



Annual Report 2011-2012

*Protecting our land, preserving our legacy*

Edmonton and Area Land Trust  
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Charitable Number: 85470 1356 RR0001

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*Photos: Dorothy Monteith, Colleen Raymond and EALT*



## Message from our Chair

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As I work through my first term as the board chair of the Edmonton Area Land Trust (EALT), I continue to be amazed at the dedication of our staff, board members and volunteers. Our organization continues to gather momentum and celebrate a number of successes from the past year. It has been my privilege to be a member of the EALT board of directors since its inception in 2007. Pam Wight, our Executive Director, and Rebecca Ellis, our Project Coordinator, work tirelessly to deal with land opportunities, broaden our network and steward our land holdings. They are truly committed to the organization, and our success is largely due to their efforts.



In the past year, EALT has continued to flourish. A brief summary of the year's highlights include:

- Acquisition of 104 acres on Pipestone Creek in Wetaskiwin County, plus work to collect data, remove weeds, install signage and begin tree planting.
- Work at our Ministik property, including new fencing, removal of old fencing wire, nestbox construction and installation, signage installation and tree planting.
- Work at our Glory Hills property, including weed removal and signage.
- Completion of Baseline Data Reports (BDRs) and Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) for the Glory Hills, Ministik and Pipestone Creek properties.
- We applied for and received over \$186,550 in grants to fund our work, including a significant contribution from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's Land Trust Grant program.
- Formation of a working relationship with The Carbon Farmer to plant over 30,000 trees on our Ministik and Pipestone Creek properties in 2012, with thousands more trees more to be planted in 2013.
- EALT was nominated and chosen as a finalist for the 2012 Emerald Awards.
- Undertook a successful one-day board retreat, including hosting Ms. Laurie Blakeman, MLA for Edmonton-Centre.

In 2013, EALT will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we are marking the occasion with an event on March 21, the spring solstice. We plan to bring together and thank our volunteers and donors, and to mark the occasion and look ahead to the next five years.

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. I also extend a special thank you to Marg Reine, our chair for the past three years, who has been an inspiration to us all, and continues to take on several important roles within EALT.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Glen Thoman', written in a cursive style.

Glen Thoman  
Chair of the Edmonton and Area Land Trust

## Board of Directors

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**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

**Martin Garber-Conrad, Treasurer**

Chief Executive Officer  
Edmonton Community Foundation

**Marg Reine**

Science educator

**Dr. Raquel Feroe**

Physician  
LifeMark Health Institute

**Marc LeBlanc**

Executive Director  
University of Alberta Campus Food Bank

**Claire Ashton**

Senior Consultation Advisor, Planning  
ATCO Electric, Capital Projects Division

**Tom Andersen**

Commercial Construction Manager

**Andrew Tait**

Helm Safety Training,  
Principal owner

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 2012:

Cindy Chiasson, Environmental Law Centre

Brenda Wispinski, Beaver Hills Initiative

Paul Roberts, Legacy Lands Conservation Society

Jim Savage, Lexmark Canada

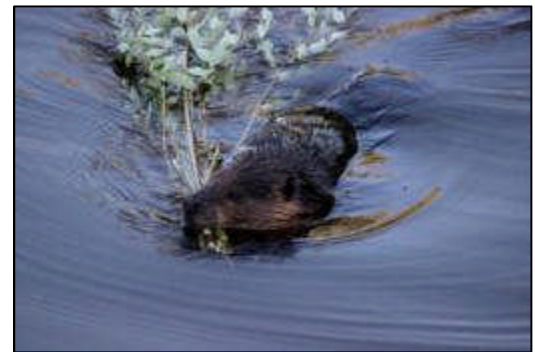
Ron Hayter, retired city councillor

## Land Stewardship and Securement Activities

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### Pipestone Creek

EALT's most recently acquired property, Pipestone Creek, is 104 acres of wooded forest adjacent to the creek. Considerable stewardship activities have occurred since its acquisition via an anonymous donor. Baseline data was collected with the help of many volunteers, and students from the University of Alberta Augustana campus assisted EALT in writing the Baseline Data Report and Conservation Management Plan. Volunteers helped pull common tansy at a *Weeding for Wildlife* event in August, including previous owners and local stewards who helped haul bags of weeds away. They also maintain the trails on the property. Volunteers braved chilly winds in October to install perimeter signs. Working with The Carbon Farmer, tree planting efforts began in September to restore portions of the property that are degraded as a result of top soil removal over 50 years ago. Over 20,000 white spruce seedlings were planted in 2012, with more deciduous trees to follow in 2013. Glen Thoman's scout troop assisted with planting. As a result of two articles in *The Pipestone Flyer*, many local people in the area have contacted EALT about getting involved in conservation at Pipestone Creek. With so much interest in the Pipestone Creek property, we look forward to providing better public access and education in 2013.



### Golden Ranches

The Golden Ranches properties continue to be a site for conservation organizations working together in partnership. Through sub-committee and full partner meetings, we agree on haying, weeding, signage, and other stewarding activities. There are also conservation plans underway to restore portions of the Golden Ranches through tree planting and other activities in 2013 and beyond, and to conduct various Citizen Science projects.



## Hicks

Working together with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, we've been stewarding the Hicks property, which conserves important aspen forests and wetlands. Much work has been done in the past on this property to remove debris and old fencing, and to plan signage.

## Glory Hills

The Glory Hills property was a site for several collaborative efforts in 2012. Parkland County installed perimeter signs on the property. Volunteers participated in a *Weeding for Wildlife* event to remove some of the noxious weeds around the lake. Due to further weed control work required, Environmental Studies students from the King's University College have prepared a *Weed Management and Trail Development Plan*, which will be used to guide our work in 2013 and beyond.



## Ministik

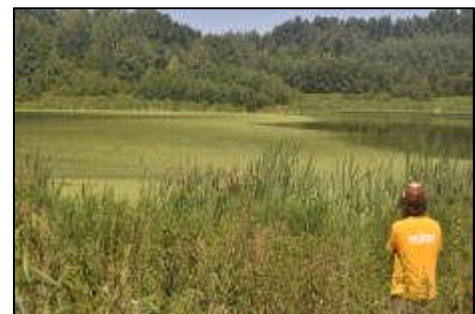
Many volunteers provided assistance at our Ministik property in 2012, including baseline data collection. The boundary fences were old, and off the original survey lines, so after surveying the property, we commissioned new fences and gates. Volunteers helped remove the old fencing. We installed 20 nestboxes around the wetlands for common goldeneye and bufflehead. The nestboxes were constructed by the 59<sup>th</sup> Greenfield Scout Group, with Cubs assisting in construction, and senior Scouts taking a lead role in the whole project. Perimeter signs were placed on the property by a local steward, who continues to help at the property. Working with The Carbon Farmer, EALT has begun planting around 9,000 native trees at the Ministik property, with more to be planted in 2013.



## Natural Areas in the City of Edmonton

Further to an MOU signed with the City of Edmonton, related to the natural areas remaining in the City, EALT has contacted selected owners of natural areas, to determine if they have interest in selling, donating their land, or establishing a conservation easement. We expect to have further discussions with one landowner, and we are devising a proactive strategy with a green realtor, to find out when such lands might go on the market.

In May, 2011, we met with City representatives and others, about Larch Sanctuary, for which a Conservation Easement had been agreed to for some time. It was suggested that Ministerial approval be sought to obviate the need to re-apply for a Conservation Easement every 3 years, now that the lands have passed onto the City. Since then, City Administration has been discussing who should write the letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting this exemption. EALT is ready to implement stewardship activities in the Larch Sanctuary on Whitemud Creek as soon as the CE is in place.





## Education, Communications and Outreach

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### Education

EALT led King's University College students on a field trip to Larch Sanctuary, and planted trees on the school grounds at Edmonton Christian School with grade 6 classes on National Tree Day in September. Several academic institutions contributed to EALT projects in 2012. University of Alberta students at the Augustana campus in Camrose assisted with development of the Baseline Data Report and Conservation Management Plan for the Pipestone Creek property. Environmental Studies students from the King's University College completed a weed management and trail development plan for the Glory Hills property, which will help guide stewardship activities there in the future. Education students from the University of Alberta produced several outreach and education materials for EALT, including a *Winter Wildlife* brochure that is available on EALT's website. EALT looks forward to developing more partnerships with Grant MacEwan, NAIT and other academic institutions in the future.



### Communications

EALT worked to improve how we communicate with our supporters, and implemented the use of an e-newsletter software program to send newsletters and notices more efficiently, with the ability to opt in or out. EALT also launched social media sites, including Twitter, Google+, Flickr and YouTube.

This year, we have developed individual webpages on our website, which describe each property, and in addition, have added a Species Spotlight section, where interesting species found on the properties can be described.

### Networking and Outreach

EALT participated in various 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. These groups look forward to ways of collaborating and working together in the future.

EALT engaged in many activities in 2012 for education and outreach. Volunteers hosted information booths at Seedy Sunday, World Water Week, the Government of Alberta's Eco-Expo, the John Janzen Nature Centre, Mountain Equipment Co-op, the University of Alberta Sustainability Fair, and at several Farmers Markets in the city. Presentations were made to the City of Edmonton's Master Naturalists Program, the Canadian Federation of University Women, Parkland County Council, and Parkland's Environmental Advisory Committee, King's University College, and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

A talented volunteer created two videos on EALT's Pipestone Creek and Glory Hills properties, with more videos to come in the future. These, and all other videos about EALT's activities, are posted on EALT's YouTube channel, at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/EdAreaLandTrust>

## Fundraising

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### Fundraising Campaign

Edmonton City Councillor Don Iveson acted as the hardworking Honourary Chair of our 2012 fundraising campaign, which raised a significant amount for the Edmonton and Area Land Trust – many thanks! Volunteers outreached to a variety of contacts, including individuals and businesses, to raise funds for EALT. We are so pleased that these critical funds allow us to continue to secure and steward lands for regional residents.

We'd like to thank the following individuals, companies, and businesses who gave directly to EALT.

<b>Steward \$5,000 - \$9,999</b>		
Canadian Land Reclamation Association	Brookfield Residential	Jan McMillan
<b>Supporter \$1,000 - \$2,499</b>		
Landmark Group of Builders	John and Ann Ashton	
<b>Friend \$100 - \$999</b>		
Ursula Matthews	Derek Durocher	Shirley Reid
United Farmers of Alberta	Bill and Denyse Jopling	Roger Berault
Ester Ondrack	Claudette Sabourin	Harry and Janet Kuperus
David and Wendy Edey	Amy Heiserman	Associated Engineering
Jeff Pearson		
<b>Donors up to \$100</b>		
Expressionz Café	John and Margaret Campbell	Glenda Rott
Elizabeth Singbeil	Jennifer and Ken Kouri	Aydon Vickruck
Tersa Andrusiak	Wildbird General Store	Vanessa Heron
Sharon Ranson	Peggy and John Folinsbee	Eva Loewy-Best
Blain Clouthier*	Avalon Junior High School*	
<i>*In Memory of Isaak Kornelsen</i>		

In addition, we are grateful to the Edmonton Community Foundation for handling endowment funds which provide a yield to EALT. In 2012, these included donations from Barbara Poole, John and Leni Honsaker, the Ross Wein Family, Marg Reine, T.W.F. Russell, Harry Stelfox, Pamela Wight, the Edmonton Nature Club, Thomasine Irwin, Ross Hodgetts, the Cinders Fund, Katherine and Ronnie Ploit, and Judy Cochrane. We also thank the Edmonton Community Foundation for waiving its *Endowment Sustainability Program* course fees.

EALT sincerely thanks all the other anonymous donors who gave electronically, or to our collection boxes or fundraising groups, or to funds held at the Edmonton Community Foundation in EALT's name.

Many thanks, without you we could not do our work!



## Grants and Awards

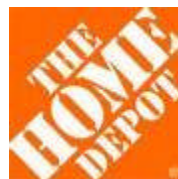
EALT is pleased to have been a finalist in the 2012 Emerald Awards.

Generous grants from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and from EPCOR, enabled several stewardship tasks at our Ministik property, including collecting baseline data, controlling invasive weed species, installing new fences and removing barbed wire from old fencing.



We received several small grants for stewardship activities, including funds from Enerplus to purchase and install perimeter signs for three of our properties, and from the Alberta Conservation Association to construct and install nest boxes. We also received a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation to purchase a new computer.

Several other discounts and in-kind donations helped us with stewardship and outreach activities, including in-kind donations of field work supplies from RONA Sherwood Park, Home Depot Westmount and Cabela's. A free upgrade from Animoto allows us to make professional quality video slide shows, a discount from MailChimp enables us to send email newsletters with ease, and a license of ArcMap from ESRI enables us to create quality maps for reports and other purposes.



EALT was also approved as a recipient of 1% for the Planet funding, and is now eligible to receive donations from member companies.



## Volunteers

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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.

In 2012, 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.

Dillon Abma	Luz Gonzalez	Marg Reine
Bob Affleck	Karen Good	Paulina Retamales
Tom Anderson	Eric Gormley	Bill Reynolds
Calvin Avery	Graden Systems	Cecilia Rodriguez
Fariba Asadi	Ygaen Hanson	Richard Schultz
Claire Ashton	Kathy Hawkesworth	Kristin Schut
Carlos Beca	Ann Hazlett	Janet Smith
John Boeglin	Ashley Hillman	Jennifer Smith
Mary-Jo Boeglin	Ross Hodgetts	Tony Sneep
Allan Bolstad	Clara Hugg	Kayla Stan
Stephanie Boonstra	Walter Kehl	Harry Stelfox
Christy Boulter	Nola Kilmartin	Brian Stephens
Earl Bourque	Heike Kohl	Kevin Stewart
Lori Brohman	Naomi Korner	Juliana Tang
Wendy Buck	Elaine LeFebvre	Glen Thoman
Lu Carbyn	Marc LeBlanc	Laura Thorburn
Jayne Carre	Megan Maloney	Adrian Thyse
JL Carreon-Macedo	Barry McDonald	Krista Tremblett
Frances Cearns	Kristen McFaden	Noah Tremblett
Phyllis Chui	Patricia McKendrick	Donna Tribe
Kate Churchill	Kassandra Mederios	Vicki Trombley
Patsy Cotterill	Andy Monteith	Amber Unger
Gerry Davis	Dorothy Monteith	Larry Vande Griend
Danielle Domingo	Beth Nanni	Douwe Vanderwel
Louise Dorner	Hiroshi Ogawa	George von Platen
Donald Dumkee	Mari Okaue	Glenys von Platen
Janice Duncan	Sarah Pearson	Fred Vuong
Betty Fisher	Azkaa Rahman	Patty Walker
Eugenia Feijoo	Colleen Raymond	Wildbird General Store
Rocky Feroe	Liz Reid	Matt Young
Dave Gibson	Hil Reine	

Thank you to the 59<sup>th</sup> Greenfield Scout Group and their parents for helping with tree planting and constructing nest boxes, as well as to students from the University of Alberta and King's University College who contributed to projects for EALT in 2012!

## EALT Financial Highlights

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### Edmonton and Area Land Trust Statement of Operations January 2, 2010 to December 31, 2011

#### UNRESTRICTED REVENUE:

Grants - Edmonton Community Foundation .....	\$100,575
- other .....	20,158
Donations .....	155,881
Fundraising and interest .....	<u>321</u>
Total unrestricted revenue .....	<u>276,935</u>

#### RESTRICTED REVENUE:

Grants (Note 4) .....	3,995
Amortization of deferred revenue (Note 4) .....	<u>1,187</u>
Total restricted revenue .....	<u>5,182</u>

**TOTAL REVENUE**..... **282,117**

#### EXPENSES:

Advertising and promotion .....	240
Appraisal fees .....	5,376
Amortization .....	1,393
Board meetings .....	637
Communication .....	2,409
Conference fees .....	200
Consulting fees .....	3,254
Endowment contribution .....	100,000
Fundraising .....	15,550
Goods and services tax .....	1,518
Insurance .....	3,018
Interest and bank charges .....	40
Office .....	3,220
Professional fees .....	14,712
Property taxes .....	672
Salary and benefits .....	107,754
Subcontract .....	20,349
Travel .....	<u>2,265</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**..... **282,607**

**EXCESS OF (EXPENSES) REVENUE FOR THE YEAR** ..... **\$ (490)**



**Edmonton and Area Land Trust  
Balance Sheet  
As at December 31, 2010**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets:**

Cash .....	\$ 58,556
Term deposits .....	199,000
Accounts receivable .....	1,542
Prepaid expenses .....	<u>3,119</u>

**Total current assets .....** 262,217

**Ecologically Valuable Land .....** 3,614,025

**Equipment (Note 3) .....** 8,518

**TOTAL ASSETS .....** \$3,884,760

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**Current Liabilities:**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities .....	\$ 16,704
Deferred revenue (Note 4) .....	

**Total current liabilities .....** 16,704

**Deferred Revenue (Note 4) .....** 8,255

**Net Assets:**

Invested in ecologically valuable land .....	3,614,025
Invested in equipment .....	262
Unrestricted .....	245,514

**Total net assets .....** 3,859,801

**TOTAL .....** \$3,884,760

The Edmonton and Area Land Trust was audited for the year 2011. 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.