

**2018 ANNUAL REPORT Of The  
Medicine Hat Interpretive Program Operations Committee  
For GN AGM, Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

The committee operating the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program has been comprised of the following GN members in the past year: John Slater (Chair), Bob Townsend (Vice-Chair), Anne Bernhardt (Secretary), Elaine Spitzer, Carol O'Brien/Simonne Flynn and ex-officio voting member Hugh Armstrong (GN President). Also, non-voting ex-officio members were Lisa McMow (MHIP Bookkeeper, assisting Eileen Cowtan, GN Treasurer), Corlaine Gardner (Chief Interpreter) and Scott Richter (representative of the City of Medicine Hat Parks & Recreation Department). Note, Carol stepped down at the first meeting due to health issues and replaced by Simonne at the second meeting.

During the past year, three meetings of the committee were held on February 26, May 7, and November 5 at each time reports were received about Interpretive Program operations and programs, and budgets monitored and accepted.

Early in the year, Hugh, Bob and Corlaine met with Scott to negotiate and sign a new five-year City/GN contract and lease Agreement for operation of the Interpretive Program at the Nature Centre. Under the terms of the agreement, it is necessary to raise supplementary funds beyond what the City of Medicine Hat supplied, which the Program has been doing successfully for years thanks to Corlaine. Also, Corlaine has ensured the Program was adequately staffed. The permanent staff, consisting of Valerie Martins and Marty Drut, was assisted by other seasonal staff made up of students and interns. The Program is also supported mightily by a small army of volunteers especially for special public events such as the Kiwanis' sponsored Family Day, Easter Chicks & Bunnies, the IP Fall Festival, and the Lion's sponsored Christmas Hayride. At the end of the year, we said "happy retirement" to Valerie after many years of faithful employment.

Another significant task this year has been the major renovation of the Nature Centre and replacement of the Prairie View Point. Corlaine along with the other staff did an admiral job of keeping the Program running by using outdoor activities at Police Point Park as well as other City Parks.

Our committee believes that the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program is one of the finest in the country and it is because of the quality of people that staff the program. Our thanks go out to them and all those members of the Grasslands Naturalists who support the program with their donations and volunteer time.

The people of Medicine Hat are the ultimate winners because of the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program. The quality of life in our city is dramatically impacted by this program and the Police Point Park experience is richer and more deeply felt because of it. But the program extends well beyond the bounds of the park to helping people experience and appreciate the wonderful natural history world that we live in throughout the City and Southeastern Alberta.

**Submitted By John Slater, Committee Chairperson**