



# BOARD NOMINEE BIOS

## TERESA CAROSELLA

Teresa Carosella has spent over 45 years working with and loving horses, training many of her own along the way. A lifelong student of horsemanship, she has gained knowledge about a variety of equestrian disciplines such as: drill team, barrel racing, pack trips, straightness training, herd management and hay quality. She has worked in the feed industry and for local horse camps. In 2014 she was certified as a CHA instructor in both English and Western, providing riding lessons and day camps to local urban kids until she joined the barn management team at Timberline Ranch in 2018. Now retired, she continues to serve as a volunteer provincial representative for the Certified Horsemanship Association, is on the executive for Backcountry Horsemen of BC Yarrow chapter and occasionally teaches horsemanship to wranglers at Timberline or helps out at the Mission Horse Club. She rides her grulla QH mare up mountain trails and along rivers in the Fraser Valley as often as possible. Teresa's main purpose is to preserve the horse industry by teaching safe riding and horsemanship skills to everyone, but especially to children, who she believes require exposure to horses (outdoors, farm life, responsibility, resilience) for natural human development.

I hope to serve on the board with HCBC because I believe my vision and values about the horse industry in BC and the rest of Canada align well with those of Horse Council. I am passionate about encouraging new certified coaches for all disciplines but particularly for children and new horse owners to ensure safe and responsible relationships with their horses for the good of horses as well as the people who love them.



## KELSEY MACFARLANE

Kelsey McFarlane developed her lifelong passion for equestrian sport riding in Vancouver at the Southlands Riding Club. A proud alumnus of the Canadian Pony Club, Kelsey achieved her respected 'A' level, laying the groundwork for her transition into a certified Equestrian Canada (EC) Competition Coach.

Sixteen years ago, Kelsey founded her equestrian business in Vancouver, focusing on the development of young riders and ponies. For the past six years, she has successfully owned and operated Collingwood Stables from her property in Langley, British Columbia.

As both an active competitor and coach, Kelsey has enjoyed a successful career in the hunter and jumper rings, most recently focusing on developing young sport horses. Throughout her career, she has had the privilege of training alongside top riders and professionals across North America, building a well-rounded and deeply informed perspective on the sport. Dedicated to continuous professional development, Kelsey is passionate about passing on her knowledge to the next generation, fostering growth for her students both in the stable and the show ring.





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## SHARON PICKTHORNE

I have served as the HCBC Treasurer for the past 6 years. Prior, I served as the Affiliate Director for Back Country Horsemen of BC (BCHBC) for nine years. I previously sat on the Governance Committee that developed the new HCBC bylaws, Policies and Procedures.

Currently retired, my past professional experience included helping business owners with their accounting and organizational needs. I also taught bookkeeping and provided Excel training. Prior to coming to the Comox Valley I was the Manager, Financial Operations, BC Ministry of Finance. I owned and operated a business in Vancouver which provided administrative services to publicly traded companies listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

My volunteer work includes:

- 15 years with Therapeutic Riding
- Participated in a community effort with governments and the Komox First Nation to maintain equine access to land granted in treaty negotiations
- BCHBC Chapter Treasurer, 6 years, current NVI Chapter
- BCHBC provincial Treasurer, 7 years
- Outdoor Recreation Council Committee recently appointed Board member
- Introduced Avenza and geo-referenced maps for the HCBC Trail Database

I am proud to have received the Bob James Volunteer of the Year award from HCBC.

Horse Council's governance board structure works very well and the organization continues to thrive. I continue to work towards my goal - that each and every member appreciates and understands all that we do, and can do.

I look forward to continuing to serve this Board and all HCBC members.



## KERSTEN TAYLOR

Kersten started riding lessons at age 11 as a bribe from her parents. She has been involved with horses ever since. Most of her riding experience has been in the English disciplines and she would like to do more Eventing in the future. She served as president of her local equestrian club for 8 years and helped host clinics and shows to bring opportunities to the East Kootenays. She has served on the HCBC board for 3.5 years and enjoys giving back to the equestrian community in that capacity.

In her non-horsey life, she is a CPA. She lives on a small farm with her husband, 2 children and a very spoiled Golden Retriever. She is temporarily horseless for the first time in 15 years as her houses undergoes a major renovation. Kersten is looking forward to purchasing her next horse in the spring.





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## CLAIRE VESSEY

Claire Vessey is an experienced equestrian professional and longtime community leader based in Victoria, BC. A licensed EC Competition Coach since 1992, she has spent more than 30 years teaching riders and currently serves as Barn Manager at Glen Oaks Stables, where she coaches weekly students and oversees daily operations. Claire holds an Associate of Arts Diploma in Public Administration and brings extensive financial and administrative expertise shaped by decades of experience, including 35 years with the Government of British Columbia as a Legislative Assistant and Administrative Coordinator supporting MLAs and Cabinet Ministers.

Deeply involved in the equestrian community, Claire has held leadership roles across multiple organizations, including CADORA Inc., Victoria-Saanich CADORA, and the Elk/Beaver Lake Equestrian Society. She has contributed to governance, fundraising, event coordination, and program development, including organizing dressage clinics and supporting equestrian programming for the BC Senior 55+ Games. A longtime member and former director within the horse sport community, Claire is recognized for her collaborative approach, strong ethical standards, and commitment to rider education and sport development.

