

ANNUAL REPORT

for
2020



Short-eared Owl / David Sharpe

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Message from the Board Chair

The year 2020 is behind us and perhaps now, more than ever, we are reminded of the importance of the natural and food-producing lands around us.

As the world shut down and reports of increased wildlife activity and cleaner waterways and airsheds poured in from around the globe, I thought how lucky we are in Central Alberta to have landscapes that filter water and air, provide habitat and corridors for wildlife, grow food, and give us open spaces to walk and paddle, with or without a shutdown.

While we live in a busy area, we are still at a point in our development where we can take care of (steward) and plan to keep these special places (conserve). Legacy is dedicated to helping our communities do just that!

Aside from adapting to the realities of the pandemic there were other changes afoot at Legacy.

At the end of June, we were sad to say goodbye to Owen Rodger when he decided to go back to school, but as one door closes another opens. Owen's commitment to delivering conservation projects increased Legacy's overall workload beyond the capacity of the 1.5 staff and the number of volunteers supporting that work.

We were honoured to interview several very skilled and experienced candidates and were thrilled to welcome two new staff to the organization—Keri Sharpe as Executive Director and Mary Jane Block as Conservation Director. Keri and Mary Jane jumped in with both feet to learn the intricacies of land trusts and conservation tools and quickly got to work on taking Legacy to the next level in our evolution.



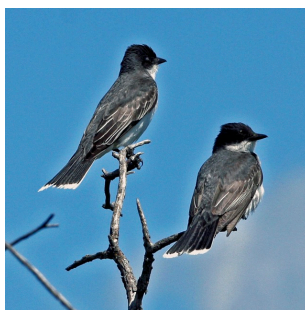
Dianne Seamans



Marilyn Phillips



Sally Banks



Don James

The end of 2020 saw two more conservation easements nearing completion. Together these—along with our previous six projects—will conserve over 2100 acres. Work on six additional, fully-funded conservation easements continued, ensuring another 800 acres will be conserved in the coming months.

The challenge of not being able to share conservation conversation face-to-face in 2020 was met by online meetings and presentations, through social media posts, and our monthly newsletter. Through a webinar about land trusts and the conservation tools we use, we were able to engage with Dr. Dorothy Hill's undergrad biology class at Mount Royal University. While not able to host a second Paint, Pen & Pixels program on site, our two volunteers continue planning to invite artists back in 2021.

Legacy's 2020 activities included:

- A second Buttercup Blitz with a group of volunteers on Owl Ridge conservation easement helping control invasive Tall Buttercup.
- Two summer students who monitored six conservation easements properties using photo-point data and ecological health assessments, created social media content of Legacy's on-site monitoring activities, and researched five stewardship topics important in our region.
- Six Alberta Land Trust Grant Program funding applications were submitted in September.
- A covid-friendly celebration to launch our 2021 calendar included invited photographers and Legacy supporters in October.
- A long-time volunteer of Legacy created a beautiful winter video of the Campbell Pit conservation easement lands owned by Mountain View County <https://youtu.be/P7mT7lio42Y>.
- A change from our regular in-person fall Conservation, Estate & Succession Planning workshop for landowners to a virtual series was developed for delivery in spring 2021.
- And a successful year-end fundraising campaign to promote and support pollinator stewardship and conservation.

All the conservation projects Legacy works on, all the outreach activities we host and participate in, all the community connections we make are because of people like you—our Circle of Friends and supporters.