

President's Report 2025

The 2025 Eventing season has come to a close with many achievements and successes under our belt. The club increased participation numbers in part by combining the shows with First Steps Dressage, and reaching out to Pony Club and MHJA members. This has garnered new interest in the sport. The EV60 and EV70 levels were the most popular, and we also saw members starting to move up the levels. Competitors indicated that they liked having the show jump and dressage phases at the MHC grounds. They also enjoyed the ribbons and prizes that were given. Many competitors expressed how much they enjoyed the show format and we have new up and coming coaches bringing students. We have multiple different coaches bringing students from a variety of different barns across the province.

Our shows and clinics were well attended and were therefore profitable for the club. This allows the club to have money for repairing and purchasing jumps. This year we added five corner jumps and four coffin jumps to the course at Birds Hill Park. The Selena O'Hanlon-Fox clinic was sold out in less than 24hrs. This was exciting, but also a learning opportunity. In future, it would be good to let members know when clinic entries are going to open ahead of time. This would allow members an equal chance to register before spaces run out. We are grateful that Dianna Fraser hosted this clinic at her beautiful Willville location.

Going forward it would be ideal to have enough board members to fill all chair positions. That was the biggest struggle this year. All board members worked to share multiple positions. We had a really nice spreadsheet to fill out all volunteer positions. This was excellent for making sure ahead of time that there were volunteers in every spot. It would be helpful to have another spreadsheet for board member positions and officials that is filled out ahead of time. With a small group to run the shows, it would be helpful to firm up on paper which roles each member is taking for the show weekend. That way we could ensure more equitable distribution of board personal. We could also see which officials are booked and that we have enough for every position.

Despite the amount of work that was required from a very small group of people, it has been a pleasure to work with everyone on the board. Every board member wanted to see the club succeed and wanted the events to be fun and enjoyable. We also have an extremely loyal and dedicated group of volunteers, some who come out to every event and work in the heat, rain or cold. MHT would not survive without volunteers and generous sponsors who are passionate about Eventing!

Shelagh Deacon