

Tax Relief for SRC!

Thanks to the diligent efforts of SRC members Jane Remocker, Monica Gewurz, and Karen Ashby, as well as the Club management, the B.C. Assessment Panel has reviewed and reduced SRC's property value and basis for taxation.

B.C. Assessment's initial proposal included downgrading the value of the property to a figure similar to the 2007 valuation, and a recommendation to the review panel that SRC be exempt from 50% of the school tax levy, in perpetuity. This latter recommendation was a significant victory for SRC as the school tax represents at least 50% of the total property tax.

The Panel decision came through at the end of March. They had reduced the property value by a further \$900,000, but made a mistake and assigned the bulk of the land value from non-profit to residential class. SRC indicated in writing that it would accept the Panel decision as long as the Class was amended back to non-profit/recreational, which was finalized in April.

This is a great result: the overall land value for 2008 was reduced by 29%, plus SRC received the 50% reduction (annually) of the school tax levy. The bottom line is that the Club's property taxes for 2008 are \$52,853.81 lower than last year's taxes – a significant savings for the Club's operating budget.

In the meantime, the Long Range Planning Committee will now consider and research some long-term options for property tax reduction. These include Farm Status, rezoning to CD-1 and several other suggestions. This is time consuming but very interesting work and much of it can be done on your own time.

If any club members would like to assist, please contact Jane Remocker at 604 732-0850 or by email at vpot@telus.net. Once the committee has completed its research it will report its findings and develop consensus on which direction to go.



WELCOME TO NEW SRC MEMBERS!

SRC welcomes the following new members:

Kelsey Adlem – Intermediate

Danielle La Fleur – Junior

Gail Davies – re-joining Student

WHAT'S GOING ON: June

- 07** **Information meeting re: new outdoor ring**
Noon-5 p.m. on the SRC grounds – details on next page
- 08** **VPC Mini Show**
Open to all novice riders aged 14 and under
- 14** **Hoof and Woof**
Fun and games at this equine and canine fundraiser – details on next page
- 29** **Dogwood Dressage II**
Check the SRC lobby and website for entry forms

Coming Next Month ...

July 10-13: Southlands Summer Classic



July 27: Dogwood Dressage III

NEW RING IN THE WORKS

Last month, the Board of Directors informed our membership that research on upgrading the footing in one of our outdoor arenas was under way. Since that email, further information has indicated that it would be financially feasible to build a new outdoor arena adjacent to the covered arena instead of changing the surface in the McCleery Ring. With the gifted funds the club had received seven years ago and some additional funds from our 2008 operating budget we will be able to provide another riding, competition and instruction surface to our membership. Some of the benefits of constructing an additional riding surface is that it is on our property (versus City leased land), it is an area of our property that is not fully utilized, and it will give our members another riding surface. The proposed location would also create a competition “corner” on the facility, leaving a larger area (and another riding ring) open for members to use during National level competitions.

The complete project will include:

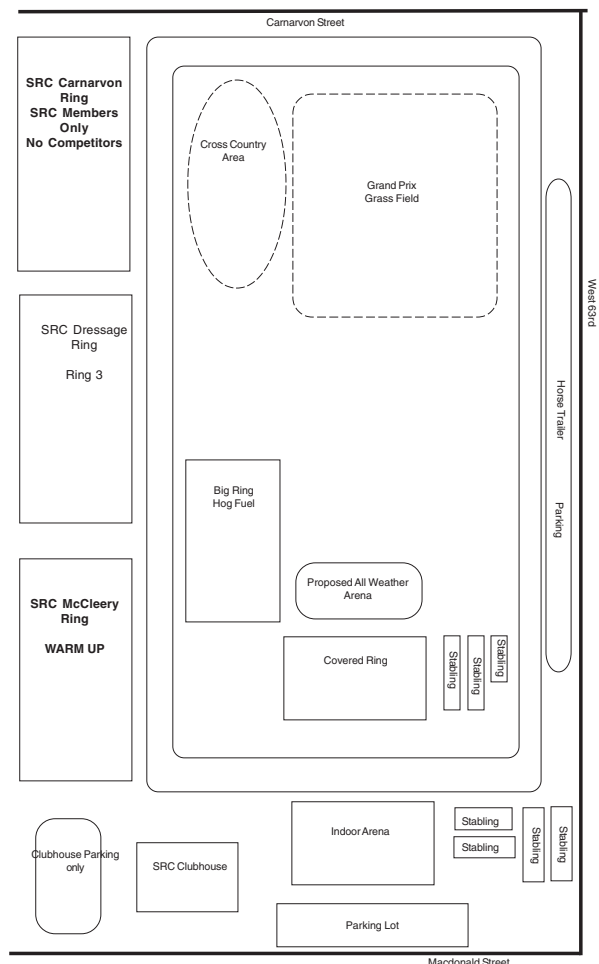
- The narrowed berm adjacent to the Covered arena (grass seeded) with bleachers placed on it for spectator viewing of both the covered and the new arena.
- The new arena, which will be 130 feet wide (same width as the Big Ring) x 250 feet long (same length as Covered arena). This riding surface would be one third of the size of the riding arena that was proposed on the Master Site Plan in 2001. It will be placed parallel to the Covered Arena on the west side of the existing berm. The riding surface will most likely be the product that is currently in our indoor and covered arena, with a higher ratio of rubber for outdoor use.
- Evergreen trees planted on the west side of this arena to provide a wind break, visual separation from the Grand Prix field area and to provide additional trees on our property.
- Drainage to ensure that the new ring is usable for as much of the winter as possible, and installation of pipe to start the process of hooking up to the city sewer system.

You’re invited to come out and walk the area proposed at an information session on Saturday, June 7. Members of the Board will be available from noon to 5:00 p.m. to address any questions concerning this project.

The proposed site will be flagged as of June 3, so if you are unable to attend the information session, please consider “walking” the area at your convenience, reviewing the on-site drawing and sending any questions to the office at info@southlandsridingclub.com. The next Board meeting is Monday, June 9, so any input would be appreciated before then.

The Board of Directors is fully supportive of this project and is very proud to be able to present this improvement to our members. The Board strives to continually upgrade, maintain and improve our riding, training and competition facility.

Site map showing location of proposed new ring



GROUNDS REPORT

Summer Classic Countdown

Prize lists and entry forms are now out for the Southlands Summer Classic H/J Show, which is a Gold Level EC Competition this year. Entries close June 27, but numbers are limited and this event has filled to capacity for the past several years, so don't delay! Prize lists and entry forms are available on the SRC website's events calendar, or in the Clubhouse lobby

Southlands Summer Classic – July 10-13

Hoof and Woof Fundraising Fun



Canine meets Equine at the Hoof and Woof Fundraiser on Saturday, June 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring an Equine or Canine partner and try your hand at bobbing for apples/balls, timed events (barrel racing, keyhole and pole bending) a horse-and-dog-sized jump course and costume class!

Following the activities, there will be a hot dog barbecue at the clubhouse. Proceeds from the event are to help with travel expenses for Amanda Brook and Margot Vilvang to head to National Pony Club qualifying events. Everyone is welcome!



Welcome to our new grounds assistant, Heather Preiss! She will be assisting David Winter on a permanent part time basis. Heather has worked on a variety of farms and enjoys riding her parents' horses. Heather is also a paramedic. We would like to thank Career Contacts for assigning Paul to our facility over the past few months.

We have completed the annual grass field work and the grand prix area will be flagged off until after the Summer Classic in July. The cross country area and west grass area is **now open for riders**, though please observe signage for any temporary closures due to weather conditions, and ride/shoe appropriately for the footing. Remember too that the field and cross country corner are, just like the rings and track, **riding areas**. Spectators should stay to the perimeter where the bleachers are located. Ride safely!

The gravel area adjacent to the Covered Arena will be leveled off and prepared for stall set up for the Summer Classic. We will also be top dressing and seeding the berm adjacent to the covered arena.

The gardens around our clubhouse have been lovingly maintained by Elsie & Joe Guglick for countless years on a volunteer basis. Elsie has notified the Board that she and Joe are no longer able to maintain the gardens. The Board and Club would like to thank Elsie and Joe for all the beautiful flowers and work that they have donated for a significant number of years.



Contact Us

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Bulletin

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Deadlines

Summer Horscope: July 31, 2008
July Bulletin: June 21, 2008