

# 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. 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

- While application fees have been waived for Associations Council associates who are renewing their membership for 2015, application forms are still required to be submitted to continue as an associate of the Associations Council.
- Further to the funding structure announced at the Oct. 6, 2014 meeting, discussions have continued with the Associations Council chair, Recreation Council chair, staff and members to develop a more fulsome funding guideline that will encourage partnerships among Associations Council associates in order to facilitate initiatives that may be of broader interest than just a single group.
- Note that the new staff support person for the Associations Council is Pam Coburn, who can be reached at p.coburn@horse.on.ca or 1-877-441-7112 x 26.

## FIRST SAFE STRIDES

- The H.O.R.S.E. (Help and Organizational Resources for Shows and Events) document for horse show implementation and safety at fairs was unveiled at the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) convention on Friday, Feb. 20 in Toronto.
- A total of 25 copies were handed out and an additional 45 copies were requested by fair organizers. All organizers were encouraged to provide us with feedback on the document for their input to be included.
- An electronic version of the H.O.R.S.E. document is now available on the OEF website for review. If you are a fair organizer with a horse show component and wish to be sent a hard copy for review and input, please contact Brandon Hall at b.hall@horse.on.ca. Deadline for input is March 31, 2015.

## SPORT DEVELOPMENT

- The Ontario Equestrian Federation is managing the Ontario Has Talent program in 2015. Clinic dates have been set with 2015 criteria and registration forms posted on the OEF website. This year the clinics are available to any junior or adult Dressage

riders who are training or competing at Level 2 or higher. Eventing athletes wishing to declare for the 2015 NAJYRC competition are also invited to participate to access Dressage training. For additional information, please visit the OEF website at [www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca) or contact Brandon Hall at [b.hall@horse.on.ca](mailto:b.hall@horse.on.ca).

- Dianne Graham and Brandon Hall were invited by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario to attend a Fear Factor presentation on Jan. 28, 2015. There were seven sports with high fear factor components that were asked to join a brainstorming session to create a seminar structure to be offered to coaches, athletes and parents of athletes later in the year. The OEF will be included in this seminar.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- Horse Country Campgrounds is offering members a 10% discount off 2015 camping rates.
- Designs By Loriece is offering members 20% off any jewelry item purchased online.
- TSC Stores Member Days Spring Sale runs from March 27 to April 9. Members will receive exclusive pricing on select items. A copy of the catalogue will be emailed to you and will be posted on the OEF website.
- Members will receive a 10% TSC Store discount card in this issue of *WHOA!* Please present this card at TSC Stores to receive your discount. If you have not yet received a discount card, you can present your 2015 membership card.

## COACHING AND EDUCATION

- Over the last quarter, the OEF education department has administered the following:
  - 23 - English Rider Level Certificates
  - 13 - Western Rider Level Certificates
  - 1 - English Instructor of Beginner
  - 3 - English Instructor of Beginner w/Jump

### Coaching Events Held:

- Jan. 18-19 - NCCP/EC Equestrian Theory Workshop, Wesley Clover Parks, Ottawa
- Jan. 19 - English Instructor of Beginner Evaluation,

York Equestrian Riding School, Stouffville, ON.

### **Upcoming Coaching Events:**

- March 7-8 – NCCP/EC Equestrian Theory Workshop, OEF Boardroom, Richmond Hill, ON.
- March 22 – English Learn to Ride Program Evaluator Training Clinic, Charleston Lake Riding School, Lansdowne, ON.
- April 5 – English Instructor of Beginner Mentoring Clinic, Pickering Horse Centre, Clarendon, ON.
- April 26 – English Instructor of Beginner & Competition Coach Evaluation, Oakhurst Farm, Ashton, ON.
- May 3 – English Learn to Ride Program Evaluator Training Clinic, Pickering Horse Centre, Clarendon, ON.
- June 5 – English Instructor of Beginner Evaluation, Pickering Horse Centre, Clarendon, ON.

### **HORSE FACILITIES COUNCIL**

- Applications can be made and renewed online this year.
- An important new benefit has been added in the form of Legal Expense Insurance. For details on this insurance product, please go to our website.
- This year is shaping up to be the most active year ever for the Horse Facilities program, with 95 associates already on board. We are also expecting renewals from 80 associates that were part of the program last year.
- We are encouraging our facility members to consider the benefits of having their coaches become NCCP certified, enabling them to deliver and test the Learn To Ride program, and mentor up-and-coming riders and camp counsellors as Instructors of Beginners.

### **RECREATION**

- Pam Hope, the new Recreation Council chair, has met with staff and is working to identify and understand the needs and interests of the diverse members of the Recreation Council.
- Similar to the review currently underway within the Associations Council, there is an opportunity to look for opportunities for partnerships among Recreation associates, as well as potentially with Associations Council initiatives.
- Very few 2015 membership applications have been received at this point, so we encourage members to submit their renewals at their earliest convenience.

- Note that the new staff support person for the Recreation Council is Pam Coburn, who can be reached at p.coburn@horse.on.ca or 1-877-441-7112 x 26

### **EVENTS**

#### **OEF representatives recently attended the following events:**

- Feb. 20 – Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, Toronto
- Feb. 20-21 – Outdoor Adventure Show, Mississauga, ON.
- Feb. 21-22 – Ontario Coaches Conference, Markham, ON.
- Feb. 21 – Ontario Competitive Trial Riding Association AGM and Banquet, Barrie, ON.

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

- April 3-5 – Can-Am All Breed Equine Expo, Markham, ON.
- April 11 – “The Mane Event” in conjunction with the Hackney and Saddlebred associations annual general meetings, Toronto, ON.
- June 6 – Toronto Horse Day, Toronto

#### **Executive Director Dianne Graham attended the following meetings on behalf of the Ontario Equestrian Federation:**

- National Medications Committee Meeting
- Provincial Animal Welfare Task Force
- Provincial Equine Welfare Task Force and Equine Rescue Sub-Committee