



## BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

"One Voice for Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders in British Columbia"

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BCTOBA NEWSLETTER  
By Mike Heads

The weather and exciting thoroughbred action continues to delight the fans at beautiful Hastings Racecourse. Hastings continues to set records in 2015 as for the first time in Vancouver racing history the first 16 days of the race meet were contested over fast racing strips. Fingers crossed as there seems to be no end in sight for this favourable sunny weather, which is what any outdoor sport needs for large crowds.

The live racing and overall handle has been up over last year, which is essential going forward. The field size is also better than last year with slightly over a seven horse average heading to the starting gate for each race, and field size as we all know, is the driving force behind maximum pari-mutuel play.

With one-third of the season already behind us Richard Hamel has a slight lead over Pedro Alvarado in the jockey standings and Mike Anderson continues to visit the winners circle frequently, leading the trainers list ahead of top percentage trainer Dino Condilenios.

After this weekend there is a slight tweak to the racing calendar as we will race on Wednesday, July 1st and then on Sunday, July 5th. There will be no live racing on Saturday, July 4th. The Saturday & Sunday schedule resumes on July 11th and 12th and will remain that way through the remainder of July.

The aforementioned Wednesday, July 1st holiday card will feature four stakes races and two Champions starter allowance races - for horses that have started for \$8,000 or less in 2014-2015. One race is for colts and geldings and the other for fillies and mares. (A reminder that claimed horses need to re-establish their eligibility).

Nominations close this **Saturday, June 20th** for: the **Champions starter races**, the **\$50,000 Lieutenant Governor's** for three year olds and up, the **\$50,000 Monashee** for fillies and mares, the **\$50,000 Chris Loseth** for three year olds and the **\$50,000 Supernaturel** for three year old fillies.

All four of these stakes races will be contested over one mile and a sixteenth.

See you at the races!