



## **President's Report**

Paul Thibodeau

Hello to all,

If I am in the right order, you are approving the reports of each committee, the secretary manager and the treasurer. I am very proud of what was achieved this year, our secretary manager after taking care of our business, working in a bank, taking care of a small herd of highland cattle, she had a baby girl. Congratulations to you Natasha and Nick.

The bylaw committee is on track to presenting a new bylaw text that will be simpler and will modernize our procedures. The pedigree committee was vigilant in maintaining the integrity of our herd book helping members who overlooked certain breeder responsibilities and striking out toward members who systematically ignored proper procedures.

I have the pleasure to announce new services to be offered to our members in 2025 (January)

1. 2nd panel DNA tests (more precision)
2. single window for DNA testing for
  - a) crop ear
  - b) myostatin (double muscling)
  - c) coat color
3. new bylaw draft
4. revision of our fee schedule and services
5. we will have a booth at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2024
6. we will have available for your local activities a 24 x 96" banner available by August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Personally, I participated in most of the pedigree meetings, all the bylaw's meetings and all board meetings this year. Over 20 evenings spent with very determined people who volunteered their time for bettering the Canadian Highland Cattle Society. They all have on-farm jobs, most an off-farm job and a family, for that they merit your thanks and from me a very big congratulations for a job well done. I must add that the work climate was always very good and friendly. Just an example of the availability of some members of the board; we often heard in the background of video calls, the sound of a tractor (they were cutting and baling hay, and it happened a member went out to check on a cow calving).

Thank you all for your involvement.

Paul Thibodeau, President



## **Secretary's Report**

Natasha Beliveau

Another year has come and gone. 2024 has been another busy year. Not only with the Society but with my own personal life. I gave birth to a baby girl at the end of February and took a one-month maternity leave from Society work. I would still check my emails to ensure that the Board of Directors was not left with too many things to answer to.

In 2023, it was more difficult trying to fit into my role as Secretary but also handling complex cases with the pedigree committee. Many of the issues or questions that I receive from the membership are relatively the same from year to year; "I purchased animals "X" years ago, but they were not transferred into my name", "Can I register the animal that I recently purchased" or "How do I become a member after purchasing papered animals".

Many times, these questions lead to disappointing answers. When the paperwork isn't filled out by the seller and not sent in following a sale, many animals can potentially be deregistered; in most instances, it is new buyers that suffer the consequence because they paid for a registered animal and the seller did not fulfill their responsibilities. The Pedigree Committee report sums up several cases that have emerged and even recurring cases that lead to the expulsion of a member for repetitive infractions with the Society's bylaws and Animal Pedigree Act over a period of 2 years.

The board of directors have met 8 times by video call, in the addition of 2 deemed meetings since the August 2023 AGM. Many of these meetings revolved around AGM organization, promotion, updates from our bylaws and pedigree committees, myostatin and presentation of monthly statistics.

### **Membership 2022**

Active Members to June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	256
Active Members to Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022	278

### **Membership 2023**

Active Members to June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	290
Active Members to Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	383

### **Membership 2024**

Active Members to June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	287
New Members for 2024 membership year	61



## **Editor's Report**

Natasha Beliveau

As in every edition of The Kyloe Cry, I look for new material to publish. Sometimes I look back in older issues of The Kyloe Cry and get some inspiration from there. I occasionally receive pictures from the membership to decorate the magazine. It isn't always easy to find articles that can relate everyone and is also very time consuming to write them up myself. In the last edition I believe that I had a good variety of topics.

I also had a very good number of advertisements in the latest issue; thank you to everyone who supports in this way. Many are repeat advertisers, but I also received new ones this time around. I enjoy creating layouts for members and all I can hope for is that they get good visibility from their publicity. Thank you to all who contributed!

In the winter edition, I included a "Junior Member Section" to recognize our junior breeders. All junior show exhibitors or 4H participants that presented a registered highland animal and sent me pictures, were published in The Kyloe Cry. This was a first in my knowledge, and I hope to do it again for the winter edition.

I am aiming to add articles about prevention & treatment of illnesses. This can be useful to all and especially for new breeders. It's nice to read what works for others or even offering a list of tools to have on hand for calving, fly treatment, etc.

Since the last AGM in August 2023. There has been 2 newsletters and 2 Kyloe Cry magazines published and mailed to the membership.

Natasha Beliveau, Secretary/Editor



## **Annual Report of the CHCS Pedigree Committee (2023/24)**

The Pedigree Committee remained unchanged for the 2023/24 year with members Paul Thibodeau, Chad Anderson, Josh Hockridge and myself, Michelle Sulz, from the Board of Directors supported by our dedicated Secretary-Manager Natasha Beliveau. This allowed us to be off and running straight out of the 2023 AGM which was helpful as the past year has been another busy one.

The Pedigree Committee met virtually 11 times over the past year to discuss and help resolve cases. Outside of those meetings, as in recent years, there were many emails back and forth as well as time spent drafting letters and reports.

A significant amount of the Committee's time was spent trying to understand, and correct where possible, the damage caused by one member, Robin Curtis, owner of Curtis Family Farms (CFF) fold. This marks the second year of repeated violation of the Animal Pedigree Act and CHCS bylaws. As published in the Summer 2024 edition of The Kyloe Cry, the Board of Directors ultimately made the decision to permanently expel Robin Curtis from the Society including loss of the right to register and transfer animals. Infractions include sale of unregistered animals as registered, failure to complete transfers of registration, failure to tattoo, and blatant errors where the same animal was sold to multiple people, or the bill of sale and animal do not match. We are still, as of the time of this report, working to try to unravel this mess. When I reflect on my first purchase of registered highlands 10 years ago, I am eternally grateful that I purchased from reputable breeders that were honest and fulfilled their obligations as, at the time, I did not have the knowledge or experience to protect myself. With that in mind, I have great empathy for those owners who have been affected by this situation as many are new to registered highlands.

In association with the Robin Curtis case, and a few other cases, the Pedigree Committee was able to successfully facilitate transfer of two animals and reinstate registration of two more over the past year. There are a few more open cases that we are hopefully can reach positive outcomes.

A theme we saw this year was that of double sire qualification. This means that, during DNA parentage verification, multiple sires were tested, and two sires qualified based on the standard DNA panel used for highlands. With the help of the wonderful staff at Quantum Genetix Laboratory, we learned more on this topic. First, that where animals in a fold are closely related, this is not unexpected. Second, that testing full parentage, including both the dam and the sire, can help improve confidence in the overall parentage verification. And third, there is second panel of DNA markers that the lab can test against when the sire (or dam) is still in question. In many cases these steps can be used to narrow down parentage to only one qualified sire and dam and allow registration, but there are exceptions. With this new information, the Pedigree Committee has started to proactively request full parentage (both sire and dam) and use of the second panel of

DNA markers in cases where these circumstances are likely. Over the past year, registration was revoked on VALLEY CHOICE HIGHLANDS 10E as result of a double sire qualification that was not resolved. Registration is suspended, pending further proof of parentage, on animals of the BOUT DU RANG (3) and TATLAYOKO (17) folds. It should be noted that allowing multiple bulls access to cows during breeding, whether intentional or unintentional, is the root cause of most these cases.

We are happy to report that the process for successful completion of Random (75<sup>th</sup>) Proof of Parentage tests has improved over the past year. Our Registrar, the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, is communicating more effectively with owners, including by email, on what is required, and we have seen members completing submission of the required hair samples in a timely manner. Further, testing against the second panel of DNA markers was added to all 75<sup>th</sup> cases this year to gather data and increase confidence to the results. As of this report, there is only one pending Proof of Parentage test in progress with seven successfully completed over the past year as follows:

.KU. FREYA – Yvon & Mildred Bastien, QC  
KENTIA DES ORCADES – Ferme La Vallée Fleurie, QC  
KARAT OF VANDERKLEY VALLEY – Nolan & Brooke Vanderkley, AB  
LIVEWIRE OF NORLAND BRAE – Stephen & Michelle Sulz, AB  
WELLS GRAY LILLY – Well's Gray Ranch, BC  
KOOL-AIDE OF BLOSSOM RIDGE – Catherine Rolica, ON  
LONE PINE LUNA – Aaron & Nancy-Ann Outram, AB

From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, the CHCS saw 474 highland animals registered and 430 transfers. This clearly shows that most registrations, transfers and other activities required were completed without need for intervention. We sincerely thank all those breeders and owners who have quietly followed the bylaws and regulations and fulfilled their obligations. The goal remains to maintain and improve the integrity of our Highland Herd Book and, by doing so, ensure the continued relevance and health of the CHCS and registered Canadian highland cattle. With growing interest in registered highlands in Canada, the importance of this is emphasized and we are optimistic that with continued diligence and the collective support of the CHCS membership, the future of highlands in Canada is bright.

Michelle Sulz

Director, Pedigree Committee Chairperson



### Bylaws Committee Report

Paul Thibodeau

The bylaw committee had in 2023 and 2024 a humongous mandate to create a complete and new version of the society's bylaws. our actual bylaws are an almost 90-page document that very few of us have read from start to finish but to cover certain rules, relevant text is present in 3 sections.

The bylaw committee has met 7 times this year. We have transformed 47 pages of the original text into less than twenty. These pages have been presented to the board who has reviewed and provided feedback. We have solicited CLRC to help us with the final legal text and translation. And no, we are not finished. The 2024-2025 bylaws committee will have to finish the job, but we are confident this new text can be ready for approval by the board before the next AGM.

The Bylaws Committee

Paul Thibodeau

Alice Bird

Andrea McCoy



## **Promotion Committee**

Natasha Beliveau

This year, we have been a bit busier with the promotion committee. Since last fall, the board of directors had voted to offer a token of achievement to junior breeders who presented a registered Highland animal in show or a 4H group. A gift was presented to the exhibitors along with a certificate of achievement, Kyloe Cry magazines, and a free annual junior membership with the Canadian Highland Cattle Society. There has been 9 junior members from 4 different provinces added to the membership list.

In 2023, the Expo Boeuf show in Victoriaville, QC was once again held with 4 breeders from 2 provinces and 11 head. The activities will continue this year on Thanksgiving weekend. There has also been a Highland class hosted at Brigden Fair last fall in Brigden ON. Many of our junior members have attended this event and will be a repeat this fall again.

The Society has also been approached by Cambridge Scottish Festival in Ontario, where one member is participating on the weekend of July 20<sup>th</sup>. Some brochures and a banner have been provided to promote the breed and increase visibility.

From year to year, the Society is approached by an organizer of the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair in Toronto, ON. We have now regained possession of the promotion booth items and approached a member who has accepted to represent the Society for the 10 days. There will be a breed booth area and 2 animals on site to increase visibility and promote Highland cattle.

In the addition of repossessing the promotion booth items, it has been proposed and accepted by the board to have 5 banners made to lend out to members who are representing Highland cattle at events and shows.

We are continuously encouraging members to create or reactivate regional associations because there is a growing interest for showing cattle. Any time a member shows interest in getting a large Highland class started at big events, I mention the protocol that there needs to be a regional association supporting it all as the Society cannot support private events.

The Promotion Committee of CHCS



## **Kyloe Shop Report**

Natasha Beliveau

Sales in the Kyloe Shop have been rather quiet this year. We have continued offering the Highland Cattle-Stephen Janz book and have added a reprinted edition of "A Keen Eye". We have included the winter tuques to the shop but have not proven popular last winter.

### **Top 3 Items: Gross Sales between August 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and July 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

A Keen Eye - Revised Edition \$1,260.00

Highland Cattle - Icon of the Scottish Highlands by Stephan Janz \$1,200.00

Caps - \$220.00

### **TOTAL GROSS SALES (including advertisements in The Kyloe Cry)**

Aug 01, 2023 – Jul 15, 2024 \$6,844.22

Jul 31, 2022 – Jul 15, 2023 \$5,976.18

Up 14.52%

### **2024**

Jan 01 – Jul 14, 2024 \$3,816.19

Jan 01 – Jul 15, 2023 \$4,506.80

Down 15.32%

### **Publicity**

Advertisements in The Kyloe Cry and on the CHCS webpages has brought in \$1,726.00 between August 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and July 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Several items such as the Herd Books, Aprons, insulated grocery bags and polo shirts have not moved in quite some time.

Natasha Beliveau, Secretary



## **Quebec Highland Breeder Association Report**

In 2023-2024, the Board of Directors met 9 times via video conference, in addition to the Annual General Meeting that took place on May 26th, 2024. A presentation on calving and cow/calf care was prepared for our members. Members had lunch on site after the AGM to participate in the farm tour.

Administrators also participated in the meetings of the Comité Conjoint des Breeds de Boucherie du Québec, which is responsible for the organization of the Expo-Bœuf, which allowed us to hold a Canadian Championship for the Highland breed in 2023.

Thus, at the Victoriaville Beef Show, breeders from Prince Edward Island joined Quebec breeders for a total of 5 breeders, including a young breeder, and 11 animals. We hope to repeat the experience this year. All breeders in Canada are welcome!

We are currently working on the preparation of the Expo-Bœuf but also on ways to keep the AQEBH still present in Quebec. We have not received subsidies for several years now. However, we believe that our presence with breeders who recognize the important contribution of the Highland breed to the local beef market, is essential. In addition to our website, where breeders can promote their products for sale and their farm, we have a FB page to share information for breeders or potential customers.

We are working hard to promote the Highland breed with registered purebred animals in collaboration with the Canadian Society and we hope to be able to do so for many years to come.

Thank you and happy AGM!

Claudette Lavallée, President of the AQEBH



## Website Report

*Jaylyn Ettinger*

Redesign of the CHCS website has been happening slowly in the background, as time allows. However, the new Joomla software requires PHP 8+ to allow for updates. Our hosting company, Netfirms, currently only offers PHP 7.4.10. I have contacted them regularly over the last year to get an estimated time of release, but the only response I get is that their technical team is working on it, and it will be completed soon.

When we first signed up with Netfirms, it was a Canadian owned company and was excellent. Unfortunately, they outgrew themselves, and sold to an overseas company. Service has declined steadily over the years. I will be moving my personal hosting soon.

I would suggest the CHCS move to a completely different platform, perhaps Squarespace or Wix. Both will work with Google Workspace. A larger CMS service will keep the background programming current and would allow for CHCS staff to keep content updated easily. Also, one that can integrate e-commerce seamlessly would be nice. Honestly, my technical skills have not kept up with programming advances.

At this time, I am unable to commit the time to build the website on a new platform. But am happy to keep updating the current CHCS website and help with domain transfers or repointing, if need be.



## **Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) 2024 Annual Meeting Report**

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC), registrar for the CHCS, was held on April 27, 2024. Paul Thibodeau and myself, Michelle Sulz, were pleased to virtually attend via a Zoom meeting on behalf of our Society.

The meeting was well attended and facilitated, and the overall messaging was both practical and encouraging. The past year, 2023, was reported as busy and productive. The CLRC General Manager, Brian Sullivan is also the Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement Inc., and collaboration between the two organizations has helped improve efficiency, balance the books, and improve services across both organizations.

In 2022, the audited financial statements of the CLRC for the fiscal year reflected a loss of more than \$50,000 for the CLRC despite \$20,000 in government assistance. In contrast, in 2023 the CLRC broke even with \$144 in net revenue. This was accomplished with no increase to the fees charged for services and no change to the number of breed associations for which the CLRC serves as Registrar. Funds spent on salaries and consulting services in particular decreased due to improved efficiencies.

It was clear that the elected Board of Directors of the CLRC is both engaged and effective. Three of the six positions were up for election and were all filled by previous members who wished to continue in their roles.

Jack Oattes, the acting Animal Registration Officer responsible for administration of the Animal Pedigree Act, was also introduced and present throughout the meeting. As the CHCS works to make bylaw revisions, it is important we proactively work with the Animal Registration Officer throughout the process.

As the CLRC looks to the future and opportunities for continued improvement and efficiencies, increased use of online services is seen as a key area of focus. Increased use of online services can represent a significant area of cost savings and the CLRC is actively working to make the whole site more mobile friendly, including the electronic registration process, to realize those savings.

Overall, 2023 was a successful year for the CLRC, which is also important to the success, and costs, of the CHCS. Based on informal CHCS member feedback, Paul and I passed on a thank-you to the CLRC for the improvements they have made as we have seen better communication and faster service over the past year. We hope to see this trend continue.

Michelle Sulz, Director