



# COR BITS

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

## Spring, 2008

"Spring" may be a bit optimistic at the time of writing this, since it is cold and blowy outside today. It seems clear, however, that we have entered Stage 1 of Spring in Canada. Did you know that Spring has four stages in Canada? It's true! I heard about it on the radio a few years ago so it must be true. The four stages are:

Stage 1: This usually kicks in about mid to late February, when the days really are getting a little longer, and the birds are starting to sing again. We start thinking about Spring, and that is Stage 1.

Stage 2: As the month of March comes in, roaring or baa-ing as the case may be, we start really looking forward to Spring, and that is Stage 2.

Stage 3: As April wears on, cold and rainy and doing its best impression of November, we start complaining about how late Spring is this year, and that is Stage 3.

Stage 4: Stage 4, of course, is Summer.

And while we're at it, hands up everyone who thinks having Leap Day in February is a total rip-off. This is another argument I heard on the radio last week, and I couldn't agree more. I mean, whether February has 28 days or 29, it's always going to be the runt of the litter, right? Why not add the extra day to a nice, deserving month that could use it. There are several perfectly fine months that have only 30 days right now. Think of it! The powers that be could have given us an extra day in June, or September, or even April (April needs an extra day to get its act together; see "Stage 3", above). But nooo, we get an extra day of February, with extra snow. I guess those who celebrated Groundhog Day by roasting one of the dratted critters for dinner can use the extra day to finish off the last of the leftover groundhog casserole, but to them, the rest of us say, "Freeze it, for goodness sake!"

On re-reading the above paragraph, I realized that we have been dealing in half measures here. Let's think bigger. Right now most of the world is using the Gregorian calendar, while a minority have stuck with the older Julian calendar. And let's face it, as calendars go, they are both pretty clunky. Here is a chance to unite everyone by getting them to adopt the new, much better-planned CORian calendar. In the new calendar, May, June, July, August and September would each have 32 days. That is seven more than they have now. Where do those seven days come from? Easy. We cut back November, December, January and March to 29 days each, thus making winter shorter and, just as a bonus, giving February less of an inferiority complex. February, April and October can stay as they are. As for Leap Year, every four years June would get an extra Sunday, and just for this once it would come between Wednesday and Thursday, to give the horses a little time to rest between the activities scheduled for the regular Sundays at each end of Leap Week (well, since it is Leap Day of course we would schedule an extra show jumping qualifier for it, wouldn't we?). Ta da! Perfection! Now all we have to do is get the rest of the world to go along with this obviously far more satisfactory arrangement. Let's start a petition.

Our call for news from the Branches has not met with much response, but here are a couple of items from around Central Ontario.

## Visiting an Olympian

On Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Oakcrest Farms, members of the Kawartha Pony Club



and the Uxbridge-Scugog Pony Club were treated to a Dressage presentation by Belinda Trussell and Royan II, the horse that she rode at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

The members and parents

were given a tour of Belinda's facility and had the opportunity to ask Belinda questions about all aspects of her career.

## Simcoe Pony Club Member Heading to Africa

Emily Stubbings, a member of the Simcoe Pony Club, is scheduled to leave for Botswana on March 9, as part of the Canadian Mounted Games team. Here is a message from her DC, Bev Rice (I had planned to run this earlier but was hoping for a bit more material).

Emily Stubbings is a 12 year old member of the Simcoe Pony Club. Emily has been involved with Simcoe since the 2000/2001 season and has been heavily involved in many of the pony club disciplines including Dressage, Prince Philip Games, Quiz and D-rally. This past summer Emily was scouted at a Prince Philip Games competition by Jim Dunn who coaches the Canada Mounted Games teams and was invited to try out for a spot on an International team that would be travelling to Botswana, Africa this coming March. After a lot of hard work and dedicated training, Emily has been invited to join the team and travel to Africa not only to compete but to work with other youth teams there and teach them gaming techniques while on horseback.

The cost of this entire trip is close to \$5,000 and we have decided that as a club, that Simcoe Pony Club would like to make an effort to assist the family in raising the funds that will allow Emily to follow her dream and participate on the International team. The youth in equestrian sports are the up and coming riders for the future so we are reaching out to

equestrian organizations, equestrian retailers/wholesalers, and equestrian enthusiasts who would like to help us assist Emily to reach her goal of being a team member on this International team.

If you would like to help us to help Emily reach her goal, please contact me and I will gladly accept your donation.

We thank everyone for at least taking the time to read of Emily's accomplishments in hopes of getting her to Africa with the Canada Mounted Games team.

Bev. Rice, DC

Simcoe Pony Club

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## **The January Conference**

COR held its second annual two-day conference for District Commissioners, ADCs and other members of Branch Executives on January 19 and 20, with a Regional Committee meeting on the afternoon of January 20.

## **Insurance Issues, or, Taking Silly Chances**

Aside from discussing scheduling and rule changes for our own activities, we also had a repeat presentation on insurance from the Canadian Pony Club insurance broker, Mike King of InterCity. A former Pony Club member, Mike explained very clearly the reason for all the paperwork that some of the DCs seem to find so burdensome, and patiently answered many questions. Despite this, several Branches have still not filed the required information and have had to be suspended. If you are not sure whether or not your Branch is suspended, go to the home page of the COR website and click on the "Suspended Branches" link. If a Branch is suspended, it is not allowed to conduct any Pony Club activities, and its members are NOT, repeat **NOT**, covered by the Pony Club insurance policy. What that means is, if a suspended Branch does do something, and, heaven forbid, an accident should happen, the DC and other members of the Branch Executive are on their own. These days, if an accident happens, some lawyer will sue everybody who was in the same time zone when it happened, on behalf of the parents and the child. What I did not know until this session is, whatever the outcome of the original lawsuit by the parents, the child can launch another one once he or she reaches the age of 18. If you go ahead with "Pony Club" activity while under suspension, you are betting your house - and that bet may stay on the table for a long, long time - to avoid the trouble of filling out some forms. As a risk vs. reward proposition, it does not make sense.

## **Educational Clinic(s)**

An educational clinic was held for active members on January 19, featuring a morning session on equine dentistry and an afternoon session on parasites. The clinic was attended by 28 active members, with a visit by delegates to the main conference in the afternoon (all those planning to serve noodles for dinner quickly had their minds changed by assorted disgusting creatures floating in formaldehyde: main hobby when alive - oozing). On March 1 there will be another clinic, this one with a session on poisonous plants and another on corrective shoeing.

## National Quiz

COR is hosting National Quiz this coming Thanksgiving, and Margie Kenedy gave a presentation about it on the morning of January 20. Margie is bursting with plans, and got some offers of help from Branches represented at the conference, but could use lots more. Please get in touch with her to help make the 2008 National Quiz the most exciting ever.

## **A Report from the Ontario Winter Games** - by Kristen Wavryk, Maple Pony Club

Hello all,

This past March 5th to 9th I participated in the Ontario Winter Games in Collingwood. I was allowed to participate in both Fencing and Shooting, which are both part of the Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon (fencing, riding, shooting, swimming, and running). This is a slight variation of Tetrathlon but with fencing added, and tetrathlon has a heavier focus on riding (Pentathlon only has stadium jumping).

This was my first year of fencing (épée) and I much enjoyed learning these new skills. I was quite honoured to be selected to participate in these 2008 Ontario Winter Games. There were over 3000 athletes in 23 different sports (including hockey, figure skating, snowboarding, and badminton. etc.) In fencing there were almost 100 athletes competing in épée, foil and sabre. Although I did not finish in the medals, I fought hard and was proud of my accomplishments. In the team portion, my sister Amber and I (as well as two other female fencers) finished in an amazing second place in épée. We lost only by two points.

In addition to my sister and I, there were two other pentathletes (Mathea Stephens and Garnet Stephens) participating in fencing. The four of us are all Tetrathletes! Fencing is quite new to all of us and, I have to admit, was a bit difficult to pick up, but I believe we all did well and tried our best. Unfortunately, as Pentathletes, it is difficult to be good in all five sports, and even more difficult competing against other athletes who are experts in their sport.

The same day I finished fencing, I was rushed over to the shooting venue which took place in Meaford, about 20 minutes away. We stayed and competed at an army base which was quite the experience. Every morning we were wakened to the national anthem at 06:00 hours, although most of us slept through it! It was also strange knowing that eyes were constantly watching you, as if they have never seen a girl our age before! Can you imagine?? Anyway we shot twice, once Friday for team competition, and on Saturday, for the individual competition. I did pretty well and ended up fourth overall in my division; our team didn't too well, but that's okay. It was fun and a great experience! At shooting, almost half the air pistol competitors were Pony Club members from COR, WOR and SLOV who also compete in the sport of Tetrathlon.

What I enjoyed most about my first Ontario Winter Games was the new friendships I made and the old friends I saw. Everyone was really friendly and we had a great time playing 'Guitar hero' and 'Rock Band' in our spare time. It was fun to compete in this environment where everyone was so supportive of you and was really striving for you to win. I was glad to have the chance to participate in these games and experience the fun. It wasn't just about the competition, but getting this unique opportunity to get out there and try your best at your sport.

Kristen Wavryk