

Hastings News

August 2009 :: Written and produced by Jeannie Spence for the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of B.C.

HBPA NEWSLETTER by Jeannie Spence

**2009 is an election year for the Board of Directors
of the Horsemen's Benevolent Protective
Association of B.C.**

**If you are currently licensed by GPEB as an owner
or trainer you are eligible to vote.
THE BALLOTS HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT
If you do not receive your ballot in the mail, you can
pick one up at the HBPA office, at the GPEB
counter in the Hastings Racing Office. Or at the
Teletheatres in Kamloops, Vernon, or Kelowna.**

**COMPLETED BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN
THE MAIL NO LATER THAN NOON ON
AUGUST 26TH**

OR

**PUT IN THE BALLOT BOX AT THE GPEB COUNTER
IN THE HASTINGS RACING OFFICE ON
AUGUST 22ND AND 23RD**

PLEASE VOTE, THE CHOICE IS YOURS

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

A Meeting for the BC Horse Racing Industry, on August 18th, which is with **Chris Curtis** who was chosen by the B.C. Government to do a "New Industry Finance Model". The HBPA representatives attending on our behalf are: Mel Snow, Harold Barroby, and Bryant McAfee. Hopefully, it will be a favorable meeting.

The CTHS of BC's YEARLING & MIXED SALE

**Monday, September 14th 2:00 P.M.
THE YEARLING PARADE**

**Tuesday, September 15th 12 Noon
THE SALE BEGINS**

As you all know, there has been a purse decrease of 8% as of August 8th. The HBPA are well aware of the negative sides of the decrease BUT we have to stand up for the majority of the horsemen and we believe that the

most important thing right now is to get through the bad times and keep our racing dates. If you have any questions please speak to any director. Horse Racing all over North America is having difficulties right now; hopefully things will turn around soon.

THE PROFESSOR

Congratulations to **Steve Morris**, alias: the 'Professor' on persevering and achieving his Grade 12 at the age of 52. The Morris Family were long time members of our backstretch and Steve is the only member of his family to graduate from grade 12. Steve was critically injured when he was kicked in the stomach by a horse and spent many months recuperating in the hospital. He then realized that he must change his ways. Since 2006 he has been living at Resurrection House where he has been working on his academic courses and he also has been a house monitor. Resurrection House is run by the Hope For Freedom and is a drug and alcohol recovery house. After all these life altering changes, Steve has had time to think and reunite with the things that mean the most to him--his family, his church, and his plans for the future. Steve wants to graduate with an Arts degree and become a substance abuse counsellor. Steve was awarded the 'Coquitlam Teachers Association Cam Mackenzie Award' for citizenship, service, and leadership. "He has been a great model of incredible perseverance and good work habits for the students in his classes and in all Learning Centres." The HBPA are proud to help Steve complete his goals. Congratulations Steve!

JULY 25TH: A DAY TO REMEMBER

What a perfect day for the **MacPherson Family**! They were remembering Craig's Father, Alistair, with many friends and family members enjoying lunch and a day at the races. The final tribute to Alistair was a race named in his honour. Craig had J T's Point in this race, he was ridden by Karen MacPherson's Granddaughter, **Taletha Wyatt**. You can imagine the excitement in the winner's circle: this was Taletha's first win! Who could ask for more!

NEW STRIDE THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

One of the most popular exercise riders at Hastings is

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Cenek Kottenaar. He has led such an interesting life and he has always been an asset to our backstretch. Cenek is a talented tattoo artist and he always donates to our Silent Auctions, he also is an ESL tutor in the Learning Centre, in fact Cenek speaks 6 languages. About 7 years ago, he saved a Thoroughbred. The horse who Cenek named Frank, had bowed and the owner didn't want him or to take care of him. Poor Frank was left in a dirty stall with very little food and often no water. When Cenek realized the serious state that Frank was in, he confronted the owner and took Frank. Frank and Cenek would walk around the backstretch and everyone would feed and pat Frank. You could see him gaining weight each day. Frank must have thought he had gone to Heaven! When Frank was well enough to travel, he went to a stable in Richmond where Cenek trained him. He now has been adopted to New Stride and Frank will be looking for a good home. Thanks so much for your caring ways Cenek! A FINAL NOTE: Frank's former owner does not have any more horses at the track AND it will be most difficult for this owner to EVER have another horse at Hastings.



Frank (before)



Frank (after)

THE INTERIOR TRACKS

Kin Park (Vernon), July 19th: three jockeys managed to win a double:

Carolyn Stinn on Polar Blue and Road to Luck
Ashley Zacherie on Spirit Bear and Darley's Gold
Rob Henson on Crowned Legacy and Doozybug

Sagebrush Downs (Kamloops), Aug. 8th: Dexter Assoon began the day well with a win on Mr. Elusive, but luck quickly changed as Bright Spring stumbled leaving the gate and threw Dexter. He was immediately taken to hospital and the good news is that he was released later that day. We hope Dexter will make a speedy recovery. Jockey, Paula Enns was the only one who scored a double! She won on Spirit Bear and Stratacona Luck.

Great News Kamloops has 2 added racing days, August 22nd and August 30th.

It is good to see April Friesen riding again at Hastings!

GIVING CITIZENS

Gordon Bens: for being chosen as Langley's Senior of the Year! Some of Gordon's many achievements were volunteer work with the soup kitchen, the Christmas Bureau, the Abbotsford Air Show, as well as teaching basic skills at Douglas Park Community School in woodworking, art, music, and athletics. Douglas Park Coordinator Suzanne Thom commented, "Gordon's devotion to the students is evident to all who see him at work, as well as the popularity of the program. He is a patient, concerned, dedicated and a knowledgeable instructor...and he is appreciated by all who know him."

Gordon worked at Hastings Race Course for 26 years as Director of Operations and is married to Larry Lacoursiere's Mother, Marguerite.

VETS LIST

So glad that **Carl Berg** is on the mend

Hopefully **Dexter Assoon** is feeling better after his spill in Kamloops

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

The Ross Family on the loss of **Kit**.

The McIlveen Family on the loss of **Patti**. There will

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be a celebration of Patti's life at the Beach Grove Golf Course on September 25th.

The O'Reilly Family and Ken Griffin on the loss of **Kerry Russell**.

THE THOROUGHBRED LADIES CLUB

The August meeting was a pot luck supper at one of the members' beautiful farm. It was enjoyed by all. The Ladies next work day will be managing the bar at the CTHS Sale on September 14th and 15th.

The Ladies' Club was sorry to lose one of their long-time members, **Kit Ross**, she was 95.

A special Thank You to **Anna Byrne** for all her newspaper clippings she is a great help.

THE LEARNING CENTRE

A big Thank You goes out to **Mark and Patti LeSage**, **Jim Reynolds**, and **Steve and Bobbie Reade** for their generous donations of wonderful books!

Mark and Patti, and Jim are always so helpful with anything to do with the backstretch. Steve and Bobbie's Father, Ernie was a trainer many years ago. Steve had some horses with Dave Forster as well as with John Morrison. One of Steve's horses was Mr. Flintstone. When I went to introduce him to Rio, they knew each other as Steve had been Rio's track and field coach. The racetrack is a small world! Steve also donated a beautiful limited print of Seattle Slew. Hopefully Steve and Bobbie will start coming to the track again as they now have lifetime passes.

KIDZ KORNER

Fraser and Connor Morison were competing in the Western Challenge Cup in Calgary. The teams were the all star teams representing Valley Ball Hockey Association. Fraser age 12 and Connor age 9 (who was competing with 10 year-olds) along with approximately 50 other players from their respective age groups were chosen from all the teams in Valley Ball Hockey. From the tryouts 20 players were chosen to go to Calgary. Fraser's team finished third and won a bronze medal (4-1) and Connor's team finished 4th beaten in the final game (5-4).



Fraser and his medal.



Connor and Team (Connor far left front row).

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH!

This wonderful story was written by **Hayley Mills** age 15, who loves to write when she isn't helping her Mom **Patty Leaney** at the track.

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The Cheetah Cub

A little cheetah cub was struggling to break free from her mother's lapping tongue. She hopped forward, her ears perked and her huge eyes wide with curiosity. She spotted a tiny beetle, then slipped into a stalking position. Her Mother watched, amused as the cub pounced, then lifted her tiny paws only to find that it had gotten away.

The Mother cheetah let out a bark that meant "Zahra, come here! The baby cheetah clumsily padded back to her Mother and sat down as her Mother rubbed her fur.

"You need to stay near me," she purred, "And remember, if any danger comes, such as a leopard or lion, hide and stay perfectly still because even I cannot fight off a creature like that."

"Why?" Zahra chirped.

"Because we are not born to fight creatures so much larger than ourselves," her Mother continued, "We are built for speed. We use it to chase our food, and to run away from danger."

"Why?" Zahra squeaked again.

"Because," the cheetah let out an amused purr, "each creature has its own powers including strength, speed, abilities to swim and climb, and more. We sacrifice it all to speed. Agility is our strength."

Zahra looked up at the late-afternoon sky. It was the hottest time of the day in the savannah where she lived, and she was grateful she had her Mother to cool her down. She stared at the tall, golden grass in front of her, lost in thought. "Can we fight?" she finally asked.

"Pardon?" her Mother chirped.

"If a lion came, can cheetahs fight to defend themselves like the wildebeest do?"

"No. Like I said, we use speed to survive. We would run away. The only time a cheetah should ever face a creature out of their league is when they are defending their young."

She continued licking behind Zahra's tiny ears. Zahra turned to look at her, "But that's not fair!" The cub chirped, "I want to be big and strong and hunt huge antelope and fight leopards!"

Her Mother sighed, then nuzzled Zahra in a way that meant "Lie down beside me."

Zahra spread out in the sand beside her Mother and listened carefully.

"Long ago, before cheetahs or leopards ever existed, the Earth was ruled by mighty, giant cats with huge front fangs," her Mother purred. "No creature could

defeat them; even humans weren't likely to win in a fight against one."

Zahra's Mother had told her many stories about humans and how they would kill other living things for unknown reasons, using strange tools that no other animals had. She told Zahra that if she saw one, she should run and not stop.

"I bet one of those cats could rip a lion to pieces" Zahra chirped.

"Don't talk like that, dear!" Her Mother barked. "They have ruled the world for years." She continued, "But eventually humans began to make deadlier tools and learned to build huge dens by ripping out trees and do other things. They became so smart that they found ways to kill the ancient cats; and they chose to do so."

"What happened?" Zahra chirped.

"Humans would have taken the throne and killed all the cats in the world. But one day the saber tooth cats' ancestors came down from the Heavens. They told the cats that in order to remain rulers of the Earth, they must divide their powers. The cats had always been the Biggest, Strongest, Fastest, and the Most Skilled Climbers and Swimmers of all the land animals. But their ancestors told them that they must all evolve into **separate** types of cats."

"How did they do that?" the small cheetah's eyes were wide.

"Over the years, cats started to change. Some were born with slightly longer legs and slimmer bodies than others. Some were smaller, and some were different colours than cats from other families. Eventually, the different species of cats were born: the snow leopards had the skill to climb rocky cliffs while the jaguars and leopards kept the ability to swim and climb trees well. The huge size and incredible power of the cats were divided between two animals; the lion and the tiger. And of course the speed was given to us, the cheetahs"

"So cheetahs used to be saber-toothed cats?"

"Yes. Each and every cat came from the same place and they are connected by our ancestors."

"Ancestors are the cats who lived a long time ago, right?"

"Right," the adult cheetah purred. She nuzzled her cub gently behind her neck. "And that is why we must treasure and appreciate the strengths that we have today. We are not as big as lions, but we are faster-And also a lot smarter!"

Zahra purred and rubbed her head against her Mother's muzzle. "Okay," she squeaked. She stood up and started searching for another bug to play with.

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Hayley Mills