

2015 RDRN PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DON WALES

Another relatively quiet year on the environmental advocacy front for RDRN. We continue to excel on the environmental education front with a series of excellent speakers, our Birding trail map and Website and a newly re-structured website. Some highlights from 2015:

- Completed another successful Casino in March thanks to the coordinating efforts of **Eileen Ford** and the many volunteers from our membership and beyond. With declining membership, the Casino is a major source of funding for RDRN.
- A very successful Banquet was held this year at the Ellis Bird Farm in September.
- Partnered with ReThink Red Deer and other organization on the Piper Creek Restoration Agriculture project. This five year project is taking place on a meandering section of Piper Creek just south of the Red Deer Land-fill. RDRN has provided some expertise and funding.
- The official Bird Trail launch took place on May 28 with good attendance, exceptional reviews and even a bevy of live raptors in attendance.
- Aftershocks were still being experienced after the total removal of the peregrine web cams from the TELUS tower. The project will not be revived.
- Submission recently made to the North of Highway 11A Major Area Structure Plan (MASP) by **Rod Trentham**, with support from **Tony Blake**. RDRN was represented by **Judy Boyd** during discussions on the Hazlett Lake portion of the MASP and RDRN had representation on the Red Deer River and Tributaries Concept plan that also dealt with the preservation of the Hazlett Lake area.
- RDRN had input into a gravel mining proposal in a riparian area just upstream from the Highway 2 crossing of the Red Deer River.
- RDRN also provided input into yet another make-work and spent taxpayer's money river armoring project on a section of river escarpment below the Riverview acreages (across the river from the Red Deer Golf and Country Club).
- The Bird Trail Web Site is up and running thanks to **Judy Boyd, Doug Pedersen** and our website designer, **Brenda Sargeant**.
- Input into the restoration of a section of Waskasoo Creek from behind the old Red Deer Lodge to the south west corner of Barrett Park to address erosional problems and escarpment slumping using lower impact bio-engineering strategies.
- Input into the Great Chief Park Re-development Plan in an attempt to stop the expansion of a parking lot into a valuable patch of wildlife habitat just west of the Conquist House.
- RDRN's Facebook page continues to be a popular place to post and view excellent wildlife and nature photographs.
- **Keith Kline** is re-starting the RDRN nature blog again. Google: naturalwise
- RDRN has adopted Maskepetoon Park through the City's Adopt-a-Park program. Feel free to visit the area, report any unusual sightings or any inappropriate activities as part of or responsibilities.
- RDRN had some input into the design and content of the new Kerry Wood Nature Centre displays.
- A severely damaged BMX style bike area and party site in Bower Woods has been reclaimed by the Red Deer Parks Department, partly as a result of a 15-year monitoring and reporting on the area by some RDRN members. A list of over a dozen other smaller sites in need of reclamation within the City's natural areas and Parks have been compiled and RDRN will follow up on them.
- **Keith Kline** has taken over the Bird Focus group with mostly local field trips but with a plan to branch out to

some nearby areas on the birding trail map beginning this spring. Announcement of the start-up will be in the newsletter.

- Flower focus has remained active throughout 2015, highlighted by a field trip to the Waterton Wildflower Festival in June by several of the regular members of the group.
- **Judy Boyd** has announced her temporary retirement (sabbatical) from the Board but will continue to coordinate the Christmas Bird Count, the May Species Count and will manage the Bird trail website by posting sightings. Judy's immeasurable contribution to RDRN will be missed and we thank her. The departure of Bill Heinsen and now Judy, has left a huge hole in the organization that we have attempted to fill.
- A special thanks to the following people: **Myrna Pearman** continues to coordinate the excellent series of guest speakers at our General Meetings and Banquet. Myrna continues to produce a fantastic newsletter each month with proofing done by **Judy Boyd** and **Dorothy Dickson**. **Doug Pedersen** creates superb posters for the General Meetings and for the newsletter. **Maureen Dixon** stuffs the envelopes for the newsletter mail-out. Over and above her duties as treasurer, thanks to **Bev French** for taking on the coffee and cookies for the General Meetings.

RDRN members are stewards of the following Natural Areas:

Sylvan Lake- Myrna Pearman

Butcher Creek- Bill Heinsen

Innisfail Natural Area- Bev and Phil French

Kootenay Plains- Bertha Ford

RDRN has representation on several committees and organizations by either attending their meetings or keeping in touch with; often reporting on their activities. This includes:

Tony Blake- Nature Alberta, Alberta Native Plant Council and Alberta Invasive Species Council

Tony Blake- primary representative on the Piper Creek Restoration Agriculture Project.

Eileen Ford – Alberta Native Plant Council

Richard Townell- Gaetz Lake Sanctuary Committee

Bonnie Mullin- Ellis Bird Farm

Michael Cholach-Waskasoo Environmental Education Society

Judy Boyd – Medicine River Wildlife Centre

Dorothy Dickson- Provincial and National Parks issues



LEFT: RDRN Board of Directors– Don Wales, Bev French, Phil French, Bob Krutchen, Doug Pederson, Keith Kline.

ABOVE: Dorothy Dickson