

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.

OPERATIONS

- The OEF office has welcomed several new staff members: Candace Gomes, finance administrator, as well as Nancy Allen and Avery Gagnon, part-time membership support.

ADVOCACY

- The OEF has been working with the representatives from Equine Guelph, OSPCA, OMAFRA and horse rescue organizations to examine the need to create standards and certification for horse rescue facilities.
- The OEF is working with the Animal Welfare Task Force led by OMAFRA chief veterinarian, Greg Douglas, DVM.

FIRST SAFE STRIDES

- The First Safe Strides program, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, has been actively working with agricultural societies, directors and volunteers on the research and development of tools and programs to support the implementation of safe, successful horse shows.
- To date, the OEF has attended the following fairs: Maxville, Millbrook, Caledon, Brooklin, Clinton, and Schomberg. The program will continue to attend agricultural society fairs each weekend across the province for the duration of the fair season.

COACHING

- In Ontario over the last four months, 13 new English Instructor of Beginners, two new Western Instructor of Beginners, one Drive Instructor and 14 new English Competition Coaches have successfully completed their certification.
- Almost 200 English and Western Learn to Ride certificates have been issued since April.
- OEF hosted several successful mentoring workshops: two English Instructor mentoring workshops, two Competition Coach mentoring workshops and one Western Instructor mentoring workshop.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- The RIDE ONtario program has been rebranded to include a fresher and more modern look.
- The TSC Spring (March 22 – April 4) and Summer (June 14-27) Member Days events were open to OEF members
- EquineLUX offered OEF members a 20 per cent discount on saddle pads for one month (ended July 19).

HORSE FACILITIES COUNCIL

- There are currently more than 110 stable members.
- Hosted a consultation session on July 3 in Guelph with current and potential stable members. The session gave participants the opportunity to provide feedback on the current program and what they would like to see in the future. The OEF is organizing similar sessions in Kemptville in August and Timmins in September.
- A few of Ontario's elite competitive equestrian facilities have committed their support to the Horse Facilities Council,

including Jacqueline Brooks at Brookhaven Dressage and Scott and Dee Walker at Forest Hill Training Centre.

RECREATION

- The OEF Recreation Council met on April 10 to discuss trail development programs throughout Ontario and current issues facing local riding clubs, specifically the need to clean up sport.
- The national Trail Guide/Trail Rider certification program is currently being translated from French to English and will be ready to be launched shortly. This certification program will be recognized worldwide and is part of the International Group for Equestrian Qualifications.
- Applications for the first round of funding for recreation are currently being reviewed.

COMPETITIONS

- Chris Brandt presented an OEF Course Design clinic at Forest Hill Farm in Caledon, May 27-28. This clinic was the largest hosted to date with 20 participants on the first day and 18 on the second day.
- The following coaches have been selected to represent Team Ontario at the Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships (CIEC): Simone Williams, Dressage; Danny Foster, Jumper and chef d'équipe; Brenda Robson, Reining.
- The following organizations are providing product to Team Ontario at the CIEC: Bucas, EquineLUX, SSG Gloves, Tipperary Equestrian

CLEAN SPORT

- Drug technicians have attended more than 50 shows across the province since the beginning of the year, with over 200 horses selected for drug testing. In this issue of *WHOA!* look for the second article in a two-part series about the equine medication program.

GRANTS/FUNDING

- The OEF submitted its base funding application to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport on May 31. This is reporting for year two of our current three-year cycle

EVENTS

OEF Representatives attended the following events :

- Whispering Hearts Horse Rescue Open House - Hagersville - July 13
- 2015 Pan-Am Games Two-Year Countdown – Caledon – July 10
- Saddle Fit for Life Workshop – Stouffville – June 27
- Ontario Has Talent Dressage Symposium – Stouffville – June 29
- Toronto Horse Day – June 1
- Ottawa Horse Day – June 1
- Earth Day event @ Manulife Centre – North York – April 22
- Greenhawk Warehouse Sale – Mississauga – April 18-19
- National Women's Show – Ottawa – April 13-14
- All About Pets Show – Mississauga – March 29-31
- Can-Am Equine Emporium – Orangeville – March 28-31