

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2018 YEAR

Prepared by Eileen Cowtan for AGM on March 26, 2019

Grasslands Naturalists 'Club'

The club's finances remain sound. The primary sources of income include membership dues (\$1,535), donations (\$1,380, including \$500 from Methanex), money collected from the distribution of "Birding Trails" (\$986) and the annual distribution from the Medicine Hat Community Foundation (\$895). Annual expenses included insurance (\$1,143) and Program expenses (\$2,494). Extraordinary costs this year were \$3,000 spent (plus \$2,224 from the Casino account) on the publication of the popular "Birding Trails" book and \$1,129 for the "Wildflower Brochure.

Note that income to offset the cost for the publications was received in 2017 but the expenses were incurred in 2018 so that the reported net income of -\$3,003 is a distortion of this year's operation. Note also that all figures are net of GST expense.

Medicine Hat Interpretive Program

It is becoming more difficult to accurately portray a true financial picture because many of the expenses are now paid from the Casino account. The net income of \$21,968 shown for MHIP is for transactions from the bank account only. Expenses paid from the Casino account (\$10,115) would effectively decrease this net income to \$11,853.

The primary source of income, \$166,438 continues to be the contract with the City of Medicine. Local organizations sponsored various community events: Family Day (Kiwanis), Easter (Kinsmen) and December hayride (Lions). Grant income included federal government funding for student employment (\$8,468), and municipal grants of \$8,333. The main sources of income from the operation of the Centre were school programs (\$23,332) and sales from the Nature Shop (\$6,241 net). Staffing costs of \$175,334 are the main expenditure.

Casino:

GN had no casino booked in 2018. Therefore the only source of income to the casino account was the return of expenses that had been paid but were denied (\$1763). As noted above, expenses for both MHIP and GN Club were paid from the casino account ((\$10,115 and \$2,698) respectively. The balance remaining in the account at year end was \$5,765.

In summary, the net income from all three operations for the year was \$7,919.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Cowtan