

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

STAFF

- Anne-Marie Payette has joined the membership department and will be covering the balance of a current maternity leave.

GRANTS/FUNDING

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE & SPORT BASE FUNDING

- The OEF has been assigned a new sport consultant who has been with the ministry for a number of years; we will be working closely with her to improve the position of equestrian as a sport, as well as our funding opportunities.

RECREATION FUNDING

- The OEF will once again be accepting applications through the Recreation Funding Program in 2013. Information and applications are available on the website. Projects should be focused on trail development or improvement, safety, legacy, equine health and welfare and/or education.

OEF YOUTH BURSARY

- The 2013 youth bursary recipients have been selected (please see page 15 for the list of recipients). The 2014 application will be available online July 1, 2013 and in the summer issue of *WHOA!*

QUEST FOR GOLD

- Four athletes have been selected to receive Ontario cards under the 2012-2013 Quest for Gold - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program. The athletes were selected using the sport specific selection criteria developed by the Ontario Equestrian Federation, approved by its board of directors and applied by (the) selection committee. Please see page 39 for a list of athletes.

MEMBER SERVICES/BENEFITS

RETAIL

Ontario Federation of Agriculture and TSC

- The "OFA Member Days at TSC" spring event will run from March 22 to April 4. The shopping event will include a variety of items that are specially priced for OFA and OEF members. A copy of the spring catalogue is enclosed in this issue of *WHOA!* and available on the OEF website.

TICKET DISCOUNTS

- Can-Am All Breeds Emporium is offering members 13 per cent off general admission
- The All About Pets Show/Ontario's Mane Event is offering members 25 per cent off general admission.

PROGRAMS

HORSE FACILITIES COUNCIL

- To date, 11 new stables have joined the OEF Horse Facilities Council.
- Organizing logistics to host focus groups beginning later this spring. A total of 56 survey respondents expressed interest in participating to discuss the following topics: Accreditation, best practices, standards, communication, member benefits.

FIRST SAFE STRIDES

- The OEF participated in the Ontario Association of Agricultural

Societies Convention at the Royal York Hotel on Feb. 15 in three different areas of the convention: main trade show, a one-hour seminar focusing on running a successful horse show and the mini agricultural trade show promoting equine education at fairs.

- Working with Equine Guelph to create a tangible presentation kit that can be used at fairs to educate children about horses. Aiming to offer a pilot program in 2013 to a select number of fairs and launch the program in its entirety in 2014.
- Working towards creating resources to help fairs run safe and successful horse shows.

COMPETITIONS

CANADIAN INTERPROVINCIAL EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (CIEC)

- Alberta Equestrian Federation is hosting the 2013 CIEC at Rocky Mountain Show Jumping in Calgary, AB and the Okotoks Agricultural Society in Okotoks, AB.
- The OEF is currently accepting coach and rider application forms.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS CLINIC

- The OEF is offering a provincial Hunter/Jumper judging clinic on March 18-19 at the OEF office with clinician Evie Frisque.

EQUINE MEDICATION CONTROL PROGRAM

DRUG TESTING

- Allan Ehrlick, member of the National Equine Medication Control Committee, and Catherine Barker, OEF administrator, attended the National Equine Medication Control Committee meeting held in Toronto on Jan. 19-20. It was a productive meeting reviewing statistics from across the country, including the number of competitions tested at each level and discipline, total samples drawn, frequency of allowable medications found in samples, an update on processes from the lab conducting the testing, a review of the positive test cases in 2012 and discussions and recommendations for the program for the coming year.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

EQUESTRIAN SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

- The OEF placed third in the category of Best Use of Social Media in North America in the PagePlay Equestrian Social Media Awards. The USEF placed first and Horse.com placed second.

NEW BLOG

- Canadian Show Jumper, judge and clinician Kim Kirton will be contributing regularly to her blog titled, "Kirton Call". Kim will use the blog to share her knowledge, experiences and anecdotes here and abroad.

EVENTS

OEF Representatives attended the following events in winter 2013:

- Canadian International Farm Show
- Ontario Association Agricultural Societies Convention

OEF will be present at the following upcoming events:

- All About Pets Show/Ontario's Mane Event
- Can-Am All Breeds Equine Emporium
- National Women's Show – Ottawa
- Toronto Horse Day