

Nominations for HBPA BC Director – Owner

(Five to be elected)



Chris Ceraldi

Horse racing at Hastings has been a part of my life since I was a child, with my mother and sister working in the concessions during the 1970s and my father owning several horses.

Now, at 55 and celebrating 30 years of running a successful business, I'm eager to bring my passion, experience, leadership, and strategic thinking to the board.

If elected, I'll combine my lifelong love of horse racing with the business acumen I've built over the past three decades to help rejuvenate interest in this sport. I understand the challenges we face, but I firmly believe that with a clear vision, teamwork, and solid planning, we can restore stability and drive real growth for the Hastings racing community.



Don Danard - incumbent

I have owned and bred many racehorses since 1974. I worked on the backstretch when I was a 14-year-old, and so my love of the horses has been with me for many years. I have been fortunate enough to win stake races in BC, Alberta and elsewhere. Horse racing has always been a very big part of our lives, as a family.

I have stood as President, past president, and as an owner/ director of the HBPA of Alberta board over the past 27 years. I have been honored with a lifetime achievement award for thoroughbred racing in Alberta.

Horse racing is facing challenging times ahead and I want to contribute and be a part of the process going forward.



Jordan Froelich

As a lifelong fan of horse racing, I got my introduction into ownership through the Hastings Racing Club. Three years ago, I decided to take the leap into full ownership and take advantage of the Fresh Horse Incentive Program. In 2022, I brought 4 horses from Fair Grounds (Dr. Benny, Valerie Valeski, Sky Factor and Mr. Quality) to Hastings. In 2023, I brought 4 as well (Morethansoultitle, Klimtoglory, I'm A Chi Too and Ima Daredevil). This season, 3 more made the way to our bull ring (Duke Girls, Cerebro and Ready Hero). I currently have full or part ownership in 12 horses with all but 1 currently in Vancouver.

I'm a passionate owner that wants the best for Hastings and ensure our viability moving forward. I believe I am a candidate that is willing to put in the time and extra work to ensure we have a future moving forward. As a business owner with previous managerial experience, I have a

skillset on the financial side as well as doing various public speaking, board meeting and team building events.



Gail Jewsbury

I started my journey with racehorses at Sandown in the late 80's after losing my 3-day event horse. I was, at various times, a groom, pony girl and test inspector, helping where I could. I acquired my first TB from Sandown. Since then, I have bred TB's and race them. I have supported the CTHS BC division sales and continue to have horses racing at Hastings. I have my farm with some of my retired horses in Cassidy on Vancouver Island. I truly understand what it takes to get a horse to the track.

What I bring to the HBPA besides my passion for TBs is my skills as a mediator, my knowledge of how government works (and does not work), and my prior experience with other boards and committees especially in proposal and grant writing. My previous experiences include being the Chair of the North Saanich Environment Advisory Committee where I wrote parts of the first OCP; creating and managing the Warmlands Restorative Justice Society in Duncan which included fundraising; being a member of the steering committee to create the Restorative Justice Association of BC (RJABC) and other positions in organizations as a board member and as a volunteer including Pony Club Instructor. It is time for me to give back in any way that I can. It is time to listen (especially to our members) and time to be heard so that we can promote horse racing in BC.



Gary Johnson - incumbent

I have loved horses for over 60 years. For several years as an owner, I did not get involved. One day I was asked to run for the office of Director. Now as an incumbent who works hard on your behalf, I need your support again.

In 2023 we started discussions with government to try to replicate the help we received from them in 2021. Without that help we would be in an even more difficult financial position. It has been tough as you all know.

In the last year there have been many government issues that seemed to be more important than horse racing. But we persevered. After a recent meeting with the Minister responsible for horse racing, we felt that while nothing significant could be done immediately with the impending election period' the Minister assured us our issues and needs would be brought forward once the provincial election was over. There is a need for a long-term strategic plan that owners and trainers (our members) and breeders can get behind. There is a need for a new funding model. For many years we have had to deal with an overall reduction in income from slots at both tracks and inflation has costs us mightily. We need a unified position when dealing with the track

operator. We must look at what Alberta and other jurisdictions are doing and do better.

That is why I am asking for your support to allow me to continue to represent you as we try to develop a revised long-term funding model with government that will bring us success.



Devon O'Donnell

Devon has been an active owner in the horse racing industry on and off since 2016. Having dove headfirst into how a barn operates on a daily basis as a groom, her passion for the sport only continues to grow as does her education of the sport and all surrounding aspects. She believes that true success in any field starts with those on the ground — the workers and staff who tirelessly care for the horses 24/7.

Devon is eager to leverage her 25+ years in management to advocate for the well-being of everyone; from the hot walkers & grooms to trainers & owners and first and foremost the equine athletes. Not afraid to shoot from the hip, ask hard questions and dig for the truth, her dedication to the horses and leadership make her a strong candidate for the HBPA Board.



Denise Prail - incumbent

I'm proud of my accomplishments during my first term as Director, HBPA and am seeking your support to continue:

- As Chair, Communications Committee - helped secure funding for Horseracing BC newsletter, grow subscriber numbers & establish social media channels (@HPBA_BC and @Horseracing_BC); I'm a regular, top contributor to BC Horseracing Industry.
- Featured in a March/April 2023 BC Business magazine article highlighting my professional role in healthcare and to Hastings.
- Established backstretch Beverage Container Recycling program.
- Initiated, promoted and hosted multiple 'Breakfast with the Horses' events on the front side to encourage racing club and other fans to learn more about our industry
- Initiated, promoted and hosted multiple free backstretch "Breakfasts at the Gap" to demonstrate the HBPA's appreciation
- As a member of the HBPA Strategy Committee, I've been very active in our government relations, working with others in the industry to create the narrative and lead discussions with several MLAs and Cabinet Ministers. Initiated invitations for elected officials to decorate BC Cup Day & BC Derby winners.

I have held an owner's license for more than 20 years, am a founding and annual member of the Hastings Racing Club and I'm in partnership on two other horses on my own. From 2016-2022, I served on the Board of New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society - equine safety and ensuring aftercare is paramount.

In my professional life, I am the CEO of Canuck Place Children's Hospice. Hastings is in my DNA. I am the third generation of my family to be active at the racetrack and both of my daughters have worked at Hastings too! And I'm determined to continue to work to protect the industry and see it thrive in BC again.



Nigel Reid – incumbent

Born and raised in European horse racing, Nigel has worked in the international racing and bloodstock industry in a variety of roles during the past 30 years, including bloodstock consultancy, racing management, bloodstock media, marketing and PR.

Nigel said: "It's not been an easy couple of years, but we've made some real progress in terms of communications. The regular newsletter, social media channels, breakfast with the horses and several other initiatives aimed at opening the sport to as wide an audience as possible, have all been launched as part of the work done by the communications committee that I'm proud to represent alongside Denise Prail. However, there remains much work left to do and I would like to continue as an owner's representative on the HBPA board to try and finish what we've started.