



# *Notes from the Office*

February 2010

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Onwards and upwards for 2010! At HCBC our plans are continue to offer the best benefits and service to our members as we possibly can. The main focus in the beginning of the year for HCBC is receiving and processing memberships. Our online system is working well and our phones are ringing. Please be patient when you call, as we often have all our lines busy and cannot get to each call as soon as we would like. Our voicemail system is up and running, if you are calling for a specific staff member the locals are as follows:

- 101- Lynda Eckstein, reception and memberships, general inquiries
- 102- Shawn Stephens, reception and memberships, general inquiries
- 103- Susan Hilton, membership services
- 104-Wendy Sewell, manager Coaching and Education
- 105-Kelly Coughlin, manager Competition, Agriculture and Industry
- 107-Debbie Thompson, bookkeeper
- 108- Lisa Laycock, Executive Director
- 109-Ruth Donald, Recreation
- 112-Kim Robertson, Marketing and Promotions

When accessing our voicemail, pressing 0 will take you to the receptionist during office hours.

The 2010 Olympics are the biggest focus in BC right now, but at HCBC we are looking towards the **2010 BC Summer Games** in Langley. After the 2008 games in Kelowna, equestrian sports are now considered a "core" summer sport, and BC is the only Province to have equestrian sports accepted into the Provincial Summer Games.

In the last Notes from the Office we asked readers to pass along their environmentally friendly, green or cost saving tips so that we could compile them and post a list of suggestions on our website. We have received some great ideas but would love to hear more from our membership. If you have any ideas to share, please email them to [coaching@hcbc.ca](mailto:coaching@hcbc.ca).

The annual **Equine Canada Convention** will be in Montreal January 31- February 7. During the convention the new 2010 EC Coaching program information will be distributed and finalized. The complete information and details will be posted on our website shortly after the convention. The changes promise to be very positive and forward thinking and we are very much looking forward to implementing them in BC. Western Coaches and riders will be happy to note that the final touches on the revised Learn to Ride Western 1-4 manual will be done at the convention and be available in print soon after.

Due to the February release of the **NEW! English and Western Coaching Programs**, all exams for these two disciplines have not been set for 2010 yet. Once we have the information required we will be able to set dates for exams in BC. Equine NCCP course dates will also be posted on the website as soon as they are set.

### **What Has HCBC Done Lately?**

Here are a few examples of the work HCBC, staff, and Board members have done in the past few months:

The Lower Fraser Valley now has access to the "**Anderson Sling**" which will allow local vets, the SPCA and the Fire/Rescue departments to perform the work they do in a safer manner. The sling will be used when required for large animal rescue, by vets who are treating a horse in their clinic that requires help to stand and by the SPCA to help emaciated horses in their care. The idea of purchasing this sling was brought forward to HCBC, the Township of Langley Fire Department and the SPCA by local Vet Dr. David Paton. Funding for this sling was made available by Zones 3 and 4.

Our VP Industry, Gord McKenzie, along with HCBC Manager of Industry and Agriculture, Kelly Coughlin, are working on the **2009/2010 Equine Industry Survey**. This is a cooperative project with Horse Council BC and the BC Ministry Of Agriculture. Input from BC horse owners, business', breeders, competitors and recreational riders is needed to determine the size and the impact of the horse industry in BC. This participation is important to evaluate the current state of the industry. The information developed from the survey will help strengthen and grow programs and initiatives for all horse people. You can access the survey on our website, or call the office and one can be mailed to you.

**HCBC Provincial Rule Book** is ready to go and up on the web site, along with the required permit and reporting applications. This will cover BC Heritage, fairs and GP shows. The rule book can be accessed and downloaded from the Competition section of the HCBC website.

The **Trails Database** is up and running with the Google Earth location markers showing up on the map on the main page. There is a new page in the Recreation section of the HCBC website for "Trail Ride Destinations", which will provide listings of Bed & Bale establishments, Horse Motels, or private horse camping facilities. New trail markers are now available to member clubs. Updates from the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) are being posted as announcements in the new Trails forum to keep HCBC members apprised of potential trails issues in their areas.

**The Road Safety Handbook** for Equestrians was revised and 2000 copies were printed for distribution and are also available on-line. A series of articles based on the information in the Handbook is being published in Saddle Up magazine. The Road Safety Handbooks are available for Horse Council members, as well as Road Safety rack cards which can be distributed in your community to help educate motorists, cyclists and pedestrians on how to behave when they encounter horses on the road or trail, as well as a press release you can customize for your local news media. Contact recreation@hcbc.ca to order.

**The Joint Trails Access Committee (JTAC)**, consisting of HCBC staff as well as representatives from Back Country Horsemen, Endurance Riders Association of BC, and BC Competitive Trail Riders Association, is working for trails advocacy at both provincial and local levels, and to locate sources of funding for developing and maintaining equestrian trails.

Horse Council BC is excited to announce the establishment of a new **BC Equestrian Trails Fund** to help raise and distribute funds to member clubs for the construction and maintenance of equestrian trails and horse camps in British Columbia. Details on the fund will be available shortly. We have also created a new Yahoo Group called BC Equestrian Trails which will assemble resources for trail builders and users, as well as serve as a means of communicating with all stakeholders on issues surrounding BC's equestrian trails. The BC Equestrian Trails group site is brand new and still under construction, but feel free to visit the site and join the group by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BCEquestrianTrails/> if you are involved in trail issues or concerned with trail use and preservation in your area. Remember that there's a comprehensive Trail Database accessible from the Recreation section of our website, and we're always looking for input from trail users for additions or corrections to the list.

One of our member clubs, the Aldergrove Happy Trails chapter of Back Country Horsemen is offering a series of Sunday sessions this winter on the basics of trail riding and horse packing called The Winter Warmer Event. For more information, view the Back Country Horsemen page in the Recreation section of our website at [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca).

HCBC has introduced a new safety product for trail riders: **Emergency ID** for both horse and rider, just in case rider and horse part company on a ride. The Rider ID is a comfortable and adjustable wristband that contains a small custom ID card. The wrist is the first place a paramedic will look for medic alert information. The wristband is reflective and 100% waterproof, and comes with an extra ID card. The Horse ID is also reflective and waterproof. It can be threaded onto a bridle or halter, or clipped to the saddle with a carabiner clip. Horse and Rider ID badges can now be purchased from the HCBC office and online store, the wrist band retails for \$16.95, the horse ID is \$15.95 or they can be purchased together for \$29.95

Just a reminder to clubs and Affiliated of funding opportunities: Go to our website [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca) to download applications.

### **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 HCBC receives a financial report, receipts and event summary.

### **Who Can Apply?**

HCBC Club and Affiliate 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](mailto:office@hcbc.ca)

**Where to Apply?**

Send the completed application form to:

Horse Council BC

Finance Dept.

27336 Fraser Hwy

Aldergrove, BC V4W 3N5

A long time HCBC member and Centered Riding enthusiast Dawn Ruthven sent us this information which will be of interest to any Centered Riding enthusiast. Sally Swift, who passed away last year, she is the developer of the Centered Riding and the author of 2 books on the subject. The first book "Centered Riding" which is published in 15 languages and is the most copies equestrian book of all time. Sally has been inducted into the USDF Hall of fame, won the Pfizer Price for Equine Industry Vision and received the USEF Pegasus Award for outstanding contributions to Equestrian Sport.

The **2009 HCBC Annual Awards Banquet** was completely sold out! For those who missed the awards we have an overview of the winners along with some great "paparazzi" photographs of our guests on the HCBC home page.