



The Pony Express

Newsletter of the Canadian Pony Club
Western Ontario Region



January 2009

Well WOR, it's been a slice...

In this issue of the Pony Express:

- Hoof Hearted
- Classifieds
- Top Ten from Australia
- International Tetrathlon
- 75th Anniversary Updates and Events

We braved the weather and took 2008 by storm. Congratulations to all WOR pony clubbers who tested, competed or otherwise accomplished something with their equine friends.

A special congratulations goes to Mount Nemo Pony Club for winning this year's high points trophy!



Mount Nemo Pony Club - 2008 High Point Trophy winners

Contact Us

Send your submissions via email to:
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2009 will be just as dynamic with the diamond celebrations of Canadian Pony Club. Some activities have already started, check out how you can get involved.

Watch your mailboxes for a special edition 75th anniversary newsletter!



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Over the years, I have had the good fortune to meet Pony Club people from several countries around the world. I count these people as friends. Although I rarely see these Pony Club friends, it is easy to converse with them as we share the love of horses and a passion for Pony Club programs, which are universal. There are some geographic differences and Pony Club is more strongly rooted in some countries than others such as Great Britain and Ireland. This summer, I was able to witness first hand, how prominent Pony Club is in one such country – Ireland.

From August 20 –24, I attended the World Small Animal Veterinary Congress, which was hosted this year in Dublin, Ireland. There were over 2800 veterinarians from around the world in attendance.

The Congress was held at the Royal Dublin Society. This is a facility very similar to the Toronto Exhibition and Convention Centre where the Royal Winter Fair and Horse Show is held. Pony Club in Ireland is an integral part of the equestrian fabric of this nation, which itself has deep roots in the horse industry. What did this prestigious conference plan for its opening ceremonies? What could be a greater crowd pleaser than the Irish National Mounted Games Championships? As the veterinary delegates were civilly served wine and hors d'oeuvres while they watched the final set of six games plus a tie-breaker, they cheered on these young athletes who displayed the best gaming skills I have ever seen. The top six teams in Ireland were competing for the coveted Leonard Memorial Trophy.

Mounted games can foster audience participation at the best of times, so you can appreciate how this particular audience responded when you have a play-by-play announcer calling out the action as the teams wind their way up and

down the field. It was like Bob Cole or Dick Irvin calling *Hockey Night in Canada*, but with mounted ponies and props substituted for skate-clad athletes chasing a puck around the ice. The two major dailies – the Irish Times and the Irish Independent both recorded the event in the following day's paper. The opportunity for publicity of this magnitude is available in Canada. The challenge is to communicate the grass roots relevance of Pony Club within the Canadian equestrian community.

One of my International Pony Club friends is Alice Murnagh, Chair of the Irish Pony Club. We met in Calgary in 2005 at the Inter-Pacific Rally Exchange. Alice was in Canada to attend the Pony Club International Alliance meetings, which were held in conjunction with the 2005 IPE. Alice and I were members of the ground jury for the Nations Cup held at Spruce Meadows, so it was an honour to be asked to present WOR pins to the members of the top two mounted games teams at their National Championships. (continued)



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A 75th CPC Anniversary horse brass was given to Alice Murnagh. After competing in qualifiers all year across Ireland, the final standings were 1st Meath, 2nd Tipperary, 3rd Shillelagh, 4th Laois, 5th Kildare and 6th Duhallow.

It was this same weekend in the south of Ireland near Cork that Jean Eagleson and Dylan McPhail were representing WOR at International Tetrathlon. I had hoped to attend to cheer them on however, my convention commitments in Dublin stood in the way.

I consider myself fortunate to be involved with such a great international organization that promotes character, loyalty and sportsmanship in young equestrians around the world.

Del Zelmer, Regional Chair



Presentation of WOR pins to the Meath Team
2008 Champions of the All-Ireland Mounted Games

*Mounted - Meath team members Conor Ryan, Nola Taaffe, Simon McKeever, Rebecca Frayne & Shauna Smith
Front Row- Hugh Leonard with Leonard Trophy, Alice Murnagh, Chair of the Irish Pony Club, Del Zelmer*



Member from Kildare picks up flag



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I'm Really Excited About Pony Club

By: Sara Chauvin (age 6 $\frac{3}{4}$)

I'm really excited about Pony Club because it looks really fun and I really like ponies. I can't wait until I turn 7 in October so that I can join Mill Ridge Pony Club.

When I join Pony Club I will meet new friends, play pony games and ride my pony a lot more.

I also really want to go in PPG. I think I will be good at PPG with my pony Pepper. I think I will do very well at Quiz and at D Rally too!

I can't wait until I am a Pony Clubber!



Classifieds

14.1hh 9 year old, large grey pony mare. Loves to jump both stadium and cross country up to 3' 3" so far. She has dressage training and has hacked through fields and on roads. This pony is suitable for a more experienced rider as she is too quick for beginners. She trailers, clips and crossties very well. She has also had two beautiful foals. For more information, please call Alison Rainford (519) 843-3841 or email arrainford@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?

Want to see yourself in print?

The Pony Express will continue to deliver into 2009 and we want your submissions! Games, stories, pictures, classifieds and club updates- it's your newsletter Western Ontario, tell us what you want to see!



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My Top 10 Reasons to go on a Pony Club PPG Exchange

By: Danielle Kelton



"I would like to say a quick thanks to everyone who contributed to my fundraising efforts and a special thanks to Sandra Radcliffe and Alison Rainford, without whom I could never have had this opportunity."

Read Danielle's full report on her trip to the International Mounted Games Exchange in Australia on the CPC website at: <http://www.canadianponyclub.org/National/PPGames/Results/international2008/Index.html>





1. Learn to tie a tie → 
2. Practice sleeping in airports ← 






3. Ride new and different ponies → 
4. ...and camels!?!?!?! ← 



5. Learn to dress like the locals → 
6. Pat some weird animals ← 



7. Get a whole new wardrobe → 
8. Hang out with some awesome people ← 

9. Represent your country → 

10. MAKE TONS OF NEW FRIENDS!!!!





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International Tetrathlon Exchange 2008

By: Dylan McPhail

The Canadian International Tetrathlon Team was a bit of a scramble in the early stages, but once we all met up in our scandalously comfy and good looking uniforms at the Ottawa airport, our team chemistry clicked instantly. The team did a great job of representing all parts of Canada. Starting with the west side reps, the Canadian team was made up of athletes Jordan Maynard and Mercedes McLean from BC and Kirsty Edwards from Alberta. Then moving east representing Ontario, Mathea Stevens from SLOV, and Jean Eagleson and myself from WOR rounded off the team.



Faced with adversity from the get go, we were slapped in the face with huge over weight fee for our "modest" sized baggage. Without out a moment of hesitation our quick witted and fast talking chaperone/coach Sarah Read of Manitoba stepped in, haggled the luggage attendant to drop fees from upwards of \$300 Canadian per person down to nothing! I'm sure our east coast connection and run, swim, shoot, and life coach, Joseph Holownia from New Brunswick also had a hand in charming the baggage checkers into letting us Canadian athletes through free of charge.

We left home turf from Ottawa at seven at night and after a long flight with interesting meals served with shots of water and milk, we touched down in Gatwick England at roughly seven in the morning the next day. With six hours of our life lost to the flight and another 5 to the time change, we headed off to our host families wondering where the entire night's sleep had gone.



While we were split into three host families we were quickly reunited for some great meals and fun activities including skelectric car racing and visiting London for some sight seeing. We met many English members and their parents at barbeques put on by the local club and walked a very enticing cross country.



We were then off to our first competition, stopping at Stonehenge along the way. We stayed at Kings Bruton School with the US and Irish teams. We competed at the Wincanton race track. Our girls did especially well, beating the UK team for the first time ever while the men held there own, edging out the Americans with a hand from Peter Moralee and Will Parke of England. While Jordan, Joe and I headed off early after the competition to our new host family, I heard rumors of Jean having a great birthday celebration with all the other international athletes.





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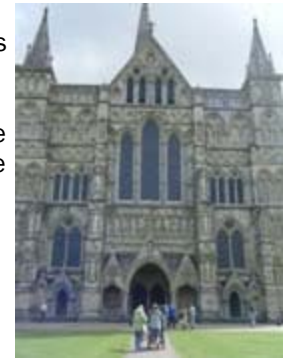
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International Tetrathlon Exchange 2008



For the next few days the Canadian girls found themselves without their adorable male team mates as we were split into different families that were a good distance apart. While the girls and Sarah had a few quieter days, Jordan, Joe and I had a wild time as we headed down to Poole and spent a day on the ocean waterskiing and trick skiing. We also took a visit to the very impressive Salisbury Cathedral built in over roughly 30 years in the 1200s. We also got to try some skeet shooting and again the food was absolutely delicious as our host family, the Mullen's cooked with all their own food.



As our few days apart came to an end, we reunited and headed off to Hartpury College where we would have our second competition at the UK championships. The atmosphere for their championships was electric, rivaled only by the beautiful Hartpury facility and its amazing cross country course. We also had quite an exciting stadium ride in front of a capacity crowd. While the competition raged on, we still found a little time to let loose and have a good time with the other competitors from both the international competition as well as the UK national athletes. Even the parents joined in the festivities.



As we headed away from the beautiful facility at Hartpury, we found ourselves in Tenby where we caught a ferry to the Republic of Ireland. With a bit of down time before the voyage, we enjoyed some local shops and a dip in the ocean. After a choppy crossing of the Irish Sea, we met up with our new host families. In the nearby town of Killkenny, we were put on local radio station and had a small reception with Mayor.

From there, we were bused down to Mallow and the site of the Irish nationals. After all competitors swam, the international athletes were called back for a 4 by 50 relay. The atmosphere for the women's relay was unbelievable to say the least. The rain stopped long enough for the ride and the run to go off without a hitch - a great wrap up for the competition. As our final night turned to day, we said our goodbyes and made off on a scenic trip to Shannon where we caught our flights home from an adventure of a life time.





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Ride for 75

It's freezing cold out, the footing in your arena is better suited to figure skating than showjumping and your pony is so fuzzy and fat you're beginning to wonder if he is in fact a Sasquatch. What to do?

Go on a trail ride!

Bundle up and log some kilometres for the Ride for 75. WOR has ridden 841 kms, but given that we probably live in one of the warmest regions during the winter, it's our chance to gain some ground! Make sure your branch sends your total kilometres to National at the end of each month.



75th Anniversary Conference & Banquet

The final event of Canadian Pony Club's Diamond Jubilee will be a multidiscipline conference and gala. Each region will receive a subsidy to send up to 11 people to the conference. Check out:

www.canadianponyclub.org for registration forms, available early 2009.

When: November 11-15, 2009

Where: Holiday Inn, Toronto-Yorkdale

What: Disciplines Conference

Education Conference

Testing Conference

Youth Conference

Gala Banquet (space is limited so get your tickets early)