



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

“One Voice for Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders in British Columbia”

Date: Friday, October 26 2012

B.C.T.O.B.A. NEWSLETTER
By Mike Heads

The curtain came down on a successful Thoroughbred season at Hastings Racecourse earlier this month. There were many positive signs for the industry this past year and one noticeable difference was the attendance during the Triple Crown races as well as on multi-stake race days. The marketing efforts of B.C.L.C. paid huge dividends with large crowds on these days. Also of note, the mutual handle was up over 2011, as was the all-important per race field size average. The C.T.H.S. also showed record numbers for their Yearling Sale last September. We are still in tough times, but these are encouraging signs that horse racing in the Province is alive and well and is still an exciting form of entertainment in the City.

The traditional path for a horse to go to the Breeders' Cup is not normally through Hastings Racecourse, but this year has been far from normal. We have seen local rider Mario Gutierrez win the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, which was simply a dream a year ago, but of course became reality last May. We witnessed a B.C. bred win Canada's most prestigious race as Wally and Terry Leong's **Strait of Dover** wired the field in the mile and one quarter Queen's Plate. This Friday, November 2nd and Saturday, November 3rd, more local horses will step onto the big stage to participate in the 2012 Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita. **Commander**, recent winner of the B.C. Premier's, will make his next start in the \$500,000 Breeders Cup Marathon. **Class Included**, winner of the Ballerina, is pre-entered in the \$2,000,000 Ladies Classic, as well as the \$1,000,000 Filly and Mare Sprint. The list gets longer with 2012 B.C. Derby winner **Second City**, entered in both the \$1,500,000 Sprint and the \$1,000,000 Dirt Mile and the 2009 B.C. Derby runner-up Jersey Town is one of the favorites in the \$1,000,000 Dirt Mile for Kelowna owner Chuck Fipke.

Even though the successful live season at Hastings is over, there is still plenty of interest on the horizon, so sit back and enjoy what should be an entertaining day of racing with lots of local flavor!