



CANADA MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: BE OUR GUEST EVENT MANAGEMENT

What happens when a small sports group finds themselves at an international conference agreeing to host a major international event? It is Canada's official turn to host the 2001 World Championships in the sport of mounted games. Fifteen countries, fifteen teams from every corner of the world....South Africa, Germany, France, Norway, Australia.... What happens? Panic, of course! We didn't have a clue what to do. We're just a group of Canadians with normal jobs and families. What do we know about hosting an international competition of this magnitude? That's when we met Mary Joy Morgan and Stacey McFadzen of Be Our Guest Event Management Inc. and the tables turned in our favour.

We approached Be Our Guest with limited knowledge. We had fabulous volunteers, had competed at international events to know what other countries had done, we knew our sport well, we knew who our guests would be, but what about a venue, riding arena, stabling, ponies.....70 borrowed ponies!! What about housing for competitors, accomodations for supporters, food and transportation. The list of what had to be done was pages long. Mary Joy and Stacey set out a plan of action for us. A list of what to do first and how to go about doing it. They contacted the City of Guelph, the University of Guelph, the Grand River Conservation Authority, printers, disc jockey's, caterers, sponsors, trucking companies, hotels, vehicle rental firms and a whole list more. They attended meetings with us, encouraged us, guided us and most of all gave us the confidence, through their professionalism and expertise, not to just hold a World Championship, but to hold the "Best World Championship" ever.

After one-and-a-half years in planning stages, the big event arrived. Planes arrived from all over. Competitors were dropped off at the University of Guelph where Be Our Guest organized a mini-athletes world. Supporters and friends were whisked to hotels. Volunteers were madly driving all over the Guelph countryside making sure ponies were tucked in at their host farms for practices. More volunteers making sure the fairgrounds on the Guelph Island were complete. There were bus trips to Toronto, bus trips to Niagara Falls, a Welcome Banquet, a Carribean Barbeque, a Farewell Banquet and an amazing competition that was exciting, entertaining, overwhelming and incredibly perfect.

It would be impossible to put into words the effort and enthusiasm that Mary Joy and Stacey brought to our event. Every detail was attended to, right down to the little international welcome signs. Mary Joy and Stacey knew nothing about our sport, especially in foreign languages...German, French, and even Afrikans! But they sure knew how to organize an event. And where were Mary Joy and Stacey when Canada was riding hard for the victory....jumping up and down and cheering as loud, maybe even louder, as any of the Canadian fans! Thanks Be Our Guest....thanks Mary Joy and Stacey! Canada Mounted Games Association really did have the "Best World Championships" ever.

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