



COR BITS

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COR Communications Chair.

November, 2002

Year-end Awards

Our fourth annual year-end awards banquet was held at Gallantry's in Pickering on November 2. As usual we need to say a big "Thank you!" to those who spent so much time organizing this affair.

One of the main reasons (excuses?) for the banquet was to honour Central Ontario members who had distinguished themselves in competition during the past season. Here are this year's winners.

Dressage

Beginner 1-2 - The Champion was Christine Oldridge of the Victoria Pony Club who rode Snow Pony Jack Pine, and the Reserve was Monica Ruegsegger of the Bowmanville Pony Club, whose pony was called Star.

Beginner 2-3 - The Champion was Sarah Angus of the Maple Pony Club who rode Let's Go Cowboy, and the Reserve was Jennifer McKeen of the Oshawa Pony Club, riding Teagan.

Beginner 2, Basic 1 - The Champion was Julie Pett of the Victoria Pony Club on Tim Bit, with Kaley Fountain, also of Victoria, in Reserve on Thunder.

Basic 1-2 - The Champion was Kylie Pinder of Victoria riding Let's Rhumba, with Katie Murray of the Durham Pony Club the Reserve on Jamane.

Basic 2-3 - Jordan Thompson of Durham took the Championship on Braveheart, with Amelia Jones of Victoria the Reserve on Breezin.

Basic 3-4 - Natalie Quinn-Steinburg of the Maple Pony Club was Champion aboard L'Enfin, with no Reserve.

Basic 4, Medium 1 - Jenny Rae of Victoria was Champion on Avalon, with Megan Mattos of the Kawartha Pony Club the Reserve riding Freddy the Freak.

Beginner Kur - The Champion was Andrea McGill of Durham on Cloud #9, with Jessica McCarron of Kawartha the Reserve riding Tess.

Basic 2 Kur - Rebecca Olscher was Champion riding Finnegan, with Jessie Barrieau of Victoria in Reserve whose pony was Keep on Dreamin'.

The new Wes Goff Perpetual Award for year-end overall high point average (donated by Audrey Robbescheuten) went to Jordan Thompson and Braveheart.

Rallies

Entry Level - The Champion was Katie Stephenson of Maple, riding Masquerade, and the Reserve was Kathryn Robertson of the Uxbridge-Scugog Pony Club on Kobalt.

Pre-Training Level - Amelia Jones of Victoria was Champion riding Breezin, with Durham's Jordan Thompson and Braveheart the Reserve.

Training Level - Kendall Lehari of the Toronto & North York Pony Club won the Championship on She's All That, with Kitty Baker and Irish Willie, also of Toronto & North York, in Reserve.

Preliminary Level - Unfortunately there were no awards at this level.

International Fox Hunting - Awards were presented to Kitty Baker of Toronto & North York, John Jamieson of Kawartha and Katie Shipley of Pickering, for their participation in the international fox hunt organized by the USPC.

Show Jumping

Pre-Entry Division A1 - This new Division was for riders ten years old or under. The Champion was Kara Phinney of the Brooklin Pony Club riding Allen. The Reserve was another Brooklin member, Stephanie Toms, who rode Valentine.

Pre-Entry Division A2 - This Division was for riders 11 years or older. The Champion was Sam Elsenaar of Ajax, riding Champagne Cocktail, with another Ajax member, Monica Jones, in Reserve riding Tex.

Pre-Entry Division B - The Champion was Rebecca Simmons of Durham, riding Bianca. The Reserve was Mori Cruikshanks of Uxbridge-Scugog on Eskimo Pie.

Trophies for the Pre-Entry Divisions were donated by the Ajax Pony Club.

Entry Division - Jessica McVittie of the Temiskaming Pony Club was the Champion on Merrylegs, with Julia McGill of Durham in Reserve on D'Artagnan.

The trophy for the Entry Division was donated by the Temiskaming Pony Club.

Starter Division - Ashley Milne of the Pickering Pony Club was Champion on Overtime, and Madison Reeves of Uxbridge-Scugog was Reserve riding Pandora.

Beginner Division - Jessie Barrieau of Victoria was Champion on Keep on Dreamin', with Amelia Jones, also of Victoria, the Reserve on Breezin.

Novice Division - Kendal Lehari of the Toronto & North York Pony Club was Champion riding Aiysha, with Andrea Edwards of the Uxbridge-Scugog Pony Club the Reserve on Romeo.

Intermediate Division - Mike Durward of the Uxbridge-Scugog Branch repeated as Champion riding Gerrie Maguyre. There was no Reserve.

Advanced Division - We are sorry to report that there was no competition at the Advanced level this year. Maybe next year ...

Tetrathlon

This discipline does not have year end awards based on cumulative results, since there is only one competition, but we did recognize Central Ontario' representatives at this year's National Tetrathlon (ably staged by our own Carmen Cotter in the Peterborough area). The following pony clubbers were presented with medallions:

Junior Girls - Maddie Baker of Toronto & North York; Kendal Lehari, also of Toronto & North York.

Junior Boys - Ian Hutcheson of the Centaurus Pony Club; Tristan Lehari of Toronto & North York; Zachary McCue of Kawartha.

Senior Girls - Courtney Cotter of the Timberline Pony Club; Brittany Emery of Toronto & North York.

Prince Philip Games

This is another discipline that does not have year end awards, but recognized the members of our winning teams.

C Level - Tynedale's Red team took the honours. The members were Sarah Bagworth, Sarah Baker, Laura Jessop and Jacqueline Salome, and the coach was Kathryn Clark.

B Level - Tynedale again finished first, with a team comprising Christina Chamney, Claire Goodchild, Genrys Goodchild, Danielle Heft and Morgan Taylor, again coached by Kathryn Clark.

A Level - Our Central Ontario Champions came from the Temiskaming Pony Club. They were Bethany Brown, Shawna Chester, Candace McMahon and Jessica McVittie, coached by Julie Brown. This team also won the Central Canada Zone Championship and went to the National A Championship in Vancouver, where they finished fifth.

Masters Level - Our Regional Champions for 2002 were the Uxbridge-Scugog "Cowboys" whose members were Brent Couch, Jeff Couch, Mike Durward, Lisa Pascoe and Lorraine Smith. This team won the Central Canada Zone Championships, and, in the National Championships (again staged by Central Ontario, with thanks to Maisie and Charlie Durward, Sally Chamney and Dace Phillips), the "Cowboys" defeated the Alberta North Region and Prairie Zone Champions, the "Mohicans." ("Cowboys beat Indians" - Is that related to "Dog Bites Man"?)

Quiz

Members of our teams that competed at National Quiz in Winnipeg were recognized. They were:

C Team - Kitty Baker, Toronto & North York Pony Club; Roanne English, Napanee Pony Club; Kate Evans, Maple Pony Club; Maya Kenedy, Eglinton Pony Club.

A/B Team - Allison Birdsall, Uxbridge-Scugog Pony Club; Megan Mattos, Kawartha Pony Club; Ann Revill and Meridith Smith, both Napanee Pony Club.

Maya Kenedy had the highest score among the Central Canada Zone competitors, and was named to the five-member Team Canada that took on Team U.S.A. in an Oral showdown. The result? Please think back to the Olympic hockey gold medal games and you will have the answer.

Last but not least, the Karen Meuleman Award, for sportsmanship, helpfulness and contribution to Pony Club, went to Jesse Loucks of the Kawartha Pony Club.

The discerning reader will have noticed that some Pony Clubbers' name appeared more than once in the "Honours List." Special congratulations are due to:

- o Kitty Baker of Toronto & North York - Rallies and Fox Hunting.
- o Jessie Barrieau of Victoria - Dressage and Show Jumping.
- o Mike Durward of Uxbridge-Scugog - Show Jumping and PPG.
- o Amelia Jones of Victoria - Dressage, Rallies and Show Jumping.
- o Kendal Lehari of Toronto & North York - Rallies, Show Jumping and Tetrathlon.
- o Megan Mattos of Kawartha - Dressage and Quiz.
- o Jessica McVittie of Temiskaming - Show Jumping and PPG.
- o Jordan Thompson of Durham - Dressage, Rallies and Show Jumping.

Unpresented Awards

For some unaccountable reason, the following awards were not presented this year:

Best Water-Fight Starter -Champion was a tie between Brittany Emery and Maddie Baker, both of the Toronto & North York Pony Club, for their fine work at National Tetrathlon. Reserve was Charlie Durward; space does not permit listing all the occasions on which Charlie displayed his skill in this event .

Best-dressed at the Awards Banquet - 96-way tie for Champion; space does not permit listing all those who tied for this award.

Golden Bowl of Cream for cattiest remark of the year) - No entries this year.

Flirt of the Year (Male) - Champion was Charlie Durward, with no Reserve (no contest, either).

Flirt of the Year (Female) - 796-way tie for Champion; space does not permit etc etc.

Note: It has been suggested that, next year, Champion and Reserve be declared for Flirt of the Year by Division, as follows.

For active members and Pony Club aged siblings:

Pre-Training, Training, Entry, Novice, Starter, Beginner, Preliminary and Intermediate.

For older siblings, Moms, Dads, friends, relatives, fan-clubs, volunteers, officials and assorted hangers-on:

Younger Barbie/Ken, Older Barbie/Ken, and Mature/Geezer.

Comments welcome.

News from National Tet

Or

Carmen Cotter's Terrible, Awful, No-Good, Very Bad Morning

(with humble apologies to Judith Viorst)

Bob Inglis, who was Announcer at both Regional/Zone Rally and National Tetrathlon, tells what went on behind the scenes, between the two events.

After the Rally on Saturday, some of us went to Jan Jamieson's house in Bridgenorth (thanks, Jan) to stuff entry packages for National Tetrathlon which was to start Sunday. Things ran late, and it was past 11 on a hot August night when Carmen Cotter, who organized National Tet, her daughter Courtney and I reached the Hospitality office of Trent University in Peterborough, led there through the dark back-roads by Mary-Debra Blakeley (thanks, M-D). Trent rents out its dorms during the summer, and National Tetrathlon competitors and officials were housed there. Most of them did not arrive until Sunday, but those of us from outside the Peterborough area stayed over instead of driving all the way home Saturday night and all the way back Sunday morning.

Chickadees in the Office

We were worried that that the person waiting for us might be annoyed at our late arrival, or that the office might even be closed.

Far from it. Not only was the office open, we were welcomed by a young lady who was as cheery and chirpy as a tree-full of chickadees. I didn't get her name, so she must be known as Ms. Chickadees. She showed us which dorms we were in, which keys opened the doors to the buildings and which the doors to our rooms, apologized for the burned out lights and the swallows' nests, and went back to her office.

My key to the outer door worked, but the room key was a problem, as frisky students had taken all the numbers off the doors. I had to keep trying until a door opened, hoping the other rooms were empty. They were, thank goodness.

Bats in the Bedroom

Now I must say a word about the Trent dorms. They were striking from the outside and had won architecture prizes. That's where all the money and thinking went, though, because the insides were something else. "Goofy" comes to mind. Room lighting is the best example. When you open the door from the corridor, there is no light switch within reach. There is only a desk lamp on the far side of the room. BUT, there is a big doorstop on the floor,

invisible in the darkness and right on the path to the desk - ideal for stubbing toes and tripping the unwary. Beside the desk lamp there is a switch for the only overhead light in the room, cleverly located inside the closet.

The next night, Carmen found that her room had an "added attraction" in the form of a bat. Not a World Series-type bat, a Dracula-type bat. It scared Carmen, but not as much - so she says - as it scared the Trent security staffer sent over to deal with it. On the list of things you are hoping for in a room to sleep in away from home, bats in the bedroom would usually come even a bit lower than toe-stubbing door-stops or goofy lighting. Okay, 'way lower.

What do you do when you find a bat in your dorm room and the security staff doesn't know how to de-bat it?

A. Lay a trail of Purina Bat Chow down the stairs and hold the outside door open.

B. Point it towards the wedding party who kept revelling until 3 o'clock in the morning. Any neck among them offered the chance to get fed and tipsy with one bite - surely an offer no self-respecting bat could refuse.

C. Abandon your room to Mr. Bat and sleep on the floor in somebody else's room.

Think carefully about your answer, kids. This question could be part of Regional Quiz next Spring. How about it, Ms. Burke? No? NO? I can't believe it. Well, kids, I guess you can relax. (Sigh.)

Anyway, being all out of Purina Bat Chow, Carmen chose Option C, and slept on the floor in Debbie Baker's room (thanks, Debbie).

But I digress. Let us get to the Sunday morning.

Shouts by the River

I was out getting some air and hopefully checking the river for strays from the wedding party when I heard a shout. I went to investigate and found Carmen with steam coming out her ears. Here is what she was shouting about.

She had been in her room when her cell-phone rang with two bad-news calls. First, one of the horse-lenders called to say that he had not realized his horse was going to be asked to go twice, he did not want his horse to go twice, he planned to come by with his trailer and take the horse away to make sure it did not go twice, etc etc etc - this on the first day of the event.

But this is not when Carmen shouted, though I'm sure she felt like it.

Next, she got a call from one of the out-of-province competitors to say he had changed his flight plans and would need to be picked up at the Toronto airport at quarter past noon - this at about 8:30.

Carmen still did not shout. No, no.

She tried to call Del Zelmer of Western Ontario Region, who was picking people up from the airport (thanks, Del), but found that the phone in her room did not work.

Still not a peep out of Carmen. Patience must be her long suit.

She then tried to use her cell-phone, but it did not work inside her room because the walls were too thick or the lights were too bright or something (I don't understand cell-phones). She and Del could not hear each other and she could not deliver the message.

Carmen may have muttered a bit, but still she did not shout.

So she ran outside with her cell-phone and called again. She got through, and she and Del could hear each other, but just as she started to give him her message her phone's battery died.

And STILL Carmen kept her cool.

At this point, however, she found that she had left her keys in her room and locked herself out of the girls' dorm.

Then she shouted. Well, wouldn't you?

I can't tell you what she shouted. It was a naughty word, probably the naughtiest word you could think of - younger readers, please don't think of it - so naughty, in fact, that I almost went back to the guys' dorm and washed out my own mouth with soap.

Instead, I went to help Carmen. We saw a phone booth, but it turned out to be an internal Trent-only phone (of course).

Luckily, Courtney Cotter stuck her head out of her room's window to see what all the ruckus was about, and Carmen was at least able to get back into her dorm. Getting the word to Del Zelmer remained a problem, however.

Crazy Carol's and Tim Horton's

We decided to go to a nearby service station, looking for gas for our vehicles and a pay phone. It was called Crazy Carol's Gas & Wash. (Really. I am not making any of this up, and I have the gas-bar receipt to prove it. Isn't that the ideal name for a service station right outside the campus of a major university? Those who might confine themselves too closely in the ivory towers of academe just have to set one wheel outside the campus and the sign "Crazy Carol's Gas & Wash" will bring them back to the real world. But I digress again. One thousand pardons, I abase myself before you, etc etc.)

Hey, what do you know? Crazy Carol's had both gas - well, duh - and a phone over by the air hose.

Unfortunately, as soon as Carmen got on the phone, some fool in an old muscle car with a clapped out muffler pulled right up alongside and proceeded to put air in all his tires without turning off his engine.

Maybe Del Zelmer, in Mississauga, could hear this guy's car - without the phone connection - but he sure couldn't hear Carmen. I imagine the conversation went something like this.

Carmen (as Del heard her): *"Thud-thud-thud ...at quarter past... thud-thud-thud... on flight number... thud-thud-thud-thud ... Terminal number... thud-thud-thud ... you get that?"*

Del: "No."

Carmen: "(Censored)"

(Okay, I made up that conversation.)

Luckily, next to Crazy Carol's was a Tim Horton's. It didn't have a pay phone but it did have coffee and Timbits®, and of course any morning looks a little brighter with some Timbits in your tummy. Besides, it was a bat-free zone.

Ms. Chickadees to the Rescue

The story has a happy ending.

Well fortified with Timbits, Carmen set out to find some material so everyone could hang their keys around their necks and nobody else would lock themselves out. I went to the Trent Hospitality office to see about the room phones. It turns out the whole system was shut down for the summer, but the ever-cheery Ms. Chickadees let me use her own cell-phone. She would not even let us pay for the long distance call. (Thanks, Ms. Chickadees.)

On reading this in draft form, my wife Liz said my remarks about Trent were so catty it looked like I was shooting for the Golden Bowl of Cream. I still have the odd issue with Trent's dorms, but providing somebody like Ms. Chickadees to look after the customers makes up for a lot. So I withdraw my remarks - and there go my chances for the Golden Bowl of Cream for another year. (Sigh.)

Anyway, I did reach Del Zelmer, and he did hook up with the young competitor at Toronto International, and got him to the competition, where he did quite well by the way.

The rest of Carmen's day was fine - until she found Mr. Bat whooping it up in her room, of course. (Maybe Mr. Bat had dropped in on the wedding party for a nip or two - so to speak - before getting into Carmen's room.)

Oh yes. Everyone had a horse, even the second set of riders. All's well that ends well.

We did temporarily misplace one of the out of town chaperones at the Toronto airport, but that's another story.

Carmen's Choice

Carmen will not be back as COR Tetrathlon Chair next year - not because of these events, nor this story (we cleared it with her, except for this part). I think it is because she knew there was no way to top this year's effort and wanted to go out in a blaze of glory. And that she did. Thanks, Carmen.

Late note: Carmen Cotter was this year's recipient of the Chairman's Award as Central Ontario's Volunteer of the Year.