



COR BITS

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COR Communications Chair.

Spring 2007

Pony Club Members Win OEF Bursaries

Central Ontario Pony Club members won six out of a total of 15 bursaries awarded by the Ontario Equestrian Federation this year, to pursue further equine training and/or education.

Another two went to members of Western Ontario Region Branches, giving Pony Club a majority of this year's bursaries - an amazing accomplishment. Central Ontario winners were:

- Paula Benjamin - Northumberland Branch - Paula, 16, is a grade 11 student at East Northumberland Secondary School. Her planned Pony Club activities for the coming season include show jumping and rally on her horse Aces High, as well as taking part in the Pony Club academic competition, quiz, and the Pony Club testing system. In addition to her Pony Club activities, Paula competes in eventing, hunter classes and show jumping. Her riding objectives for the year include testing for her Pony Club C level. She also plans to participate in the Mentor program and become a certified riding instructor. Longer term, Paula hopes to become a veterinarian, and now does co-op work at both Northumberland Veterinary Services and the Oakcrest Equestrian Centre, both in Colborne. Says Ms Benjamin, "I plan to use the OEF funds to assist me in paying for my rider/instructor testing, and as many clinics as I can get in. I love to learn new things, especially about horse health and care, and look forward to a year of new and exciting experiences."
- Bethany Brown of New Liskeard - Northwoods Branch - Bethany, 16, is a grade 11 student at Temiskaming District Secondary School. Her Pony Club activities include Prince Philip Games and Rally on her pony Tia Maria and her horse Trim Counter Coup, as well as taking part in quiz, and testing. In addition to her activities in Pony Club, Bethany competes in eventing, dressage and show jumping, as well as training horses and teaching younger riders. Her riding objectives for the year include testing for her Pony Club B level (A is the highest), moving up to the training level in eventing - and winning a place on the Young Riders eventing team - becoming a certified instructor and training homebred young ponies. Longer term, Bethany hopes to become a veterinarian, or to complete a BioResource Management degree majoring in Equine Management.
- Leslie Curran of Creemore - Simcoe Branch - Leslie, 17, is a grade 12 student at Stayner Collegiate Institute. For as long as Ms Curran can remember, ponies/unicorns AND Black Beauty (to be more specific), were her obsession! She began her riding career at the age of 6 taking weekly riding lessons, and her passion grew into a life style. Finally at age 12, a typical horse-y girls dream came true when she purchased a gorgeous dapple grey Arabian gelding, named Eclipse. The two competed in long distance riding, dressage and were in the process of schooling to event, until everything came to a halt, November 7, 2006. Eclipse was diagnosed with Degenerative Joint Disease. His riding career had to come to an end. Ms Curran's has ridden in several disciplines: hunter, dressage, competitive trail, and is currently schooling for horse trials (eventing) and jumper. "I am extremely grateful

for being chosen as one of the Ontario Equestrian Federation Youth Bursary winners! This bursary is going to allow me to further my knowledge in the equestrian world and accomplish so many goals that I thought would be near impossible for me to try for due to financial needs. I hope that next spring I will be a certified Riding Instructor under OEF, so that I may start my future career around horses," Ms Currans commented.

- Brittany Hale of Stayner - Simcoe Branch - Brittany, 16, is a grade 11 student at Stayner Collegiate Institute. She rides a horse named Kassy and is keen on becoming more involved with eventing. With the proceeds of her bursary, Brittany plans to purchase a young pony to train and re-sell as well as continuing on in her lesson program. With the sale of the pony, she plans to use the monies towards attending the University of Guelph to become a large animal veterinarian (possibly with an equine specialty).
- Nicole Laforge of Barrie - Simcoe Branch - Nicole, 17, is a grade 12 student at Bear Creek Secondary School. She currently takes lessons at Woodwinds South in Barrie, which is an eventing/jumping stable and is preparing for competition In D-Rally. She rides a 6 year old Arabian gelding named Adidas (Gill) owned by Lesley Danko, who has coached her in endurance for the past five years. Nicole is also a member of OCTRA, Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association and last year won the Canadian Championship in the two day 80 mile competitive trail ride that was held in Quebec. At the OCTRA year-end awards, Gill won top competitive horse and Nicole won the top junior award - three years running. This competitive season her goals are to compete in more FEI endurance rides, hopefully our 1st 100 miler. Her ultimate goal is to someday represent Canada at a world endurance event. She currently works part-time at Ivy Veterinary Clinic and next year will be attending college to study for her Veterinarian Technician Degree. Once she has completed her degree, she hopes to find employment within the equine industry.
- Jane Little of Roseneath - Arête de Chêne Branch - Jane ,17, is a grade 12 student at Cobourg District Collegiate West. Although she does not own a horse of her own, she has ridden at the High Pointe Equestrian Centre for five years. She is coached by Gwen Boyles and rides High Pointe school horses Lacy, Winston and Cash. She was one of the founding members of Arête de Chêne. In addition to her activities in Pony Club, Jane is an honour student and takes part in a long list of volunteer activities, including helping with therapeutic riding programs for the disabled, church camps and the Terry Fox run. She plans to use her bursary funds to help offset the costs of attending a college with programs in veterinary technology. In her application for the bursary, she wrote, "Ever since I was little, my dream was to work with animals. I was introduced to the equine scene when I was six and came to realize I had to have a job working with horses. I would love to give back to the equine industry which started this passion of mine, horses, horses, horses. I hope to continue riding through College. I want to become a veterinarian technician and specialize in equine. I just love horses plain and simple."

Heartiest congratulations to all the winners!

And now, a word from our sponsor.

The Ontario Equestrian Federation is a not-for-profit sport governing office that provides education, leadership and support to individuals, associations and companies in Ontario's horse community. It provides its members with a variety of services, programs, and benefits, and represents their interests to the general public, affiliated organizations and to varying levels of government. In short - the OEF stands for all things equine.

Committed to youth, the OEF offers five bursaries annually to Junior OEF members wishing to pursue an equine career and/or further their competitive goals. Applications for 2008 OEF Youth Bursaries will be available beginning July 1, 2007. If you will be between 14 and 17 years old (as of January 1st, 2008) and attending a high school in Ontario in 2008, **DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY!!** For more information please visit the OEF website www.horse.on.ca or contact the OEF Office at 1-877-441-7112 or 905-709-6545.

How Big is Your Pony Club?

or *An Ode to Moose Pasture*

By Debi Robertson, Regional Chair

How big is your pony club? Ten people? Thirty people? Two hundred people? Strangely enough, I do not know how many people. There are multitudes of children, approximately twice as many parents, some people who do not have kids in it any more and many countries.

This came home to me in a big way when in January I was visiting some of the Northern clubs in our own region of Central Ontario. I did not go as far as I could have because a lovely person from Northwoods Pony Club met me half way from North Bay. Not only did she take her own calendars but she nicely volunteered to take Temiskaming's to them as well. Therefore, the spirit is living in the north as well as around the world. Driving through the beautiful northern country, I was talking to myself. I have since purchased a tape recorder so that my thoughts could be played back to me. Now most people would think that 938 km driving (in two days) would drive one bonkers. You would close to being correct. A person's thought processes become a little deranged when you see so many trees and rocks. In addition, road signs take on many meanings. For example, a moose warning 50 kms could mean moose in 50 kms or moose for 50 kms. With so much bush, lakes and rocks it soon becomes clear that it is for 50 kms. Did I mention the bush, lakes and rocks?

However all this mileage gives one time to think of the dedication of the northern clubs. Northwoods and Temiskaming have to drive 5 hours before arriving at one of the shows so readily available to those of us in the south. So, when you load your horse at 7:00 to be there for 8:00 they are loading their horses at 3:00 in the morning. This is probably one of the reasons you hear me go crazy when I hear people complaining about the distance they have to drive to a meeting or event.

Vancouver Island pony clubs have competitions on the mainland. Their trip includes a \$150 ferry ride for the truck trailer and one person (the driver). Therefore, not only do they have the extra mileage but the extra cost as well. The cost of a Japanese pony club'r to have a horse for the day is \$1,000. In addition, they cannot ride outside of an arena. Central Ontario Region encloses an area from hwy 27 in the west to Nappanee in the east. Lake Ontario in the south and James Bay in the north are the other boundaries. We currently have four clubs in the north with Parry Sound talking about starting a club and the town of Powossan thinking of doing the same. (Powossan is 20 kms south of North Bay on Hwy 11.)

There are hundreds of pony clubs all around the world, each with their own way of doing things. However, they all have the same motto and each club strives to hold this near and dear to their hearts.

So how big is your pony club? Is it the one child who is pushed and shoved to exceed and not enjoy? The whole club? The region? On the other hand, are you one of the few who sees Pony Club with the wide view camera? What a beautiful picture. And in some cases not a rock, tree or lake in sight.