

CARTS President's Report

June 2014 - The past year has been a busy one for the Central Alberta Regional Trails Society and we have made real progress in fostering and promoting trail development in Central Alberta. It goes to show that much can be accomplished when people and municipalities work together.

We were excited to welcome Alberta Transportation as a member of CARTS this past year and we are already seeing the benefits of having them involved with our organization in trail planning and development. A new approach by the department has made it possible to consider building trails in highway rights of way and this is allowing us to consider trail routings that were previously impossible. We are in the process of re-examining the routing for the Springbrook to Penhold trail and would love to see this trail finished within the next year.

Subcommittee meetings to look at trail routes in several locations throughout central Alberta have taken place and we hope that we will be able help municipalities to construct more trails in the coming year. At CARTS request, Red Deer County applied for a grant to perform a study to examine the possible routes for trails between Red Deer and Springbrook. The study is just barely underway.

Lacombe County is adding USB codes to their signage on the new trail they built last year. The USB codes will be connected to Youtube videos that will bring each of the signs alive. CARTS assisted with the development of these videos and was recently interviewed on local radio about them in an effort to keep trail users informed.

It's been a busy year and we hope to see the fruits of our labours in the form of more trails on the ground in the future. CARTS would not be able to accomplish its goals without the support of amazing volunteers and our member municipalities and organizations. Current municipal and corporate members include: Ponoka, Lacombe, Lacombe County, Blackfalds, Red Deer, Red Deer County, Sylvan Lake, Penhold, Innisfail and Alberta Transportation. A big thanks to all who helped to make this past year a successful one for CARTS.

Debbie Olsen