



**NICOLA VALLEY
RODEO ASSOCIATION**

499 Lindley Creek Road
Merritt, BC V1K 1L4
nicolavalleyrodeo.com

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our board of directors, may I wish you all season's greetings and good health for the holiday season and this coming year, 2023.

I should say, it had been my intention to pen a short newsletter shortly after I assumed the chair last April and then to do so on a regular basis. I'd like to still make that happen as we roll into next year.

The directors acknowledge that we need to improve our communication with both our membership and the public as to both the work of the board but also, generally, happenings within the Association. I think we all agree this is something that needs to be addressed and we continue to look for a volunteer to take on the task of communication and marketing.

In any event, I will try to cover a few things in this newsletter and then try harder in 2023 to write more regularly. My aim will be to keep our membership and the broader Nicola Valley community more informed and encourage greater engagement. Promises, promises.

Thank you to our volunteers

We have been attempting to ensure that our appreciation is shown to those who help us in so many ways. Without volunteers, the Rodeo Association would simply be unable to function. There are many people over this past year who gave us their time and energy, and in some cases their expertise, whether helping out at the Pro Rodeo or other programs and events; turning up at work bees on the grounds, mowing our front entry area, tidying the grounds, helping with construction repair or maintenance of the structures, or any number of other needs. We try to personally express our thanks

orally and by other means but, we can never thank many of you enough. Here, however, are some of the many who helped us during this past year:

The Sahara/Rutherford family – Gail, Butch, Jeanne, Haley, and Gregg Speller; Colin Parkinson; Lindsay Chenier; Wendell and Leanne Stolffus and family; Neil Edenoste; Marianne Coldwell; Nelson and Danielle Patry; Quinn Pooley; Robert Hack; Sandy Labermeyer; Eric Starrs; Joey Starrs; Sharon Parsons; Tanya Starrs; Sherri and Gene Huber; Erica and Kurt Martindale; Mark and Asia Elliott; Jennifer Munro; Stefani Horvath; Morgan Hampton; Graham Wainwright: April Schneider; Mike Gill; Gord Colliar and Brenda Whitehead; Andy Knight; Daryl and Joanne Massey; Darlene Gellrich; Charles and Kirra Joyal; Caroline Kuiper; Michelle Knapp; Julie Leslie; Daphne Spencer; Patrick Spencer; John King; Bart and Lolann Manten; Nancy and Colin Rothery and Nancy’s mother JoJo; Tanisha Annett; Corinne and Emma Begg; Mike Condie; and Graham Whitecross.

The danger, of course, of listing volunteers is, I will have missed naming some of you and to those, I do apologize. But, to everyone who lent us a hand, thank you again for helping to make the 2022 season a success. We couldn’t have made it without your help. “It takes a village.”

And, of course, while we are handing out thanks, we’d like to, once again, recognize the wonderful response we had from the Nicola Valley business community this year. Our sponsors are too numerous to name in this newsletter but their sponsorship and contributions to the 2022 Pro Rodeo exceeded all past years and we are extremely grateful.

The NVRA Rodeo Grounds have a new groundskeeper

While this news is somewhat belated, we are extremely pleased that Lindsay Chenier became our new tenant and groundskeeper at the Rodeo Grounds as of this past September. Lindsay’s positive personality, willingness to show initiative, and approach to the job have been a subject of regular comment and we are pleased to have her on board.

Memberships are coming due

Like most non-profit organizations, the vitality and strength of the NVRA depends on our members. Only with an engaged and active membership can the Association truly hope to meet its full potential.

Notices for 2023 membership renewals will go out in early January. You can join or renew through our website link, by emailing us, or at the AGM

scheduled for February. Please renew promptly and encourage your friends and family members to join as well.

While we try to offer perks and benefits to those holding memberships in the Association, the real reason to join is for the satisfaction of being part of an organization that is striving to play a major part in the revitalization of the Nicola Valley community and to support the Association in its work.

Rodeo grounds upgrades continue

Most of you will be aware of the very substantial upgrades that have taken place at the rodeo grounds over the past 18 months with the considerable financial assistance and help of grants that we have received from the province (CERIP), the TNRD, and the City of Merritt. The improvements include a major electrical upgrade being carried out by Robert Hack of Hack Electrical. This has resulted in a new electrical room that will incorporate 600 amp service, new lighting in the arena, grandstands, concourse, livestock and parking areas, a new sound system and 28 separate power supply posts for RV's and food and vendor trucks. These changes will make the grounds safer and more adaptable for a greater number of events and programs as we continue making the grounds a truly community facility.

Additionally, we have been approved for a separate grant to assist us with the installation of solar panels on the grandstand roof, which will create power which we expect to sell back to BCs Hydro to offset the added expense otherwise anticipated from the new electrical facilities.

Other changes so far carried out include new, more attractive interior fencing, a new exterior entrance gate, and an arena irrigation system. And, we are working on the design and future tendering of a new interior spectator entrance.

For those of us who have been involved in shaping these upgrades, it's been an exciting time. When completed, we hope to have one of the best facilities of its kind in BC and a place that will accommodate both high performance rodeo and equine events as well as a wide range of other events and activities.

Fundraising dinner February 25. We are planning to once again host a fundraising dinner and silent auction at the Grand Pub and Grill Saturday, February 25. Information on tickets will be posted on our website or you may contact us through the NVRA email or Gert Leslie. Please set aside the evening and bring your friends and family. It's always a fun event and helps us to meet our continuing costs of maintaining and operating the grounds.

AGM will take place Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM

As a registered society, we are required to hold a general meeting of the membership annually. The location of this year's AGM will be announced in January. Aside from the formal part of receiving and approving year end reports including the financial statements and electing the board of directors, the meeting also provides members a chance to ask questions, socialize with other members, and gain a better understanding of the workings of our organization and forthcoming events for the year. We are looking for young blood! Many of us on the board have long ago passed our "best before" dates and it is critical that the Association plan for the future and infuse its leadership with both energy and new ideas. Please note the date and join us to participate in this process! And consider joining one of our several standing or ad hoc committees.

Annual Stockbreeders' Curling Fundraiser scheduled for February 4

The NVRA has again been asked to help with the lunch and dinner for this annual fundraising event at the Curling Club. It's open to everyone and you need not have ever curled before. Indeed, that makes it even more fun. Come join what is always a popular winter event. To register contact tanisha.annett@gmail.com. Details will also be posted on our website.

Pro Rodeo planning and contract implementation is underway

The Pro Rodeo returned this past year and was bigger and better than ever, thanks in large part to Mary MacGregor who chaired the event and the very significant number of enthusiastic volunteers. We intend to continue to aim to make the NV Rodeo one of the best in Western Canada.

Mary has again agreed to chair the Pro Rodeo Committee and a core group of committee heads have been struck, with several planning aspects now underway. More information will be forthcoming in February, together with a call for volunteers. Please consider offering your ideas and assistance.

Other events already booked for 2023 can be viewed on our website, Nicolavalleyrodeoassociation.com

Wishing improved health and recovery to some of our friends

Many of you will be aware that some of our community have had a rough year health wise, either through illness or accident: they include Tom (“Forty”) Edenoste, Graham Whitecross, Joey Starrs, and Quinn Pooley. We sincerely wish all of them continued recovery and good health in 2023.

Finally...So, I realize this Newsletter is too long.... I'll try to do better next time! In the meantime, if you have any ideas, suggestions, or just want to wag, send me an email or give me a call. We want to hear from you.

Again, on behalf of my fellow directors, best wishes to you all.

Peter Spencer, President
Peterspencer26@gmail.com
604.240.1951

December 19, 2022