

August 2020

To All Breed Association Representatives and Presidents,

Please accept the following updates from CLRC. I hope everyone is well, and managing through these strange times with COVID 19 affecting everyone in some capacity. For most of us, it has been a difficult challenge to continue “Business as Usual”, however we have also seen some ideal growing conditions across much of the country.

As you are aware, the COVID 19 situation disrupted normal business operations across Canada and around the world. The CLRC, as an essential service in support of the Agricultural industry managed to maintain our office open, with staff rotating working in-office and remotely, while complying with all Government and Health advisories. I am very proud of the staff who have worked diligently under stressful conditions, responding to breeders’ requests, while at the same time looking after their own safety and that of their families. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all continue to address this situation responsibly and respectfully. We will get through this together.

As part of our succession planning, CLRC hired a new Programmer (Charlotte “Char” Jantz Lee) in late January. Char was to work and train under Glenn Clark who, after 43 years with CLRC planned his retirement for mid April. As it goes with so many well laid out plans, COVID decided differently. After just a few weeks together, working physically close was no longer an option, and so Char was to learn on her own. We engaged the on-line services of APPX for training and remote support to assist in her transition. Char has done a great job integrating into CLRC, and is just finalizing the programming to accept a new Association into the CLRC Registry. As Glenn has now retired, we wish him a long and healthy retirement, and thank him for his years of dedicated service to CLRC.

The 2020 Annual Meeting that was scheduled to be held in Calgary in April, was deferred indefinitely, again due to COVID. The Board of Directors have since decided to hold a virtual meeting this fall (early October) by conference call. A few of the Agenda Items will include: introduction of the Board following an on-line Election of Directors (details to follow), reviews by the Chair and the General Manager, Presentation of Audited Statements, presentation of Budget 2020, and Appointment of auditors. There will also be an opportunity for audience participation. Full details will follow shortly.

It would be remiss not to mention the loss of a great friend and supporter. The CLRC Staff and Board are sad to announce that Myrna Flesch passed away June 26th at the South Health Campus in Calgary, at the age of 78 years. Myrna was a dedicated CLRC Board Member for the past 10 years and contributed significantly to CLRC’s development. Educated in Stavely, AB, Myrna started work in Edmonton, and completed her working career as Canada’s first female airport manager in Lethbridge, AB. Myrna was predeceased by her partner Shirley Bilton, with whom she began a ranching partnership “West Wind Blondes”, on farmland in Stavely. They were instrumental in achieving the first homozygous, polled, full-blood Blonde d’Aquitaine animal recognized in the world.

Apart from her love of family and her obvious passion for cattle breeding and agriculture, Myrna enjoyed music, gardening and rug hooking. A small, family graveside service was held on Friday July 3rd. Myrna will be missed by all.

On a positive note, in spite of the disruptions of COVID, the CLRC staff have processed significantly more Units so far this year compared to 2019. This is in great part due to the new staff of last year having over a year of experience, as well as being individually dedicated to their work. The increased units are positive, as we are currently running a financial surplus compared to a deficit last year, and this will help to improve turnaround times for processing work.

For the upcoming Autumn Membership Mailing, an official invitation will be sent to all Associations shortly with a request form to be completed and returned. Please note that we have developed the capacity to send out an electronic mailing replacing the hard copy mailing for all members who have current e-mails. This option will also allow for attachments (newsletters, election ballots, fee schedules etc), and can be done at a significantly reduced rate, so please encourage your members to update their e-mail addresses. The Electronic mailing is done in conjunction with a follow up hard copy mailing for those members who do not have e-mail, or whose e-mails bounce back.

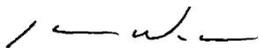
For Associations using Neogen for processing Genomic work, please note that there is now a \$4 charge for submission of hair samples. This is a charge by Neogen for the storage of the hair samples effective April 1, 2020.

As some of you will have noticed, especially anyone trying to do on-line work, our system was down a few times this past month due to a server issue. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, but pleased that the issue has been resolved.

On a final note, next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held in April in Calgary. We look forward to your participation. More details will come in the Fall Bulletin.

On behalf of the Staff and Board, I extend best wishes for safe and continued good health. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Regards,



Jim Washer
General Manager