



COR BITS

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

Spring 2005

This is going to be a rather short CORBITS, because the season has not started yet, and we have not had very much news about off-season activity in the Branches (thanks to Northumberland Pony Club, which sent along its own Branch newsletter).

The Canadian Pony Club Wall of Fame

Some of you may have seen a mention of the planned Canadian Pony Club Wall of Fame in "News from National" or in the Communications report to the April 16 Regional Committee meeting. For those of you who missed it, here is the story. First, a little background. Back in 1990, the Eglinton Pony Club decided to honour some of its alumni and other people associated with the Branch, by assembling a series of plaques for the wall of the club-house. They called it the Eglinton Pony Club Wall of Fame. Being the oldest Branch in Canada, Eglinton had a head start on everyone else, and there are now 23 such plaques, honouring people like Tom Gayford, Jim Elder, Jim and Doug Henry, Lisa Carlsen - I won't attempt to list all of them from memory but you get the picture.

Last year, the Canadian Pony Club Communications Chair (to whom I happen to be married) was thinking up ways to celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary, and came up with the idea that Eglinton's Wall of Fame should be expanded to cover distinguished alumni from all CPC Branches, as part of the website. The Board of Directors approved the idea, and at the Annual General Meeting, April 2, we borrowed Eglinton's plaques for the day and put them at the back of the room for people to look at. Liz unfortunately was ill that day, so I stood in for her and made a PowerPoint presentation about it. As part of that presentation, we suggested a few people to be considered for nomination, for example, Ian Millar (how many of you knew that "Captain Canada" passed his Pony Club "A" test?), Torchy Millar, Sandra Sillcox and Michael Gutowski. The reaction from those at the AGM was about the best anybody could have hoped for - many of them started making lists of people they wanted to nominate. I heard the names of many prominent riders whom I never knew had been Pony Clubbers in other parts of the country, people like Laura Tidball-Balisky and Gina Smith. That's okay, because many people from other regions came up to me to say that they had never realized so many of the illustrious riders whose plaques were at the back of the room were Pony Club grads.

Eglinton has a head start on everyone else, as mentioned earlier, but people from other COR Branches should be thinking about making lists, too. 2009 is not so far away. If your Branch has a grad whom you think deserves to be honoured alongside some of the others mentioned in this article, here is what you do. A nomination form is being prepared, but even before it is available, you can find out contact information for your candidates, and maybe ask them whether they will agree to let their names stand. We need permission to put people's names on our web-site, remember. If you are thinking of a posthumous nomination, we still need to touch base with the next of kin, so you could look for contact information for them. You can also be preparing your arguments on behalf of your nominees. That can mean checking records or even archives, since some of Canada's great

Pony Club riders may have represented their country in the 1940s and 1950s. And of course, the Wall of Fame should not be limited to riders. It should include grads who are or were international level coaches (like Michael Gutowski), officials (like Sandra Sillcox), course designers etc. A formal set of criteria will be issued as soon as a few details are worked out by the 75th Anniversary Committee.

Pony Club has a great history in Canada, though some people seem to have forgotten that. The Wall of Fame is a way to show our pride in that history, and we hope everyone will pitch in to help.

Thornlea Stables Hunter Schooling Series '05

Sue Robinson, a former Regional Chair and current Visiting Commissioner, has asked me to mention the above series, run by Durham Pony Club grads Heather and Victoria Robinson. Unfortunately the first two shows in this series have already gone by while I was waiting for more material for this issue, but there is still one to come, on May 15. Those of you not playing PPG that day may want to look into it. The show offers both flat classes and three different divisions over fences (from cross-rail to 2'6"-2'9"). Thornlea is also interested in running shows at the request of inquiring organizations, or, if you want to run your own, the facility can be rented. For more information, get in touch with Heather or Victoria at 905-655-5126. Thornlea Stables are on Howden Road between Thornton and Simcoe, about three and a half miles from Brooklin.

Show Jumping Clinic

This is addressed to Active Members. Please don't forget the show jumping clinic coming up on May 8. Last season saw too many falls, and during the Regional Committee meetings over the winter a lot of people expressed concern about what they saw as the deteriorating quality of riding in COR. Okay, maybe some of that was the "Nostalgia isn't what it used to be" syndrome, but much of it was justified. Kate Evans, who handles the accident reports at the OEF office, mentioned that on one weekend, she got more reports from one of our Regional Pony Club shows than from an A show at Palgrave with more than 500 horses in it. That caused a lot of wrinkled brows and furrowed foreheads, which you could help smooth out by taking this clinic. It will make you a better rider, and it might even get you a few more ribbons. More to the point, it will help make you a safer rider. Necks are more important than ribbons, and we have had enough of "necks for sale" riding. Too much of it, in fact.

Best of luck to all for the coming season.