

OnTRA makes another successful appearance at the Royal

With our twelfth appearance at the 2006 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, last November, OnTRA succeeded, once again, in “visibly” showing what therapeutic riding’s all about. This year’s riding demonstrations in the Royal’s Spirit of the Horse ring, our nearby stall—complete with horse—and sales booth were seen by over a quarter million people.

Thanks to volunteers and riders from TEAD, ExTRA, GIDDYUP and CARD, OnTRA was able to operate all three locations, offering Royal Fair visitors a chance to discover therapeutic riding from a variety of aspects.

Booth and stall informs public

Located in the centre of the Spirit of

Front cover: During the Royal, Sola, a Norwegian Fiord Horse owned by Belmirage Stables, assisted CARD volunteers to demonstrate a typical TR lesson.

The MANE LINE/21-1

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the Horse area, OnTRA operated a 12 x 20-foot exhibit that included an information display promoting all member therapeutic centres in Ontario, as



Taking their turns at keeping the public informed about OnTRA programs are TEAD volunteers, Wendy Ryan (centre), Catherine Bottrell (left) and Laura Bottrell (right).

well as a stall housing one of our special therapy horses. Volunteers from the four member centres informed the public of the benefits of therapeutic riding, answered any questions and even helped potential new volunteers locate their closest centre.

Ring demonstration shows lesson

Three times a day, a rider, along with his or her volunteer leaders, sidewalkers and instructors, had the

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audience glued to the ringside with demonstrations of a typical therapeutic-riding lesson. Instructors explained the objective of each exercise, movement or action. At the end of each presentation, the audience was given the opportunity to ask the instructor questions. This always led to an opportunity to talk about everything from our continued need for volunteers and fundraising—rider fees cover only 20 percent of a centre’s operating costs—right through to the special abilities required from our therapy horses. If time allowed, each demonstration ended with a ribbon presentation to the rider, who then took a victory lap. From all indications, both riders and audience enjoyed the experience.

Booth raises funds

Alongside the Spirit of the Horse ring and visible to the audience watching our demonstrations, OnTRA operated a booth and area that included our two life-size Equine Simulators, and a wide variety of horse-themed products for sale—T-shirts to notepads. This year, we used this area as the scene for some extra self pro-

motion during Media Day. Media Day, which occurs the day before the Fair officially opens, attracts many of Toronto’s newspaper and TV reporters. With some young riders up and enjoying a ride on the Equine Simulators, we gave the media plenty to write about and photograph. The event not only helped raise awareness of the 2006 RAWF, but, when the gates



Riders from TEAD thrilled Royal audiences with their musical ride choreographed to music from *The Lion King*, *Tarzan* and *The Jungle Book*. Riders were dressed as lions and performed moves, such as serpentine, the windmill and thread-the-needle.

opened, it also resulted in an increased number of visitors to our booth—all eager to ride the Simulators. Volunteers and our electronic steeds were kept busy most days for 12 hours straight. And, with so many people waiting in the area to climb into the saddle, sales of gift items at our display counter were also brisk. As always, our dedicated volunteers were

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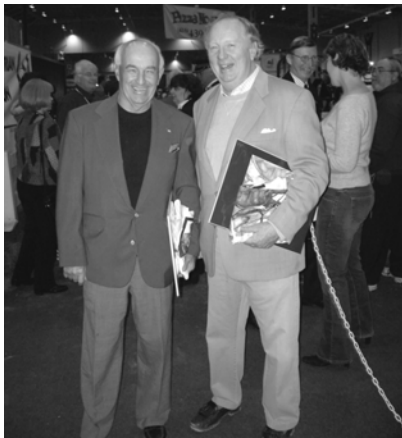
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on hand to answer questions and promote the need for public support.

Musical Ride thrills audience

On November 4, in the Spirit of the Horse ring, TEAD riders Emma, riding Robin, Cassie, riding Champion, Lexus, riding Mel, and Danielle, rid-



Canadian equestrian legends, Jim Elder (left), and Torchy Miller, came to watch OnTRA's musical ride. They and other VIP guests received a beautiful T-shirt and matted horse print.

ing Cindy, thrilled hundreds of ring-side visitors with a special, 10-minute musical ride choreographed to tunes from Disney's *The Lion King*, *Tarzan* and *the Jungle Book*. To complete the theme, riders were dressed and made-up to look like lions. All put in a flawless performance, executing moves, such as a serpentine, a windmill, loops and thread-the-needle, which is always a crowd pleaser.

Several guests were on hand to sup-

port our organization and enjoy this very special presentation. The list included Bill Duron, the Royal's CEO, John Dunlap, chairman of the Royal Horse Show, Canadian equestrian legends Jim Elder and Torchy Miller, Staff Inspector Bill Wardle, of the Metro Mounted Unit (MMU), Al Patterson, president of Equine Canada, and OEF vice president, Jack De Witt.

A great presentation like this one takes many hours of planning and practice. So, in addition to a big "well done" to the riders, thanks should also go to TEAD's Hilary Webb and OnTRA director, Sharon Brooks, as well as volunteers, Pat Bullock, Gina Cook, Sheena Burns, Sarah Whitelaw, Kyla Nelson, Charlene Lanillos, Janice and Cynthia Ridley, Kirsten Laporte and Jamie Clowes.

OnTRA also wishes to thank the OEF's Andrea Madill for her help in arranging the Spirit-of-the-Horse ring's busy schedule to include our musical ride, the RAWF's Janice Blakeney, for accomodating our riders and volunteers, John Dunlap, also of the RAWF, for his assistance in organizing the presentation, and Staff Inspector Bill Wardle for his help in providing space for our horses in the MMU barn. Bill also kindly offered use of the MMU barn for a celebratory luncheon following the Ride.

Everyone played an important role in making this event such a success. Not only did our talented riders get

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the recognition they deserved, their performance highlighted the therapeutic riding community and discipline in a way that words often can't.

CARD honours Sonia Koczekan

A second, very special presentation of a different kind was made on Saturday, November 11 when Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD) honoured Sonia Koczekan for her 30-year-long commitment to volunteering at that facility. Again, in front of hundreds of Royal visitors, Sonia was presented with the Jim Elder Volunteer Award, which recognized both her career with CARD and Canada's therapeutic riding community. Sonia, now a respected TR expert and clinician, started at CARD as a leader/sidewalker, quickly moving on to get her AI and I certification. Over the years, in addition to teaching 40 students a week at CARD, Sonia served on OnTRA's Board as Educational director, organizing some

**PLAN NOW
TO COMPETE
at the
Ontario Paralympic
Summer Games
First year for dressage!
Sarnia, Ontario
June 22 - 24, 2007
See more details in this issue.**

wonderful clinics and workshops. She also shouldered many duties for CanTRA as a board member, site inspector, and certification instructor. Sonia continues to be an inspiration to all involved in therapeutic riding. Thanks and congratulations, Sonia!

OnTRA salutes new honorary members

No report on the Royal would be complete without introducing Rose Nesbitt and her group of young vaulters from Belmirage Stables in Wyoming, Ontario, near London. Towards the end of our stint at the Royal, we had to replace one of the experienced therapy horses that was crucial to our Spirit of the Horse demonstrations. With little preparation and without hesitation, Rose, who owns Belmirage Stables, offered the use of their vaulting horse, a Norwegian Fiord named Sola, who was stabled not far away. For the last three days of the Fair, this steady mount did double duty—three daily vaulting presentations and three therapeutic-riding classes (see front cover photo). But Belmirage's help didn't stop with Sola. Their five riders also pitched in, spending some long hours helping to operate OnTRA's Equine Simulators.

We've decided the only way to recognize their invaluable help is to make every one of them—and that includes Sola—special honorary members of OnTRA. Many thanks to everyone at Belmirage—we couldn't have done it without you! 🐾

OnTRA's 2006 Annual General Meeting highlights goals and accomplishments

Last November, for the fourth year, OnTRA held its AGM in conjunction with the Ontario Equestrian Federation's annual Conference at Alliston's beautiful Nottawasaga Inn. The combined venue allowed OnTRA members to take advantage of the OEF's great lineup of equine lectures and clinics presented in neighbouring conference rooms, as well as attend the OnTRA meeting.

Outgoing president, Peter Henderson, began his report on the 2005-2006 season by saying, "Not only has OnTRA moved forward on new projects, we've also improved existing services, thanks mostly to the strong support of our volunteer board."

His review showed OnTRA has maintained or improved the following member services:

- a financially responsible organization
- an accurate list of centres in Ontario
- education clinics held throughout Ontario
- regional and provincial competitions
- fund-raising opportunities for member centres
- public relations through the OEF, Trillium, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and Can-Am Marketing Inc
- communication through three issues of *The Mane Line*, coverage in *The*



Outgoing president Peter Henderson (left), welcomes new president Tracy Mallory.

Rider-All Discipline Newspaper, WHOA, Pets and Animals and the Equine Canada website

- grant program for member centres

In addition, OnTRA initiated the following services this past year:

- recognition of members through the OEF and Ontario Sport Alliance awards programs
- the OnTRA website: www.ontra.ca
- collected tack for distribution to member centres
- introduced a major display at the Doors Open Toronto event, working with the Metro Toronto Police Mounted Unit and the CNE
- participated in Equine Canada's Celebration of the Horse, with OnTRA being recognized as the 2006 Horse Week Showcase Event
- participated in the CNE's Horsing Around event

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AGM HIGHLIGHTS ...

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Funds recovered

Only one problem marred OnTRA's smooth-sailing business last year. Peter reported that OnTRA had long-running difficulties recovering fund-raising monies from a 2006 project. By last November's AGM time, with the funds still not having been recovered, the OnTRA Board finally decided to send the matter to small claims court. (Editor's note: Just prior to *The Mane Line's* press time, OnTRA received a certified cheque for the outstanding funds.)

Elections

During the AGM, OnTRA's nomination committee presented its recommendation of the slate of directors for the 2006/07 year. The following were confirmed:

- Sharon Brooks (see bio on page 8)
- Victoria Davidson LaCombe (see bio on page 8)
- Gay Harper
- Peter Henderson
- Judi Island
- Tracy Mallory (see bio on page 8)
- John McClellan
- Karen Sibbald
- Laura Smith

Peter ended his report with the announcement he was stepping down as president of OnTRA. (See article on page 9.) While proud of OnTRA's growth during his presidency, he shared much of the credit for our or-

ganization's success with the Board of Directors, member centres and their volunteers. He went on to briefly summarize his wish-list of goals for OnTRA saying, "In the future, I hope to see an organization that continues to put the best interests of our client, the special needs rider, first. In everything we do—from volunteer clinics and safety issues to promoting public awareness and helping member centres achieve financial stability—our number one consideration should be the client. I'd like the organization to continue to grow in a way that best supports our member centres and programs. And finally, I see an organization that strengthens its voice so as to better reflect the importance of therapeutic riding, which is now the largest equestrian discipline in Ontario."

Peter added that he hoped the Board would also continue to explore the feasibility of hiring an individual to work part time as a coordinator of member services. This would be a "first" since traditionally OnTRA has been administered on a strictly volunteer basis.

The AGM wrapped up with Peter welcoming incoming president Tracy Mallory. ▾

Missed an issue of *The Mane Line*?

Check OnTRA's website:
www.ontra.ca
for recent issues now being posted there.

Introducing...our 2007 president and two new faces

SHARON BROOKS, director

Sharon has been involved in every level of the horse world—Pony Club to the World Equestrian Games. As the former chair and chef d'equipe of the Canadian Dressage Team, she's experienced in the development and management of dressage athletes, international competition and fund raising. (She's also the proud mother of Canada's medal-winning dressage rider, Jacklyn C. Brooks.) During her career, Sharon has created the Young Horse Development Program, the Dressage Intra-mural Teams and secured several corporate sponsorships for able-bodied dressage. Sharon became involved with Para Equestrian in 2004 when she was asked to organize the Canadian Open, a qualifying event for disabled athletes hoping to compete at the Athens Games. Thanks largely to Sharon's organizational abilities the event was a huge success with Canada's riders being joined by others from Hong Kong, Scotland, England, U.S.A. and Bermuda. Since then Sharon has organized the past two annual OnTRA Dressage and PPG Championships. Her talents, skills and enthusiasm were recognized recently with an Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF) People Make a Difference Award.

VICTORIA DAVIDSON LACOMBE, director

Victoria is a long-time rider and horse owner, who holds an English Coach-1 certificate. Her involvement with therapeutic riding began over a decade ago when she volunteered at Guelph's Sunrise Equestrian Centre. She later took her coaching skills east to TROtt, another OnTRA centre, located in Ottawa. There she received both her CanTRA AI and

CanTRA I certification. After moving to the Quinte region in 2000, she also volunteered briefly with QuinTRA and TRAIN. In 2001, she opened her own therapeutic riding centre, Over the Moon, in Carrying Place. Deciding to return to the London area in 2002, Victoria closed down the Quinte-area facility, reopening Over the Moon in Iona Station in 2003. During the interim, she acted as co-head instructor at SARI for 16 months. Although Over the Moon again closed in 2005, Victoria continued to service and coach London-area special-needs and able-bodied riders. She recently obtained a BA in Education and has embarked on a new teaching career with the Thames Valley District School Board. In her position on our Board of Directors, she brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and a strong commitment to all aspects of therapeutic riding.

TRACY MALLORY, president

Tracy works as a project management consultant for various provincial government ministries. A downtown Toronto resident, she's an avid sailor and a volunteer with Exhibition Therapeutic Riding Academy (ExTRA), which operates out of the CNE grounds. She began as a volunteer director on OnTRA's Board in 2004 and most recently served as vice president. Over the last couple of years, Tracy's worked hard to develop the OnTRA website with the result it's one of the most viewed therapeutic riding sites in Ontario—she continues to maintain the site for us. Her other activities for OnTRA include improving our computer record methods, assisting with our grant program, and promoting our involvement in Doors Open Toronto, the CNE, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. ▶

Peter Henderson hands reins to new OnTRA president

After almost a decade as OnTRA's president, Peter Henderson stepped down from the position, officially handing over the presidential reins to vice president, Tracy Mallory, at our Annual General Meeting, last November.

Peter, who joined the OnTRA board in 1992, became president in 1998, following in some pretty big footsteps laid down by the previous president, Gay Wood. But Peter quickly made his mark, over the years guiding our organization to new growth, widening our circle of partnerships with other horse-industry groups and, of course, promoting OnTRA to increased levels of fund raising and public awareness. Here's just a short list of the things OnTRA's achieved under Peter's presidency: a valuable grant program that distributes thousands of dollars in funding to our member centres was developed; OnTRA now promotes therapeutic riding with a professionally designed display that is exhibited at several important-consumer shows and fairs each year; OnTRA participates consistently in the OEF Award Program so that our volunteers and riders are recognized for their skills and contributions; a used-tack collection/distribution program was implemented throughout our network of centres; and an OnTRA website, launched in 2005,



Peter Henderson, OnTRA president from 1998 to 2006, and his wife, Betty, are the proverbial work horses behind OnTRA's success.

receives hundreds of hits each month. OnTRA now represents the interests of over 40 member centres across the province with the riders and volunteers within each and every program benefiting from Peter's hard work, long hours and dedication.

Usually with wife, Betty, at his side, Peter has frequently gone beyond the call of duty, driving through snow storms to set up our booth at the Western Fair, sweating off pounds as a one-man ring crew at the provincial competitions, and writing hundreds of articles to keep members informed through our newsletter, *The Mane Line*.

But before everyone gets teary-eyed,

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THANKS, PETER...

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there's some good news. Although Peter may have stepped down as president, he's staying on the Board as director of special events/fundraising/

communications. So, when you see him at the next fair, clinic, competition or awards banquet be sure to say, "Thanks, Peter. We owe you one!"

*Contributed by Lynn Winston,
OnTRA*

Two OnTRA Board members retire

This year, we say farewell to two long-time Board members who are stepping down from their positions to take well-earned sabbaticals.

Margaret Ameli, who served as director and chair of the Therapy committee for the past six years, plans to enjoy more time with her new grandchild and continue her work with special needs riders at JML Therapy.

Sarah Ramsden became a director

on the Board in 2001, serving as chair of Fundraising until 2005, and later as director of Communications. Sarah, who just moved into a new farm, plans to focus on raising her young family and pursuing her equestrian dreams.

Despite their leave, both Marg and Sarah will continue to advise and support OnTRA programs, issues and events. Many thanks for all your hard work Marg and Sarah.

OnTRA Nominees recognized at OEF Annual Conference

Despite having only a few days notice that nominations for the OEF's annual awards program were due, OnTRA administrators had no trouble putting forward the names of six candidates—every one deserving of the awards available to our organization and discipline.

While we're proud of all the nominees, the following were honoured with awards.

CASSIE BONNAR AWARD Carley Wallace – winner

This award, made in memory of Cassie Bonnar—a young cancer victim—is presented to a junior OEF member who has made an outstanding contribution of time

and effort to Ontario equestrian sport, recreation, industry and/or equine welfare.

Carley Wallace, a Grade 10 honour-roll student in Smith Falls, began riding with
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OEF AWARDS...

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the Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program in 2003. Even through the winter months, Carley continues to train, hoping to achieve her dream of reaching Level 1 Dressage. In 2005, Carley finished first overall in the Eastern Ontario Championships and was named the Easter Seals' Rider of the Year. Carley finished third in the 2005 OnTRA Provincial Championships and was second in Entry Level at the 2006 OnTRA Provincial Championships. Carley volunteers with the Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Summer Camp Program, working with young riders. Carley assists as a sidewalker for disabled children as well as teaching art, and supervising swimming and overnight kids' camp experiences. Her interests outside the riding ring are in drama and art. Last autumn, she participated in her first art show, winning the junior award for her self portrait.

SPONSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD Ontario Trillium Foundation - winner

The Sponsor of the Year Award is presented to an individual or corporation making a very special sponsorship gift to support equestrian activity. The gift may be cash, product or service of any kind. To be considered, the gift must make possible some form of equestrian activity which otherwise might not take place.

The Trillium Foundation is the single largest supporter of therapeutic riding in Ontario. They were instrumental in the forming of OnTRA as the provincial-umbrella agency providing access to funds. Since 1999, Trillium has provided more than \$1 million in support of 17 therapeutic horseback-riding centres in all parts of Ontario. This includes one program organized in partnership with the Ontario

Equestrian Federation. Over the years, Trillium's grants have assisted our centres in many different ways, such as: improved access to facilities; allowed the development of a program for youth at risk; expanded weekly programs; extended to year-round service; provided special adaptive equipment; assisted with instructor education; equipped centres to become more financially independent; improved the ability to recruit and maintain volunteers.

Thanks to the Trillium Foundation's support in the last 25 years, the lives of more than 100,000 individuals, riders, families and volunteers associated with therapeutic riding have been changed for the better. Countless other individuals and organizations have also received assistance from Trillium.

OEF MEDIA OF THE YEAR *The Rider* (Barry Finn, publisher/editor) - winner

The OEF Media of the Year Award honours the media outlet which provides the best piece (print or electronic) about an equestrian activity in the period from October 1 of the previous year to the submission deadline.

The Rider, now celebrating its 37th year, is a previous two-time winner of this Award. It continues to be the only news publication offering full coverage of Ontario's horse industry, including the full spectrum of equine sport and recreation. As a result it receives strong support from a broad sector of horse lovers, owners and workers. While other media groups perhaps focus on a small section of equine sport, *The Rider* does it all—currently giving voice to 21 Associations. As a Gold Partner of the OEF, it supports the OEF information trailer and has sponsored events, such as Equimania, Horse Lovers'

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OEF AWARDS...

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Expo, Uxbridge Horseman's Expo, and the Halton Place Nation's Cup Qualifier, as well as a number of clubs and associations.

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Sharon Brooks - winner

This award acknowledges the selfless and passionate commitment by individuals of the OEF's member Associations to their sport, discipline and/or breed organization.

As the former Chef d'equipe of Canada's able-bodied dressage team, Sharon Brooks has made—and continues to make—an impressive contribution to the Canadian dressage community. Her many accomplishments include managing teams

at the World Equestrian Games in Rome, the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, the South African Federation Cup and numerous CDI's and Pan Am Challenges. In May 2004, Sharon organized Canada's first International Paralympic qualifying competition, held in Ontario. She further helped make this once-in-a-lifetime event happen by raising \$20,000 in cash and over \$10,000 of "in-kind" donations. In 2005, after joining OnTRA's Competition Committee, she helped to organize and coordinate that year's OnTRA Provincial Championships. Thanks to Sharon's enthusiasm and commitment, 25 riders with a disability—a record-breaking number—came from across Ontario to compete for provincial titles. Her involvement in our sport has greatly helped to build, develop and gain recognition for Canada's Paralympians, as well as Ontario's therapeutic riding communities. 


SHOW OPPORTUNITIES...

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towards this goal. (Note: Own horse will likely be a requirement.)

In addition to a great new opportunity to show our "stuff", our new alliance with Paralympics Ontario will benefit OnTRA with funds to support clinics and other educational endeavors. The first is a two-day clinic and competition running March 31 to April 1 at WindReach Farm in Ashburn. Along with two days of dressage competition, there will be a special seminar for riders and coaches on Bridging the Gap from Therapeutic

Riding to Para Equestrian. We urge all centres to participate for one or both days and take advantage of this amazing opportunity!

And don't forget our annual PPG and Dressage Championships will be held at CODRP in Kitchener on August 11. The competition is followed on August 12 with a riders', coaches' and judges' clinic with Anita Owen, an international Para judge from the U.S.A. A more complete calendar of Para Equestrian events, compiled by Judi Island, follows. 

*Contributed by
Sharon Brooks, OnTRA director,
and Competitions Committee*

Competitions Committee announces NEW SHOW OPPORTUNITIES in 2007

There is a lot of good news to share with OnTRA members, both riders and coaches. Thanks to a lot of hard work over the last few months by OnTRA competition chair, Judi Island, we successfully applied for Equestrian to become an additional sport at the Ontario Paralympic Games, which run every summer in a different host community. This new partnership will mean an opportunity for dressage riders to participate in these provincial games with other para athletes from a

variety of sport, gain qualifying scores, and enjoy the camaraderie and excitement of an official event.

So, mark your calendars now. There will be an opening ceremony, athlete banquet and, of course, the competition, which will be held June 21-23 in Sarnia. Funding through Paralympics Ontario will keep the individual costs low and we hope we will see many riders participating—all OnTRA dressage riders should consider working

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2007 PARA EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR

*2007 Para Equestrian Dressage COMPETITIONS and CLINICS
are open to OnTRA members!*

March 31-April 1 — Dressage at WindReach, Open Para Dressage Show WindReach Farm, Ashburn, ON

This important qualifying show allows riders to gain show experience as well as an opportunity for Advanced riders to qualify for the 4th* International Para Competition in Leesburg, Virginia, U.S.A. The WindReach Show will be followed by a clinic for coaches and riders with a disability. Contact Sharon Brooks for further information at sharon.brooks@sympatico.ca or call 519-448-1713

March 31-April 1 — Para Equestrian Talent Identification Program (TIP) Camp and Mentorship Program for Riders with a Disability and Coaches WindReach Farm, Ashburn, ON.

Riding sessions with an FEI Dressage Coach. Classroom series including Sport

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EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR...

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Psychology & Nutrition. Talk to and learn from a Paralympian. Develop a training plan. Coaches receive NCCP Coaching Athletes with a Disability Manual. Cost \$20 (includes lunch).

June 22-24 —Ontario Paralympic Summer Games, Sarnia, ON

Belmirage Stables, Sarnia, ON

Equestrian is included for the first time! This is a wonderful opportunity for OnTRA riders to compete alongside other athletes with a disability across Ontario. The three-day event will consist of six sports, all of which will be represented by 250 of Ontario's top-level athletes in the sports of Athletics (track and field), Boccia, Goalball, Powerlifting, Wheelchair Tennis with the introduction of Para Equestrian as a 'pilot' sport.

Cost to riders is only \$80. This includes two nights lodging and meals. The Opening Ceremony is on Saturday morning and the Award Banquet follows in the evening. Athletes who travel over 500 km are eligible for mileage expenses.

Beginning in May, information and registration forms can be found on-line at: www.paralympics.ca For more information on the 2007 Ontario Paralympic Summer Championship, please contact Elisabeth Walker-Young at 416-426-7188 or by email at lis@paralympicsontario.ca

August 11—2007 OnTRA Provincial Dressage Championships & Prince Phillip Games

CODRP/Pride Stables, Kitchener, ON .

August 12 —OnTRA Para Equestrian Dressage Clinic with international Judge Anita Owen

CODRP/Pride Stables, Kitchener, ON

a.m.-Clinic for Riders with a Disability - Rider cost \$50

p.m.-Para Equestrian Coaches and Judges Clinic

(Limited spaces are available in the riding clinic, but we encourage all coaches and judges to participate.)

For OnTRA competition information, Clinic information, and entry forms see OnTRA's website at: www.ontra.on.ca

***NOTE: All of the above are National Sanctioned Shows / Canadian Para Equestrian Qualifying Competitions.**

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EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR...

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Entry and Intermediate riders who are competing to the Provincial Level require OnTRA membership only.

Intermediate & Advanced dressage riders, who require National qualifying scores, must include the following with their entry forms:

- OnTRA, OEF, EC and Para Equestrian memberships

- current FEI Para Equestrian Classification Card

BORROWED HORSES—For 2007 OnTRA competitions, a limited number of borrowed horses are available on a first come first serve basis. Horse Request Forms must be submitted.

STABLING—Riders requesting horse stabling must have proof of Coggins and apply to the Show Organizer.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Para Equestrian Grades

In OnTRA competitions the riders are judged as for International Paralympic Competitions and are classified into five grades depending on their impairments. Grade 1 is for the most impaired riders and Grade 4 is for the least.

When a rider is classified he is given a profile number e.g. Profile 36 is totally blind, Profile 27 has opposite arm and leg severely impaired or absent. Each profile goes into a grade with comparable difficulties for riding. The main difficulties when riding are very poor balance and no control of the trunk. In Grade 1 and 2

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Para Equestrian Drivers Wanted!

The Para Equestrian Driving Committee is promoting the driving discipline within Para Equestrian Canada and would like to identify drivers from across



Canada who are interested in clinics and educational opportunities. Anyone interested in Para Driving or learning how to drive, please contact Sue Mott at: suemott424@hotmail.com or (705) 424-0627.

EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR...

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the riders are mainly wheelchair users and have very little or uncoordinated use of some or all limbs. In Grade 3 they may be totally blind, mentally impaired or have impairments in the limbs but with control of the trunk. In Grade 4 they may have impairment of one or two limbs or be partially sighted.

In 2006, Grade 1 was split into grade 1a and 1b as even very slightly more functional use or control of limbs make a big difference to the results in competitions.

Riders with impairments are also allowed to compete in dressage on equal terms in able bodied competitions using allowed auxiliary aids under International Paralympic Equestrian rules.

Grade 1 a have walk only tests while 1b has some trot work.

Grade 2 can ride quite complicated patterns in walk and trot with more changes of direction and transitions. They are not required to canter. (As canter is an asymmetrical movement the balance is more difficult to maintain.)

Grade 3 has some canter and the pattern is simpler than for Grade 2 to accommodate blind and mentally impaired riders. (More is asked for in transitions and medium paces.)

Grade 4 is of Medium Dressage standard.

In competitions for disabled riders, the horse is judged in exactly the same way as for able-bodied riders.

Riders in Intermediate & Advanced Level Dressage must be classified and ride in the grade to which they have been assigned or must ride 'Hors Concur'.

Advanced Level Freestyle

In each Grade there are set tests from 'Entry' to 'Advanced' level.

In the Advanced Level, riders must ride their designated 'Championship' test and a Freestyle test. In the Freestyle, riders design their own freestyle set to music. They must include mandatory movements, as well, they can incorporate movements of a higher degree of difficulty than the set tests.

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EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR...

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2007 Dressage Tests will be the same tests as used in 2006.


Entry: Gr.1a # 1, Gr 1b #11, Gr.2 #21, Gr.3 #31

Intermediate: Gr.1a # 3, Gr 1b #13, Gr.2 #23, Gr.3 #33, Gr.4 #43

Advanced: FEI Championship Test & Freestyle

Open dressage classes are covered by the rules of the current IPEC rulebook.

Para tests and rules can be found on the website at www.ipec-athletes/de

IPEC/FEI rules regarding tack and adapted equipment must be followed. 

PARELLI Natural Horsemanship Clinic APRIL 15, 2007, 1-5 PM WindReach Farm, Ashburn

CedarLynde Stables hosts Parelli Professional three-star instructor, Don Halladay, in a four-hour natural-horsemanship clinic that's open to everyone. Tickets are on sale at the farm for \$15. All proceeds support WindReach. Call 905-655-5827 for information.



CanTRA Conference MAY 4 - 7, 2007 Duncan, British Columbia

With the intriguing theme, *The Power of the Horse*, CanTRA's next national conference offers sessions on equine-facilitated mental health—presented by Sue McIntosh, of Alberta—accreditation, autism-spectrum disorder and more. Members and non members are welcome. Take advantage of early bird prices by registering before the end of February. To register or for more details, contact the CanTRA office at: 519-767-0700, ctra@golden.net or visit www.cantra.ca

PIPPA HODGE Clinic/Workshop Time to be announced. TEAD, Hamilton, Ontario

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the best known names in Canada's therapeutic riding community. A workshop with Pippa Hodge is always fun AND informative. Watch the next issue of *The Mane Line* or visit our website: www.ontra.ca for more details.

OPPORTUNITY!

For the first time,
Paralympics Ontario will
sponsor an OnTRA Clinic,
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Road hockey tournament helps kids raise funds for those with special-needs

With the nice weather just around the corner, the Roadbreakers Road Hockey Tournament Committee is gearing up to host its yearly event in Waterloo—a gathering of more than 1,200 kids all eager to participate in that great Canadian past-time of road hockey. Now in its 22nd year, the Roadbreakers Road Hockey Tournament takes place on April 28, 2007 and, once again, proceeds are earmarked



for Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program/Pride Stables (CODRP).

During its early years, Roadbreakers, with the help of many local sponsors, donated the proceeds from its annual road hockey event to several youth charities in the community. But in 1995, the

three founders of the Roadbreakers' group decided to make therapeutic

Continued on page 19

Canadian Paralympic equestrian, Judi Island, designs new Para Equestrian Canada logo

Thanks to our own Judi Island, the Canadian Para Equestrian Team is proudly wearing a sleek, updated logo featuring a stylized maple leaf, horse and Olympic torch. Judi, a medal-winning Paralympic rider and a talented artist, combined her creative skills with her riding experience to produce the new logo, which she donated to the Team for its use.

Judi represented Canada as a member of the Para Equestrian Team, in 2001 and, in 2002, was awarded the Ontario Sport Award—Female Athlete with a Disability, which honours outstanding athletic achievement. Since



A black and white reproduction doesn't do justice to Judi Island's colourful new Para Equestrian Canada logo.

then, she's competed in five international competitions, bringing home four gold, two silver and three bronze medals. ▶

ROADBREAKERS...

Continued from page 18

horseback riding its official charity-of-choice with CODRP, the local centre receiving much-needed funds.

"We are so lucky to have this fine group of people working with us each year to benefit our riders," says Heather MacKneson, executive director of Pride Stables, which is home to the CODRP program. "They truly make a difference to the more than 320 children who ride in our program."

Over the past two decades, the Tournament has grown steadily each year. In fact, this year, the organizing Committee is aiming for a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the largest 'Street Hockey Tournament in the World'!

And there are other big plans already "in play" for 2007—the Roadbreakers group recently decided to take their road-hockey-tournament concept to a national scale in an effort to support even more therapeutic horseback riding programs throughout Canada.

So, this year, Roadbreakers has arranged two new partnerships—the first with London's Sari Therapeutic Riding and a second with a yet-to-be-

Road hockey event a great way to raise funds

Hi everyone,

Recently, I was introduced to the Roadbreakers Road Hockey Tournament, an exciting fundraising opportunity that's being opened up to all OnTRA member centres. I invite you to come and watch CODRP's April 28th- or SARI's April 14th-tournament and see if this kind of event might benefit your centre.

The hockey-playing kids in your community will love it, local sponsors will appreciate the opportunity to be involved and certainly the riders in your program will benefit from the extra funds the event will generate. All you need is a parking lot big enough to hold a hockey tournament of kids, plus, space for the family and friends who come to cheer them on! Some promotional coverage in your local media will help to create a successful event, too.

And, remember, with more centres hosting a Roadbreakers tournament, we have a greater chance of securing the support of national sponsors—and that will only benefit our organization even more!

So, come out and meet Heather MacKneson, of CODRP, Susan Morel, of SARI, and Charlie McMane, of Roadbreakers, and see how it's done. For further information and event details, visit www.roadbreakers.ca or contact heather@roadbreakers.ca

Peter Henderson, OnTRA

named therapeutic riding centre in Kelowna, BC. SARI's tournament takes place in their community on April 14, 2007 and the Kelowna event runs May 5, 2007. Proceeds from the individual events go to the centres within the communities. In total, Roadbreakers expects to raise an amazing \$50,000+ for therapeutic riding. ▶

ACCORDING to "Doctor Bob"

Q: What are the advantages and disadvantages of feeding large-round hay bales to horses?

A: Baled hay is available in various sizes, including round bales varying from 4 x 5 feet to 6 x 6 feet, or large rectangular bales. These larger bales are being used to feed horses more than ever before, because of:

*harvesting ease—a much larger tonnage of hay can be handled on an hourly basis;
*labour saving for harvest and storage;

*storage—mechanical handling makes it easy to store large volumes of hay and storage facilities can be as simple as bale tarps. Offsetting these are several significant disadvantages that include:

*the need for a tractor with a front-end loader for storing the bales and transporting bales during the winter feeding period;
*the ability to access feeders year-round regardless of the weather conditions ie snow or mud;

*round bales can be dusty. Dust can be associated with the growth of mold on hay prior to being baled, post baling associated with too high a moisture level and/or improper storage;

*many round-bale feeders are designed for cattle and can be dangerous when used with horses. ⚠

Dr. Bob Wright is on staff at Health Management, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Wellington Place, R.R. #1, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2W3. Tel: 519-846-0965. Fax: 519-846-8101 www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/livestock

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