



# Vancouver Island Arabian Horse Association

## Annual Report

2009

The purpose of an annual report is threefold: (1) an accounting of the last years' activities to the membership; (2) approval of a budgeting process for the upcoming year; and (3) to offer the members input into the strategic directions for the club future.

When I first sat down to the computer to prepare this report, I did not do so with a lot of enthusiasm. In my daily work life I am attached to a computer, so the idea of spending more time in front of a computer was not my idea of how to spend my off time. However, once I got to work on the report, I was very pleased with the success of our club this year. I greatly appreciate the time and effort that so many of the members provide in the organizing and running of our events and I especially enjoy the friendships and conversations that we share. Like all volunteer organizations, the success of the club is due to the willingness of you the members to volunteer of your time and efforts towards our activities. Without your support of time, energy, talents and money - none of these activities would be possible. I thank you for your commitment to our horses, to the breed and for your support of the club.

### Executive Officers and Directors

Executive	Past President	Edward Connor
	President	Rob Calnan
	Vice president	Sandra Gilbert-Stockhauser
	Treasurer	Gerald McDonald
	Secretary	Wendy Don
	Membership Secretary	Veronica Anthony

Directors:	Isobel Connor Elisabeth Van Veggel Lisa MacGregor Amanda Wikkerink	Liza Lapham Edwina MacDonald Robert Ramsey
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## **Elections of Officers**

No executive positions are up for election this year (2009), however the position of Director is a yearly appointment/election, so all director positions will be up for re-nomination at the Annual General meeting.

You may recall in last year's AGM report that I pondered the role of past president and vice president. In those writings I wondered on the purpose of both positions and if the roles were fulfilling the objectives envisioned by the leaders of VIAHA when the bylaws were developed. If the vice president is a position for leadership development and grooming for the presidency, than it is important that that is clearly understood by those considering their name to stand for this position. Many groups do use the vice president role for succession planning and the vice president moves into the president position. If the past presidents' role is to mentor the new president than there is not the same need for succession planning because we have a built in model/mentor. However, I do believe that this is an activity that needs to be clarified this year before the election of President next October.

## **Club Activities**

### 1. Open Shows

This year the club supported 5 open shows, all of them held at the Saanich Fairgrounds.

<b>Open Show Dates</b>	<b>Judge</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
April 12	Caroline Wheatcroft	47
May 30	Ashley Toyne	70
July 4	Maggie Boltz	41
August 18	Heather Cormie	43
September 5/6	Jodie Moore	118
Trail/handy horse	Neil McDonald	

There was strong participation at each of the shows – even though we had inclement weather at a few of them. It was decided to have a separate judge at all of the shows for the Trail/Handy horse class. Neil McDonald agreed to do this at each of our shows (except for the Saanich Fair) and overall participation in this event has improved. This also helped to move the other performance classes along in a more timely way.

This year the first two shows were BC heritage qualifiers (on the request of members). Unfortunately not one person came forward to garner qualifying points towards the event. Although it is not onerous to make our shows a qualifier, or too expensive, I believe we need to consider the value and worth of this activity for the next year.

Participants in our shows were able to use their points for the paint/pinto/quarter horse high point programs. Thanks once again to Wendy Don for diligently posting all results on the club web site.

## 2. Class A Show

Following last year's format, this year's Island Classics was held over 2-days instead of 3. Adjusting the number of classes while still offering enough variety and realizing cost savings was the goal of the adjustment. The number of competitors was not adversely affected by this change. Overall feedback from the judge, steward and competitors found the flow and format acceptable. We were very pleased that the Region 17 Director Terry Johnson was able to attend. The barbecue on Saturday night was well attended and enjoyed by all.

<b>Island Classics</b>	<b>Judge</b>	<b># Of Horses</b>
Dressage & Sport Horse	Monique Fraser	34
Performance Horse	Lorne Roberts	34
	Karen Ashby – show steward	Total # of Horses = 44

## 3. Breed Promotion

### a. Information Booth

Building on the information booth that was assembled last year VIAHA had a presence at the Health Horse Expo (April) and Sidney market (X 2 in August). The club invested in a second tent that can be resurrected in minutes. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of Lisa MacGregor for the cosmetic additions she sewed and painted for the information booth. These can also be added in very short order and really give a flair to the booth. Thanks to all of the volunteers at these events for giving of their time and energy in manning the information booth.

### b. Demonstration of the Arabian Horse

Heather Salsbury organized two demonstrations on the Arabian/part Arabian Horse at the Saanich Fair. As always, the demonstration was well received – especially when the public was invited into the ring to pet the horses and take pictures. The hand painting of the horse was also a great hit with the kids.

### c. Other Planned Activities

The second club trail ride was held in September in the Nanaimo region. Once again, thanks to Kathy and Gerald McDonald for organizing this event. .

In March we also held a one day clinic focused on developing skills in Showmanship and Halter classes. These are two events that we had identified as having low participation in our shows. The clinic used the skills and expertise of Terry Johnson and the 25 participants spoke positively of the event. The success of this event can be judged by the number of participants in our final show of the year :

Open halter 14.2 hands and under :	11 participants
Open halter 14.2 hands greater :	22 participants
Junior Showmanship :	14 participants
Senior showmanship:	8 participants

#### 4. AHA Activities

Thanks to the hard work of Bob Ramsay, our club has submitted the paper work for AHA awards again this year. The announcement of this years' winners will be made at Convention – Gerald will be there – so hopefully he will be receiving the recognition on behalf of the club.

The club is very pleased that Gerald McDonald sits on the Budget and Finance committee for AHA. As Gerald reports back to the club and discusses with members, this provides our members with a greater understanding of AHA.

#### 5. Region 17

This past March our club hosted the Region 17 meeting. Very positive comments were received on the wine and cheese; the venue of the meeting (people loved the big windows in the meeting room at the fairgrounds) and the warm reception and gifts that they received. Hosting the event allowed many club members to attend and participate in the discussions for the Region. Thanks to Gerald McDonald who represented the club as the voting delegate to the two meetings. As you may know I am the secretary for the Region and Wendy Don is the Web master for Region 17 – so I believe that our club is well-involved in Region 17 activities. At the last meeting (October 3) the BC representatives to the Show Commission both resigned. At that meeting I was appointed by the Reg. 17 Director as a representative from BC for the Show commission and this was ratified at the Regional meeting. There remains one vacancy for a BC representative to the Show Commission. If you are interested in this position, please forward your name to Terry Johnson (Regional Director).

The regional show at Thunderbird Park (Langley) was a financial success. Next year the show returns to Red Deer. There are ongoing discussions for centralized venues with the capacity to accommodate the number of horses competing at a Regional show and also the flexibility of dates so that the Region is not backing onto Youth Nationals/Canadian Nationals/ and other regional shows.

Following the Regional meeting in Victoria, Edwina McDonald organized 2 youth groups – 1 recognized and 1 non recognized. All of the show records will be submitted by December to Kimberly Toye (Reg. 17 Youth Coordinator) and the placings of the youth teams will be announced at the spring Reg. 17 meeting. Thank you Edwina for taking on this task and organizing these youth groups.

#### 6. Canadian Nationals

Gerald MacDonald is the Canadian National Show Commission Chair. Again, thanks to Wendy Don and Sandra Gilbert-Stockhausen for their participation in volunteer roles at Canadian Nationals. Gerald gave a very detailed report at the last regional meeting on the new facility being built in Regina.

## 7. Communication to Members

Wendy Don continues to do a stellar job in maintaining the web site and sending out monthly newsletters/minutes of our meetings etc. to the membership. So many positive comments have been heard from members and from the public at large. As we focus on services to our members and communicating with them, the web site will be an important tool to continue to grow and develop. Wendy is in need of your pictures, updates, etc. so that this can become a timely, easily accessed communication tool for our members

### **Membership**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Total Memberships</b>	45	74	64	73
<b>Adult</b>	25	28	30	33
<b>Junior</b>	11	20	16	16
<b>Associate</b>	0	2	3	1
<b>Recreational</b>	9	22	15	23
<b>Expired</b>				16

### **Financial Statements**

As submitted by the Treasurer

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to the executive and directors for your continued support throughout the year. Your friendship is greatly appreciated. I am sorry for any errors or omissions to this Annual Report. If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, please notify me of any errors/omission so that this can be addressed in the Annual Report.

Submitted by,

Rob Calnan, President  
VIAHA,  
October 18, 2009