

A Look Back at 2025)

I would like to take a moment to reflect on everything we accomplished this year:

We welcomed two new board members at last year's AGM: Janis Netzel as Treasurer and Calle Mirkowski as a Director. They've jumped right in, worked hard, and been a fantastic addition to the team.

In February, we brought on our new groundskeeper, Emma McGinty. She's done an outstanding job keeping the grounds looking sharp and has truly made the role her own. Riding activities kicked off in mid-April with the Nate Tucker Dressage Clinic, followed by the Spring IDC Hunter/Jumper Show at the end of the month.

May was packed! We hosted a Hunter/Jumper clinic with Georgia Hunt, a dressage percentage day, and the Celebration of Dressage—an EC Gold and Bronze rated show. We capped off the month with a fun Jumper Schooling Night.

Mid June we hosted the Eleanor Burns Dressage Clinic which was very well received. Our June Hunter/Jumper show was postponed to the August long weekend, but it was still a huge success. Then in late August, we hosted our second annual White Table Event—a fantastic evening that's fast becoming a favourite tradition.

September wrapped up our riding calendar with Derby Dayz, which is quickly catching on as a must-attend annual event.

This was also the first year of the Okanagan Dressage Cup competition. It's a friendly challenge between ourselves and the members of the Kelowna Riding Club. There were 2 divisions. Division A: which is training to second level including Western Dressage and the freestyles and Division B: which is 3rd level to FEI. The highest scores from each division are combined to determine the winning club. This year Jessica Hannah was the division A winner and Andre Sigmond was the division B winner. Therefore VDRC was the first winner of the prestigious Okanagan Dressage Cup which you can see it on display over there.

On top of all the shows and clinics in 2025, we managed several important facility upgrades:

Improvements to the wash rack

New entrance steps to the clubhouse

Fresh paint on the jumper rails and parts of the clubhouse

Fence post replacements

Reinforced manure bin walls

And fresh footing added to the Kal Lake ring

(Shout-Out to Our Volunteers)

We truly couldn't do any of this without our incredible volunteers.

Whether you're out setting up jumps or dressage rings in the rain, arranging tables in the heat, or behind the scenes chopping, cutting, decorating or counting ribbons—you are the heart of this club. Thank you for your time, your energy, and your love for this place. You keep it all going.

(A Quick Financial Snapshot)

Financially, we're in a much better place this year thanks to thoughtful budgeting and the ongoing support of our members, sponsors, and community.

We'll be sharing the full report soon, but in short: the communities generosity—through sponsorships, grants, fundraising, and volunteer hours—has kept the lights on, the arenas groomed, and the shavings bin full.

(Looking Ahead to 2026)

We're hoping to expand our 2026 calendar of events with some new clinics—like Working Equitation or Mountain Trail—and we're looking at making a few weekends available for wedding bookings to help with fundraising.

We're also considering adding some fun schooling shows to the schedule.

On the facilities side, our wish list includes:

Resurfacing the Kal Lake ring base

Adding a storage container for jumps and equipment

Replacing some of the fencing around the rings that's getting a bit... let's say "characterful"

We also want to broaden our outreach so more people in the community can experience the benefits of equine activities.

And as always, we'd love your input. If you haven't already, please take a few moments to fill out our member questionnaire. It will help guide our planning, and as a thank-you, your name will be entered into a draw for a free 2026 membership!

(A Few Final Thank Yous)

Before I wrap up, I want to say a heartfelt thank you:

To our members, for being the reason we exist and the powerhouse behind our volunteers
To our sponsors, your contributions help us maintain our facilities and run events. We truly couldn't do it without you. Your partnerships mean the world to us.

And lastly to the rest of the board members, for their dedication, professionalism and many, many hours of hard work behind the scenes

Here's to another amazing year of riding, growing, and learning—together.

Thank you.

Sandra Marbry