



COR BITS

Feedback is Welcome ... Please send comments or suggestions to [Bob Inglis](#), COR Communications Chair.

May, 2001

Central Ontario Region is off to a great start to the 2001 season. Our schedule is full, and there are many choices for member participation. As we did last year, we urge all members, parents and volunteers to download the rules for the various competitions from our web site. Since members are responsible for knowing the rules for the competitions they enter, each of you should have a copy to study and to take along to competitions. Parents and volunteers should also be familiar with rules. For example, only the DC or designated representative is allowed to enter a protest if there is a question of the way the rules have been applied. We have found, over the years, that most of the problems that arise do so because someone didn't know really the rules, thought they should be written some way other than they are, and got very upset without real cause. Our volunteers and officials work very hard to apply the rules as written, as fairly as they can. This isn't to say mistakes never happen - we're all human. We can save ourselves confusion, upset and conflict if we do our homework before the show.

Working Rallies

The southern Working Rally was held May 18 to 20 at Bethany. We had 100 participants registered for this one, same as last year. As in previous years, spaces filled up very quickly and there was a waiting list.

The second Working Rally will be hosted by Sudbury Branch at Foothills Farm June 1 to 3 for Sudbury area Branches.

There was to have been a Working Rally hosted by Temiskaming Branch at Wabibrook Equestrian Centre on May 19, 20 and 21 with clinicians Martha Griggs and Kate Farrell. This rally was to have serve members in the north western Branches. Unfortunately, registration was insufficient to go ahead. Temiskaming will hold clinics instead.

The Working Rally format, with instruction in all disciplines plus stable management, has grown in popularity over the past four years. Must be a testament to the value our members feel they receive from attending. It does appear, however, that there isn't enough interest in the North to warrant holding two Rallies up there.

Regional Quiz

Our Regional Quiz was held on April 28 at Sutton District High School. Congratulations are due to all competitors who showed up determined to demonstrate their horse-related knowledge. Special congratulations are due to those who earned spots on the COR teams for National Quiz (Pacific Odessey - Thanksgiving weekend in Victoria BC). Our A/B team will consist of Heidi Breen (Tynedale), Charlotte Winder (Timberline), Anne Revill (Napanee) and Christina Meyer (Napanee). Our C team will consist of Becky McQuaid (Tynedale), Tiffany Kift (Oshawa), Kayla Williams (Victoria) and Megan Mattos (Kawartha). Good luck in Victoria, girls. We're sure you'll do us proud.

Quiz Chair Catherine Burke reports that project judges Gwen Boyles and Carmen Cotter had a really tough time because the projects were so good this year. They couldn't decide a winner and declared a tie between Sudbury and Oshawa. The projects were of different topics and the knowledge and enthusiasm from the groups was very evident. Well done!

Prince Philip Games/Masters Games

The first meet was held at Durward's farm on May 13. The weather was windy and chilly but nowhere near as bad as for the first meet last year. If you haven't seen a PPG or Masters competition, you really should attend the next meet on June 3 (same place). The games are great fun for riders, ponies and spectators, with cheering encouraged. The skills these players must develop have to be seen to be believed. Come on out and cheer them along.

Horse Riding Safety Act

MPP Tina Molinari (Progressive Conservative Thornhill) has re-introduced into the Legislature a private member's bill entitled Horse Riding Safety Act 2001. If passed, this legislation will require riding establishments to ensure that all riders under the age of 18 wear appropriate footwear and approved riding helmets when mounted. There would be additional safety measures required under this act. The Ontario Equestrian Federation and the Association of Riding Establishments of Ontario have endorsed the proposed legislation. Central Ontario Region Visiting Commissioner, Bruce Brown, an Executive member of both OEF and ARE-Ont has worked with Ms Molinari on this project. Messages of support to Ms Molinari and/or your own MPP could be helpful in getting the legislation passed. Pony Club has made it mandatory that it's members wear approved helmets and appropriate footwear for lo these many years. We'll keep you posted on developments.

Get Well Soon, Linda!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Linda Denis, Huronia Branch DC and National PPG Chair. Linda was injured in a riding accident in April (yes, she was wearing a helmet and boots) when her young horse spooked, threw her and stepped on her. She was in Sunnybrook hospital in Toronto for about two weeks, but is home now. We hear she is coming along well with help from family and friends. Regional Chair, Karol Shipley, visited Linda taking flowers and a card from the Region with her.

In Memoriam Tommy Thompson

Many of us, especially those on the Regional Committee and/or involved with Dressage have had the pleasure of working with Visiting Commission Toni Thompson. Toni has a long history in Pony Club as founding DC in several places, Regional Dressage Chair, judge and resource to us all on dressage matters. She was one of the organizers for the World Cup Dressage competition when it was held in Cedar Valley Ontario (now the York Equestrian Centre) in 1986. Always at Toni's right hand was her husband, Tommy. Alas, Tommy passed away in December 2000.

Toni writes:

Tommy was always a help when his family got involved with Pony Club in North Bay, Sudbury, London and finally during our stay of 21 years in Thornhill when he helped with functions taking place at Leitchcroft and some Regional activities such as the Tetrathlon, etc.

Initially these activities were generated by our own children but they finished with grandchildren, particularly Kiristen Thompson who was a member of Leitchcroft and then Toronto & North York. The other members of the family, over the years, were Jim, Phil, David and Jennifer, our four children, then with Jessica and Clifford Jackman of Ottawa, children of our daughter, Jennifer, as well as Kristen, daughter of our son, Philip.

He (Tommy) was always so supportive to me, his wife of almost 50 years, with all my horsey activities. I think the most outstanding activity was when I was Director of Competition for the World Dressage Championships in 1986 when he helped for hours with timetables and working in the Competition Office from dawn to dusk. At the time he had just retired from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (Note: I have heard from FEI judges that this was an unusually well run competition - Liz Inglis).

He was not a horseman but he was a very good sounding board for all the usual horsey trials and tribulations and was always unflinching with praise when someone in the crowd succeeded in a goal whether passing a Pony Club test, winning a Championship or Judging a high level show.

He will be sadly missed by the whole family."

Families like the Thompsons are the backbone of Pony Club, whether as members, volunteers, Regional officials or supporters in the background. They deserve to be cherished wherever they are found, and for sure, Tommy's memory is cherished.

We Have Another New Branch!

Welcome to the Brooklin Pony Club. This new Branch is located in the Brooklin area just north of Whitby, and is based at the farm of Pony Club alumna Tiffany DeWitt.

Melissa Webster Benefit Show

About a year ago, Melissa Webster, Kawartha Branch alumna and daughter of COR Treasurer Elaine Webster, was seriously injured in a car accident in Alberta. Melissa continues to fight bravely and tenaciously to regain as much mobility as possible, but still must use a wheelchair.

On May 26th a benefit horse show was held at Saddlewood with proceeds going to Melissa. It's great to see her home community and Branch working so hard to help her. Central Ontario held a raffle for Melissa at our AGM. We're all rooting for her.