



**Call to order – 7:10 p.m.**

**1. Opening remarks**

President Gary Yaghdjian welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Board of Directors for their continued support and dedication.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** to approve agenda.

**Moved:** Jack de Wit

**Second:** Hedy Edwards

**Carried**

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve minutes from November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Moved:** Mark Dobrindt

**Second:** Jentje Steenbeek

**Carried**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes (Action Items)**

**N/A**

**5. President's Report**

Gary Yaghdjian, President of The Ontario Equestrian Federation, spoke of the challenges the OEF faced in 2010. The OEF started the year without an Executive Director and struggled along without one until it was determined at a recent Board meeting to advertise for a new Executive Director which we hope to have in place early in 2011. 2010 marked the year of signing the affiliation agreement with Equine Canada; both sides worked together as we forged a relationship for the future – we are striving to remedy situations and we are communicating better, the agreement was the starting point. EC has strong leadership at the helm with Akaash Maharaj and Mike Gallagher. Gary then invited Akaash Maharaj up to say a few words.

Akaash thanked Gary for the opportunity to speak. He highlighted how the agreement between Ontario and Equine Canada laid out in detail how the two organizations would cooperate. This pattern of partnership was followed by five other provinces/territory while six provinces chose not to participate. We all hope that Ontario continues to prosper. Akaash commended the strong leadership role Ontario represents and wanted to be here today to pay tribute to Ontario's efforts to strengthen equestrianism in Ontario, and to especially thank Gary for his tremendous efforts over the last two years. Despite the challenges Equine Canada is facing, 2010 was one of its most successful years. One could not overlook the strong finishing of the Canadian team members at this year's World Equestrian Games, the best performance of all time for all disciplines. Gary thanked Akaash for being here today.

Gary further commented that even though things appear to be divided with some provinces in, and some out, he sincerely hopes the partnerships and successes of both organizations will continue to strengthen. Gary ended by announcing the OEF is soon to break a significant milestone, we are well on our way to reaching 20,000 members in 2010. We will continue to look for ways to better service our members. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as president these past couple of years.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Bruce Brown invited auditor, Derek Lederer to come up and go over financials for the year ended March 31, 2010.

Some items to note, the OEF is in a sound financial position. Noted that registrations fees were down, but expenses were also down. The report shows where cash came from and where it was used. Bruce thanked Derek for being here tonight and for his continued work with our financial reporting.

**Motion:** To approve the Financial Reports as presented

**Moved:** Bruce Brown

**Second:** Jack de Wit

**Carried**

**Motion:** To appoint Trustee Zweig as Auditor for 2011/2012.

**Moved:** Bruce Brown

**Second:** Allan Ehrlick

**Carried**

## 7. Annual Activity Report

Catherine Barker, Operations Manager, provided a presentation outlining the activities for the year.

To date in 2010 the OEF represents more than 35 equine associations; 253 competitions; more than 151 Industry Council members; and 118 Horse Facilities Council members; 2,993 Ride ONTario participants; 30 affiliate organizations; and partners with provincial and local organizations to promote, develop and continue to strengthen Ontario's equine community.

We have been involved in many activities and events:

- Development of a new database and website with tentative launch in December 2010
- 59% of members use online applications
- Development of new Activity Book
- Education and Coaching Programs
- Can Am Equine Emporium in London ~ March
- Everything Equine Expo in Uxbridge ~ May
- All About Horses in Lindsay ~ June
- Canada's Outdoor Equine Expo in Guelph ~ June
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Toronto Horse Day ~ June
- Norfolk County Fall Fair in Simcoe ~ October
- Spirit of the Horse at the Royal Winter Fair ~ November
- Everything Equine Fair in Kemptville ~ November
- Base Funding Grant from Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport
- 2009 - 2010 Quest for Gold all six nominated athletes put forward by the OEF were accepted and received \$6,825.00 each in funding to use towards achieving their equestrian goals
- Additional 2009 – 2010 Quest for Gold funding received included \$3,000.00 in enhanced training opportunities, NCCP bursary rebate and \$6,000.00 in enhanced coaching opportunities
- OEF and Online Social Media Networks

Update on Coaching:

- The numbers for the coaching program are done for 2010 as the program is currently in transition. As the new program is approved and clinics are offered, participation should increase again in the next couple of years.

Catherine thanked the OEF Board and staff for their dedication, support and hard work over the past year and looks forward to the challenges ahead as we continue to grow and prosper as an organization.

## 8. Elections

Jack de Wit, Chair of the Nominations Committee was asked to conduct the election process.

Vicki Banks and Derek Lederer were appointed as scrutineers for the election. The slate from the Nominations Committee was presented as Allan Ehrlick, Ross Millar, Sarah Pratt and Martha Worts. Jack sought additional nominations from the floor, and Stephanie St. Louis' name was put forward.

**Motion:** to accept the nomination of Stephanie St Louis.

**Moved:** Kathy Fremes

**Second:** Mark Dobrindt

**Carried**

Upon third call for nominations, no further names were put forward.

**Motion:** to close nominations

**Moved:** Bruce Brown

**Second:** Sarah Pratt

**Carried**

## 9. Council and Committee Reports

Committee and Council Chairs reported on activities undertaken throughout the year.

### Drugs & Medications

Gary started by commending Allan on his efforts with the Drugs and Medications program, not only did he maintain the strong program here in Ontario, but he also took on the onerous task of managing it for the entire country. Hats off to a job well done.

Allan reported that over 300 horses were tested this year with no positive tests. The committee tries to test a minimum of 20 bronze shows, 40 silver shows, and 60 gold shows in the year. Historically more horses are tested in Ontario than any other province.

Allan spoke a little bit on the testing process – starts with the committee randomly selected shows where testing will take place from the list of all sanctioned shows taking place in the province. Testers are then assigned to the shows. Testers themselves have their own method for selecting horses, however, for grand Prix classes, they test the winner and someone else. It should be noted that any horse on the show grounds can be tested at any time. The goal is for a level playing field.

For bronze, silver, gold shows each test costs \$66.00 plus courier costs and testers are asked to collect four to six samples per show. Plus the cost of the technician – honorarium, travel and meals.

For FEI level competitions, drug testing is very expensive. Horses are selected for testing by the head of the Ground Jury or vet involved. It costs \$1,000.00 to test each sample and they typically test 3% of entries (drug fees are \$45.00 per horse). At present there are only five FEI labs in the world, one in Ithica, but it will be moving to Lexington. There is zero tolerance.

Sara Runnalls asked if expenses were covered through the collection of drug fees. Allan stated that yes, and money is set aside if needed for expenses resulting from a challenged test result or testing situation. Allan did comment that there were significant challenges this year with managing the program across the country and several issues came up but were dealt with in an appropriate way.

## **Industry**

Bruce Brown was re-elected as Chair of Industry Council. Bruce reported there are 151 industry members with 33 new ones. We do face the ongoing challenge of keeping business' as members, need to always look for new ways to provide them with opportunities and ways to promote their business. However, our revenue continues to go up every year, advertising sales are up and the official newsletter is doing well. Members do so the benefit of their members and that they get a good bang for their buck.

## **Recreation**

Jack de Wit reported that as of March 2010, \$14 million has been spent on trails in Ontario – it has been a banner year for trails development. \$5.2 million did come from the Ontario government but the government did renege on their deal the second year. Jack has been working with the Ontario Trails Council to help with the development of trails: there is 2,400 kms of trails available in Ontario. They continue to preserve trails and create new ones and are working closely with local parks and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Jack did touch on the opportunity for Recreation Council members to take advantage of a new recreation funding program made available through money received from EC. As part of the affiliation agreement a new initiative was agreed to where 30% of the membership fee paid to EC from each OEF member (\$5.00 in 2010, increasing to \$10.00 in 2011) would be rolled back to the OEF to help fund recreation and education initiatives. Look for details of this program in 2011.

## **Horse Facility Advisory Council**

Kathy Fremes reported that there are currently 118 members with 18 new in 2010. There were three trips done this year to conduct site visits. Kathy participated in several committees this past year: Healthy Lands for Healthy Horses, and Land Stewardship, as well as worked on the safe roads working group.

She was thrilled with the great interaction this afternoon at the joint Industry/Horse Facilities meeting with some great ideas brought forward, and she hopes we are able to move forward to achieve the objective – just needs people willing to come together to help the industry.

## **Associations**

Bonnie Simpson thanked her fellow council members, and thanked the staff of the OEF for their hard work. She mentioned once again that all meetings are open and anyone can attend – she hopes to have another successful year of meetings and sharing of information to better serve the members of the council. Thanks again for the opportunity to be Chair.

## **Competitions**

Ken Denouden reported on behalf of Jeremy. He thanked all show organizers for a successful year. Ontario is responsible for the administration of bronze and silver shows with approximately 253 shows sanctioned in 2010. The committee continues to do work on finalizing the Ontario schooling show level of competition.

## **10. Other Business**

Allan Ehrlick took the opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work over the past year, especially without an Executive Director, they really stepped up to ensure things continued to run smoothly and seamlessly.

Jack de Wit wanted to thank Gary for his dedication and hard work for the last two years as President, but also wanted to mention his involvement with the organization for over 20 years with the last eight spent as a member of the Board.

**Election Results**

The membership was directed to vote for up to four Directors; the process resulted in Allan Ehrlick and Ross Millar being returned, and Sarah Pratt and Martha Worts elected as new members of the Board of Directors.

**Motion:** To destroy ballots

**Moved:** Lindsey Reeve

**Second:** Ken Denouden

**Carried**

**Adjournment**

On appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.