

Dr. Raquel Feroe

Physician
LifeMark Health Institute

Tom Andersen

Manager
Commercial Construction

Andrew Tait

Technical Trainer
EPCOR Utilities Inc.

Sarah Dixon

Intergovernmental Officer
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource
Development

Ryan Clarke

Senior Tax Accountant
Faber LLP, Tax Department

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 2013:

Marg Reine, Science educator

Marc LeBlanc, Executive Director, University of Alberta Campus Food Bank

Claire Ashton, Senior Consultation Advisor, Planning ATCO Electric, Capital Projects Division

Land Stewardship and Securement Activities

Pipestone Creek

Local stewards monitor this property for off-highway vehicle (OHV) trespassing, and groom the walking trails, and one steward built a walk-through stile at the main access point. Many nature enthusiasts, photographers, and other low-impact recreationists enjoy this land. EALT held a Grand Opening for neighbours, stewards and media; local dignitaries spoke and planted ceremonial trees, and EALT gave a guided nature walk. We partnered with The Carbon Farmer to plant an additional 25,000 trees in 2013, for a total of over 47,000. Many volunteers helped with tree



planting and also planted 50 willows to stabilize a section of the creek bank. Volunteers helped reduce OHV trespassing, by installing additional signage and snow fence, and developing an educational brochure that was mailed to local residents. We are monitoring animals on the property by winter wildlife tracking and by infrared sensor cameras. The cameras have caught glimpses of foxes, coyotes, and many white-tailed deer. Controlling invasive weeds is a continuous management activity on the land; a small patch of leafy spurge was sprayed this year, and The Carbon Farmer manually removed five tonnes of Canada thistle.



Golden Ranches

The Golden Ranches property is managed by a partnership of land trusts. EALT introduced the partners to the benefits of working with The Carbon Farmer to plant and maintain trees in areas needing restoration. In 2013, we finalized an agreement and approximately 225,000 trees were planted in fall, and partners worked together to install signs. EALT volunteers stewarded the 3 quarters that EALT principally owns. Activities included collecting baseline data, pulling common tansy, building and installing waterfowl nest boxes and removing a mile of old barbed wire interior fence. About 60 grade 6 students from Holy Spirit Catholic School in Sherwood Park participated in stewardship through the assembly and installation of 25 bluebird nest boxes. The students, learned a great deal, gained valuable experience, and made an important connection with nature through this process.



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Glory Hills

Glory Hills has attracted numerous local stewards and saw many stewardship activities. We began trail development, for weed management access. We held many volunteer days, to make the fences wildlife friendly and to pull noxious weeds (*Weeding for Wildlife*). The property was surveyed for future fencing. Glory Hills was visited by the popular *Parkland County Agriculture Tour* and participants were very enthusiastic about the tour, which included hearing about our restoration and monitoring efforts (e.g., the recently installed waterfowl nest boxes and infrared sensor wildlife cameras). These Wildlife Cams captured several curious moose. In addition to the waterfowl nest boxes, a Venturer group and additional volunteers, assembled and installed 15 chickadee nest boxes to supply roosting and nesting habitat.



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Hicks

We continue to steward our Hicks property in partnership with the NCC. New signs were installed in the parking area of the property. To increase visitor enjoyment, a picnic table and a garbage can have been added in the parking area, just across from a beautiful wetland that always seems to be full of bird songs.

Ministik

Ministik continues to be a serene natural area, home to many wild animals. Master Bird Bander, Hardy Pletz, inspected our nest boxes for owls. The boxes have not been used yet, but Hardy is optimistic the owls will use them for years to come. He helped install a sensor camera to monitor wildlife, and it recorded numerous moose and white-tailed deer. Ministik's local steward completed fencing the land to protect its conservation values from damage by neighbouring livestock and off-highway vehicles. EALT continued work with The Carbon Farmer in 2013, to plant an additional 8,820 balsam poplar and trembling aspen, for a total planted of almost 18,000 seedlings.

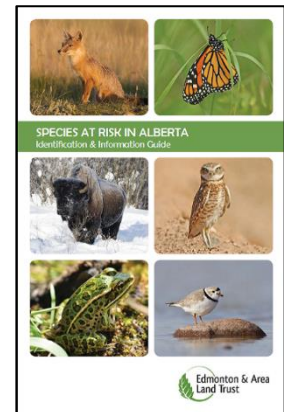


Education, Communications and Outreach

Education

EALT staff and volunteers are proud we created an Alberta first: a *Species at Risk in Alberta Guide*, available on our website: <http://www.ealt.ca/resources/>. The Guide spreads awareness about many species at risk, and is a learning tool for conservation. EALT also teamed up with the University of Alberta's Community-Service Learning program to work with students on real-life projects with classroom value. Three projects materialized from this partnership including: Blog Entries, Children's Outreach Activities, and Volunteer Profile Video. EALT continues to build on relationships with educational institutions.

EALT and volunteers researched and produced a *Children in Nature* brochure, which demonstrates the benefits to our children of playing in, and enjoying nature. Other brochures published in 2013 include: *Winter Wildlife and their Tracks*; *Benefits of Natural Areas to Climate Change*; and *Country Meets Nature* – tips on how to protect natural areas in one's rural neighbourhood.



Communications and Outreach

We continue to improve our communications. Besides our e-newsletter and a software program which helps us send notices to volunteers and others more efficiently, EALT has various social media: Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Flickr and YouTube.

This year, we developed individual pages on our website to describe each conservation area, including property maps and directional maps. We also added a *Species Spotlight* section, where interesting species found on the properties are described.

EALT continued to participate in working groups at the request of the City of Edmonton. These related to the Woodbend Natural Area and several Biodiversity Working Group meetings with COE and other NGOs. We worked with a local green realtor on strategies to reach out to owners of natural areas within the City. And we worked with the North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society, to help

launch awareness about the need to conserve Edmonton's natural areas, through community presentations, media events, and public launch events. Those interested in helping protect our precious natural areas can donate to a recently established North Saskatchewan River Valley Society Conservation Endowment held at the Edmonton Community Foundation.

EALT engaged in many education and outreach activities in 2013. Volunteers hosted information booths at Enbridge, Earth Day Expo, Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), MEC's Paddefest, Old Strathcona Farmers' Market, City Market Downtown, Edmonton Community Foundation's *Vital Signs* conference, and at the *Hot Club Swing Dance* EALT fundraising event. Presentations were made to the Rotary Club, Community Recreation Coordinators, River Valley Alliance, City of Edmonton's Master Naturalists Program, University of Alberta, Edmonton Nature Club, King's University College, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance partnership workshop, and we presented to the youthful crowd at Green Drinks Edmonton, which attracted volunteers. EALT also hosted Parkland County's Agriculture Tour at our Glory Hills Conservation Lands.

A talented volunteer created a video compilation from EALT's Wildlife Camera at our Ministik property, and also posted videos regarding our Emerald Award. EALT partnered with students at the University of Alberta, through the Community Service Learning program, to develop a video profiling volunteers and why they like working with EALT. These, and all other videos about EALT's activities, are posted on EALT's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/EdAreaLandTrust>



In 2013, EALT was 5 years old in terms of operations, and we held a *5th Anniversary Celebration*. This was the famous 'day of the big snow storm', so we had reduced numbers. But those who braved the snow to hear MLA Steve Young, our chair, business partners and volunteers, were able to enjoy our presentations, hear about our activities, and enjoy our special cake.

After 5 years, we decided to develop a signature event, named *Nature's Nourishment*. Part outreach and part fundraiser, it was a huge success! It was held on a local farm, with award-winning chef Blair Lebsack who focuses on locally grown, raised, or gathered foods. The event consisted of a unique atmosphere, entertaining activities, great company, and a five course meal with wine pairings.



Fundraising and Grant-raising

Fundraising Campaign

In 2013, we focussed our fundraising on 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 - \$2,499John Maude & Susan Quinn
Charitable FoundationEpcor Community Essential Council
Darryl Hay

Enerplus Corp

Friend \$100 - \$999Derek Durocher
Robert Reckhow
William & Denyse Jopling
Tina Mix
Tara Lawrence
Adolf Buse
Jeff Pearson
Richard Clayton
Hubert Kammerer
Janice McCrum
Marg Reine
Martin Garber-Conrad
Allan Bolstad
Jay White
Katherine Lewin
Warren Love
Native Plants Producer Society of
AlbertaWendy Allsopp
Julie Deslippe
Raquel Feroe
Jayne Carre
Kim Westcott
Ursula Matthews
Janet Kuperus
Pam Wight
Bill Reynolds
Katherine Koch
Mariano Ploit
Maria Salcedo
Thomas Anderson
Patricia Walker
Maria Royal
Susan Spyker
The Carbon Farmer
Martin RolandTanner Waldo
Clare & Thomasine Irwin
Ronald Bjorge
Anne Gregory
Michael Seneka
Jennifer Kouri
Robyn Tansey
Stephen Copen
Rudy A. Zacharias
Don Iveson
Sandy Godel
Robyne Walters
Patricia McKendrick
James Laing
Douwe Vanderwel
Al-Terra Engineering Ltd.
Linda Duncan
C. Michael May**Donors up to \$100**Brendan Bolstad
Mark & Allison Lewis
Teresa AndroschukChris Procter
Bert Murray
Derrick DurocherMark Tempest
Marion Elder

We are grateful to the Edmonton Community Foundation for receiving donations to endowment funds which were in favour of EALT. In 2013, these included donations from, Cinders Fund, Ross & Eleanor Wein Family Fund, Andrekson Family Fund, John & Barbara Poole Family Fund, John & Leni Honsaker Fund, Abstractive Consulting Community Fund, 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 other ECF donors to EALT funds, who gave anonymously.

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, Second Cup on 149st & 89 Ave., and other businesses.

Many thanks, you all make conservation possible!

Awards and Grants

EALT is honoured and delighted to have been a recipient of a 2013 Emerald Award. This prestigious award from the Alberta Emerald Foundation recognizes and rewards excellence in environmental initiatives. Many of the Board, staff and EALT advisors were at the ceremony to see the presentation.



EALT was also pleased to be the focus of a City of Edmonton Council Protocol. Councillor Leibovici said: *“The award recognizes the high value the EALT places on partnerships to accomplish joint goals. The EALT is stewarding the land for future generations through their mission to grow residents love for local habitats”*.

Individual Board members were also honoured in 2013, in receiving *the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal*. We are proud that 3 current / former EALT Board members – Martin Garber-Conrad, Allan Bolstad, and Cindy Chiasson were included.



Besides these honours, we are delighted that our Executive Director, Pam Wight, was named as one of Edmonton’s *Top 100 Women in Business*. The goal of this Wanderer Online project was to inspire pride in Edmonton’s female business leaders, whether in the for profit or not-for-profit sector. The top 100 named reflect: business reach, business development, innovation in business, leadership, and community outreach.

Through the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development’s Land Trust grant program, EALT received a substantial grant to steward our Pipestone Creek property. This grant helped fund baseline data collection and other stewardship activities.

A generous grant from the Alberta Conservation Association enabled several stewardship tasks at Glory Hills, Pipestone Creek, Golden Ranches, and Ministik. Stewardship activities included controlling invasive species, constructing and installing nest boxes, and purchasing infrared sensor cameras to monitor wildlife.

Canon's Take Root Program, presented by Evergreen, donated a camera and funded restoration and education for our Pipestone Creek property. This involved planting trees, installing additional signage and snow fence, and the development of an educational brochure for local residents.

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation funded educational materials such as our *Species at Risk in Alberta Guide* and a number of other brochures that continue to be developed. A TD training grant supplied funds for professional development.

EALT also received support from PennWest for volunteer appreciation and recruitment activities.

Several other discounts and in-kind donations helped us with stewardship and outreach activities, including in-kind donations of nest boxes from the Wildbird General Store and the 59th Greenfield Venturers.



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!

In 2013, volunteers not only made field work and stewardship activities on our properties possible, but contributed to many other projects as well, including fundraising, outreach, hosting meetings, writing, producing handouts and brochures, and adding content to our website.

Bob Affleck
Tom Anderson
Halcyee Anderson
Fariba Asadi
Claire Ashton
Melanie Atkins
Narisse Atkins
Madeline Baldwin
Karl Beringhs

John Boeglin
Mary-Jo Boeglin
Corin Boersma
Allan Bolstad
Brendan Bolstad
Andy Boyd
Alicia Bradsen
Tyson Callicott
Lu Carbyn

Jayne Carre
JL Carreon-Macedo
Susan Cavers
Frances Cearns
Shibi Chandy
Kathy Chiles
Bud Clarke
Dawne Colwell
Rosemarie Criss

Gerry Davis	Andrea Latos	Tyler Sewlal
Louise Dorner	Jordie Law	Darin Sherritt
Donald Dumkee	Marc LeBlanc	Rauno Silvennoinen
Janice Duncan	Caroline LeCourtois	Bob Smith
Barb Eglinski	Laura Linares	Susan Spyker
Jared Eglinski	Warren Loper	Kayla Stan
Andy Ellis	Clara Lund	Monica Storch
Alicia Entem	Preshani Maistry	Aurana Srihavatchai
Markus Eymann	Nicole Martin	Juliana Tang
Rocky Feroe	John Maude	Mark L. Tempest
Betty Fisher	Mike May	Glen Thoman
Jean Fukushima	Barry McDonald	Adrian Thyse
Cody Gautreau	Alison McIntosh	William Todd
Roxanne Genereux	Patricia McKendrick	Krista Tremblett
Dave Gibson	Mike Melin	Noah Tremblett
Karen Gibson	Andy Monteith	Donna Tribe
Conrad Gietz	Barb Monteith	Amber Unger
Anne Gregory	Dorothy Monteith	Douwe Vanderwel
Cassandra Guzzo	Lauren Nguyen	George von Platen
Constance Hazlett	Terry Nickerson	Glenys von Platen
Chelsea Holdom	Jessica Pawluk	Fred Vuong
Judy Johnson	Sarah Pearson	Patty Walker
Brent Kaup	Hardy Pletz	Yifu Wang
Walter Kehl	Rod Potter	Doug Webster
Valerie Kennedy	Colleen Raymond	William Weizenbach
Patty Klak	Hil Reine	A.J. Wells
Colin Knaupf	Marg Reine	Wildbird General Store
Susan, Kokas	Bill Reynolds	Nicole Woodman
Naomi Korner	Chelsey St. Louis	Hugh Yake
Brayden Lam	Richard Schultz	
Juliana Lambert	Rod Sebastian	

Thank you also, to the Holy Spirit Catholic School Grade 6 students, teachers and parent volunteers for building and installing nest boxes, as well as the 59th Greenfield Venturers.

EALT Financial Highlights

Edmonton and Area Land Trust Statement of Operations January 2, 2012 to December 31, 2012

UNRESTRICTED REVENUE:

Grants - Edmonton Community Foundation	\$101,214
- other	28,403
Donations	55,850
Fundraising and interest	3,145
Total unrestricted revenue	<u>188,612</u>

RESTRICTED REVENUE:

Grants (Note 4)	104,316
Amortization of deferred revenue (Note 4)	<u>2,059</u>
Total restricted revenue	<u>106,375</u>

TOTAL REVENUE

294,987

EXPENSES:

Advertising and promotion	1,147
Appraisal fees	10,226
Amortization	2,162
Board meetings	184
Communication	3,478
Conference fees	-
Consulting fees	1,538
Endowment contribution	59,250
Fundraising	1,790
Goods and services tax	1,147
Insurance	4,211
Interest and bank charges	52
Office	6,174
Professional fees	12,804
Property taxes	797
Salary and benefits	119,958
Subcontract	17,454
Travel	4,826

TOTAL EXPENSES

247,198

EXCESS OF (EXPENSES) REVENUE FOR THE YEAR

\$ 47,789

**Edmonton and Area Land Trust
Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2012**

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash	\$193,211
Term deposits	169,496
Accounts receivable	17,758
Prepaid expenses	<u>3,277</u>

Total current assets 383,742

Ecologically Valuable Land 4,337,925

Equipment (Note 3) 18,806

TOTAL ASSETS \$4,740,473

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,205
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	79,782

Total current liabilities 87,987

Deferred Revenue (Note 4) 20,996

Net Assets:

Invested in ecologically valuable land	4,337,925
Invested in equipment	159
Unrestricted	293,406

Total net assets 4,631,490

TOTAL \$4,740,473

The Edmonton and Area Land Trust was audited for the year 2012. 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.