



CWHBA 2023 Chair Report

In 2023, we saw a lot less chaos compared to the previous couple of years, primarily due to the Covid pandemic winding down. Thankfully things have returned mostly back to normal, with horse shows back in full swing. I am sure everyone was chomping at the bit so to speak, and glad to be able to get their young ones out to get some show miles.

Unfortunately, it was a difficult year for foaling for many of us. I do hope foaling and breeding go well this year, making up for such a tough 2023 breeding year. Hearing from Members and various vets, it was not a good breeding season for getting mares in foal. With all the fires, smoke and drought, it was a very challenging year. The price and availability of hay was another challenge.

Breeding and developing horses takes a lot of dedication and time, not to mention heart and money. I saw a lot of people reach out to help others last summer – it made me very proud of our community. We breeders have had such a stressful past few years and are due for a smooth and successful summer in 2024. I want to thank all the Members for their continued support and loyalty to Canadian Warmblood.

Otherwise 2023 was a relatively “normal” year in the CWHBA office, making it possible for us to take a deep breath. The previous few years had been pretty challenging, dealing with the high number of tracebacks, switching to a new registration system, and setting up our own office. The office has been very busy catching up on the CLRC backlog and it is now caught up.

With the Covid shutdowns ending, it felt like the first year in a long time that the Board has been able to get their bearings. It’s so nice to be able to have our own office, taking some stress off our all-volunteer Board.

Our new registration system (Equis), and our updated website are well on track, improving our online services to Members. The online registration has been quite successful so far, with positive responses from Members. I personally found the online registration application has made registering a foal much easier than previously.

Working with the Delta Horse Equis technical support, Victoria has got most of the bugs worked out. Working with a European system has had a few translation issues to deal with. Migrating to the new system has been a complicated process and I am grateful for all the work Victoria has done on it. This system will make running Inspections easier and will help us to get the results out to mare owners in a more timely manner.

The past year has also been a very busy year for the Communications Committee. We plan to enhance the committee with a new Communications and Marketing Committee. It

will be important to have at least one representative from every Chapter. Please get in touch if you are interested in working on this.

We are always looking for Members to pitch in to help with various Committees and projects. Please note you do not need to be on the Board to volunteer. Let us know if you would be interested or would like more information regarding where help is needed. Many of our initiatives are very time consuming. Having more volunteers with new fresh ideas and skills are always definitely welcome. More details will appear in the Communications report.

Committees

The following lists some of the highlights from our Committee reports for 2023. The Committee reports are accessible on our website.

- Stallion Licensing and Stallion Performance Tests.

Stallion licensing and SPT will be hosted in Kamloops, B.C. at Sun Meadows Equestrian Center as part of this year's National Tour.

- Stallion Service Auction

The 2024 Stallion Service Auction was held in February this year. I am happy to say that the number of stallions donated to the auction was up. A big thank you for the success of this event goes to the owners who nominated/donated their stallion service, and to the mare owners who bid!!

Thank you also to the companies and people that donated in the non-semen category. There were some lovely pieces donated for the silent auctions. This is vital for the Chapters to be able to run various local programs. And of course to the hard working volunteer team on the Stallion Service Auction Committee. Planning and running the auction takes a huge effort - volunteers start planning and working in early November, and continue until after the auction is closed.

I look forward to the offspring from the auction entering the Chapter foal futurities in 2025.

- World Breeding Federation Sport Horse

The World Breeding Federation Sport Horse General Assembly was held in Orlando, Florida on October 13th - 16th. Making it possible for National to have a great representation at the meeting. National was able to send 3 members, and as well the Alberta Chapter sent 1 representative.

It was a very busy meeting with some really interesting presentations, including a workshop. The workshop subject was “Welfare and Social License to Operate”, which was presented as an introduction to the main topic, “is there a necessity for welfare-related, common studbook rules or guidelines for breeding programs (selections, performance testing, foal and mare events, etc), and if so, what should they be?”

There were 70 studbook representatives from 19 countries. This year’s General Assembly is scheduled to take place in Portugal, co-hosted by the APCRS (Portuguese Sport Horse and Luso-Warmblood) and the Lusitano Studbook, October 12-15, 2024.

Looking forward to 2024, with our systems in place, I with the Board will be able to focus our efforts on a few important items that will further enhance the services to our members and the over all health of the industry.

First, we recently sent out a survey to help us get a good idea of our breeder profile and the trends and issues facing our industry. There has been no comprehensive study done since the last one by EC about 15 years ago.

Building on the information garnered we will be developing a strategic plan to help us better meet the needs of our members and improve our communciation and marketing functions.

We are of course excited to be sending an excellent team to the Young Breeders Championship in Denmark this year, coordinated by Maria Ardito. This is a wonderful program that well deserves our continued support.

Our regional chapters are the front line of the association. This year we will be engaging with them to examine ways that we can improve their finances and delivery of services.

Finally, with all the improvements in our service through the office and growth in our membership we will be looking for ways to involve more sponsors in our events and awards.

I would like to repeat from last year’s report that there are so many people who volunteer countless hours to single out any one person. So I’d like to thank all our volunteers, at all levels, for your work, input and ideas. To each and every Member, volunteer and sponsor, I say Thank You!

Janice Tyndall
Chair