

Notes from the Office

February 2009



What does HCBC do for me?

HCBC is many things to many members. First and foremost is the \$5 Million dollar liability insurance that is an automatic benefit of membership. Liability insurance is a very important benefit to our 21,000+ membership but this is just a small part of what HCBC has to offer and what we do for the Horse community in BC.

General Membership

- Provide \$5 Million dollars third party liability insurance usable worldwide as a member benefit
- Provide \$30,000 accidental death or dismemberment insurance
- Provide members access to the Ascension group health benefits
- Provide a real person on the phone when you call the office during office hours
- A website full of information about all aspects of equestrian interests that is updated daily
- A Resource library and computer to use in our office for members
- A free online Industry Guide of business members, coaches, officials and other industry professionals
- Provide internet forums and moderate them
- Support BC business members on our website, forums, industry guide and trade shows
- Recognize and reward outstanding Equestrians in BC at our Annual Banquet
- Member Clubs can access reduced Insurance fees and receive a free Industry Guide listing
- Member Affiliates are given a seat on the HCBC Board
- Lobby the government on taxation, GST and agricultural issues
- Provide and maintain an Emergency Disaster Preparedness Program and maintain links with Provincial Emergency organizations
- Establish a close working relationship with the SPCA regarding equine welfare
- Established a Disaster relief fund for HCBC members
- Provide information and links regarding manure management
- HCBC identifies and promotes BC breeders and published a guide
- Develop and provide free and reasonable cost online education
- Develop and provide free educational brochures
- Develop booklets regarding issues of concern to our membership
- Staff member sit on various committees at Provincial and National levels and promote BC's interests
- Participate as advisory to the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of "Infobasket"
- Develop and provide an Affinity Plan for members with the first being John Deere and Mohawk and Accent Inns
- Locate and publish information on programs and grants of interest to our membership

Competitions

- Support for competition organizers, permits, fee collection and supply paperwork
- Administration of the Equine Canada Drugs and Medication program for BC competitions
- Creation, administration and financial support of the BC Heritage Circuit Championships
- Youth Sportsmanship awards and Year end winner
- Administration and distribution of the Athlete Assistant Program funding to qualified riders
- EC rule violation hearings
- Officials training clinics and programs plus support
- Provide Website listings of all permitted competitions in BC
- Provide Stewards clinics and support
- Administer and develop the BC Summer Games for Equestrians securing it as a Core Sport
- Provide assistance to competitors and show organizers locally
- Provide funding through Sportsfunder for youth travel in BC

Coaching/Education

- Administer EC Coach and Instructor files, provide support for coaches and instructors
- Set up, administer all EC Coach/Instructor evaluations and exams in BC
- Educate and help Parents/riders regarding coaching concerns and questions
- Promote certified coaches and instructors
- Provide required paperwork for Rider Exams. Administer Rider certificates and badges
- Organize Equine Specific NCCP courses
- Established Rider Exams High School credit program with the Ministry of Education
- Established the External Sport Credit program with the Ministry of Education
- Work with Capri Insurance to provide discounts to Certified Coaches/Instructors
- Staff members integral in the creation of the Long Term Equine Development model
- HCBC volunteer representatives helping to create Coaching Programs at a National level
- Nominate coaches for National Awards when applicable

Recreational Interests

- Develop brochures and guidelines for road safety
- Develop and maintain a trails database
- Develop and administer the Ride and Drive program
- Coordinate and administer Ride Canada Week with for Equine Canada
- Work closely with the Back Country Horsemen and the Joint Trails Access committee to keep trails open and provide new ones

Funding

- Provide Zone funding to clubs, affiliates and members for approved applications
- Provide Core funding events or projects that support sport growth and development
- Provide funding through Sportsfunder for youth travel

This is just a fraction of what HCBC, its Staff, Board and volunteers do for our membership. As we move into 2009, more programs, courses, brochures and educational materials are being developed. Horse Council BC is fully committed to constant improvement and development.

Members are the beneficiary of these services. HCBC listens to the needs and opinions of the membership. There are many times that we are unable to act as a result of a complaint or request, but many times it is the phone call from a member that spurs on a new project.

A question was asked at a meeting once "Who is the most important person in your organization"? It went around the table and several people offered their thoughts but no one person was clearly the most important person. Who is the most important person in HCBC? It is "**The Member**".

Coaching dates are posted on the website

The tentative 2009 Coaching evaluation and Examination dates have been posted on the Coaching section of our website. More dates will be announced as required. Western coaches, please note that a date will be set up in the fall for Coach 1, 2 or Instructor testing depending again on the interest.

The Equine NCCP dates will be set early in the year, please watch our website for information. The first date set for 2009 is March 13-15 to be held in Terrace.

Coach/Instructor candidates, when submitting your application for evaluations or exams it is very important to have all requirements completed a minimum of 30 days prior to the Evaluation or Exam and to submit all documentation with your application. Without all the requirements fulfilled we cannot hold a spot for you or allow you to move forward into the evaluation/examination.

Rider Preps and High School credits

Students, the Equine Canada Rider preparation courses (English and Western) can be used to obtain High School credits towards graduation. This is a great opportunity to combine your riding activities with your school.

Obtaining your English Rider 1 and 2 will give you 2 credits, obtaining English Rider 3,4,5 and 6 will give you're an additional 4 credits and obtaining English Rider 7 and 8 will give you a further 4 credits.

Obtaining your Western Rider 1 will give you 2 credits, Western Rider 2 will get you 2 more credits, Western Rider 3 is good for 4 credits and finally completing Western Rider 4 gives you a final 4 credits.

Upon successful completion of each level the student should present their certificate to their High School counselor for credit. The Rider Preparation programs fall under the Occupational Credit program.

One word of caution; if it is June and you need to get extra credit to graduate you may have left it too late! Be sure to take your exams well in advance of graduation deadlines as you cannot be fast-tracked through the exams.

If you are interested in these programs, contact your EC Certified Instructor or Coach and they can help you with the program.

ENews!

Are you receiving our weekly E-News bulletin? If not, you should. This is a great way to get new and important information out to our membership in a timely manner. If you are not on the email list, please call the office with your email address or make sure you put in your email when you renew. If you prefer not to receive emails, check out our website every Monday afternoon and the link to the headlines will be posted.

Membership Renewals:

Have you renewed your membership? If not please do so that your insurance coverage does not lapse. You can renew by mail, in person, over the phone or from our website. Membership fees have not risen for 2009, but our service to you will continue to get better and better. The online renewal system allows you to print out your card when you join, and even at a later date should you misplace your card. A good tip is to print out several copies of your card so that you have several for competition entry forms, keeping in your trailer, barn, car and your wallet.

News for Equestrian Athletes (recreational or competitive)

Members, Clubs and Affiliates, are you looking for new ideas to bring to your community? Check out this list of programs and organizations that might be of interest to you.

SOGO Active

This is youth fitness initiative that gives young Canadians the tools to design, change and control their own individual get active plan, coordinated by ParticipACTION. 1,000 youth participating in SOGO Active will be selected to carry the Olympic Flame in the Vancouver 2010 Torch Relay. For more information about SOGO Active in BC visit <http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/sogoactive.htm>. Visit www.participaction.com for great public service announcements addressing physical inactivity amongst children and youth!

CAAWS (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity)

CAAWS offers a variety of programs to ensure that girls and women have access to a complete range of opportunities and choices and have equity as participants and leaders in sport and physical activity. Please see <http://caaws.ca/e/index.cfm> for more information.

Active Parent Pass

For information about the Active Parent Pass, which encourages new parents to be active and engaged in their communities in an effort to cope with the stress of new parenthood, gives new moms and dads access to swimming pools, weight room, aerobics and fitness classes, visit http://www.fitinfitness.ca/_pdf/regional/active_parents.pdf

Highway to Health

An on-line activity tracker that allows you to log-on to your own personal website, enter your daily steps and/or activity minutes and then watch yourself travel up a virtual map of Vancouver Island!

http://www.fitinfitness.ca/shared_highway.html

Active Communities

The Active Communities Initiative is a cross-sectoral initiative focused on supporting communities to increase physical activity levels of British Columbians by 20% by the year 2010. Grants and practical tools support the development of an Active Communities plan. www.activecommunities.bc.ca

BC Healthy Living Alliance

This is a group of organizations that have come together with a mission to improve the health of British Columbians through leadership that enhances collaborative action to promote physical activity, healthy eating and living smoke-free. A number of resources and links are available at www.bchealthyliving.ca