

Ontario Equine Centre

Equine industry united & committed to building the future together

Equine organizations across Ontario have come together with a single vision; the creation of the Ontario Equine Centre (OEC), a world-class centre for equine training, events, sales, research, and education.

The proposed home of the OEC is a unique 600-acre site on the outskirts of Guelph. Ideally located, it is close to the University of Guelph, ten minutes from highway 401, 45 minutes from Pearson International Airport and in the heartland of Ontario's multi-billion dollar equine industry.

The site is ideal for many reasons. It is one of the few remaining 600-acre tracts in this part of Ontario. Its topography is ideal with much of the site flat and hence suitable for building facilities including training tracks, with the balance being higher rolling land thus supporting equine activities such as three-day eventing. In addition, the site is historically significant, as it was the home of one of the early settlers in the area. Lastly, the site is environmentally important because the Arkell aquifer – the source of drinking water for the 100,000 residents in the City of Guelph – lies beneath it. The OEC would protect these important lands from future urban sprawl and its functions are environmentally friendly. "Amazing!" exclaimed Canadian show jumping champion, Ian Millar, during a tour of the site. "When



Proposed site of the Ontario Equine Centre will protect both historically and environmentally sensitive property.

Photo by Alan Meek

the Olympics come to Ontario, I can picture the equine events being held right here, at the Ontario Equine Centre."

Research and education that support the equine industry will be key components of the OEC. New facilities will allow researchers to better investigate naturally occurring conditions concerning the industry, for example, respiratory and lameness problems. Facilities would also provide on-site opportunities for education programs targeting grooms, stable managers, and horse owners.

"The OEC facilities will compliment those on the Guelph campus. They will greatly augment the equine research program primarily because they will

allow scientists to undertake valuable research that would not otherwise be possible on campus, thus strengthening the entire University equine research program," says Rob McLaughlin, Associate VP Research - Agrifood and Partnerships, University of Guelph. "For example, these facilities would allow much needed track surface and horse-track interface work to be conducted. This would greatly enhance the researcher's ability to respond to the needs of the equine industry."

"The OEC will be the only facility in Ontario where all sectors of the equine industry come and work together on a daily basis," states Moira Gunn, Equine

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UPDATE ON EQUINE GUELPH'S WORK

Research

Equine Guelph has invested approximately \$370,000 in research for 2006-2007, supporting 19 projects related to equine health.

One project that received support is investigating stem cell therapy to treat cartilage defects and injuries in horses. It is generally recognized that cartilage lesions over a certain size do not heal spontaneously and no universal treatment for osteoarthritis (OA) or cartilage defects exists today. Equine models of cartilage repair utilizing bone marrow stem cells for transplantation, as well as, various other cartilage grafting techniques have shown promising results. The objectives of this study are to derive and maintain equine stem cell lines and characterize the ability of these cells to differentiate into various cell types, including those cells found in cartilage and bone. This initial investigation is the first step towards developing a treatment for OA in horses using stem cells.

To learn more about this project, and to read about our current and past research projects, visit

www.EquineGuelph.ca.

Performance

One currently funded study being conducted by Dr. Dorothee Bienzle, Department of Pathobiology at the Ontario Veterinary College is helping performance horses with Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO) breathe a little easier. Inflammatory airway disease or RAO is a common lung disease of stabled horses. Affected horses are unable to race or perform as show horses. Current treatment options are limited in their ability to fully restore performance. Despite recognition of the disease for centuries, precise understanding of the pathogenesis and effective treatment are lacking. Work in Dr. Bienzle's lab has shown that Clara cells are a key component of controlling reaction of the equine airway to dust and moulds. These specialized epithelial (surface) cells are found in the small airways of the horse. The protein that Clara cells produce, CCSP, reduces lung inflammation by regulating neutrophils, (white blood cells) the main effector cell in RAO. Tests to measure CCSP in lung fluid have been developed, and treatment trials of affected horses with synthetic CCSP are in progress.

Education

The multi-award winning Equine Science Certificate online program will celebrate its' 5th anniversary this May.

With over 800 students, this world-wide, multi-discipline learning community enables participants to acquire the skills and knowledge to progress in the industry.

Given the success of the program's first five years, the vision, going forward, is for the continued growth of the program to improve the health and welfare of horses around the world. "The majority of horse welfare issues I see in the industry today are from lack of knowledge. Sometimes the owner is not even aware of it. They have been told it's always been done that way!", states Ken Armstrong, DVM and instructor, Groom One Certificate Program. The Equine Science Certificate program enables horse enthusiasts from around the world to improve equine welfare and health through continuing education delivered in a flexible and accessible venue.

Watch for 5th anniversary celebrations during Horse Week in Canada (June 2-10, 2007)

For more information please visit:

www.EquineScienceCertificate.com

The Equine Excellence Initiative – building upon our strengths to serve the industry

Since its inception in 2003, Equine Guelph has grown and evolved in order to best serve the equine industry. Recently, Equine Guelph's mandate has been broadened to support all equine activities, including fundraising, at the University of Guelph. Working with Stephen Woeller, the Ontario Veterinary College Development Manager and University of Guelph Alumni Affairs and Development, a fund-raising campaign, called the Equine Excellence Initiative, has been developed. This initiative focuses on five interrelated areas: research, education and training, performance, healthcare and industry development.

The University of Guelph has a long and proud history of service to both the horse and horse owners, dating to the establishment of the Ontario Veterinary College in 1862. In 2003, the University and the equine industry formally came together to establish Equine Guelph; the horse owner and caregiver's Centre at the University for equine research, performance and education programs. Pursuing a common desire to make a difference to the health and well-being of horses in Ontario, Canada, and the world, this University-industry partnership has now created the Equine Excellence Initiative. The goal is to build upon existing programs, facilities

and services available to the equine industry and establish the University of Guelph as the premiere centre for the horse.

"I am very pleased and excited that Equine Guelph has broadened its mandate," says Dr. Elizabeth Stone, Ontario Veterinary College dean. "The Equine Excellence Initiative builds on our many accomplishments to date and is based on the belief that a healthy horse is critical to a healthy horse industry."

Watch for a feature on the Equine Excellence Initiative in the next issue of Equine Guelph Update (Fall 2007).

Guelph's Advisory Council Chair. "It is envisioned that the OEC will be the place in the province where the industry comes to see the latest technology applied to real life situations and to participate in Equine Guelph's award winning adult education programs. The result will be an industry with a better-educated workforce and a hunger for new technology based on science."

"There is much yet to be accomplished to realise the vision", says McLaughlin. "We are currently waiting for the transfer in ownership of the land from the Ontario Realty Corporation to the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO); something which the provincial government promised to do in an announcement made in August 2005."

"Once this is done, which we anticipate will happen soon, the OEC will meet with the ARIO to discuss how industry and government can work together to ensure that Ontario has an equine research system second to none and at the same time strengthen the industry, both its identity and its collective vision, all of which bodes well for the future of the industry and the province."

Jean Szkotnicki, President of the Canadian Animal Health Institute and OEC Chair, believes the OEC will be among the very best equine centres in the world, attracting major non-racing events and become a premier destination site for people in the industry and the general public.

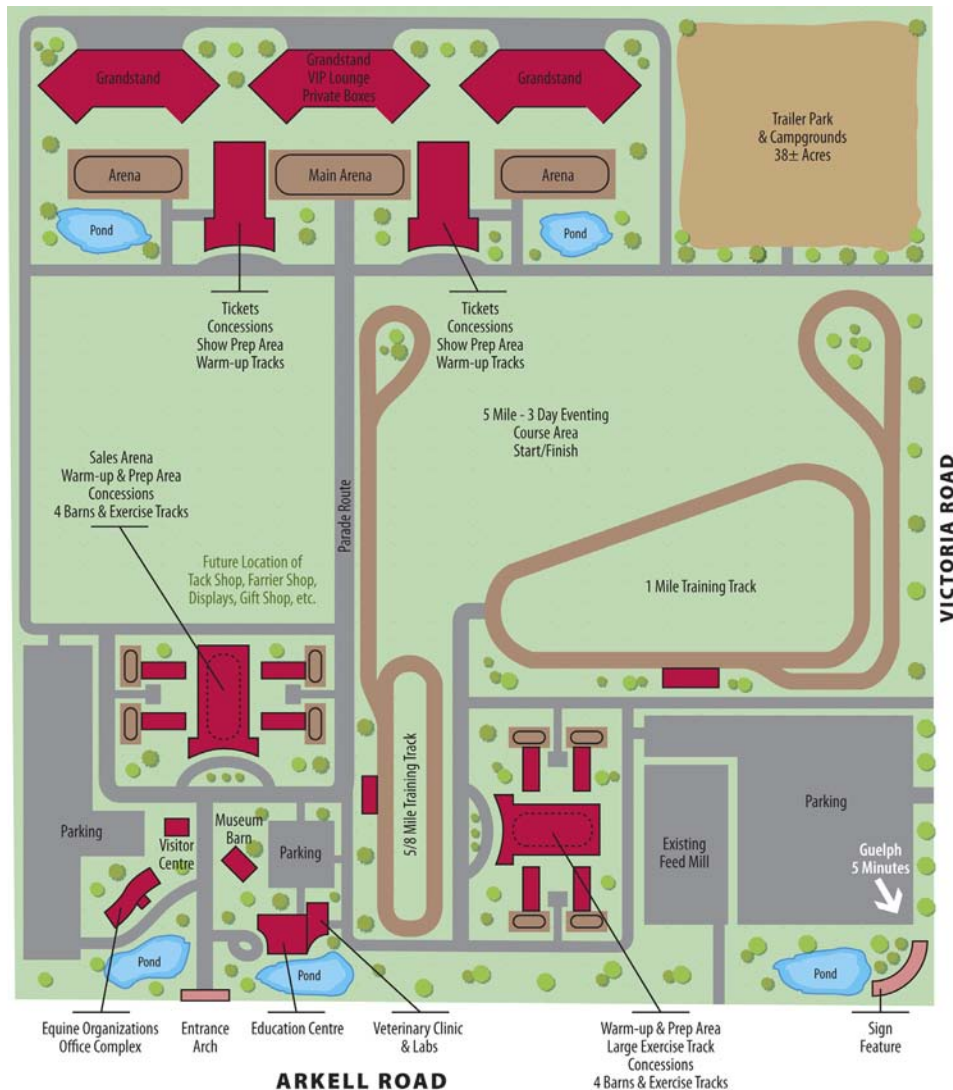
Szkotnicki states that "the OEC will bring a lot of international interest. Look at what has happened at places like the Kentucky Horse Park. We don't have anything with that type of focus in Ontario – which is home to the largest horse population in Canada. Overall, the OEC will greatly benefit the horse, the industry and its people, as well as, agriculture, rural development, tourism and the overall economy of Ontario. It is a very exciting development!"

The Vision:

The Ontario Equine Centre will be an internationally recognized facility with a research and technology transfer focus and dedicated to the welfare of the horse, as well as the promotion and development of equine activities that benefit the industry, its people and the people of Ontario.

Proposed facilities for the site include:

- Research and education facilities
- Multi-breed sales arena
- World-class show and event facilities
- Equine organizations office complex
- Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse training tracks
- Veterinary clinic.



Artist conception of possible layout of Ontario Equine Centre.

The founding organizations of the OEC, namely, the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society (Ontario Division), Equine Canada, Ontario Equestrian Federation, Ontario Harness Horse Association, Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of Ontario, Standardbred Canada and the University

of Guelph are committed to this vision and believe that by working together to achieve it, the OEC will be an industry builder and help ensure it remains strong and well positioned for future generations. If you wish to lend your support to this undertaking please contact any of the latter organizations.

Events

Mark your calendar!

April 14, 2007

Equine Journalism Workshop

April 21, 2007

Equine Photography Workshop

April 28, 2007

A Guided Tour of Equine Anatomy Workshop

April 29, 2007

Advanced Equine Anatomy Workshop

May 7, 2007

Groom One Online course starts

May 7, 2007

Equine Science Certificate courses start

May 25-27, 2007

Equine Science Certificate Program at Can-Am

All Breeds Equine Emporium East

June 2-10, 2007

Horse Week in Canada

Weekends, July & August, 2007

EquiMania! Education Centre at Woodbine

Racetrack

Keep up to date! Sign up for Equine

Guelph's bimonthly E-News at

www.EquineGuelph.ca

OVC's Veterinary Teaching Hospital welcomes new director

Wayne Coveyduck is the first non-veterinarian to hold this position at the Ontario Veterinary College in more than 20 years. He comes to the hospital after 21 years of working in an acute care hospital environment – for humans.

“This was simply a great opportunity for me to try something new,” says Coveyduck, who was most recently the CEO of the Temaskaming Hospital in New Liskeard, Ont.

“But I think what really convinced me to come here was meeting the dean (Dr. Elizabeth Stone) and hearing her vision for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH). This is a tremendous opportunity to be involved in change, to help the organization grow in terms of admissions and the services we offer to clients, and to develop new facilities.”

Equine Guelph will report on new developments at the VTH in upcoming issues of Equine Guelph Update.



About Equine Guelph

Equine Guelph is the horse owner and caregiver's Centre at the University of Guelph. We are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of horses through the provision and promotion of research, performance and education.

We welcome your views and encourage you to contact us with your comments or suggestions. Anyone wishing to excerpt *Equine Guelph Update* should contact:

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Equine Guelph also publishes a bi-monthly e-newsletter, Horses@Guelph. To subscribe to the e-newsletter, please visit www.equineguelph.ca

Equine Guelph Donation Form

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Cheque Visa Mastercard

(Please make cheques payable to University of Guelph/ Equine Guelph. An official receipt will be sent for the donation. Charitable registration # 10816 1829 RR 0001.)

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Card expiry date

Cardholder's Name

Signature

Donor Information:

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City

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Area of Greatest Need Research Performance Education

Equine Guelph also offers a memorial program to honour deceased horses or people. Please call the office for details.

Please return to:

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