

The Shed Row Market

BACKGROUND: The Shed Row Market

September 7, 2011

***shed·row* [shed-roh]**

–noun

(at a racetrack) a row or double row of horse barns with individual stalls facing a walkway.

With a vision for a market that brings together local farms, artists and the love of horses, The Shed Row Market was created and in 2009 and raised enough money to fund the purchase of a semi truck load of hay and in 2010 the goal remained similar. 2011 marks the third year for the now annual fall market benefitting the New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society.

This fall market is an opportunity for the public to support recently retired racehorses as they are provided an opportunity to excel in other disciplines. Visitors will be able to visit with a variety of horses including some recently retired track, show and pleasure horses at the farm. Guests are welcome to wander the displays from local artists and purchase farm fresh products including heritage fruits and vegetables, honey, artisan cheeses and more that will make up this unique experience. The 2011 Shed Row Fall Market will take place on October 1st and 2nd, the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Gates will open to the public at 9:30am on Saturday, October 1st and 10:00am on Sunday, October 2nd. Admission to the event is by a minimum \$2.00 donation to the New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society.

The Inspiration

Over twenty years ago Fields and Flowers Farm partners Barb and Onno took an unplanned shortcut across a shed row and caught just two steps of a floating trot of a weanling, a Thoroughbred colt who was later named Musing.

Musing did not do well as a racehorse but after being purchased as a Christmas gift for Barb, made his new home at Camenae Farms (now known as Fields and Flowers Farm). Subsequently syndicated with five partners, Musing went on to become a Canadian National Champion sire of hunter and jumper horses. Known around the farm as Tommy, Musing's show ring success and that of his offspring helped build the Fields and Flowers Farm and he continues to influence the lives of Barb and Onno today.

The Charity

Founded in the fall of 2002, a group of dedicated volunteers created the New Stride Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation with the goal of ensuring each and every non-competitive and/or injured Thoroughbred racehorse would be provided a second chance and placed into a caring home. In 2011 New Stride took steps to make alterations to their name to best reflect the organization's mission. The New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society provides an alternative to auction for owners who find they can no longer care for their horses. The Board of Directors shares a common love of the Thoroughbred and a deep commitment to their humane treatment.

The Shed Row Market

New Stride facilitates both an adoption program for recently retired racehorses and a sponsorship program for those people who cannot take on the care of a retired racehorse, but would like to support one of these beautiful animals in their new life. The Society works with each volunteer to help educate them in the care, maintenance, handling and retraining of the horses.

The Horses

Two of the horses that will be available during the Shed Row Fall Market are:

How Bout Jose, a 13 year old gelding with a long and successful racing career, running 'in the money' seventy-six percent of the time, winning twelve of his thirty-three starts. In his retirement, Jose is a true gentleman, very good to work with and a pleasure to be around. A long competitive career precludes Jose from much more than casual walkabouts under saddle, though he enjoys these trips out with our volunteers immensely. Jose is available for Sponsorship for as little as \$10 per month.

Musing, a 23 year old retired racehorse and Thoroughbred show sire. Musing did not race well, but went on to become one of Canada's leading sires of confirmation sport horses as well as hunter and jumper horses. Musing is now enjoying his retirement in a stall at the end of the Shed Row at Fields and Flowers Farm.

The Farm

Fields and Flowers Farm provides the backdrop for The Shed Row Market and is set on thirty-three acres of rolling land in South Langley. The farm is currently home to ten horses, the Fields and Flowers Farm Gate Store and the home of Fields and Flowers Foods Limited.

With a small greenhouse and a heritage orchard from the 1940's, Fields and Flowers Farm products are a combination of their farm grown fruit and edible flowers that are grown throughout the property. The Farm Gate store is a hidden gem in Langley with amazing works by Marney-Rose Edge, Mission Clay Works, Sweetpiece Jewelry and sterling silver creations by Claire Soucie, to name a few of the talented artists featured in this boutique farm store.

The Organizers

This year's Shed Row Fall Market is being organized by Barb Beaton of Fields and Flowers Farm, Maryanne Lechleiter and Kristine Carrick of Urban Life Media, publisher of Stimuli Magazine.

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