

2010 President's Report

CANADIAN THOROUGHBRED HORSE SOCIETY
BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION



Leif Nordahl

The CTHS of British Columbia is proud to present to our members the 60th anniversary edition of the Annual Racing and Breeding Statistical Review.

2010 provided another rollercoaster ride for B.C. horsemen with reduced purses and racing dates but as always, the breeding industry has persevered and our determination and dedication has rewarded us with a much more optimistic future.

The province has stepped up to the plate once again and restated its long-term support for our industry by bolstering the Thoroughbred horse racing sector with an additional incentive of over \$3 million to be distributed in the form of increased purses and bonuses.

After productive meetings between the various industry stakeholders including owners, breeders and horsemen, the BC-bred owner's incentive bonus has been increased from 13% to a significant 25% in 2011. This initiative will encourage the breeding, marketing and racing of horses bred in British Columbia.

CTHS director Richard Yates has resigned from the board and has been appointed Secretary Treasurer to the HBPA of British Columbia, a position vacated last year by long-time appointee Bryant McAfee. Richard's position on the CTHS board of directors has been filled by well-known B.C. breeder and trainer Mike Anderson. Anderson, a familiar face in the industry is the breeder and sale consignor of 2008 British Columbia-bred Horse of the Year El Sinaloense.

The seat on the CTHS board of directors left vacant in October with the resignation of Brenda Southam has been filled by Ernie Braithwaite. Braithwaite, a welcome addition to the board, has been one of the province's leading breeders for many years and is the breeder of British Columbia stakes winners La Belle Fleur, Suva and Gotta Find Bubba. The Braithwaites are also frequent consignors to the CTHS Sale.

The annual Industry Awards were presented on December 10th at Hastings Racecourse and a wonderful time was enjoyed by an exuberant crowd of British Columbia horse people.

25 year CTHS members honoured at the ceremony included Nick and Pauline Felicella, Wally and Terry Leong (Canyon Farms) and Frank and Helen Klimes (Klimes Farm).

The CTHS would like to congratulate all the 2010 industry awards winners, particularly breeders R. J. and Lois Bennett who had the honour of accepting the leading breeder trophy for an unprecedented 24th time since 1980. The Bennett's bred and race the talented sophomore Majesticity, winner of the prestigious BC Derby and a son of the Bennett's smart young sire Finality.

Also best wishes to longtime CTHS Sale supporters Nick and Pauline Felicella. This amiable couple returned to the 2010 edition of the sale and settled for no less than the sale-topping colt, a BC-bred son of Storm Victory that encouraged the Felicella's to a winning bid of \$80,000.

A bravo goes to the colt's breeders, Marg Leight and Helen Klimes, who have also been committed members of the local breeding and racing industry for many years.

Not coincidentally, the colt's full brother, Boundless Cat, took his speed on the road over the winter and won a turf sprint stake at Turf Paradise in Arizona.

Another BC-bred sprinter and track-record holder at Hastings, BR Remark, was recently beaten just two heads, finishing third in a competitive 6 furlong sprint for \$25,000 older horses at Golden Gate Fields. The BC-bred had finished 5th in his previous start for \$40,000 at Santa Anita.

(All-time leading BC-bred Spaghetti Mouse, a previous sale grad racing for the Felicellas secured his position on top of the province's leader's board with a 2010 allowance victory that took his lifetime total to \$937,686. The immortal Delta Colleen remains in second position with lifetime earnings of \$810,798. No other active BC-bred is currently threatening the leaders.

The 2010 edition of the September Yearling and Mixed Sale, held once again at Thunderbird Show Park in Langley, was slightly down on entries but exceeded the 2009 average by a considerable margin. The average sale price was an encouraging \$11,855 for the 87 lots sold, the highest average since 2004. The quality of consignments was up and this is a positive sign of things to come.

Leading consignor for the second consecutive year was Ron and Rae Fawcett's Tod Mountain Thoroughbreds and the leading buyer was Glen Todd. These industry members have been major players in the sport in recent years.

A new organization BCTOBA, the British Columbia Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, composed of high-level industry stakeholders to act as one voice for Thoroughbred owners & breeders of British Columbia.

The BCTOBA has the full support of the British Columbia division of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society but functions completely on its own behalf. The CTHS will continue as a strong representative for breeders in industry negotiations.

With the support of the government and the commitment of our industry members the future looks to be as promising as it has been in decades. New foals are now arriving and mares are being booked for the upcoming breeding season.

Anticipation for the year ahead is high and the CTHS wishes all its members a profitable and rewarding year in 2011.

