

Notes from the Office

November 2008



HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Winter can be a dreary time for horse owners, too cold or wet to ride, a long soggy haul to take the wheelbarrow to the manure pile, coupled with wet horse blankets is enough to send everyone south for the season! Perhaps we need to look at the good things about winter in BC....trail riding on a cold crisp day when the horse is fresh and happy, no flies (always a good thing!) so we can put the bug spray away, watching our horses play in the snow, show season is over so we can relax a bit more, time to read a good book, spending time in the barn when it is snug and warm, dreaming about next year's competition or riding season, and making up our wish list for Santa. The best of all is knowing that it will be over soon and we will be back to complaining about the heat!

With recent economic trends causing our hard earned dollars to stretch to the max, some horse owners are finding it difficult to continue to provide the basic care for their horses or companion animals. If you are able, donations to animal shelters or reputable rescues can provide some assistance. Please be sure to check any rescue or shelter out thoroughly before you make a donation to be sure it is reputable. It is unfortunate that some owners face having to sell their horses as they are no longer able to provide for them. This is sometimes the best course of action for the animal's welfare but an extremely hard decision owners have to make. While we are approaching the Christmas season, keep all of the less fortunate in mind. Food Banks and Christmas Bureau's can always use donations of food and toys. One last thought, used horse blankets and coolers work as excellent shelter blankets for dogs. Remove the hardware so that you can recycle it. Most animal shelters would be happy to accept the blankets. Call ahead to be sure, though. Up until mid December, **Horse Council BC will accept non-perishable food items in our office which we will then donate to the local food bank.**

While we think of ways to help out others, we can consider the issue of waste as well. Feed bags can be recycled, baling twine as well. All the empty plastic containers that held fly spray or coat conditioners can be washed out and either re-used or recycled. There is a new company that has come up with equipment that recycles used bedding from large equestrian facilities, so keep an eye out for this trend. Composting manure is one very obvious way of recycling but the issue becomes one of how to get rid of it! If you have enough land composted manure can be spread on pastures. Some very enterprising High School students bagged up composted manure and took a truck load to a subdivision and sold it by the bag to homeowners. Don't forget the composting rules, your manure bins should be covered from October to April to prevent contamination and run off. The Horse Council BC website has several free courses online that deal with the subject of pasture management and manure management. They are free so why not have a look, and perhaps you will learn something new about the subject!

Online courses are being added to our already great catalogue. Certified English Coaches can obtain updating hours for taking our courses, so keep this in mind if you find yourself looking for updating opportunities.

Coaching News:

A new Master Course Conductor for the English Program: Dorothy Kirby has stepped down from her position as English Master Course conductor for BC. HCBC thanks Dorothy for all of her years of hard work keeping the English program running and progressing. Dorothy has worn several hats over the years, simultaneously representing Pony Club at the EC National level, serving as VP Education on the HCBC board as well as English MCC. While we regret she has decided to step down as English MCC, she has assured HCBC that she is always there as a resource. Maureen Walters has been offered and accepted the position of English Master Course Conductor. She takes on this role highly qualified and ready to continue the excellent work that Dorothy started.

Western Coaches Update: Several teleconference calls have taken place with interested Western Coaches this summer and early fall. The 2009 Western Update will take place in Chilliwack. The dates are still being finalized and will be published as soon as we can confirm them. Our acting MCC, Ruth Fowler will be on hand to tackle the educational demonstrations and discussions.

English Rider Manuals: Finally the new English Rider 1-8 manuals have been published and they were really worth the wait! The manuals are \$25.00 plus GST each, and are divided into Rider 1-2, Rider 3-5, Rider 6-8. These are quality spiral bound manuals completely updated with photographs and diagrams. The Rider 1-2 manual contains a bonus CD which explains the Rider 1-8 program expectations to the candidate. The English Rider Program is a self directed program in which a student (of any age) works with an EC Current Certified Coach. As the student progressing, exams can be administered which increase in knowledge level and difficulty up to Rider 8.

2009 Coaching Dates: At this time, we are working to set dates for English Evaluations and Examinations, Western Final Assessments, Instructor of Beginner English, Western Instructor and Equine NCCP courses. Keep an eye on the coaching date section of the HCBC website for the dates as they are set.

2009 EC Memberships for Coaches: All EC Certified coaches must purchase a Gold Membership from EC in order to maintain their current status. EC instructors are required to purchase Silver memberships to meet their currency requirements. Non Certified Coaches and instructors (EC Certified or HCBC recognized) must be members of HCBC in order to be listed as current on our website.

Congratulations to two BC Coaches: ACE Award Winner Faye Fox

Faye Fox of Nakusp was presented with the ACE Award at the British Columbia Coaches Week Coaching Forum in Castlegar by Iain Brambell, Executive Director of BC Athlete Voice (and a bronze medallist rower from Beijing)

Honoured Community Coach Award Winner Heather Cormie

Heather Cormie of Saanich was presented with the Honoured Community Coach award at the British Columbia Coaches Week Coaching Forum in Nanaimo by Gordon May, Executive Director of the Coaches Association of BC

Need a gift idea for an Equestrian? Look no further than the HCBC bookstore. We stock over 600 different titles so we are sure to have something you want. Still can't find that perfect book gift? No worries, you can purchase a HCBC Bookstore Gift certificate and be sure that the recipient gets just the right book. Check us out online at www.hcbc.ca and click on the online bookstore link. Our server is secure and we usually ship out books that we have in stock within a week. If books are not on your list, check out the Business Directory on the HCCB site. There are many business members who are tack stores, breeders and so much more. Please check out the business member listings as their membership fees help support HCBC, so we ask that you try to support them.

The HCBC office will be closed between Christmas and New Years, but we are open and ready up to then and in the New Year.

Sports Funder: Another successful year with our funding going up to \$19,000 this year we were happy to assist the young riders of our province once again and are hoping to receive funding again so keep your eyes on our website to find out availability next year. If you ever wonder where the money from Sports Funder lottery tickets goes, this is one example of how the lottery gives back to amateur sport in BC.

The Mane Event: It was great to get a chance to talk to our members who dropped by our booth at the Mane Event. The Certified Coaches who said hi, were happy to receive their free mug!

By the time you receive this issue of Pacific and Prairie Horse Journals, the Horse Council BC **Lifetime Achievement Banquet** will have passed. We will give complete details of the winners and the fun that was had in the next issue.

Our 2009 renewal season will see some pretty exciting changes to the way memberships are handled. Our soon-to-be-live online system will allow members to check the status of their membership, print their own cards and many other options previously not available. We are confident that this will really streamline the membership purchasing process and will allow us to make our service to our valued members even better!

FREE MEMBERSHIPS! Our member referral program can save you the cost of your individual or family membership. Watch the Horse Council BC website for details, coming soon!

EFP Program back in full swing

The EFP program once again has funding available. If you are interested in having an Environmental Farm Plan assessment done, please contact a planning advisor in your area.

The EFP advisors are available to assist and offer guidance and support as well as help answer any questions you might have about your farm and environmental issues.

Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley - Sean Suggitt ssuggitt@telus.net 604-299-0390

Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands - Lee Hardy poplarlanefarm@shaw.ca 250-652-1618

Cariboo and Okanagan - Ken Huber huberx3@telus.net 250-456-6050