

Sept HCBC newsletter submitted by V. Pauze

September 2005 will prove to be a milestone month in Horse Council history with the launching of several long-awaited initiatives. Our new website, the on-line courses and the BCTrek rulebook will finally be available for our membership.

The current HCBC website came into being back when computer technology was limited. Over the years the site has become more of an archive for historical documents and events. Staff was often frustrated by their lack of control over the look of the site. After much research and discussions, we decided to “build our own” with the help of a web designer that works with sport groups. Our new site address is [www.horsecouncilbc.ca](http://www.horsecouncilbc.ca) and even though it is long way from being the finished product, we feel the new site will serve our membership better in the years to come.

Our exciting and innovative approach to education has become one of our proudest achievements. The introduction of **distance learning** will involve two key components – the establishment of “live” education workshops and the on-line learning modules. The launch of the new website will also include the commencement of the first six of 17 planned courses for 2005. Course authors were chosen to provide the highest degree of knowledge and industry standards. There will be a progression and an increased degree of difficulty within most of the curriculum modules. The courses will be cost-effective ranging from free to about \$70.00, with the average being about \$25.00. It is our hope that coaches, officials and members in more remote regions of the province will continue to benefit from education without the expense of time and travel.

The long awaited **BCTrek rulebook** will be available for purchase by September 19<sup>th</sup>. The rulebook will also be on the website for free downloading. Trek has grown in popularity over the summer months with numerous clinics and competitions and 2006 will begin the start of the newly established BC provincial Trek Circuit with a championship event in September (location TBA). BCTrek is geared to all members, recreational, fun and challenging.



**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, Oct 22 at the Ramada Plaza and Conference Centre in Abbotsford. This sensational event will celebrate our 25 years of commitment to the equine industry. We are anticipating a great turnout with many old friends of HCBC in attendance. There will be dancing, prizes and give-a-ways, a silent auction and entertainment. So get out those dancing shoes and join in on the celebration! Tickets are \$40.00 each or \$280.00 for a table of 8. **No** tickets will be sold at the door.