

For immediate release:

## **BC horsemen do their part to help Thoroughbred ex-racehorses**

**Vancouver, BC, April 7, 2011** – British Columbian horsemen have developed a generous new funding initiative to secure the future of retired Thoroughbred racehorses.

The British Columbia Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association (BCTOBA) and Hastings Racecourse have created a program to help fund the New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society. The initiative enables Thoroughbred owners to redirect a portion of their winnings towards the care of retired racehorses. Owners can now transfer 0.5% (half of one percent) of their first, second, and third place earnings directly to New Stride and receive a tax receipt for their contributions.

Hastings Racecourse has dedicated their September 5<sup>th</sup> racing card to the Society. The feature events of the day are a pair of \$30,000 stakes races for 2 year-old horses, named after New Stride. Hastings has also granted New Stride with their 'Community Day at the Track' program; an initiative that includes a direct donation of \$5,000, exclusive use of the Marquee Tent for fundraising purposes, and a food and beverage donation of \$1,500.

“We’re extremely grateful to BCTOBA and Hastings Racecourse for their very generous support of our cause,” said Marcy Emery, President of the New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society. “These much-needed funds will expand our program two-fold and help us place more retired racehorses into adoptive homes.”

“The horsemen are taking responsibility for these majestic animals and are helping to protect the integrity of the racing industry,” said Leif Nordahl, Vice President and Treasurer of the British Columbia Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association. “Hastings is offering \$10 million in purse money this year; so 0.5% of earnings has the potential to translate into significant funding for the horses when their careers are over.”

About New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society:

New Stride is a registered charity dedicated to finding adoptive homes and alternative careers for Thoroughbred racehorses no longer able to compete. The charity was founded at Hastings Racecourse in 2002 by a group of concerned owners, breeders and backstretch workers who sought to provide a dignified retirement for as many Thoroughbreds as possible.

During its existence New Stride has placed over 90 Thoroughbreds into adoptive homes and assisted many owners and trainers in connecting horses coming off the track with opportunities for new careers and homes. The organization also offers assistance to Thoroughbred owners outside the racing community in the form of information, advice and free advertising of horses for sale on its website. For more information, visit: [www.newstride.com](http://www.newstride.com)

About BC Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association:

BC Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association has a sole purpose: to act as one voice for Thoroughbred owners & breeders in British Columbia. Their goal is to promote the racing, breeding, ownership and marketing of Thoroughbred horses. They aim to provide leadership to the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry through education, training, employment and promotion. They also assist members in dealing with race track operators, governmental agencies and international industry organizations. For more information, visit: [www.bctoba.com](http://www.bctoba.com)

About Hastings Racecourse:

Hastings Racecourse has been capturing the imagination of Vancouverites and visitors alike since 1889. Featuring live Thoroughbred racing and simulcast racing from many of the world's most prestigious tracks, Hastings is a legendary location with spectacular mountain and waterfront racing views.

Hastings is part of Great Canadian Gaming Corporation, British Columbia's foremost casino and gaming operator, and the largest community-based gaming management company in Western Canada.

Hastings is open for live Thoroughbred racing every weekend from April to October, Friday nights from June to September and year-round for simulcast racing. It offers a variety of dining experiences, from casual to fine dining. This year, 600,000 guests will wager over \$150 million at Hastings as they enjoy over 40,000 live and simulcast races. For more information, visit: [www.hastingsracecourse.com](http://www.hastingsracecourse.com)

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Leif Nordahl

Vice President & Treasurer, BC Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Phone: (604) 575-8621

Email: [lsnordahl@nordahl.bc.ca](mailto:lsnordahl@nordahl.bc.ca)

Marcy Emery

President, New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society

Phone: (778) 386-4588

Email: [mareme@shaw.ca](mailto:mareme@shaw.ca)

Greg Douglas

Media Relations, Hastings Racecourse

Phone: (604) 736-4469

Email: [drsport@telus.net](mailto:drsport@telus.net)