The Economic Impact of Equestrian Activities in the Alouette Valley

Preface

The Alouette Valley Association (AVA) has been advocating for safe accessible multi-use pathways along 132nd ave and 224th st. These pathways would accommodate and promote recreational use by both Maple Ridge residents and eco-tourists in the area by connecting the multiple existing parks, rivers and recreational activities that currently exist in the Alouette Valley. The Recreational Roadway (linear park) proposal was initially conceived as a solution to increasing pressure on the valley due to development in Silver Valley and problems brought on by the accompanying increase in traffic. Along with its traffic calming assets, this linear park concept has real potential to benefit the entire community socially, environmentally and economically.

The following Equestrian Economic Impact Study is intended to provide supplemental information to the Recreational Roadway Proposal as submitted by the Alouette Valley Association to Maple Ridge Council on October 17, 2011. This study is not intended to infer that the equine industry would be the only economic beneficiary of the Recreational Roadway project. AVA believes there would be equal or greater economic and social benefits from the multiple recreational activities the project envisions. The equestrian sector was chosen for the economic study because it is already a well established industry in the Alouette Valley with easily quantifiable metrics.

We wish to thank all that participated in the equestrian economic study and have provided a list of acknowledgements in the addendum.
Horse Council of BC and BC Ministry of Agriculture have recently released the Horse Industry Report 2009. The full report is available on request. These findings have significance for Maple Ridge and specifically Alouette Valley. Of particular note, the recreational and sport horse sectors have experienced growth in numbers in spite of the economic downturn. 90% of respondents plan to increase equestrian involvement or stay the same in the next 5 years. Only 10% felt that their involvement would decrease. Having infrastructure in place ensures continued growth.

The Alouette Valley Association have identified that a minimum of 300 horses live in the valley. This number is probably low but is cited because it is verifiable. The numbers were determined by an email survey, telephone, face-to-face contact, as well as by direct count. We have tried to estimate the number of horses that come to the valley for competition, training, and recreational activities. Given the large number of events and shows held at the equestrian centre the expectation is that this number is well in excess of 3000 horse visits per year. This number was determined from published entry lists for competitions and events and information provided by stable owners and trainers. We do not have any information as far as the number who come to the area from out of town for trail riding.
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The Equestrian Opportunity

Horses are a large sector of the agricultural industry and provide substantial economic benefit and employment to the BC economy.

Key BC Industry Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22,000 households own</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95,000 horses, with a capital value of $500 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,700 horse farms, using</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145,000 acres of farmland, with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2.0 Billion in buildings and equipment, supporting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$740 million in economic activity,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,200 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs, and providing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$73 million in direct government tax revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(source British Columbia Horse Industry Report 2009)

Despite its rich equestrian tradition, Maple Ridge has a very small piece of a very significant economic pie. The economic benefit of the equestrian industry in Maple Ridge is already substantial and we believe that there is great potential to expand. In this document we hope to illustrate that Maple Ridge and specifically the Alouette Valley has a competitive advantage over other BC areas and that the equestrian industry can provide significant tourist revenue, employment and recreational opportunities for our town.

Key Advantages for future development of the industry

- Established training, boarding facilities
- Established educational programs
- Large trail network in place
- Sound economic base
- Long history and tradition of equestrian activity
- Natural beauty of the area
- Proximity to major population centres
- Good use of marginal and fragmented agricultural land
- Sympathetic industry to the sustainable ecologic aspirations of Maple Ridge
- Large land base that cannot be developed for housing
Rich History

Alouette Valley has a long standing reputation as an equestrian neighbourhood, dating back to 1952 when Margaret Trethewey of Coniagas Ranches established the first Pony Club in BC, and the Maple Ridge Equestrian Center (now Maple Ridge Equisport Centre) in 1955. In 1955, Mrs. Trethewey took her team of Pony Club horses and riders to compete successfully in Toronto’s Royal Winter Fair, thus establishing Maple Ridge’s name as a fixture in the horse community. (Pony Club is an internationally recognized organization which promotes horsemanship, riding and sportsmanship among youth, and has branches world wide. Many Olympians have had their start in Pony Club).

Smaller equestrian properties and private facilities quickly moved in to take advantage of the natural assets of the area: abundant pasture and small farms, proximity to places to ride, proximity to recreational areas. Many of the stables still in operation in Alouette Valley have their origins in the 1950’s and 60’s. The dykes were a natural draw for recreational riders, and the current trail network in Maple Ridge has its origin in the trails forged by the Ridge Riders (now Haney Horsemen).

Timberline Ranch has been operating as a Christian youth and family camp for 50 years. Founded in 1961, it is home to 45 lesson and trail horses used in their riding programs. People from all over have fond memories of their camp experience and are now returning with their children.
Equestrian Sectors

The Alouette Valley continues to attract equestrians across many disciplines. When researching this report, we found representation from the following sectors: pleasure, trail riding, hunter/jumper, combined training, dressage, driving, rodeo, endurance, racing, horse rescue, film industry, youth and family camp, children’s day programs and breeding. Equestrian activities span all age groups. This concentration of diverse interests within the horse community is unique to this area.

For the purposes of this report we have based our calculations and assumptions on the two most prevalent sectors, sport and recreational.

The **sport** sector includes:
- competition and performance horses
- breeding and raising of competition horses

The **recreational** sector includes:
- trail riding,
- all others not included in the sport section
Survey Results and Tables

Horse Population # - Distribution by Stable Size

- 1 to 5: 82 horses in 32 stables
- 6 to 10: 6 horses in 6 stables
- 11 to 15: 2 horses in 3 stables
- 15 Plus: 144 horses in 5 stables

Horse Population % - Distribution by Geography

- 132 Ave East: 31%
- 132 Ave West: 35%
- 224 St North: 14%
- 224 St South: 21%

Location of horses North, South, East and West of the 132 Ave. and 224 Str. intersection
- 132 Includes Edge Str. and 232 Homestead Stables
- 132 West includes Cedar and Park
Horse Population % - Distribution by Type of Activity

# of Horses Summarized by Major Categories
### Economic Impact of the Resident Horse Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Rec.</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Horses</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed (Grain &amp; Hay)</td>
<td>$1,367</td>
<td>$1,039</td>
<td>$246,146</td>
<td>$124,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>25,741</td>
<td>25,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tack</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>39,415</td>
<td>28,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrier</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>94,114</td>
<td>62,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian and Dental</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>101,354</td>
<td>52,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Care Products and Services</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>30,567</td>
<td>23,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair and Maintenance Building and Equipment</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>80,440</td>
<td>90,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Labour</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>41,829</td>
<td>33,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,681</strong></td>
<td><strong>659,606</strong></td>
<td><strong>441,668</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental Boarding</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>168,923</td>
<td>60,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental Instruction</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>209,948</td>
<td>18,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,105</strong></td>
<td><strong>655</strong></td>
<td><strong>378,871</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,619</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>12,066</td>
<td>10,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>56,308</td>
<td>41,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,149</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,769</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,106,851</strong></td>
<td><strong>$572,231</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economic Impact**

- Multiplier: 1.00, 0.75
- Total by Sector: $2,213,702, $1,001,404
- Total Economic Impact: $3,215,105

The figures above are based on the horse count survey and cost cited in the British Columbia Horse Industry Report 2009.
Tourist Visits to Major Competitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Competition Horse Visits per Year</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stay (days)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of accompanying people</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of visit - days</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Economic impact at $100/visitor per day.</td>
<td>$1,800,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We were unable to quantify many of the equestrian events that held in the valley however major competition events were easily obtainable. Most of the competition participants are from out of town, BC, Washington and Alberta. Note - We have not included Timberline Ranch data

Capital Investment per Horse Farm and per Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Asset Value</th>
<th>Depreciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Properties</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Horses</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Average Horse Value (1)</td>
<td>$5,565</td>
<td>$1,669,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Average Value Buildings and Equipment per Horse (2)</td>
<td>$33,814</td>
<td>$10,144,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$11,813,700</td>
<td>$914,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) HC Study estimates horse value from low $5565 to high $14,442
(2) HC Study estimates Building and equipment per horse from low $33,814 to high $42,030
(3) Based on 7 year straight line
(4) Based on 15 year straight line average
Assets in Place for Equine Industry Growth

Trail Network
Maple Ridge offers a unique network of horse trails that are protected under the Official Community Plan. The trail network encompasses over 100 km of local riding and hiking trails, as well as 50-60 km in nearby Golden Ears Provincial Park.

The Alouette Valley is the focal point of the majority of Maple Ridges trail networks. It offers gateways to the dyke network in addition to the Golden Ears Park and is ideally situated with its close proximity to Maple Ridge town centre.

Concentration of Activities and Facilities
While proximity to a trail network is of prime importance to the recreational sector, access to boarding and training facilities and competition venues are essential to the sport (competition) horse sector. Clustering these facilities contributes to the financial viability of equine services because of increased (horse) density. Both recreational and sport horses tend to be located on small acreages close to urban centres. The Alouette Valley is ideally situated to take advantage of its location and natural attributes. To our knowledge, Alouette Valley is the only neighbourhood, and Maple Ridge the only community, where it is possible to live in an urban high-rise and keep a horse within walking or biking distance. This provides an effective marketing advantage which differentiates Maple Ridge from other communities.

The Maple Ridge Equi-Sport Centre has a full slate of competitions and clinics every year and is considered one of the most active venues in Western Canada. These events range from entry level to National level events and occur year round (2012 schedule attached). Participants and spectators will typically spend on food, accommodation, photography and equine services while they are here. Equine tourism is considered a developing sector, but equine tourism related to competition and training is already thriving in the Alouette Valley. Participants in equestrian competitions and clinics hail from Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Squamish, Okanagan and Williams Lake. Visitors from the US are down due to the American economy and strong Canadian Dollar, however this trend could reverse. Additionally, every time a Maple Ridge rider travels to compete or train in another community, they reinforce the reputation of Maple Ridge as an equestrian community. This type of high visibility in the horse world consistently attracts positive attention to our area.

The backbone of the horse industry is the resident homeowners and horse owners who spend locally on equine services and products day in, day out, year after year in order to support their horses. The vast majority of horses in the valley are privately owned. It is not uncommon for horse owners to reside elsewhere in Metro Vancouver and do the “reverse commute” to Maple Ridge to board and ride their horse. We are aware of
residents who are making the choice to live in Maple Ridge because of the proximity to equestrian facilities in Alouette Valley. Horse owners wanting to keep their horses at home rather than board out will look to locate in an area where there is easy access to a range of equine services, products and training.

The strong equestrian community has also contributed to the success of the SD42 Equestrian Academy. This is the only one of its kind in BC. Director Shelley Evans states that without the pool of core students—many of whom have developed their interest through activities centred in Alouette Valley—the program would not have been possible.

The strength and reputation of the program has enabled SD42 to develop a distributed learning model which is an income generator for the school district. This program has also forged links with post secondary institutions (Kwantlen, Guelph Equine, UFV, and Olds). Many students go on to post secondary education in a variety of equine programs (farrier, pre-vet, trainer, coach, business). The Equestrian Academy students are well respected in the horse community and have become unofficial ambassadors for Maple Ridge when they participate in field trips to other communities. That kind of positive exposure is priceless.

Timberline Ranch has been providing horse camp programs for 50 years. Approximately 1300 children participate in their summer riding programs, and 5000 people year round in their family and youth programs.
Challenges and Opportunities for Economic Growth

Traffic has become the number one issue facing equestrian sport in the Alouette Valley today. The ability to safely ride between stables, trails and competition venues is key to attracting equestrian businesses and participants. A strong resident base provides year round revenue for equestrian related businesses and this consistent revenue stream underpins the equestrian businesses though the slower months when equestrian tourism related revenue may be down.

One of the key issues to be addressed is the economic impact of competition and training related spending, both from the resident horse population and visitors to who come to compete. This study has determined that spending related to the Sport Sector in the valley has an economic impact over 2.2 million dollars annually. For this sector, the ability to ride safely between stables, training and competition venues is of high importance in deciding where to keep their horse or to purchase a home.

As a centre of excellence for training, showing and competition, the area attracts riders from across BC to Maple Ridge. While participating in equestrian events, some as day trippers, some for more extended stays, they are spending locally on accommodation, restaurants and local services as well as entry fees. These riders rarely come unaccompanied. Most bring family members, and friends along as spectators, so the impact goes far beyond the individual competitor. Anything which can be done to strengthen this valuable sector would build on an already solid base to bring additional revenue to Maple Ridge.

Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Tourism Plan

The recreational Roadway/Linear Park proposal meets many of the major objectives of the tourism plan and actually solves many of the problems that the plan has tried to address.

Focus and clustering are seen as key ingredients to a successful tourism strategy.

*Clustering of tourism products One of the major challenges facing Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows is the dispersed nature of its attractions and the fact that the major hotels are oriented to the highway rather than the town centres. Planning initiatives should be encouraged that will result in more attractive, pedestrian-friendly clusters of tourism products, including accommodation properties, local shops, museums and galleries, and restaurants that serve high quality local food in pleasant surroundings.*
The Recreational Roadway proposal would provide the needed clustering of tourist assets as well as providing a gateway to all the other close by amenities such as Malcolm Knapp, Golden Ears and Wildplay.

Amenities provided all in one easily accessible place from downtown Maple Ridge include:
  • Equestrian
  • Cycling
  • Running/Jogging
  • Agri-Tourism
  • Wildlife Viewing
  • Kayaking.
Traffic and Safety

In order for the industry to flourish in the Alouette Valley safe routes need to be built to connect the resident horse population to the trail networks and major equestrian facilities. The survey found that 60% of the horse population of the area cannot safely ride to these facilities. The remaining 40% either board on or are close by the facilities. Consequently many of the respondents are left with a choice of trailering their horses or staying on their properties. If a safe route can be established we believe that a dramatic growth in the horse population is likely.

Alouette Valley Trail Network.
Solid red lines indicate designated trail on roadway.
Dashed red lines indicate dedicated safe trail
**North Alouette Greenway Bridge (NARG)**

We asked the question in the survey “does the NARG bridge help with your access problems?”. Based on the above graphics it is not surprising that the majority of respondents did not feel that the bridge addressed their access needs. The proposed Recreational Roadway would provide the linkage to the bridge bridge as well as stables, dykes and parks.
The Alouette Valley - Tourism Magnet

The Alouette Valley is at the centre of 95% of all tourist activity in Maple Ridge.

Sources

District of Maple Ridge Non-Hotel Accommodation Study - Grant Thornton
Economic Impact of Equestrian Activities - AVA
Conclusion

The equestrian industry is alive and well in the Alouette Valley of Maple Ridge. This area currently generates approx. $3.2 million annually of local economic activity and a minimum of $1.8 million annually in tourist activity via the equine industry alone. The linear park proposed by AVA along 132nd Ave. would connect and consolidate the numerous existing local parks and recreational activities in this area. It would greatly enhance existing uses and showcase Maple Ridge’s invaluable natural attributes by providing safe passage for equestrian and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Recently, the Real Estate Investment Network voted Maple Ridge the #2 Top BC Investment Town and The Place to Live for lifestyle. “One of the breathtaking points for the investors, apart from the gasps as they drove up the mountain to Silver Valley, was seeing people on horse-back along 132nd Avenue.” (MR News reporting on the investors impressions of Maple Ridge)

Our municipality currently has the unique opportunity to capitalize and build upon an existing valuable public space. We at AVA believe Maple Ridge has the people and resources to make this vision of safely linking people and places via a linear park a reality.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alouette Valley Association.

Recreational Roadway and Traffic Calming Committee
Addendums

Credits

We would like to thanks the following for their invaluable contributions to this document:

- Horse Council of BC - Lisa Laycock, Executive Director
- Haney Horsemen - Karlene Slogotski, President and Bill Archibald
- Maple Ridge Equi-Sport Centre - Jack Polo
- SD42 Equestrian Academy - Shelley Evans, Director
- Timberline Ranch, Craig Douglas, Executive Director
- The many AVA Members who participated in the survey

We would also like to thank for their additional contributions
- Kelly Swift - General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation Services
- Sandy Blue - Manager Strategic Economic Initiatives

References

- Horse Council and Ministry Agriculture Equine Industry Study
- District of Maple Ridge Non-Hotel Accommodation Study - Grant Thornton
- 2010 IBI Visitor Centre Recommendations
- Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Tourism Plan
## Demographics

### Table 14. Horse Owner Demographics Compared to the Provincial Average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BC Total</th>
<th>Diff</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Ranch</th>
<th>Rec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>21929</td>
<td>1885</td>
<td>2933</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>15501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average # People/Household</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total People</td>
<td>39033</td>
<td>4279</td>
<td>6218</td>
<td>3055</td>
<td>26971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Male</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;18</td>
<td>22.30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>-3.300%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-25</td>
<td>7.50%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>0.500%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>13.30%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>-4.300%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>-1.800%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>15.40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7.600%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;55</td>
<td>24.70%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>2.300%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$30,000</td>
<td>19.70%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-9.70%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000-$60,000</td>
<td>36.20%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>-10.20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,000-$100,000</td>
<td>30.20%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;$100,000</td>
<td>13.90%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17.10%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source Horse Council Equine Study 2009*
Maple Ridge Equi-Sport Centre Event Schedule

January
- January 8 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage
- Schooling Show • January 22 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter, Jumper & Flat Classes

February
- February 12 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage
- Schooling Show • February 19 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter,

March
- March 11 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage
- Schooling Show • March 18 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter,
- Jumper & Flat Classes • March 24, 25- Nora Ross Clinic. Contact

April
- April 6,7 –Spring Clinic • April 8 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage
- Schooling Show • April 13, 14, 15 –MREC Spring Easter Hunter Jumper Show • April 22 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter,
- Jumper & Flat Classes • April 27, 28, 29 – Pony Club Camp. Contact

May
- May 5, 6 –MREC May Horse Trials • May 11, 12, 13 -MREC Mother Day Classic Hunter Jumper Show • May 20 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter,
- Jumper & Flat Classes • May 26 –Pony Club Derby. Contact Dianne

June
- June 2, 3 -MREC June Horse Trials June 8, 9,10 -MREC Classic Hunter Jumper Show June 17 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter,
- Jumper & Flat Classes June 23, 24 – NFTRA Benefit Show

July
- July 14, 15 -MREC “Mrs. T. Memorial” Horse Trials
- July 19, 20, 21, 22 -Pony Club Rally July 28, 29 -Canadian Cup Dressage Show.

August
- August 3, 4, 5 -MREC Dog Days of Summer Hunter Jumper Show
- August 17, 18, 19 –Pony Club Dressage Championship. Contact Dianne 604-462-0978
- August 31 –MREC Labour Day Classic Hunter Jumper Show

September
- September 1, 2, -MREC Labour Day Classic Hunter Jumper Show
- September 16 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter, Jumper & Flat Classes

October
- October 6, 7 –MREC “Mary Swanson Memorial” Horse Trials
- October 14 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage Schooling Show
- October 21 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter, Jumper & Flat Classes

November
- November 11 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage Schooling Show
- November 18 -MREC Schooling Show: Hunter, Jumper & Flat Classes

December
- December 2 -MREC 2 Phase and Dressage Schooling Show
Comments From Survey Respondents And Participants

I have lived and/or worked in Maple Ridge since 1986. For much of that time, I have had a close connection to the local horse community within the Alouette Valley corridor. For 14 years, I was a boarder/instructor at the MREC- I moved from acreage in the Albion area because of the unique riding connectivity within the Alouette Valley area. The unique character of this area is perhaps only reflected (if to a lesser extent) in the Southands area of Vancouver where they have lobbied with mixed success to have safe roadway provisions for equines, pedestrians and cyclists.

The horse community of this area is part of the fabric of Maple Ridge- seemingly every website and every piece of literature about this municipality includes at least one photo of horses- often pictured in the Alouette Valley being ridden idyllically along the roadside.. Ironically- even the much touted high density developers market this area with photos of our horses. Sadly- we see this promotional debt poorly repaid. Unlike high density housing which has short term benefits and long term losses (most of the people moving into the area work outside of the community- and do not directly contribute to the infrastructure beyond their property taxes) horses and horse-related infrastructure brings a wealth of business INTO the community. The highest concentration (and the largest draw) is the Alouette Valley. This area boasts not only private horse properties but boarding facilities, supports farriers, veterinarians, coaches, trainers, feed distributors (much of the hay is produced locally). The ability to ride OUTSIDE the confines of the arena setting is what provides the greatest draw to the area.
I have ridden on the side of roadways- at my peril. All of the signage in the world will not convince a reckless driver to slow down when passing a horse. A multi-purpose corridor is money well spent on one of the most endearing and ENDURING aspects of Maple Ridge.

S. Evans
Thomas Haney Equestrian Academy Director
The NARG bridge is a lovely addition to the North Alouette Greenway system, but reality is it does not provide any benefit to neighbourhood residents who cannot access it safely. I have no way of getting my horses there.

I would love to see some traffic calming on 224th street as the residents of Silver Valley come down Foreman, then go south on 224th to 132nd. They travel at very fast speeds on 224th making it very dangerous for horses/pedestrians on 224th Street.

I noticed that many drivers on 132 Ave ignore the new solid line on the road and signs for no passing, and continue to speed.

132nd Street is becoming a highway not a rural residential route as intended and improved for. Time for something to happen. I don't like even riding a bike along this road let alone a horse.

Access to trails is necessary to keep our riders and horses safe.

132 avenue is a speedway for Rock Ridge and Silver Valley residents that must be STOPPED. Traffic cameras, speed bumps, painted road markings, multiple stop signs or whatever it takes.

Use 132 ave but would never considering riding my horse the 1 km it takes to get to MREC from my house along 132 ave-- too dangerous. Seems silly to have to hook up a trailer and drive 1 km to access MREC and dyke system. I should be able to safely walk my horse there.

I just moved to the area and have 1 horse. He is currently stabled elsewhere until I get my barn set up. I plan to have 3-4 horses at my property in the near future. I moved to Alouette Valley from Vancouver primarily because it is a well known "horsey" area. As mentioned previously, it is ridiculous that I would have to trailer 1 km (or less) to access MREC, dykes and horse trails, because it is too dangerous to walk my horse along 132. All the new trails in Silver Valley and the new NAGR Bridge are great in theory, but they are useless for horse people like me, as I have no way to access them.

We totally support the recreational roadway as it would be an incredible feature and unique to Maple Ridge. it seems many people new to the area and some older residents do not understand the basic rules of the road re: horse, pedestrian, bike traffic and, there is no easy, effective way to inform them. signs help but not everyone notices them. thanks for asking!

We have kids riding and there is no way I would let them cross 132nd. Cars drive way too fast and it is way too busy.