

PHEASANTS FOREVER NEWS

WINTER ISSUE
2023

PHEASANTS FOREVER **CALGARY** NEWSLETTER
Created for our members by our members



WINNING ENTRY - 2022 Photo Contest - by Sandra Shindel

28th ANNUAL CALGARY DINNER & AUCTION



**CALGARY
DINNER &
AUCTION**

**TICKETS ON SALE
NOW!**

**Wednesday
May 10, 2023**

Doors open at 5:00pm

Palomino Room BMO Centre
Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta



Join the party!

Celebrating the Champions of the Uplands

**ON
SALE
NOW**

Buy your tickets now!

<https://www.pfcalgary.ca/2023-dinner-auction/>

28th ANNUAL CALGARY DINNER & AUCTION

Please welcome Darcy Hulston Chair of the 28th Annual Calgary Dinner & Auction

Darcy is the President, CEO and co-founder of Canoe Financial, one of Canada's fastest growing asset management firms. Born and raised on a farm outside of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan, Darcy was the fourth generation of his family on their homesteaded land. His upbringing instilled a strong work ethic and an appreciation for stewarding the land, equipment and relationships with neighbours and community. Growing up on the farm, he learned there is no time for drama and that communication needs to be direct and honest, nothing left to chance.

Darcy's Father Dale and his Grandfather Gilbert had a strong relationship with conservation and were one of the first farms to work with Ducks Unlimited Canada in their area. Darcy's parents, Dale and Margaret, practiced organic farming before it was called organic. They avoided herbicides and pesticides, partly due to cost and partly due to their suspicions regarding health impacts. They ate what they grew and were proud of their production. Every fall Darcy would hunt game, it was one of his many fond memories of growing up on the farm.

Darcy is a long-time volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society where he has been a board member, served on a variety of roles for the organization and participates on the Canadian Cancer Society Major Gift cabinet. He has helped raise over \$30 million for Cancer research and has been awarded a lifetime achievement award for his efforts.

Canoe Financial has supported over 200 charities coast to coast. Darcy also works with a number of post-secondary institutions to mentor graduating students on getting a meaningful job and managing a life long career. He is a graduate of the Wharton School of Business and has been featured on CBC and BNN as a subject matter expert in his field. Darcy lives in Calgary and has three grown children.



"With your support, along with the involvement of like-minded corporate leaders, sportsmen and women, conservationists, landowners, producers and community leaders, the 28th Annual Dinner and Auction promises to be the premier conservation event of its kind again this year."

I look forward to seeing you there!"

- Darcy Hulston
Chair

28th Annual Calgary Dinner & Auction

ON
SALE
NOW

Buy your tickets now!

<https://www.pfcalgary.ca/2023-dinner-auction/>

You Answered.



Just over two years ago Pheasants Forever launched its first-ever capital campaign, **Call of the Uplands.**

As it turned out the timing could not have been better. We had just come off of 2020, where the pandemic virtually ended all event fundraising, which was our main source of revenue. That year was a record low for generating revenue. It was clearly time to pivot and **Call of the Uplands** provided the opportunity to do just that. 2021 came along and we were still unable to host events of any size and auctions were out of the question. We got busy, pursuing other sources of revenue such as grants and major gifts. Low and behold, without hosting

events in 2021, we ended up with our best year to date in fundraising. In fact 2021 was our second biggest in 28 years!

A big thanks and congratulations goes out to our leaders, those that stepped up and became Pheasants Forever's **Champions of the Uplands.**

A total of 29 folks pledged or donated \$10,000 to become a Patron and an additional 8 individuals pledged or donated \$25,000 for a total of over \$500,000.

In total, the Calgary Chapter raised \$1.4 Million dollars under the banner of **Call of the Uplands** in two short years. Today, we are proud and pleased to celebrate our **Champions of the Uplands**, who stood up and answered the call.

Your commitment inspires us all to do more.

Celebrating the Champions of the Uplands



GOLD PATRONS

David Bissett
Cam Clark
Stan Grad
Mike Mannas
Neil MacKenzie
Bob & Sandra Merkley
Harvey & Leslie McKernon
Glen & Erin Rumpel



PATRONS

Neil & Terri Bass
Garth Becker
Graham Becker
Mel Belich
Ron Brenneman
Matt Campbell
Blackstone Drilling Fluids
Murray Dorren
Darin Dunlop
Bill Friley
Ruben Garcia
Scott Haggins
Chris & Helen Kolozetti
Peter Kurceba

Mancal Corporation
Perry & Laurette McCormick
Travis Peckham
Tim Pickering/Auspice Capital
Pat Powell
Scott Price
John Robinson
Kevin Rome
Paul Saks
Jim Saunders
Dave Scott
Nick Stanford
Jerry Sturko
William G. Turnbull



LIFE MEMBERS

Bob Logan
Bruce Malcolm
Paul McDougall
Scott Price
Kevin Rome
Les Williams



HABITAT LEGACY FUND
Perry & Laurette McCormick

Our uplands, like
our supporters, are a
treasure unlike any other in the world.

Inspired to do more.

Although the **Call of the Uplands** campaign ends this month, Pheasants Forever Calgary is eager to grow its **Champions of the Uplands**. You have inspired us to do more. We will continue to seek support from individuals and companies moving forward within and outside of our events.

Your membership and your support makes a great impact in our ability to create, restore, and permanently protect wildlife habitat, while preserving the legacy of our hunting and conservation heritage.

Feeling inspired?



Upgrade Your Membership

We will continue to offer upgrades to Lifetime, Patron and Gold Patron memberships.



Sponsor or Host an Event

We continue to need support for events, whether through sponsorship or by hosting an event.



Join the Habitat Legacy Society

We will always be grateful for those who will consider a gift of land or a bequest in their will. These gifts sustain the incredible work started today for generations to come.



Volunteer

Give the gift of time to our Casino and Annual Dinner which raise funds that directly support conservation projects, mentor future sportsmen, and help influence positive policy for habitat conservation.



Invite a Friend

By inviting others to give, or to become a member, you are helping to build our supporter base and share the importance of our work.



Help Raise \$\$\$ for Pheasants Forever



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED for the Monday Night Shift


Free meal,
snacks and refreshments
with your shift.

Casino - February 12 & 13, 2023

Email terri@pfcalgary.ca to volunteer.

**Come visit us at the Casino
on February 12 and 13.
All proceeds go to
Pheasants Forever.**

Deerfoot Inn & Casino Calgary



2022 PF CALGARY PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to the winner and the following honorable mentions. Great shooting everyone!



FIRST PLACE

Hanna By Sandra Shindel - Sandra's image stood out from the other entries. The sharpness of the subject matter, colours and composition are wonderful. Thank you Sandra for this amazing image.

Sandra's winning photo will be featured on the cover of this year's **Annual Dinner & Auction** program.



Get Tickets

2022 PF CALGARY PHOTO CONTEST HONORABLE MENTIONS



by Andrew Sgaggi



by Carl Marr



By Cornell Yarmoloy

2022 PF CALGARY PHOTO CONTEST HONORABLE MENTIONS



by Fran Ayers



By Gianni Sylvestri submitted by Katrian Maksymyk



By Renae Stewart

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos.

Tips for Better Photos

- Use a tripod.
- Shoot during the “magic hour” at the beginning and end of the day.
- Adopt the ‘rule of thirds’
- Avoid centering your subject in your photo.
- Keep it simple, focusing on one element.
- If eyes are part of your subject, ensure they are sharp and in focus.
- Add people to create action, life and scale.
- Change the perspective, go low or high, change it up.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2-20s Raffle!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket, your support is greatly appreciated!



Bob Merkley of Calgary won the Fausti Progress 20 gauge shotgun.



Warren Holmes of Calgary won the Benelli Ethos Sport 20 gauge shotgun.



FRIED PHEASANT by Hank Shaw



GET THE RECIPE



From the **Hunter Angler Gardener Cook**, the Internet's largest source of recipes and know-how for wild foods. Hank is a chef, author, and yes, hunter, angler, gardener, forager and cook.

STAY CONNECTED

Help conserve pheasant habitat!
Annual Membership Only \$35



Buy Your Membership Online

<https://www.pfcalgary.ca/membership/>



Pheasants Forever Canada News

SAVE THE EDGES

THE ISSUE OF WEED MANAGEMENT

Weed management is an ongoing challenge for agricultural fieldmen. In their eyes, healthy roadside ditches and right-of-ways are those free of weeds.

Influencing the presence of weeds in these strips is Roundup and other herbicides sprayed on adjacent croplands that drift to unintended areas. This risk is exacerbated when spraying takes place on windy days, and most will recall that we've just come through a summer that was windier than normal.

You may have noticed caragana windrows that appear dead in mid-summer; often that's a result of them being unintentionally hit with Roundup. A problem with Roundup in our ditches and right-of-ways is that it's indiscriminate; it kills all the vegetation it comes in contact with. And you know what establishes itself when you kill the grasses, shrubs and flowering plants? Weeds. That translates to more time and money to the fieldmen responsible for managing these places.



Another similar and unfortunate scenario occurs when producers plow an existing right-of-way; the result is an instant explosion of *kochia* (above), a noxious, invasive species that is very difficult and expensive for counties and municipalities to manage. The result is that, most often, the farmer bears the expense of managing these weeds. Farmers will then crop the disturbed area, eliminating the benefits it offers, from filtration to habitat to access.

It's hard to blame the counties and municipalities for allowing these publically-owned right-of-ways to be farmed as it's the cheapest and easiest way to manage the weed problem, and no one's complaining about it. *The only practical solution is to keep plows out of these places in the first place.*



Plowed right-of-way.

VISIT SAVETHEEDGES.CA





Pheasants Forever Canada News SAVE THE EDGES

SOUTH REGIONAL AG SERVICES BOARD CONFERENCE



Perry McCormick discusses Pheasants Forever and the Save the Edges campaign at a well-attended South Regional Ag Services Board Conference.

In fall of 2022, Pheasants Forever Canada introduced our **Save the Edges** campaign at the South Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference.

All of southern Alberta's counties and municipalities, encompassing the landscapes where our initiative is focused, were represented by their respective Reeves and Agricultural Fieldmen.

We presented a 30-minute PowerPoint describing the natural and social benefits that intact roadside ditches and undeveloped right of ways provide. We emphasized that, in the face of continued and expanding land use change resulting from green energy infrastructure development, irrigation canal rehabilitation, and increasing pressure on native grass, that **these strips of public land are increasingly critical to maintaining biodiversity.**

As many conference attendees are influencers in their respective communities, Pheasants Forever Canada is confident we helped instill a new perspective within this important constituency.

For more information please visit the website and if your county would like a presentation this spring on **Save the Edges** email perry@pfcalgary.ca.

VISIT [SAVETHEEDGES.CA](https://www.savetheedges.ca)





Pheasants Forever Canada News A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

INCREASING COVER

By Ken Bailey

Pheasants Forever Canada's (PFC) partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) in Alberta is increasing perennial cover on the landscape, providing valuable nesting and escape cover for upland game birds, including grey partridge and pheasants.

DUC's Marginal Areas Program (MAP) offers a financial incentive to producers willing to plant perennial cover in marginal areas of annual cropland. PFC's \$50,000 investment in the program is boosting the incentive and expanding the awareness of PFC and our own [Save the Edges](#) campaign in Alberta.

"Many farmers have areas of low productivity that provide little or no financial return, whether because of salinity, poor soils, or because portions of their land are not easily accessed by the large equipment they use. MAP offers them \$125/acre to convert that unproductive cropland to forages or perennial species," says Pheasants Forever Canada President Perry McCormick. *"Taking these areas out of cropland and seeding them to forages results in increased returns for farmers and huge benefits to pheasants, other ground nesting birds, pollinators and biodiversity. We like to think of it as farming the best, leaving the rest."*

DUC's senior lead in agriculture, Craig Bishop, says they're thrilled that PFC approached them about a partnership.

"In many ways DUC's objectives align with PFC's," he offered. *"Enhanced game bird habitat is the mission of both organizations, and our respective supporters tend to come from the same demographic. We share a lot of values with PFC and believe it's better to cooperate than to compete when opportunities to do so exist. PFC's participation in this initiative will allow us to stretch the program further than we could without them. And that's good for wildlife, including upland birds and waterfowl."*

Eligible lands are capped at a maximum of 40 acres per parcel (quarter-section), though they're most typically five to 20 acres in size. In addition to the financial incentive, MAP also offers farmers a pollinator-friendly seed pack, a mixture of short- and long-lived perennial species that include vetches, clovers and sunflowers, though they're not obligated to take advantage of this

offer; roughly half do, the remainder seeding perennials of their own choosing.

"In addition to improved financial returns, there are several other benefits realized by the producers when they increase biodiversity in mostly monocultural landscapes," says McCormick. *"These include a decrease in the prevalence of herbicide-resistant weeds, enhanced carbon sequestration, a reduction in salinity, improved water and soil quality, and an increase in at-risk pollinator diversity and abundance. Research also shows that healthy landscapes that host safe spaces for pollinators realize increased local crop production. This program is win-win and we're pleased to be partnering with DUC. Producers will benefit, but so will southern Alberta's pheasant population."*

For more information visit: <https://pheasantsforever.ca/marginalareas/>

ag.ducks.ca

FARM LESS. MAKE MORE.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's new **Marginal Areas Program** increases your profits while farming fewer acres. It provides a financial solution to unproductive land within annually cropped fields by seeding perennial forages.

Forages improve profitability, increase pollinator habitat and biodiversity, reduce herbicide-resistant weeds, act as buffer zones to meet product label guidelines and manage clubroot issues. This program is just one way DUC is partnering with Alberta growers to increase the profitability of their land.

Receive \$125/acre on eligible land and get a pollinator-friendly seed pack!

Let's make every acre count. Call us today.

Janine Paly
Agricultural Programs and Extension Specialist
j_paly@ducks.ca 825-987-0607

HABITAT CONSERVATION

NOT ALL 'IMPROVEMENTS' ARE GOOD



Southern Alberta's Irrigation Districts have been provided funding to *"improve"* their works.

Often this means lining existing open canals or replacing them with pipelines, which eliminates valuable habitat attractive to pheasants, other wildlife and at-risk pollinators. There are currently 278-kilometres of irrigation district canals slated for "improvement."

Water loss in these irrigations systems is primarily the result of evaporation and seepage. And with a limited supply of available water, one of the ways to

expand irrigation is to improve the current system's efficiency. Given a burgeoning world population to feed, it's difficult to argue against improving water efficiency, especially when your argument is focused on maintaining habitat for ring-necked pheasants.

Work began last year and will continue into the future. Pheasants Forever has been advised that some irrigation districts have agreed to keep a portion of these critical linear habitats intact.

We will continue working with these districts to find solutions that include conserving wildlife habitat.



Canal construction.



Canal construction.

CHINOOK CHAPTER NEWS

In October, **Chinook** Pheasants Forever contracted Weir Construction to work on the *Ross Creek Conservation Site Flood Mitigation & Wetland Development Project*.

The Ross Creek valley is susceptible to periodic flooding due to a loss of natural wetlands and manmade structures inhibiting natural flow. With funding provided by the provincial government through *Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP)*, Weir Construction removed many of the manmade structures allowing for runoff to flow naturally and drain towards the creek.

Four existing dugouts were redesigned into shallow wetlands with interconnecting trenches. A permit was issued from *Environment and Protected Areas* allowing for a trench to be dug from Ross Creek to the trench system so that during high water events, water can be diverted from Ross Creek to the trenches thus filling the wetlands.

The goal of this project is to establish a series of cattail marshes providing winter thermal cover for wildlife, minimize downstream flooding and filter the creek water before it reaches the South Saskatchewan River.



Undeveloped road allowance on the north boundary of the Ross Creek Conservation Site. Flood mitigation work will greatly reduce the risk of this repeating.

pheasantsforeverchinook.ca



CHINOOK CHAPTER BANQUET

Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat

Friday, March 10, 2023

Single: \$75 | Couple \$140 | Table of Eight \$520

Contact info@pheasantsforeverchinook.ca

or text Leonard at 403-580-7635.

***All tickets include dinner,
toasting and boasting!***

BUY TICKETS

<https://pheasantsforeverchinook.ca/pheasants-banquet/>

TALES, TRAILS & TAILS

Stories and photos from our members.
Submit yours to Perry at perry@pfcalgary.ca.



Annual Chief Mountain Rooster Round-Up

Another amazing adventure was enjoyed by Pheasants Forever donors and leaders at Soderglen's – South Ranch – situated on St. Mary's River on the US Canada border under the shadow of Chief Mountain.

The centerpiece of the Ranch is Chief Mountain Lodge, where good fellowship, good food and good drink are enjoyed by the guests. This year the crew included Pheasant Forever Canada Director's Scott Price and Glen Rumpel and donors Neil MacKenzie and Brad Fedora.

Pheasants Forever Canada President Perry McCormick and Scott Price handled the dog work. The crew enjoyed exceptional weather with no wind, which is not that common at this time of year – the leaves were still on the trees and the trout in the river were still surface feeding. It is a rare treat to be able to shoot roosters and dry fly fish on the same day – Alberta is indeed a wonderful place for a sportsman. *A special thanks to Stan Grad for his generosity, leadership and hospitality. [See more photos...](#)*



Loaded Yeti



Director Scott Price serving up reversed-seared ribeye.



Scott Price, Glen Rumpel, Brad Fedora & Neil MacKenzie with their limit.



Glen Rumpel guarding the side by side with his over and under.

TALES, TRAILS & TAILS

Stories and photos from our members.
Submit yours to Perry at perry@pfcalgary.ca.



Huns a Plenty!

"Huns" were abundant in most areas in southern Alberta this past fall.



Mel Belich, Jim Rathwell & Ron Brenneman enjoying a day afield.



The new Tundra - the ultimate bird hunting machine.

Wild Rings

It was a fantastic fall for wild ring neck hunters – some suggesting that it was like "the old days". "Best in 20 years," many say.



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS



THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS of PHEASANTS



We want you to look good! If your logo is not looking right, please email a new **EPS** file to perry@pfcalgary.ca so that we can ensure you look your best on any future recognition.



AGM 2023

Notice of the **Annual General Meeting**

Calgary Chapter | Pheasants Forever Canada

5:00 pm, March 14, 2023

The Ranchmen's Club, Calgary, AB



IMPORTANT DATES

- **February 12 & 13 | CASINO** | Deerfoot Inn & Casino, Calgary, AB
- **February 17 to 19 | Pheasant Fest** | Minneapolis, MN
- **March 10 | Chinook Pheasants Forever Banquet** | Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat, AB
- **March 14 | Annual General Meeting** | The Ranchmen's Club, Calgary, AB
- **May 10 | 28th Annual Dinner & Auction** | BMO Centre, Calgary, AB
- **June 9 | Fiera Capital Pheasant Fever VI** | Silver Willow Sporting Clays, Carstairs, AB
- **September 7 | Auspice Capital Director's Invitational** | AHEIA Calgary Firearms Centre, DeWinton, AB



PHEASANTS FOREVER CALGARY

P.O. Box 5021, Station "A"

Calgary, AB T2H 1X1

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