



The Pony Express

Newsletter of the Canadian Pony Club
Western Ontario Region



July/August 2008

Rally up!

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With Rally fast approaching we all know that means one thing: our PC show season is almost over! But that doesn't mean the fun is! Saddle up for two of the most exciting events Western Ontario Region has to offer.

Contact Us

Send your submissions via email to heather_agnew13@yahoo.ca

or by snail mail:

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Where were you 25 years ago? An easy question for our active members. You were either pre-school toddlers, or most of you were not even born yet. For the Moms and Dads who are now the volunteer backbone of Pony Club and are involved in branch & regional roles, you were young, starting careers and families. Some of you were young Pony Clubbers yourselves involved in all the same fun activities that your children are now. Whoever you are or wherever you were, not many will remember the last time that Pony Club celebrated a milestone anniversary. For those of you who have memories of the 50th Anniversary of Canadian Pony Club back in 1984, The Pony Express would like to record your memories of that celebration. Please forward whatever snippets that you have to share to Heather Agnew.

It is a rare opportunity to be a Pony Clubber at a time that a major anniversary such as the 75th is being celebrated. Many Pony Clubbers never get this opportunity. My own children, for instance were each members for 10 -12 years, but their time as Pony Clubbers were in those interim years between anniversaries. We are fortunate to be involved with Pony Club at this

special time and everyone should make an effort to participate in some anniversary activity.

We introduced the *Hoofprints Across Canada* at the May regional meeting and in the May edition of Pony Express. This was the original name that applied to the concept where members and parents could ride together on a trail ride and log their miles along with all the other branches to collectively represent a cross-Canada ride. The name has been changed to *Ride For 75*, but the concept in Western Ontario Region remains the same. Headwaters Pony Club has already done an adaptation they called a 'riddle ride' and parents and members alike had great time. London Pony Club and others have upcoming rides scheduled. Every member and every parent can get involved in a ride with your branch. Let's all do one ride this year and one ride next year and log our miles on the National CPC website along with other branches and regions in Canada. You can even earn a 'Ride for 75 badge.

Next November, major anniversary celebrations will be held in Toronto coinciding with the Royal Winter Fair. This National Conference and Anniversary Gala will be held at the Holiday Inn, Yorkdale. This conference centre is centrally located right on Highway 401, just east of Highway 400. This location is easy to access for anyone coming from Western Ontario Region, Central Ontario Region or the St. Lawrence Ottawa Valley Region. It is also close to the airport for all those arriving from other regions of Canada. The Holiday Inn Yorkdale is the #1 Holiday Inn in North America

for service excellence. Rooms surround a Mediterranean style central atrium where the swimming pool, fitness center and dining facilities are located. It is very inviting facility for Pony Club families. Plan to come as a family, or better yet get a few families together from each branch and participate in all the weekend activities and Royal Winter Fair events. There will be a Disciplines Conference and a Testing and Education Conference for adults as well as a National Youth Conference program for active members. As one of the host regions, let's try to be the region with highest attendance. Everyone can benefit from this, so plan to attend and be a part of a grand Pony Club celebration and meet other members from across Canada.

The *Ride for 75* and the November Anniversary Conference, are but two events that everyone can participate in. Creativity abounds at the branch level, so you may wish to craft your own anniversary activity. My suggestions include:

- **Branch history for inclusion in CPC History Book**
- Photo history, themes or contests
- **Horse Show**
- **Fundraiser**
- **Branch history for inclusion in CPC history, themes or contest**
- **My favourite pony/horse**
- **Best outdoor photo**
- **Funniest photo**
- **75 Things I like about horse/Pony Club**

So how is your Branch going to celebrate the 75th Anniversary?

Del Zelmer
WOR Regional Chairman

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A/B/C Rally 101

So A/B/C Rally starts in two days—are you ready? Whether you're riding or grooming, there's lots of important things you need to remember. Don't do what I did one year and leave your suitcase at home (let's save that story for another editorial column). Now that I've stated the obvious, here's what you'll need to have an awesome time at A/B/C rally.

RAIN CLOTHES! I can't stress it enough! It's guaranteed to rain because I'm going. So make sure you bring lots of rain clothes. Which brings me to the next thing....

SOCKS! They get wet so fast so make sure you bring tons. Hey, at least they don't take up a lot of space in your suitcase...

YOUR MEDICAL ARMBAND. You're Pony Clubbers and are likely to have it permanently attached to yourself anyways. But a reminder never hurt anyone. Safety first and an exciting discussion about your blood type is an excellent way to break the ice if you're on a scrambled team.

Your riding clothes and **FORMAL SHOW ATTIRE.** The grooms round is a formal showjumping sort of thing, so make sure you have your jodphurs, jacket and show shirt.

PADDOCK BOOTS. You will get hit with penalties in stable management if you're caught in the barn with inappropriate footwear. (Don't say you weren't warned!) Make sure you bring suitable barn shoes.

JUNK FOOD! In my view this is one of the most important things after my suitcase. The food at A/B/C Rally is fantastic (an early round of applause for the moms being back in the kitchen!), but it only comes three times a day and they don't do room service at midnight.....AND the closest Tim Horton's is about half an hour away. So bring your favourite treats!



Here's a blast from Rallies past.....recognize a few of these fine folks?



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Since School is Out, Why Not Learn a Thing or Two about WOR?

Western Ontario Region, commonly known as WOR, traces its origins back to the earlier days of Canadian Pony Club. WOR stretches east from Hwy. 27 to the shores of Lake Huron, and north from Lake Erie to Georgian Bay.

In the 1960's, Welland (1947), London (1948) and St. Thomas (1949) formed about 30 per cent of the existing branches in the whole country and were located in the area which was to become— Western Ontario Region. Of these, London has been in existence continuously since its inception, celebrating its 60th anniversary one year before CPC's 75th.

As with all regions, WOR has seen many branches come and go, some lasting only a few years, some starting and then joining with others or changing names, and many lasting for 20 years or more.

At the height of its popularity between 1984 and 1994, WOR had 17 to 18 branches with an average annual membership of about 500. Changing demographics, increasing costs of equestrian pursuits and a more hectic, demanding lifestyle have resulted in a

considerably lower membership. However, WOR continues with 14 branches.

The creation of new branches in Western Ontario speaks well of the fine reputation Pony Club has as an equestrian youth organization.



Soon after the creation of regions within Canada, WOR established an annual trophy to be awarded to the branch accumulating the highest number of points each year through a combination of participation rates and achievement in all the regional discipline competitions.

In order to be fair to smaller branches, a somewhat complex system of scoring was developed and over the years branches large and small have vied for the ribbons to 5th place and the privilege of having their

name inscribed on the High Point Trophy. All six disciplines are represented by figurines surrounding the central column surmounted by a horseshoe.

Although relatively small compared to many regions in Canada, WOR members have a strong reputation for active

involvement in all disciplines. In the past 37 years, we have offered yearly regional championships in all disciplines: in 1979 Show Jumping, Dressage and Tetrathlon were added to Quiz, A/B/C Rally, D Rally and PPG. With an overall average branch attendance rate of 75 per cent, the enthusiasm of our

members and dedication of our parents, volunteers and associate members is never questioned.

We are grateful to our willing volunteers who have made it possible for WOR to also successfully host a number of national and international competitions such as PPG, Tetrathlon, Quiz, IPE, and IMGE.

(Continued on next page)



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(History of WOR– cont'd)

Even after active members have grown up, WOR parents have continued their commitment to the ideals of Pony Club by taking on roles at the National Board level, including:

- National Chair : Moira Muspratt, Virginia Buchanan-Smith
- National Discipline Chair: Del Zelmer
- Membership and Governance Chairs: Crawford Dales
- National PPG Chair: Alison Rainford

WOR has benefited from the availability of wonderful resources which have enabled us to offer high quality educational, training and competitive opportunities for our members. Past members have gone on to compete at national and global levels and then made their expertise and facilities available to our aspiring equestrians. These include Mike St. Denis at Century Court, Jay and Phillipa (Bates) Hambly at Glen Arden Farms, the Pockocks/Roths at Belvoir, and Kim Crawford at Highland Green.

Checkmate and Caledon Hunt Club have hosted our A/B/C Rally and D Rally respectively for years, familiar grounds to

pony clubbers both past and present. The Zanders' Cedar Peaks Farm has been the site of International Tetrathlon and Interpacific Exchange as well as A level testing, and Liz Lewis' Irish Creek Stable has welcomed many testing candidates.

WOR is also fortunate to have the University of Guelph located within its boundaries and in particular the Ontario Veterinary College whose generosity has supported our monthly regional meetings for many years. Our education programmes have been greatly enhanced by the ready access we have to such high levels of equine expertise.

WOR is proud of its history and determined to be an active and positive contributor to the maintenance and development of Canadian Pony Club in the years to come. We are working hard to adapt our ways of work and programmes to the demands of the 21st century but we are also committed to the principles which have sustained our organization since its inception.

A few years ago the regional committee met for a special planning meeting to review our ways of work and establish some goals for the coming

years. In addition to reaffirming the aims and objectives of the Canadian Pony Club, we endorsed an approach to our activities which we hope will inform all the equestrian pursuits of our young members – “Be Safe, Learn Something, Have Fun”. Added to “Loyalty, Character, Sportsmanship,” WOR hopes this will provide a foundation for this organization to celebrate its 75 years of history and look forward to a bright future.



**In 141 days,
Canadian Pony Club
will be 75 years old!**

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Since We're Feeling Historical...



London Pony Club, established in 1948, is one of the oldest branches in the Western Ontario Region.

Team spirit still reigns, from their first rally in 1948 to the annual Prince Philip games competition.





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Check out London's branch history entry for the Canadian Pony Club History Book. Has your club submitted your history?



The London Pony Club is alive and thriving 60 years after it was established by Mrs. Dini Greenway with 17 members. Our numbers are not as large as in the past (56 in 1998) but we are very active in all Regional activities. We won the Regional High Point award in 1982 and 4 times after. Placing in the top five 18 out of past 22 years for High Point Branch of Western Ontario. We are proud of our Educational program and have fully implemented the Badge program in our education meetings and clinics for the members.

Our London members are represented at many Canadian Pony Club National competitions throughout the years. With Fiona Shearer attending the First National Quiz, many members have placed on to a Western Ontario Teams and have gone to many Nationals. Such as Lindsay Thompson, Pam Elgie, Stefanie Caddey, Carla Bauer, Darby Kletka, Allison Poel, Jessica Smith, Jean Eagleson and Abby Miller who attended as a C, then an A/B and then attended at the first Affiliate competition in 2005.

We have a very dynamic Tetrathlon group despite our small Branch numbers some years. Each year we send at least 2 to 4 competitors to Nationals. In 1986 Kim Crawford won Gold at an International Tetrathlon competition. Brendan Bailey and Jake Campbell were on the Canadian Men's International Team in 2000. Jean Eagleson at the US/Canadian competition in 2006 was 6th overall in the International Women's in Canada. As well in PPG, Erin Hendriksen was a member of the Canadian Team and competed in England in 2006.

Our Club has had members go on Invitational Events as well. In 1998, Lindsay Thompson went to South Africa for a Showjumping Exchange. In 2003, Abby Miller went to Ireland on a Fox Hunting Exchange.

London Branch has had members from Woodstock to Forest. We presently have 13 members in Ingersoll, St. Thomas, London, Parkhill and Forest area. Their levels range from 1-HB2 Affiliate, 1-C2, 2-C, 2-D2, 3-D1 and 4-E's.

District Commissioners:

1982–1983	Mrs. Sharon Crawford –Mackay		
1984–1985	Dr. Ken Veldhuis	1996–1997	Mrs. Chris Bailey
1986	Mr. Murray White	1998–1999	Dr. Sheila Deane
1987	Mr. Hugo Ilder	2000–2001	Dr. Cathy Miller
1988–1991	Mrs. Sandy Barlett	2002–2004	Mrs. Norma Poel
1992–1993	Mrs. Jean Hutton	2005–2007	Mrs. Susan Eagleson
1994–1995	Mrs. Connie Thompson	2008–2009	Mrs. Kim Wight



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Classifieds

FOR SALE: 7 yr old 14.1hh liver chestnut gelding, has been shown. Would be a great games pony, x-country or dressage, D & C rally. No vices, easy to ride & trailers well. Call Fraser at 519-856-4049 or email at greystonemanorstud@gmail.com



14.1 dapple gray pony mare for lease or eventual sale. PC is 9 years old and I have been riding her for 3 years. I've had a fall and cannot ride her right now so would like to see her worked. She is not for a beginner but jumps and does dressage for someone with some experience. Contact Alison (519) 843-3841 or arainford@sympatico.ca

17" Thorowgood Griffin Deep Seat All Purpose Saddle

Extra wide design is great for broadbacked horses includes FISH system for custom fitting your horse in seconds. Black synthetic finish makes for easy cleaning. Includes synthetic stirrup leathers. Barely used. Asking \$500.00. For more information contact Linda at (905) 335-8859 or agnew@sympatico.ca.

16.5" Bates Caprilli Close Contact Saddle

Havana brown leather with CAIR panels and adjustable gullet system (white plate installed). In very good condition. Asking \$1000.00. For more information please contact Linda at (905) 335-8859 or agnew@sympatico.ca.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
August 5- August 19	International Tetrathlon, Ireland
August 15-17	A/B/C Rally, Checkmate
August 24	D Rally, Caledon Hunt Club
August 27	Wellington-Waterloo Hunt Clinic
September 6	PPG National A's
November 14	Deadline for 2010 WOR calendar photos

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Clinics

Ride to the Hounds!

With the history of Pony Club being so tightly connected to fox hunting and in recognition of the large number of hunting members who got their start in the Pony Club, Wellington-Waterloo Hunt is hosting a clinic to introduce their sport. This clinic will appeal to anyone with an interest in trying fox hunting, including parents with an OEF membership. The pace of the ride will be dependent on the level of the group but will be slower than an actual hunt would be.

Join us on Wednesday August 27 at 4pm for a discussion about foxhunting, an introduction to the hounds and finally, participation in a drag hunt. And it wouldn't be a hunt without food- so you'll be welcomed back from your hunt with a post-hunt barbeque.

In order to determine the number of hunt staff needed, you must register by August 15. Please register by e-mail to cstone@tobaccostransitions.com providing the following information:

- Name of riders
- Email Address
- Telephone Number
- Tested Pony Club Level (if applicable)

For additional information, contact:

Celia Stone at 519-442-5360 or cstone@tobaccostransitions.com

Virginia Buchanan-Smith 519-822-1859 or virginia@buchanan-smith.com



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519-827-0543

gminc@sympatico.ca

Catch us on Facebook!

Find us by searching Western Ontario Region-Canadian Pony Club in groups. You already spend all your time on there...why not stay in touch?!

Barnmice

Need yet another reason to procrastinate? Visit www.barnmice.com, an online social community for fellow horse lovers. OEF has recently launched an online community through Barnmice, where users can share their horse life through photos, videos and lively discussions.

First stop on the social media train: WOR's Facebook group.
Second stop: barnmice.com!

Want to see yourself in print?

The Pony Express wants your contributions! Games, stories, pictures, classifieds and club updates- it's your newsletter Western Ontario, tell us what you want to see!

Submission deadline for the September issue is **August 20, 2008.**

Make sure your club is represented!