

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2015 YEAR

As presented at the AGM on March 22, 2016

Grasslands Naturalists 'Club'

The club's financial situation remains relatively unchanged from previous years with total equity increasing by \$2,376 to \$24,321.

The main sources of income were membership dues (\$1760), donations (\$2210), the annual distribution from the Medicine Hat Community Foundation (\$760) and the Co-op Rebate Program (\$182). Two new projects were undertaken. A donation of \$1200 was received from the Medicine Hat Realtors Charitable Foundation to be used for the Bird Tales project which is proving to be very popular at the seniors' residences at which it has been implemented. The City of Medicine Hat offset the expenses of \$4638 for the Ranchlands Baby's Breath & Noxious Weeds Removal Project.

The greatest single expense is for insurance. The cost for the delivery of programs was lower than usual this year because few speakers were brought in from out of town.

In summary, the finances of the club are sound.

Medicine Hat Interpretive Program

The magnitude of both income and expenses demonstrates the robust activity of the program.

The primary source of income, \$136,000, continues to be the contract with the City of Medicine and the major expense is that of staffing costs (\$176,215). Local organizations sponsored various community events: Family Day – Kiwanis \$1000, Easter – Kinsmen \$2500, and The Lions - December hayride. Several grants supported various projects. A World Wildlife Fund Canada (\$1000) was used to promote backyard habitat, and two Land Stewardship Centre grants totaling \$20,000 (\$15,000 received in 2015; \$5000 receivable in 2016) are being used for Wetlands and River Monitoring projects. Another source of income was various government funding for student employment (\$12,899).

Operational income included monies received from the supply of programs, mostly to schools (\$30,079) and from sales from the Nature Shop (\$7421 net).

As mentioned above, staffing costs is the main expenditure. The true cost of the various projects is not shown in the financial statements as much of the expense is for cost of the labour involved.

The program is operating in a fiscally responsible manner. Its total equity increased this year by \$1371 for a final figure of \$42,372.

Eileen Cowtan