

March 2, 2021

City of Burnaby Parks Recreation and Culture Commission  
Kathryn Matts – Commission Secretary  
Parks Administration Department  
#101 - 4946 Canada Way Burnaby, BC V5G 4H7

Dear Commission Members,

We would like to welcome the new Park Commission members. Burnaby Horsemen's Association (BHA) has been a part of the City of Burnaby Parks family for close to five decades.

Our club started with a group of horse enthusiasts and a riding ring at Canada Way and Kensington Avenue, what is now the Burnaby Fire Department training centre back in the late 60's early 70's. In the mid 70's we were fortunate to be able to secure a property lease with the Parks Commission. This is the site that our facility still operates from, at the east end of Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

With the support of the Burnaby Park Commissioners, we have been able to grow our facility to meet the needs of horse enthusiasts within the City Limits. Our Club has always been managed by volunteers. Since 1977 when we secured the property lease, our membership has been able to oversee the completion of three horse barns (59 stalls total), an indoor riding arena and three outdoor riding areas.

BHA has been able to sustain our founding members vision of making horse activities affordable and accessible to everyone. Where all individuals can experience the proven benefits of physical activity while caring for our equine partners. The City has grown up around our "Riding Club in the park", something that all BHA members are grateful for the support of the Commission to make this possible. BHA is unique in its operation, having horses within City limits and operated solely by volunteer members.

The COVID pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Through our members' commitment to the Provincial Health Order's, we have been able to keep caring for our horses daily. Normally our facility welcomes the public and we organize events or programs to showcase having horses in an urban setting. Unfortunately, these are some of the programs we have had to suspend due to the COVID pandemic.

- Annual Christmas with the Horses Open House, 2020 would have been our 19<sup>th</sup> year. This annual event usually welcomed 500 to 700 guests to visit our barns and be able to get up close to a horse, something not normally offered within City limits.
- Community programs with girl guides, scouts, seniors, and other Burnaby community groups that would participate in horse information sessions.
- Free Horse Manure pick up by local gardeners. We have local gardeners that have been picking up manure from our facility for years.
- Public Lesson Program. Due to COVID restrictions we have had to temporarily suspend our lesson program. We will be working on creating a COVID safe program this fall.

Please find included an information document for people who are interested in our facility, as well as pictures of our members at large and historic pictures from our public events.

If any of the Commission members would like a COVID safe tour of the facility, please do not hesitate to contact us at [burnabyhorsemensassociation@gmail.com](mailto:burnabyhorsemensassociation@gmail.com)

Thank you again for the support you have extended to BHA for so many years. We look forward to continuing this relationship for many years to come.

BHA Board of Directors

***Two Generations of Club Members***



***BHA Christmas with the Horses guests***



***Senior's visit***



***BHA Residents and their partners in the park***

