

Helping People Conserve Land That Matters ...

forever

**LEGACY LAND TRUST SOCIETY
2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



LEGACY
LAND TRUST
SOCIETY



TABLE of CONTENTS

3 Our Vision and Mission

4 Board Chair

7 Executive Director

10 Treasurer

13 Communications & Outreach

17 Conservation

18 Governance

19 Government & External Relations

20 Calendar

21 Board of Directors and Staff

Legacy Land Trust Society is a registered non-profit charity dedicated to conservation and stewardship of significant lands – ecological, agricultural and heritage – 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.



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



We engage with people and communities to conserve land with significant ecological, agricultural and heritage values.

BOARD CHAIR

Don Greenfield

Once again, I thank our large and varied group of volunteers—landowners, Members, Friends of Legacy, donors, funders and sponsors—who bring talent, time and dedication in pursuit of our conservation goals.

Board

I also thank our Board of Directors. In particular, I thank Bob Griebel and Lori-Jo Graham. They have served on our Board for several years and have decided not to stand for re-election at the 2026 Annual General Meeting. As well, thanks are due to Alisha Anathasiou, who stepped down in January 2026 because of family and work commitments.

In December 2025, Marnie Ragan, one of our Directors and the Chair of our Fundraising Committee, passed away. As I said in my *In Memoriam* note on our website, Marnie brought dedication, kindness and humility to our Board. We miss her.

Staff

Our former Executive Director Rebecca Nielsen left us in March 2025 to take a role with another regional land trust. We hired Jason Bradley to replace her, and he started with us in May 2025. He has proved to be an invaluable addition. Jason brings creativity and strategic thinking as well as a strong work ethic to the role. We thank Jason for his tireless dedication to Legacy.



Western Meadowlark
Christine Lo

Chair continued ...

Jon Wright also joined us in 2025 as our Conservation Coordinator. Jon is involved in monitoring the condition of our conservation easements (CEs). This has resulted in a significant improvement in this very important aspect of our operations.

As well, I wish to thank Patti Gardner, our diligent Administrative Coordinator (and our landlord), for her continued hard work.

Conservation Easements

We signed three CEs in Mountain View County last year. You'll find more about this in our Executive Director's Report.

AGM Guest Speaker

At our April 2025 AGM, Brian Keating, the well-known speaker and leader of nature-based travel, made a very informative and well-received presentation.

Provincial Funding Changes

In June 2025, the Government of Alberta announced the immediate end of the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program (ALTGP).

The ALTGP had been the source of almost all of our funding for perpetual CEs. It has been replaced with the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP).

The PLCP will fund term CEs up to 50 years but not perpetual CEs. We did not have any candidates for funding for term CEs during the 2025 application cycle. This was because of the understandable reluctance of our prospective CE donors to agree to term easements rather than perpetual CEs. We hope to have candidates in the fall of 2026.



Bumblebee ~ Mary Anne Sharpe

Chair continued ...

Celebration

In October, we celebrated our 12th anniversary at the Bergen Community Hall along with the 10th anniversary of our first conservation easement, signed with Marilyn Halvorson in 2015.

A long-time supporter of Legacy, Marilyn was our guest speaker. A rancher and the author of several books of fiction for youth, she is a lifetime resident of the Bergen area.

Fundraising Campaign

In November, we received the report from Newman Consultants regarding the feasibility of a major fundraising campaign. The report gives us hope that we could undertake such a campaign if we are able to overcome some challenges, including around our community profile.



Little Red Deer River ~ Sarah Leach

Looking Toward 2026

We face an immediate challenge to Legacy's viability in its current form with the demise of the ALTGP.

We will hold facilitated strategic planning sessions in March 23 and 24, 2026. We look forward to starting to chart a path forward for Legacy at those sessions. Much will depend on a successful fundraising campaign that takes the Newman Consulting report into account.

We are always interested in speaking with people who want to know more about CEs and who may have an interest in donating funding or a CE to Legacy. You can [read more](#) about that on our website.

I also invite you to learn more about our work on the following pages where staff and board members share highlights of this past year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jason Bradley

Land Conservation Highlights

In 2025, Legacy Land Trust Society (LLTS) continued to work toward establishing perpetual conservation easements (CEs) on four properties, protecting a total of 562 acres. Unfortunately, one other funded project was canceled because the property was sold before the CE was finalized, and the new owner decided not to proceed. However, community interest remains strong. Throughout the year, 12 new landowners approached us about placing perpetual CEs on approximately 2,450 acres of land.

During the summer and early fall, we successfully monitored all properties with signed CEs and shared the final assessment reports with the landowners.

Our monitoring processes are maturing, especially as we now work with "successor owners" who purchased land after the original CE was established. This requires our staff to use new skills and tact, as these new owners did not create the original agreements. They may view land conservation differently than the original donors. Currently, two other properties with existing CEs are listed for sale



*Aspen Oyster Mushrooms
Lori-Jo Graham*

Executive Director continued ...

Our Conservation Coordinator's evaluations confirm that many of our CE lands are being excellently managed. These monitoring efforts also helped identify certain properties where stewardship could be improved.

A great example of putting this into practice is the new Range and Riparian Health Improvement project on a recent CE donor's property.

This project is a collaborative effort involving the landowner, the grazing tenant, LLTS, Mountain View County/ALUS, Cows and Fish, and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.

The project is designed to establish scientific baselines for soil and water health, restore areas along Carstairs Creek and improve overall ecological integrity.

It also uses Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) grazing to heal overgrazed areas, improve water quality and boost the rangeland's resilience.

Outreach

LLTS hosted and attended several key events this year, including the *Paint, Pen & Pixels* (P3) event at Kettle Crossing Farm, the P3 Reception at the Mountain View Museum, SPOG Neighbours Day, the Legacy Calendar Launch and our 12th Anniversary Event. For more details on these activities, please review the Communications and Outreach report.



Cattle at Twilight ~ Darine Pavan

Executive Director continued ...

Funding

In June, the Alberta Government's Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas replaced the existing Alberta Land Trust Grant Program—which supported perpetual easements—with a new Private Land Conservation Program that funds only term agreements.

This forced us to rethink our approach and look for new funding streams to support our conservation goals.

As a result, we commissioned a comprehensive Capital Fundraising Feasibility Study conducted by Newman Consulting. Their report outlined some shortfalls of the organization.

It also confirmed a clear mandate for growth and recommended a preparatory phase focused on four goals: strengthening organizational stability, recruiting a passionate campaign chair and cabinet, building a compelling case for support and nurturing financial gifts.

We also actively pursued other grants for projects and organizational capacity. Notably, we submitted an application for a \$240,000 "Building Capacity for Conservation Impact" grant from the Centre for Land Conservation. In December, we were invited to submit a full proposal for this grant. We expect to receive the final results in mid-April 2026.

Strategic Planning

The sudden shift in provincial funding created an existential crisis for our organization. It became clear that we needed to completely review and reimagine our organization's future direction. We began this intensive process in the fourth quarter when the Executive Committee completed a SWOT analysis—Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats—and drafted a list of strategic priorities. To guide us forward, we hired a professional strategic facilitator and held a 1.5-day strategic planning event on March 23 and 24, 2026.

TREASURER

Doug Collister

Legacy Land Trust Society's (LLTS) conservation easements (CEs) increased in value from \$8,932,300 at the end of 2024 to \$9,980,800 at the end of 2025.

Legacy's total net assets increased from \$10,550,869 at the end of 2024 to \$11,571,049 at the end of 2025. *(Note: The CEs comprising the bulk of these net assets reflect their book value and cannot be sold or borrowed against.)*

Investment Income

Total initial *investment* in endowment funds at year-end 2025 was **\$812,453**. It was comprised of:

- *ATB Monitoring and Stewardship Account*
\$560,000 (including \$80,000 transferred in from the LLTS Dedicated Fund during 2025) which is invested in the Mawer Balanced Fund through a Direct Investment Account with ATB Securities Inc.
- *Community Foundation of Central Alberta (CFCAB) Fund*
\$237,620
- *ATB Smith Fund Account*
\$14,833 which is invested in the Mawer Balanced Fund through a Direct Investment Account with ATB Securities Inc.



*Great Grey Owl
Sally Banks*

Treasurer continued ...

As of December 31, 2025 the value of the above funds was:

- *ATB Monitoring and Stewardship Account: \$650,125*
- *Community Foundation of Central Alberta (CFCAB) Fund: \$253,521*
- *ATB Smith Fund Account: \$18,442.*

Monitoring and Stewardship

To support monitoring and stewardship in 2025— as per the terms of our Endowment Direct Investment Policy—\$21,925 was withdrawn from the ATB Monitoring and Stewardship Account (\$28,163 is available for 2026). Our CFCAB Fund also contributed \$10,279 to support monitoring and stewardship in 2025 (\$11,909 is available for 2026).

Revenues and Expenses

Revenues and expenses were both slightly lower in 2025 compared to 2024 (\$213,426 compared to \$236,534 and \$230,336 compared to \$234,569 respectively). Including unrealized gain on marketable securities, **the excess of revenues over expenses for 2025 was \$9,783 compared to \$37,290 in 2024.**

Alberta Land Trust Grant Program

A primary source of funding for LLTS continued to be the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program (ALTGP).

This program was critical in allowing LLTS to collaborate with landowners to permanently conserve land with significant ecological, agricultural and heritage values.

The ALTGP was established under the Public Lands Act which places a portion of the proceeds from public land sales into the Land Stewardship Fund.



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail ~ Josh McCartney

Treasurer continued ...

Perpetual CEs No Longer Funded

The ALTGP was discontinued mid-2025 and the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) announced in its place.

A significant change in the new program is that perpetual Conservation Easements (CEs) will no longer be funded by the Alberta Government. Rather, funded CEs will be for a fixed term ranging from 20-50 years. Additional details of this new approach are still being unveiled. LLTS did not apply for funding under the PLCP in 2025 as we did not have any landowners interested in a term CE prior to the deadline.



Wood Frog ~ Jayne Carlielle

Casino

LLTS had its third casino on 27-28 August 2025. **Revenue received totalled \$90,926.** Of this, 30% is eligible for administrative expenses.

LLTS has ongoing approval from Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis to use casino revenue for monitoring and stewardship wages.

Dedicated Fund

The LLTS Dedicated Fund balance as of 31 December 2025 was \$99,205. It consisted of:

- \$85,000 waiting to be transferred to the ATB Monitoring and Stewardship Account (of which \$35,500 came from the Amiscape CE);
- \$8,443 earmarked to help pay our 2025 year-end auditor invoice; and,
- \$5,762 of unrestricted funds to be used as needed.

Communications & Outreach Committee

Sally Banks, Chair

Role

According to its Terms of Reference, this committee guides, advises and supports the Board and the Executive Director on communications and outreach.

What We Do

That rather dry description fails to capture the wonderful individuals who give their time and talent, carrying Legacy's message into the community at large—to Friends, Members, donors, funders and the public.

Committee membership is fluid, depending on the project. The volunteers produce informative videos, interview landowners, give artists the opportunity to create art on the land, monitor bluebird trails, arrange refreshments for activities, donate photos, organize and help at special events, put up posters and so much more.

The following pages feature some of the year's events ...



White-footed Deer Mouse ~ Barry Trakalo

Legacy in 2025 ...



continued ...

- 🌿 Legacy signed 3 conservation easements (CEs) with landowners in 2025, bringing the total number of perpetual CEs to 19.
- 🌿 Volunteer Project Lead Nan McKernan organized a successful *Paint, Pen & Pixels* event on Kettle Crossing Farm CE. Artists donated work to Legacy as a fundraiser.
- 🌿 Legacy said goodbye to Executive Director Rebecca Nelson in March and welcomed its new ED Jason Bradley in May.
- 🌿 Volunteer Stories Coordinator Sarah Leach continued to develop videos focussed on the Little Red Deer River and began work on another one of our CEs.
- 🌿 Nature-travel enthusiast and broadcaster Brian Keating gave the keynote presentation at the AGM, emphasizing the important role Legacy plays in land conservation.
- 🌿 Volunteers stepped up to ensure our third casino was a financial success.
- 🌿 Volunteers Ron Reist and Shannon Weseen monitored our 85 Mountain Bluebird boxes. Ron banded birds on both trails.
- 🌿 Monthly issues of *Conservation News* were emailed to Friends of Legacy.
- 🌿 Legacy took part in Neighbours Day, sponsored by SPOG (Sundre Petroleum Operators Group).
- 🌿 Mountain View Museum & Archives hosted a Wine & Cheese Reception as part of its show featuring the work of *Paint, Pen & Pixels* artists.
- 🌿 30 photographers donated images to Legacy's *Worth Conserving 2026* calendar. Legacy hosted a special calendar launch in October.
- 🌿 We celebrated the 10th anniversary of Legacy's first CE—and Legacy's 12th anniversary—by honouring landowner Marilyn Halvorson.

continued ...



Conservation Committee

Bruce Beattie, Chair

The Conservation Committee met three times in 2025. Members include Bruce Beattie, Terry Antoniuk, Bob Griebel, Doug Collister, Sally Banks and Kevin Frankowski. Board Chair Don Greenfield is *ex officio*.

The Committee recommended two perpetual conservation easements (CEs) for Board approval and signatures. A third CE, approved late in 2024, was signed in 2025. All three received funding from the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program (ALTGP).

In June, the Alberta government ended funding for perpetual easements, opting instead to fund only term easements. For more detail see reports from the Chair and Executive Director.

Legacy has a Land Donation Policy. A first draft of Landowner Funding of a Conservation Easement is under review as well as a discussion paper investigating the issues around donations of land, specifically Legacy 's ownership and management of property.

This committee is also responsible for the annual monitoring and stewardship of existing CEs.

Contracted in 2025, Conservation Coordinator Jon Wright brought a new level of expertise to the program. Although most monitoring reports documented compliance, some identified concerns regarding grazing management.

The Range and Riparian Health Improvement project, mentioned in the Executive Director's Report, is an example of successful cooperation with one of our CE donors.



Conservation Easement on Carstairs Creek signed 2025

Governance Committee

Doug Collister, Chair

The Governance Committee advises the Board on all matters relating to the governance of Legacy Land Trust Society.

Committee members in 2025: Doug Collister (Chair), Don Greenfield (ex officio), Tony Martens and Larry Wright.

Responsibilities:

- Customize the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices for Legacy's use,
- Develop and document policies and procedures for Board consideration and approval, and
- Ensure that new policies are consistent with Legacy's Bylaws, Mission and existing policies.

The Governance Committee was relatively inactive in 2025 and held only one meeting. It:

- Updated the Delegation Guide,
- Revised the Membership Policy, and
- Worked on the Nest Box Tribute Trail Policy.

Going forward the committee will continue to work on policies in progress. It will also develop and implement a periodic review of approved policies and Terms of Reference.



Beaver ~ Colleen Kaiser-Gill

Government and External Relations

Lori-Jo Graham, Chair

In June, the Government and External Relations Committee (GERC) met with Mountain View County Councillor Tiffany Nixon to provide an update of Legacy's work. Mountain View County has been a long-time supporter of Legacy.

The committee also reached out to the Olds-Three Hills-Didsbury MLA to request a meeting. We wanted to discuss Legacy's interest in government changes to conservation easement terms and the addition of ecological goods and services funding programs.

Legacy's Executive Director is our representative to the Regional Land Trust Association (RLTA), the collective voice of Alberta's six regional land trusts.

The regional land trusts have similar goals—to conserve natural landscapes, important agricultural lands, scenic and heritage lands, wildlife habitat and biodiversity on private land in Alberta.

The RLTA works with a government relations consultant to foster support for the work of land trusts and conservation efforts in Alberta.



Six-Spotted Orb Weaver ~ Sally Banks

CALENDAR

Our annual *Worth Conserving* calendar features more than 50 full-colour photos taken in and around Mountain View County.

Many thanks to the 30 photographers who generously donated their work, to the sponsors who covered production costs, and to broken arrow solutions for the beautiful layout and design.



Mallards in the Snow ~ Veronica Reist

Mountain View County
~
In Memory of
Aaron Fraser
~
Latitude Electrical Ltd.
Serving Mountain View County & Area
~
Perry Appraisal Associates Ltd.
Real Estate Appraisals



**BOARD of DIRECTORS
2025-2026**

Don Greenfield, Chair

Bruce Beattie, Vice-Chair

Doug Collister, Treasurer

Lori-Jo Graham, Secretary

Alisha Athanasiou

Sally Banks

Bruce Beattie

Kevin Frankowski

Bob Griebel

Tony Martens

Jerry Roberts

Larry Wright

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Rebecca Nielsen
To March 2025**

**Jason Bradley
May 2025 - Current**

**CONSERVATION COORDINATOR
Jon Wright**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Patti Gardner**

PHOTOGRAPHS DONATED BY

**Barry Trakalo / Mary Anne Sharpe / Veronica Reist / Darine
Pavan / Josh McCartney / Christine Lo / Colleen Kaiser-
Gill / Lori-Jo Graham / Jayne Carlielle / Sally Banks**