



## The Pony Express

Newsletter of the Canadian Pony Club  
Western Ontario Region



Winter 2010

## WOR Rides with Royalty

In this issue  
of the Pony  
Express:

- Hoof Hearted
- A Lifelong Friend to WOR
- A Year in Review
- Valentines Day Dinner and Dance
- 75th Anniversary Youth Conference
- Memoirs of a Tetrathlete
- EquIDblog
- REACH Opening
- National Quiz 2009
- Classifieds



*The riders and grooms from Western Ontario looked the part and even received a compliment from the Duchess of Cornwall on their excellent turnout!*

This fall, 12 riders and grooms from Western Ontario Region had the honour of assisting their Royal Highnesses, Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, as they officially opened this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The riders provided a mounted escort for the royal couple's coach as it entered the Ricoh Coliseum for the opening ceremonies, while the grooms ensured everyone was in top shape for the job. Special thanks to Kathryn Roe-Guerin and Valerie Smith for coordinating the riders and grooms.

## Contact Us

Send your submissions via email to:

[heather\\_agnew13@yahoo.ca](mailto:heather_agnew13@yahoo.ca)

or by snail mail:

Heather Agnew  
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Western Ontario Region riders and grooms included:

**Rebecca Grose**, Mill Ridge Pony Club

**Corrin Harris**, Niagara Pony Club

**Julie King**, Albion Pony Club

**Courtney Rogerson**, Mill Ridge Pony Club

**Aiden Staples**, Caledon Pony Club

**Gen Walton**, Oxford Pony Club

**Heather McGeer**, Caledon Pony Club

**Kirsten Radcliffe**, Grand River Pony Club

**Hannah Robinson**, Caledon Pony Club

**Macauley Robinson**, Caledon Pony Club

**Joanne Smith**, Headwaters Pony Club

**Robynne Smith**, Headwaters Pony Club



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We are fortunate that Western Ontario Region has a stable full of capable and ready volunteers to run the many Pony Club programs that we offer.

When it comes to pulling the Pony Club wagon, the Western Ontario horses can be counted on to move the load. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who work at the Branch level preparing our children in the basics of riding skills and horsemanship. Many of these are dual-purpose horses that also work at the Regional and National level. WOR isn't the largest Pony Club stable in the country, but our horses can be hitched to lots of different wagons that do specialty jobs. We are also fortunate to have a good supply of new volunteers in our Branch stables, so that when our seasoned teams leave to pull Regional or National wagons, we have a ready supply of replacement stock with fresh, new ideas to hitch to those specialty wagons and drive on.

At our 2009 AGM we had a full slate of volunteers to do all the specialty jobs of the Region and if you peek into the National stable, you will see lots of WOR horses there as well.

Four out of the six horses hitched to the National Discipline wagons come from the Western Ontario stable.

Alison Rainford-National PPG Chair, Sherry Jackson-National Dressage Chair, Sue Eagleson-National Tetrathlon Chair and Lynn Morris-National Rally Chair have all stepped forward to direct these programs. With the exception of Alison Rainford, all were new to this role in 2009 and all very ably Chaired their section at the National Disciplines Conference held in conjunction with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Crawford Dale's presence at the National stable continues as it has for many years as our National Webmaster.

We have to be proud of our stable mate who has risen to the top of the National stable and is now our National Vice-Chair and will pull the big wagon in 2011. That of course, is our own Cathy Miller with years of

experience, always cool and rational and admired for her sincerity and understanding of Pony Club issues from coast to coast. We have had Western Ontario horses that have pulled the big wagon before, most recently Virginia Buchanan-Smith when the roads had many potholes that needed filling.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that make this organization a success. Your dedication to advancing the interests of our children is sincerely appreciated.

*Del Zelmer*  
*Western Ontario Region Chair*



*Watch "Heartland" on CBC TV Sundays starring Amy and Tyler. Special guest appearance here by Del.*





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## In Memoriam of a Lifelong Friend to W.O.R.



### All My Joy

June 10, 1982-July 30, 2009

All My Joy (or "Joy" as she was known to friends) was a 13.3hh Welsh/Arab mare bred by Susan (Hattie) Linton, and purchased by the Rainford family as a 4 year old in 1986. One year later her great friend and lifelong companion Beauregard was purchased. He died 4 years before her of a ruptured esophagus.



Joy's first CPC show was with Lisa Rainford at D rally in 1987, and following that summer she never missed a year of D or C rally until her last rally in 2007. In 1995 she was loaned for national rally at Checkmate Equestrian Centre, where the coach of the B.C. team was overheard complaining that they were assigned "a pony"! Alison told him to come and see



her at the end of the competition; and when he did despite his initial impressions, Joy had finished in first place! In 1999, Michelle Rainford rode her to a fifth place finish at yet another CPC National rally.

Joy's PPG career began in 1988 and continued every year until 2008, when she celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> year playing Prince Phillip Games. She was loaned for national and international meets many times over her years. Her last national competition was in 2008 just a couple of months before her lameness began.

Show jumping was also an every-year event for Joy. In 1996 Michelle rode the 13.3 wonder pony to a reserve champion position at the CNE; 0:04 seconds behind the first placed horse. Dressage was a discipline that she became better at as the years went on. Joy competed up to Medium 1 level in dressage and took countless first place ribbons both at Regionals and Zones over her years. Joy also competed in Tetrathlon on a yearly basis, and was loaned for national tetrathlon competitions as well.



The great thing about Joy was how she looked after all of her riders no matter what their capabilities were. When the Rainford girls moved on, other riders enjoyed her. Jessica Ralston followed by Kate Ralston were her companions for many years, winning countless CPC competitions with Joy (including 6 first place finishes at regional rallies). Alexis Ramage also showed her in pony club, and the last CPC member to ride her was Zoe Clark who had lessons and showed her in 2008 at the Fergus Fall Fair.

Joy was a teacher and a competitor; a teammate and a friend; a master and a wonderful family member.  
Thank you Joy, for all you've given and taught us.





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Western Ontario Region



## 2009 – A Year in Review

### Regional High Points Trophy

Congratulations to everyone for their participation in 2009's regional events! As always, it was a close race for the high points trophy—here are this year's winners:

- 1st—Guelph Pony Club, 106.26 points
- 2nd—Grand River Pony Club, 84.07 points
- 3rd— Mount Nemo Pony Club, 64.78 points
- 4th— London Pony Club, 53.4 points
- 5th—Albion Pony Club, 41 points
- 6th—Headwaters Pony Club, 35.79 points



*Guelph Pony Club visits Mohawk Racetrack for a senior education session. Senior members got to ride a buggy themselves, with some of the top racers in Ontario.*



*The Westover Pony Club drill team celebrates their first place win at National Dressage with coach, Linda Agnew.*

### Sandra Silcox Awards

Sandra Silcox award recipients exemplify the very best demonstrations of the CPC motto of "Loyalty, Character & Sportsmanship" in their region and category. These prestigious awards were presented to **Nicole Robinson** on behalf of Western Ontario Region and **Jessica Ralston**, in the Affiliate category during the Gala Banquet at the 75th anniversary celebrations. Congratulations to Nicole and Jessica!

### Ride for 75 Results

Congratulations to **Boomer Creek** for logging the most kilometers in the Ride for 75 in Western Ontario Region!

### Graduate Recognition Award

Congratulations to **Heather Agnew** for receiving the first annual Graduate Recognition Award! This award was created by WOR to recognize former members who are giving of their time and talents by continuing to volunteer and give back to the region after graduation.





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**WESTERN ONTARIO REGION PONY CLUB**

*Presents*



**Valentine's Day**

**Semi-Formal**

**Pasta Dinner & Dance**

*When:*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010**

**6:00 P.M.**

*Where:*

**PUSLINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**DINNER, SILENT AUCTION & DANCE!**

**ADULTS: \$15   KIDS UNDER 12: \$10   KIDS UNDER 5: FREE**

*Please Contact:*

[jacquidennis@rogers.com](mailto:jacquidennis@rogers.com) or [Barbrobinson3@hotmail.com](mailto:Barbrobinson3@hotmail.com)



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Western Ontario Region



### The Canadian Pony Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Youth Conference 2009

*By Jean Eagleson*

Held at the Yorkdale Holiday Inn, Toronto, Ontario I had the pleasure of gathering with youth representatives from across Canada from November 11 to 15th for the National Youth Conference 2009.

All the Youth and Discipline Reps from across Canada arrived Thursday afternoon and evening, registering and receiving our packages and getting ready for the conference festivities. That night starting at 7pm, the Youth Conference began. A warm welcome was given by John Moehring, the National Chair and Karol Shipley the Head of the 75th Anniversary Committee. We were introduced to the Canadian Pony Club Youth Reps, Casey Leroux for the west and Laura Jacard for the east and the rest of the National Executive.

Casey and Laura began the night with a stimulating discussion of Testing Streaming and its new components. This heated topic got everyone listening and actively participating. We also talked about what we see the future of Pony Club as, getting into my favourite part of the conference, the discussion portion of the evening and main reason for the youth conference. We were split up into three groups; each group had a leader and two main discussion topics and subcategories.

Luckily I was in a really constructive group of individuals and felt we talked

about important issues and had great ideas. The first topic we tackled was how Pony Club at the National, Regional, and Branch levels can encourage older members to remain in Pony Club. Membership in the Pony club is dropping and everyone needs to recognize the action needed to be taken to promote kids to rejoin. What my group recognized is that as a senior member, getting involved and giving back to the club is the reason all the 'lifers' are still here. By lending a hand and participating, we recognize what an amazing organization Pony Club really is, and all that it has offered us. It is the responsibility of being the younger member's mentors, being their role models and 'idols' that senior members find so rewarding and give us satisfaction. I speak from personal experience when I say helping a young member grow as a rider and person is a warm feeling people who leave Pony Club miss out on. To this end, it was suggested that older members take on more responsibility within their branches by having them run education meetings or simply act as mentors to groom and prepare younger members for the testing levels. By giving them a chance to return the favour Pony Club has given them, they would get an opportunity to see another side of the organization: volunteers and giving.

Youth Conferences are another way senior members can connect with each other. Many senior members are the only, or one of few left in their branches and a connection with other members

of the same age is maybe all that is needed to keep them coming back. It was suggested that a Youth Conference become a biannual event. It is especially nice for those who cannot or have not participated in other National events to meet others and participate.

The second topic we discussed was different ways Pony Club can promote itself. My group had ideas such as open houses that demonstrate the disciplines and education pony club offers, comparing membership costs with hockey ones and other sports. Demonstrations at local fairs, horse events and other venues; making sure the Canadian Pony Club booth attends fairs and equine events are good ways of promoting the organization. Branches should develop relationships with local tack and feed stores, having a brochure stand and pictures of the local clubs. Pony Club could fund and subsidize 'big name' clinics and open them up to the public.

Pony Club is an excellent organization that offers many opportunities to its members. Make sure you stay updated on what's happening in your branch, regionally and nationally—you don't want to miss out!



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Western Ontario Region



### Memoirs of a Tetrathlete

By Zoe Clark, age 11

The Tetrathlon - an event from shooting walls to jumping three foot fences. On horseback, of course! Two full days of tough competition and the first day was the horseback riding. There were two stages of stadium jumping, and I had entered my "been there, done that" pony. I didn't know whether I had a stomach full of nerves or he just didn't want to jump those fences. Either way, I ended up watching the other kids' ponies going over those fences and telling him he should've gone over them, too. After the jumping, there was a Cross-Country Clinic. Luckily there were just thrills and no spills. Everyone had a good time including me. All I can say is that some of the ponies got going *really* fast. It's not just the riders who love cross-country!



The next day everyone showed up with guns in their cars and wearing their swimsuits, because that day there was swimming, shooting and running that was being held in London. That meant that I had a 2 ½ hour drive and, lucky me, had to get up at 5:30am. Everyone who was entered in the Tetrathlon was there that day. A *lot* of people! This being my first year in Pony Club, I didn't know what to expect. But I can definitely tell you that there were some speeds in swimming and running that I wouldn't have thought possible. It was fun, though, and that's what counts. I should end off saying good job to everyone and good luck next year, because me and my Mill Ridge mates *will be back!*

### EquIDblog

EquIDblog is an equine infectious disease and infection control educational endeavor of the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. It is coordinated by Drs. Scott Weese and Maureen Anderson, who are large animal internal medicine specialists with expertise in infectious diseases and infection control.

The focus of this site is infectious diseases of horses. Infectious diseases are very important in equine medicine. The average horse owner commonly encounters infectious disease questions and problems, ranging from decisions regarding vaccination and de-worming to serious illnesses in their horses. The goal of the blog is to provide balanced, evidence-based information about various equine infectious diseases, along with practical information regarding infectious disease prevention and control, all of which are written and reviewed by experts in the field. This information spans infection control on horse farms and in equine hospitals, and is directed towards horse owners as well as veterinarians.

Starting in our next newsletter, the Pony Express will begin running features from EquIDblog. Check it out at: [www.equidblog.com](http://www.equidblog.com). It's full of great resources for testing, quiz prep and keeping your horse healthy.





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### REACH Opening



*Kristyn Miller and Raffi demonstrate PPG at the REACH opening in Clinton ON.*

Earlier this year REACH, the Regional Equine and Agricultural Centre of Huron, opened its doors and our pony clubbers were there to help with PPG and dressage demonstrations.

The Centre, located in Clinton, Ontario, includes an Olympic-sized indoor arena, warm-up arena, two oversized outdoor show rings, facilities for show stabling and RV parking, and is also home to a full educational facility with classrooms, dorm rooms and a community kitchen.



*Micky Collins and Chocolate Chipper tackle the stepping stones.*



*London Pony Clubber Rachel Mutton on Abby perform a dressage demonstration for the REACH opening.*

### Catch Us On Facebook!

Find us by searching Western Ontario Region-Canadian Pony Club in groups. Post photos and videos from club and regional events and get a chance to get to know your fellow pony clubbers better. You already spend all your time on there...why not stay in touch?

### Want to See Yourself in Print?

The Pony Express wants 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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### National Quiz 2009

*By Penny McLaren*

Congratulations and thank you to our Western Ontario Region National Quiz team, for representing our Western Ontario Region well on Thanksgiving weekend at National Quiz in Vancouver. Both the hotel and the dinner cruise folks offered special congratulations and thanks for the excellent behavior of our Pony Club group.

**Your WOR team as shown in the picture below:**

Kenzie Shaw    Niagara PC  
Allie Schmidt    Mount Nemo PC  
Brianna Kerr    High County PC  
Mary Pigozzo    High County PC

The top four teams marks were well ahead of the rest, and as usual, it was consistently high marks, by the whole team, across the three tests, that won top placings. When asked what their secret was: top teams had quiz tutors. Sunday evening after the fancy dress awards dinner, those same teams began studying already for 2010! Practice really does make perfect. Marks otherwise were fairly close. Our team was 13<sup>th</sup> overall out of 15 C teams. Well done Mary Pigozzo for leading as Captain, and as our top scorer!

2009 Chaperone was Gail Schmidt, whom we thank for being there for the team over the weekend, and for all the marking and games stewardship that goes with being a volunteer at Quiz. (Thank goodness it's fun to meet and horse around with the other parent volunteers!)

Aside from the tests, games and object ID, the entire Nationals group spent Saturday evening on a dinner cruise around Vancouver Harbour and Sunday afternoon sightseeing around Granville Island in one of the trendy market areas of Vancouver. Lots of Fun!



Next year's National Quiz will be hosted by Nova Scotia. I hope lots of you will study up and give these girls a run for their money at the next Regional Quiz in March 2010! We can send an AB team of four and a C team of four, if the marks are high enough (over 60% for Nationals). For more information about Quiz Regionals, see Quiz Rules on the WOR website under downloads; for National testing format, go to the CPC website link below, under downloads: Quiz Rules and Handbook 2005. So test yourself and start studying!

Link to all team photos and awards winners:

[http://picasaweb.google.com/BLACKSTAR.ONE/22ndNATIONALQUIZ2009TeamsPhotos?authkey=Gv1sRgCKb7zI\\_lzbLjbQ&feat=email#5391210730203743570](http://picasaweb.google.com/BLACKSTAR.ONE/22ndNATIONALQUIZ2009TeamsPhotos?authkey=Gv1sRgCKb7zI_lzbLjbQ&feat=email#5391210730203743570)

Results at: [www.canadianponyclub.org](http://www.canadianponyclub.org) under the "International, National & Zone Events" menu item.



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### Classifieds

5 year old dapple grey mare for sale. Very sweet, loves attention. Cute mover and jump. She is a great all rounder, jumps 2'6" courses, trail rides well alone or with others. Scores well on dressage tests- receives 7's and 8's consistently. Has competed at local combined test series- was tied champion of series after only competing at two shows. She trailers well, ties, good for vet/farrier. I have no time, and she is not getting the attention she deserves. Located in Copetown (between Dundas and Brantford). \$2500 OBO 905-627-6797 or [amanda\\_usselman@hotmail.com](mailto:amanda_usselman@hotmail.com)



Dakota is a 9 year old Welsh/Haflinger cross gelding. He is around 13hh and can easily carry a larger child or small adult. My 9 year old daughter was riding him all summer and he has been to D rally, PPG, Fergus Fall fair, Wellesley Fall fair (including the parade), and LOTS of trail riding (even at Mono Cliffs Prov. Park in Orangeville). He is good with traffic, the farrier, trailering, and safe to work around on the ground. He is sound with no health issues or vices. He lives outside and is an easy keeper. My daughter has since gotten a new pony and Dakota no longer has a job here. He would be best suited for a stronger, confident beginner or intermediate rider. For more information please contact Laura Baxter, [jbax@netflash.net](mailto:jbax@netflash.net).

#### FOR SALE: Awesome Event/Jumper Pony

COCOA ~ Dark Bay, 13.2 hh Passported Mare; Many times Champion. Evented to Pre-Training with Dressage Scores in 30s! Always in the ribbons. Bold and willing Jumper. Wonderful opportunity for competitive youngster. Has won Reserve Champion Green Pony on 'A' Circuit Hunter prior to eventing. Would make a wonderful pony club mount, or pony jumper. Also loves to hunt, and is safe and fun in the field. Currently being used at pony club and will be shown at select OHTA events in 2009, ridden by Heather McGeer. Excellent home essential as she is very special and we love her dearly. A free lease will also be considered. For more information, please contact: Gayle Dennison (519) 943-0612.





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## Classifieds (cont'd)

### Well Mannered, Versatile Warmblood Cross Gelding For Sale: Macchiavelli H

Mac is a handsome 8 year old, 16 hh gelding in his first summer of eventing, and qualified for OHTA Championships his first time out at Pre-Training. With work over the winter he'll be ready for training in the spring. He has done a bit of everything; beginner children's hunters on the A's, successful in schooling jumpers, and was an excellent pony club mount (passed the 'B' level this year). Great to clip, trailer, vet, etc, loves attention and has tons of personality. Sadly have to sell before going off to university. Contact Lindsay McLaren cell (519)240-0191 or home (519)763-3838.

Asking \$12,000



14.2h grulla gelding- quiet and very rideable. Great rhythmical gaits. Great form over fences. Suitable for child or adult. \$4000 OBO 905-627-6797 or amanda\_usselman@hotmail.com

Due to personal family complications I unfortunately need to find GOOD homes for two of my horses asap, one is a 2 year old Bay quarter horse cross gelding, very quiet, stands for farrier, good for vet and has been saddled. He is 15.1 now and very cute, asking \$1000 but make an offer just want him to find someone to love him as I do.

The other is an 11 year old Chestnut Thoroughbred quarter horse cross mare. Britt took her to C Rally 2 years ago, great horse just needs some consistent work. Stands for farrier and loads on trailer very well. Has schooled Pre-Training and loves cross country, very brave. This would be a great project for a C+ rider has potential to go far (not a beginner mount). Asking \$2000. Pictures are available upon request. Contact Lynn Morris, lnorris4@hotmail.com