



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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

December 14, 2012

BCTOBA NEWSLETTER
by Mike Heads

The BC racing industry, as a whole, started off great in 2012, as we were able to piggy-back off of Mario Gutierrez and his Triple Crown run with I'll Have Another, which put people back in the stands to watch this great sport. The numbers were up significantly, but the last half of the year's revenues have dropped. The surplus we had is gone and we may end the year a little in the minus. The loss of the Hong Kong signal, as well as Woodbine cutting out Thursdays in October and November, (Woodbine is the most popular out-of-town track wagered on by BC horseplayers), contributed heavily to the industry being down as a whole for the last half of the year. We are hopeful that even with a slight allocation cut in 2013, the purses will likely be the same as they were in 2012.

I have been getting many questions and concerns from breeders in the Province regarding the industry moving forward. Most of the questions are surrounding the two-year lease between the City of Vancouver and the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation. Many are reading this as an indicator that racing may only have two years left, so why should I breed my mares?

I can assure everyone that the Management Committee and all racing groups agree that racing will be here for the foreseeable future. Great Canadian may get an extension on their lease with the City in two years' time, or we may have a new track operator in two years. Either way, we are confident that racing will be here for a long time.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!