



Northern Horse & Mule Harness Association

PO Box 274, RPO Downtown, Fort St. John, BC V1J 6W7

General Meeting December 10, 2024

www.NHMHA-harnessclub.ca Email: nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com

The meeting was held at NLC, FSJ in room 101

Attendees:

- Vice President: Donna Gregoire
- Secretary: Marion Dunn
- Treasurer: Susan Clarke
- Directors: Alice Daoust, Louise Kempthorne
- Members: Bev Richards, Ray Warren



Donna Gregoire, VP, chaired the meeting in the absence of Julius. Donna called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Minutes: Marion read the minutes from the November 12th meeting; called for errors or omissions and was given an edit to add that Sunset Stables was a 4th location presented for the Christmas Party if the Pomeroy Barn was not available. The minutes were then moved for adoption by Marion, seconded by Donna and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Susan presented her report: the Revenue included deposit of the \$300 from Julius's participation at the N.Peace Fall Fair heavy horse pull; expenses were the bank interest of \$4.75 and the donation to the Women's Resource Centre (\$100). Net Income was \$402.07. The adjusted bank balance in chequing as of November 30 was \$3,023.27. The Savings Account balance was \$6,069.06. Income from interest was \$6.82. Marion was reimbursed for her outlay of \$'s to renew the association's insurance and HCBC online. Also noted she delivered the cheque to pay Target Printers for the Calendar printing. Susan moved to adopt the minutes as read; Louise seconded; carried.

Old Business

CHRISTMAS PARTY Wrap-up: Everyone enjoyed the party and was appreciative of the venue considering the challenges of the weather. With minus 32°C prior to Dec1st, it was considered that we cancel or postpone the party. However, only the sleigh drive was cancelled – the Dinner Party ensued.

- The decorating had occurred the week before with volunteers including Donna, Marion, Ray, and Susan. Mike and Angie Pomeroy had plowed snow for access and parking, and heated the barn from early in the day for both the decorating and the Christmas Party.

- Many commented that Santa did a wonderful job and the kids loved him... **Thank You, Santa!!!** Ray had sourced his own suit and will be keeping it!
- Santa's Elf was also amazing! **Thank you, Donna!!!** Donna also did a fantastic job of sourcing the kids' gifts and some door prizes. Other kid's gifts and door prizes were donated, including a wreath from Alice, an afghan from Louise and a quilt from Marion. There were 6 children who did not come to the party and the executive at the party made a decision to donate the gifts. Donna delivered them to the Santa Sleigh at Canadian Tire that week.
- The food was amazing as well. There was no shortage of anything. Thanks to Pomeroy's for providing the coffee and tea station, and supplied water, as well. Louise donated \$20 to NHMHA because she cooked the ham and much was leftover. Susan was given \$20 in cash.
- Some felt that the party seemed to shut down very early, which was likely because of the weather, plus there wasn't a sleigh drive beforehand to lengthen the event. Another observation was that people were eating while sitting on the couches, which was construed as not having enough seating. Others commented that they chose to sit there because it was comfortable and the coffee tables were enough.
- Thank you to **Everyone** involved in the party planning, set-up and execution, donations and followup.
- Marion moved to recognize Pomeroy's hospitality with a Gift Certificate; Bev suggested Mr. Mike's to benefit from a promotion of a complimentary \$20 for appetizers with any \$100 Gift Certificate. The Motion for a \$100 Gift Certificate was seconded by Ray and carried. Marion will buy the GC and present it to the Pomeroy's. Reimbursement will be tabled at the next meeting.

High on Ice, February 14 – 17, 2024: Donna is liaising with Dave Green from City FSJ to plan our involvement at the event in Kin Park. Dave wanted rides to occur Feb 13 through 16 but Donna informed him we would be available only Saturday and Sunday (14-15). This event is a shared effort with the Ride for Disabled, as was done in 2024. Donna will speak with Lana (Ride for Disabled) with respect to managing site control/donations/information/etc.

- The weather conditions must be warmer than minus15 to occur.
- Donna and Julius scouted the park. At this time the following items are outlined:
 - Parking will be at the school for our horse trailers and participants.
 - the routes for sleigh rides would be in the old section of the park - roughly 10-minute loops through the treed area, across a paved area and back. This will avoid the new area walkways which have hazardous stemmed in piping for light stands coming out of the ground.
 - Shorter routes can also be chosen.
- Loading and unloading area would be controlled by NHMHA and Ride for Disabled volunteers.
- Donna asked for a tent and firepit/firewood to be provided by City FSJ but has not been answered yet. Ray suggested having propane heaters if a bonfire wasn't possible
- It would be nice to have a warming trailer on site; Donna will ask Nicole Reid (vendor) if she would come with her mini-donut stand. Alice suggested perhaps the City could work with us to have a coffee/donut or food trailer
- Donna will attend the next committee meeting.

Calendar 2025: Our Calendar was created by Connie Lynn Graphics. It was completed printed in time by Target Printers to distribute at the Christmas Party. Most were picked up at the Party. Since the mail strike is on, there are none mailed out. The calendars were made available at this December 10th general meeting and again for the upcoming January 14th general meeting. Further action will be determined if the mail strike ends for getting them out to people who haven't been able to receive theirs.

HCBC and Acera Insurance: Marion renewed and received the updated HCBC Association Membership, the updated Acera general liability insurance and the Director and Officer Liability insurance for 2025. Marion was reimbursed by NHMHA for her online payment outlay to HCBC and Acera.

Note: Womens Resource Society – the donation of \$100 to the society in November in preparation for the Christmas season was a result of the request from Ray Warren who in turn would be Santa at the NHMHA Party.

Membership: 2025 Memberships are coming in! Time to renew NHMHA and your HCBC if you are riding or driving with the NHMHA.

Correspondence / Communication:

- Marion sent out Thank you Letters to the Petroleum Association and to Target Printers (for printing calendars on a rush deadline).
- Email correspondence: HCBC and Acera confirmation.
- Dale Richards received a donation to the Ride for Disabled and has offered to share a portion to the NHMHA. Thank you!

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm by Donna, seconded by Bev.

NOTE: Meetings are held every second Tuesday of each Month: 7 to 9pm.



NHMHA's next general meeting is on January 14th at NLC in FSJ, Room#105

Website: maintained by ConnieLynnGraphics nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com

Membership: <https://www.nhmha-harnessclub.ca/membership.html>

Calendar: <https://nhmha-harnessclub.ca/img/NHMHA-2024-calendar-online.pdf>

