



PHEASANTS FOREVER NEWS

SUMMER
ISSUE
2026



**Volunteers are the heart
& soul of the Annual
Dinner & Auction!
Recap Inside**


**PHEASANTS
FOREVER**
Calgary

2026 *Dinner & Auction*



The 2026 Annual Calgary Dinner & Auction held this past May was another one for the record books!

Congratulations to Chairman Pat Powell for leading the Chapter to one of its highest revenue generating dinners of all time. The gross revenue for the event eclipsed \$800,000. This ranks as one of the top Pheasants Forever Dinners in all of North America.

Raffle tickets were popular this year with just over \$100,000 being sold in the cocktail hour. The silent auction grossed \$33,000 and the live auction came in at a

whopping \$381,000! Big ticket items like the Eagle Pointe Lodge and the Tacoma from Stampede, Charlesglen & Cochrane Toyota were top selling items. Hats off to auctioneer Bill Brown who got it all done by 9:30.

This well-oiled fundraising machine is thanks to volunteers, who are the face of our organization, and we couldn't be prouder of how they enhance our brand.

A special thank you goes out to our donors, sponsors, buyers and attendees for a job very well done.

THANK YOU!



Another sellout crowd for the 2026 Annual Dinner & Auction!



Newly branded merchandise on display!



The raffles were the hot items of the evening and did not disappoint.



BMO Centre always lays out the best table!



The star of the show - the Toyota Mudbath - raised \$69,000 for conservation!



Attendees always seem to have a great time!

Membership/Door Prize Winner



Congratulations to Kurtis Thomas - winner of the STOEGER M3500 12GA SHOTGUN!

Attendees who filled in their complimentary membership (value of \$45) included with their dinner ticket (forms were available on your table) were entered in the membership/door prize.



The Keynote Hit all the Right Notes



Keynote Address by Honourable Grant Hunter

“This room is full of people who don’t just talk about conservation. You invest in it. You live it.

Let me start by saying three things.

First, I’m a proud Albertan. I’ve spent a large part of my life outdoors. Hunting, fishing, working the land. And like many of you, I care deeply about leaving this province better than we found it — for our kids and grandkids.

Second, I believe conservation works best when it’s practical, local, and rooted in respect for landowners.

Not top-down. Not one-size-fits-all. But built by people who actually know the land.

And third, before I was a minister — before I was even an MLA — I was a businessman. I owned and operated a construction company for over 20 years. I understand what it means to balance stewardship with making a living.

Those three things shape how I approach this job. I believe conservation and economic activity can go hand in hand. In fact, some of the best outcomes we’ve ever achieved came from partnerships — between landowners, industry, community groups and government.

And Pheasants Forever is a perfect example of that. Your Annual Dinner and Auction is not just a social event. It’s funding important conservation programs in southern Alberta. And it’s making a real difference on the ground, where it matters. Programs like [Save the Edges](#) show exactly what common-sense conservation looks like.

Roadside ditches and rights of way might not sound glamorous. But they provide critical habitat for

upland birds, pollinators and wildlife — without taking productive land out of use. That’s the kind of solution Albertans understand. And support. It’s also why our ministry was proud to partner with you on that work.

Now, when people hear “Environment Ministry,” they often think rules, permits and delays. And I’ll be honest — that reputation didn’t come out of nowhere. When I was leading Alberta’s Red Tape Reduction strategy, we asked businesses and landowners a simple question: what rules don’t make sense? Over and over, we heard the same thing — approvals that took too long, processes that were confusing and requirements that added cost without adding value. That’s something I’m determined to change.

Because strong environmental standards matter. Protecting land, water and wildlife matters.

But slowing things down for no good reason doesn’t help the environment — and it doesn’t help Albertans like you. Over the past year, we’ve made real progress. We’ve cut Water Act licence wait times in half. What used to take months now takes weeks.

We’ve modernized processes, moved applications online and set clear service targets so people know what to expect. And for the first time in 25 years, we updated the Water Act to make it faster, clearer and more effective. We’re reducing duplication, improving land-use planning and making it easier to invest in conservation-focused projects.

This isn’t about lowering standards. It’s about making the system work. Landowners are stewards. They take pride in their land. And when we recognize that — when we respect their role and treat them fairly — conservation succeeds.

That’s exactly the direction I want to see more of. We will always protect Alberta’s environment. That is non-negotiable. But we will also work with people who are getting results. People who understand the land. People who know that conservation doesn’t have to mean conflict.

Because Alberta’s conservation story has always been built on collaboration — not confrontation. And thanks to the work of groups like Pheasants Forever, I’m confident that story will continue.

Thank you for the work you do. Thank you for your leadership. And thank you for having me here tonight.”

- Honourable Grant Hunter
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Thank You to Our Impressive Corps of Volunteers

Maybe the most impressive aspect of the night was the efficiency of the volunteer corps. The execution that night was simply flawless. Attendees can attest to the many moving parts of the evening, and they happen fast. We have had the luxury of having the same solid volunteers for several years now and everyone knows their role and have quite frankly perfected it.



The raffle team!



Getting the artwork ready for display.



Setting up the Live Auction posters.



Deana Schmuland, Terri Bass and Nicole Borghese keeping things on track.



The tail-gate 'desk' where the firearms were quickly cleared and distributed.



CASINO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Deerfoot Inn & Casino
Calgary

Free meal, snacks and
refreshments with your shift.

Help Raise \$\$\$ for Pheasants Forever

September 16 & 17, 2026

To volunteer email
terri@pfcalgary.ca



**PHEASANTS
FOREVER®**
Calgary





SPECIAL THIS YEAR

Fausti Firearms will be featured at the 5-stand sporting clays.

Professional staff from Korth Group will be showing off various shotguns from Fausti and letting folks try out the guns on a few rounds of clays.

Korth Group has donated a portion of the cost of the Fausti premier shotgun in the Summer Upland Special Raffle (page 9), which will be drawn at the conclusion of the Directors Invitational.

We look forward to hosting Fausti and the Korth Group.

To reserve your spot:
Email: terri@pfcalgary.ca
Phone: 403.336.1145 (cell)
or 403.995.9960 ext. 101

Sponsored by Blackstone Drilling Fluids and Golden Prairie Energy.
Proceeds in support of Pheasants Forever.



Goldenstone
DIRECTORS
INVITATIONAL

23rd ANNUAL

Goldenstone

DIRECTORS INVITATIONAL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

**AHEIA Calgary Firearms Centre
DeWinton, Alberta**

- Lunch at 12:00 Noon
- Practice rounds 1:00 pm
- Calcutta 2:00 pm
- Shoot 3:00 pm.
- Mix of trap, skeet and sporting clays
- \$600/gun

SUNSHINE & SOPHISTICATION

The Directors Invitational is famous for having the very best of weather. The event also ranks as one of the most sophisticated shoots in the Province and is always enjoyed by all who attend. We encourage you to put together a team of five or come as a single - we will find a spot for you.

There are tons of prizes, raffles and maybe an auction item or two! ***If you've never been, this is a great year to attend in support of habitat conservation in Southern Alberta.***

- Your day begins with lunch at noon, followed by a practice round for all shooters with ammunition provided.
- Calcutta is held prior to the shoot with 100% of the proceeds paid out. Depending on the number of teams a determination of the number of Calcutta winners will be made prior to the auction.
- 5-shooter team shoot features one round of trap, one round of double trap and one round of skeet. Upon completion of the shoot, a five course dinner is held onsite under the tent.
- Entry fee is \$600 per gun with net proceeds to Pheasants Forever. 5 shooters per team. *Single registrations also accepted* and will be put on a team.

BIRD DOG DEVELOPMENT

GUN SHOT INTRODUCTION

By Steven Weir

A question I get asked a lot is “How do I introduce my dog to the gun?”

Let's start off by making one thing very clear: any dog showing signs of gun shyness is a direct result of improper introduction and training. No dogs are born gun shy.

If you bought your pup from a reputable breeder, it is more than likely that your pup has already had a soft gun introduction. For the sake of this article, let's pretend we brought home an 8-week-old pup that has had no introduction. There are many ways to introduce a dog to the gun, but the method I will explain leverages your dog's natural instincts to make the introduction smooth. It also creates a positive association with game birds.

The prerequisite for your gun introduction is that the dog has already been introduced to birds (preferably birds thrown from a bird bag). Homing pigeons and a starter or cap pistol are required. Begin by throwing birds in front of your dog and allow them to chase the birds.

While the dog is chasing the bird flying away, shoot a muffled shot (lower the pistol into the grass) while paying close attention to your dog's body language. Ensure the dog is in “drive” and actively chasing the bird. Do not shoot the pistol if the dog is not chasing or is coming back towards you. Continue to repeat this process by throwing birds for your dog and firing the starter pistol. You can start to decrease the amount of muffle of the shot while monitoring your dog's body language. Keep these sessions short and fun for both you and the dog.

As your dog gains more confidence around the gunshot, you can then introduce the shotgun. The first time you shoot a shotgun over a young pup, you want to kill the bird. This ensures the dog remains in drive and creates a positive association with the gun and the bird. Do not put any obedience or structure around the gun introduction. The goal is for your dog to be excited and remain in “drive” during this process.

Steven is a lifelong supporter of Pheasants Forever's habitat conservation and mentorship programs. He is a trainer and proprietor of Westrock Kennels specializing in bird dog development and training.





**PHEASANTS
FOREVER**

Calgary

Summer UPLAND

SPECIAL RAFFLE

Tickets: \$50.00

**Winner receives a
FAUSTI CLASS SLX**

**20 Gauge 28"
Over & Under Shotgun
MSRP - \$6,000**

FAUSTI
I'LL BE YOUR GUN



All proceeds to
Pheasants Forever Canada Calgary Chapter.
Must be a resident of Alberta,
18 years of age with a valid PAL.

**Draw Date – Sept 10, 2026 at the AHEIA Firearms Centre
DeWinton, AB**

License #784201 - 250 Tickets

PF
Calgary

Tickets at pfcalgary.ca

or email terri@pfcalgary.ca or call 403.336.1145

MARGINAL AREAS PROGRAM RENEWS FOR ANOTHER YEAR

We are pleased to be renewing our partnership with [Ducks Unlimited Canada \(DUC\)](#) on the Marginal Areas Program (MAP).

Pheasants Forever Canada (PFC) will help DUC provide farmers with a financial solution to areas of unproductive land. This partnership delivers practical, results-driven solutions for producers—helping turn unproductive acres into environmental and economic assets.

To date, the partnership has resulted in 81 producers converting 3,718 acres to perennial cover. In addition, 339 acres of wetlands and 1294 acres of native uplands have been retained through MAP agreements—habitats that will remain intact for a 10-year term.

With PFC contributing a \$50/acre top-up to DUC's existing MAP incentive, producers can now access \$100 per acre to establish perennial cover on marginal cropland. Pheasants Forever's investment helps boost this incentive offer to producers and expand awareness of Pheasants Forever and the conservation of upland game bird habitats.

By working together, we're advancing sustainable agriculture while delivering lasting conservation impact.

The establishment of perennial cover provides critical habitat for upland game birds such as grey partridge, pheasants, and sharp-tailed grouse, while also supporting waterfowl, pollinators, and other wildlife species.

Environmental benefits extend beyond habitat, including improved soil health, enhanced water quality, and increased carbon sequestration—contributing to more resilient agricultural landscapes.

In addition to financial incentives, producers participating in MAP receive expert forage establishment advice, ensuring long-term success and productivity of seeded areas.

"These marginal areas are critical habitat for upland game bird survival," said Perry McCormick, President, PFC. *"Working together allows us to expand our impact and reach producers who can do a lot to help keep these smaller pockets of habitat available for wildlife and the ecosystem services they provide."*

For more information please visit [DUC's MAP information page](#).



Herbicide-resistant kochia is spreading fast across the Prairies—and it's not going away. But there is a solution. **Seeding perennial forages, offered by MAP**, in weed-prone and saline areas can break the cycle and protect your most productive acres.

View the flyer here:
[MarginalAreasFlyer-Kochia](#)



FIELD TOUR

A GLIMPSE AT WHERE THE DOLLARS GO

Seeing is believing. Members of the PF Calgary Board of Directors got a small glimpse of the habitat conservation work that PF Calgary is investing in thanks to its supporters.

On Tuesday, June 23, Managing Director Perry McCormick led a group of six PF Calgary Directors on a tour of the northern pastures and the irrigation infrastructure of the Eastern Irrigation District; known by the locals as the Rosemary Grazing Pasture, and Finnegan Field.

Here, literally hundreds of wetlands were created over 35 years ago by running small ditches and canals to all low lying areas on the pastures. These massive wetland complexes were built by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) funded in large part by the State of California. These complexes provide thousands of acres of lush habitat, often referred to the **Ribbon of Habitat** and are a boon for upland game birds.

But, as you might imagine, 35 years later, the infrastructure is in need of repair on a constant basis.

Control gates and culverts all eventually rust out. Delivery canals become choked with cattails and require cleaning out. Many of the basins are also choked with cattail. The upside is that this habitat provides excellent thermal cover for ring-necked pheasants and sharp-tailed grouse.

The subsurface irrigation and sandy soils produce a multitude of shrub species, such as thorny buffalo berry, wild rose, Saskatoon, chokecherry and various species of willow.

In short, all these factors combine to make a perfect landscape for upland gamebirds.

PF Calgary has been supporting the maintenance of this infrastructure for several years. This year, we have committed over \$100,000 to repair issues on the Verger and Finnegan Field complexes.

Another major upside for PF Calgary is these projects are located within the Eastern Irrigation District, which is open to the public for recreation and hunting. If you choose to head out that way, stop in at the Eastern Irrigation District office for maps and a permit. Remember to stay on the trails and obey the signs.

The tour began on the southend and worked it's way north (**see map next page**), with a stop at the University of Alberta Mathias Research Ranch for lunch.

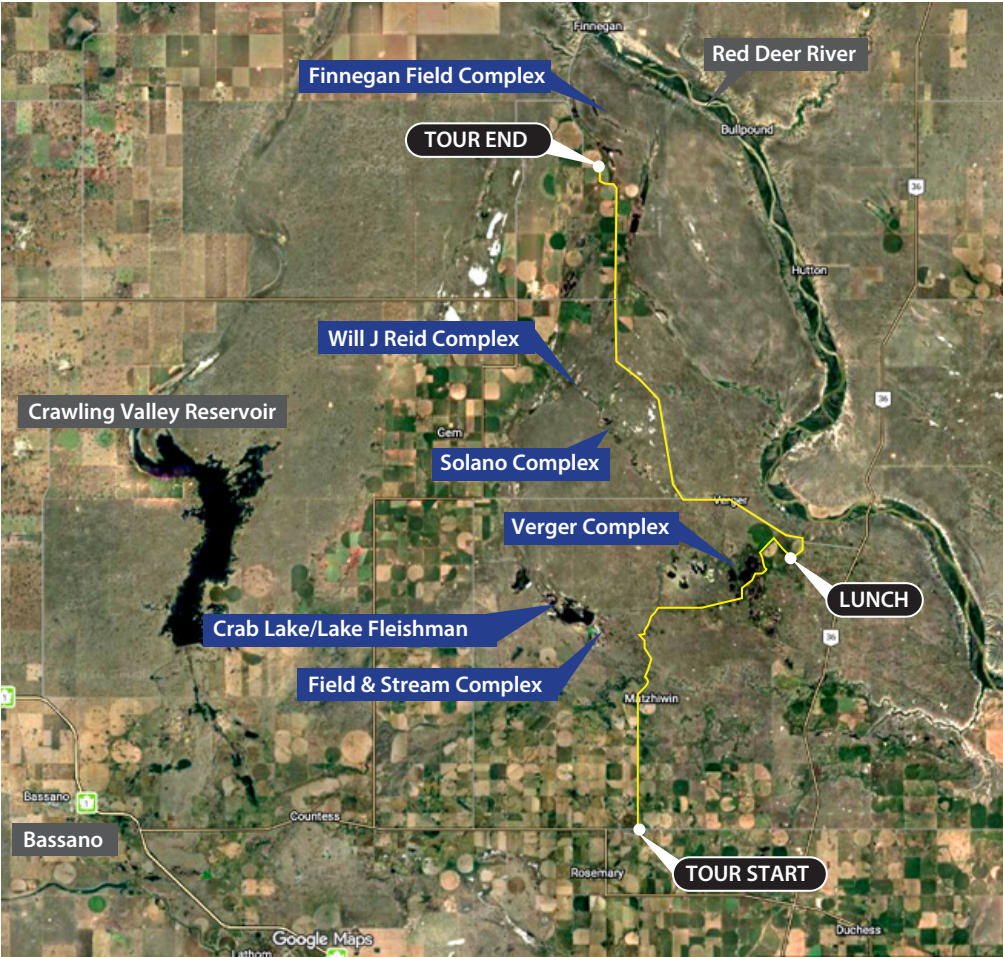
The landscape did not disappoint. It was wonderful to see the prairie after six inches of rain and six years of drought.

A special thank you to DUC for supplying the lunch and to Marcel Buzc, manager of the Mathias Research Ranch for allowing us access and hosting the lunch.

Monies raised from our recent Dinner & Auction and upcoming Casino are instrumental in helping to maintain these critical habitats.

To see more of our work, please visit our [habitat projects page at pfcalgary.ca](https://pfcalgary.ca/habitat-projects)





The tour began at the south end and headed north to the Finnegan Field complex.



The tour bus chariot for the day.



Lunch at the University of Alberta Mathias Research Ranch.



The **Mattheis Research Ranch** is part of a large contiguous tract of rangeland with diverse topography, vegetation and wildlife. The Mattheis Ranch was donated to the University of Alberta in 2010 by Edwin and Ruth Mattheis. For more information please visit <https://rri.ualberta.ca/about-us/our-facilities/mattheis-research-ranch/>



Weather was perfect for our tour of the north EID pastures. Incredible habitat and a pheasant sighting!



Crab Lake ditch supplies water to the Field & Stream, Verger, Solano and Will J, Reid Complexes in the Gem area.



The ditches and canals that feed the wetland complexes often get choked with cattail impeding the flow of water. Pheasants Forever actively manages these canals, so they run free. Every few years, a track hoe is needed to pull out the old cattail to allow for water flow.



The **Eastern Irrigation District (EID)** is one of 11 irrigation districts in southern Alberta. It is governed by the Water Act which, through licenses issued, authorizes the District to divert and use water from the Bow River at the Bassano Dam. The EID encompasses an area of 600,000 ha (1.5 million ac) and is bounded by the Red Deer River to the northeast and the Bow River to the southwest.

For more information, download the EID Booklet at https://www.eid.ca/documents/publications/PR_Booklet_Web.pdf



This new structure at Crab Lake was funded by Pheasants Forever Calgary two years ago, and guarantees water delivery to several wetlands across the EID North Pastures.



Finnegan Field is the last wetland complex before the water runs into the Red Deer River near Finnegan ferry. The structures in this complex are more than 30 years old and in need of repair. PF Calgary will hire local contractors to make sure these wetlands remain on the landscape.

80 Years Young

Last year's chairman John Robinson celebrated his 80th birthday this past June. The party was held at the famous Busted Shoulder Cabin.



This year's chair, Pat Powell on the left along with last year's co-chair Glen Rumpel on the right and Cochrane Toyota's Alex Baum in the middle.



Center top Katrina and John Robinson and center bottom Erin and Glen Rumpel.



Happy Birthday, John



Thank You Ryan!

Ryan Baum of Cochrane Toyota donated a Gentleman's Reserve silent auction with several lots of fine cigars and spirits with all proceeds going to Pheasants Forever. After the dust settled, Ryan cut a check to Pheasants Forever for just over \$23,000. Fantastic support from Ryan and Cochrane Toyota. Thank you to Ryan and all who supported the auction!



Ryan Baum (left) presents Perry with a cheque for \$23,000 to Pheasants Forever Calgary.

COCHRANE





Youth/Novice Fall Shoot

FREE!



Youth/Novice Fall Shoot during Provincial Hunting Day.

September 26, 2026 | 8:30am - 2:00pm

Calgary Firearms Centre, DeWinton, AB

If you are a youth or novice shooter aged 12 and up, please join us for an amazing day of free activities including shotgun coaching by AHEIA certified instructors, archery, crossbow, dog demonstrations, BBQ lunch and much more!

Space is limited. Register Early. Ph. 403-252-8474 • Email info@aheia.com

Made possible with the support of AHEIA,
Alberta Conservation Association and
Pheasants Forever Calgary



**PHEASANTS FOREVER
CHINOOK CHAPTER
Click for Tickets!**



PF CALGARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WELCOME & FAREWELL



Welcome Jim Saunders

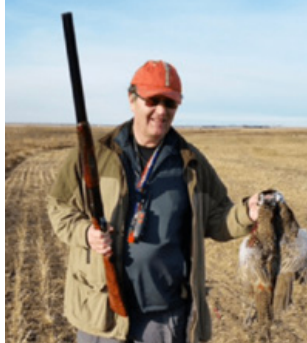
PF Calgary is pleased to welcome Jim Saunders to the Board.

Originally from Cape Breton, Jim obtained schooling from University of New Brunswick and then moved to Alberta where he successfully led 3 junior oil & gas companies and is now the President and CEO of Twin Butte Energy Ltd.

Jim is a generous and giving individual that has high values for all things family. In his spare time, the outdoor sporting world is his oyster.

Jim loves to fish and bird hunt.

Jim has been an excellent donor to Pheasants Forever and is a great addition to our team.



Farewell Chris Kolozetti

PF Calgary is in a much better position than it was 16 years ago, thanks in part to Chris Kolozetti joining the Board in February 2010. With a highly successful career in real estate development, Chris was a true leader in garnering support from industry professionals he worked with throughout his career - who to this day are active attendees and sponsors.

Chris has a reputation of being a great shot and is a no guff businessman, and never shy to speak his mind. All of which, makes for a good board member. He's a kind generous man and one that you want on your team.

Congratulations and big thanks to Chris for 16 years on the Board.



Farewell Chris McLean

We would like to thank Chris McLean for his work on the Board this past year. We trust and hope that Chris will continue to support Pheasants Forever in the future.

Wishing Chris all the best!



SUMMER SIZZLE



HERB MARINATED PHEASANT SKEWERS

from MEATEATER

"This simple herb, garlic, and lemon marinade is a go-to at my house. Although it's a knockout with lighter-meat game birds, such as pheasant, it's also tasty on venison."

- JENNY NGUYEN-WHEATLEY



GET THE RECIPE



FIRST PHEASANT MENTOR HUNTS



First-time Pheasant Hunter Events:

8th ANNUAL SPRUCE CREEK EVENT

Open to the Public

12 spots available Sept. 12, 2016

6th ANNUAL LETHBRIDGE POLYTECHNIC EVENT

Open to Renewable Resource Program students.
Limited spots available. DATE to be Announced.

These events are for first-time pheasant hunters. Hunters will learn all aspects of pheasant hunting from field to table. Participants must be 16 years of age or older and possess a valid PAL.



LETHBRIDGE
POLYTECHNIC



To reserve your spot:
Email: terri@pfcalgary.ca
Phone: 403.336.1145 (cell)
or 403.995.9960 ext. 101

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For more information visit [Become a Sponsor.](#)

Upland Advocates

Contribution of \$50,000 to \$99,999

CHARLESGLLEN



COCHRANE



STAMPEDE



For the third year in a row, Charlesglen, Cochrane and Stampede Toyota have demonstrated outstanding commitment to conservation and community by generously donating a brand-new Toyota vehicle to the annual Dinner and Auction.

Their remarkable support has played a pivotal role in the success of our events, helping us raise critical dollars for habitat conservation. These funds go directly toward conserving and enhancing upland game bird habitat across Southern Alberta—ensuring healthy ecosystems for wildlife and future generations alike.



Upland Advocate

Contribution of \$50,000 to \$99,999



Eagle Pointe Lodge
EST. 1986

It's an out-of-the-way place, but Wales Island has often been the centre of international attention. It makes for a fascinating history that we're happy to share with guests.

Congratulations to Eagle Pointe Lodge on their 40th Anniversary and their commitment and passion for supporting our efforts at Pheasants Forever.



THANK YOU TO OUR TOP TIER GROUP OF SPONSORS

For more information visit [Become a Sponsor.](#)

Upland Stewards

Contribution of \$25,000 to \$49,999

cenovus
ENERGY

Cenovus is a Canadian-based integrated energy company headquartered in Calgary, committed to maximizing value by developing assets in a safe, responsible and cost-efficient manner.

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AVIATION

Sunwest Aviation is committed to providing safe and personalized travel experiences. Trusted by respected corporations and individuals for over 30 years.



Upland Enthusiasts

Contribution of \$10,000 - \$24,999


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Contribution of \$2,500 - \$4,999



Bronze Sponsors

Contribution of \$1,000 - \$2,499



THANK YOU TO OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS



IMPORTANT DATES

September 8
Board of Director's Meeting

[September 10](#)
[Goldenstone Directors](#)
[Invitational](#)

[September 12](#)
[First Pheasant Mentor Hunt](#)

[September 16 & 17](#)
[2026 CASINO](#)

[September 26](#)
[Youth Novice Shoot & Provincial](#)
[Hunting Day](#)

December 2
Board of Director's Meeting



Leave a Legacy

It's not every day we ask ourselves,

What is my legacy?

But once in a while, perhaps after the passing of a close relative or longtime friend, we take a moment to step back and ask ourselves this important question.

- David R. Bue, Pheasants Forever

When you think about leaving a legacy, there is generally one of three goals you likely want to accomplish:

1. ***Passing on something of value to future generations;***
2. ***Leaving something of yourself for others to remember; and***
3. ***Creating memories of significance for your family.***

There are many sound reasons for planning your estate today, and in doing so, you take a final shot at securing your legacy. Make Pheasants Forever Calgary a beneficiary in your will and know that your legacy will live on for generations.

Please visit [Leave a Legacy](#) or email info@pfcalgary for more information.



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