

THE MANE ISSUE



Meet a Member- Jane Raymond

Hey there!

My name is Jane Raymond, and I have been in the Canadian Pony Club for 6 years! I am a member of the Hampton Pony Club branch in the New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island Region, where I am also the Regional Youth Rep.

Ontario as a working student with my horse, and I am now working to save up some money before I go to school.

My favourite memory also ties in with my favourite Pony Club discipline, which is Rally! I got my first pony, Sky, in November of

is now retired from competition. I now compete with my 7 year old warmblood, Gina AKA "Gypsy Boots."

My advice to Pony Clubbers is to take full advantage of all the great things Pony Club has to offer. Pony Club doesn't only give you knowledge and experience in all things horsey, but great life skills. I would definitely recommend getting involved in things like organizing or taking on a position as Youth Rep, because you will gain skills that will follow you through your entire life.



I have tested to the C level but hope to move up the levels before I age out.

I graduated high school in June of this year and had planned to take a gap year before attending University/College. I decided that I want to take the Office Administration course at New Brunswick Community College in January instead.

I spent this past summer in

2011. I met her a year prior, at my first Rally! Luckily for me, one of the other branches was short a groom and I was assigned to fill in. I became great friends with the girls on the team and Sky's owner. This resulted in great long term relationship being formed and in me getting my first pony! Sky and I went on to win a couple rallies at the 'C' level and competed successfully at the Pre-Training level. Sky (Kiss The Sky)



Jane

Testing Tips— Joecy Peter

I joined Pony Club when I was 7 and have been an active member of Opportunity Pony Club in Nova Scotia since 2007. I have been the branch youth representative for the past four years. I have attended many pony club events and competitions including Rally, Quiz, Dressage and Show Jumping at both the regional and national level. I am looking forward to being a member of the Canadian Team at the Inter Pacific Exchange (IPE) in the summer 2017.



I have tested every year since my first year in Pony Club. I've tested up to my B2 stable management and over fences. I also wrote my A in 2016. I have been to many testing's, both being tested and as a

tester. I have been an examiner for the past 3 years.

Preparation prior to testing is one of the key components to being successful. Before your test studying for the stable management is important although being able to orally answer questions takes practice. It is more important that you understand and be able to explain the stable management rather than memorizing what is in the books. Getting advice from multiple people such as coaches and others with experience testing can be extremely beneficial to being successful.

Turnout marks are easy points to receive; putting in the extra effort before testing to have a very clean horse and clean tack can give you high turnout marks. Small things such as supple tack, a very clean horse, clean saddle pads and shiny boots will help. *At testing it is more important to be clean and functional than pretty.*

Remembering that sometimes both you and your horse have bad days is an important tool. Being able to see the problem and work through it is better than getting stressed and not working through the problem. If you run into problems explain to the testers what the problem is and how you are trying to correct it.

It is okay at testing to make mistakes, testing is not a horseshow. Even if the day does not go as well as planned it is essential to look at the problems and learn from them instead of dwelling on the past and not moving forward.

I have been to testing many times and I understand how stressful it can be, although with the proper preparation and a positive mind set it can make the day less stressful and more successful.



Breed Basics - Eriskay Pony

The **Eriskay Pony** is a breed of pony from Scotland.



The Eriskay Pony developed in the Hebrides, a group of western isles in Scotland. The origins of the breed are ancient, with roots in Celtic and Norse breeding. It is physically similar to drawings of ponies on ancient Pictish stones found in north and west Scotland. It is related to other northern breeds, including the Icelandic horse and the Faroe pony. The Eriskay takes its name from the island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides. Originally, the breed had a fairly large population and until the mid-19th century the Eriskay and similar ponies were found throughout the western islands of Scotland.

The breed is rare today, with only a small population remaining pure and protected from crossbreeding, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust considers their status critical, meaning there are 300 or fewer breeding females registered in the world today. There are two breed registries for the Eriskay, the first formed in 1971 and the second in 1986.

The Eriskay Pony generally stands between 12 and 13.2 hands (48 and 54 inches, 122

and 137 cm). It is usually grey in colour, although a few are bay or black. Dark coloured animals generally have the pangaré characteristics of a light-coloured muzzle and ring around their eye. However, according to breed standards, they should not have an eel stripe. Chestnut, piebald, skewbald and excess white markings are discouraged by breed registries. The winter coat is dense and waterproof to protect from the harsh climate, with a thick mane and tail. The head is large, with a wide forehead. The neck and shoulders are well muscled, and the chest deep but generally not broad. The rib-cage is long and the loins short, which increases the strength of the back. The croup is slightly sloping. It is quite similar to the Exmoor pony in

body type.

The Eriskay has an easy-going temperament and is suitable as a mount for children. It is used for light draught work, as well as dressage, show jumping, three-day eventing, western riding and driving. Eriskays have successfully competed in combined driving at highly competitive international level competitions.



Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM

BCLM had such a hard time picking just one super pony They sent 16!



Pony Name: The Gilded Lily

Description: Welsh X Quarter horse; 13 years old: 13'3 hh; Chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail

What my pony and I have done together: When Lily became my pony three years ago, one of the first things I did is start learning how to ride, and then I went to Dressage Champs. I also started riding Lily in PPG, and for the first year I walked her through all the games. Now we can trot and canter through the PPG games and sometimes my team even gets first place! Last spring Lily and I went to Jump Champs for the first time and we jumped 2'3". Lily and I also went to Rally on a D team and we placed 5th. We did really well competing in BC Horse Trials this summer and placed 7th in the starter division at the last event. Hunting is something else I have been learning to do with Lily and it's really fun. Also, trail riding is a blast when you're riding Lily because she gets excited and energetic!

What makes my pony a Super Pony is: Lily is a super pony because she does so many different things and does them well. My older sister

competes with Lily on the Regional A PPG team. This summer Lily will be one of the ponies that the International PPG candidates will be riding in BC. Lily is a safe and reliable pony who I can do anything with. I have learned a lot from Lily as she helps me *become a better and more confident rider.*

Lucie Shaver (10 years old), Campbell Valley PC



Pony Name: Shasta

Description: Icelandic, 19 year old mare, 11'0 hh; Chocolate Palomino

What my pony and I have done together: I have been riding my pony for about two years. I joined pony club last year, and rode Shasta in show jump and dressage. We do pony club lessons together and she is a lot of fun to ride. She is a good pony and does what I ask her to do and she likes to go really fast when we are riding out on a hack in the fields. I have ridden her in some game shows, and dressed her up as a unicorn for Halloween.

What makes my pony super: My oldest sister learned to ride on Shasta, and did game shows with her. Then my other sister rode her in show jump and dressage. She also did Eventing on her in Starter level. Whatever we ask her to do, my pony is willing and steady and I love her because she is a good riding partner and she is always happy when I spend time with her in our barn.

Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM



Hazel Carver (8 years old), Mission Hills PC

Pony Name: Zephyr

Description: Icelandic, 17 year old gelding, 10'2 hh; Chocolate Palomino

What my pony and I have done together: Zephyr and I have ridden in water, jumped cross poles, gone on cross country rides and have jumped some small cross country jumps. Since I joined pony club my pony and I have done riding lessons together and have gone riding in our back field a lot. I have entered him in two costume classes, one at a show and one for Halloween. My best days are riding with Zephyr and my older sisters.

What makes my pony a Super Pony: When he behaves he is a joy to ride, and he is one of the cutest ponies I know and he is very willing when he wants to be. He has definitely taught me how to stay on! And how to trot and canter. Sometimes he does not like to go off property, but usually he likes when I take him for rides with our other horses. My older sister learned how to ride on Zephyr, and he has been part of our family since I was born.

Drew Carver (10 years old), Mission Hills PC

Pony Name: Devon Ridge Harris Hawk

Description: registered Connemara, 10 year old gelding, 14'0 hh; Bay

Our story: When Harris was three, he was presented for inspection with the Canadian Connemara Society. The judge from Ireland was so impressed with him that one of the other

inspectors bought him as a re-sale project. The inspector hired my mom to break him, and since I was the only 'little person' around I started riding him once he was going. We liked him so much, we bought him just before he turned 4. We took him to Pony Club riding lessons and other activities so that he could get used to being around other horses and going out to new places. We started in him walk-trot classes at shows, and progressed to cross pole jumping classes. We would do only one or two classes at each show so he wasn't pressured too much. We started him at Prince Philip Games, where he learned patience and was familiarized with many new and different things, including being ridden by other people.

We continued with his training and soon started competing in higher levels, eventually winning high point dressage and jumping at the D2 level two years in a row. After that, he was jumping well enough that we were able to complete our C test. At first, at shows we mainly competed in hunters so that he could learn how to go in a steady, balanced, rhythmic way, showing good form over fences. In 2014, he became the Canadian Connemara Champion based on his winnings at hunter shows. The following year, we branched out and started doing more dressage and jumpers, and also added some events. That year, he won the Connemara Club's Canadian High Point. He also won the Indoor Eventing Championship at the PNE, which was very exciting. This past year, we did mainly jumpers at shows, and introduced Harris to another new discipline, Mountain Trail, which he really enjoys. Right now, because I am at university, Harris is helping a lady learn how to jump, which he enjoys. He's the best pony I could have ever asked for.

Eve Dedrick, Hazelmere PC



Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM



Pony Name: Coco

Description: 24 year old gelding, 13'2 hh, dark bay

Coco is 24 years old. He is 13.2hh and he is dark bay. He is super too. It is my first year in Pony Club. Coco is a very experienced pony. He knows what to do. This summer we went in my first show, the Rising Stars Dressage Show. We won 5th place.

Sylvia Hellman (7 years old), Mt. Cheam PC



Pony Name: Tommy Tank

Description: Welsh, 10 year old gelding, 13'2 hh

My pony's name is Tommy Tank. He has personality like a feisty bear cub roaming free just like me! Tommy's a ten year old 13.2 Welsh warm blood and he is very cheeky for his size. Having a pony like Tommy is a dream come true. Once I start riding Tommy we are unstoppable. Bonding with Tommy wasn't hard. Now we have a friendship that will never fall apart. Since me and Tommy have a great bond we are learning how to jump and do dressage and we have won many trophies and ribbons at both hunter, flat classes and training level dressage. When we are entered in our first show in dressage an event called Rising stars we won over all high point! This is my very first time in pony club! I can't wait to play the PPG games! Camping with our ponies and all of the shows will be fun. Me and Tommy know we will try our best and we'll be great.

And all of that is why I love my pony so much!

Madeline Patch (9 years old), Campbell Valley PC

Pony Name: Prancer

Description: American Sport Pony, 14 year old gelding, 12'2 hh, Red Roan Appaloosa

Prancer is a super pony because he is agile, nice, fast, obedient and talented. He is also good at many things like: jumping, trail rides, horse camp and PPG. Prancer likes it when my mom brings him to meet us at the school bus stop. His favorite things are hay, grain, bran mash, horse cookies, mints, apples, carrots and the vitamins that we give him every week. He also loves to

Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM

play with everybody and is learning to be driven. Prancer will be participating in IMEG this summer and my sister Claire and I will be doing PPG on him this spring.

Nathan McWhir (8 years old), Boundary Bay PC



Together we have been riding English, Western and even bareback. Some of the fun things I love to do with my super pony are Prince Philip Games, jumping, as well as, riding on the beach. We like to go trail riding and we've also been on some pretty cool back-country trail holidays. On Halloween I dressed my super pony up as a Vampire. At CVPC Summer Camp we had lots of fun doing Quadrille and cross country jumping. Sometimes we even do some western games like barrel racing and gymkhana.

I think she is a super pony because she has taught me lots of things about riding and horses. She is also super because she never spooks at things and does not kick. She is very smooth and easy to ride. She loves her belly scratched and likes to stick out her neck while you are scratching it. Sometimes she smiles after I give her a yummy treat. I love to hug her and kiss her on her muzzle.

I will love you forever Kalee!

Paige Kennedy (9 years old), Campbell Valley PC



Pony Name: Frankie (nickname Frankenstein)

Description: Welsh/Connemara, 12 year old gelding, 11'3 hh, chestnut with a bushy, flaxen mane and tail

My super pony and I love to do many things together. Some of them are Prince Philip Games, cross country and jumping. We also like to do gymkhana, barrel racing and back country trail

Pony Name: Kalee

Description: Welsh/Arab, 25 year old mare, 14'1 hh, bay



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riding. On Halloween I even dressed him up as a clown. We put a pair of jeans on his front legs, and he looked hilarious! We've even done some Quadrille at our CVPC Summer Camp last year.

I think my pony is a super pony because he is so adorable. I also think he is a super pony because he is so small and that makes it really easy for PPG. He is a super pony in many ways...like not being greedy and he never kicks or bites anyone. He loves people and is always looking for kisses from me. Every morning he whinnies to me before I go to school. I also think he is *super because he will go anywhere I want to go with him. I love him so much!*

Jemma Kennedy (8 years old), Campbell Valley PC



Pony Name: Sparrow

Description: Pony Of America, 6 year old mare, 13.1 hh; Marbled Roan with blanket pattern

What my pony and I have done together: We went to our first show which was **the BCLM Dressage Champs** last year and got to camp

out overnight with the horses - it was a lot of fun. I was very happy because I met all of my goals and even placed in both tests (4th and 6th place ribbons). Our D team got 3rd place too!

What makes my pony a Super Pony is: Sparrow is a Super Pony because she **kind, loves kids, and enjoys when I feed her treats. We are learning lots of things together; dressage, trot poles, cantering, and hacking in the field. My favourite time with her was riding through the water obstacle after our show. Sparrow is brave when she's with me and makes me feel special.**

Morgan Brittain (9 years old), Burnaby Lake PC

Pony Name: Without A Doubt (Willow)

Description: Thoroughbred / Welsh cross, 11 year old mare, 14.0 hh; Dark bay

I'm a member of Campbell Valley Pony Club and Willow became my BFF last year so I've not had her that long. But we've already done so much together. Willow and I went from jumping 18" cross poles to 2'3" verticals and 2'6" cross poles in just 6 months. Just after I got her, we went to Milner Downs for a show and placed 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the classes we entered. And we also went to the PNE for Horse Day, and took part in a jumping demonstration. Willow was anxious to be in front of all those people but she did great. We also did camp and it was super fun and she loved the trail rides and the walks. This year, I'm going to teach her all about

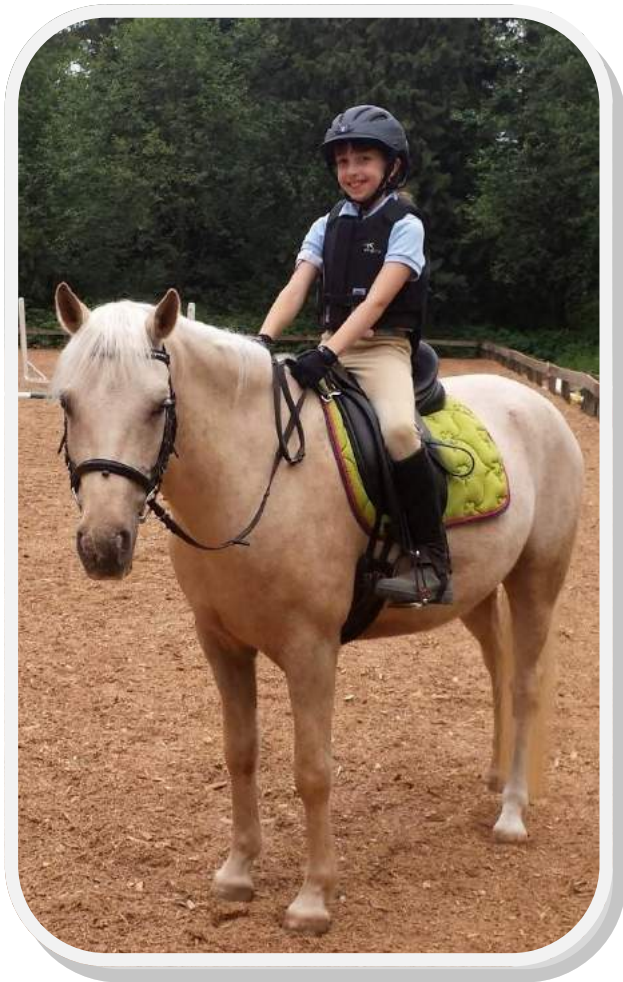


Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM

PPG and the games. It should be interesting!

Willow is a super pony because she doesn't realize how petite she truly is. She can be super-fast if you need her to be or jump super high. My neighbor trained Willow and before she became mine, she was jumping so high. This year, Willow and I have set a goal to go up to 3'0 cross-poles. I know Willow can do them and I want to do them together. Willow is teaching me a lot about riding and she keeps me alert because she's sometimes super excited. She is good at testing me and that makes me a more confident rider. But she's learned too that I'm just a beginner and together we will become a better team.

Lauryn Cartier (10 years old), Campbell Valley PC



Pony Name: Peppermint Dragon (Minty)

Description: Registered ½ Welsh Cob, ¼ Arab, ¼ Appaloosa, 8 year old gelding, 13.3 hh; Palomino

What my pony and I have done together: I got my pony when he was only 4 years old and I was only 7 years old, now I am 11 and he is 8 so we grew up together! I have ridden him in my pony club testing, we take lessons together with my coaches: Liz and Erin in Burnaby, and Maria in Langley. I rode him in a show at Thunderbird and won reserve champion green rider!

Why is my pony a super pony? Minty is a super pony because he is VERY SMART. For example, he will give you a cute and innocent face but then snatch a treat from you! He knows when I am sad or when I am happy. He's a great moving pony with a smoother trot and canter than most other ponies. He prefers when kids ride him over adults, for example he doesn't always listen when my mom rides him but he always listens to me because he knows I've got the treats up my sleeve! He's a super pony because he is teaching many other new pony club kids how to ride. I love my pony and am very grateful he is my pony.

Rose Pavic (11 years old), Burnaby Lake PC

Pony Name: Double Duchess JFL

Description: ¾ Connemara, ¼ American Shetland, 3 year old mare, 13.1 hh; Black (turning grey)

Last summer, my mom and I started our pony, Duchess. She was three years old and had only been minimally handled. At first, we practiced things like being tied up, and having her hooves picked. We also did a lot of round penning to establish trust and respect. However, Duchess learned very quickly and soon she could be all tacked up, with polo wraps and boots too, and been driven and lunged. We even took her to a horse agility clinic and showed her in hand. For both of these she was excellent. A little while later we started riding her. When we first got on her she wasn't scared at all; she just turned around and bit our feet, to see what they were! When Duchess is older I hope to take her to Rally, and Pony Club Dressage and Jump Championships. I can't wait to learn more with Duchess!

Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM



Pony Name: Highland Lassie

Description: Pinto, 29 year old mare, 14.2 hh; Piebald Tobiano

What my pony and I have done together:

Throughout the eight years I have had Lassie we have done walk and trot lessons to completing my C level pony club test. In 2010 we went to jump champs for the first time, took Eventing lessons with Shannon Thompson to prepare for my D2 pony club test which we passed and went to pony club rally in the starter division. The next year we prepared for my C test and started doing prince Philip games which we have continued to do up to this past year, 2016.

What makes my pony a Super Pony is: Lassie is a super pony because despite her age and easy going nature she still loves to have a job. She longs to jump even going as far as to do it in her sleep as she tucks her little feet in her dreams though she has retired from jumping and is only lent out to young prince Philip games riders. Loving all the attention her riders give her in preparation for game day except for bath time. Lassie hates bath time. When she is out in the field and you call at the gate she comes as fast as she can hoping for treats and attention. Throughout the years she has made me laugh and she has made me cry but she always tries to make me smile.

Duchess is a super pony because she is so calm and clever. When we first got her things like picking up her feet were hard, but three months later we could ride her. Also, at the vet check, she was very good, even when a truck dumped rocks in the driveway! Duchess is also very playful. It's very fun to watch her play with her friends. Duchess is a good all-around pony; she can jump, do dressage and be driven. She even has learned some tricks. Duchess inspires me to work hard and learn as much as I can about horses so that I can take really good care of her. I have learned so much from working with Duchess.

Kyla Tokay (17 years old), Alouette PC

Emilia Thrift (11 years old), Burnaby Lake PC

Pony Name: Pepsi

Description: Quarter Horse cross, 14 year old mare, 14.1hh; Liver chestnut with flaxen mane and tail

What my pony and I have done together: Pepsi and I have done trail rides, schooling shows, jump champs, prince Philip games and a demo ride at the Pacific nation exhibition two years ago in 2014. We had planned on attending rally together as her first event in 2015 however we ended up taking different partners when a younger member asked to ride Pepsi for her first attempt at rally. This past year we did prince Philip games together where



Super Ponies (& Horses)- BCLM

Pepsi was also ridden by younger club members.

What makes my pony a Super Pony is: Her unbelievable ability to take any situation in stride. In the eight and a half years I have owned her she has never been spooked for more than a couple of seconds before pretending that nothing happened. She doesn't always understand why she has to work and is not a fan of dressage but has taken a liking to cross country her favourite part of cross country is going through the water and getting to see all that grass, just waiting for her. Her other favourite activity is prince Philip games as she get lots of attention from all her people, as she is shared amongst Alouette's C and B teams, and cookies, have to love the cookies. Overall her favourite activity is trail riding through Kanaka Creek Park in the summer and stopping for a rinse in the creek.

Kyla Tokay (17 years old), Alouette PC



Pony Name: Evergreen's Jet Set Jo

Description: ¼ Arab, ¼ Welsh, ½ Thoroughbred, 9 year old gelding, 14.1hh; Bay

What my pony and I have done together: Joe and I have been together for 2 years now. My mom bred him so we have had him for all his life. Some of my favourite highlights are; MREC schooling show in the 2"3-2"6 jumpers, we also had a blast at Pony Club jumper championships last spring! We also competed in Pony Club Dressage championships and won our training test and freestyle! My favourite show with him was the MREC Halloween dress up show! We competed in the hunters and won 1st place in one of our classes. He also was quit a crowd pleaser with my friend at PPG this year! Jo and I rocked the rails and burned down the trails this year and I was so happy that could spend my time with him!



What make my pony a Super Pony is: Maybe it's the fact that he puts up with me dressing him up like a purple people eater. Possibly it's the fact that he is one of the most versatile ponies I've ever seen. I got the best one yet, it's that every time I see him I know that we will have fun! He's my super pony because he is always there for me when I need him the most.

Hadley Jack (12 years old), Alouette PC

BRANCH—ABCS—CAMPBELL RIVER, BC ISLANDS

Campbell River is one of the youngest branches in the BC Islands Region – we two non-horsey mums did the paperwork in 2013 and started the 2014 year with a handful of kids, one horse, and no idea what we were doing!

That year, we didn't run a Test Day, but we did go to this weird event, which no one could really describe to me properly, called "Quiz", of all things... "What a dorky name!" I thought at first, before I knew it was maybe the coolest, most interesting, most accessible discipline Pony Club offered. Three years later, our Branch has taken on Quiz as its favourite event, and the one Regional competition that almost every one of our members attends.

Our most senior Stable Management student is Anna, who achieved her C1 SM with flying colours, and has been to National Quiz twice, finishing 15th in 2016. We are proud to say Anna won the C level Phil Crowe Memorial Award in 2016, in recognition of her many, many hours spent volunteering with Pony Club.

Brianna and her horse Walker hold our club's highest full test – they completed their C in 2016, travelling to a different city in order to get to a facility with a qualifying cross country course (the biggest Testing challenge in our Region). Linnaea and her horse Cash rode all the way to the BC Summer Games 2016, in the Jumper category. And our club is lucky enough to have a large D membership, who are all studying like mad to begin working their way up through the Pony Club levels.

Some of our favourite memories were made at Spring Education Camp, where we first met with kids from other clubs in the Region. Until then, we didn't know much about the wider world of Pony Club, and felt a little isolated.

Another favourite was when our DC took a few club members to a Horse Trials event, to volunteer as jump judges in the cross country competition. That was EXCITING!

Being together as a club is always important to us. We think that one of the most crucial aspects of Pony Club is the friendship between members, and the example that our older students provide to the younger ones.

As DC, I would encourage all Pony Club DCs and parent leaders to foster this spirit of cooperation and teamwork wherever they can. It's so important for the Senior members to feel that they have some responsibility to their younger club-mates, both as role models for the Pony Club values of Loyalty, Character and Sportsmanship, and as teachers who can share their considerable knowledge with their juniors. It can be tempting to keep the age groups separate to make a large crowd of kids more manageable, but we should be careful not to accidentally create a strata system in which the Seniors and the Juniors never really interact. I say, "You can't become an A without first becoming a D." It's a good reminder that there is no achievement without a beginning.

At our first meeting of the new season, I was so happy to see 20 old and new kids assembled in front of the barn. All of them – returning members and brand new members – were divided into groups. Each group was a random, jumbled mix of ages and abilities, experience and knowledge. Brand new, 6 year old recruits were put on teams with shy 11 year olds and confident, bossy 16 year olds. As I sorted everyone into their groups, I heard the team leaders chatting with new members. "What's your name?" and "Have you been riding long?" In a few minutes, the teams were given a list of required photos they had to collect: a "Selfie Scavenger Hunt". It was a race – who could return fastest and show me all the pictures they had taken with their phones.

In the Pony Club spirit of friendliness, inclusion, fun and muddy boots, here are some Campbell River club members in our Selfie Scavenger

Hunt...along with our photo list. Maybe you can try these with your new members, next time you feel the ice could use a little breaking.

**CAMPBELL RIVER PONY CLUB
SELFIE SCAVENGER HUNT!**

It's a race!

The first team who checks in with the complete list of selfies, wins glory and fame.

1. Everyone standing on a ground line OR the teeter-totter	2. With a chestnut
3. All your feet plus a shod hoof	4. With a horse whose name ends in Y
5. With a lunge whip and line	6. Wearing at least one safety vest and one medical armband
7. The youngest member of your group BRIDLED and CROSS-TIED	8. THE ENTIRE GROUP under a rug or rain sheet. Parts of you can stick out.
9. With a fire extinguisher	10. With at least one piece of driving equipment
11. With a book whose cover shows at least two horses	12. Everyone holding an item from the standard Pony Club D grooming kit
13. With a succulent	14. With the newest team member wearing a Pony Club pin.



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Looking for a Good Read? Try - Marguerite Henry

Marguerite Henry née Breithaupt (April 13, 1902 – November 26, 1997) was an American writer of children's books. She wrote fifty-nine books based on true stories of horses and other animals.



Born to Louis and Anna Breithaupt, the youngest of the five children, Henry was a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Henry was stricken with rheumatic fever at the age of six, which kept her bedridden until the age of twelve. She was unable to attend school with other children due to her

weak condition and the fear of spreading the illness to other people.

While confined indoors, she discovered the joy of reading. Henry's love of animals started during her childhood. Soon afterwards, she also discovered a love for writing when her parents presented her with a writing desk for Christmas. Henry later said, "At last I had a world of my very own – a writing world, and soon it would be populated by all the creatures of my imagination."

Henry sold her first story at the age of 11. A magazine had solicited

articles about the four seasons from children, and she was paid \$12 (now about \$250) for "Hide-and-Seek in Autumn Leaves". Henry won the annual Newbery Medal from the American Library Association in 1949, recognizing [King of the Wind: the story of the Godolphin Arabian](#) as the year's "most distinguished contribution to American literature for children". She had been a runner-up for [Justin Morgan Had a Horse](#) in 1946 and [Misty of Chincoteague](#) in 1948. [Brighty of the Grand Canyon](#) was given the William Allen White Children's Book Award in 1956. In 1960, [Black Gold](#) won the Sequoyah Book Award. [Gaudenzia: Pride of the Palio](#) was awarded the Clara Ingram Judson Award for children's literature in 1961. [Misty of Chincoteague](#) was named to the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award list in 1961. [Mustang, Wild Spirit of the West](#) received the 1967 Western Heritage Award for Outstanding Juvenile Book and the 1970 Sequoyah Book Award.



Canadian Equestrian(ne)s—Cynthia Margaret "Cindy" Neale-Ishoy

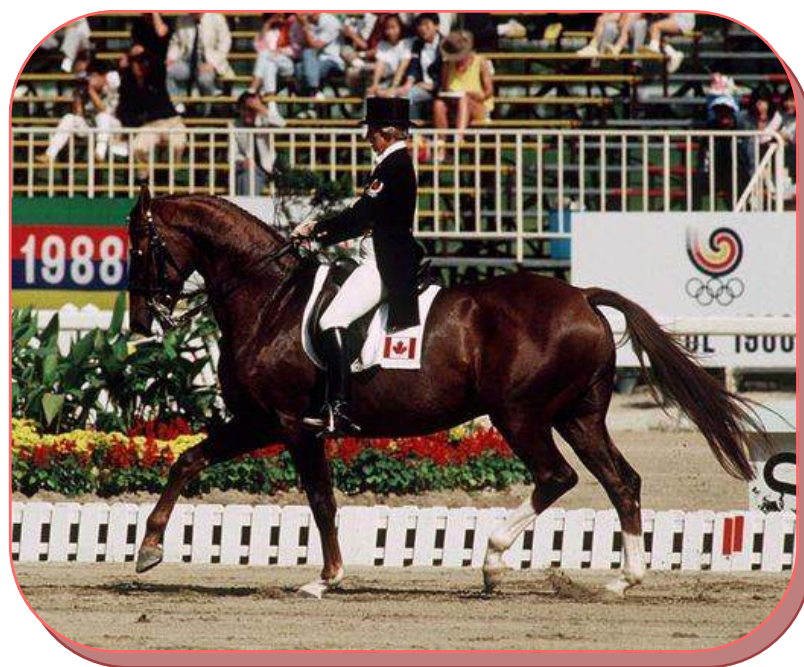
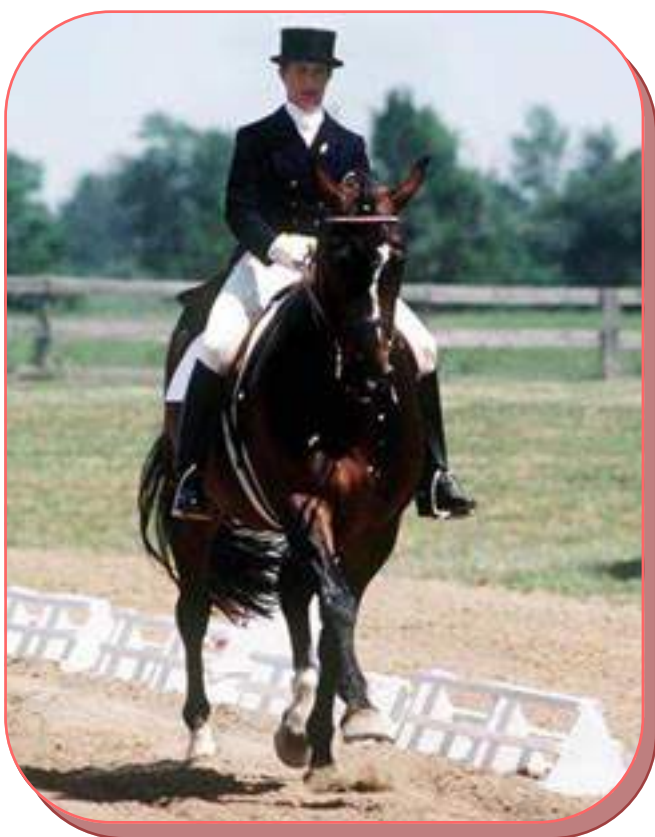
Cindy Neale, born in Edmonton Alberta, was originally a swimmer, but took up equestrianism as a teenager.

She first represented Canada on the international stage at the 1971 Pan American Games where, in the absence of the United States, she won a gold medal in the team dressage event alongside [Christilot Hanson-Boylen] and [Zoltan Sztchlo] while placing fourth individually.

She then attended her first edition of the Olympic Games the following year, where she finished 26th in the individual dressage and 6th among 10 nations in the team event (with Hanson-Boylen and [Lorraine Stubbs]). She was selected for the 1976 edition, but did not compete, and was then slated to attend the

Games in 1980 until Canada boycotted them. Although she was offered an opportunity for the Soviets to pay her way to Moscow, she turned them down and therefore had to wait until 1988 to get another chance to participate in the Olympics. By then she was Cindy Ishoy and was coming off a second-place individual finish at that year's World Cup, having placed behind [Christine Stükelberger] of Switzerland. Riding her horse Dynasty, Ishoy won bronze in the team dressage, alongside [Eva-Maria Pracht], [Ashley Nicoll-Holzer], and [Gina Smith], and finished in fourth in the individual event, sixteen points shy of Stükelberger and the closest any Canadian has come to an individual Olympic dressage medal.

The following year, Dynasty died of colic. At the 1992 Summer Olympics she was 10th in the team event and 34th individually while, in 2004, she placed 9th with the Canadian team and joint-31st individually. In 2010 she was named Dressage Canada's Owner of the Year.



Val's Corner

Whether you like or hate the HorseMasters Program, it is here to stay. The Board has agreed to make it a permanent part of Pony Club. The HorseMasters Committee has made some changes to the program. All of these changes can be found in the revised Operations Manual, which you can find on our web site under Documents. Here are some of the main changes:

- Centres may now have HM members.
- HM members from various Branches or Centres may form a Regional group to plan activities for their group, get together teams for various Regional activities, and plan to volunteer at Regional events.
- Where numbers allow, Regions are encouraged to put a HM rep on the Regional Committee. It is hoped that this will be a voting position.

Canada is hosting International Quiz this year and we still need more applicants, so I am extending the deadline until the end of February.

All forms are on the web site under International Exchanges. If you are at least 16 years old, have attended National Quiz in the last three years and have placed in the top 10 at least once as an individual and have at least your C2 SM, you are eligible to apply.

This year, there will be teams from the UK, Australia and the US as well as Canada. We will be doing some touring in BCLM prior to flying to Kelowna for some more touring. We will then join the National Quiz. Don't forget, the members of the Canadian team will be able to carry their individual scores forward to the National Competition and receive any placings you may have earned.

CPC Award of Excellence Scholarship

I am very happy to announce that the 2016 Scholarship winners are Megan Kornder from Living Skies Pony Club in Saskatchewan (\$1000); Marlies Kerkhoven from Mission Hills Pony Club in BCLM (\$1000); and CJ Wishart from Portage Pony Club in Manitoba.

Congratulations to all the recipients and we wish them good luck with their future studies.

Val

Thank
you 

Volunteer Appreciation—Virginia Buchanan-Smith

Editor's Note: As a volunteer run organization we would be nothing without our volunteers. Maybe you will be able to recognize their faces next time you are at an activity and be able to thank them in person for all they do for you. Unfortunately we can not recognize every single volunteer here but we appreciate all of you!



The Western Ontario Region has had the wonderful opportunity of working with Virginia for thirty three years. WOR has tremendously benefitted from having Virginia close by as she is always willing to step in where needed, and lend all the children a helping hand.

The youth members are very comfortable with approaching Virginia and often rely on her to answer questions or accept her guidance when it comes to their safety on a horse.

Virginia has seen many of these youth members grow up to become accomplished professional horse riders and Pentathletes competing in many international events, and is as proud of these children as their own parents.

Virginia has held many positions at either the Branch, Regional or National level including National Chair.

She is currently the Visiting Commissioner for the Western Ontario Region (where her role is to assist the Branches with formation of new branches, provide knowledge and insight based on their in-depth experience within the Pony Club and to act as a liaison between Branches and the Regional Committee).

She goes out of her way to assist with any organizational or conflict issues.

Always willing to host and provide education sessions

at her farm for the members to increase their experience and exposure to different facets of Pony Club. Her role continues to aid in bringing together all members and volunteers within the Pony Club and focusing our efforts towards producing knowledgeable and caring equestrians and young adults that will share these values with others amongst the community.

In the thirty-three years Virginia has been involved with The Canadian Pony Club, she has had direct contact with the youth membership, the parent volunteers, and the executive body across Canada. In a very conservative count of the people she has motivated, it would amount to over 3,000 with some of these being very long term relationships.

Virginia has donated her property for events and competitions, and she assists those that do not have a pony of their own to be matched up with others that have extras to share.

Virginia spent many hours dissecting the rules for Rally, to bring them in line with current horse National Eventing rules which was a grueling, and time consuming task. For the past two WOR Regional Rallies Virginia has been happy to be the scorer. This is often is a tedious and thankless job, but a very important one.

She leads by example never seemingly to run out of energy and smiles.

When involved with a large group, social issues and friction do happen, and Virginia is one of those people that step up for the youth and emphasize that rules are in place for a reason, they must be followed, and ensure that the outcome is for the best interest of the youth.

Thank you Virginia from all of us at CPC, across the country, for your dedication and support!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - ROBBY NORRIS—NORTH HILL PONY CLUB

I joined the Manitoba based North Hill Pony Club at 12 years old and remained a member until I achieved my full A-level in 2005. Pony Club exposed me to my first love: Eventing. I competed almost exclusively in Eventing until mid-2000s, when I branched out into the hunter-jumper world.

Unfortunately, competitive riding had to take a bit of a back seat while I was in post-secondary education where I went the business route and obtained a CPA designation. I currently work at an agricultural company in accounting and project management of Capital Projects. I'm happy to say that I'm back in the saddle and own a wonderful thoroughbred-cross mare and am hoping to get back into the show ring sometime in the 2017 season.

Pony Club was a family affair for the Norris' – along with my two sisters, we actively participated in numerous camps, PPGs, National Rallies, National Quizzes, and NHPC branch events. My sister, Carly, attained her B; and my other sister, Lindy, her HA. We were very fortunate to have our mom (who was an experienced horseperson) shuttle the horses and whatever kids were tagging along and from one function to another. How she managed to get us three in the ring at the same time without losing her mind, I'll never know! She also stood as DC for our club and was very active in many Pony Club functions we attended. Our dad preferred the support role by being the local photographer (before the age of digital!) and the BBQ-er extraordinaire for all of the canteens he was voluntold to participate by my mom.

I'm a firm believer that Pony Club is so much more than a "pony club" – my involvement throughout the years provided more life experiences than any levels of my education ever taught. Not only does it provide a well-rounded instruction on how to take care of equines, it taught the bigger life lessons that you cannot learn from a book.

It is a national level organization that is run off of volunteers. It taught me at a young age that if you have a group of people with a common goal, you can all work together to achieve it; and more importantly achieve it without expecting anything in

return. It also taught me that life is a combination of taking and giving – I was fortunate enough to have some wonderful coaches guide me along my way while I was learning to ride; but once I became a competent horseperson it was my turn to teach those wanting to learn. This started out with teaching stable management lessons when I was 14-ish for the D-D2 levels, then grew to teaching club riding lessons which I still do today. I find lots of pride in being able to teach the "Pony Club way", knowing that the classical methods are being passed on to the next generations.

Pony Club also taught me that there is an art form in every discipline. Through being exposed to dressage, cross-country, show jumping, stadium, PPG, steeple chasing (yes, steeple chasing!), racing (one of our coaches trained/exercised racehorses), hunters, hacks, trails, tetrathalons, and more that I'm probably forgetting – you learn that it is very hard to achieve success in each. In my naïve youth, I thought the hardest thing you could do on a horse was to jump your horse over big fences and that a lot of those other options were "easy". As I became more exposed to other disciplines, I learned that to navigate a dressage ring and to do it well wasn't easy; to canter around that hunter course and get every distance and lead while making it look effortless was very hard; and to encourage that young, inexperienced, and nervous horse calmly around at a show was quite the challenge. Pony Club not only increased the breadth of my riding experiences, but taught me to be humble when I wasn't successful and to appreciate any triumphs I was lucky enough to face.

Pony Club also taught the value of friendship, and encouraged many of my local, national, and international friendships (many of which I still have to this day). All of us were horse-crazy youth, so we had a pretty solid basis for creating friendships. With such a physically demanding sport (on and off the horse), it was much easier to tackle tasks as a group than do them individually and the club ethics created and nurtured this team spirit. If something needed to be done, we went as a group and did it. The "Loyalty, Character, Sportsmanship" motto supported the team spirit which helped foster these

great friendships – many which at this point are 20+ years strong!

It also taught me the value of hard work, determination, patience, and community. It was definitely not an easy task getting to my A. I wasn't successful in the first time attempting my HA – a testing experience that I had travelled to a different province for. At a young age I really had to self-reflect on whether I put my all into the test, re-evaluate my approach to preparing myself, swallow my ego and give my all to be successful. My gelding that I was to use for my RA died two months before my test – and I am still amazed to this day from the support that I received from my fellow horse community. I had my pick of top level horses offered to me, and I know that people trusted their animals in my care because I had the knowledge (much of which I obtained from Pony Club) to take care of them.

I am a strong advocate for any person at any age to join Pony Club as it requires people to think outside of the box when it comes to their horses. You are taught to be prepared for the inevitable equine “what-ifs” that are bound to happen and how to get through them. More importantly, Pony Club allows you to try many different and very fun disciplines that you may not normally be exposed to all while making lifelong friends.

I will maintain until the end of time that everyone who rides should pick up a Pony Club book and give it a try!



The Groundline

-A takeoff point for discussion... (by Kim Leffley)

"For the sake of Clarity..."

This month's column will be familiar to some of you already. It is the open letter to the Canadian Equestrian Community put forward by Canadian Pony Club in response to the current situation regarding EC and other equestrian entities.

This letter, contrary to what has been stated in some publications, was not addressed specifically "to EC" but was entitled "An Open Letter to the Canadian Equestrian Community" and was posted only on our website and Facebook pages. It was apparently picked up and shared from there by people with whom I can only assume the message resonated. It was not intended to be combative, but simply to affirm that as a stakeholder organization, we do have a position on these matters, and to identify our concerns and our vision and hope for the future.

It was written for a couple of reasons: First, CPC is often a background, somewhat invisible organization in the greater scheme of things but we felt it was important to let our members and supporters know that we are watching the developments in the national equestrian bodies and educating ourselves to the issues. Secondly, as an EC stakeholder organization, we do have concerns and a strong interest

in how things are going and what the implications of the eventual outcomes may mean for our members and organization, as well as the equestrian community in general. Thirdly, we wanted to assure people that despite unrest at the highest levels, we have a vision and will continue to the best of our ability to offer programming consistent with our standards, with integrity and an ever-present goal of improving our product and experiences in every way we can.

It has been encouraging to see the responses from members and alumni who are proud of and support our organization. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of this organization, our alumni are our greatest accomplishment and our gift to the equestrian industry and community, and our members represent our invested time, talent and hope for the future and are the reason we do what we do. Thank you one and all for your belief in and support of this great organization.

We're not perfect, but we'll never stop trying to be the best we can for you.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY FROM THE CANADIAN PONY CLUB

With the permission of the Board to whom I am accountable and whom I serve, I would like to weigh in on the



current situation regarding Equestrian Canada and the Canadian equine community at large.

As a recognized Builder organization, and a historically stable and respected member of an international grassroots equestrian youth education and training organization, CPC is deeply invested in the existence of a healthy and competent national structure for the development, protection and promotion of the future of equestrianism in Canada. Like many others, we have watched with concern as our National governing body has struggled to identify its role and purpose in the community. Are they a supporting umbrella organization or an active, and in some cases, a competing participant? We've seen it wrestling to find its bearings, dealing with an exodus of long-time, high level personnel, navigating negative press surrounding lawsuits, the timing, effectiveness and necessity of the rebranding effort, and the new governance model, which has left stakeholder organizations feeling confused, alienated and voiceless. We have seen the

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funds given to this entity in good faith by its members, allocated in ways that may be viewed as extravagant, and in some cases, redundant, funding projects and programs which replicate services that already exist rather than utilizing strategic partnerships. We have seen a growing level of non-confidence as stories emerge regarding internal disharmony, meetings held and votes cast by "voting members" without any consultation with the organizations they exist to represent (to date we have never been contacted on any matters taken to a vote), stances taken that do not represent the views and values of those being affected, and other similarly worrying dynamics. We as an organization have struggled to identify our value, role and purpose in the current Canadian equestrian dynamic. A number of the High-Performance communities have spoken with a clear voice regarding their concerns, so I would like to offer our perspective to the discussion.

We - all of us - as a broader equine community with the diversity of talent, passion and skills inherent to our particular groups, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table and each stakeholder organization contributes something vital and strong to the overall picture. We NEED one another for this delicately balanced structure to work. Our society is further removed from the horse than ever before. It is more and more becoming an immediate gratification, "success at whatever price" driven culture which does not translate well when dealing with the investment of knowledge, time and relationship building necessary for developing effective equestrianism. At the basic levels, we need the 4-H and Pony Clubs, groups that introduce this ethic and culture of pace, discipline and hard work at the entry levels and that make horsemanship approachable, understandable and affordable to the increasingly non-horsey parents of horse crazy kids, and whose volunteers demonstrate their belief in the power of the horse/child relationship to shape lives by giving freely of their time and resources to spark that desire that leads to lifelong equestrianism, benefitting the horse community as a whole. Moving forward, we need the special interest breed and discipline groups to give those young talents a place to focus their skills and passion, whether it be reining on

homebred quarter horses, showing Arabians in conformation halter classes, racing at the local tracks, pursuing excellent in the eventing, jumper or dressage fields, or simply riding recreationally for the sheer joy of it. We need the PTSO's to understand their regions' unique needs and to act as liaisons with the national framework to optimize the resources available to achieve mutual goals. We need a structure that encourages and rewards the coaches and stables who see the bigger, long term picture beyond only boarding for those already engaged and with high performance aspirations, and who intentionally provide space and resources for beginners and intermediate riders to enter the sport/industry and develop strong skills and positive experiences that translate into sustainability in the form of increasing numbers of future competitors, coaches, trainers, and other industry essential members.

We need our governing body to be simply that - an umbrella organization that's sole focus is advocating for and supporting the myriad of groups who make up the equine/equestrian industry in Canada, groups who by experience, best know their own needs and roles in the bigger picture. This governing body, whether they realize it or not, has the tools in place in the existing groups to create a "cradle to grave" pathway for everyone from recreational to competitive equestrians, and to support the "visible" industry by valuing those stakeholders who foster the development of the non-riding equine enthusiasts - those who become farriers, vets, breeders, stable owners, coaches, trainers, equine massage therapists etc. and who are vital to its continued health and success. As a national governing body, their focus must be on the factors that impact and aid ALL stakeholder organizations - things like safety standards, horse welfare and biosecurity education, international communications that truly represent their stakeholders, sustainability and transparency, and perhaps less on logos, and trend-based decision-making. Believe me when I say no one knows better the "(mis)interpretation issues" that can arise around a name than "Pony" Club. But rather than trying to pretty up the packaging while the content stays the same, we have chosen to invest our

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limited and member provided resources working on ways of improving our product so that the name once again becomes associated with knowledge, competence and integrity. More than a name, integrity of program and process matters. No amount of rebranding will change a skunk into a striped kitty.

We on the frontlines, the grassroots levels of this sport and industry have the power to shape its culture, and not to passively let it shape us in the name of ratings, financial gain or personal glory. If we have come to that level, we should be ashamed. If owning the podium is truly the overriding goal which drives our national decision-making, and determines our access to vital funding, we must recognize that that requires solid structure from the ground up - competent and equipped high level

competitors don't just appear out of the woodwork.

They are the product of a detailed and comprehensive vision for the path to the future, one that doesn't spend precious time and resources reinventing the wheel, but identifies, invests in and utilizes existing resources to offer integrated and cooperative youth engagement and education opportunities. If we don't feed the system with interested, new young talent, our High-Performance aspirations rest within that small pool of only those few who currently have the resources and opportunity to move ahead, and the hopeful but undiscovered future heroes of the Canadian equestrian scene will remain that way because playing soccer or basketball was "more accessible, cheaper and easier". High performers are the result first and foremost of identified, inspired and engaged kids, and educated, informed parents/guardians, then supported by a hierarchy of committed coaches willing to suitably progress their rising star, dedicated and selfless donors and patrons who support knowledgeable and inspired breeders to put the right combinations of talent together to succeed. They are the result of many hours logged by volunteers to provide transportation to lessons, clinics and shows that lead to the skillsets that inspire investment in this talent by coaches and owners and trainers, who create opportunity for wider experiences and opportunities that can lead to podium dreams and success. It is a team effort from the ground up by so many stakeholders; a path where each bridge is

vital to the next step in retaining and increasing interest and involvement. But with the current urgency to play at the top of the game, and the culture of distraction and access to other, easier options, it is fragile and easily broken.

If we are content to minimize the value of taking the time and effort to acquire solid horse knowledge and riding skill simply to expedite the speed with which we turn out competitors capable of riding their way into the winner's circle, we will consistently be bested by those countries who understand the value of comprehensive horse knowledge as a pivotal tool in getting the best performance possible from the horse/rider relationship. Quality will always win out over quantity. If we place inappropriately heavy weight in our training structures on only the riders and their ability to get around a course, what mechanism identifies and encourages those for whom the desire is there but the tools are not? How do we keep them engaged and participating? What systems develop the valuable and necessary community

members whose skills and opportunities lie outside the performance ring - the future grooms, farriers, vets, coaches, massage therapists and breeders who need to see a place of value for themselves in our Canadian equestrian system? What does compromising and weakening our foundational knowledge base in the name of making it "easier" to succeed and "quicker" to get to the top, say to those who did the hard work to pave the way and set the standard for success for Canadian equestrians? If our capable and motivated coaches at all levels are only rewarded (whether financially or through recognition) for their production and managing of high performance talent, where is the incentive for them to move them appropriately through the process and devote the time, energy and resource investment necessary to use their hard-won skills and talents to engage, educate and evolve new participants into the system? Volunteerism is an incredible resource in Canada but even the most dedicated and visionary of volunteers get burned out when their investment is devalued or minimized.

What if our National goals were bigger, more audacious? What if our national goal went beyond serving the media masters for ratings and financial

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support, and went to the heart of equestrianism - creating the opportunity to introduce new generations of youth to the joy, opportunities and yes, hard work and discipline of true equestrianism, the building of a relationship based on knowledge, understanding, trust and respect for the animal around whom this sport and industry revolves? What if we were able to create a system that educated the public who drive the media demand and made equestrianism understandable and approachable to those have interest but no knowledge, ability but no opportunity? What if we were able to convince our National sport funding body that success in the High-Performance arena (although an important and aspiration worthy component of the whole equestrian picture) is not the only criteria for making funding decisions in view of the greater sustainability issues, and that engaging the backyard trail or pony rider is as vital to our future as turning out a limited pool of top level competitors? What if our corporate view were so unified and visionary that all of our individual and unique sister organizations were able to come together under one umbrella with the goal of strengthening the entire system though our experience and willingness to work together for the greater good of the whole industry - be it sport, competition, recreation or industry contribution. I applaud organizations like Equine Guelph for taking steps to unite and create dialogue within the equestrian community but I must ask: Is this not the role to which a National governing body should aspire?

We need national representation that has not only an inclusive and broad vision, but the skill set and willingness to involve partners who bring to the table talents that may be needed but absent. We need stakeholders to be invested because they feel valued, included and that they have a valid voice in shaping the future of our field.

We need leadership that embodies the diversity of the members it represents. We need leadership that recognizes the unique geographic, financial and resource- based challenges of inclusive equestrianism in Canada (from recreational to High- Performance) and models its programming to accommodate those factors, not trying to create a "one-size-fits-all" template which benefits some levels and alienates others. We need leadership that is willing to take educated, calculated risk with

the support and contribution of its stakeholders, but also having the humility to admit mistakes and embrace qualified help when offered. We need leadership that is willing to lead - and you are only leading when people are confident and willing to follow. Otherwise you are simply taking a walk by yourself.

"...All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention...."
L.R. Knost

Undoubtedly there are factors and dynamics at play to which we are not privy as leadership of any organization is like an iceberg - you only see about 10% of it above the surface... but the bottom line is that the level of mistrust, anger and concern being expressed by a broad and diverse base of the stakeholder members should serve as a red flag which cannot be ignored by those who are entrusted with the present and future of our equestrian community in Canada.

The Canadian Pony Club, regardless of the current factors at play, will continue to endeavour to offer strong, foundational theory and riding education, with the assistance of our dedicated volunteers and the visionary coaches, stable owners and industry talents who share our desire for a sustainable future for equestrianism in Canada. Although we, like many member funded, volunteer organizations struggle with finance and resource availability, we still have faith in the power of the greater equestrian community to capture the vision going forward, and to heal and repair the damage done within the system in which we operate. We pledge our support to the effort toward responsible and accountable leadership, and welcome the support, physical or financial, of all who believe in the power of grassroots exposure to horsemanship to Engage, Educate, and Empower youth, and develop not only skilled and knowledgeable horsemen and women, but to better our society in general through the development of the attributes of Loyalty, Character and Sportsmanship based in a true and sincere passion for horses and equestrianism.

News from the Regions

NS



On February 18th, the Evangeline Pony Club had the pleasure of going to learn about Reining at Sky Valley Farms in Nictuax, Nova Scotia. Norma Graham, the owner of Sky Valley Farms, is an EC Western Competition Coach and an FEI Reining Steward. Eighteen members attended this exciting event with our youngest member being 6 and our oldest members being 18. Everyone was shocked to learn that there were so many parts to a western saddle and there were a lot of guesses and laughs when trying to figure out how to label the saddle. We then looked at some of the different bits used in Reining and members had to sort the bits into legal and non legal categories. Norma then explained the basics of Reining and the basic maneuvers a horse has to be able to execute. She also explained how they always ride set patterns similar to Dressage and that the patterns are always available prior to the show. The pony clubbers then headed to the indoor to watch Norma ride her horse Wylie as she demonstrated how to ride lead changes and showed us how they want the horses to be soft and willing in the bridle. She also demonstrated how you teach a green horse to spin and to progress the horse without it getting frustrated. She emphasised that no matter the discipline the horse must always learn to go forward first and be willing in the bridle. Norma then rode Gus, a quarter horse from Texas and showed us how to spin at full speed. All of our members were then able to get on Gus and try spinning him which was a very awesome experience. All of our riders were surprised by how little hand and leg were required to make Gus spin and were impressed with his amazing whoa. Evangeline Pony Club really enjoyed this field trip and we are hoping to make it an annual event.



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