

Winter 2010



OHTA

The EVENTER

Newsletter

In This Issue:

• President's Message	2
• OHTA 2010 Championships At Dreamcrest _	3
• Young Rider Report _	5
• Blacksmith's Corner_	5
• Changes To The Canadian Young Event Horse Series	6
• Eventing Continues To Evolve In The Quinte Region _	8
• Volunteer News_	9
• Making A Dream Come True	9
• 2010 AGM & Awards Banquet	11
• Bits & Bites	12
• Pet Peeves	15
• Kingston Short Course Eventing Series_	16
• Remembering Russell Smith	18
• Organizer Thoughts	18
• Just For Fun!_	20

President's Message

Welcome everyone to the fall edition of the online Eventer.

It's that time of year when the competitions are over (and hopefully with much success), and we start to prepare for the cold wintery weather that soon will be upon us.

It's also a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to 2011 as an eventer in Ontario.

2010 has been an exciting year not only the OHTA, but for Canadian Eventing as a whole. By now I'm sure you are all aware of Canada's recent success at the World Equestrian Games, when they brought home the silver medal. Being able to attend in person made it that much more exciting to be a part of it. Congratulations to all the competitors, coaches, and grooms – and all those who made the trek to Lexington to support our hometown riders. A job well done! A special note to all you young riders out there, it was noted at the recent Canadian Eventing Congress that all of the team members have participated in the young riders program. That should be some incentive for you!

As for the OHTA, the past year has been a busy one. We have welcomed some new directors to the board and have said goodbye to some valued members as well. Thanks to the new members who have shown a keen interest in improving the sport of eventing in Ontario and a special thank you to those who are leaving the board, your hard work and continued dedication to the sport is appreciated.

In 2010 the OHTA set a new record for members with the final membership totaling 1257. The Organizers Newsletter has been a great success and has been consistently providing up-to-date information to all our organizers. We are continuing to develop our Coaches Outreach program, so all you coaches that would like to take advantage of this resource, we encourage you to visit the "Coaches Corner" on our website.

Rule changes always get people excited or interested in what is going on. This year was no exception, with the "stop watch" rule garnering the most attention. Stay tuned, as there are revisions to the rule coming for 2011. Remember - all competitors are responsible for knowing the rules, so take some time this winter and visit the Equine Canada website to get up to date for 2011. As always, if you have questions please forward them to any of the board member and we will try to get the answers for you.

It goes without saying, but without the organizers running competitions there would be no eventing in Ontario. We are fortunate to have some of the best organizers and venues in Canada. I would like to personally thank all organizers for their dedication to the sport and hard work that goes into running an event. If you have the chance next year, be sure to thank the organizers of the events you attend. As competitions are crucial to riders, so too are the volunteers, without you the competitions could not run. On that note, the OHTA has for the past three years now run a volunteer program where you can register at any event and be eligible for one of 4 prizes drawn at our annual AGM. This is a small token of our appreciation for your time and effort in assisting with the running of the events in Ontario.

As mentioned earlier, the Young Rider Program is alive and well thanks to the dedication of Linda Plank and her committee. Linda has taken the program from what was strictly Preliminary and Intermediate riders and expanded it to include training and even pre-training. This allows for riders of the lower levels to get familiar with the program and prepare for international competition. If you are eligible, please consider becoming part

of the program, as Linda had been able to draw on the expertise of Olympic level riders for coaching and instruction... and they still have **fun** along the way!

The 2010 Championships held at Dreamcrest were a resounding success and I would like to thank Kelly, Ian and all their staff for providing such a great venue. As most of you know by now, the Championships have taken on a new look over the past three years with the introduction of the "One Event at a Time" program. Robin Winn was the mastermind behind the plan and I think it would be safe to say it has been a huge success. I would like to thank Robin for her initiative and all her hard work.

But enough with the reflection, let's look to the future. Most of you know by now the 2011 Championships will be held at Wits End and we can all look forward to some more fun and excitement next Labour Day weekend. Each year we have more applications for the Championship and with the "One Event at a Time" program it's evident that the funds available for the Championships through this program are well worth the effort to be a host. To all you organizers out there this is for everyone and it could benefit you!

We all know how technology evolves (seemingly on a daily basis sometimes!). We at the OHTA are no exception and if you were not at the AGM, we announced the launching of the new and improved OHTA website. We have a new format and with the assistance of new board member Katie Holman, we were able to launch the website this fall. I would like to extend on behalf of the board a great big thank you to Corrie Yeoman for all her hard work over the past years in maintaining the original website. Please pay us a visit on the new website.

Each year the sport of eventing evolves and this is evident in the rule changes, course design, etc. and it only seems to get better and we at the Board look forward to an exciting and successful 2011-

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and the best of luck in 2011.

See you out on course!

Glenn McMechan

OHTA President

2010 OHTA Eventing Championships at Dreamcrest – How did we fare?

By: Peter Gray

Another eventing season is all but over; it has been a terrific summer thanks to our hard working event organizers who make such a huge contribution to the sport by providing these fun filled weekends and fantastic competitions!

Assisted by the highly successful and innovative "One event at a time" programme, financing from the OHTA assisted Dreamcrest in putting on an impressive display of what a provincial Championship course should offer. The courses were perfect; beautifully built cross country jumps with a clever Championship type challenge

involving either the terrain or technical design of the course. It seemed all of the difficult combinations had alternatives for the more cautious or less experienced horses or riders.

I had the privilege of judging the “Cross country style award”, a very worthwhile educational competition backed by the OHTA. I was able to observe every cross country ride with a critical eye and get a really good idea of the standard of cross country riding in Ontario!

My interest in analysing these types of performances actually began over 2 years ago when I became the National Safety Officer for Canada and with that role, report to the FEI on the “state of the nation” in our country. At coaching symposiums and at National congress I have been harping on about the correct- and safe- technique for riding across country.

So how did we fare at Dreamcrest? I am pleased to say that there was not a single example of unsafe riding during the entire competition and the improvement in cross country riding (the correct balance, speed and rider position) is overwhelming in all levels. This is a healthy sign of the good education that is available in Ontario.

However! Did you notice the disappointing number of finishers at the preliminary level and at all levels, our province’s best Championship competitors finishing with cricket scores at the end of the weekend. While there is now good riding style and safe technique shown for cross country, I would say the horses at all levels are not adequately trained to do the questions with ease, that are asked at this level. In other words, our training is not up to standard.

In the training levels as a group, 63% of starters finished the whole competition. At pre-training those percentages improved to 83%. Compared to the recent US Eventing Championships the percentages of finishers was actually very similar at the training and pre-training levels, but what we do not have compared to our counterparts south of the border, is competitors consistently finishing on very low dressage scores with nothing to add.

To summarise, we have similar percentages of finishers at the respective levels as is seen in the US, but we are incurring many more penalties throughout the 3 phases of competition; we just don’t see the low scoring top 10 on the leaderboard . This tells me one of two things: that horses in Ontario are upgrading too quickly and not perfecting the required skills before advancing to the next level, or that coaches need to tighten up on the standard of their student’s performances in all 3 phases.

How is this accomplished? Education!

We are so lucky in Ontario to have some of the world’s best clinicians visit us every year. These clinics should be audited by coaches; in addition, we have some very successful coaches who are resident here year round and available for mentoring. It isn’t only the riders that need to attend these educational opportunities! I would like to challenge all coaches to attend some professional development of their own.....and there is no time like the present! If coaching is your profession, further education is a natural progression to advance your own training skills.

Peter Gray is an international eventer having competed in most major competitions across Europe, a veteran of 3 Olympic games, a Pan Am individual bronze medalist, popular clinician across North America and current coach of the Ontario Young Rider programme. Besides his notoriety in the event world, Peter has recently competed in 4 Grand prix competitions in pure dressage. www.wentworthfarm.com

2010 Ontario Young Riders Year End Report

By: Linda Plank

2010 Coach Peter Gray – who has agreed to stay on for 2011!

We held mandatory clinic for all riders to witness the candidates for the YR teams, jogs, vet inspections, introduction of committee - vet, Dr Kathryn Surasky and fitness, Mel Gromoff in May and 2 other clinics held with all levels Glen Oro and Headwaters.

We had 46 registered riders – resulting in \$4600 in registration fees

\$5000 from TD Canada Trust

\$5485 from numerous sponsors

A training camp for the NAJYRC riders was held at Palgrave and the riders rode their CCI* and CCI** dressage tests that they rode at the Championships in the dressage test of choice Class.

4th at NAJYRC - CCI* Juniors, just missing the podium by 11 pp

10 th place Individual - Sam Elsenaar in the CCI** level

Midsouth resulted in one rider qualifying for the CCI* division. Upcoming FEI events will be in Florida and Bromont will be the last opportunity for the 2011 NAJYRC. There were a few other developing riders that attended Midsouth also in all the divisions, even the Training 3 Day event. Great opportunity for these riders to compete at the Horse Park and see some of the WEG jumps.

Looking onto 2011, several Young Riders who had declared their

Intentions to compete at NAJYRC, but we need financial support to get us there.

For 2011, we are looking for a Sponsorship guru to take on the daunting task of fundraising and any one else looking to assist in clinics, NAJYRC management etc. Please contact Linda Plank for more information.

Blacksmith's Corner – Winter Shoeing

By: Rodd Turnbull

Winter shoeing is a little bit different than the rest of the year.

Personally, I don't think that leaving a horse in plain, flat shoes during the winter is fair to the horse. How would you like to walk with flat steel as your only contact with the ground on a snowy or icy day? If your horse has good feet, you can take the shoes off and let them go barefoot. However, they should not be trimmed too short, as the sole is vulnerable to bruising from the ice and frozen ground. Hoof care should be kept on-schedule throughout the winter months to prevent cracks and splits from becoming bigger problems.

If your farrier has been correcting a hoof deformity, if your horse has poor feet, or if you intend to ride on a consistent basis to either hack, show or keep them fit, you will probably want to keep the shoes on. This way you can avoid throwing away months or even years of correction. This also prevents your farrier from pulling his/her hair out! There is nothing worse than seeing months of work destroyed in a few days. A horse's hooves, with regular shoes on can become packed with ice and snow, increasing the chances of slipping and damaging the fetlock. This also increases the chance of joint, tendon, and muscle damage. Snow pads, which fit between the shoe and hoof, are required to help prevent snow-balling and corks help prevent slipping.

There are basically two types of snow pads: Snow Rims and Snow pads with balls. The Rim-type leaves the sole uncovered and are comprised of tubes which compress when the horse puts his hoof down. They then expand as he lifts his hoof to help remove the ice and snow from the foot. I have found that these do not work as well with bar shoes, as the bar will trap the ice and snow. I have also seen these pads allow bruising to the sole.

The Ball-type cover the entire bottom of the foot and have what looks like a half-ball which is hollow in the center of the pad. This ball will compress then expand to help remove the ice and snow. As far as I can see, the only problem with this pad is the chance of thrush, and lack of frog support. However, like with most pads, with proper hoof packing under the pad and around the frog, you can maintain good frog contact and stop debris from getting under the pad.

In conclusion, I believe equipping your horse with corks and snow pads throughout the winter months is necessary and well worth the extra expense if you are planning on maintaining a steady work schedule. However, if the horse has good feet and is relatively inactive, he could be left barefoot with proper trimming on a regular schedule.

"Rodd Turnbull has been shoeing horses for 33 years. He has worked throughout Ontario with horses from the typical backyard pony to high level hunter jumper, and eventers."

Changes To The Canadian Young Event Horse Series in 2011

By: MH Lessard

Changes to Canadian Young Event Horse Series in 2011

The Canadian Young Event Horse Series may be best described as an equine talent search. The Series gives owners and breeders the opportunity to showcase the potential of their four- and five-year-old horses while encouraging them to produce good quality event horses for the future.

Young Event Horse classes are designed toward education and preparation in a progressive manner. Young horses are asked to complete three sections: Dressage; Jumping, and Conformation. The ultimate goal of the Young Event Horse Series is to choose the young horse that possesses the talent and mind set, and who with proper training, will excel in the uppermost levels of the Eventing world.

While the ultimate goal is to identify the future international horses it is also hoped that many fine event horses that will excel at the lower levels will also be showcased.

In 2011, these competitions will be run under the structure of Equine Canada as Bronze level competitions and as such will require both horse owners and riders to have a current Bronze level sport license.

They will be open to horses aged 4 and 5.

Young Event Horse classes may be run as part of a Horse Trials, Combined Training and Derby(Short Course).

2011 venues will be included in the omnibus.

Updated rules and information will be posted on the OHTA website.

HIGH POINT WINNERS for 2010 were...

Young Event Horse High Point Awards:

2 year old

Mystic Legacy

Owner/Breeder: Marnie Reimers

Breed: Canadian Sport Horse

4 year old

Ballsea

Owner/Breeder: Suzanne Down

Breed: Irish Sport Horse

3 year old

A Fond Farewell

Owner Breeder: Bronte Howard

Breed: Canadian Sport Horse

5 year old

Playtime

Owner/Breeder: Erica Weatherall/Jeff Orlando

Breed: Canadian Warmblood

Canadian Sport Horse High Point Awards:

2 year old

Mystic Legacy

Owner/Breeder: Marnie Reimers

Breed: Canadian Sport Horse

4 year old

American Idol

Owner/Breeder: Ruth Armstrong

Breed: Canadian Sport Horse

3 year old

A Fond Farewell

Owner Breeder: Bronte Howard

Breed: Canadian Sport Horse

Eventing continues to evolve in the Quinte region

By: Katie Holman

For 20 years, Canterdown Horse Trials has been a jewel in the Eastern Ontario crown of eventing, so it is not without sadness that Burle & Kay Summers have announced that the August 7, 2011 Canterdown Horse Trials will be their last. "We believe it is time for us to back away from the formal event, but we plan to continue to open our property for schooling and will offer unrecognized competitions or clinics at the novice levels. We have really enjoyed the eventing activity, but find our energies are in shorter supply these days," said Burle Summers.

Eventing in the Quinte region began in the early 1970's with the Highlands of Hastings Horse Trials. The late Basil Kuglin organized the event for nearly 20 years, starting small at first with pony club rallies but it wasn't long before Highlands of Hastings was running fully sanctioned horse trials. In 1989, Basil passed the regional torch onto Burle & Kay Summers, who keenly developed their own property into the popular event that it is today; consistently attracting competitors from all across Ontario & Quebec. Throughout the years, Canterdown has played host to numerous championships including the 2008 Ontario Horse Trials Association Provincial Championships! "Kay & I have very much appreciated the support we have gotten from the OHTA and we are happy to hand the event off in 2012 – from a positive position to a talented group of organizers and volunteers," said Burle. But it is time now for horse trials in the Quinte region to come full circle, as Burle & Kay prepare to hand the honours off to Ernst Kuglin, Basil's son.

Nestled in the rolling Oak Hills of Hastings County in Quinte West, lies the new home of the Highlands of Hastings Horse Trials. Quinte West was formed in 1998 resulting from an amalgamation of four municipalities, including Trenton, home of Canada's largest Air Force base. Situated on the north shore of Bay of Quinte, the city is only 1.5 hours from the GTA.

This past November, a new management committee was formed, chaired by OHTA President Glenn McMechan and includes a group of experienced volunteers. The property boasts ample room for parking, dressage rings and show jumping, Ernst Kuglin and his wife Marilynne Senese are looking forward to developing their property into a thriving venue. "This is a golden opportunity to take the sport of eventing in the region to the next stage," said Kuglin, vice chair of the organizing committee. "Our goal is to make the Highlands of Hastings not just an event, but a destination for eventers. We are looking forward to that development and looking forward to working with our Ontario Horse Trials Association and Eventing Canada partners."

One of the first orders of business for the new management committee was to engage the expertise and services of FEI XC course designer, Jay Hambly. "We want to develop a state-of-the-art event that will become part of future training programs for not only dozens of local eventers, but many of the province's top riders as well," McMechan said. "With its rolling hills and good terrain, we have a chance to develop one of the most progressive cross-country building programs in the province."

When the Highlands of Hastings Horse Trials hits the calendar in 2012, they plan to offer up to training level, with plans of adding preliminary & intermediate courses not far behind. The sky's the limit with the potential for this outstandingly beautiful venue.

Volunteer News

By: Sue Phillimore

In 2008, the OHTA successfully launched the Volunteer Incentive Program, where each time you volunteer at an Ontario Horse Trial, your name is entered into the year-end draw. The premise was – if every member donated \$1.00, than close to \$1000 could be raised. Due to the generosity of our membership, we have exceeded our \$1000 goal each year. 2010 proved to be no different. Our members dug deep into their pockets & ashtrays for spare change and filled the change jar event after event until the volunteer bursary was bursting at the seams.

At the Annual Awards Banquet, held at Cardinal Golf & Country Club in Kettleby, the winners of the year-end volunteer draw were announced.

The 2010 Volunteer Incentive Program Award Winners were:

Suzie Crawford \$500

Momo Laframboise \$250

Laura MacKinnon \$150

Krista LaRochelle \$100

Congratulations to this year's winners!

A BIG Thank You to all those people who generously donated into the program throughout the year and to all those who generously donated their time volunteering! 2011 is looking to be an exciting year; because of the generosity of our members, the program will start out in 2011 with \$600 already in the fund! Well done everyone!

Making a Dream Come True

By: Lauren Cude

Why on Earth would you give up your nice nine-to-five job with a guaranteed paycheque, regular hours, and a nice warm dry building to work in to work seven days a week taking care of horses in all weather and teaching lessons?

That is a question I've heard a few times recently – since I announced that my part-time freelance coaching business would be going to a whole new level including a barn, school horses, and boarders. And it's one of those things that those who know cannot explain and those who don't know can never truly understand.

The decision was made two years ago, when I was abruptly hit by the economy. In one week I lost my part-time job that I loved and my full-time job was downsized to part-time. I also sold my horse, who I adored. It was not a good week. And as I was brushing myself off and looking at jobs, I decided the time had come to make a

choice once and for all: office career or horse career. I was qualified for both. The office career was decidedly safer. But since I'd been a child the horse career had called to me.

So I decided on a trial run. I called a top-level coach in the States whom I'd always admired and convinced him to take me on as the oldest working student in history. When he agreed, I negotiated with my downsized job to work remotely in off hours. Fortunately for me, they also agreed and less than a week later I'd packed my apartment into storage and moved south (not a bad thing going into winter!)

While I was there, even the bad days were good. When I caught myself consoling myself after a particularly rough day with "but hey, you could be sitting in an office!" I knew the decision was made. And so work began on a business plan. What I wanted to do was easy: teach. I'd been coaching for years, was good at it, and loved it enough that I genuinely missed it the few times I'd stopped for any reason. Can you say that about your job?

So the plan was made. The part-time sideline would become a career. And the plan, such as it was, was presented. I blush now to think of the one I started with. About three pages long and the financial page organized in such a way that nobody but me would ever understand it. I know that because I presented said plan to everybody: friends, family, old business partners, random strangers on the street... Ok maybe not the last one, but it seemed that way at the time. And I took their comments to heart and worked and reworked the plan until some thirty pages later people were looking at me differently, envious that I seemed to be doing the impossible: the hobby was becoming a career. And when people asked me what I was going to do, I finally had an answer: "I'm going to open a riding school. The Graduate Riding School. For people who are passed up-down level but don't quite need the \$100/hour pros." The name was a marketing effort that had been abandoned by a former coach. I had always thought that was a mistake, but it was one I was happy to benefit from.

The way I looked at it, the first thing I needed was students. Now the business analysts might tell you that's not the right way of doing things, but it was my way. All I wanted to do was teach. And fortunately, I seemed to have a knack for it. I'd been certified for years and had an incredibly loyal following of students whom I adored. Some of them had horses, some did not. For those who did not I went and found horses they could part-board at facilities that would let me come in to teach. And slowly my business grew.

But freelancing wasn't really working for me. For one thing, many of my students had no access to indoor riding facilities, so I'd be swamped in the summer and lose three-quarters of my business in the winter. And for two, the market I most enjoy teaching are those just about ready to compete and those in their first few years of eventing. I love that phase of riding and my students react to my passion for it. But many riders at that level are not yet ready to purchase their own horse. So I needed school horses. And to do that, I needed a facility.

A facility. Should I lease or buy? I'd much rather buy. But either way I'd need money. And back to the world of office jobs I went; I found an employer who understood what I was trying to do and allowed me to flex my hours. I worked 7-3 downtown in the corporate world then changed my clothes and mindset and came back to teach from 4-10 most nights. It was exhausting, but effective. A little under two years later, with a boost from a "youth entrepreneur loan" I had the start-up funds required and a solid student base cheering me on.

With some investigation I realized purchasing wasn't financially realistic, and business plans don't go over well when winning the lottery is a key component! So I started looking at lease properties. On the one hand, I was a little relieved by the number that were actually available, but on the other hand finding the right one was proving to be a challenge.

And then I did it! I found the perfect place for the perfect cost in the perfect location at the perfect time. I was ecstatic. And then I was turned down. They told me I was "second choice" but the owner of the property didn't want a school run out of their facility, and the only thing I wanted to do was teach. I was incredibly disappointed.

But undefeated I kept working and teaching and looking for "that place". I eventually found another that was almost ideal and this landlady was thrilled at the idea of a school. I was her first choice, and very excited. But it was slightly too expensive and slightly out of my target area. I would need more money for rent and lose all my clients at the same time. The business side of me deemed that too risky. So heart in throat, I turned it down. And wondered if I'd come to regret it. Was I being too picky?

There were a few more options. Barn tours. Discussions. But none of them were quite right. And then one day I got an email that suggested perhaps my luck had changed. One place I'd visited earlier had changed their terms slightly -- and it was now essentially ideal. The facilities I was looking for (complete with cross-country course!), right in the centre of my target market and even within budget! In less than two weeks, the lease was negotiated and signed. It was real. I take possession on January 1st.

And as to why I do it? Well because I know from experience that there's absolutely nothing else that could make me this happy.

Wish me luck!

Lauren Cude is the manager and head coach of Graduate Riding School, located in Georgetown ON. Visit <http://www.graduateridingschool.com/blog.htm> to follow her adventure.

2010 Annual General Meeting & Year-End Award Banquet

By: Katie Holman

Once a year, Ontario Eventers leave their breeches & half chaps behind and don fancy threads to attend the Ontario Horse Trials Associations Annual General Meeting and Year-End Awards Banquet. On November 20th, a capacity crowd filled the Cardinal Golf & Country Club, a new location for 2010. With a sprawling lay-out - complete with separate areas for the bar, the buffet and the dining area, centrally located close to Hwy 400 and an incredible menu, Cardinal proved to be a near perfect location. The only draw-back – we still couldn't fit everyone in!

For those who attended the AGM, the OHTA board of directors summarized the activities of 2010. Financial statements were reviewed, the new website was unveiled and 4 new directors were voted onto the board.

After a fantastic buffet dinner, consisting of beef, chicken, seafood and desserts as far as the eye could see, the main event got under way – the awards!

Keeping in rhythm with the show season, the division awards are divided into Open, Junior & Senior. The top 3 placings were awarded to winners from Pre-Entry to Intermediate. Leading Male Rider was Ian Roberts from Dreamcrest, while Leahona Rowland took home a plethora of awards, including Leading Lady Rider, 1st place in the Open Intermediate division and Horse of the Year honours for Lambrusco, whom she co-owns with Katherine Di Genova. Although unable to attend, Selena O'Hanlon received the Kaesar Award for her outstanding contribution aboard Colombo to the Canadian Equestrian Team at this year's World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky, while Penny Rowland took home the OHTA initiated XC Equitation & Safe-style award.

The tremendous success of the Young Rider program in 2010 led to an abundance of Young Rider year-end awards being handed out by national program chair, Linda Plank. Sam Elsenaar aboard Armon took home the Young Rider Intermediate Championship, while Hanna Rankin took home the Young Rider Preliminary Championship on C5's Conflict of Interest for their outstanding performances at this summer's NAJYRC!

Before the dance floor could be cleared for the dancing, which went on well into the night, (and for anyone who didn't stay, you missed Kay & Burle Summers along with the Lehari family doing the Time Warp {again!}) breed awards, Young Event Horse, Novice Adult, Combined Test and Short Course awards were all presented to the smiling winners. Trophies glittered and smiles shone brightly long into the evening as official photographer, Andrew Bailini, wandered the room immortalizing the evening. (Photos from the evening can be viewed [here](#).)

With the OHTA achieving a record number of members in 2010 and judging by the amount of hardware that was awarded at this year's banquet, 2011 is bound to be an exciting year for eventing in Ontario!

Please visit the OHTA website, for a complete list of winners.

Bits & Bites

It is that bittersweet time of year again around the OHTA, when we are pleased to welcome some fresh faces to the board, but also must say goodbye to some familiar ones.

GOINGS:

Robin Winn

Past President, Vice President & Chair, Robin's keen leadership skills guided the board through some of it's most productive years. With a keen eye for business, Robin expanded the Competition Improvement Plan (CIP) & One Event at a Time program into the successes that they are today!

Roseanne Corbett

Past President, Vice President & Chair, Roseanne has done it all! Whether it's keeping track of memberships, awards, points or planning the banquet, organizer's meeting & championships, Roseanne has done it all...and that was only in 2010!

Both Robin & Roseanne may be absent from the board table, but neither will be going very far. The OHTA would be lost without them and they will continue to contribute to our sport from beyond the board room.

COMINGS:**MH Lessard**

MH is the owner and organizer of Equus 3D Horse Trials in Orangeville. A school teacher by day, MH has been an active contributor to the sport of eventing for years. The OHTA welcomes her back to the board room.

Laura Richard

Laura is a marketing professional who currently works in the sponsorship industry consulting to both properties and corporations. Laura is hoping to further develop the marketing and sponsorship program of eventing in Ontario.

Laurie Stoneman

Laurie Stoneman comes from the financial industry and over the last 12 years has held Senior Management positions for large and complex projects. Her work related education and training includes Project Management, Process Design, and various Management and Leadership programs.

Pat Frewen-Lord

Pat is also a returning director. She has held numerous positions on the OHTA board in the past, including Competitions Chair. She has been a well-respected Technical Delegate in Ontario for the past 15 years and brings an infinite depth of experience to the board.

New Judge in our midst...

As organizers prepare their omnibus pages and finalize their judges for the 2011 season, you will be happy to know that MH Lessard has just received her "R" status for Dressage Judging. Congratulations MH!

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO FOR MEMBERSHIPS TO COMPETE IN 2011

EQUINE CANADA is a must

Take your time with this...lots of boxes!!

Make sure you tick off the 'eventing box'

Check to make sure you're the right category (ex. Silver for training level)

Check Amateur status if applicable

Check horse license fee

For example:

In total for a training level horse/adult rider you will have

EC sport license fee \$60

Amateur fee \$10

Horse license fee \$10

Eventing affiliation fee \$20

Total \$100

Equine Canada site also has your new medical armband form for 2011, good time to get this form over with too!!

ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION is a must.

The OEF form also has your OHTA membership renewal.

Lots of boxes, take your time here too.

Example of above rider

OEF \$60

OHTA \$53

There are other donations/services/subscriptions offered as well at your discretion.

If you're still uncertain of which associations to join, visit our memberships page.

OHTA Silent Night Auction

December 11 - 20, 2010

Earlier this year, the OHTA held it's annual Spring Seminar. This year's format was a jump building seminar with professional builder and OHTA Director, Mo Von Roeder. The result of that seminar was a beautiful XC jump. This auction is being held to sell-off the jump to the highest bidder, with the proceeds going into the Competition Improvement Plan (CIP) for future use.

Please visit the Auction page on the OHTA website for more details!!!

<http://www.horsetrials.on.ca/auction>

Pet Peeves

Some Pet Peeves from around our Horse Trials, Short Courses & Combined Tests, as submitted by some of our members...

- Only beige or white breeches should be worn for dressage or show-jumping
- Only white saddles pads in the dressage ring
- Only a plain black helmet (or cover) for dressage (no xc colours!)
- Those who haven't learned the warm-up ring rules (ie. left to left)
- Those who don't keep their horses tail banded and tidy
- Gray horses with manure stains
- Girls who don't keep their hair tidy under their helmets - hairnets should be your friend!
- Coaches who wander into the middle of the warm-up ring (dressage) rather than coaching from the sidelines; there's limited space & it needs to be left for the horses & riders
- Flourescent colours & animal prints
- Spray painting/dying your horses...this is eventing, not a costume class.
- Dirty horses & dirty tack. It's a group effort, let's all try to look professional out there!

Have a Pet Peeve? Send it to us.

Kingston Short Course Eventing Series

By: Katie Holman

It has been said that necessity is the mother of invention and with horse trials lacking in the eastern Ontario area, Cathy Colwell along with Joe McAllister, Cathy's husband, and long time supporter of Corner-Stone Farm set out the remedy their void. Having been a strong supporter of eventing in the region for years, Colwell-McAllister decided to offer an affordable alternative for those wanting to give eventing a try. The solution – introduce Short Course to the area!

A short course is an exciting new take on traditional eventing. It's an expanded version of the combined test, where XC type fences are integrated into the jumping phase. Like normal horse trials, the dressage phase is completed first, followed by the stadium/XC phase; a continuous round of stadium jumps, moving out into the XC fields and then finishing up once again in the stadium ring. It is an excellent introduction to horse trials or eventing at a new level.

Corner-Stone Farm ran their first Short Course in early 2008; an in-barn "invitational" which drew 20+ entries. With the layout of their property, Colwell knew a short course format would be perfect for them. At the end of the day, competitors went home with smiles, ribbons and the knowledge that they just had a positive and safe experience. With the success of their first short course, Corner-Stone Farm decided to add another one later that fall.

Dear Cathy,

I have been wanting you to know that because of your short course in the spring, which was accessible enough to make me feel I could do it, I went to Hawkeridge for September and did Oakhurst pre-entry on the 27th. Unfortunately, it meant not doing your show, which I hope went well. We had a great time and it all went well. I never would have conceived of doing it if not for your show in the spring.

So if one of your goals is to make a venue inviting enough to get people going in eventing, it completely accomplished that goal with me.

Will be aiming for more pre-entry, possibly entry next year.

Thank you, Diana Wyatt

By 2009, the short course bug was spreading throughout the region. In addition to Corner-Stone Farms two short course events, other farms in the area joined in. Emerald Meadows, operated by Allison Montgomery and Costalotta Farm's Cyndi & Jen Boogaards each added a short course to the schedule.

With the addition of Wendy Waller of Charleston Lake Riding School in 2010, the Kingston Short Course Eventing Series was born. A fantastic series has emerged where 6 of the 11 short courses in Ontario are held in the Kingston area. Janet Zizian, a sponsor of the provincial year-end awards, guided this series through its first year with her infinite wisdom.

As you know, I REALLY enjoyed this summer and all six of the Short Course Events. I feel blessed to have been invited to ride at these four farms and deeply appreciated all the hard work that everyone put into these shows. I found them to be VERY welcoming and forgiving and supportive.

EVERYONE was friendly and helpful and truly made me feel that the motto of these shows was “the success of all participants”. Also, the fact that all these shows were quite close made it very convenient and somewhat stress free. The close distance together with the specific ride times, made it very relaxing. We would arrive early enough to walk the course and prepare for dressage and then relax a bit and then get ready for our jumping time. I will probably never move to a higher division than what is offered at the short courses but for young people just starting out who have dreams of riding at a higher level, these shows will instill confidence in an atmosphere of friends and support and camaraderie where there is no other agenda other than success.

The other item I liked was that the Jr. and Sr. Riders are separate. I am a senior rider that enjoys and is comfortable at the 18” level for now. I do not want to be perceived as stealing ribbons from little girls (and usually they kicked my butt). This show series divided the Jr. and Sr. riders so I did not feel out of place competing against the Jr. Riders. Again, a very welcoming and non-judgmental way of allowing everyone (young and old and oldest) to compete, enjoy and not feel bad about succeeding.

I have told all my friends (mostly seniors) and will hope to have an Old Gals club attending next season.

Sincerely, Debbie Givens

At the Ontario Horse Trials Association year-end awards banquet, held November 20th at Cardinal Golf & Country Club, Kingston swept the short course pre-entry division, with Alex Legget on McKenzie as Champion and Alex Morgan on Heart O’Gold finishing as Reserve Champion. What a way to cap off an outstanding season!

From one little in-barn show has sprouted an entire short course series. Cathy Colwell is thrilled to be able to promote inviting, affordable, local fun where safety is paramount!

“(short courses)make a great introduction to the sport. The short course still incorporates dressage – which is so important. I feel it really proves the riders skills and training.”

For 2011, Kingston is pleased to be hosting the series again, with 6 shows on the calendar once again.

Kingston Short Course Eventing Series Dates

Emerald Meadows May 15, 2011 .

Corner Stone Farm June 19, 2011 .

Costalotta Farm July 10, 2011.

Charleston Lake July 31, 2011.

Corner Stone Farm August 28, 2011.

Emerald Meadows Oct 16, 2011.

For more information on this series, please visit their website
<http://shortcourseeventserieskingston.yolasite.com/host-sites.php>

In Memoriam of Russell Smith

By: Nicole Parkin

This past November, the Canadian eventing community lost a dear friend.

The amount Russell Smith has contributed to Canadian Eventing has been little acknowledged. At Checkmate Farms, Russell ran over 30 years of eventing in Ontario. The number of Canadian eventers young and old that have a happy memory of galloping across Russell's land is in the thousands.

Russell financed the development of our very first Omnibus and rule book, and as treasurer of Horse Trials Canada he was known to balance the books with a personal cheque.

To benefit our National Team, Russell hosted training camps, bringing coaches like Lars Cedarhome, Jack LeGoff and Peter Gray. There are many Team riders that benefited from his generosity, David Wilding Davies, Nick Holmes Smith and Stuart Black to name a few and he was honoured last year at the Canadian Eventing Hall of Fame Gala Dinner in Toronto after many years as an organizer, supporter and owner of many top level horses.

From Entry level to Advanced, Russell provided a place for so many of us to enjoy this fabulous sport.

At Checkmate I worked with Russell for five years. He taught me how to run an event, and he provided me with an opportunity to learn and have a career in this industry. He was a strong man with a strong spirit and an incredible work ethic. He was one of a kind, and he will be missed.

Organizer Thoughts

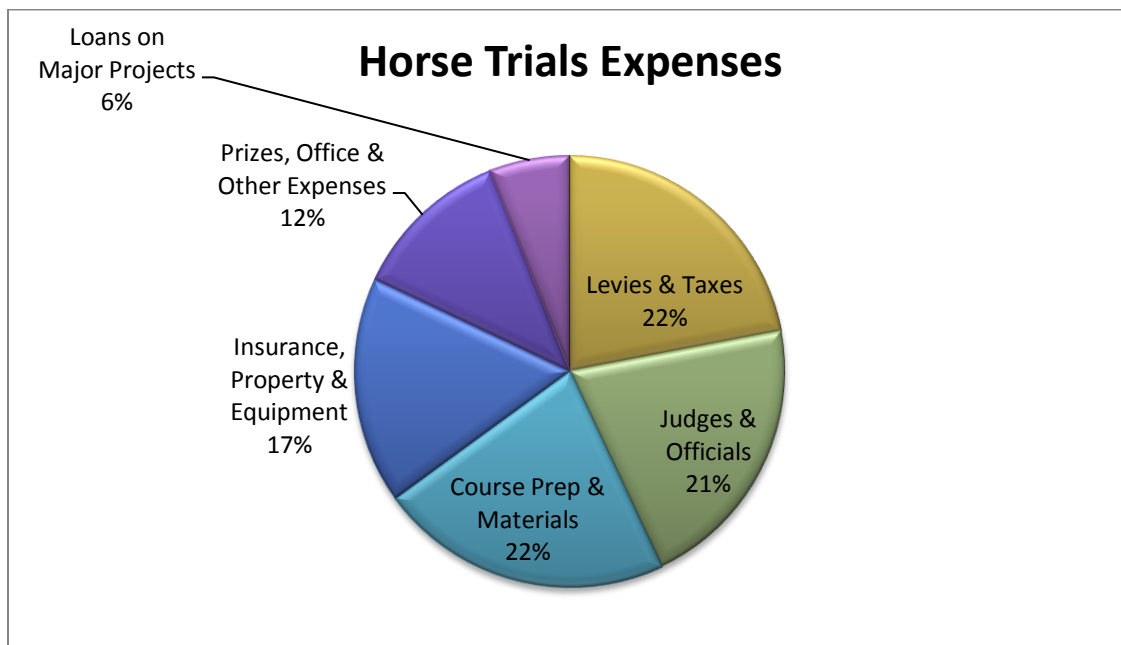
By: Sarah Irving

As Jimmy Crafty and I galloped across the finish line at the Midsouth Team Challenge in Kentucky this past October, I thought to myself *it's sad to see the season ending*. It was another great eventing summer in Ontario, where we are spoiled with so many competitions within a short drive. Having grown up in Quebec, I quickly realized how being based in the Toronto-area was such an advantage. By living in Ontario, you can compete locally at 8-12 horse trials in one season, so I relocated in 1979!

On the drive home from Kentucky, I asked Bob if we actually had a free weekend, but was reminded of the Organizer's Meeting the following Sunday. At the meeting, we worked through the agenda and discussed ways to improve our competitions. The OHTA has many programs in place to support our events and these were reviewed at length. Discussions turned to how it only takes one person to put a damper on an otherwise enjoyable weekend. We shared stories of, after weeks of tiring preparations, a competitor or parent complaining about something completely out of our control or about something on our "wish list" should we win the lottery! I suggested at the meeting putting on paper for our members, a break-down of where their entry fees actually

go. Each organizer reminded me of expenses that are often over-looked. Taking our August books, I added up the 42 cheques and 14 debit charges and put the expenses into categories. Here is how it breaks down:

1. Levies & Taxes (each entry includes: drug fees, HST, EC permit fees, \$10 EC Levy, \$5 OHTA Levy)
2. Judges & Officials (Dressage & Stadium judges, TD, Announcer/Control, Secretary, Website, Scoring, Timers, Hotel Rooms, Vet, Blacksmith, EMS crew)
3. Course Preparation & Materials (Lumber, logs, timber, posts, oak, labour – jump building, staking jumps, pinning oxers, cedar stuffing, path cutting, trimming. Paint, stain, flowers, decorations, flags, footing, sand, gravel, bulldozing, harrowing, stadium poles & fillers)
4. Insurance, property expenses & equipment (over 6 years) (Property lease, equipment repairs & maintenance – tractors, movers, harrows, weedwhackers, generators, diesel, water truck, tools, etc...)
5. Prizes, Office & Other expenses (Programs, XC #'s, bridle #'s, photocopies – dressage tests, score sheets, time sheets, etc. Portolets, volunteer lunches, volunteer lottery, YMCA donation, re: volunteers, ribbons, prizes, prize money & refunds)
6. Loans on major projects (over 6 years) (eg. 20 portable stalls, expansion of dressage area, 3 new dressage rings & letters)



Hopefully, that clarifies a little of what it takes to run an event. We have been fortunate enough to have good entries, which enables us to have funds for new jumps for future events.

We are so grateful to have volunteers to scribe & jump judge and we hope that the OHTA continues with the Volunteer Lottery, as it is a fantastic incentive to get out there and support our sport! The OHTA's Competition Improvement Program (CIP) is another great benefit to both the organizers and the members, as it allows us, the organizers, to add new jumps to our courses so that you, the members, are able to gallop across the finish line with smiles on your faces! Good luck from Grandview Horse Trials in 2011!

The EVENTER *Word Search*

W	I	T	S	E	N	D	Z	M	U	I	D	A	T	S
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I	A	R	Y	G	R	A	N	D	V	I	E	W	Y	E
L	K	T	T	L	R	R	E	T	A	W	O	O	S	M
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H	O	E	L	C	R	I	C	D	E	E	P	S	H	R
T	L	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	S	S	O	R	C	D

Only words in CAPS can be found in the puzzle

CALEDON

GLEN ORO

(optimum) TIME

CANTERDOWN

GRANDVIEW

TOUCH A RAINBOW

CEDAR RUN

HORSE TRIALS

TRAVERS

CIRCLE

LANES END

TROT

CROSS COUNTRY

LOG

WATER

DITCH

NOVICE (adult)

WILL O WIND

DREAMCREST

OAKHURST

WITS END

DRESSAGE

OHTA

WOODWIND

EVENTER

OTTAWA

EQUUS

SPEED

GIRTH

STADIUM