



# WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, April 15, 2016, Strathcona Baptist Church, Edmonton

### AGENDA

1. Welcome: JoAnne Burek, President
2. Minutes of AGM, April 17, 2015
3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 29, 2016
4. Committee Reports
  - a. President: JoAnne Burek
  - b. Membership/Donations: Sandra Carruthers
  - c. Permissions: Geoff Fleck
  - d. Trail Maintenance: Karen Bell
  - e. Beyond Events: Karen Bell
  - f. Newsletter: Marilyn Tichkowski
  - g. Publicity: John Raposo
  - h. Website: Lee Stickles
  - i. Hike Coordinator: JoAnne Burek
5. Announcements
  - a. River Valley Cleanup: Bev Stokowski
6. Nominations and Elections: JoAnne Burek
7. Order of the Laces: JoAnne Burek
8. Adjournment

### INTERMISSION

### PROGRAM

"Edmonton and Area Land Trust"

Stephanie Weizenbach,  
Outreach Coordinator

# **Waskahegan Trail Association 2015 Annual General Meeting**

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## **M I N U T E S**

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**Date:** Friday April 17, 2015 **Time:** 7:14 P.M. **Location:** Avonmore United Church, Edmonton

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### **Members:**

Peter Verhaar, JoAnne Burek, Lee Stickles, Karen Bell, Oscar Zawalsky, Bev Stokowski, Sandra Carruthers, Michele Fortin, Geoff Fleck, Bill Henchey, Martha Miller, Rob Faulds, John Raposo, Rosa Garc, Johanna Fischer, Louise Gracozzi, Gary Buchanan, Paul Specht, Bonnie Guo, Helen Whitson, Marilyn Tichkowsky, Lorraine Faulds, Wing Leung, Darlene Barnard, Brad Jordan, John Scotvon, Stella Cormier, Alizah Miller, Phyllis Verhaar, Paul Specht.

### **Guests:**

Pamela Baner, Valerie Carlson, Pearl Grosa, Tessa Hardings, Guy Swinnerton, Bob Coulson, Glen Lawrence.

### **Owner:**

Ron Currie

### **1. Call to Order**

President JoAnne Burek called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

### **2. Greetings & Introductions**

On behalf of the Board, President Burek welcome all to the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Waskahegan Trail Association.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

President Burek outlined that the agenda had been circulated with the notice of the meeting and called for any additions to the agenda. No additions to the agenda were made.

### **4. Minutes of the 2014 AGM**

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were circulated with the notice of the meeting.

**Moved by** Martha Miller, seconded by Oscar Zawalsky, that the minutes of the 2014 AGM be approved.

**Carried.**

**5. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 29, 2016**

The financial statements were prepared by Treasurer Michele Fortin and audited by Sanjiv Thapar and Helen Whitson.

**Moved by** Karen Bell, seconded by Paul Specht, that 2015 Audit report is approved as presented.

**Carried.**

**6. Committee Report**

The chair of the committees listed below outlined their activities for the year.

a) President	JoAnne Burek
b) Membership / Donations	Sandra Carruthers
c) Permissions	Geoff Fleck
d) Trail Maintenance	Karen Bell
e) Beyond Events	Karen Bell
f) Newsletter	Marilyn Tichkowski
g) Website	Lee Stickles
h) Hike Coordinator	JoAnne Burek
i) Guide Book	JoAnne Burek

**Moved by** Helen Whitson, seconded by Oscar Zawalsky, that the committee reports be accepted as information.

**Carried.**

**7. New Business: River Valley Clean Up**

Bev Stokowski report that the 2015 River City Clean Up will be held on May 2. The City provides water, gloves, pick up sticks, etc., to help with the work. Participants are to meet at the Snow Valley Ski Club at 9:00 a.m. A registration sheet is at the registration table.

**8. Nominations and Election of Officer**

**Moved by** Marth Miller, seconded by Stella Cormier, that the following people are elected to the positions outlined below:

a) President	JoAnne Burek
b) Past President	Rob Faulds
c) Treasurer	Gary Buchanan
d) Secretary	Aliza Miller

- e) Trail Maintenance & Events
- f) Newsletter
- g) Website
- h) Membership
- i) Permissions

Karen Bell  
Marilyn Tichkowski  
Lee Stickles  
Sandra Carruthers  
Geoff Fleck

**Carried.**

**9. Order of the Laces**

President Burek presented the Order of the Laces Award to David Mutch for being the top participant in Sunday hikes.

**10. Adjournment:**

**Moved by** Marth Miller that the AGM be adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

**Carried.**

Following the AGM there was a presentation by Glen Lawrence on 'The Beaver Hills Initiative and the UNESCO Biosphere Nomination'.

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JoAnne Burek, President

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Alizah Miller, Secretary





## WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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P.O. Box 131  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5J 2G9  
[www.waskahegantrail.ca](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca)

April 13, 2016

### **Treasurer's Report**

2015 was a successful year from a financial perspective. As a non-casino year our goal is to have a deficit. I am happy to report that we achieved our goal!

As can be seen in the financial report our 2015-16 revenues were exceeded by our expenses. Though that would not normally sound quite right, in our case it does. From a Waskahegan perspective, the majority of our revenue is casino revenue, which is meant to be spent on the needs of the Association. By far the majority of expenditures are related to trail upgrades, trail maintenance, and hiking activities. All of which our casino funds make happen.

Our annual membership revenue, though small, is the steady stream of income that pays for those annual costs that casino funds cannot finance. Taken together, these revenues successfully meet the needs of the Waskahegan Trail Association.

Attached to this report is the audited financial statement that show assets and liability, revenues and expenditures, and the balances of the Association.

My special thanks to JoAnne Burek, Sanjiv Thapar and Helen Whitson for their help in conducting the audit.

Gary Buchanan  
Treasurer

**WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION****BALANCE SHEET**

As Of February 29, 2016 - Year End

**ASSETS**

Year End Feb. 28, 2015

## Cash Assets:

GENERAL Bank Account Balance	19,691
CASINO Bank Account Balance	22,564
<b>TOTAL Cash Assets</b>	<b>42,255</b>

## Investments:

GENERAL Invest. Account (Term Deposit)	0
CASINO Invest. Account (GIC's)	0
<b>TOTAL Investments</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>42,255</b>
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**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

## Current Liabilities

Outstanding Cheques

<b>TOTAL Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>42,255</b>
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Approved for the Association by:

J Anne Brunel  
President

Date: April 2, 2016

G. Buchanan  
Treasurer

Date: 16-4-2

Audited by: 1.

Harper

Date: April 2/16

2.

SkWhiton

Date: April 2/16

**WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION****STATEMENT OF INCOME - GENERAL ACCOUNT**

As Of February 29, 2016 - Year End

	Year End Feb 29, 2016
<b>REVENUE (GENERAL)</b>	
Donations	274.00
Membership Dues	1,602.61
Sales - Pins, Crests, etc.	77.00
Sales of Guidebooks	633.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE (GENERAL):</b>	<b>2,586.61</b>
<b>EXPENSE (GENERAL)</b>	
GST Expense	164.36
Meetings	399.56
Misc. Expenses	255.50
Newsletter	181.05
Office Expense (Non Newsletter)	569.06
Publicity	749.99
Printing of Guidebook	1,183.00
Volunteer Appreciation	324.34
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE (GENERAL):</b>	<b>3,826.86</b>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME - CASINO ACCOUNT**

As Of February 29, 2016 - Year End

	Year End Feb 29, 2016
<b>REVENUE (CASINO)</b>	
Grants	582.00
Interest earned on investment	3,406.81
<b>TOTAL REVENUE (CASINO):</b>	<b>3,988.81</b>
<b>EXPENSE (CASINO)</b>	
Casino Administration	1,664.40
Equipment (Purchase)	969.14
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	723.39
Equipment Storage	3,434.71
GST Expense	111.44
Leases & Licences	0.00
Transportation - Work Crews	3,020.29
Transportation - Scouting	154.16
WCB Fee	215.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE (CASINO):</b>	<b>10,292.53</b>



# WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

2015-2016 FS 03

2015 March-27

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - GENERAL INVESTMENTS ACCOUNT

As Of February 29, 2016 - Year End

2015/2016		HELD in GENERAL INVESTMENTS ACCOUNT				ASSOCIATED CASH TRANSACTIONS (NET)			
		Held at	Add, Buy	Remove, Sell	Year End	Held at	Income	Inc. From	Transfers
Security	Year Start	or Reinvest	or Redeem	Year End	(Interest Received)	(Interest earned but not paid)	Redemption	To/Fr (Bank)	(Investments Acct.)
CASH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL INVESTMENTS HELD AT FEB 29, 2016									
Security	Type	Issued	Maturity	Note:					

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - CASINO INVESTMENTS ACCOUNT

As Of February 28, 2015 - Year End

2015/2016		HELD in CASINO INVESTMENTS ACCOUNT				ASSOCIATED CASH TRANSACTIONS (NET)			
		Held at	Add, Buy	Remove, Sell	Year End	Held at	Income	Inc. From	Transfers
Security	Year Start	or Reinvest	or Redeem	Year End	(Interest Received)	(Interest earned but not paid)	Redemption	To/Fr (Bank)	(Investments Acct.)
23458934-0027	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	0.00	3,406.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals:	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	0.00	3,406.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CASINO INVESTMENTS HELD AT FEB 29 2016									
Security	Type	Issued	Maturity	Description					

Note: Unrealized interest accrued on investments at Year End is not included in Income.



## President's Report

At this time last year, we were on the path to an orderly recovery. After a few years of struggling with just five board members, declining membership, and difficulties with upkeep of trails, things were turning around. We had a slate of nine board members, our membership numbers were stabilizing, and we had a good system in place for trail maintenance. We continued to have a good year.

One of our priorities was the focus on recognizing our volunteers. Again we made our fall "volunteer" barbecue an event that was open to all members. We did this because we think ALL members should have the opportunity to recognize and thank our volunteers. Our volunteer participation has been outstanding, by the way. Last year, 30% of our members volunteered in some capacity. It reinforces the fact that there is a job here for almost everyone.

At the start of the year, we were still concerned with membership numbers. We knew that this trail would be valued by more people, if only they knew about it. So we did two things.

The obvious one was the major redesign of the website. We had been getting all kinds of questions about the trail, even very basic ones, to which the answers were found in the website, if you looked hard enough. Our new website platform has given us astounding flexibility compared to the old one. It's enabling us to add content, organize content, and schedule events much more easily. And we'll be able to work in all the search keywords used by people who should be coming to us, which will improve our reach.

The other thing we did, and it was finished even before the website, was the new brochure. Making a good brochure requires stepping back and examining who we are trying to appeal to, which means asking ourselves, "What do we actually have to offer people?"

And here's what we came to. Essentially we are reaching out to people who want to do an interesting day hike in the country without going far, and to people who want to do something fitness-wise with a purpose. You will see in the brochure that we focus on these two groups equally. You may be thinking that it's a bad thing to have a narrow focus, so I'll try to explain why it's a good thing. Besides telling everybody precisely what we offer, it informs people of new opportunities to do things they were not even aware of. If the brochure is successful, it will awaken them to thoughts about how much fun it would be to have more of these activities in their lives.

Going forward--the board will have its eye on the November 30<sup>th</sup> draw for a casino date. Our casino is likely to be in the summer of 2017. I hope you'll consider helping out. The more members we have volunteering, the more money we keep for ourselves. So as soon as the date is assigned, we'll announce it so you can put it on your calendars.

I would like to thank all the members who gave their time this year, and especially the board members, who I loved dearly for all their work, their support, and their good humour.

Respectfully Submitted

JoAnne Burek

## WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT AGM

APRIL 15, 2016

Sandra Carruthers, Membership Secretary took over duties as of April 11, 2014 is beginning her Third year. The duties of the Membership Secretary include being the primary contact for membership, mailing of the cards and books as required. Keeping records and statistics are also part of the duties of the Membership Secretary.

Membership activity this year 2015 / 2016:

Memberships as of April 11, 2015	111
New Members	21
Reinstated Members	08
Resigned / Expired Memberships	33
Memberships as of March 31, 2016	107

Historical trend in number of memberships and book sales

Trends in Membership and Book Sales				
AGM in April	Number of Members	New/Reinstated	Resigned/Expired	Books Sold
2011	189	42	82	40
2012	152	39	76	32
2013	116	26	62	18
2014	109	22	31	22
2015	111	35	34	20
2016	107	29	33	25

Membership numbers have been fairly consistent since 2013. The number of new members and resignations each year is likely the result of folks who join to purchase guidebooks so they can hike, not just with the WTA group but at their own will with like minded friends.

New members are always welcome so please help yourself to a few of the new brochures to pass along to friends and family.

Thank you to those members who contributed to the WTA through donations for a total of \$234.00.

Thank you also to those board members for their support this year and as we move ahead we look forward to working with new board members. I look forward to another year serving as your Membership Secretary and with the enthusiasm of our new and old board members, it promises to be a great year!

Submitted by

Sandra Carruthers

## PERMISSIONS REPORT

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 15 2016

We had access denied from a new owner on a property in the Fort Saskatchewan area. We are looking at ways to keep up on property changes that are unknown to us. Email returns and newsletter returns are typically how we learn about these changes.

We have a land owner concerned about hikers wandering through his property unannounced as he has an air soft activity course. I assured him that we are on a hike schedule 2 times a year and that we would not be wandering around. I suggested that he can look at our schedule on the newsletter that I sent him. I am still in the process of gathering some of the particulars to see how to proceed from there.

We have collected 37 email addresses so far from land owners. This is an ongoing process that we will keep working on going forward.

We get a few newsletter returns each spring and fall. It just a matter of contacting them and updating emails or addresses.

In closing, we must continue to support the land owners and be grateful to be able to hike their land.

Submitted by Geoff Fleck



## *Trail Maintenance 2015 Season*

-This past season we made a huge difference in taming most areas of the trail. We built a new stile and mended Low's bridge. The equipment shed has had some organizing done. Crews were out for 36 times in 7 months.

-This year I plan for less frequency and bigger crews going out.

-To do that we need more people out for maintenance. It does tend to be the same people coming out.

-If you are interested please come and put your name on my list so I can send you the latest schedule. You can also check the website to see where we are working next. That way you can decide to come last minute.

-Trail maintenance jobs include mowing, weed eating, chain sawing, clipping, signing and clearing debris as well as building stiles and boardwalks. Details for each work party are on the website.

-We are still looking for a workshop which would enable a more shared system of maintenance where minor things like sharpening, gas, & wood cutting can be done by various people. The equipment can be organized and repaired and we can store a supply of cut wood ready for stiles and boardwalks.

-We are also looking for trail maintenance people that have a vehicle with a hitch or a truck that could be used for transportation of equipment.

-This season we hope to clear the trail not done last year.

-We also need to build boardwalks in the Ross Creek area.

-We are in the initial stages of an agreement with the Military Engineers to build a bridge where Ross Creek is flooded the worst. Likely this will happen next year. To help with that added expense for the wood we will be applying for a grant.

-Thank you to all the volunteers that made trail maintenance happen last year.

-Please contact Karen for questions 780 642-6372 [k-bell@shaw.ca](mailto:k-bell@shaw.ca)

## *Events - Beyond the Waskahagan Trail*

- Last year we hiked Elk Island National Park in May, took a road trip to Whitecourt in June and explored a weird natural area called Gouin in July.
- We enjoyed overnight trips to Mt. Robson Provincial Park, Nordegg area and Kananaskis Canmore area.
- October was our annual BBQ & hike at Miquelon Provincial Park.
- This year I hope to offer a few one day events and overnight trips.
- The Lamont church and historic road trip will likely be in the fall.
- I am hoping to book William Watson Lodge two months prior for a fall overnight trip in Kananaskis.
- A BBQ in the fall will be announced later in the season.
- Other events I am still process of planning will be announced on the website when they are confirmed.
- Any other members with ideas they would like to see as a beyond trip or trips they would like to lead and just need some help with are welcome to contact me.
- Look for news on the website or contact Karen at karenb32@telus.net.

Karen Bell

Event Coordinator

## Newsletter Report

Spring 2016

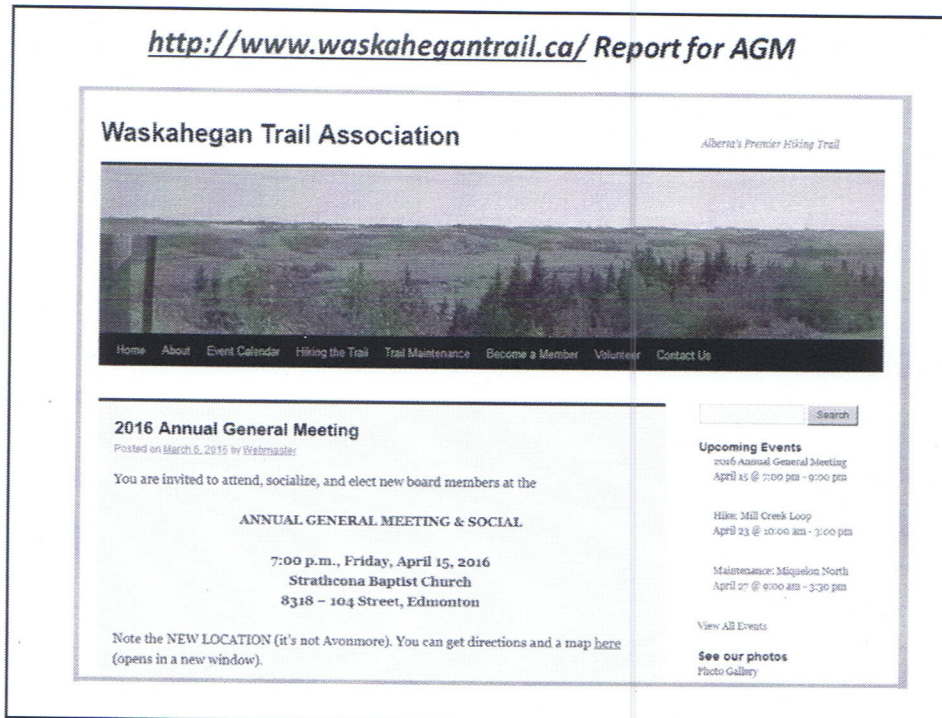
The spring newsletter was posted on our website on April 1 and notification was sent to the membership the same day.

On April 4, 95 hard copies of the newsletter were mailed to landowners and a few members.

The cost of the spring newsletter was \$153.55, down about \$50 from one year ago. This decrease is the result of the acceptance of the electronic version by the membership. I believe only three members have requested hard copy.

Marilyn Tichkowsky





- New web site went live last Friday (April 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - In working on the "clean up" the content that I referenced last year we quickly came to the conclusion that the limitations on what we can do with the was a hindrance
  - Recently updated the 'announcements' on the front page so same content for all logins (public, member, volunteer)
- The old site is still active (7 available at <http://wta.waskahegantrail.ca>)
  - Largely because it was paid for up until the fall, so we setup the new site at the minimum (cheapest) options
  - Using the old site for the photos & membership database
  - But we will likely even eliminate those in the fall rather than renew
    - Move the membership database to a spreadsheet, as we are not that big
    - Move the photos to something like Flickr (some restrictions) or increase the storage options with the hosting provider & put the photos there (would still be ~2/3<sup>rd</sup> of what we had been paying)
  - The new site though expands our ability to have new posts, synchronize the calendar with our members personal calendars, get feed back from members & the general public
  - We are also looking at adding online payment from PayPal
    - While we'll lose a few \$\$ on the membership payments, adding that convenience may get us a few new members or renewals which would offset the expense but not increase our operating costs
    - You'd need a PayPal account to use it ... we are not big enough to offer multiple payment options and PayPal offers the greatest flexibility, as you can link your PayPal account to a credit card rather than setting up credit card payment



## Hike Coordinator's Report

The year 2015 was an excellent year for hiking on the trail. We had fine dry weather almost all the time so that we only two cancellations.

Following are numbers of hikers who came out to our weekly guided hikes in 2015:

Week	Date	Number of Hikers	Week	Date	Number of Hikers
1	3-Jan		26	27-Jun	
2	11-Jan	7	27	5-Jul	
3	18-Jan	5	28	12-Jul	6
4	24-Jan		29	19-Jul	7
5	1-Feb	8	30	25-Jul	12
6	8-Feb	6	31	2-Aug	9
7	15-Feb	5	32	9-Aug	10
8	21-Feb	5	33	16-Aug	5
9	1-Mar	7	34	23-Aug	7
10	8-Mar	9	35	29-Aug	10
11	15-Mar	5	36	6-Sep	
12	22-Mar	3	37	13-Sep	10
13	28-Mar	9	38	20-Sep	9
14	5-Apr	10	39	26-Sep	5
15	12-Apr	10	40	4-Oct	12
16	19-Apr	11	41	11-Oct	
17	25-Apr	7	42	18-Oct	5
18	3-May	10	43	24-Oct	9
19	10-May	9	44	1-Nov	9
20	17-May		45	8-Nov	13
21	24-May	12	46	15-Nov	
22	30-May		47	22-Nov	11
23	7-Jun	11	48	28-Nov	
24	14-Jun	10	49	6-Dec	
25	21-Jun	10	50	13-Dec	

Average number of hikers per hike: 8.4

Number of different members who hiked: 46 (excludes guests)

Most attended hike: 13 people on November 8<sup>th</sup> for West Battle River A60 to Schnee Hill

We were delighted to promote some extra hikes which were developed, organized, and led by Gladys Vogel on December 13 in the Ministik area and Irene Malcolm this year on January 2 in Camrose. Irene drew 16 people, and Gladys's was very well attended too.

A change we made this winter was going back to scheduling hikes every two weeks instead of weekly, for several reasons. For one thing, it's hard to find enough leaders in the winter months. For another, it's

often pointless trying to plan winter hikes up to six months in advance—besides blizzards and extreme cold, we are increasingly getting warm spells which cause treacherously icy conditions almost overnight. Finally, we stay mainly to the Edmonton city trails, and there are so many walking clubs and meetups, it's very easy to find a group to go with on almost any day at all.

We are always looking for more leaders to help share the schedule. We were delighted to add new hike leaders to our team—Kirsten Newman, Irene Malcolm, and Gladys Vogel—and I thank them for joining us. I would also like to thank all the rest of the volunteers who consistently help out every year. They are Sandra Carruthers, Helen Whitson, Bev Stokowski, Johanna Fischer, Karen Bell, David Mutch, Stella Cormier, Oscar Zawalsky, Elizabeth Bagdan, Lee Stickles, and Yvette Stack. I would especially like to thank the hike committee of Helen, Yvette, and Karen for helping me put together a great program of hikes for the upcoming season.

Respectfully Submitted

JoAnne Burek



## Program

**Stephanie Weizenbach** works on outreach, partnership building, properties, and with volunteers, and external stakeholders.

Steph received her BSc Degree in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the University of Alberta. Previous work experience lies with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton where she filled many roles, including running the education, animal care, and volunteer programs, initiating a wildlife rescue program and assisting with special events.

Steph is passionate about conservation and enjoys volunteering for the Edmonton Christmas Bird Count and the North American Breeding Bird Survey.

