



## **Alberta Quarter Horse Racing Association**

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### **February 2008 Newsletter**

As the 2008 Racing Season is approaching us quickly we all seem to be scurrying to prepare. At least I know I am. First off I would like to introduce my self to everyone, my name is Christie Drader and I am the new Program Coordinator for the Alberta Quarter Horse Racing Association. Some of you may know me already, and some may not, so I would like to take a second and fill you in and bring you up to speed with things. Although I am new to the Association I am not new to the racing industry. I was first introduced to the Lethbridge racing scene back in 1999; I was in College looking for a part time job to keep myself busy and of course to pay my bills. I applied for the position of Track Photographer or some people call it the Winner Circle Photographer. I had taken photography classes at the College in Lethbridge but majored in Multimedia Productions so I thought this job would be perfect for me. My first day of training was in Calgary and I got the hang of things quite quickly, then I was introduced to the Lethbridge track. It was a lot smaller then the Calgary track but I wasn't worried, until I experienced my very first Quarter horse race! If that doesn't get your heart thumping I don't know what will. With a camera in my hands and an eight horse field flying at me, I was to say the least, a little scared. I took a deep breath and hoped for the best. So here I am eight years later still taking the pictures, I guess you can say I was hooked instantly. Nothing compares to the adrenaline that you get when you are on the track with some of the fastest running horses.

You might be thinking that you may know me yet from somewhere else, and it is true. I have also worked in the Lethbridge Race Office for the past three years. I am the one who took in your horse papers and made sure that all was in order from ownerships to coggins tests, and when you called in your entries I was the one on the other end of the phone. I enjoyed my time at the race office working with some great people like Dot Stein and Jim Ralph. So now you know a little behind the person that is the Association's new Program Coordinator. But, that's not all that is new with the Association, we have relocated our office from Calgary to Lethbridge and you will find me at #205 519 7<sup>th</sup> Str. South in Lethbridge or you can call me at (403) 381-8167.

I would like to thank everyone for making the 2007 racing season a huge success and give a round of applause to the 2007 banquet award winners. The banquet was a wonderful way to say good bye to 2007 and to welcome the 2008 racing season. So enough small talk, the 2008 racing season has a lot of great races and we look forward to seeing everyone again.

We've got some great horses nominated to the Canada Cup Futurity and to date, there are 65 nominations you can find the complete list of horses on our web site at [www.aqhra.ca](http://www.aqhra.ca). Also on our web site you can find the new 2008 membership application. Don't forget to check out the ad for a list of the Alberta Prairie Gold Stallion Stakes. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Christie Drader – Program Coordinator

