SAPAA
Stewards Helping Stewards

www.sapaastewards.com

Ms. Bertha Ford
Red Deer, Alberta

November 28, 2026

Dear Ms. Ford Bertha

RE: 2026 Recipient of the SAPAA Lifetime Achievement Award

On behalf of the board and members of the Stewards of Alberta's Protected Areas Association, it is my pleasure to inform you that you are the recipient of the inaugural SAPAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Please find attached the SAPAA announcement as well as letters of congratulations from both Nature Alberta and the Alberta Government.

Looking over the records, you visited your designated site Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve, an astounding 121 times over the past three decades. In addition, you have served as a leader and inspiration for SAPAA, shared your passion with your family and friends, and shared your expertise with the wider conservation community.

For example, SAPAA acknowledges that you were a recipient of the 2007 Owl Award from the Red Deer River Naturalists Society. This was in recognition of your outstanding volunteer contributions including seven years as the organization's speaker coordinator. This society praised your dedication, noting that you carefully organized speakers, hosted them personally, and helped make meetings accessible and engaging for both members and the public.

In addition, and as reported in the Red Deer Advocate in 2013, you were one of the original organizers of the Red Deer Ramblers. Stewardship happens not only through site reports but also by walking next to a new visitor to Alberta's rich natural history. As an organizer and hiker, you helped to share the passion for conservation and responsible use of our lands.

In other words, you exemplified the SAPAA mission of '***Stewards Helping Stewards***'. Thank you for your decades of service and this well deserved recognition of your work.

Sincerely, Frank Potter, FCPA (ret.) MBA
President, SAPAA

Stewards of Alberta's Protected Areas Association (SAPAA)
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