

Helping Communities Conserve
Land That Matters ...

forever



LEGACY LAND TRUST SOCIETY
2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Legacy Land Trust Society is a non-profit charity dedicated to conservation and stewardship of significant lands— ecological, agricultural and historical—in Central Alberta.

Based in Olds we work with landowners, interested individuals, communities, organizations and governments to conserve and nurture these lands for future generations.



OUR MISSION

Working with you, our communities, to help conserve nature, water, wildlife, food and stories.



OUR VISION

Communities that share a commitment to conservation and stewardship of locally valued landscapes.

BOARD CHAIR

Kim Good

At a community event in 2015, after I'd explained what Legacy is, a gentleman said: "Well that sounds good, but where were you 50 years ago? Everything is so different than it was back then."

Yes, things are different but Legacy is here *now*—and support for private land conservation is strong and growing.

Legacy offers a conservation service that gives landowners choices they don't have without a land trust. Imagine what the landscape would be like in another 50 years without this option.

Today, conserving land maintains viewscapes. It filters water and air, and builds soil. It offers refuge for wildlife, including pollinators, ensures we have local food production options, and respects both our regional history and our future.

My work with Legacy began in 2013 when I joined the advisory committee that established Legacy Land Trust Society that year. I became a board member, then a part-time Executive Director, then a board member again.

As each year ends and I reflect back I am filled with gratitude for the many people who make local conservation possible.

Gratitude for the landowners who dedicate their valued land for the future.

For the donors, granting agencies, and sponsors that contribute funds to help Legacy provide conservation opportunities.

For community members who participate in Legacy's events, read our monthly newsletters and contribute to our annual calendar.

And especially for board and staff members and volunteers who dedicate countless hours to building an organization that offers our region a formal way to conserve land for its ecological, agricultural and historical values.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2022 I will be stepping down as Chair of the Board but I leave it in good hands. Legacy has planted strong roots in Central Alberta. With your support it will continue to thrive.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Keri Sharpe

Land trusts dedicated to conserving and caring for private lands are still not well known in Alberta but Legacy's work is changing that.

For example, in 2021 we signed Conservation Easements (CEs) with landowners to permanently protect nearly 1000 acres of native forest, prairie grassland and working farmland—our largest conservation gain in a single year.

Pandemic challenges persisted this year restricting our in-person gatherings so we met online. We held a four-part webinar on Conservation Easements for landowners. And together with the Alberta Native Bee Council we offered a session on native bees.

To mark our eighth year we launched a new logo and a new website. During our birthday fundraiser you donated money to buy two trail camera systems that we're now using to monitor wildlife on our CEs.

You'll find more about our work this year on the following pages.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your continued support as members, volunteers, partners and donors. Through this shared commitment we continue to conserve and care for land for now and future generations.



CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Mary Jane Block

This was a busy year for Legacy's conservation projects. The early part of the year was filled with reporting to funders, meeting with landowners interested in conserving their land, and planning for the field season.

In March we learned of our success in receiving funding through the [Alberta Land Trust Grant Program \(ALTGP\)](#) for one new Conservation Easement (CE) project.

With the help of the Canada Summer Jobs Program we hired three summer students.

From June through August the students monitored our seven CEs, all within Mountain View County. Monitoring these properties consists of reviewing the Baseline documentation as well as the CE Agreement, then walking the property and retaking photos at the same spot to compare the locations to previous years.

Riparian and Range Health Assessments were worked into the schedule where possible and potential stewardship activities noted. The weather was accommodating and aside from some encounters with wasp nests and red ants, their days in the field monitoring properties were great.

In addition to the property monitoring, our staff received field training in plant identification, pollinator habitat and sweeping, riparian health assessments, and bear safety.

The summer also saw [a great collaboration](#) with [AWES](#) (Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society), [ALUS](#) and [Cows and Fish](#) when a local landowner requested help in rehabilitating a stream on his property.

Our summer staff contributed by locating the newly planted seedlings, placing hemp mats at their base and dousing them with much needed water. The tree planting project included a riparian health assessment, riparian fencing and the planting of nearly 2000 trees.

The [third annual Buttercup Blitz](#), one of our stewardship programs, took place over two days in July. A crew of nine, staff and volunteers, tackled invasive and toxic Tall Buttercup on one of our CEs.

In 2021 we registered two new CEs totalling 735.83 acres. One of these made it into the summer monitoring schedule while the other will have its first monitoring done in 2022. Two more CEs, totalling 262.2 acres, were finalized and signed late in the year. They'll be registered early in 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry Antoniuk

Legacy Land Trust Society's assets grew substantially in 2021, despite the constraints of a global pandemic.

The value of Conservation Easements held by Legacy on behalf of private and municipal landowners more than doubled, increasing from \$2,187,800 to \$5,339,800. This increased the organization's net assets from just over \$3,400,000 in 2020 to approximately \$6,420,000 in 2021, continuing the encouraging growth of the 8-year-old regional land trust. Note that most net assets reflect the booked value of Conservation Easements held by Legacy; these have no financial value to Legacy because they cannot be spent or borrowed against.

Legacy's most consistent source of conservation funding has been the [Alberta Land Trust Grant Program \(ALTGP\)](#). This program has allowed Legacy and landowners to increase the acreage held under Conservation Easements in Central Alberta.

The ALTGP was established under the [Public Lands Act](#) which sets aside a portion of the proceeds from public land sales into a Land Stewardship Fund. This fund can be used by the ALTGP for conservation and enhancement of environmental, scenic and agricultural values on private lands, although to date, funding has only been received for projects with predominantly environmental values. Funding for one Conservation Easement (\$216,000) was received in 2021 from ALTGP based on the application submitted in 2020.

Total revenues in 2021 declined by 3% from 2020. This was due to reduced donation and event revenues attributable to pandemic restrictions. The decline in donation and event revenues was partly offset by increased investment income and funding from ALTGP projects.

Requirements for administration and development of Conservation Easements led to an 8% increase in expenses from 2020. An Executive Director and Conservation Director were hired in late 2020 to work in the Olds office. These staff supplemented the half time administrative contract staff person and completed work previously done by Legacy volunteers.

ALTGP funds provided for an approved Conservation Easement project are typically spent over a 2-3 year period. Unspent grant funding is restricted, and these deferred contributions remain liabilities until spent.

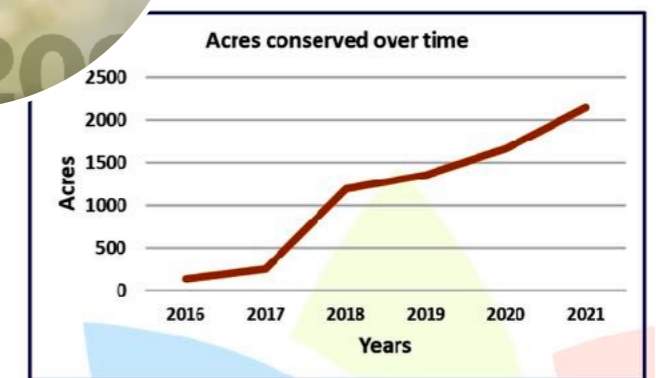
In 2021, Legacy staff and the Finance Committee began an initiative to more proactively expense reimbursable staff time and expenses for each project in the year they occur. As reflected in the Expense summary, this resulted in better allocation of expenses needed to administer existing and proposed Conservation Easements; these had been previously classified as general and administration in 2020.

In 2021, applications for 6 new projects were submitted to ALTGP and an application for one new project was submitted to the [Watershed Resiliency and Rehabilitation Program \(WRRP\)](#).

Decisions on these applications are anticipated in first quarter 2022. These grant requests totalled just over \$1.3 million, so 2022 conservation grant revenues will almost certainly increase from 2021. In addition, Legacy is implementing a more comprehensive fund development program to increase post-pandemic foundation, grant, donation, and event revenue in 2022.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS of 2021

- Our Bluebird Trail fledged 89 Mountain Bluebirds and 278 Tree Swallows. Thanks to our Trail Monitor Ron Reist.
- Legacy's Stories Coordinator Sarah Leach produced a winter video on the Campbell Pit CE.
- Sydney Worthy, with the Alberta Native Bee Council, delighted us with stories about native bees.
- Volunteers joined staff for our 3rd Buttercup Blitz to control invasive Tall Buttercup on one of our CEs. Thanks to Home Hardware for the collection bags.
- Keen summer students monitored all our CEs.
- We partnered with ALUS and AWES to plant nearly 2000 trees and shrubs to rehabilitate a creek.
- Our Circle of Friends generously donated to our 8th birthday party. We now own 2 trail cameras for monitoring wildlife on our CEs.
- Chair Kim Good made a special presentation to Mountain View County councillors and staff for the County's long-term support of Legacy's goals.
- Local artist Lauren Runham surprised us with a donation from her summer art sales.
- We had an information booth at two local farmers' markets.
- Our 2021 Calendar was a best-seller. We're grateful for the talented photographers who donate their work. Thanks to this year's sponsors Waste Connections of Canada and connectFirst.
- And we launched a new logo with our new website!



BOARD of DIRECTORS

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