

## **Nova Scotia Pony Club Annual Report – Regional Youth Rep**

Since accepting the position of Regional Youth Rep during the winter of 2004, I have held two meetings with the Youth Reps; the first was May 16<sup>th</sup> in Windsor, and the second was Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> in Brookfield. Both meetings were very successful, with lots of enthusiastic voices and good ideas generated.

The items of most importance on our agenda for the first meeting were badges, the NSPC website, and the format for C/B Rally. With respect to badges, most clubs said that the badges were more popular with the younger members, with the exception of Opportunity who said they had lots of older members interested. Opportunity hosted the badge weekend in March and everyone agreed that it was a great idea. The display of badges was also discussed. Erin brought “badge banners” that Gay Hansen had made; these banners were later approved by the Regional board as the “official way” of displaying the badges after a motion was made on behalf of the youth reps.

With respect to C Rally, members expressed concern that we are losing the real “rally feel” by incorporating it with the CNHP Horse Trials this year. After some discussion of this with the Board, the Youth Reps made a recommendation that a 3-day C/B rally be held in 2005 if at all possible.

The second meeting saw Reps attending from West Valley, Colchester, Eastern Shore, and Hants County. We realized the poor turnout might be due to many clubs not having elected a Youth Rep for their club for the 2005 year, and I am confident that attendance will be up for the next meeting. Nevertheless, we had some very good discussions about very important topics.

A lot of discussion was generated on the topic of Regional SJ & Dressage Championships. The results of our discussion were as follows:

- moving the Championships to late July or early August would be a good idea
- Members could enter divisions as opposed to competing at their PC level. This would allow older members with green horses to compete at a level they felt they were ready for.
- A rotation system could be put in place so that certain clubs are not driving long distances each year.

In addition to the SJ & D Championships talk, we discussed Regional Clinics for the 2005 season. We all felt that the area that members most need the instruction in was Dressage, followed by Cross-country. Offering a “Dressage Weekend” was suggested, with a clinic on Saturday, followed by a show on Sunday.

The Communications Seminar is currently under investigation. We are aiming for early Winter 2005, with Wendy Beddingfield being a possible clinician.

The NSPC Youth Reps have created a web page. It can be seen at <http://www.canadianponyclub.org/ns/youth>. Right now, it features our contact information, the meetings of our minutes, as well as a feedback page. We hope to develop this website more in the coming months. I would like to thank Margie Johnson with all of her help with getting the website up and running.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank both the Regional Board and the branch youth reps for their continued support throughout the year.

Respectively submitted,  
Kate Mattocks