

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
Medicine Hat Interpretive Program Operations Committee

for the March, 2023 Grasslands Naturalists AGM,

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, Bruce Mcleod and ex-officio voting member Phil Horch (GN President). Also, non-voting ex-officio members are Alicia Lew (Chief Interpreter) and Scott Richter/ Kara Brake-Parks and Rec reps.

Elaine stepped down the end of 2022 after many years on the Committee. We thank her for her dedication and especially for stepping into the Secretary position. We are now looking for a volunteer to replace her.

The 2022 year saw the MHIP again affected by COVID, as was the rest of the world. But things definitely were on the upswing. There were a number of staff changes but they have had a full complement of staff since March, 2022. Marty and Corlaine stayed on till the end of December 2021 to make for a smooth transition to the new staff.

Many new programs have attracted families and the public. School programs have restarted and offer new bookings. The Prehistoric Prairies” display created a new interest in geology and paleontology. It was suggested MHIP consider training a prospective Interpreter in geology and paleontology. To date we have 4 full time and 2 part time employees. (see the 2022 MHIP Annual Report for more)

The MHIP is hoping a Volunteer Phone Coordinator will step forward. Alicia has a draft list which can be updated, and a phoning procedure established.

It's hard to believe but our 5 year contract with the city ends this year. We have had preliminary discussions with Parks and Recreations and we will start negotiations in January 2023. We both (GN and Parks) are prepared to try and make this round much less time consuming than the last time.

In 2022 Alicia, Ian and staff have done an admiral job of keeping the MHIP running by using in house, on-line and outdoor activities at Police Point Park. The quality of life in our city has been dramatically impacted by this program as people have been encouraged to combat the past two years of COVID isolation by getting out into and enjoy the outdoors and nature.

And finally, Unfortunately, with COVID and the subsequent isolation restrictions, we were unable to give Corlaine and Marty a proper send off in 2021; but this was done after the June 2022 AGM. We have been extremely fortunate to have Corlaine and Marty as our main staff over these many past years and we are going to miss them! They have made the MH Interpretive Program into one of the finest in the country and can feel proud of the quality programming they passed on. Take a well deserved bow and rest and good luck in the future!

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Armstrong, Committee Chair

