

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Medicine Hat Interpretive Program Operations Committee

for the GN AGM, June 22nd, 2021

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

The past year the MHIP has been affected by COVID, as has the rest of the world. Only one meeting of the committee was held on September 21, 2020. At this time, reports were received about the altered Interpretive Program operations and events and activities.

Corlaine, then informed us she wished to cut back her on her hours for 2021 and then retire at the year end. We reluctantly accepted her proposal. We have subsequently been informed that Marty Drut is also planning on retiring at the end of 2021. So we have set up a committee of three- Corlaine, Bob and myself, to start looking for replacements- to date we have advertised it on Goodwork.ca, InterpretationCanada.ca, our GN website, MH News, Nature Alberta Facebook and Twitter and informed the City so they could post it on their website. As of this writing (May 8th), we have had four replies. Closing date is June 1st.

We then reviewed and accepted the 2021 Budget with the recommended salary adjustments for the Chief Interpreter and Staff.

Scott Richter reported on Parks and Recreations upcoming projects and introduced Natalie Weir as their new rep on this Committee.

An updated Chief Interpreter's Job Description and Terms of Reference were reviewed and sent to the Governance Committee and Board.

Corlaine, along with the other staff, have done an admiral job of keeping the Program running by using on-line and outdoor activities at Police Point Park as well as other City Parks. Especially this past year, the quality of life in our city has been dramatically impacted by this program as people have been encouraged to get out into and enjoy nature to combat the COVID isolation.

Let's hope things return to some semblance of normalcy for the rest of 2021!

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Armstrong, Committee Chair