

Equestrian facility on time and on budget

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and Bill Rea

The Caledon Equestrian Park is managing to stay on time and under budget for the upcoming Pan Am Games.

This building is one of several buildings needed for the Pan Am games.

"We've been able to remain under budget," Project Manager Sherry Brake said in a report that appeared on CTV News Barrie last week. "We stayed within our original guidelines."

Last week, electricians were installing overhead lighting and exit signs in the building. Constructing this facility has been a battle with Mother Nature. Site supervisor Jordan Celluci said they'd just recently got the roof on, so now workers can get the job done in a warmer environment.

There has been \$11 million put toward making this venue, the CTV report stated. When finished, it will be one of the largest equestrian facilities in Canada.

Inside the facility, there is a training area and a competition ring. Next to it there is an indoor stable that can house more than 70 horses, and lastly the track for horse racing.

The substance being used for the track has been optimized for their running. Katherine Ward from CTV News said "officials say proper footing can make all the difference."

The track is made of sand textiles and natural products, so it is safe for the horses during competition.

Craig Collins, managing partner with Equine Management Group, said the sand on the track "gives the horses that ability to have that platform, but at the same time give them the ability to land softly."

By this week their goal is to have all electrical work done. After that it will take a month to assemble the temporary grand stands that will surround the track. Landscaping is to be finished by May 1

The matter came up at last Tuesday's meeting of Caledon council.

"We are on time, below budget and everything is moving along great," Parks and Recreation Director Laura Johnston told councillors.