Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday March 14, 2021 at 7:00pm MST

In City of Lethbridge by ZOOM (virtual meeting)

Present:

Rick Andrews (President), Taylor Hecker (Secretary & HSNC Rep), Marni Hope (Director), Rick Parker (Director), Coreen Putman (HSNC), Curtis Goodman (Member), Kairvee Bhat (Member), Penny Hopkins (Member), Ken Moore (Member), Phyllis Moore (Member), Jim Carter (Member), Ellen Carter (Member), Kristen Aspden (Member), Dorothy Graham (Member), Ednna Stobschinski (Guest)

Regrets:

Sam Tinworth (Past President), Ashley Pearse (Vice President)

Call to order at 7:02 pm

Agenda

• **Motion**: That the agenda be adopted as presented made by Ken Moore.

Minutes of previous AGM

• **Motion**: That the minutes for the March 15, 2020 Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented made by Ken Moore.

President's Report – Attachment 1

• **Motion**: That the President's report be accepted as presented made by Coreen Putman, seconded by Rick Parker.

Treasurer's Report – Attachment 2

- **Motion**: That the Financial Statements for fiscal year 2020 be accepted as presented, made by Rick Parker, seconded by Marni Hope.
- Motion: That the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 be accepted as presented, made by Dorothy Graham, seconded by Ken Moore.

Auditor's Statements – Attachment 2

• The books were reviewed by Ellen Carter (February 10, 2021) and Ken Moore (February 12, 2021). A statement was made on the Financial Statements that they have examined the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 and in their opinion the Statements present fairly the financial position of the Society.

- **Motion**: That the Auditor's Statements be accepted as presented made by Rick Parker, seconded by Coreen Putman.
- Auditors will be appointed at the Executive Meeting prior to the next AGM.

Election of Officers

- Continuing Directors:
 - o Rick Andrews (2nd year of 2 year term)
 - o Rick Parker (2nd year of 2 year term)
 - o Samantha Tinworth (2nd year of 2 year term)
- Executive positions to be filled:
 - o President
 - o Vice-President
 - o Treasurer
 - o Secretary
 - o Director (HSNC Representative)
 - o Director at Large
 - o Director at Large
 - o Past-President
- Call for presiding officer to run elections
 - o **Motion**: That Curtis Goodman be appointed to run elections, made by Rick Andrews, seconded by Taylor Hecker.

Elections proceedings:

- Curtis Goodman Reviewed nominations received prior to the election:
 - o Taylor Hecker (HSNC Representative)
- Curtis Goodman called for nominations from the floor for vacant positions Nominations from the Floor:
 - o Rick Andrews for President (nominated by Ken Moore)
 - o Marni Hope for Vice President (nominated by Ken Moore)
 - o Kristen Aspden for Treasurer (self-nominated)
 - o Taylor Hecker for Secretary (self-nominated)
 - o Kairvee Bhatt (self-nominated)
- Curtis Goodman called 3 times for nominations to cease.
- As none of the positions were contested, voting was not required.
- Taylor Hecker presented the following slate of directors for review:

- o President Rick Andrews
- o Vice-President Marni Hope
- o Treasurer Kristen Aspden
- o Secretary Taylor Hecker
- o HSNC Rep Taylor Hecker
- o Directors at Large Rick Parker, Kairvee Bhatt, Samantha Tinworth
- Motion: That all present having reviewed the slate, the above be accepted as elected directors of the organization in their appointed role made by Ken Moore, seconded by Kairvee Bhatt.
- Elections proceedings ceased at 7:22 pm, Curtis Goodman yielded the floor to President Rick Andrews.

Signing Authority

- The current signing authority consists of any two of the President (Rick Andrews), Vice-President (Marni Hope), Secretary (Taylor Hecker), and Treasurer (Kristen Aspden).
- Motion: Be it resolved that signing authority with the Society's bank (1st Choice Savings) be updated to reflect the current executive made by Ken Moore, seconded by Rick Parker.

Business Arising

None

Items of Information

• Annual Report 2020 – Attachment 3

Items of Discussion

• Good of the Order Motion: That the attendees take a moment to introduce themselves, made by Kairvee Bhatt.

Adjournment

• Motion: That the meeting adjourn at 7:55 pm made by Taylor Hecker.

Additional Information for Board Members:

Board Leadership Week in Lethbridge is a virtual series of 3 live webinars with live Q&A. These sessions are intended for local non-profit board members.

- March 23rd (7-9 PM) Basic Governance
- March 24th (7-9 PM) Fund Development
- March 25th (7-9 PM) Board Diversity Creating a Bigger Impact With the Community you Serve

There is no cost to attend, registration is open at:

https://www.boardleadershiplethbridge.ca/board-leadership-week.html

Attachment #1

President's Report 2021 AGM

2020 was a very challenging year for both the Friends of Society and staff and volunteers at the Nature Centre.

It began with a series of well attended Travel Adventure presentations, which together with an increase in donations, raised over \$900 for each event.

Then while partnering with Lethbridge Plays, the Friends Of Society helped sponsor the Play! Summit, a full day event that brought educators, researchers, parents and students together to learn about the importance, and need for play in everyday life.

The year was going really well until a lockdown resulting from the first wave of Covid-19 caused the cancellation of many of the years remaining programs. Impacted by this were our Snake Safety Talks, Janes Walk and our annual Shoreline and Coulee Cleanups. It was clear, because of these challenges, that we would have to look at delivering any remaining programs in a very different way.

After securing funding from the Community Foundations of Canada, the Friends of Society provided financial support to the Nature Centre in its development of the Get Outside - Nature Play program. The program was offered through the internet, as well as several other formats where materials were distributed to families without internet access. Included in this was the colouring book - "Lethbridge Through The Seasons" which was distributed as part of the Mindful Munchies Food Bank Hamper Program.

By the time the Nature Centre gradually began re-opening in June, many of its programs were available on-line, and together with their assistance, we began hosting live on-line presentations followed by Q&A's. The premiere screening of a locally produced film, "Avian Summer" saw almost 100 viewers take part. Also, with more residents enjoying the coulees over the summer and fall, timely on-line presentations and Q&A's were made including a Snake Safety talk prior to the fall snake migration, as well as a Winter Birds presentation ahead of the Christmas Bird count. My thanks to Ken Moore and Ken Orich for participating in these events.

In October the Friends Of Society participated in the City's River Valley Engagement Focus Group, where we encouraged an increase in environmental education programs while supporting the ongoing conservation of the City's natural spaces. The results were then presented to the City of Lethbridge Civic Works Committee.

In November as a second wave of Covid-19 loomed, we appealed to our members to renew their memberships and consider making donations to help us fund further programming at the Nature Centre. The response was overwhelming. Together with our current membership, we also saw a 22% increase in new members, who collectively raised over \$11,000 for the Growing the Grassroots Endowment Fund.

Finally, also in November, representing a culmination of two years of continued effort by the Friends Of Society, the construction of the Co-op Community Outdoor Classroom was completed at the Nature Centre. Replacing an aging, modest structure that dated back to the original building, the new outdoor classroom not only provides improved accessibility, but also architecturally compliments the design of the Nature Centre itself.

After such a challenging year I want to give a special thanks to my fellow executive board members whose continued and tireless efforts aptly demonstrated what could still be achieved during difficult times.

A very special thank you also goes to the Nature Centre staff and volunteers for their tireless work and dedication in making all of this work. The importance of educating visitors about the need to protect and preserve our local biodiversity can not be understated, and in that, they all do an amazing job.

My thanks also go out to our membership for their continued support of nature programming in Lethbridge. Without them there would be no Friends of Society and Lethbridge would be the poorer for it.

Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income 43300 · Direct Public Grants		
43330 · Foundation and Trust Grants	5,000.00	
Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants	5,000.00	
43400 · Direct Public Support 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	2,599.65	
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	2,599.65	
44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants	58,500.00	
Total 44500 · Government Grants	58,500.00	
44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other	386.17 5,839.06	
Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support	6,225.23	
45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities)	0.60	
Total 45000 · Investments	0.60	
46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue 46440 · Bottle Deposit Refunds	176.00 10.00 10.35	
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	196.35	
47200 · Program Income 47230 · Membership Dues	660.00	
Total 47200 · Program Income	660.00	
49000 · Special Events Income 49010 · Special Events Contributions 49000 · Special Events Income - Other	644.50 2,345.00	
Total 49000 · Special Events Income	2,989.50	
Total Income	76,171.33	
Gross Profit	76,171.33	
Expense 60300 · Awards and Grants 60320 · Cash Awards and Grants	254,000.00	
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants	254,000.00	
60900 · Business Expenses 60920 · Business Registration Fees	60.00	
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	60.00	
62800 · Facilities and Equipment 62890 · Rent, Parking, Utilities 62800 · Facilities and Equipment - Other	262.50 355.95	
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	618.45	

Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20
65000 · Operations	
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	238.47
65030 · Printing and Copying	1,350.22
65040 · Supplies	435.00
65060 · Service Charges	286.01
Total 65000 · Operations	2,309.70
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65110 · Advertising Expenses	290.00
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	271.45
65150 · Memberships and Dues	35.00
65180 · Honourarium	362.50
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	958.95
Total Expense	257,947.10
Net Ordinary Income	-181,775.77
Net Income	-181,775.77

Rick Andrews - President

Taylor Hecker - Secretary

3:39 PM 2021-02-11 Accrual Basis

March 14, 2021

Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2020

	31 Dec 20
ASSETS Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings 00 · Petty Cash 01 · 1st Choice Savings - Operating 02 · 1st Choice Savings - Dividend 04 · Benevity (CDN Online Giving) 06 · PayPal	290.00 16,795.75 54.39 3,520.04 269.78
Total Chequing/Savings	20,929.96
Total Current Assets	20,929.96
TOTAL ASSETS	20,929.96
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Liabilities Current Liabilities Accounts Payable 20000 · Accounts Payable	591.14
Total Accounts Payable	591.14
Total Current Liabilities	591.14
Total Liabilities	591.14
Equity 30000 · Opening Balance Equity Net Income	202,114.59 -181,775.77
Total Equity	20,338.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	20,929.96

Rick Andrews - President

Taylor Hecker - Secretary

I Ellen Carter	have examined the	financial statemen	nts of the Friends of th	ne Helen
Schuler Nature Centre Society for	the year ending Dece	mber 31, 2020. In	my opinion the Finan	cial
Statements present fairly the finar	icial position of the So	ociety.		
	nA (ret)	185Eb	2021	
Signature		Date		
I KEN MOORE			nts of the Friends of th	
Schuler Nature Centre Society for Statements present fairly the final			my opinion the rman	Clai
Statements present fairly the imai	position of the se	Z6/FR	1505/8	Page 1
Signature	/	Date		

Friends of HSNC Society - AGM Minutes

Page 9 of 21

Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society Profit & Loss Budget Overview January through December 2021

Ordinary Income/Expense Income 43300 · Direct Public Grants 43300 · Foundation and Trust Grants Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants 43400 · Direct Public Support 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions 43400 · Direct Public Support - Other Total 43400 · Direct Public Support 44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support 7 otal 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	9,000.00 9,000.00 1,200.00 1,200.00 2,400.00 6,500.00	
43300 · Direct Public Grants 43330 · Foundation and Trust Grants Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants 43400 · Direct Public Support 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions 43400 · Direct Public Support - Other Total 43400 · Direct Public Support 44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	9,000.00 1,200.00 1,200.00 2,400.00	
Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants 43400 · Direct Public Support 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions 43400 · Direct Public Support - Other Total 43400 · Direct Public Support 44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	9,000.00 1,200.00 1,200.00 2,400.00	
43400 · Direct Public Support 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions 43400 · Direct Public Support - Other Total 43400 · Direct Public Support 44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	1,200.00 1,200.00 2,400.00	
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions 43400 · Direct Public Support - Other Total 43400 · Direct Public Support 44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	2,400.00	
44500 · Government Grants 44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	,	
44530 · Local Government Grants Total 44500 · Government Grants 44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	6,500.00	
44800 · Indirect Public Support 44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue		
44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	6,500.00	
44810 · Affiliated Org. Contributions 44800 · Indirect Public Support - Other Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue		
Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	200.00	
45000 · Investments 45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	1,800.00	
45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities) Total 45000 · Investments 46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	2,000.00	
46400 · Other Types of Income 46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	0.60	
46410 · DVD Revenue 46420 · Card Revenue	0.60	
10 110 Dottio Doposit Holando	150.00 80.00 45.00	
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	275.00	
47200 · Program Income 47230 · Membership Dues	660.00	
Total 47200 · Program Income	660.00	
49000 · Special Events Income 49010 · Special Events Contributions 49020 · Special Events Sales (Nongift) 49000 · Special Events Income - Other	200.00 0.00 1,000.00	
Total 49000 · Special Events Income	1,200.00	
Total Income	22,035.60	
Gross Profit		

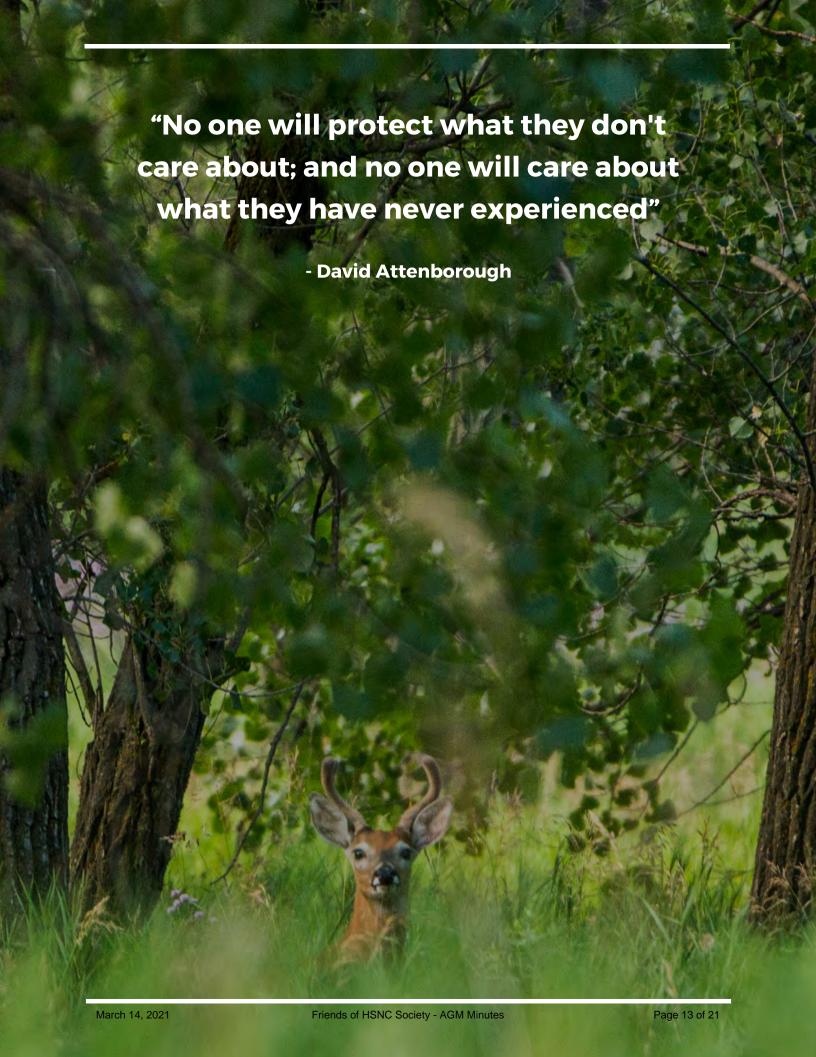
Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society Profit & Loss Budget Overview

January through December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21
Expense 60300 · Awards and Grants 60320 · Cash Awards and Grants	26,500.00
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants	26,500.00
60900 · Business Expenses 60920 · Business Registration Fees	60.00
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	60.00
62800 · Facilities and Equipment 62890 · Rent, Parking, Utilities 62800 · Facilities and Equipment - Other	265.00 0.00
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	265.00
65000 · Operations 65020 · Postage, Mailing Service 65030 · Printing and Copying 65040 · Supplies 65060 · Service Charges	450.00 750.00 350.00 231.00
Total 65000 · Operations	1,781.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses 65110 · Advertising Expenses 65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O 65150 · Memberships and Dues 65180 · Honourarium	290.00 271.45 35.00 100.00
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	696.45
Total Expense	29,302.45
Net Ordinary Income	-7,266.85
Net Income	-7,266.85



2020 ANNUA REPORT





THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND!

2020 was a year like no other we have ever experienced. Yet despite all of its challenges, as you will see in this annual report, we were still able to achieve some very significant goals.

From the Society's point of view, two important achievements I find noteworthy are an increase in membership along with a successful Fall fundraising campaign. Both of these successes may be interpreted as signs that our Society is on the right track, that people find

value in our work and are willing to help support local naturebased programming in a number of different ways.

Our success therefore, is directly attributable to the generous ongoing support of our donors, members and volunteers, all of whom came together at a time when it was needed most, and all of whom deserve a huge and heartfelt "THANK YOU!"

RICK ANDREWS

President

OUR IMPACT

CO-OP COMMUNITY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM BUILT

2

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

22%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

3,400+

PROGRAM ATTENDEES & PARTICIPANTS

5,100+

UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS

\$12,010

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

\$257,946

TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2020

\$76,171

TOTAL FUNDRAISED IN 2020

See our full financial report, available at NatureCentre.ca/2020





OUR FOCUS

ADVANCING NATURE APPRECIATION IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA!

Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society supports a community of environmentally responsible citizens with interactive nature-based educational experiences.

Our Society builds appreciation and connection with nature by:

- Supporting environmental education programs and special projects;
- Enhancing the resources of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre;
- Fostering the importance of nature!

Our Society advances education by providing workshops and presentations on the local natural environment to the public.

We are proud to partner with a network of nature and environment focused organizations to offer and support nature-based programming in our community.

We are always seeking grant and partnership opportunities for our programs, projects, and initiatives for nature-based education in Lethbridge.

In many ways our efforts make the Nature Centre better! However, our Society does not offset the capital and operational requirements of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre. We provide enhancements for the benefit of the community that would not otherwise be available.

Since 2014 our Society has delivered 92 programs to the community, benefitting over 10,000 attendees and participants. In that time we helped realize two large capital improvement projects: the River Valley Exhibit (2016) and the Co-op Community Outdoor Classroom (2020). These enhancements provide lasting benefit, enriching the experience for 58,000+ annual visitors to the Helen Schuler Nature Centre.

Notable Accomplishments

In the past year, our efforts have resulted in significant support of nature-based programs, capital enhancements at the Nature Centre, and awareness of our role in the community.

In January we kicked off an exciting line-up of Travel Adventures presentations featuring Lyndon Penner, Joanna Fraser, Rick Andrews & Carol Leriger, Chris Fisher, and Derry Armstrong. An increase in donations alongside quickly reserved seating shows strong community support for programs like this. In 2019 each Travel Adventures program raised approximately \$500 while each program in 2020 raised over \$900! Thank you to all attendees for making this possible!

In January we also partnered with Lethbridge Plays to sponsor the inaugural *Play! Summit*. This full day event convened educators, researchers, parents, students, and policy-makers to learn from each other about the benefits and importance of play in everyday life.

Our Annual General Meeting was Sunday March 15, the evening before a nation-wide lockdown came into effect.

As a result of the mandatory public health measures, we cancelled many of our scheduled events and activities. The Snake Safety presentations at Red Cliff Public Library and Police Point Interpretive Centre in Medicine Hat and the Jane's Walk in Lethbridge were cancelled. Our support of river valley conservation projects like Coulee Clean-up and Shoreline Clean-up was postponed.

In May we worked with the Helen Schuler Nature Centre to host an online survey of stakeholders which helped inform the facility reopening strategy. The survey identified gaps in services our community was struggling with and how our efforts could help.

In June we secured funding from the Community Foundations of Canada so that the Nature Centre could develop and offer a 'Get Outside – Nature Play' program. Weekly content was developed and released online by the Nature Centre so that families had immediate access to resources during this difficult time. The Nature Centre then adapted and repackaged this content into several different formats to allow for easier distribution to local families without internet access.





'Get Outside – Nature Play' brochures were distributed to 500 local families in two deliveries of the Mindful Munchies Program organized by the Lethbridge Food Bank and My City Care. This partnership recognized that access to nature and play are as necessary for children's health as nutrition. These much-needed resources became essential during a time when many recreation facilities and schools were unavailable.

Thanks to a partnership with eight local organizations, 'Get Outside – Nature Play' brochures were also distributed to 500 local families in an August Activity Bag. These provided families with ideas and inspiration, helping to remind them that the 'Fun Stuff Happens Outside!'

The 'Get Outside – Nature Play' content was also adapted for temporary trail signage that was deployed in several parks around Lethbridge in July, August, and September with the help of Nature Centre volunteers.

In June the Nature Centre facility resumed indoor exhibit experiences; we helped reduce touch-points within the facility while enhancing visitor experience through QR codes linked to activities on our Society's website. Using a mobile device, visitors could independently interact with sounds and videos from exhibit signs and displays. We leveraged this technology to host similar content for many outdoor trail-based activities available in Lethbridge Parks in the summer.

Our programs pivoted to an online format which allowed us to connect with our audience in a safe way. The online film premiere of *Avian Summer* – the latest documentary film by Rick Andrews, local wildlife photographer AND our Society's president – had nearly 100 participants take part in the live Q&A and film screening. In partnership with the Nature Centre, we began hosting an online Facebook Live Q&A event with local naturalists. We hosted a Snake Safety presentation in September during the rattlesnake fall migration to raise awareness of how to safely coexist in snake habitat. In December, we co-hosted a Winter Birds presentation in advance of the annual Christmas Bird Count.

In October our Society participated as a river valley stakeholder in the City of Lethbridge Park's River Valley Engagement focus group. This provided a chance for advocacy to raise awareness about the current challenges, opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses of how the river valley is managed for different user groups. Our representatives encouraged the need for more environmental education programming, as well as support for conservation of the natural spaces within the heart of our city.

Also in October, by audience demand, we hosted several inperson screenings of *Avian Summer* at the Nature Centre. This provided an opportunity for small groups to see the film on the big screen. All proceeds from *Avian Summer* screenings, virtual sales, and rentals went directly to the Growing the Grassroots Endowment Fund!

In November we called upon our members to renew memberships and consider a donation given the impact the pandemic had on our charity's activities and ability to fundraise in 2020. Our membership responded in kind – together you helped us raise \$11,300+ for the Growing the Grassroots Endowment Fund which will support the Nature Centre into perpetuity. Remarkably, we also increased our paid membership by 22% in 2020 over 2019!

Later in November, our members were encouraged to raise awareness about the impacts that potential budget reductions at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre and the impact this would have on environmental education in our community. Thanks in part to support from people like you, City Council heard that the Nature Centre is an essential part of our river valley and there was no reduction in base funding to the Centre.

Also in November, the Co-op Community Outdoor Classroom at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre was completed. This represents the culmination of two years of effort by our Friends to fundraise \$260,000 in support of a new outdoor learning space with some of the most scenic views our river valley has to offer! The new and improved space will inspire many generations of visitors to develop a closer relationship with nature.

Thanks to our Friends for helping us to achieve so much during a strange and challenging year!

Photo Captions

Cover - First Junior Naturalists program to use the new Co-op Community Classroom!

Page 2 - Deer in Nature Reserve Park

Page 3 - Rick Andrews, president, introduces a Travel Adventures

Page 4 - (Top) Prairie Hare photo by Al Daiken

Page 4 - (Middle) Nature Centre staff say "Thanks!" for Co-op Community Classroom

Page 4 - (Bottom) Long-tailed Weasel photo by Al Daiken

Page 5 - Nature Centre visitors enjoying the River Valley Exhibition at HSNC

Page 6 - (Top) Board of Directors at Annual General Meeting (L-R) Samantha Tinworth,

Marni Hope, Rick Andrews, Taylor Hecker, Rick Parker, Curtis Goodman

Page 6 - (Middle) Samantha Tinworth, past-president, introduces Travel Adventures

Page 6 - (Bottom) Chalk advertisements were drawn around town to promote the release of Avian Summer

Page 7 - (Top) August Activity Bags - 500 were distributed!

Page 7 - (Middle) Family near Get Outside - Nature Play temporary trail signs

Page 7 - (Bottom) Family Field Trip participants spotted a Monarch Butterfly caterpillar

Page 8 - (Top) In-person Avian Summer film screening at HSNC

Page 8 - (Middle) Original Amphitheatre (BEFORE)

Page 8 - (March 14 2021) - op Community Classroom (AFriends of HSNC Society - AGM Minutes

Page 10 - Cottonwood Park





Summary of Activities

Friends of the Helen Schuler Nature Centre Society is active year-round - delivering programs, grant-writing and fundraising, engaging in advocacy, and building our capacity.

Travel Adventures Presentations

- Spectacular Birds of Australia & New Zealand with Lyndon Penner (20-Jan-20)
- Exploring Brazil's Pantanal & Iguazu National Park with Joanna Fraser (31-Jan-20)
- A Taste of South America with Carol Leriger & Rick Andrews (28-Feb-20)
- Birds in Our World with Chris Fisher (27-Mar-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Kootenay Plains with Derry Armstrong (24-Apr-20) COVID CANCELLED

Conservation Initiatives

 River Valley Conservation Projects, including Coulee Clean-Up, Shoreline Clean-Up, Invasive Weed Pulls (Event Support and Sponsorship) – COVID CANCELLED

Snake Safety Presentations

- The 7 Snakes of Alberta (12-Feb-20)
- Living with Snakes at Red Cliff Library (31-Mar-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Living with Snakes at Grassland Naturalists (1-Apr-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Jane's Walk Living with Snakes in Lethbridge (2-May-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Ask a Naturalist Living with Snakes Live Q&A with Ken Moore (9-Sep-20)

Community Events & Workshops

- Lethbridge Play! Summit Sponsorship (21-Jan-20)
- 'Lethbridge through the Seasons' Colouring Book Distribution as part of Mindful Munchies Food Bank Hamper Program (COVID-19 response) (1-Apr-20)
- Jane's Walk: Snakes on the Plains (2-May-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Publication: Get Outside 101 Nature Play Guide Ideas for the Outdoors (1-Jun-20)
- Publication: Get Outside 101 Nature Play Guide More Ideas for the Outdoors (1-Jun-20)
- Nature Play Day 2020 (13-Jun-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Avian Summer online film premiere Live O&A with Rick Andrews (25-Jun-20)
- Get Outside Temporary Signage Program (Aug-Sept, 2020)
- Word on the Street Author Presentation (19-Sep-20) COVID CANCELLED
- Avian Summer film screenings x4 (26-Oct-20 & 27-Oct-20)
- Ask a Naturalist Winter Birds Live Q&A with Ken Orich (9-Dec-20)

Governance

- Executive Meeting (22-Jan-20)
- Executive Meeting (11-Mar-20)
- Annual General Meeting (15-Mar-20)
- Executive Meeting (9-Jul-2020)

THANK YOU!

It takes a community to support and inspire closer relationships between people and the natural world around us. Join us in our mission to connect people to the benefits of the great outdoors!

You can help - take action in the following ways:

- Become a Friends Member
- Make a donation
- Volunteer with us
- Attend a program, event, or workshop
- Visit the Nature Centre
- Share a testimonial about the Nature Centre
- Spend more time outside
- Encourage your friends and family to join you
- Consider joining our Board of Directors

