

Notes from the Office

Recreational Riders – The Backbone of HCBC

Recreational Riders make up over 80% of the membership of HCBC. With a membership base of over 20,000 this adds up to a huge number of horse owners and riders! Often recreational riders are thought of as only being trail riders, however this is not always the case. Recreational riders are people who enjoy their horses, whether it is riding in the ring, trail riding, driving, or attending competitions. Recreational riders are some of the hardest working members who keep the horse industry in BC alive. You will see them at competitions volunteering their time or working on trails to keep them in good shape to ride on. Recreational riders are people who enjoy their horses which is what the spirit of HCBC consists of. Recreational riders are recognized by the Industry as “active for life” participants, which is part of the Long Term Equestrian Development model. Recreational riders come from all walks of life and all different Equestrian backgrounds from those who once were very competitive riders to members who find themselves finally able to own their first horse.

With the recognition of the Recreational rider being the largest group of HCBC members, Horse Council is working to provide Education opportunities that any and all horse owners and riders will benefit from. Our focus for 2009 includes more online educational courses, support to local clubs, more support and information regarding trail mapping in BC, club recognition along with a emphasis on Agriculture and Industry topics of importance to all horse owners in BC. We are also happy to be a part of Equine Canada’s Horse Week.

The eighth annual Equine Canada Horse Week is May 30–June 7. Held annually to promote and celebrate Canada’s thriving horse industry, Horse Week appeals to both horse enthusiasts and the public alike. Featuring a wide range of activities held across the country, including trail rides, equine showcases, charity events and competitions of all kinds, Horse Week has been growing steadily since its inception in 2002.

Horse lovers of all kinds, from competitors and recreational riders to teachers and breeders, are invited to participate in Horse Week 2009 by creating, organizing and registering their own Horse Week event, or by keeping their eye on the 2009 Event Listing Page for events in their area. Be sure to bring a camera along to the events, and snap pictures for the Horse Week 2009 online photo gallery!

For more information on how you or your club can participate in Horse Week contact Susan at the HCBC office.

Attention Parents, Athletes and Coaches!

The **Long Term Equestrian Development** document is available for HCBC to the parents of Equestrians in BC. While the document is free, shipping costs of 4.00 will be added to have this mailed to you. You can come by the HCBC office and pick up your copy for free.

What is Long Term Athlete Development (LTED)? In its simplest terms it is a pathway towards excellence for all equestrians. Excellence can be seen at all levels and interests, be it competitive or recreational. It focuses on effective training of all athletes and participants and on the crucial role of the coach in driving all aspects of the sport. It also recognizes the essential role of parents, sponsors, breeders, officials, administrators, sport scientists and all stakeholders. The document explains training the right component at the right stage of development from beginners to Olympians.

While this is a lofty goal, the document also has a realistic place for all equestrians in showing the way to a solid foundation and encourages long term participation, enjoyment and achievement.

Parents will find the LTED particularly useful in determining and discussing training and competition goals with their child's coach. The LTED considers the use of other sports and activities children should be participating in to develop agility, balance, speed, coordination and time/space orientation.

Parents please call the office to have your copy mailed to you or drop by and pick one up.

Coaching Certification – What does it really mean?

Often we will see advertisements that say a Coach is “Certified”. Recently we came across an ad that said a Coach was certified Western Level 3 and English level 4. So what does this really mean? Well, nothing really, unless the advertising Coach can back up the claim with a certificate! What the ad did not mention was exactly what organization certified this coach, and whether their certification is still current or provincially or nationally recognized.

When in doubt, check it out! We all work hard to earn money for lessons and training so it is absolutely acceptable for you to take the time to check out any coach you are considering. It is important to mention that there are very good coaches working and teaching that are not certified, however they have proven results and competencies that show them to be knowledgeable coaches.

Equine Canada Certified: This means that the coach has met the Equine Canada and National Coaching Certification Programs standards and was successfully evaluated by trainee Course Conductors. Coaches can be Certified at Level 1, 2, 3 and 4. EC also certified Instructors who to meet National standards with an emphasis on safety and teaching beginners how to ride. These coaches and Instructors are required to update their skills on an ongoing basis.

NCCP Certified: Any levels obtained through the NCCP (National Coaching Certification Program) are considered “**training**” for discipline specific certification programs. EC Certified Coaches have NCCP training appropriate to the level they are certified at through Equine Canada. When you see an advertisement that a coach is NCCP certified, make sure that you find out if they have also been evaluated in the appropriate Equestrian discipline. NCCP Certification on its own is not coaching certification at all.

CHA: Certified Horsemanship Association is an American based company. Certification is for group riding instructors dealing with progressive skill building in all levels of riders, both in the arena and on the trail. Certification may be earned in English and/or Western disciplines. Eight levels of certification may be earned in both English and Western disciplines, ranging from assistant instructor to CHA clinician. The level of certification is at the sole discretion of the clinic staff. CHA certifies Instructors, not coaches and the levels do not equate with EC Levels. CHA Instructors training is based strongly on safety, which is extremely important.

Other Certification: There are other excellent certification programs that HCBC recognizes including CANTRA, Vaulting, and International Trainers Passport.

In BC we have many excellent coaches who are consciences, well trained, knowledgeable and certified through Equine Canada. Many of our coaches are working towards higher certification and mentoring up and coming coaches and instructors to follow in the same path of excellence in Coaching. Check out the coaching section of the HCBC website to learn more about EC Certified Coaches.

Road Safety, Education for Equestrians and Motorists

With spring nearing, many of us are getting the itch to hit the trails, for some this means having to ride stretches of road-way to connect with a trail head - Safety is paramount for horse, rider and motorist. Horse Council has available an informative booklet geared toward educating both riders and motorists on how to safely and courteously share the road.

A peek inside:

Important facts, knowing the rules of the road, minimizing your exposure to risk, being visible, importance of hand signals, being a survivor - reporting "near misses", important tips, guide for motorists.

HCBC's Bookstore – New titles added!

Trail riders, we have some great new books geared to help you train, prepare, and pack up your horse to hit the trail. **Check out Trail Riding, A Complete Guide**, or pick up **101 Trail Riding Tips**.

Other great titles newly in: Activate Your Horse's Core – a fantastic, well illustrated book with laminate pages and an accompanying CD. **"If Horses Could Speak"**, a fantastic DVD that looks at how incorrect "modern" riding negatively affects horses' health, based on best seller **"Tug of War"** by Dr. Gerhard Heuschmann, also in stock. For those wanting to learn more about hoof ailments, caring for and understanding your horse's feet, take home **"Healthy Hooves"**, a fantastically illustrated and informative book. All of our books are available online, or from our store front book store.

Funding opportunities from HCBC

Just a reminder to clubs and Affiliates of funding opportunities: Go to our website to download applications.

Zone Funding

Zone funding is dependent on zone requirements and funding reserves. \$1.00 from each Horse Council BC (HCBC) membership is given back to the zone from which it came. Traditionally approval is given for small amounts which benefit HCBC members in the zone.

Who can apply?

Club, Affiliate and individual HCBC members in good standing.

When to apply?

Zone funding can be applied for anytime throughout the year.

Core Funding

Core funds are provincial funds targeted for events or projects that support sport growth and development. An approved event or project will be open to all qualified participants in your area, not just your club members. The event or project must support the goals of HCBC for developing sport within the province. Clubs are expected to charge participants reasonable registration fees.

Money will be released only after a financial report, receipts and an event summary are received by HCBC.

Who can apply?

Club and Affiliate HCBC members in good standing whose members are also HCBC members.

When to apply?

Applications will be accepted between January 1 and May 15, for events taking place before December 31 of the current year.

Send the financial report, receipts and an event summary for release of funds to HCBC no later than December 1. This will be considered null and void if received after the deadline. Permission to file late for events taking place in December, may be obtained by contacting HCBC Finance Dept. office@hcbc.ca

Where to apply?

Send the completed application form to:

Horse Council BC

Finance Dept.

27336 Fraser Hwy

Aldergrove, BC V4W 3N5

BC Summer Games 2010

It is not too soon to begin training and qualifying for the 2010 BC Summer Games being held in Langley, July 22-25, 2010. Summer games athletes will be able to experience what it is like to compete on a team in a "Games" environment, along with the possible thrill of standing on the podium to receive a medal. The Summer Games are designed to recognize excellence in young athletes in BC and provide a step in the pathway to other Games experiences on a National and International level. Riders with hopes to compete on the North American Young Riders teams in Reining, Jumping and Dressage will find this experience extremely helpful as a first taste of Team completion for medals along with individual recognition. Summer Games team athletes also are eligible to receive Grade 10 High School credits under the External Sports program from the Ministry of Education. While at the games, the athletes receive a high level of coaching and support from EC Certified Coach 2's.

BC is the only Province in Canada that has been able to secure a place in the Provincial Summer Games for Equestrian Sports. For more information about the Summer Games go to the HCBC website Competition section.