

## Death Knell Sounded on Horse Carriage Industry In Victoria

Phasing out the Carriage Industry in Victoria affects 55 working horses, their owners, the drivers, the farriers, the veterinarians and other varied associated work and staff connected to this industry.

An historic industry that has served Victoria for 116 years, it allows tourists and residents alike to view the city from a unique perspective with a driver that provides interesting and historic facts about the city itself.

Both Victoria Carriage Tours and Tally Ho, the two companies operating in Victoria, are members in good standing with Carriage Operators of North America <https://cona.org/>, an international non-profit organization committed to promoting the humane welfare of carriage animals and quality carriage operations which promotes a support network to assist member companies in attaining and maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and customer service.

Donna Friedlander, the owner of Tally Ho, is a board member for Carriage Operators of North America, and her Operations manual for Tally Ho is being used to revise CONA's own guides.

The two horses that fell at Ogden point last year did not collapse, they fell. Lying on the ground as they did in the video, is what they are trained to do when something goes wrong. Both were checked out by a veterinarian, who found them to be healthy and uninjured. It is interesting to me that has been played in the news several times in the weeks leading up to the May 16<sup>th</sup> Council vote.

A property owner, tax payer and a person that believes that the City I was born in and I love should be lead and managed with fact based decisions; I find Council's treatment of this industry through this decision appalling and borders on discrimination. It flies in the face of the newly minted City of Victoria Strategic Plan 2019 -2022.

Please take the time to understand and review the facts that make the Horse Carriage Industry what it is before making the decision to phase it out in five years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle D. Gorman, Ph.D