



Minutes

2021 Ontario Equestrian Annual General Meeting

Monday June 21, 2021

6:30 pm

via Zoom

1. **WELCOME** – Peter Chiddy, President of Ontario Equestrian welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.
2. **QUORUM CONFIRMED** - Corporate Secretary – Hilary Gregory confirmed that quorum had been reached with 47 members present.
3. **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS** – Peter introduced the board members and thanked them for their outstanding contribution to the Board this past year: Julia Merritt, Vice President, Christine Reupke, Danielle Glanc, Maya Chendke, Hilary Parkes, Ann Kossatz, Andrew Woodley and Breanna Young.

Peter also introduced and thanked the OE staff for all of their work. Tracey McCague-McElrea; Executive Director, Toyin Fambegbe, Director of Finance, Brandon Hall; Director of Marketing and Communications, Charlayne Szafranski, Manager Coaching , Kelly Griffiths; Membership and Operations Coordinator and Hilary Gregory, Program Coordinator Sport and Christilot Boylen, GRIT Head Coach.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion by C. Reupke, seconded by J. Merritt to approve the Agenda as presented.
CARRIED
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion by K. Griffiths, seconded by C. Szafranski to approve the Minutes from the 2020 AGM held on June 24, 2020.
CARRIED
6. **BUSINESS ARISING** – Nothing was reported
7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Peter Chiddy

After seven years this is my final AGM as President and as a member of the OE Board. I would like to provide you with some perspective of this time.

My first involvement with OE followed the privilege I had of competing as a member of the Ontario team at the Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships (the CIEC) held at John Anderson's beautiful property near Spruce Meadows in Calgary in 2013. Grant Field was President then and accompanied us to Calgary. The CIEC experience

(I had only been riding for four years) was a total delight and led me to want to contribute to the community and the sport.

Grant invited me to serve on the CIEC committee entrusted with sending an Ontario Team to compete in the 2014 competition to be held in Quebec. This ultimately led to my joining the Board in 2014. After Mark Nelson was elected President in 2015, I joined him as Vice President and our journey began!

The Journey

This journey has included a total reorganization, rebranding as OE, a new Strategic Plan, the building of the current organization and the conversion of OE from what was largely a marketing and magazine publisher, into a true Provincial Sports Organization with new programs and initiatives to promote our sport.

The Team

The most important activity during the early period was to develop the team, and the most critical function here was to find the right Executive Director. Someone who understood Sport and Sports Administration. Someone who could work with our National Body as well as with our membership. Someone who could build a team and a strategy.

It took a dedicated, concentrated plan, executed over more than a year, to persuade Tracey McCague-McElrea to finally join us in 2017. I say with absolute pleasure that if there is anything I have done for OE this recruitment was my crowning achievement.

Tracey has built an unbelievable team of dedicated people who work endlessly for you. Toyin, Brandon, Char, Kelly, Hilary and Christilot are total stars and all are a pleasure to work with. On behalf of the entire Board, A BIG THANK YOU to all of you for your dedication and great work.

The Times

The years from 2014 to today have sometimes been difficult, but have always been inspiring.

- In 2016 we changed the governance and bylaws significantly making the organization a member driven one with a single vote for all members.
- In 2017, under Tracey's new leadership, we developed a strategic plan, rebranded to OE, and began the transformation to a Sports Organization.
- These changes have been fundamental, not always fun, but critical in fulfilling our mission.
- Tracey will be speaking to these in her address, so I will go no further here

COVID

Of course, in 2020 COVID hit and a dark cloud descended on all the world, not least on the Equestrian community.

To say it has been difficult is clearly an understatement but hopefully we are now emerging with a return to some normality and to the competition so many of us love. Now I know there are those of you who felt we could have done more – and yes - that is always true. I would though like to give you a few insights:

- We are a Sports Organization, not a regulating body. Nevertheless, we have felt a responsibility to help protect our membership from legal jeopardy, and so ensure that the constantly evolving regulations were understood.
- In so doing we have sought and received constant and consistent legal and insurance advice from highly qualified professionals .
- Although a Sports Organization, we have also felt the responsibility to advocate for the sport. Not only for the sport, but also for the welfare of our Equine Partners.
- In this regard, beyond Tracey and the team, I commend the Board and members of the community, for the dedication shown and the willingness to pitch in during these dark months.
- The For The Herd program, which developed out of Jen Sweet's initiative, is such an example.
- Maya Chendke – a current Board candidate- was a key player in recruiting the team that worked with Brandon, Kelly and Hilary, to make this happen.
- Julia Merritt – our Vice President – Chaired the independent Distribution Committee (which included Jen and also included current Board Candidate Mike Pownall, among other independent voices). This committee worked weekly to ensure the donations were distributed equitably and fully.
- Then there is Advocacy. The work with OMAFRA which continues today. Work which resulted in a \$3 million fund for horse welfare in Ontario. This was the result of hard driving efforts by Tracey and Brandon along with the dedicated services of Danielle Glanc- another current Board candidate – and Kristy LaRoche of EC.

You can't have known all of this, but I think it's important that you do know.

My time on the Board and serving as President has been an honour for me. I thank you the membership, and you my Board colleagues, for the privilege it has truly been. I am confident that the team will continue its good work, and that the new Board, including those to be elected today, will serve you well.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tracey McCague McElrea

It's been quite a year! 2020 has taught us an immense amount. It has demonstrated, with force, just how vulnerable we are as humans, as businesses and as a sector.

When 2020 began we had high hopes for the exciting year ahead with many programs to be launched. March however, ushered in a very different plan, and as we all know only too well, the world was facing a global pandemic. Then the real challenges began.

But before we talk about the year in review, I would like to thank you, the members, for your resilience and the support you demonstrated for your fellow equestrians. You rallied and aided each other consistently, passionately and with care. It was truly inspiring,

again and again. You fostered horses, shared hay, and fed and donated money to those who were in dire need of assistance.

I would also like to recognize the hard work of the entire OE Board. It was not an average 'governance' year for the Board members. Everyone rolled up their sleeves and gave generously of their time and expertise. Hours and hours were spent researching, advocating and developing strategies and materials to assist the community navigate the pandemic.

In particular, I owe a massive debt of gratitude to Peter. With a career that spans three continents and more than 30 years with KPMG, and concluded with an appointment as global head of innovation for KPMG advisory service, I could not have had a more strategic, intelligent, thoughtful, concerned President and partner to navigate these challenging times. We communicated daily at all hours of the day.

What started in 2016 as some contract work on policy development with Peter, transformed into a pandemic mega-project. Peter, thank you for encouraging strategic thinking, innovation and action. Thank you for inspiring. Thank you for supporting the entire staff at OE. Thank you for your sharp sense of humour. Thank you for taking the responsibility of OE President so seriously. I have learned so much from you and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

And to the small but mighty team of tirelessly hard-working staff at OE, Brandon, Toyin, Charlayne, Hilary, Kelly and Christilot your dedication and hard work continues to be so appreciated. You felt the pain that the community was in and you dug deep to communicate, raise funds, provide educational opportunities and be the calming voice on the other end of the phone.

Most of the programs and events that were planned, were cancelled. Instead our time was spent working with Equestrian Canada, the other equestrian P/TSO's, the larger Ontario sport community, PR firms and lawyers to keep the community informed and to ensure that all levels of government understood our need to keep the herd healthy and to safely open businesses when it was allowed. As an 'outdoor sport' we were in a much more fortunate position than the majority of sports.

We have invested a great deal of resources into the ECampus and as online training became in many cases the only means of educating in 2020, the timing was perfect. We are excited about the future of this platform and the many opportunities it will provide our members.

We know our community's resilience. With that in mind, its survival and its future are dependent on working together.

We will get through this together. And because of this defining moment, because we have learned so much and now understand the profound fragility and strength of our community, we will be courageous and bold. We know this to be true because it is necessary, and we are committed to doing what is essential. Together, we can—and we will—move forward not just to survive, but to continue to grow and thrive.

T. McCague-McElrea then reviewed the highlights from the 2020 OE Annual Report.

The report is Linked [HERE](#) and can be found on our website.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT – Julia Merritt, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and Glen Horne, Partner, BDO presented the 2020 Audited Financial Statements.

Julia introduced Glen Horne to discuss the 2020 Audited Financial Statements.

Glen Horne – Partner BDO

BDO performed the audit of the financial statements. Glen indicated that it is a clean audited opinion.

Statement of Financial Position

- Assets for the organization are \$1.2 million, which is up fairly significantly from last year.
- Looking at the real main components of the assets, they are made up of cash and short-term investments. These put together make up about 70% of the assets. Looking at last year these went up quite a bit and the reason for the increase this year is because of the excess revenue over expenditures for the year.
- Receivables are sitting at \$281,000. This is the receivable from horse reg due to the renewals in the fall. It's the drop in the amount receivable for memberships because auto renewal was introduced. Rather than being outstanding at year-end they were renewed which resulted in less of a receivable.
- The liabilities are sitting overall at \$1 million for the year. Up from last year. Looking at the breakdown of that first is the accounts payable to accrued liabilities. These include items like the insurance payable and general payables. The increase year-over-year is really the increase in insurance payable for the year as well as some of the HST increase. The rest of the accounts payable dropped as we see a drop of the expenditures over the year.
- The Canada Emergency Business Account is the \$60,000 loan. If it is repaid by December 2022 the organization will only have to repay \$40,000. The organization anticipates re-paying that amount so it is only recorded at the \$47,000.

Statement of Operations

- Looking at the statement of operations we'll see that the excess of revenue for expenses is \$254,000 this year relative to \$131,000 last year. One of the big items there is the government assistance which is some of the amounts received for the wage subsidies, the rent subsidies, and the \$20,000 that I mentioned from the loan that gets forgiven when it's repaid.
- The revenue itself is sitting at \$1.5 million which is up from last year. Taking off the government assistance, it was a decrease this year. COVID was a difficult time and we've seen a lot of sports organizations where there has been drop in revenue and this is similar for OE. In registration you see a decrease. There wasn't as many events given the pandemic that was going on this year.

- Looking at the memberships it actually looks like memberships is increasing. Memberships revenue actually dropped by \$85,000. The increase comes from \$105,000 from the e-learning fee of five dollars per member.
- Note 12 discusses the For the Herd, the emergency funding that was received. Described in this note about that program is \$214,000 that we receive. From an accounting perspective it does not get recorded in these financials because it is money that comes in through the Go Fund Me and is transferred directly out. It is not the organizations' revenue and expenses. It's a flow through as they're helping support these riding schools.
- Expenses have decreased year over year as there was good cost management. Again, with COVID there has not been the events coming through so there's actually a decrease in the programs of about \$300,000 and then an extra \$100,000 increase from the e-learning programs. \$100,000 here was the cost for that program.
- That is the balance sheet and statement of operations for the year.

Motion by D. Glanc, seconded by A. Woodley receive the 2020 Audited Financial Statements as presented.
CARRIED

10. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Motion by M. Chendke, seconded by M. Cruikshanks to appoint BDO as the OE auditors for 2021.
CARRIED

Peter Chiddy - Thank you to Julia, Toyin and the Audit and Finance Committee for their hard work and oversight of the OE finances.

11. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - Christine Reupke

Christine Reupke acknowledged the Nominations Committee:

- Peter Chiddy
- Julia Merritt
- Andrew Woodley
- Tracey McCague-McElrea
- (And herself) Christine Reupke as Chair

A call for applications was issued on March 22, 2021 soliciting expressions of interest for the open positions. Applications were to be received by the Nominations Committee by April 16, 2021.

Pursuant to Article 4.8 of the General By-Law dated June 3, 2016, on May 16, 2020 the Board approved the following individuals as valid nominations for election to the Board of Directors for a three-year term:

- Maya Chendke
- Danielle Glanc
- Ellen Gowland
- Mike Pownell

The list of candidates, their resumes and letters of interest were distributed to the membership with the AGM notice via email.

Voting took place online and closed today at 12 noon.

Motion by B. Hall, seconded by B. Young to close the nominations for the 2021 Board of Directors election.

CARRIED

In a very tight race, the results from the appointed scrutineers for the election of the Directors to the Board of Ontario Equestrian are as follows:

1. Maya Chendke
2. Danielle Glanc
3. Mike Pownall

have each been elected to the Board of OE for a three-year term.

I would like to thank all of the people who submitted a nomination form and showed interest in assist with the governance of OE.

Thanks to the Nomination Committee for the work that was done through the entire process. Welcome to the newly elected members.

I will now ask each of the elected delegates to briefly introduce themselves.

1. Maya Chendke
2. Danielle Glanc
3. Mike Pownall

J. Merritt then thanked the outgoing Board President Peter Chiddy.

"On behalf of the OE Board, I give our thanks to Peter for his 7 years of service. As the CEO of a non-profit organization with a volunteer board myself, I have some authority in saying that volunteers like Peter **do not** come along very often.

Peter has given tremendously of his time and his considerable talent. He has been wise, and steady, and strategic; and above all, committed to making things better. And so, I don't believe it is an overstatement to say, that the equestrian community as a whole in Ontario has benefitted from Peter's contributions. A thousand, thousand thank yous, Peter. We're going to miss you!"

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by M. Cruikshanks to adjourn the meeting.
CARRIED

Appendix

List of Attendees

Julia Merritt
Andrew Woodley
Tracey McCague-McElrea
Charlayne Szafranski
Maya Chendke
Mike Pownall
Kelly Griffiths
Peter Chiddy
Christine Reupke
Danielle Glanc
Breanna Young
Sarah Chiasserini
Hilary Parkes
Brandon Hall
Paul Rutherford
Christine Monteith
Kristy Nahirniak
Amber Wavryk
Alicia Halhed
Joshua Schildroth
Ellen Gowland
Samantha King
Ula Callacott
Sue Carr
Justine Morley
Fatima Husain
Hellaina Rothenburg
Debra Robertson
Amie Hackney
Tennille Kerrigan
Sandra van der Meulen
Ann Heuckendorff

Betty Bassett
Jenifer Klemm
Tara Klein
Georgia Main
Julie Morris
Kelly McCague
Selena O'Hanlon
Caroline Abrahams
Michelle Cruikshanks
Andrea Harrison
Cynthia MacLachlan
Steven Mock
Mary-Anne Higgins
Janet Henderson
Carolyn Stark