



Northern Horse & Mule Harness Association

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

General Meeting October 14, 2025

Email nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com

The meeting was held at NLC, FSJ, Room 107

Attendees:

- Secretary: Marion Dunn
- Treasurer: Susan Clarke
- Directors: Alice Daoust, Louise Kempthorne, Maureen Simard
- Members: Evelyn Green, Donna Gregoire, Jacqui Burton

In Julius's absence, Marion sub'd as Chair and opened the meeting at 7:13pm.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 9th meeting were read by Marion, moved for adoption, seconded by Alice and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Susan presented financial reports for both August and September. She commented she has had issues with BEEM in implementing direct deposit; has had to set it up a number of times!

August: The Adjusted bank balance in chequing end of August was \$2,106.37.

Chequing Account: *Income* was from - District of Taylor (for GoldPanning Days) \$200, Membership \$40, \$30 donated by Horrock's, WagonTrek revenue \$425, appreciation donation from Joe Findlay for the Driving Clinic in August \$110. Total Revenue \$812.79

Expenses were Groceries for WagonTrek \$305.67, other expenses came in after the month.

The Savings Account balance was \$6,122.36. Interest income of \$7.46.

Net Income was \$505.12.

September: The Adjusted bank balance in chequing end of September 30 was \$1,851.61. Interest pd \$2. There is an O/S cheq to Donna of \$268.48 (for food and supplies for the WagonTrek.)

The Savings Account balance was \$6,129.82. Interest Income of \$7.46.

Income was Membership \$20, WagonTrek revenue \$245, Donation from Jacob Kent Birthday Party pony-rides \$150. Total Revenue \$422.46

Expenses: Small Tools and Supplies \$268.48, PortaPotties (Misc.Exp) \$399.28 = Total \$669.76.

Net Income was -\$247.30

WagonTrek Balance: Louise asked if we had lost money in the WagonTrek, and Susan said we were in the negative. We brought in \$665 in fees, and spent \$925.16 = -\$308.43

Motion: Susan moved we adopt the financial report; Marion seconded and the motion was carried.

Oilmen's Weekend at Peace Island Park: (August 16-18) No donation cheque has been received yet. Louise suggested we share the donation with the Ride for Disabled; Maureen suggested 10%. We decided we'd wait and see what comes in and then revisit.

North Peace Fall Fair Follow-up: Donna was wondering how our sponsorship \$'s for the 2 classes which had no participants was used or reallocated. We think the funds were just redistributed within the event to cover expenses. Donna was still disappointed in how the organizers dropped the ball on our early commitment to be sponsors, by not getting our info into the printed program once again.

Fall WagonTrek Followup: More discussion on road/traffic safety—there were vehicles using the road that had to pass and were concerned. There were too many wagons/teams on the highway in a string (although we only had 5 wagons/carts). Some wagons flagged the vehicles to pass around but they may not have been comfortable with that. We need to be clear and have meetings to discuss safety.

Other points were: Everyone has to wait to leave the site. Instead, we were strung out too much. Clarity is needed at the start of the drive, and take our radio's. We should have a sign for the last rider in the string to display "Pass Wide and Slow" HCBC has them. Marion to inquire of HCBC when we renew membership. Perhaps a vest which members have seen before.

CHRISTMAS PARTY! *The Date is December 6th at the Baldonnel School*



Presented and reviewed options for the Christmas party venues, data gathered by Marion and Louise:

Taylor Community Hall \$900 + Damage Deposit \$365 (refundable) plus we would have to obtain a facility insurance coverage for the day (roughly \$150). Allows for user to obtain a liquor permit (which is not an issue for us). They presented a very detailed quote which was shared with the Board of Directors.

FSJ Senior's Hall: \$700/ day (24 hrs). (\$500/day + \$200 for use of kitchen).

Rod'n'Gun: \$850 per evening. Allows for user to obtain a liquor permit. (which is not an issue for us).

Baldonnel School: Kitchen and Gym - \$200 donation. Kitchen, gym, tables/chairs and washrooms included

Grandhaven Hall: Not a venue now (offices) but no response received.

Farmington Fairways: No response. Closed for the Season.

The venues, other than Rod'n'Gun club and Taylor Hall, allowed alcohol serving if we obtained the permit but it's not something we wish to do. Comments were that we should try to keep rental costs down and the facilities at the Baldonnel School would be fine, as well as being closer to the Dawson Creek attendees.

Motion: Marion moved we pay the donation fee for the Baldonnel School as our venue; Donna 2nd. Carried. Marion will follow up with signing a facility use agreement and provide the donation suggested by the school principal (\$200). Louise suggested \$250; 2nd by Donna, carried. Marion will contact Rod'n'Gun, Senior's Hall and Taylor Community Hall to let them know we chose an alternative venue. Alice offered to view the school kitchen and facility. Marion also would have a look when she signs the facility use papers.

Other Party Discussion:

Same dinner and party structure as before except there is no sleigh ride beforehand. A sleigh-day will be planned for another time – hopefully a nice sunny winter day! For the party, we're expecting people may want to come fairly early, around 4pm with plan to start dinner at 5pm so all the gifts and activities such as door prizes and adult gift exchange can happen early. People can get home at an early hour if needed for children. NOTE: UPDATE SINCE THE MEETING—Due to the FSJ Christmas Parade for the same day, we are moving the dinner hour to be 6pm instead of 5pm. People can still come around 4pm if they like.

Same structure as previous parties: No Charge; Members and Family Friends welcome

**CHILDREN'S GIFTS FROM SANTA (14 & UNDER) • OPTIONAL ADULT GIFT EXCHANGE \$25
FABULOUS DOOR PRIZES • YOU CAN BRING A DOOR PRIZE DONATION IF YOU LIKE
THIS IS A POTLUCK DINNER EXCEPT FOR TURKEY & HAM, COFFEE/TEA /HOT CHOCOLATE**

Thanks to Donna for volunteering to be the Santa Shopper again! **Motion:** Donna moved we work with the same budget as last year of average \$25 per child for the gifts, est.\$500. Maureen 2nd the motion, all were in favor. She will contact Ray Warren to see if he's willing to be Santa.

Door Prizes will be by donation; Marion and Louise will bring their contribution.

Marion will start the invitation poster showing a deadline for registration of November 29th to allow for kid's present shopping to be done and food planning.

Calendar 2026 Marion showed some Calendar cover shots for consideration, and asked what format people wanted for the 2026 calendars. Examples were brought from previous years, which were different

sizes and bindings (stapled or coiled). We decided to keep the format of the Calendar heading on the title page, keep the small size to they are easy to mail, and binding with staples and centre hole rather than coil (which costs more). Objective was to keep costs down, since cost per calendar is now greater than membership fees! Comments that we may want to discuss increasing our membership fees at the next meeting, effective 2026.

In order to have photos that are in keeping with the seasons of the months, it would be nice to have more options of Winter Photos to choose from. Please sent in your high resolution shots to our email asap.

New Business, Admin and Membership

Member Update: Deborah and Theo are in Vancouver for Deborah's surgery and medical care. **Motion:** Marion moved to send our get well thoughts to them in a bouquet to them in Vancouver. Alice had some ideas for a gourmet basket. Louise 2nd, carried. Marion will order it. Expecting \$200 for a gourmet basket and delivery.

Kent Birthday Party Ponyrides – September 20: Jacob Kent of Samaria Mechanical Ltd. asked NHMHA for ponyrides for the group of 15 children and 19 adults in Charlie Lake. Theo was prepared to give the rides but he and Deb could not follow through due to a medical journey to Vancouver. Julius stepped in and gave the rides, and Marion assisted with the site loading/unloading, waivers, photos. The rides were from 11:30 am until around 2:30pm. Marion gave them a calendar and a thank you email with photos from the event. Jacob donated \$150 to us in an e-transfer under Samaria Mechanical Ltd.

High on Ice: Donna asked if there was any correspondence from the City on High on Ice 2026. Marion hadn't received anything nor did our email. Donna will ask Bev if she received any. With a bit of discussion we thought it would be good to jointly hold the event with the Ride for Disabled as in 2024...if possible at Bev and Dale's again. Donna will ask Bev if she would be the representative for both NHMHA and NPRFD. Donna indicated that she is stepping down from being the contact for the High on Ice.

Correspondence / Communication: Marion contacted the NLC Admin (Julie) to update our Facility Use contract for using a meeting room Sept 2025 to August 2026. This was completed and NLC waived the room fees for us again. *Thank You, Northern Lights College / UNBC Campus!*

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm by Alice, 2nd Marion.



NOTE: Meetings are held every second Tuesday of each Month: 7 to 9pm
Next meeting is November 11th at Northern Lights College, 7pm.

Website: maintained by ConnieLynnGraphics nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com.
View the photos and slide shows on the NHMHA website... <https://nhmha-harnessclub.ca/events.html>



Kids Birthday Party rides at Jacob Kent's farm in Charlie Lake, September 20th

