

BOB JAMES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes an individual (senior or junior) who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to BC's equestrian community and/or sport in any recognized discipline. HCBC's Annual Awards honor outstanding achievement within BC's equine community. These awards acknowledge those who stand out from the crowd and have made a positive impact on the equestrian community. Please attach a 300-500 word biography and photo (JPEG format) of the nominee.

Nomination: **Michelle Brittain**

Michelle Brittain is a deserving candidate for the *Bob James Volunteer of the Year Award* as a dedicated and stand out volunteer in the equestrian community. Michelle is a leader, a teacher, and a helper, who is always generous with her time and knowledge, supporting others — especially children and parents who are new to the sport. Michelle offers kindness, warmth, and a helpful hand.

As a leader, Michelle is organized and incredibly giving of her time and expertise. Michelle is the elected President of the Burnaby Horsemen's Association Board, fulfilling her third year in that position, among other previous and simultaneous volunteer roles within the club. Her work to lead the 12-person Board while overseeing the smooth operation of the barns, programs, and over 200 members with nearly 60 horses, is commendable.

In addition, Michelle is tirelessly active with the Burnaby Lake Pony Club, where she continuously makes a positive impact on children of all ages in the community. For the past several years, Michelle has taken on leadership roles as District Commissioner and Education Representative, amongst other roles, while offering additional support to parents of children who are new to horses or Pony Club. Michelle is often seen taking extra kids to clinics and shows, alongside her own daughter, making sure no one feels left out.

At a regional level, Michelle is the BC Lower Mainland Pony Club Rally Rep and has been Chair of the Rally Committee for the past two years. Her months of leadership and planning for this four-day camp with horse trials competition has created special experiences and memories for numerous children and their families.

At horse shows, Michelle will always jump in to volunteer wherever help is needed. She picks up whipper-in and tack check duties, and if she hears a cross country phase is short jump judges, she'll recruit friends and drive across the lower mainland in the rain, with a smile, to help. Michelle is exceptionally generous with her horse trailer and camper, often lending out both, or making double trips to make sure everyone can get to a show or clinic.

On a day-to-day basis, Michelle's volunteer spirit extends to even the small moments. She will offer to look after a feed so others can have a night off from the barn. When she is going to the tack shop, she'll let everyone know in case they need something picked up. If she sees anyone moving hay, she'll always

jump in and grab a bale. She often shows up at the barn with tea or Timbits to share. Michelle creates a strong sense of community with her thoughtful, 'can-do' attitude.

Simply put, Michelle Brittain is a hardworking person whose selflessness touches many members of the equestrian community, and beyond. With hundreds of hours spent helping others, Michelle Brittain's volunteer spirit is a wonderful fit for the Bob James Volunteer Award.