



Richmond Stables

The story of Richmond Stables humble beginnings as a celebrated equestrian facility can only be told by award-winning lead instructor and founder Kelly Hambleton. A native of Newfoundland, she came to B.C. in 1990 to work in the equestrian industry and started the company with husband and business partner Corey 15 years ago.

Richmond Stables currently offers both Dressage and Hunter Jumper styles of riding, the former of which Hambleton specializes in and holds a high performance coach certification from Equine Canada. The facility was originally named Tamarack Stables, where she actually worked as an employee, before the couple purchased the property after the former owner retired.

“We started off as multi-disciplinary stable back in 2001 when we took it over and we ran an extensive school string as well. We wanted to make it into an education centre,” says Hambleton, adding in keeping up the economic landscape and modern trends, the school has recently started focusing more on competitive dressage riding.

“In the last year we’ve moved away from school string setup. But before that I had started move up ranks of coaching in the B.C. area and my clients started to become much more competitively oriented and looking for higher level training,” she said.

Hambleton, 50, starting riding at the young age of 12. She partly credits interest in the sport to her grandmother who she said rode, but remembers being smitten following an encounter with a certain animal back home.

“We were driving and I saw a horse on the side of road – I made my parents stop so I could get out and pet it. “My parents looked at each other and at the same time said ‘OK, she’s clearly horse crazy,’” reminisced Hambleton, laughing.

Her career began in the Maritimes where opportunity for future advancement was limited and a strategic relocation to a larger market like B.C. or Ontario was necessary –the Lower Mainland winning out mostly due to the mild climate and reputation as having a friendly and inclusive community.

Starting out giving riding lessons in the Southlands neighbourhood of Vancouver, Hambleton worked at a few different stables before landing a full-time job at Tamarack as a trainer in the late 1990s that eventually led to her current role. After acquiring the business, she says a lot of work, much of it done by Corey, has gone in to getting it to where it is today.

To name a few of the major changes: they renovated the 50-plus-year-old three-bed, two-bath house on the estate, completely redoing the kitchen, mouldings, windows and more; an additional acre of land was gained from clearing out a section of overflowing blackberry bushes growing along the perimeter; all of the paddocks and fencing have been replaced, and the electrical lines that once hung overhead have been buried underground; the stalls in the main barn have been enlarged for animal comfort and given new fronts.

Hambleton said her passion for horse riding hasn’t waned and will continue to teach. This will allow her to focus on her passion of instructing, and allow Corey, who is a doctor, to focus on his medical practice. The plan is to sell the property as a package, keeping staff, riders, all 20 horses, and the personalized high-quality instruction intact.

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**Richmond Stables is located at 12551 Gilbert Road, Richmond B.C. V7E 2H8.
The sale of the property and business is being exclusively managed by Icon Marketing Inc.
To inquire please call 604.227.7967 or info@iconco.ca**