



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COCHRANE & DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 7TH, 2023
PRESENTED @ 2023 AGM

PREPARED BY:
JUSTIN BURWASH
CDAS BOD President

CONTRIBUTORS:
Lenore Oler, CDAS GM
Isabel Gimber, CDAS Director
Leslie Hunt, CDAS Director

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INTRODUCTION

Here we are at the end of another year. 2023 has come and gone with some notable successes and challenges. Overall, I am extremely proud of the progress we have made on our facility and excited for what it means in the future.

As you drive into our park, it is looking very different. We have successfully negotiated a deal to receive much of the fill from the highway intersection work nearby. This will allow us to create significantly large, level footprints around our existing facilities. Allowing for increased parking and flexibility for future events and potential expansion. We will also receive all of the recycled asphalt from the highway project, sufficient enough to pave all surfaces surrounding our facilities. The net result is millions of dollars of added value in our land and an exciting opportunity to dream about what we can be for the community in the future.

Volunteerism and sponsorship continue to be a challenge. This, combined with the uncertainty surrounding the highway intersection work, resulted not hosting the Cochrane Fair in 2023. I am pleased that the construction work is handling traffic flow well and doesn't appear to be an issue for us. I am hopeful that we can develop strategies and partnerships in the next year that strengthen our volunteerism and sponsorship going forward.

Fiscally, we have had a successful year with a modest surplus in our operations. Inflation continues to put pressure on our costs which has renewed our focus to keep our fee structure up to date and to look at potential new sources of revenue.

I am very excited for the year ahead as we will complete the work on the land and commence a site and facility plan that will guide the Board for many years ahead. Our opportunities are enormous as we dream about what the Cochrane & District Agricultural Society can be for our members, users and communities surrounding us.

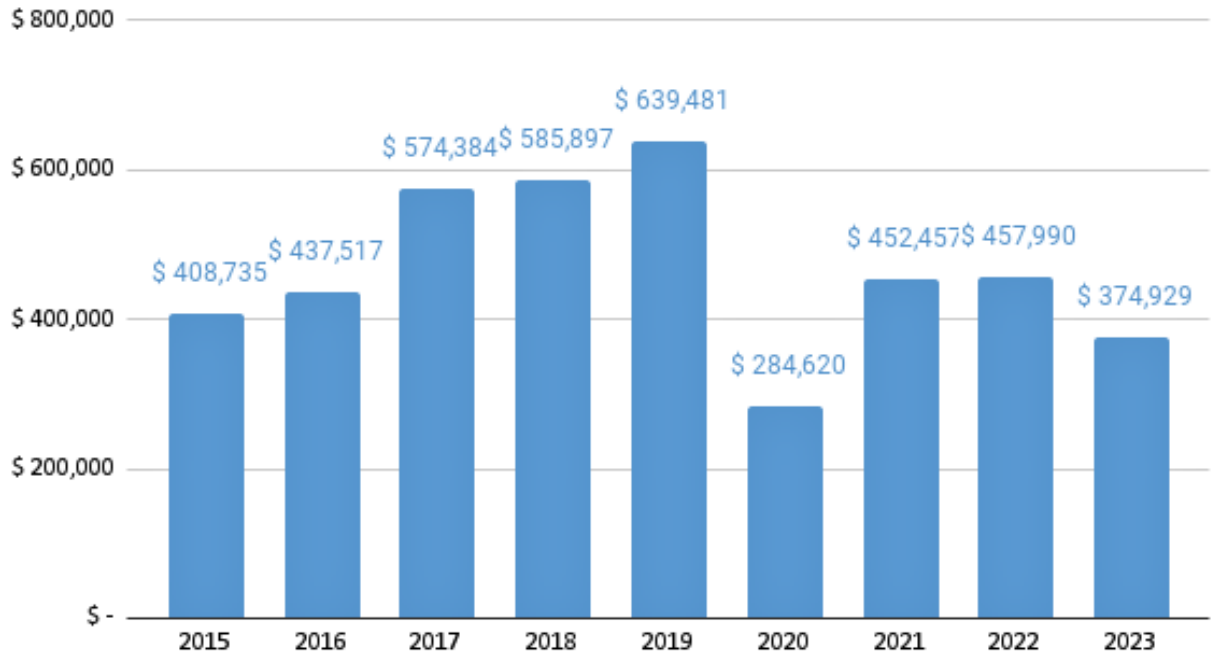
Justin Burwash



President, Cochrane & District Agricultural Society

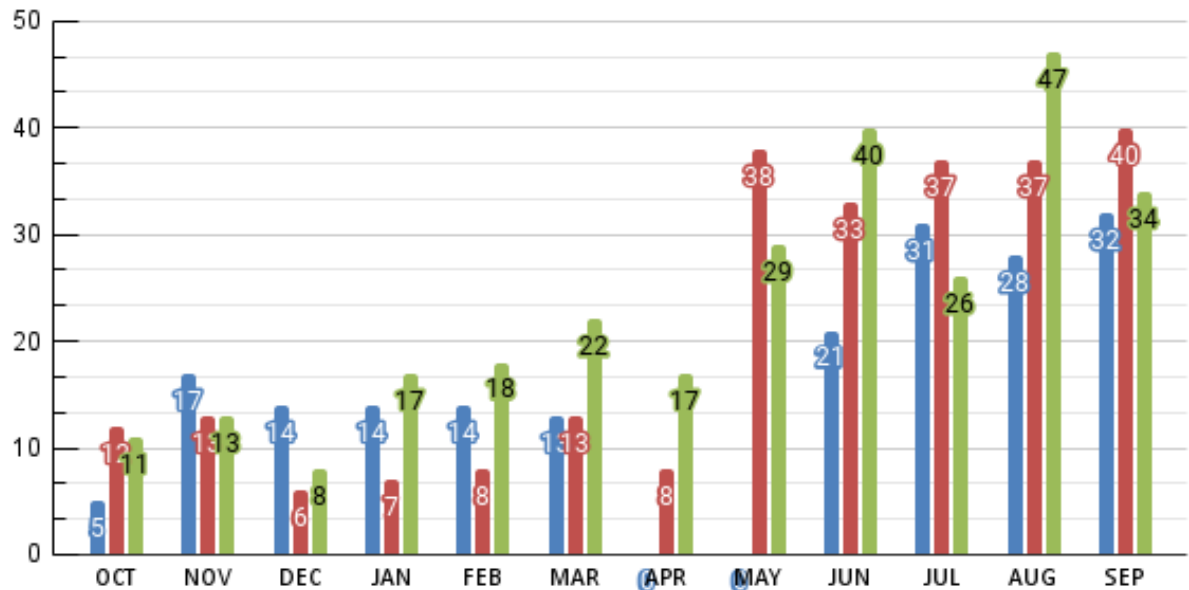
INCOME & BOOKINGS

CDAS Gross Annual Revenue



CDAS Total Bookings

2021 2022 2023



OPERATIONS

This year saw Lenore in her second year as the CDAS General Manager. The experience gained last year allowed Lenore to work on repeat tasks, processes and events with a solid knowledge base. Working alongside of Molly Sapergia, Greg Corbeil, Braedon Fleming, Evan and Carter MacKay was a great pleasure and we are happy to have welcomed Derek Morrison to the Facilities' crew.

Our User Groups are in full swing as far as events and use of the CDAS grounds and we were also able to run our signature series of events throughout the year. Lenore has really enjoyed working with our User Groups throughout the year and is excited to pilot new initiatives with all of our valued User Groups.

The Cochrane Horse Show Series was very well attended and we have added an additional 2 shows per year due to popular demand. We are incredibly grateful for the support we received from our sponsors and competitors.

We were unable to hold the annual Cochrane Fair, but look forward to building upon the success of past events and working with our community to form a great team to work with the Fair Committee.

We were happy to pilot a program of barrel racing that included indoor practice nights, a lesson series with Lacey Caldas (professional horse trainer and barrel racer) and barrel racing jackpots. We have plans to bolster this program along with the support of our valued sponsors.

We were also very busy on the grant and sponsorship processes this year. A lot of new opportunities are afoot and we feel that our position to pursue funding has been greatly strengthened by our land ownership and future planning. We look forward to continuing to amplify our efforts in this area in 2024 and beyond.

OPERATIONS

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Lenore also enjoyed getting to know our riding pass holders, members, suppliers, partners, staff and contractors better this year. She would like to say thank you to everyone for the great work and support!

Major Roadworks:

It is hard to miss the transformation that has taken place on the CDAS grounds thanks to the work of McLeod Earthworks. We have been the recipient of at least 63,000 rock truck loads of material that has originated from the interchange construction at the intersection of highways 22 and 1a. The landscape has changed to include exponentially more space for level parking lots and new dedicated green spaces. We are very excited for the upcoming phase of this project that will include recycled asphalt being laid down on top of all of our parking spaces and road ways. We will continue to work on the landscaping, signage and gates in the spring.

Utilities Infrastructure:

We are excited to report that we were able to complete the installation of natural gas services to our indoor arena building. This has been a long time aspiration and we are grateful for the work of our facilities committee and ATCO contractors.

Roof Repairs @ the Indoor Arena

We are excited to have started the first phase of major roof repairs on the indoor arena building. We will begin the next phase in the spring. This will include a full replacement of aging roof and insulation materials.

Notable numbers:

- CDAS sponsorship for venue space totaled \$46,907 for the 2023 fiscal year.
- CDAS Board of Directors have volunteered over 1,600 hours of their time this year.
 - We are very thankful for all of our non-board member community volunteers who are committed to CDAS as well!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

2023 Program Committee Report

Hunter/Jumper Schooling Shows:

Our shows were held in the indoor arena were well attended again this year. We had to cancel the January show due to weather but added a show this fall. The average number of entries was approximately 40 with a good number of entries in Divisions 1, 2 & 3 or 2'3" and under. Schooling runs were offered on Friday evenings.

Barrel Racing:

Practice and lessons were offered over the winter. There was also a pilot series of ABRA and open barrel racing jackpots in the summer and fall. We hope to build on the results for next year.

2023 User Group Committee Report

A number of meetings were held throughout the year with the various user groups to continue working on positive communication channels, on updating the annual user group agreements, and on sharing valuable grant possibilities and opportunities for various groups.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

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2023 Grant & Facilities Committee Reports

These two committees worked closely together this year with a major emphasis on securing adequate funding for the first phase of the Indoor Arena Roof Replacement Project. The first phase will focus on the north-facing portion of the indoor arena roof and work is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2024.

Another important project completed at the indoor arena in 2023 was the conversion of the heating from propane to natural gas.

CDAS gratefully acknowledges the generous support from grants & funding sources for these projects:

- AB gov't CFEP program (received in previous year but time extension obtained),
- Cochrane Foundation
- BRECS (Bow Rivers Edge Campground capital grant program run by the Cochrane Rotary Club and the Cochrane Lion's Club)
- Totem Charitable Foundation
- Home Treasures

Moving forward into 2024, both of these committees will be working to determine further capital projects required at the indoor arena as well as around the barn and outdoor arena. The development of these projects will be closely aligned with the grading and expansion projects currently in progress at CDAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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2023 Bylaw & Policy Committee Report

The bylaw changes approved at the AGM in December 2022 were submitted to and approved by the government; and for reference, the current document is posted on the CDAS website. Updating of various policies has been ongoing throughout the year as needed.

2023 Cochrane Fair Committee Report

After much in depth discussion at the CDAS board level, the decision was made to cancelled the Cochrane Fair for 2023. The committee is currently in discussion about plans for 2024. To that end we need a lot of support in organizing and developing the fair. There are a number of areas where you can help with this event. If you are interested please let Lenore or me know and we will put you to work.

PRESENT DAY – CDAS VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Guiding all of the planning, decisions, and activities at CDAS, are Our Vision, Our Mission, and Our Values



OUR VISION

"The Cochrane & District Agricultural Society provides first class facilities and programs that reflect our regional heritage, bridging town & country for a strong community"



OUR MISSION

Cochrane & District Agricultural Society:

- PROVIDES year-round multi-purpose facilities that are affordable, accessible, and well maintained
- FOSTERS partnerships with the community, business, and individuals



OUR VALUES

- Maintain trusted relationship with our members, customers, and stakeholders
- Support and contribute to the greater community
- Be financially responsible and sustainable
- Deliver excellent service

