



MH Interpretive Program
Managed by Grasslands Naturalists
Based in Police Point Park
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2015 - Another Successful Year

The Interpretive Program continues to be a credit to the Grasslands Naturalists and the foresight that led the club to step forward and save the program when budget cuts threatened in the mid 1990's. Some may also recall the quiet and effective fight that some Grassland Naturalists led when the contract was going to be cancelled in 2009. Past and present Naturalists should be proud.

In 2015, we continued many of our popular events as well as developing new ones. We changed exhibits frequently, keeping the Nature Centre interesting for visitors who often come back repeatedly. With our public programs, our school and community groups, and our general attendance, we chatted with, answered questions, or did programs with over 36,000 people.

Some of our funding comes from student subsidy programs. In early 2015, we had Jess Godin finishing a subsidized intern position. Part of her work was the River exhibit last March which was very well received. In the summer, we had a college student, Kyle Grimm, working with us on all aspects of our programming. He continued working part time through the winter, as funding and exams allowed.

Other funding comes from grants that we track down, apply for, and receive. We apply for lots that we don't get. Grant writing is time consuming and tiring but without it, we could not do nearly as many projects as we do. When I am writing grants, I have to fit the criteria of the granting organization, but I make sure that it fits our mandate, and supports aspects of our programming. I prefer to build-in areas for growth. The project may be short term, but I want it to be valuable for future displays or events or school field trips.

In 2015, we received a small grant from World Wildlife Fund Canada to encourage development of backyard habitat. Many Naturalists and others volunteered at our Wildlife Workshops at Canada Day and the Stampede as part of this project. WWF Canada is continuing their Go Wild program and we hope to be able to receive other grants in the future.

We also received two grants from Land Stewardship Centre: River and Riparian Health which will establish base line data for future analysis of the impact of flood mitigation work; and Our Wetland Classroom which will establish a new outdoor wetland study site in Kin Coulee. Both these projects are continuing through the summer of 2016.

Our volunteers are a big part of our success. We could not tackle all the things that we do without the support and encouragement of our volunteers.

Thank You!