



Notes from the Office

November 2010

As this edition of HCBC's Notes from the Office was being created, we heard the sad news of the passing of Mary Swanson, steward, organizer, volunteer, horsewoman and an all around great person. We have lost a vital member of the horse community and with her leaves her incredible knowledge of rules and procedure. She will be missed by many, many BC members who have learned valuable lessons from Mary at horseshows, events or through the Pony Club. Mary was a tough enforcer of the rules and she had a heart of gold.

Volunteers – The Next Generation

It is a commonly acknowledged fact that without volunteers our clubs and competitions would not exist. It is also a commonly acknowledged fact that a lot of volunteers are getting old, tired, overused, burnt out and in some cases taken for granted. What is the answer? The collective group of Equestrian enthusiasts needs to recruit, mentor and train a new generation of volunteers. Sounds simple enough but it gets harder and harder as we live busy lives and work more hours. Our horses are our distraction, our hobby, our business or our recreational pursuit. It is nice to pay your membership fee or entry fees, turn up at competition and let others run it. Thank goodness a group of volunteers worked to clear and maintain that trail for you. There is a price for such a nice system and it is not paid in your entry fees, the price is someone else's time.

The Equestrian community needs you. You are the solution (if you are not already volunteering). Take a chance and give up some of your time for a club. It is amazing how many friends you could make, how satisfying it is to help make something happen. For the younger generation, volunteering looks great on a resume and will also help you at school when you want to apply for scholarships. Spend a few hours between classes whipping in; take the time to help your local club fundraise.

Looking to a future without volunteer's competitions will cost more money to enter. Trails will fall into disrepair and breeders will not have a place to showcase their horses. The effects would be felt throughout BC in many ways. So think about stepping up and volunteer your time and talents. The rewards are more than immediate; you will help maintain Equestrian Sport and Industry in BC. That is a goal we all need to work towards.

Volunteers – Care and Feeding

How many times have you witnessed a volunteer face the wrath of an angry competitor? It happens and it happens a lot. Have you ever seen some poor soul sitting for hours frantically inputting scores? Did you ever think to bring them a cup of coffee? When a volunteer agrees to work at painting fences with

their club, has anyone who benefits from this effort say “thanks”? Pretty often, volunteers are seen as faceless, nameless people in the background. In order to keep this volunteer there are a few things that can be easily done by club members and competitors.

Say “thank you” and mean it. It is amazing how this small acknowledgement from a competitor or club makes all the difference. You could nominate this volunteer for the HCBC Volunteer Award.

Please don’t blame the volunteer if you are having a bad day. Maybe the volunteer is having a bad day too. Also remember that the volunteer did not personally create the footing in the warm up ring, and complaining to them will not magically change it. If you don’t like the footing, let the show management know, but don’t berate the ring clerk or the entry secretary.

A cup of coffee, a smile and some conversation go a long way; try offering this to the volunteer cleanup crew at the next trail or club work bee. Feed the volunteers! Give them hot drinks when it is cold and cold drinks when it is hot.

Clubs do not speak negatively about your volunteers to anyone, ever. Competitions, recognize that your volunteers are just that and don’t treat them like second class employees. Cherish, covet, and coddle, your volunteers. On the flip side of the coin, volunteers please don’t let people down. If you are unable to do the job you have volunteered for, let an organizer know in advance if possible.

Finally the secret to the care, feeding and keeping volunteers is simple. Say these magic words:

“Thank you, I appreciate what you are doing. Can you show me how this job is done so that I could be of help next time?”

Correction: Karan Walker, EC Western Instructor

Congratulations are to be given to Karan Walker who has successfully completed her Western Instructor certification at a recent evaluation in Grand Forks. It was erroneously reported that it was Karen Moore, who is also a Western Instructor.

The Equine Education Conference – January 21-23, 2011

Horse Council BC is excited at how the conference is attracting interest from the horse owners in BC. We are also thrilled to say that many excellent speakers are now asking to take part in this event either this year in 2011.

If you are an EC coach and need to obtain updating hours or a Western Update, then you can do it all at the Conference. All speakers are approved for updating, the Western Update is being held on the Friday evening before the conference. The General Performance Judges and Jump judge clinic will qualify as Professional Development for both coaches and judges. What a great way to start 2011 and get a head start on the required updating.

This conference has speakers of interest to many different equestrian sectors. The trail rider will enjoy the workshop on Camping with your Horse and the Trail project planning session. Every equine professional will benefit from hearing Mike King speak about insurance, Shelly Henshaw speaking about Equine Legal issues and Jaden Langford speaking about websites and business development. For all equestrians the information that Dr. Hilary Clayton presents on biomechanics of the horse will be invaluable. Combine this with the Conformation expertise of JW Equine and participants will leave Kelowna with solid information to use with their horses, those they plan on purchasing or those that

they plan on breeding. To continue the conventions goal of topics for everyone, Paton and Martin Veterinary Services will present "What your Vet wants you to know", and Isabelle Aube will speak about athletic conditioning and rehab for riders. Rounding up our excellent slate of speakers is Jennifer Wood who will deliver a Horse Hauling course with information that anyone who trailers a horse needs to know.

Do not miss this Equine Education Conference. To register go to www.hcbc.ca. Online registrations are available there but you can also download a form and mail it to us. The early bird deadline to save on registration is December 1st.

New CFIA Fines

The Government of Canada is cracking down on those who mistreat and improperly transport livestock by more than doubling current fines - the first increase in over 10 years. Effective immediately, administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) of up to \$10,000 can be imposed, more than doubling the previous maximum penalty of \$4,000, on those who violate the Health of Animals Act.

"The agriculture industry knows that a healthy farm and processing business begins with healthy animals and while the majority handles and transports animals safely, a few need to do better," said Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. "Our Government is providing the Canadian Food Inspection Agency with the tools it needs to impose tougher fines and improve animal welfare."

The CFIA will now be able to impose fines up to a maximum of \$10,000 instead of \$4,000. The CFIA will retain the ability to increase fines by up to 50% of the maximum fine for repeat offenders. The CFIA will now also have the ability to look back into the past five years, instead of three years, of the offender's history. For example, if an offender commits his second very serious violation within five years, the CFIA will now have the ability to impose a fine of up to \$15,000, instead of the previous maximum of \$6,000.

The AMPs system was developed as an efficient, effective enforcement tool. AMPs may be issued for violations of the Health of Animals Act, which includes requirements for animal welfare during transport. These increases will also be applied to the Plant Protection Act to deal with violations such as the importation of prohibited plants.

In addition to these improved AMPs, the CFIA continues to work with animal welfare experts and industry leaders to update the Health of Animals Regulations governing livestock transportation to reflect the latest science and industry practices.

2011 Membership Renewals.

By now, members should have received their renewals for 2011. If you have not, please call the office or email membership@hcbc.ca and let us know. We have a great online renewal system that is quick and fairly easy to use, so we encourage members to renew or join for the first time online. If you don't want to renew online, you can mail your renewal in with a cheque or credit card number. We also offer then old fashioned system where you can call us at 604-856-4304 or 1-800-345-8055 and you can renew your membership over the phone, with a credit card and speak to a live staff member!

Final Note

Horse Council BC would like to take the time to publically thank our membership for the support and guidance you have given us in 2010. Your opinions have always mattered to the Board and staff of HCBC and many programs are created or adjusted due to the information we have received from the membership. HCBC is a member driven not-for-profit organization that has been built on tradition and with the heritage of the BC Equestrian. This organization was started years ago from the vision of key volunteers. Even as we have experienced tremendous growth in membership since our inception, our vision remains the same as it did when HCBC was created.

Horse Council BC was established in 1980 to provide a coordinating body to serve all equestrian and equine interests except pari-mutuel racing. Guided by the objectives of our constitution with representation on the Board of Directors from across the province and all FEI Sport disciplines, Horse Council BC serves members involved in all aspects of the horse industry. Our ongoing commitments to communication, education and the well-being of horses are reflected in the quality programs we offer. Horse Council BC continues to grow each year with membership reaching over 21,000 in 2007. Horse Council BC actively represents the equine industry in agriculture, industry, sport, and recreation through education, grant funding, club support, government lobbying, liability insurance, and participant programs.

MISSION STATEMENT

HCBC is a member service organization committed to working together on behalf of the equine interests of our members. Representing horse enthusiasts in BC, we collaborate with individuals, businesses, industry professionals, and government to strengthen communication, education, and safety. We strive to preserve and enhance equestrian use of public lands and to promote and foster participation in all varieties of equine activity.

Thank you, HCBC members, we appreciate you.