

## **SASKATCHEWAN NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

First of all, on behalf of myself and the ApHCC , thank you for your generous support last fall by donating \$1000 to the ApHCC AGM expenses. Also, thank you for your patience with myself in getting adjusted to this new lifestyle that I have.

As many of you are aware, the road for the ApHCC this last few years has been a rather bumpy one. Our organization has been affected by numerous outside pressures. The closing of the slaughter plants in the US has greatly affected the price of horses and as a result, some breeders have gone out of business. The shutting down of many PM operations caused a glut of horses on the market and pushed prices farther down the price spiral. The change of living conditions with many families moving from rural to urban areas has meant that for many the cost of maintaining a horse is out of reach. The interests of youth have changed and it is far easier to look after a computer and games rather than take care of a horse. Age is also a factor. As much as we hate to admit it, some of the members who used to be extremely active are having to slow down a little and not participating in equine activities seems to be one of the first things cut out for a less active lifestyle. These are just some of the outside factors that have affected the financial bottom line. There have also been individuals both in our membership and sometimes even on the ApHCC Board of Directors who have done their utmost to destroy the organization.

As a result of these factors some very difficult changes have had to be made. The first cuts to reduce expenses came in staffing. As you are well aware, the staff has been reduced from three to one. Much of the work being done has been shifted from the office to volunteers. Mervin Veinot has given up numerous hours of his free time to correct and complete the points as well as prepare and send out the certificates. I would hope that those of you who receive your certificates would take the time to personally thank him for his dedication. Even with these changes, the income has not been sufficient to cover the expenses. To keep the doors open the most difficult change of all was made. On February 28th we said goodbye to the old office building and museum. The keys were turned over to the new owner and another chapter of the ApHCC was closed.

On the bright side, the ApHCC is now located in a much smaller, new office on what Sharon says is the main street in Claresholm. The sale of the building has allowed the ApHCC to pay off all of its loans and invest some money. The museum has been dismantled and if no other museum will take the artifacts, Donna Wyatt has indicated that she will take them and perhaps create the Wyatt Museum at the family ranch. It was quite surprising to us that no one who donated items to the museum wanted them back. Further, as soon as everything is up and running properly and all of the paper work that was put on hold for the move is out of the door, our Executive Secretary will be working only part-time. If and when core revenue income warrants it, more time will be added for office work. By making these decisions the Board members of the ApHCC felt that they were making the most financially responsible decisions for the club that could be made. There are rumors of previous members renewing their memberships and new people

joining, but at present, these are just rumors and we must make these tough decisions based on fact.

Another bright spot is that the CNAS Show Committee, headed by Mervin Veinot, is working diligently to put on another show in Brandon. Details for this can be found on the website. Of course, as usual, we are looking for volunteers. At present there are only four of us on the committee. We need all of the assistance that we can get!

Thank you to the SAHC for volunteering to host the 2013 National Convention and AGM. This club has the reputation for doing a “bang-up” job of this and the Directors are looking forward to meeting here again.

In closing, I thank you for the honour of being your National Director. It has been a very rewarding adventure, even though at times it has been very challenging as well. This is the last of my term so please begin planning for my replacement.

Lynn Shinkewski  
Saskatchewan National Director