

OnTRA's appearance at Can-Am Equine Emporium successful thanks to team effort

For the second year, Equine Emporium organizer Cam-Am Marketing Inc. selected OnTRA as its charity of choice for the 2006 Show, which was held last March



(Front cover) Dedicated volunteers like this group from London, Ontario's SARI were instrumental in making OnTRA's appearance at the Can-Am Equine Emporium such a success. (Page 2-above) A youngster enjoys a ride on one of the Equine Simulators while other visitors check out the daily auction items on display in our booth.

(Photos on cover and page 2 are courtesy of River Bend Designs.)

in London, Ontario. Our organization made the most of this great opportunity with a top-notch exhibit that attracted several thousand visitors.

Located in the main building of the Western Fairgrounds, our 20 x 40-foot display was divided into two distinct areas. The west end of our booth housed the two Equine Simulators. These electronic, life-size horses, owned by fundraising partner Tammy Donaldson, are big attractions for the younger members of the audience. For just \$2 per ride, kids can enjoy the thrill of riding a horse—for many it's a first time experience.

The east end of the booth was used to display information about therapeutic riding. The display offered photos of riders, our most up-to-date brochure listing member centres, a continuous-loop video promoting our centres' programs, plus, a wonderful selection of Canadian-made gift items for sale. Most of these horse-themed products, which are not available in regular retail, are obtained for us by Joan Pepe, of Black Opal Design. Thanks to her, shopping at the

Continued on page 3

EQUINE EMPORIUM...

Continued from page 2

OnTRA booth is a must for hundreds of Show visitors.

This year, with the help of several volunteers (see below), we built a small office and a display area—dividing the east and west ends of the booth. This became the headquarters from which we ran our daily silent auction of a great selection of items that had been generously donated by Can-Am Emporium vendors. Each day's items were on display outside our office—attracting a good stream of traffic. To thank contributing vendors, OnTRA presented each with an eye-catching bannerette acknowledging their contribution to our fundraising efforts. The 7 x 10-inch white-cloth bannerette carried the words, "We are a proud sponsor of therapeutic riding", embossed in OnTRA's signature-shade of green. We're pleased to report the bannerettes were on display in a majority of the booths at the Show.

While the daily silent auction is always successful, OnTRA's fundraising efforts got an even bigger boost, on the final Sunday of the event, when we were given the chance to conduct a live auction in the centre of the main building. Items "going under the hammer" included: Four stall fronts donated by **Classic Equine Equipment Inc.**; Four sets of stall mattresses donated by **Soft Stall**; Certificate for a \$1,000-discount on the purchase of a cupola donated by **Country Classic Cupolas**; One

stallion-service fee donated by **Tom Shoebottom**; Wooden park bench donated by **Brian Webber**.

With so many OnTRA activities taking place—often simultaneously—our appearance at the Can-Am Equine Emporium was only successful because of the efforts of many. This year, we had a great team of volunteers and supporters who handled a variety of organizational details for us, as well as lending lots of elbow grease. We owe a big thanks to all the volunteers from SARI, but especially Nelson Couto, who ensured the group arrived when and wherever needed, and Susan Morel, who was instrumental in securing all the auction items. Each time Susan left the OnTRA booth carrying a list of prospective vendors, we knew she'd be returning with an arm-load of products.

Others most deserving of thanks include Nancy Row, of Jabez Therapy Ranch, who along with her family borrowed and delivered all the tables we required for the event—a large job in itself. But Nancy and her family went the extra mile for OnTRA by helping to "man" our display throughout the week, plus, assisted with the set-up and tear-down of the booth. ▾

*Contributed by Peter Henderson,
OnTRA president*

OnTRA needs YOUR help
Call 905-839-4931 to find out how
you can help at the next
OnTRA event in your area.

The MANE LINE/20-2

The *MANE LINE* is published by the Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association. News items and articles are welcomed and may be sent to: The Editor, 311 Jedburgh Road, Toronto, ON M5M 3K7, or editor.maneline@sympatico.ca

Two OnTRA nominees take home Ontario Sport Alliance awards

Each year, OnTRA nominates members of the therapeutic riding community for recognition through the Ontario Equestrian Federation's annual Ontario Sport Alliance Awards Program. The awards are designed to salute excellence, dedication and participation in a variety of disciplines within our industry. At an event held earlier this spring, two OnTRA nominees received well-deserved honours.

Canadian Cowgirls Precision Riding Team wins Corporate Sport Citation

Four years ago, the elite 20-member Canadian Cowgirls Precision Riding Team designated Chatham, Ontario's Acceptional Riders Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program as their charity of choice. Since then, the Team, which performs year-round at North American equestrian events and tourist attractions like the Calgary Stampede, has worked diligently as both ambassadors and fundraisers on the Centre's behalf. All funds earned from the Team's musical-ride performances go toward assisting Acceptional Riders' disabled equestrians. In addition, Team mem-



Three members of the Canadian Cowgirls, including leader Terry Jenkins (left) were on hand to accept the Team's award.

bers take a volunteer role at the Centre, and donate use, including up-keep, of their horses to the Acceptional Riders' Program. Each year, as a result of their amazing support, the Canadian Cowgirls contribute over \$22,000 in revenue and services.

Christine Hawkshaw wins James Warrall Award. Also, runner-up for the Female Athlete with a Disability Award

Christine, who has cerebral palsy, is a 16-year-old, Grade 10-honour student at a Toronto secondary school. She began riding in 1992, starting in hippotherapy and progressing to sport riding. In 2001, her talents were recognized with a Most Improved Young Rider Award. Last year (2005) was an especially exciting and successful one for Christine. Riding in her first Provincial and National Competition, she placed first at each level of competition. She was also presented with the prestigious Captain de Demeter Award for achieving High Score. With these successes already under her belt,

Continued on page 5

SPORT ALLIANCE AWARDS...

Continued from page 4



Christine is now working to qualify for the 2006 National and Pacific Rim International Competitions in Vancouver, later this year. Of course, her ultimate goal is to one day represent Canada internationally at the Paralympics. Currently, in addition to volunteering at the Community Asso-

ciation of Riding for the Disabled facility, Christine also participates in group lessons there. She is coached by Dax Adam, a Canadian Paralympic rider, and Steve Sampson.

Christine is an enthusiastic representative of both OnTRA and CARD at many promotional events, including the Royal Winter Fair, Woodbine Family Fun Day, and Tournament of Champions.

On behalf of all OnTRA members, congratulations to the Canadian Cowgirls, and Christine Hawkshaw. 🏆

A Two for One Event

Doors Open Toronto gave OnTRA an opportunity to introduce therapeutic riding and other horse disciplines to new audience.

On the weekend of May 27-28, OnTRA was pleased to accept an invitation to be part of the CNE Horse Palace's presentation in the seventh annual Doors Open Toronto-event. This popular event attracts several thousand Toronto residents and tourists eager to tour buildings, such as the Horse Palace which houses Toronto's Mounted Police Unit, usually inaccessible to the public. We decided to take full advantage of the opportunity by also registering our participation under Equine Canada's Horse Week celebration through the Ontario Equestrian Federation.

Our 50-foot display in the Horse

Palace was located in one of the main entrances, across the aisle from the barns of the Toronto Police Services' Mounted Unit—a prime location that drew much traffic. The exhibit, which was manned throughout the weekend by several OnTRA volunteers, was designed to present and further four goals. Those goals included: promoting knowledge of therapeutic riding, raising funds, increasing the interest of the general public in horseback riding, and showcasing the contribution horses have made to the history and development of Canada.

To fully cover each of the goals, we

Continued on page 6

DOORS OPEN...

Continued from page 5

divided the display into four sections. Section One was a 10-foot area devoted to the presentation of historical photos showing the horse at work. Pictures showed everything from the To-



Peter Henderson (centre) was joined in the OnTRA booth by two members of the Toronto Police Services' Mounted Unit—PC Vicki Montgomery (left) and Staff Inspector Bill Wardle.

ronto Fire Department's early equipment and horses, road building, Eatons and Simpson's delivery wagons, to milk and bread delivery, and a horse ambulance. The display also included memorabilia, such as sleigh bells, a foot warmer, rein weights and other miscellaneous equipment that was commonly used in the early 1900s. It proved to be a major success, bringing back many memories for the older generation of visitors, while giving the younger members of the audience a visual peek at our past.

Section Two was a large and comprehensive display covering therapeutic riding in general, with special emphasis on OnTRA's programs and con-

tributions. The exhibit included photos from several member centres showing a representation of their riders' activities. Plus, short videos—all contributed by our member centres—were merged onto one longer tape that ran continuously through each day of the event. The new-format video gave all centres equal recognition for their work. In addition to the visual display, Section Two listed all member centres, their locations and contact information. This was supplemented with "giveaways" including a printed *Location Guide* and a brochure explaining therapeutic riding.

In Section Three, the crowd was presented with our unique line of Canadian-made products, such as T-shirts, playing cards, temporary tattoos, calendars and note cards—all featuring "horsey" themes. As always, this won-

Continued on page 7



The Equine Simulators are always a hit—even with adults.

DOORS OPEN...

Continued from page 6

derful display of great gift items brought a lot of attention to our booth, resulting in revenue and an opportunity to explain the benefits of therapeutic riding.

Section Four of the OnTRA display offered an even bigger crowd pleaser—the Equine Simulators. Thanks to our fundraising partner Tammy Donaldson, who owns the Simulators and operates South Algonquin Trails, these electronic life-size horses have become synonymous with OnTRA and therapeutic riding. Once again, we offered the audience the opportunity to experience the feel of riding a horse. Depending on which Simulator they decided to mount, riders could choose the gait—trot or a canter. The speed of the ride is controlled by the operator so that the rider can have either the thrill of a fast canter or a slower, more relaxing walk or trot. Also once again, everyone at OnTRA owes Tammy Donaldson a tremendous round of thanks for all the help she and her

Equine Simulators have provided in introducing thousands of individuals to equestrian sport. (After discovering that riding's not so scary after all, many visitors tell us that they plan to investigate further into trying the real thing!)

Along with OnTRA's presentation, the Doors Open Event also treated the audience, which numbered close to 6,000 visitors to the Horse Palace alone, to several other great exhibits from organizations, such as the Toronto Police Services' Mounted Unit, the Riding Academy at the Horse Palace, the Governor General's Horse Guards, CNE Archives, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and the Canadian Pets and Animals Charity.

Thanks to the Toronto Police Services' Mounted Unit, Riding Academy at the Horse Palace, and Canadian Pets and Animals, all of whom made sure OnTRA was included in the Doors Open Toronto event, our organization was able to celebrate Horse Week in a meaningful way, while getting out the message about our own therapeutic riding programs. ▾

Something to **THINK** about

The budgets of non-profit organizations cover fewer and fewer of the extras and are even stretched to meet many necessities. A gift guide program offers individuals and corporations special opportunities to close that gap, and at the same time, gain tax benefits and community recognition.

Excerpted from OnTRA's Fundraising Manual, 1993. For a copy of the entire Manual, call 905-839-4931.

IN SYMPATHY

Al Humphrey

October 10, 1932 – February 2, 2006

Earlier this winter, all equestrians lost a great friend with the passing of Al Humphrey.

Throughout his lifetime, Al and his family supported shows and events for many disciplines, including therapeutic riding. Along with wife Norma, Al is perhaps best known in the therapeutic riding community for hosting CARD's popular fundraising ride, CARD-A-THON. Each year for several decades, Al, Norma



and other members of the Humphrey family welcomed hundreds of CARD-A-THON riders to their home and property, located just north-east of Toronto. Al worked year-round to ensure the annual summer ride was both a financial success and positive experience for the riders.

On behalf of all members of our Association, we extend our deepest condolences to Norma and family.

WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Over the coming year, The Mane Line is planning a series of profiles on our member centres and their riders. OnTRA centres are located all over the province and each one provides unique programs and services to some very special participants. So, if you know a rider who deserves to be recognized or would like others to know about the good things going on at your centre, drop us a line at: editor.maneline@sympatico.ca

Have you visited OnTRA's website?

OnTRA's new website is dedicated to keeping in better touch with our member centres and volunteers. It's also designed to inform the general public about therapeutic riding programs in Ontario.

If you haven't already checked it out, log on now and let us know what you think!

www.ontra.ca

Para-equestrian Competition

OnTRA centres offer riders many opportunities to compete

Good weather means the competition season is here. If you've been honing your skills all winter, it's time to get into the ring and show what you can do. OnTRA Competition Chair Judi Island explains the many opportunities and levels open to riders interested in competing.

In 1991, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee (IPEC)*, an IPC-appointed subcommittee, formally pledged to support and develop para-equestrian sport all over the world. Since then, interest in sanctioned competition has grown steadily everywhere—including Canada. Recognition of the expanding role and acceptance of para-equestrian sport is especially evident at major international events, such as the Paralympic Games, where the number of equestrians allowed to compete will be boosted from a current 60 "slots" to an expected 78 in 2008.

While competing at the Paralympics or World Championships may not be every equestrian's goal, there are many opportunities open to riders, of all disciplines and skill levels, wishing to compete.

OnTRA and its member centres offer competition classes at Regional or Provincial venues, which are conducted under IPEC rules and regula-

tions, to all riders with a disability. For example, riders requiring a leader can compete in Prince Phillip Games (PPG) at either walk-only or walk-trot. For riders who can ride independently, there are three levels of dressage tests: Entry, Intermediate and Advanced—from walk-only (Grade 1a) to canter tests (Grade 4).

There are over 50 different IPEC tests to accommodate all levels of riders with a disability. Some changes and new IPEC tests are already in place for 2006. For more information on new IPEC tests and rules, plus details of the classification process and grades, visit the IPEC website at: www.ipec-athletes.de

PARA EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE LEVELS AND IPEC GRADES

In recognition of the differing impact of disabilities, all riders are classified into one of five Grades—1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4—to ensure fair equestrian competition.

Continued on page 10

COMPETITION ...
Continued from page 9

PARA DRESSAGE TESTS

Athletes are required to ride specific tests with predetermined patterns and a Freestyle to Music test in a 20 x 40-metre arena. (A 20 x 60-metre is used for most Grade IV-competitions).

Depending on their impairment and experience, they can ride tests with walk-only, walk-trot, and walk-trot-canter, with or without lateral and other movements. The competition is judged on how the horse/pony performs under the influence of the rider. The more skillful the rider, the better the horse is able to perform with suppleness and without resistance—reflecting the skills of the rider.

In the Freestyle to Music test there are some compulsory movements. The rider can also add more difficult movements to form an artistic pattern to ride to his/her chosen music. If the more difficult movements are performed well, it will add to the score. But if performed badly, it will detract more than if they had not been tried at all.

Classification

Among athletes with disabilities there are many different types of impairments. To provide meaningful competition for such athletes, their disabilities need to be classified so that people with similar levels of im-

pairment can be grouped into grades in which they compete together. Riders are graded on their impairment and judged on their equestrian ability or skill. The most disabled athletes (Grade Ia) ride tests in walk-only. The least disabled (Grade IV) ride tests of medium standard. This is a functional classification assessed by para-equestrian-accredited (PE) classifiers.

Once classified, riders are given a functional profile number and a grade. When necessary, riders can use compensating aids approved by FEI PE, such as a special saddle, adapted reins, elastic bands, two whips etc.

Riders who are not riding at their classified grade may take part in a 'hors de concours' competition, but do so under the same rules and conditions as other competitors. However, they are not eligible for awards.

A National Classification Card may be obtained from the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association once a classifier has assigned the grade.

IPEC DRESSAGE GRADES

As of 2006 there are five grades as Grade 1 is split into 1a and 1b.

Grade 1 a-ER Ia

Grade 1 is for the most severely disabled riders. Mainly wheelchair users with poor trunk balance and or impair-

Continued on page 11



A rider at the 2005 Provincial Competition was thrilled to receive her award.

COMPETITION ...
Continued from page 10

ment of function in all four limbs, or no trunk balance and good upper limb function, or moderate trunk balance with severe impairment of all four limbs. Grade 1a is a walk-only test

Grade 1b-ER Ib

Mainly wheelchair users with poor trunk balance and impairment of function in four limbs, or no trunk balance and good arm function, or moderate trunk balance with severe impairment of all four limbs. Grade 1b is a basic walk-trot test.

Grade 2-ER II

Mainly wheelchair users or those with severe locomotor impairment involving the trunk and with some arm function, or severe unilateral impairment. The Advanced Level tests are walk-trot tests.

Grade 3-ER III

Usually able to walk without support. Moderate unilateral impairment or moderate impairment in four limbs, severe arm impairment. Also, a total loss of sight in both eyes, or intellectually impaired. Blacked-out glasses or a blindfold must be worn by "Profile 36" riders. These riders do a walk-trot-canter test. Rein back is required.

Grade 4-ER IV

Riders in this grade are the most able-bodied and have impairment in one or two limbs or some visual impairment. The Grade 4 tests require more advanced dressage elements—lateral work, etc. in walk-trot-canter. Tests are

in a 20 x 60-metre ring.

OnTRA Dressage tests are specified according to both grade (disability) and level (experience).

1. Entry or Novice Level (Regional, Provincial)

For beginner riders who have not yet been classified. The rider's coach may choose an appropriate grade and test. Entry or novice level riders are eligible to compete up to and including provincial-level competition only.

2. Intermediate Level (National)

Riders must hold a National Classification Card and compete at their appropriate grade. These riders are eligible to compete up to and including national competitions.

3. Advanced Level (International)

Advanced riders must hold a National or International IPEC Classification Card and compete at their assigned grade. An IPEC Classification Card must be submitted with entry into the Advanced Level.

These riders are eligible to apply to Para Equestrian Canada for the 'Short List' to compete in international competitions. Advanced riders must ride both the Championship and Freestyle tests.

Note: This year, the intermediate and advanced-level classes will qualify riders for the 2006 National, and Pacific Rim International Competition in British Columbia on September 1-3.

Continued on page 12

COMPETITION...

Continued from page 11

*FEI PARA DRESSAGE RULES

FEI took over management of IPEC on January 1, 2006. With para-equestrian sport under the governance of the FEI, a Para Equestrian Committee will provide the relevant technical advice and expertise. (That Committee was appointed at the FEI General Assembly in Madrid, earlier this spring.)

Visit the FEI website: www.horse-sport.org/para equestrian for more information.

OnTRA uses FEI rules

All OnTRA competitions are conducted in accordance with FEI rules. Competitors should be familiar with the following FEI rules.

- A rising or sitting trot may be ridden.
- All riders must be neatly and correctly dressed. While mounted, a suitable riding hat, meeting international-safety standards, including a well-fitting chinstrap and a three or four point harness, must be worn. If a rider's disability doesn't allow him to wear boots or shoes with heels, but he uses stirrups, approved safety stirrups must be used. Gloves should be worn.
- Grades I and II riders must use only a snaffle bit. Grades III or IV riders may use a snaffle or a simple double bridle.
- Horses used in Grade I and Grade II tests may be ridden and schooled for up to 20 minutes per day by the trainer

or coach, but may not be schooled by anyone other than the competitor fifteen minutes before he enters the competition arena for testing. Horses for Grades III and IV may be ridden and schooled only by the rider competing on that horse.

- Horses may be shared by two riders in 'own horse' competitions in different grades.

*Para Equestrian Canada is responsible for all Canadian National Paralympic Equestrian Competitions in both Para Dressage and Para Driving. Para Equestrian Canada is a division of Equine Canada equal with all other equine disciplines. For further info see www.paraequestrian.ca

DRIVING FOR RIDERS WITH DISABILITIES

Para World Driving Championships are held in conjunction with the able-bodied driving competitions. They are three-day events with dressage, cross country and cones.

Para Driving Classification

There are only two grades in Para Carriage Driving—CDI and CDII. CDI is for those classified as Grade 1 or drivers with four limbs severely affected, and CDII is for all others—classified as Grades 2, 3 and 4. ♣

Contributed by Judi Island

Editor's note: The above is intended as a brief overview only. For more details, please consult official information and documents published on the websites of the organizations mentioned.

ONTRA PROVINCIAL COMPETITION—July 29

CedarLynde Stables/Windreach Farm, Ashburn, Ontario

Some excellent riding and a beautiful venue—what more could you ask? Come out and support our hard-working athletes, who'll be arriving from OnTRA centres around the province. For directions to CedarLynde, visit www.windreach.org or call 905-655-5827. Competitors still requiring entry forms should visit www.ontra.ca



SECOND ANNUAL GLO-BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT—August 9

CedarLynde Stables/WindReach Farm, 312 Townline Road, Ashburn, ON, email: thefarm@windreach.org

Come and enjoy an evening of golf with a twist—playing in the dark. Great fun for everyone.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR—November 3-12

CNE Grounds, Toronto

Canada's biggest exhibition of all-things country and equestrian comes to town this autumn and, once again, OnTRA will be there. Visit our booth for a fabulous selection of horsey gifts, the Equine Simulators, and updates on your organization. Volunteers are needed. So, if you can help—even for just a few hours—call 905-839-4931.



TRAVELLING THIS SUMMER? Find out more about the DISABILITY TRAVEL CARD.



Easter Seals/March of Dimes National Council continues to make travel more accessible to Canadians with disabilities. The Disability Travel Card provides identification to a person with a permanent disability allowing an accompanying adult attendant to travel at no cost.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact your provincial licensed partner at 416-932-8382 or 1-877-376-6362.

Recognized by Greyhound Canada, Arcadian Lines and VIA RAIL Canada

New equine bathing system wows horse owners

What was the most interesting product on display at last autumn's Royal Winter Fair in Toronto? For many horse owners it may have been a small piece of equipment that looked a bit like the average family's vacuum cleaner. But the powerful little machine was the first of three models in the Lynx Vacuum Bathing System, a revolutionary cleaning method featuring special patented technology. The Lynx System,



Most horses enjoy the Lynx experience.

made by Anivac Corporation of Flamborough, Ontario, is a safe, more convenient and environmentally friendly way to wash horses and dogs—even during a Canadian winter. The System includes the 13-litre model, which intrigued Fair visitors, and a bigger 50-litre model. And this June, Anivac also launched a larger, built-in model that installs much like a residential central-vac system. Because it ties directly into the water and drain systems of barns, stables and other out-buildings, the built-in model does not

have to be filled or emptied and runs virtually silently. While the 13-litre and 50-litre models will clean two and eight horses respectively, the Central System model will take care of an unlimited number of equines.

As the Anivac website and literature say, the Lynx System employs unique technology that, unlike traditional cleaning methods, washes the horse from the skin up. As anyone who's groomed a horse knows, most dirt lies on the skin's surface. The Lynx's pressurized wash nozzles, which rest on the horse's skin, overcome the coat's natural resistance to moisture penetration. Using Anivac's plant-based and rinse-free shampoo, the Lynx's spray action first cleans the skin, then the coat. At the same time, its vacuuming action pulls most of the water from the coat, leaving the animal only damp to the touch—a big plus if you need to wash a horse in mid February.

It's easy to see why Anivac's new system has caught the interest of equestrians here and around the world. Advantages include: most horses and dogs enjoy it because it's like a back rub; stains are easily removed from light-coloured horses; a wash stall isn't required; reduced drying time and less mess; easier on water supplies since the Lynx uses as little as one gallon of

Continued on page 15

BATHING SYSTEM...

Continued from page 14

water per horse; effective pre- and post-surgery cleansing of ill or injured animals.

Staff at two OnTRA centres—Sunrise in Guelph, and TEAD in Hamilton—are already using the Lynx System. Hilary Webb, executive director of TEAD, gave the System this enthusiastic testimonial. "It's so nice to say

goodbye to the bucket and hose. And being able to keep our horses clean over the winter is just fantastic."

For more information on the Lynx Vacuum Bathing System visit www.anivacorp.com or call 1-866-887-1994. ▼

The above article was based on material provided by The Rider All-Discipline Newspaper.

ACCORDING to "Doctor Bob"

Q: What is equine flu and how can I prevent my horse from contracting it?

A: Equine influenza is an acute, contagious, respiratory disease caused by two distinct subtypes (subtype 1: H7N7 and subtype 2: H3N8) of influenza A viruses. These are abbreviated to AE-1 and AE-2. In fully susceptible horses, clinical signs include fever and a harsh dry cough, followed by mucopurulent nasal discharge. In partially immune, vaccinated animals, one or more of these signs may be absent. Characteristically, influenza spreads rapidly in a

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

susceptible population. Influenza is endemic in North America and most of the world. Periodic point explosive outbreaks occur and are quickly spread by a rapidly mobile population of horses. This may be related to the waning of immunity to influenza in the general horse population and/or genetic drift of the virus strain. Only influenza subtype AE-2 has been isolated over the last 20 years worldwide. There are also distinct differences in virus strain lineage between virus isolates in North America and those in Europe. Respiratory disease outbreaks in groups of horses need to be identified as caused by influenza or one of the other common equine respiratory viruses, such as equine herpesvirus 1 & 4, equine

Continued on page 16

Back-to-basics clinic held in Owen Sound

It was an information-packed day for the 20 volunteers from GRACE and near-by PRANCE who attended an OnTRA clinic presented at GRACE's Owen Sound facility, on May 7.

Under the guidance of Hilary Webb, a well-known clinician for our Association, the workshop covered a list of topics, such as changes to CanTRA Certification, determining a horse's movement, safety, the importance of working with a therapist, the correct

riding position, and mounting and dismounting. As part of the group's work on analyzing a mount's movement, attendees were invited to try out several GRACE horses. In order to better "feel" the type of movement, participants were mounted bareback with their eyes closed.

The workshop got glowing reviews from attendees like GRACE'S Ann-Ida Beck, who said it was a great way to start this year's program. ▶

DR. BOB...

Continued from page 15

rhinovirus 1 and 2 and equine adenovirus. The equine influenza strains are not known to cause illness in humans.

Horse Health Risk

The incubation period of equine influenza virus may be as short as one to three days. Horses can remain infective and shed virus to other horses for up to 10 days in their nasal secretions. A number of factors increase the risk of infection with influenza virus. Horses, one to five years of age, are more susceptible to the disease. Those horses with no previous exposure to the virus and/or no previous vaccination to protect them against influenza virus will have a lower immune status and therefore more susceptible to getting an infection. Those horses that are in barns with a lot of in-and-out traffic will have frequent contacts with a large

number of horses and therefore are more likely to come in contact with the virus. Sporadic outbreaks of equine influenza occur throughout all horse areas of the world. The virus infection is spread primarily by aerosolized droplets dispersed by coughing. However, the virus can be spread by contaminated equipment (buckets, grooming aids) and contaminated hands. The virus can survive for hours in the environment. Influenza outbreaks can be avoided by;

- preventing entry of the virus into horse groups by quarantining newly arrived horses for at least 14 days and
- appropriate vaccination before exposure. (While vaccination does not necessarily prevent influenza, the disease in vaccinated horses is less severe and the signs last a shorter period than when horses are unvaccinated.) Always consult your veterinarian. ▶

the mane LINE

OnTRA Newsletter

Vol. 20, No. 2



It's all about
TEAMWORK
at CAN-AM SHOW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Successful Can-Am showing due to volunteer effort
- Ontario Sport Alliance awards go to OnTRA nominees

- OnTRA celebrates Horse Week at Doors Open Toronto event
- It's competition time!
- New bathing system wows groomers

