# Glenmore Weaselhead LOGO [round-owl].jpg

President’s Report

Yves Dansereau

**Members and guests;**

Welcome to this years AGM, thanks for coming. This report is a retrospective of the year 2019, it is the 25th anniversary of the inception of the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS). I will highlight this year’s achievements and issues that all of us on the board and our naturalists were involved with.

In the early part of the year we had the website enhanced remotely by Michel Dansereau in Montréal, collaborating with Sarah Nevill. The costs were far below the market price for his services, it was a favour to me. As a result the website now has the following:

* School bookings are easier to use.
* The old species database is now usable.
* You can now book events on the website.
* And very importantly we can now manage casino volunteers directly on the website.

Also, had we not dealt with these enhancements and updates to the website, there was a strong possibility that it would have collapsed due to un-maintained old code. We have retained the services of Michel, for maintenance and updates again at a very low cost.

Throughout the year we hosted many walks in the Weaselhead, all were very well attended except for one due to weather.

We participated in “City Nature Challenge” it was a species count on the weekend of the 27th of April. We also did the May flower count. Both of these were impacted by our late spring. In June we did “The breeding Bird survey”.

We are also proud to announce that we are participating with the Miistakis Institute’s wildlife monitoring partnership. Autonomous cameras snap pictures of wildlife passing by. The collected images have to be sorted and identified, we do this in a classroom environment as part of our learning program. These events over the years adds information to our biodiversity database.

We had great weather for the river cleanup Close to 100 people came to volunteer, garbage levels were still low that makes us happy, again I have to thank Paul Finkleman for organizing the event. I also have to thank all the volunteers, as this event is a very important part of our stewardship program.

Our school programs and our invasive plant control program are as successful as ever. I repeat the statement every year, it is because we must not Forget their importance for the Weaselhead and the City of Calgary. When you put on a map the location of the schools that participate you soon realize that students come from all over the city and the surrounding region.

As you know all of this costs money, in August we had our major fund-raising event the Society’s Casino providing us with approximately $68,000. For this I thank all of the members and non-members that volunteered. Gary Haerle was the organizer and he did a super job of it, worth A remark from the advisor as to how well we were organized.

We had a nonpartisan participation in the local election by asking the local aspiring politicians questions about the Weaselhead and our society. The replies were posted on the website in alphabetical order of party name with no comments and no editing of their input. This information was for our members to read and ascertain. This I believe was well received by all, and will be done at all elections City and Provincial.

On a more somber note we had a significant spill in the Weaselhead’s Beaver Pond. Our wet summer had some very strong downpour events. One of these caused a breach in the erosion control constructs placed by KGL for the duration of the berm construction. The material in this spill consisted of gravels silt and mud, much different from the organic soils at that location. This event had a high negative impact on the Beaver Pond. Susan Ryan placed a complaint through normal channels and got a reply that basically said we're looking into it. For a long while nothing happened. We had a news release and we contacted our MLA Whitney Issik who responded by asking us for a guided visit to the spill site, she was appalled. Within a few days, it may be coincidence or not, containment devices and the pump were installed by KGL, with the promise of remedial work. This work was completed last week except for the re-seeding.

Our on-going impact study is giving us information that the construction of the Ring Road may be having an impact on the Weaselhead, many more years of data will confirm this. This year's report is nearing completion at that point the results will be published. This impact study started prior to construction work of the Ring Road and will continue until a few years after traffic has started flowing on the Ring Road, it includes data collection at a remote site unaffected by the current project.

Now back to some good news. If you are here you probably know about our Wild Constructs movies. This project has six short movies about the Weaselhead. They were released at the Plaza Theatre as one of this October’s Beakerhead events. They were extremely well received by a larger than expected attendance. Many kudos go to Audrey Lane Cockett and all those that participated in their production.

Our financial situation is stable as shown in our treasures report.

The Weaselhead Environmental Educational Building: We have a strong relationship with John Merryman at City Hall for this project. We have tentative buy-in from the city as long as we can show a business plan that supports this endeavour. Many committee volunteer hours have already been spent putting all this together, The head of this committee, Gary Haerle Will have the business plan ready for City Hall soon. When we started this in the spring when economic situation made us believe we could do this. We may have to halt the project and shelve it, because getting funding from the Province, the City and Corporate donors seems very unlikely due to current economic problems in our Province.

Susan Ryan started a project to rename the “green bridge” in the Weaselhead to < Barry's Bridge > in honour of the late Barry Erskine our ward’s alderman for many years. He also was one of the people that was instrumental in the creation of our society.

I have touched on many subjects for which imagery exists and is available today for you to see upon request. Enjoy the Movies, enjoy the food at this afternoon's 25th anniversary celebration of our society.

Yves Dansereau

President, The Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society.