

REPORT OF SECRETARY-MANAGER

Thanks to all CGS members for your patience, involvement and active engagement in the work of the Association.

We are here, at the AGM, to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and to plan for the future! This week Ed Cavanagh sent me a meme which included the words KEEP MOVING FORWARD! I regarded these words as highly appropriate.

As Catherine Lord mentioned in her report in 2020 there was a revival in fortunes in registry activity levels of great magnitude:

Registrations were up 11% over 2019-that is an increase of essentially one tenth!

Transfers were up 30% over the previous year! That is almost a third!

Memberships increased by 4%.

Registrations of new herd names and tattoo combinations were both at 125! This is up approximately 40% above 2019 levels!

This may mean that we have had numerous members not renewing, however; we have welcomed many new people!

We want to thank the CGS-specific team at CLRC-Melanie Overduin and Mohamed Ismail for the huge part they played in this upswing in business. Their colleagues at CLRC have been highly supportive too!

Among CGS accomplishments and activities in 2020 were:

A complete overhaul of the CGS website at www.goats.ca. This was a very challenging process in early 2020 as we sought to find information on accessing the former website. Eventually, we had to start “from the ground up”. Twenty four (24) documents have been added to the website. Many of them have been revised and updated.

Twenty five (25) news items were posted in the NEWS section on the website.

We receive, on average, one to three emails per week via the website. Usually, these messages are from new or prospective members.

We have a contact page for Board and staff and new breed pages.

We are constantly identifying new additions that would add value to the site and work on those prospects.

The CGS Facebook page has been a valuable communication tool. During 2020 we made 98 posts which is an average of eight (8) per month.

We created a yearbook type edition of the Quarterly magazine later in 2020 and have published an edition of our newsletter in January.

We had a lot of assistance from the staff at CCSI and our faithful printers in creating publications that are informational and look good. Publications are now available at all times under a dedicated link under INFO and LINKS on the CGS website!

We would like to urge our members to continue providing detailed bills of sale for your customers. We have found that existence of such documents provides a multitude of answers later in the process. Another aspect of the process is timely transferring of ownership of animals as outlined in the by-laws of CGS and the Animal Pedigree Act. When transfers of registered animals happens at the time of sale efficiency of operations at CLRC rises greatly. We have been contacted by numerous new members and goat owners who wait far too long for provision of transferred papers. We can make a great impression as individual breeders and sellers on new people by addressing transfer processing promptly!

We are in almost daily contact with the Dairy Goat registry team at CLRC and often, other helpful staff members at CLRC. Melanie Overduin has been in the lead Registrar position since early October 2019 and is an absolute pleasure to work with! Feedback and response time to our questions and comments for Melanie and Mohamed Ismail, who assists in our specific division to be superb. We are blessed!

During 2020 we transitioned to provision of book keeping services by a new company. This move has resulted in receipt of financial statements for each month by the tenth to twelfth of each month after. The Board has an up to date understanding of our financial status and can thus make decisions based on sound information. We worked through a number of challenges with financial matters in late 2019 and a portion of 2020 re banking authorizations, set up of a savings account and being able to deposit money in it, authorization re CGS contacts at CGS and completion of annual returns that had not been completed for a number of years. The latter move allowed us to easily access any refunds owing to CGS from our HST/GST account. Very detailed comments re our actions in the area of financial management will be shared during the review of 2019 and 2020 financial statements during the AGM.

Your Board of Directors dedication has been nothing short of amazing! Their countless volunteer hours communicating with members, working on revision of existing documents or creating new ones, leading working groups and attending and participating in monthly Board meetings means that they are all “working in a part time volunteer role with CGS, over and above their own lives. This Board is very responsive to communication. Feel free to contact them when you have questions and comments about the affairs of CGS. Thanks to all members for a lot of hard and thoughtful work! Like communication with CLRC staff communication with the Board is daily, if not numerous times a day, largely via email.

We deeply appreciate the input of CCSI, Brian and Brianna Sullivan in particular, in their work on genetic evaluations, review of classification results, maintenance of the CGS database and assistance with awards and the preparation of listings for our publications.

Now, CCSI has been a main leader and driver in work with other sheep and goat organizations within Canada on a proposal for funding of development of integrated databases for animal improvement efforts. We are so fortunate that a passion for goat-related topics exists at a Swine Improvement organization! We are highly hopeful about success re the funding proposal and moving into action on the topic as 2021 progresses.

A huge thank you is extended to generous members who led efforts to raise funds for CGS during 2020!

The funds raised are now part of our new savings account, along with funds for the youth scholarship established by the Cavanagh family.

We look at our current status and say: “ We are not fully at where we want to be but thank heavens we are not where we used to be!”

Let’s keep the momentum for progress going and make 2021 and years following even better!!!

Respectfully submitted

Russell Gammon