



CANADIAN PONY CLUB

NATIONAL NOTEBOOK

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Loyalty

Character

Sportsmanship

HERE'S TO A NEW SEASON!

Winter is over - well, almost, this is Canada after all - and our horses and ponies are rediscovering the joys of those green things growing out of the ground. Pony Clubbers across the country are preparing for Regional Quiz, indeed, some may have already had their competitions. Everyone's gearing up for another season of testing, competition and fun in the sun.

Over the winter, there's been a lot of activity at the National level. November saw the Semi-Annual General Meeting with reports and elections for the various positions on the Board of Directors. Also, the Board approved Manitoba's bid to host both the Prairie Zone championships and National Rally. The Manitobans are very well organized going in and are working hard to make these competitions a big success.

National Directors have done a lot of work in the policy area: Governance has produced guidelines for Regions with respect to their Rules and Regulations, Finance has developed a Financial Policy to spell out clearly how things are managed, and the new Risk Management Committee has been struck to look into ways of reducing risk for our members and volunteers. In January, Virginia Buchanan-Smith, Karol Shipley and Val Crowe sat in on the US Pony Club Annual General Meeting in Minnesota to get a better sense of how they do things and to find out if there are elements we could adapt to our use. In February, Virginia and Jacky Cooper went to Ottawa for the Canadian Equestrian Federation Board meeting where they attended a number of meetings representing Pony Club and its members. In future, CPC will have representation

on the International, Coaching and Competition Committees of the CEF. A lot of hard work has given us a much stronger presence on our National Sports Federation. More about that later.

Val Crowe, our Administrative Assistant, has produced information packages for both new members and new Branches. For more information, contact Val at the addresses on our masthead.

WE HAVE WINNERS!

Since the previous issue of National Notebook, a number of Pony Club members, alumni and volunteers have won awards from other organizations. Congratulations to Megan White of the Annapolis Branch, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland on winning the Dr. George Jacobsen Award (CEF Equestrian of the Year), and to Kelly Bruder of the inactive Grand River Branch in Western Ontario on winning the Gillian Wilson Award (CEF Junior Equestrian of the Year). Virginia Buchanan-Smith won the Yvonne Collard Award (Ontario Equestrian Federation Volunteer of the Year) and Claudia Field of the Caledon Pony Club in Western Ontario won the Cassie Bonnar Award (OEF Junior Equestrian of the Year). Crawford Dales of Western Ontario was given the OEF Special Millennium Award for his volunteer activities in Pony Club. Sara Berry of the Baldur Branch in Manitoba won the Elke Otremba Humphries Award for Dressage given by the Manitoba Trakhener Society. For details, see the Canadian Pony Club website at www.canadianponyclub.org. Well done!

AGM 2001

A number of awards were presented at the Canadian Pony Club Annual General Meeting held in Calgary March 30 - April 1.

This year's recipients of the Governor General's Award of Excellence were Michelle Rainford (Esquesing Branch, Western Ontario Region) and Lindsay Thompson (London Branch, Western Ontario Region), A/B level worth \$1,000 each. C level winner was Erin Borrow (East Maple Ridge Branch, BC Lower Mainland) who receives a \$500 scholarship.

Alanna Palmer retiring National Director from New Brunswick/PEI was presented with the National Chair's Volunteer Award - a very popular choice!

Loud applause greeted the announcement that Past National Chair, Jacky Cooper, has been made National Life Director of Canadian Pony Club in recognition of her lengthy and stellar service. We just don't want you to go away, Jacky.

WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF PONY CLUB DO? PART IV

MEMORIAL AWARDS

The Todd Sandler Memorial Scholarship (formerly The Horse People Inc. Award) is given annually to two Pony Club members - one from the east and one from the west. The prize is a two-week residential horsemanship course at The Horse People Inc. located just outside Wendover Ontario in St. Lawrence/Ottawa Valley Region. This facility is well-known for offering quality training in Eventing.

Todd Sandler was a talented rider who was killed in a car accident in April 1999 while returning from competing in Florida. He was only 18 at the time. Todd had been training with CET coach Peter Gray in the hopes of qualifying for the 2000 Olympics.

This year's award winners are Lauren Glanfield of Hazelmere Branch in BC Lower Mainland Region and Melanie MacKenzie of Bluewater Branch in Western Ontario Region.

2001 CPC Disciplines Conference

Again in February 2001, Regional Discipline Chairs in all Disciplines met with National Disciplines Chairs in Winnipeg to discuss a variety of issues and to make recommendations to be presented to the Board at the April AGM.

The major topics included rules - to change or not to change - implementation of the Zones concept, problems that had arisen since the previous Conference and CPC financial support for Disciplines.

Phil Crowe made a presentation on Canadian Pony Club's new financial policy and explained how Regions could access money for support of each discipline. There was also discussion on how this money could and could not be used. The Disciplines Conference Report contains application forms pertaining to each discipline for CPC grant money.

Work was done on the implementation of the Zones concept for all disciplines except Tetrathlon. There is now a schedule showing the rotation of Zone and National Championships from 2001 to 2012, although specific dates are not set.

Memberships MUST be verified for all competitors from the regional level up to the National and International levels. To get this verification event organizers should contact the National Membership Records person, Crawford Dales by email at cdales@ebtech.net or by telephone at 519-882-0671. This is essential since anyone not a member in good standing according to National records will NOT be allowed to compete.

On the Sunday morning, the group as a whole discussed membership retention issues. A whole page of useful ideas and interesting suggestions was generated. A committee was struck to explore options, including surveys to find out why members join and why they leave. Interestingly, at the Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors asked Crawford Dales and Liz Inglis to develop an "exit" questionnaire to be administered to all members

who did not renew membership in a given year to determine why they made that choice. Liz has sent e-mails (or letters) to the members of this group to propose that we all work together. As before, evaluation forms handed in at the end of the conference speak to the value of these meetings in terms of clarifying rules, discussing issues, getting to know their counterparts from other Regions and to learn how things are done in other parts of the country. There was a general consensus that Disciplines Conferences to continue every other year in Winnipeg (most central part of the country). All participants spoke with gratitude of the team of scribes (armed with laptops) who created a record of the discussions and decisions during all sessions.

First Ever Communications Conference

Canadian Pony Club held its first ever Communications Conference in conjunction with the AGM in Calgary. Communications Chairs from all but two Regions (and in some cases additional people with an interest in communications) met with National Communications Chair Liz Inglis, webmasters Crawford Dales and Bill Murray - and from time to time - Treasurer Phil Crowe to discuss what is being done and what can be done to foster effective communications within Pony Club and to promote our organization to the wider world.

The Conference was planned as an informal, interactive session to pool information, share ideas, teach a few skills, and give people a sense of who can help them with what.

Historically, the Regional Communications Chairs have formed the Communications Committee - but most of those present didn't know that. They left (hopefully) with the feeling that they're not in it alone.

Bob Inglis of Central Ontario presented a model for a press release programme to keep the local media informed of Pony Club activities and competitions. In some Regions there is a similar programme while in others media contact (if there is any) is left to Branches.

Crawford Dales gave a presentation on the web site

and how Regions and Branches can be part of this. Crawford stated his willingness to work with people across the country to make the site the best it can be. He also gave information on frequently asked questions and their answers.

Phil Crowe appeared briefly to explain the newsletter subsidy and how it can be used by Regions.

Sunday Morning, Bill Murray of Central Ontario talked about internal communications systems using email, about e-boards and about the classifieds page that Central Ontario has pioneered for CPC. Work is in progress to make this option available across the country. His presentation sparked a question from one delegate - "can we just clone you?"

Northern Alberta brought its travelling display and samples of the brochures they and their Branches have produced. Most impressive! This Region participates in fairs and exhibitions, not just with the display and handout material, but also with demonstrations such as PPG and jumping to music. Many thanks to Karen Mutchmor, Dona Radomsky and Lenora Shiels for sharing their PR secrets. Lenora also arranged for each delegate to receive a copy of Horses All, the major equestrian publication in Alberta.

Thanks also to Maria Berry of Manitoba for acting as our scribe for the Conference and to Tammy Cruickshank of Alberta South for lending us her laptop.

At the end of the Conference, the group agreed that job descriptions for Communications Chairs would be a good idea as would a Communications Manual as a resource to current and future Communications Chairs. Liz Inglis will produce drafts, circulate them to the Committee and when ready submit them to the Board for approval.

INTERPACIFIC RALLY

Best wishes to this year's InterPacific Rally team, now competing (April 17-May 8) in New Zealand. This is a very accomplished team consisting of Matt Gaglione (Strathcona Branch

in Alberta North), John Jamieson (Kawartha in Central Ontario Region), Faye Merrett (Quennel Lake Branch in BC Islands Region), Paula Rainford (Esquesing Branch in Western Ontario Region) and Katie Shipley (Pickering Branch in Central Ontario). Alternates are Ceri Merrett (Quennel Lake Branch in BC Islands Region), Jennifer Zelmer of Albion Branch in Western Ontario Region) and Christy Barnes (Pine Ridge Branch in Central Ontario Region). Each of these young persons has done a lot both in Pony Club and outside. We have asked John and Katie to keep a record of their experiences. We'll then write an article to post on the web site.

Thanks also go to Mary Debra Blakely and Jan Jamieson of Kawartha Branch (Central Ontario) and Allison Rainford of Esquesing Branch (Western Ontario). They put together a very professional-looking promotional package which has generated several thousand dollars in sponsorship (mostly products/services) for the team. Can we clone you, too?

For more information, check out our web site at www.canadianponyclub.org

CEF GRANTS RECOGNITION TO PONY CLUB A LEVEL

The Coaching Committee of the Canadian Equestrian Federation has agreed to award the CEF Level I coaching certificate to successful A level candidates if a CEF examiner is used, if they have done their mentoring hours and if they have taken the National Coaching Certification Program theory course.

In the past, many senior Pony Club members have gone on to acquire CEF credentials. This meant a whole series of additional exams and expense. Now successful A candidates can achieve both at one time.

CANADIAN PONY CLUB BALL!

St. Lawrence/Ottawa Valley Region invites Pony Club members to attend the Canadian Pony Club Ball to be held at the Rideau Carleton Raceway,

4837 Albion Rd. Gloucester ON on August 30th, 2001. The Ball is hosted by the Junior Executive representatives of the Region.

Tickets are \$20 per person advance sale or \$25 at the door.

For further information, visit their web site at www.geocities.com/slovball or e-mail Gillian Finnerty at slovabl@hotmail.com. Looks like they're planning on having a very good time!

AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

Some of you have sent me articles on activities in your Regions and I thank you. I'd love to have more! We do enjoy recognizing the accomplishments of "our" kids, wherever in Canada they may be, so profiles are very welcome.

Some Regions have begun sending me their Regional Newsletters and it's great!

So are suggestions, criticisms, ideas, any feedback you care to send.

This is a "National" newsletter - I consider it belongs to all of us!

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The newsletter of the Canadian Pony Club is published six times a year. Please note that articles from Regions and/or Branches are especially welcome:

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or by e-mail to lizinglis@technalysis.on.ca

We do like to hear your views!