



Canadian Heritage Breeds Newsletter

Winter 2021

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year!

Normally this winter newsletter would be filled with photos and results from CHB's main event - the Annual Fall Show. But 2020 marked the first time in this club's 10-year history that a fall show was not able to be held. This was, of course, due to Covid-19 restrictions. While this was unhappy news for everyone involved, we are a resilient bunch! So even without the usual collection of beautiful champion bird pics, there is lots of news and information here to share with you!

The start of a new year is also a good time for a reminder of how important YOU are to CHB! This organization could not (and would not) continue to exist without dedicated members who generously lend support. This support might come in the form of volunteering to help at a function, donating to a CHB fundraiser, submitting a story for the newsletter or even just sharing your ideas and suggestions. The other reality is that we do count on your membership fees to help cover operational costs such as website fees, event insurance, and other ongoing expenses. If you could take a moment to go to the website, fill out the member renewal form and make a payment of \$20.00, it would be very much appreciated!

With that, let's bid a fond farewell to 2020 and look forward to the promise of a new, brighter future and the many possibilities and opportunities that await!

~ Kathy Stevenson, Secretary

CHB members Sandy and Callie Corriveau were out enjoying the holiday season with their purebred, registered Clydesdale and AQHA horses.
Photo by Layton Photography



President - Callum McLeod
callum.kaarsoo.mcleod@gmail.com

Vice President – Rico Sebastianelli
ricoseb@shaw.ca

Treasurer - Mike Skeels
mountainviewranches@gmail.com

Secretary - Kathy Stevenson
hawthorn@xplornet.com

Director 1 – Mike Grover
grovermike@rocketmail.com

Director 2 – Becky Haffner
rslacey90@hotmail.com

Director 3 – Jean Kinnear
jeankinnear@gmail.com

Director 4 – Kris Skeels
kris skeels@gmail.com

About CHB

What We Do

Our mandate is "Conservation through Education". Shows: Every year CHB organizes at least two poultry shows and has more recently begun to host dairy goat shows. Poultry and livestock shows are an excellent public forum to showcase and promote the dazzling and diverse assortment of chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, as well as several breeds of goats. These exhibits also provide opportunities for people interested in breeding to connect one-on-one with top breeders.

Information: We compile and distribute quarterly newsletters to inform and inspire members. We conduct interviews with successful breeders to facilitate the sharing of their valuable knowledge and the insights they have gained through experience. CHB offers social media resources and networking opportunities to anyone interested in learning more and connecting with others in the world of heritage livestock.

Support: CHB strives to encourage and support heritage breed advocates through educational seminars and hands-on workshops. Our members provide youth and family mentoring, and we partner with other organizations such as agricultural societies and 4-H to lend our support to their members and programs.

Promotion: We present displays of animals and printed materials at public venues to demonstrate the diversity of heritage breeds to both urban and rural people.



Why Is This Important?

- * Heritage livestock and poultry are the perfect alternative for non-commercial farmers and families interested in self-sustainable alternatives
- * These animals allow producers to capitalize on unique and niche markets
- * Protecting genetic resources and survival traits is a crucial strategy for ensuring future food supplies
- * Heritage breeds are a living link to our agricultural history and culture
- * Traditional livestock breeds are rapidly disappearing from the rural North American landscape, but keeping a current census of numbers is difficult. Some are on the verge of extinction, and are in desperate need of saving.

Become a Member

- Quarterly Newsletters and access to the Members Only area of the website
- Discounts or free access to select CHB Events
- Advertising opportunities
- The satisfaction of contributing to a great organization with lots of opportunities to become involved!

[Register online today!](#) Canadian Heritage Breeds is a Registered Non-Profit Society.



Canadian Heritage Breeds welcomes advertisers! High visibility, home page advertising is now available on the CHB website. Right now, as a bonus, if your farm, business, or club purchases one year of ad space on the CHB website, the ad will also be included in 4 quarterly newsletters at no extra charge!

CHB Advertising Rates and Specs

WEBSITE DISPLAY AD

Ad area, max. 300 x250 pixels, hyperlinked to your website or social media page.
May contain a combination of still images and text.
Ad size shown below.

Standard Website Rate: Appears on "Our Supporters" page.
\$8.50 per month, or \$100 per year. (minimum 3 months)

Home Page Rate:

Please see the bottom row of photos on Home (landing) page: www.canadianheritagebreeds.ca
Your ad would replace one of the 3 photos in bottom row of pictures.

\$13.50 per month (minimum 3 months), or \$160 per year.

Full banner, spanning page bottom is also available at this time. Please inquire for pricing.

1 year of website advertising also includes 1 year of the same ad appearing in our newsletters for free. CHB newsletters are distributed via email to all paid CHB members in good standing, four times per year.



CHB NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Newsletter Only ads:

Full page (8.5 x 11) - \$40 per issue.
business card, or up to ¼ page - \$20 per issue.

**Note: All advertisement requests are subject to CHB board approval, and must meet CHB specifications for content and design*

Officer and Director Changes for 2021

Several of CHB's long term Board members completed their terms of service this fall, so a number of positions were up for election at the AGM held on December 5th. We are delighted to welcome three new directors to the board! As well, some shuffling took place and two positions remain unchanged, which lends consistency to the organization. Your new BOD is as follows:

President: Callum McLeod

Vice President: Rico Sebastianelli

Secretary: Kathy Stevenson

Treasurer: Mike Skeels

Directors: Mike Grover, Becky Haffner, Jean Kinnear and Kris Skeels

A simple thank you to our outgoing members does not seem adequate to capture the significant and generous contributions these individuals have made to CHB over the past years. These three people gave freely of their time, their ideas and their unique set of skills and talents to help drive CHB forward and keep the club relevant.

Michelle Sulz joined CHB as a director in 2014, and after some convincing she agreed to take on the role of Vice President in 2018. She has spear-headed several CHB projects such as photo contests and calendar fundraisers, and was the board's consultant on anything to do with bylaws. Michelle has always been counted on for sensible and practical recommendations that best serve the goals of the club and the members. Her work has also included setting up virtual board meetings, maintaining the membership files and handling communications with the CHB members at large.

Crystal McKinnon jumped on board in 2014 as a director and also served as Vice President for two years. In 2018 she stepped up to take on the Treasurer's role. She spent a great deal of time and effort to put the books in order and develop new bookkeeping processes. She then got busy setting up annual operating budgets and show budgets to guide planning and keep spending on track. While Crystal needed to act as the club's financial warden at times, she has also been a key idea person. She has a great talent for thinking outside the box to inspire and energize others with her fresh ideas and creative proposals!

Adam Scanlan has now completed a three-year term on CHB's BOD. He has been a very welcome addition during that time, and his past work with youth and 4-H activities has been a real benefit to the club. His connections and expertise in the world of dairy goats helped launch CHB into a new endeavor of hosting goat shows. Adam has always had the best interest of the club at heart. When the board was faced with making a decision Adam could always be counted on to carefully weigh pros and cons and offer a sound recommendation.

On behalf of the CHB Board and members, a heartfelt thank you is extended to each of you. We sincerely appreciate the many hours of volunteer time you've given, along with your energy and enthusiasm. We hope you'll stay connected and continue to be involved in CHB activities for now and into the future!



New CHB Board Member Bios

Becky Haffner

Born and raised in Edgerton AB, I was fortunate enough to have been able to experience both life in town and on the farm. With family members owning local farms, I developed a love and appreciation for farm life and especially for the livestock. I eventually made my way to Olds AB, where I met my husband Kirk and started our family. We have two daughters, Ella (8 years old) and Cheyenne (5 years old). Two years ago we moved from town and began our journey of farm life east of Olds. Along with cattle, I told my husband that one of the first things I wanted to add to our little farm was chickens. With help from our fellow CHB members, Crystal McKinnon and The Grover Family, our little flock developed. Starting off with a few laying hens, we added bantam Wyandotte's, Leghorns, and one Cochin, which is Cheyenne's pride and joy.

Although we have only been able to take part in one poultry show (The Lacombe Lawn Show) the girls have gained so much in their knowledge, confidence and appreciation for the birds.

We can't thank the CHB enough, and its members that we have met thus far for welcoming us with open arms. All of your help and support is, and will always be greatly appreciated. Ella, Cheyenne and I look forward to continuing on in this journey, learning as much as we can, and preparing for future events and shows.

Jean Kinnear

My name is Jean Kinnear and I am excited to help the board this year. We have enjoyed showing poultry and really had fun helping with the National Show in 2019.

My background is Commercial/Agri Lending and I had a full career in banking but have decided to farm fulltime while raising my 3 kids. My husband and I own Westerdale Farms at Olds, AB and I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to show horses, cattle and sheep for many years. I'm a 4th generation Clydesdale breeder and a few years ago we added a small herd of yaks to the farm. We also raise and show chickens and ducks. All 3 of my kids have their own poultry breeding programs and love to show.

In my younger days, when it comes to poultry we primarily had white leghorns and free range bantams. My Grandparents had a contract to sell leghorn hatching eggs to the Agnew Fox hatchery so I had limited knowledge of exhibition heritage birds. That changed when I was old enough to get to see all the beautiful poultry at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto where we showed our Clydesdales. My dad brought home a gorgeous pair of Buff Geese and I've been hooked ever since. Later in life, I finally took the plunge to show and learn all I can! At my very first CHB show in Red Deer, I had *Show Champion* and I almost died with shock! There is so much to learn, I'm afraid I started too late! I am very grateful to the CHB board members, judges and the youth mentorship committee that have helped my family grow the passion.

I am happy to assist the board where I can! Jean

Kris Skeels

Hey all - my name is Kris Skeels and I am pleased to be a new Director with the CHB for the next few years. I know I have some pretty big shoes to fill and I hope I can live up to the high standard of dedication, organization and innovation that we have come to rely on with our CHB Board of Directors.

A bit about me-- I farm with my husband Mike (who is also employed in the oil patch) and two kids - Justin (13) and Jillian (10). We raise our Heritage Breed poultry and waterfowl, hair sheep and cattle. I became a member of the CHB back in about 2014 or so. We had started in poultry with just a mutt trio from a sale to lay eggs and decided that if we were going to have poultry at all it may as well be good quality stock. After our first bench show at Sunnybrook Farm we quickly discovered the difference between hatchery stock and quality birds that are bred to the SOP.

Mike raises Pekin and Cayuga ducks as well as Silver Laced Wyandottes. Justin is working with the bantam Buff Brahmas and Jillian has a handful of assorted little Old English bantams and of course her Speckled Sussex - Mittens. I am raising Black Orpingtons and have found them challenging but also gratifying. There is nothing like the sun on that beetle green sheen of a good Black Orpington rooster!

I can be found at most shows either running around trying to keep kids clean for showmanship, birds clean for judging, feeding and watering or just hanging out and visiting with some of the best poultry people around! (I may get caught up in the odd Star Wars discussion too...) I also enjoy working with stained glass in whatever spare time I can manage. It is a hobby that requires a lot of time and patience and painstaking work but the results of a finished piece can be outstanding-- not unlike working to improve your birds.

I think that without a doubt 2021 will be a challenging year for our organization as COVID has had a huge impact on our show seasons and ability to get together and network -- but we will do our best to keep our membership informed and involved as much as possible. Merry Christmas and best wishes for all the health, happiness and poultry shows the New Year has to offer!

This is Wilson. He is now working from home 😊



Insights from Paul Wieser

There are many things that are nice in certain amounts...rain, heat, snow for instance. In too great amounts they are apt to become a hindrance. The same could apply to what enthusiasts may produce with an unnecessary number of chickens. Balance in every respect will allow for an acceptable tolerance of most of nature's production. Too much of one thing or too little of another will create an imbalance that will need correction by either individuals or natural harshness. There comes a time when the business or hobby of poultry requires adjustment which is generally done by slaughter, disease, or redistribution. Much of overproduction can be easily solved with a simple plan, knowing the purpose of one's expansion. Is there enough pen space to accommodate what will be raised? Is there a purpose for raising so many birds? There is a philosophy that promotes raising a large number of birds to select your show string, and from there, cull the extras, perhaps by selling to others. Within reason one will rear a certain number of culls. A high percentage of culls means the breeding program is in need of adjustment. Distribution of these is determined by the salesmanship and ethics of the seller. Some will find it desirable to try to recoup the initial cost of rearing numbers to secure the cost of maintaining the remainder.

When I attend a sales barn auctions, there are numerous variations of poultry selling and I wonder if they were brought in to sell at a profit. Most likely they are "extras" that are no longer wanted and dispensed with in order to cut losses or recoup some of the investment loss that was created in producing them. They are generally considered "deals" to be enjoyed by someone else for a short term and then passed on or utilized as a trade for the price paid. There is in

effect a cycle of monetary exchange that maintains a means of continuation. It is most likely conducted at a negative or break even cost, but nonetheless highlights a form of entertainment. Of course, most entertainment is generally done at cost and not for monetary gain. Once one realizes that they are not raising poultry to make money, they will find that they can enjoy the hobby with no strings attached other than they may produce birds that are for their own purpose and not worry about selling extras or the best of one's flock to break even. It is the difference of putting \$100 on one end of a scale and a fine specimen on the other. A great bird will give one more satisfaction than the \$100, if measured by a true poultryman.

Looking simply at raising birds for profit is a totally different situation. Given a good facility and few losses one can make a muted living selling utility and egg laying birds. Contacts to purchase birds should be assured before facilitating this endeavor. There are production plants that will contract to buy birds. Studying the gains that can be made from such a business should given great consideration. Profit margins are very narrow and one should have to consider raising thousands at a time to make the business viable.

Buying layers is a useful family venture. Most often more than enough layers over produce a useful egg supply. In many instances layers will offer more eggs than needed, thus the need to forward the excess elsewhere. From what I have seen, "gift eggs" are not all that greatly appreciated. They carry the image of being "extra" and are often accepted with the stigma of being charity. A roadside sign offering eggs for sale is another tactic with a break even attempt. Personally, it is not worth selling eggs from home, but best to find an outlet where 44 more

are sold without the intrusion of an occasional buyer appearing at your door.

An older gentleman was telling me about how he would raise roasters for restaurants back in the 40's. Things have changed a great deal since then, and one might even say "unfortunately." It was easy to sell farm produce without severe restrictions around and after the Great Depression. Households would utilize most of what they raised themselves. Some cultures were raised on live bird purchases and the custom still remains. After viewing some of the live bird purchases being run through the sales, I believe they are paying dearly for some poor quality dinners.

The "homestead" philosophy will generally be the best plan for feeding extras. Those who plan on raising birds for the freezer usually have a fair scope on what numbers they will need to feed the family. If too many are raised, there are just more meals to be served in the future. My thoughts are that homesteaders are more practical than showmen. The end result is already planned and hopes of breeding a winner is unnecessary. Most all homestead birds end up being table winners.

A friend recently asked me what my thoughts were on holding birds for the future, being as I was familiar with his flock. It is a decision that is simple to make. First, get rid of the birds with defects. This can be done as soon as they are detected at an early age. Make room for the better choices. When the birds are matured, decide the purpose for each one. As a showman, ask yourself if the bird is worthy of shows. This can be continued as the birds are penned and looked at each day. Secondly, is the bird being kept as a breeder? There should be some very distinct reason for keeping the propagator of your flock. It must be a strong individual with

much correctness. Relationship to other birds in the flock will also be an important factor. If a bird is not being kept for the purpose of breeding or showing, then for what reason is it filling a pen?

Once a facility is full, likely by the Fall, and selections have been made, the time to reassess the pen space is due. Most likely all pens are full and hopefully the need for additional housing is not necessary. Raising poultry, unless the plan was for table use, will likely not be just a one year plan. If birds are to be raised for the following season, the need to expand becomes even a bigger problem. At least an additional 50 percent of pen space will be necessary. Taking on new breeds will exacerbate the problem. Thus the advantage of selecting and keeping one or two breeds.

I wonder if a yard hen goes to set why the eggs are left to hatch. A trail of indiscriminate chicks will grow to become a detriment unless one has extra space and just likes to watch chickens. Myself, I prefer to see what becomes of a specific yard, given plenty of room, and that there was purpose for their being there. Many people feel that if they have a hen or other individual poultry or livestock, that it needs to be bred for more. Unless it is part of a structured plan, it is just more "extras" that will most likely be disposed of. **NOT EVERY BIRD OR ANIMAL THAT ONE OWNS NEEDS TO REPRODUCE.** Selective breeding will do more for the success of your birds than any other process. Plan ahead early for what you intend to create. Structure will allow for convenience, productiveness, and enjoyment. If rains will produce flooding then be aware that too much of anything can create havoc. Having a proportionate number of birds per space is necessary for the welfare of your yard. Know the limits...it will make for a much greater experience.



Paul Wieser is a Licensed APA Poultry Judge and Grand Master Exhibitor from Washington. He is also a director for Chantecler Fanciers International and regularly shares his observations and wisdom through the CFI newsletters. This article appeared in the CFI 2020-4th quarter newsletter and Paul has kindly given his consent to have it reprinted here for CHB members.

Left: Bantam White Chantecler pullet owned and bred by Paul Wieser



2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Location: online via Zoom

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2020

Attendance: President: Callum McLeod, Vice-President: Michelle Sulz, Secretary: Kathy Stevenson, Treasurer: Crystal McKinnon, Directors: Rico Sebastianelli, Mike Skeels, Mike Grover
Members: Kris Skeels, Jean Kinnear, Bart Pals

1. **Call to Order**
Callum called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with quorum present. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the virtual voting process.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Mike S. moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Rico S. Carried unanimously.
3. **Approval of 2019 AGM minutes**
Michelle moved to approve the minutes from the 2019 AGM meeting. Seconded by Mike G. Carried unanimously.
4. **President's Message**
Callum spoke on some of the difficulties of the 2020 year, which had started out on a positive note after a highly successful 2019 National Poultry show. Plans were underway to once again partner with K Days on both goat and poultry shows in July, and to host the APA District Meet in the fall. When Covid-19 put a stop to K-Days, a couple of board members stepped up to organize an outdoor summer poultry show in Lacombe, which turned out to be CHB's highlight of the year. Plans were coming together well to host a Fall Show in Lacombe, but cancellation was unfortunately announced shortly before the show date. Mike S, Kathy and Rico were thanked for their work preparing for the fall show. Although it ended up being a quiet year for CHB, as with most other clubs, hopefully members have turned their focus to their birds and animals and we can all look forward to more of our standard activities in 2021.

5. Financial Report

Crystal thanked Mike S. for completing the audit of the 2019 books, which was balanced with every penny accounted for. 2019 net profit was \$8,610.33. 2020 will incur a net loss, mainly owing to lawn show expenses, Paypal, and bank fees. The cost of hosting the summer show was around \$200. The books are up to date and ready to be transferred to the new Treasurer, with one exhibitor's refund still waiting to be accepted. 2019 T2 report needs to be submitted. Current bank balance: \$10,926.84, Paypal: \$4,172.61, for a total of \$15,099.45.

6. New Business

a. 2020 Financial Statement Auditors

Mike Grover and Jean Kinnear offered to audit the 2020 books. They will aim to have this completed by the end of February.

b. Elections:

Each outgoing board member gave an overview of the tasks associated with their position. All board positions are 3-year terms. Vice President Michelle conducted the election process.

• President

The President provides leadership and works with the board towards achieving the goals of the organization as set out in the Mission Statement. Typically the president is active in committee work, organizing events and is usually present at functions. The president will preside at meetings and provide orientation to new board members.

Nomination: Callum McLeod put his name forward for President. With no further nominations, Callum was elected returning President by acclamation.

• Vice President

The VP will be prepared to act in the absence of the president, and provides public and community communications. Over the past number of years Michelle has also taken on additional roles including maintaining membership records, however this task is not connected with the position.

Nomination: Kathy nominated Rico Sebastianelli for VP. Rico accepted the nomination. With no further nominations, Rico was elected by acclamation.

• Treasurer

Crystal described the average time commitment for regular banking duties and record keeping. Her work has also included building annual budgets and individual event spreadsheets as well as grant reporting, compiling records for the year end audit and the T2 report for CRA.

Nominations: Callum nominated Mike Skeels. Mike accepted, and with no further nominations was elected by acclamation.

Directors

The role of Director is flexible, with the level of involvement somewhat determined by how the individual feels they are best able to contribute, possibly through committee work or to offer information and suggestions to the board.

• Director One

Mike G. nominated Becky Haffner. Although she was not able to be present at the meeting, Becky had provided prior written acceptance for a nomination, and was elected by acclamation.

• Director Two

Callum nominated Jean Kinnear. Jean accepted and was elected by acclamation.

• Director Three

Bart Pals nominated Kris Skeels. Kris accepted and was elected by acclamation.

7. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Bart Pals advised that several CHB members have been fundamental in APA Standard of Perfection committee work. He expressed appreciation to CHB Board members Callum and Rico for their time and effort towards this project.

Callum thanked the outgoing board members for their great contributions over the years which have brought CHB to the place we are today of being well established and in a strong financial position. A welcome was extended to new members Jean, Becky and Kris.

Callum announced the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.