

# Ontario Equestrian Federation Quarterly Report

The Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF) continuously works on behalf of its members to develop new programs, create new benefits and improve equestrian activity in Ontario throughout the year. To ensure its members are aware of the work being done, every issue of *WHOA!* includes a quarterly activity report that highlights current projects and those that have been completed. Articles within this issue of *WHOA!* will provide more details on these various projects.

## ASSOCIATIONS

- The Associations' Council met Monday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. at the OEF office. The council discussed changes and new processes for grants available from the OEF, as well as the Spirit of the Horse ring at the Royal for 2014 and the enhanced member benefits for associations.

## FIRST SAFE STRIDES

- The three-year term of the First Safe Strides program is coming to a close. In this term we have:
  - Supported 22 equestrian organizations and events with on-site presence and/or event kits
  - Drafted organizational resources for equine shows and events to be available in the spring of 2015
  - Distributed 1,000 copies of *A Guide for New Equine Exhibitors*

## COACHING AND EDUCATION

- Over the last quarter, the OEF education department has administered the following:
  - 76 English Rider Levels tests
  - 2 Western Rider Levels tests
  - 5 new English Instructor of Beginner (4 with Jump) certifications

### Coaching Events Held:

- July 3 – English Instructor of Beginner Evaluation, Foxcroft Equestrian Centre, Millgrove, ON.
- Aug. 7-8 – NCCP/EC Equestrian Theory Workshop, Ontario Equestrian Federation Boardroom, Richmond Hill, ON.
- Aug. 16 – English Instructor of Beginner Evaluation, Kuruka Equestrian, New Lowell, ON.

### Upcoming Coaching Events:

- Nov. TBA – English Learn to Ride Program Evaluator Training Workshop, Charleston Lake Riding School, Lansdowne, ON.
- Nov. 22-23 – NCCP/EC Equestrian Theory Workshop, Equine Canada Boardroom, Ottawa, ON.
- Nov. 29 – NCCP/EC Competition Coach Specialist Dressage Analyzing Performance Training Clinic, Equine Canada Boardroom, Ottawa, ON.
- Nov. 29-30 – NCCP/EC Equestrian Theory Workshop, Ontario Equestrian Federation, Richmond Hill, ON.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- MAAAX Equine Feed forage cubes are now exclusively available to OEF members. See page 11 for more information
- New health and dental coverage launched on Oct. 1.
- Freedman Harness/OEF belts will be available for purchase at the OEF booth at the RAWF.
- OEF members will receive a \$50 coupon to System Fencing with their 2015 membership card. The coupon will allow members to save \$50 on purchases of \$100 or more. See page 10 for more info

## HORSE FACILITIES COUNCIL

- 129 Horse Facilities Advisory Council members to date in 2014.
- Facility members are encouraged to incorporate the Learn to Ride program into their riding school activities. This program provides instructional material for riding and horsemanship skills and is a progression for riders working towards their Instructor of Beginner certification, which is a wonderful accreditation for riders who would like to become camp counsellors.
- 30 horse facilities are participating in the new Ticket to Ride promotional program, held in partnership with Equine Guelph's EquiMania! exhibit. Through this event-based program, visitors

to the OEF booth and EquiMania! exhibit will receive a "ticket to ride" to their nearest participating OEF recognized equestrian facility. The ticket offers a free assessment ride, a discounted ride or riding package or a guided introduction to horses. The program was piloted at this year's International Plowing Match & Rural Expo as a soft launch prior to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

- We are promoting the Equestrian Skills Development (ESD) horse show guidelines and sanctioning program for member facility schooling shows. These guidelines permit the use of trained judges and course designers to improve the show experience for riders who are just beginning their competitive careers, and to promote safe local horse shows.
- The Ministry of Education has responded to our request to recognize the achievements in the Learn to Ride and Instructor of Beginner Certification program as external credentials within the Ontario Secondary School system. OEF representatives are scheduled to meet with ministry staff in late October to discuss the process to move this important initiative forward.

## COMPETITIONS

- Equine Canada Stewards clinic was run with the support of THJA on Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Trillium Hunter Jumper Association Championships in Palgrave, ON. The clinic saw 23 participants.
- Various officials' clinics will be offered over the winter and spring.
- Team Ontario selections have been confirmed and the team is set to travel to the 2014 Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships in Blainville, QC. on Oct. 3-5. Stay tuned for their results!

## CLEAN SPORT

- Drug technicians have attended over 110 horse shows from Windsor to Ottawa and up to North Bay, with close to 750 horses selected for random testing to date. Thank you to all the show organizers who welcomed the drug technicians and assisted them with their preparations for the day.
- The technicians received some great feedback from competitors, trainers and parents.
- Watch for a follow-up article in the spring issue of *WHOA!* as competitive riders prepare for the 2015 show season.

## GRANTS/FUNDING

- The Ontario Athlete Assistance Program, Quest for Gold, which is funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, is available to athletes in the disciplines of Show Jumping, Eventing, Dressage and Para-Equestrian who meet the selection criteria established by the OEF. Look for application details on the website in early November. Completed applications will be due mid-December.

## EVENTS

### OEF representatives attended the following events in summer/fall 2014:

- July 15-17– North American Junior and Young Riders Championships, Lexington, KY.
- Aug. 2 – Emotional Fitness: Develop Your Mental Horsepower Clinic, Thamesford, ON.
- Sept. 9-11 – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, Woodstock, ON.
- Sept. 16-20 – International Plowing Match & Rural Expo, Ivy, ON.
- Sept. 30 – OEF Annual General Meeting, Caledon, ON.
- October 3-5 – Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships, Blainville, QC.

### OEF will be present at the following upcoming events:

- Nov. 7-16 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto