

2006 Provincial Event highlighted by strong performances

On July 29, beautiful Cedar-Lynde Stables, part of Wind-Reach Farm in Ashburn, provided the host venue for 25 riders who came to compete in OnTRA's 2006 Open Dressage Championships and Prince Phillip Games (PPG) for Riders with a Disability. The riders, who had all successfully qualified in earlier regional competitions in order to compete at the provincial-level event, journeyed from OnTRA facilities across the province.

Unfortunately, although this was an 'own horse' competition, several riders were unable to bring their usual

Cover photo: Riding Robbie, Emilie Raymaker, of PARD, is all smiles as she waits on deck with other team members and volunteers for the next PPG challenge.

The MANE LINE/20-3

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mounts. However, six talented horses were kindly lent for the day by CedarLynde Stables and OnTRA supporters Jean Martin, Marie Peters, and Nancy and Bill Murray. Dressage and PPG riders from facilities in Lanark County, Owen Sound and Peterborough took advantage of the generous offer—enjoying just one practice ride on their borrowed mounts before the competition.

OnTRA Provincial Dressage Competition

This was the first time OnTRA has held an Equine Canada National-Sanctioned Competition for dressage riders with a disability to qualify for national and international competitions. The judging panel included Jo Young, Lynda Southam and Catherine Slaney with Sandra Silcox as FEI Steward.

The group of 17 dressage riders, who competed for the 2006 championship title, included first-time competitors, Canadian Paralympians Dax Adam and Judi Island, as well as Alexander Mitchell, a former Paralympian for Bermuda. As part of the event, the

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(Clockwise starting at top left) The GRACE team took home the PPG trophy; Tim Dack (centre) receives honours from OEF's Jack De Wit (left), EC's Al Patterson (right rear), and former Olympic-dressage rider Evi Marie Pracht (front right); Amber Walker (centre), a big winner in the entry-level competition, accepts her awards from Jack De Wit and Al Patterson; Competitor Gail Konzelman (mounted), and leader Lou Green wait for a tack check; Spectators, competitors and volunteers enjoyed a buffet-style lunch courtesy of Gary Van Bolderen, of Dutch Masters Construction Services Ltd.

crowd was also treated to Musical Freestyle performances from Dax Adam on Copper Rose, his Thoroughbred partner at the 2004 Athens Paralympics, followed by Judi Island, competing for the first time on Finn, a Norwegian Fiord horse that shows great promise as a competition partner.

However, in the final analysis, the day belonged to Scarborough, Ontario's Dax Adam, who rides as an independent, taking home the Overall High Point Championship Trophy.

Prince Phillip Games (PPG)

Two enthusiastic teams—GRACE from Owen Sound, and PARD from Peterborough—had the audience cheering as they vied for the PPG Provincial Championship Trophy. This year's PPGs included four action-packed contests—the Bending Race, Housewife's Scurry, Ring Race and the Mug Race. Although both teams gave winning performances, it was GRACE that took home the Trophy for a sec-

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PROVINCIAL EVENT...

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ond year with the hard-working team from PARD coming in Reserve Champions.

Finally, no report is complete with-



out acknowledging the many people who made the event such a success. A big round of thanks goes to Nancy and Bill Murray, who coordinated the PPGs, and to Gary Van Bolderen, who

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(Clockwise starting at top left) The PARD team was reserve champion in the PPG; There was some hot action in the PPGs with both teams exhibiting sportsmanship and riding skills that had spectators cheering; Rider Karen Allanson competed at the intermediate level; Fran Streeter (centre), was happy with her performance; Sandy Mitchell, of CedarLynde Stables, warms up in the outdoor ring; Courtney Bashaw (centre), accepts her ribbon from presenters Jack De Wit (left), and Al Patterson; Rider Carley Wallace, of Lanark, and her mount were well turned out for competition; Competitor Melanie Rodgers, of CARD, rewards her horse with a pat for a job well done.



PROVINCIAL EVENT...

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owns and operates Dutch Masters Construction Services Ltd. in Barrie. Gary provided a wonderful buffet-style lunch that kept everyone—volunteers, competitors and spectators—ready to enjoy the afternoon’s activities.

Sincere thanks also goes to show organizer Sharon Brooks for her help and expertise in making this a top-notch

event, and to all our volunteers—without their enthusiastic support the event would not have been possible. And last but not least, Al Patterson, president of Equine Canada, the OEF’s Jack de Wit, and former Olympic dressage rider Evi Marie Pracht brought “celebrity” status to the event—graciously presenting the awards to riders throughout the day.

Contributed by Judi Island

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRESSAGE RESULTS

Entry Level

Grade 1 a Test #7

1. Amber Walker	52.858%	
2. Lorraine Gail Konzelman	49.525%	
3. Courtney Bashaw	45.477%	

Grade 1 Test # 21

4th Carley Wallace	53.705%	Reserve
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Grade 1B Test 11

1. Tim Dack	53.726%	Champion
2. Jennifer Young	46.864%	

Intermediate Level

Grade 1 a Test #3

6 th —Jody Schloss	46.250%	Reserve Champion
HC—Mary Cachia	54.167%	

Grade 1b Test # 13

5 th —Melanie Rogers	49.815%	Champion
HC—Andrew Chapman	56.667%	
HC—Amelia Sheffe	49.260%	

Grade 2 test #23

HC—Karen Allanson	52.106%
HC—Ophelia MacDonald	45.966%

MORE RESULTS on page 6



(Left) Competitor Dax Adam (centre), found himself in the lime-light as advanced level champion; (Right) Judi Island (centre), who also put in a top-notch performance, was named reserve champion.



PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRESSAGE RESULTS—Continued

Advanced Level

Championship Test # 1

Grade 1a—Sandy Mitchell	54.%
Grade 1b—Judi Island	52.858%
Grade 2—Dax Adam	55.228%
Grade 3—Fran Streeter	40.2%

Freestyles

Grade 1b—Judi Island	57.920%	2nd place
Grade 2—Dax Adam	61.764%	1st place

Championship Test # 2

Grade 1a—Sandy Mitchell	55.5%	3rd place
Grade 1b—Judi Island	56.191%	2nd place
Grade 2—Dax Adam	56.368%	1st Place
Grade 3—Fran Streeter	42.%	

Champion—Dax Adam

Reserve Champion—Judi Island

EC presents funds during provincials

On behalf of OnTRA, competition chair Judi Island (left), gratefully accepted a cheque for \$500 from Al Patterson, president of Equine Canada (EC). The cheque from EC, which is a long-time and generous supporter of therapeutic riding, will be used to fund more competitions like this year's provincial event.



Used tack recycled by appreciative OnTRA centres

OnTRA's third Used Tack Drive, held late last year at Palgrave's Caledon Equestrian Park, took in more than 200 gently used equipment and apparel items for both equestrians and equines. The items were distributed amongst OnTRA's forty-one member centres for use in their programs, which now collectively serve almost 6,000 cognitively and physically challenged clients—adults and children.

The items, ranging from saddles and girths to blankets, breeches and jackets, were generously donated by members of the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA) who were attending or competing in an event at the Park. The recyclable items were collected at the OnTRA booth, which was stationed on the grounds so that members could conveniently drop off their no-longer-needed items. Following the event, items were evaluated by OnTRA volunteers and tax receipts issued to donors for their contributions. Once the evaluation process was completed, a list of the collected items was sent to OnTRA member centres who responded with "wish" lists of items needed for their programs.

Once again, we have well-known veterinarian Dr. Mary Bell to thank for arranging the always-successful Tack



OnTRA president Peter Henderson displays some of the more than 200 gently used equestrian and equine items donated by members of the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association. Tack, apparel and equipment, such as blankets, leg wraps, saddle pads, jackets, boots, breeches, shirts, girths, saddles, bits and bridles, were collected for use in OnTRA's TR programs.

Drive. Many thanks also goes to OHJA members, especially OHJA president Barbara Mitchell, and to Craig Collins, president of EMG, whose company manages the Caledon Equestrian Park's show schedule. On behalf of all OnTRA members, your generous support is most appreciated. 🐾

Contributed by Peter Henderson

OnTRA needs YOUR help

Our programs, including competitions, can't operate without volunteer support. So, call 905-839-4931 to find out how you can help at the next OnTRA event in your area.

KidSport™ Ontario grants available to participants of OnTRA programs

Athletes between the ages of six and 18 who may need a little financial assistance in order to participate in a sport, such as therapeutic riding, could be eligible for a KidSport™ Ontario grant. Grants range in value from \$50 to \$250 and may be applied towards organized-sports program costs, including registration fees and/or the purchase of equipment. (The Grant Program is designed to ensure that no Ontario athlete be prevented from participating in an activity because of financial pressures.) Through our affiliation with Ontario's SportAlliance agency, under whose umbrella KidSport™ Ontario falls, riders participating in a program at an OnTRA-member facility may apply. And, ap-

plying is easy. Simply go to www.kidsport.on.ca/granting to download Grant Application Form Instructions and a Grant Application Form. An adult sponsor must fill in the form, which then goes to a third-party, objective "community professional" to be endorsed. Because KidSport™ Ontario operates at the community level—frequently partnering with other charitable programs—the application must also be "adjudicated" by the athlete's local KidSport™ Ontario chapter. There are 13 chapters located around the province and a quick click on the website's Community Chapters button will tell applicants where to head to complete that final step. For more information call 416-426-7171.

Something to **THINK** about

If your organization wishes to pursue major funding or sponsorship from corporations, foundations, government or selected individuals, it will take a thorough understanding of proposal writing to be successful. A proposal must be clear and simple, and technical language related to your group's operation should be avoided. Each section of the proposal should be no longer than a page in length. Short proposals—with just a few sentences or key points under each heading—can be just as effective as long ones.

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

OnTRA director Gay Harper provides fundraising help to member centre

Like many OnTRA member facilities, WindReach Farm/Cedar Lynde Stables, north of Whitby, is continually looking for creative ways to raise funds for its therapeutic riding program. So, earlier this past spring, we asked Gay Harper, an OnTRA director, to visit the Farm and give us a "101" on fundraising. She met with WindReach executive director Penny Smith and some of the Farm's other board members to discuss strategic ways of better promoting ourselves to a bigger audience of supporters.

With over 30 years of experience in the fundraising field, Gay's varied career has also included time as a newspaper editor. She proved to be a great source of valuable information—providing the know-how about everything from basic fundraising procedures to more advanced topics, such as writing pro-

posals that touch and inspire readers to respond.

Consultations available

One of OnTRA's mandates includes providing support and learning opportunities to its member centres about a variety of topics—whatever they require. Although OnTRA organizes informational clinics and presentations around the province throughout the year, more informal, individual consultations—like the one we arranged with Gay—are also available. So, if your centre also needs assistance with something like fundraising or, perhaps,



Gay Harper, an OnTRA director, is available for individual fundraising consultations or organized clinics.

a refresher course on mounting and warm-up exercises, contact OnTRA at 905-839-4931 to see if one our own Association's members or directors can help you. ▶

*Contributed by Mary Mooney
WindReach Farm*

WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

In future issues, 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 if you'd like others to know about the good things going on at your centre, just drop us a line at: editor.maneline@sympatico.ca

Ontario-to-BC ride promoting therapeutic riding is put on hold

It seems Kimball Foord's cross-Canada ride to publicize the benefits of therapeutic riding has been temporarily postponed. Foord and his seven-year-old Quarter-horse Cody started their marathon trip from Guelph, Ontario to British Columbia in early May and had hoped to reach the Pacific coast by mid autumn. However, the pair's route, which was to largely follow the Trans Canada Trail, proved more difficult than expected and Foord and Cody were just approaching Manitoba in early August when a family member at home became ill—necessitating his return.

The 46-year-old Foord, a lifelong adventurer, grew up in the western provinces, but made his home most recently in Guelph. After settling there with his family, he became acquainted with the services and programs offered by both the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association, which is head-quartered in that city, and its member centres throughout the provinces. Wishing to promote the great work done at our country's therapeutic riding facilities, Foord developed his Ontario-to-BC Ride of Dreams. Although he was unable to obtain as much corporate sponsorship as needed before embarking on the trip, Foord set off, receiving lodging/stabling and food along the way for both him and Cody, from supporters



Lifelong adventurer Kimball Foord and his horse Cody hope to resume their Ride of Dreams as soon as possible.

and well wishers, including CanTRA facilities and volunteers.

According to the latest entry on his website www.ridefordreams.com, Foord has not abandoned his dream and hopes to resume riding as soon as possible. Whenever that date rolls around, the best wishes of everyone involved in therapeutic riding will undoubtedly be with him. ➤

Contributed by CanTRA

Missed an issue of The Mane Line?

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

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR—November 3-12 CNE Grounds, Toronto

Canada's biggest exhibition of all-things country and equestrian comes to town and OnTRA will be there. Visit our booth to look at our fabulous selection of horsey gifts or just to say hello. (And don't forget, during the Fair, CanTRA, Canada's national therapeutic riding organization, is offering an interactive seminar you won't want to miss.) Volunteers are needed for the OnTRA booth, so, if you can help—even for just a few hours—call 905-839-4931.



OnTRA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—November 25, 2006 Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario; 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Once again, OnTRA is holding its Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the Ontario Equestrian Federation's annual Conference, which runs November 24 to 26. Members are invited to meet for the AGM and, of course, attend some of the Conference's many workshops, seminars and presentations given by horse industry experts on a wide range of topics. For information call 905-839-4931.

Member Centre Profile

SARI—taking care of challenged riders since 1978

SARI Therapeutic Riding is located north-west of London in the town of Arva and is one of OnTRA's larger member centres. Founded in 1978, SARI provides a year-round therapeutic riding program for approximately 70 riders—adults, teens and kids—and operates a summer camp for 64 children and teens.

To keep such a large program operating smoothly, SARI employs five

office-staff members and relies on five volunteer assistant riding instructors and over 200 volunteers to assist with all the jobs involved in running a centre as successful as SARI.

Because SARI's primary focus is on promoting the therapeutic benefits of riding, with lessons geared to producing the best possible results for each rider, SARI staff routinely consults a

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SARI...

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physiotherapist and occupational therapist to help perform new rider assessments. Once staff and the professionals have completed their assessments, goals are set for each rider. With goals clearly defined, individual lesson plans that help riders achieve their goals can then be created.

Although right now SARI's barn houses 11 horses and ponies used mostly for riding, the centre has plans to reintroduce a cart-driving program in the near future.

When it comes to fundraising,

SARI staff, riders and volunteers are an enthusiastic bunch. One of their annual events—a popular ride/walk-a-thon held each September—produces great results in terms of both funds and promoting awareness of their programs and services. Always well attended, this year's ride-a-thon took place on September 24 with riders and walkers taking to the trails near the Centre. Prizes were provided for the top three pledge earners. On behalf of everyone at OnTRA—keep up the good work SARI! 🐾

*Contributed by Sarah Ramsden
Communications chair*

President's Report

OnTRA exhibits at worthwhile venues

An exhibit at Horseplay 2006, the CNE, and London's Western Fair allowed OnTRA to promote the pleasures and benefits of horses and riding.

Throughout the year, the OnTRA board of directors tries to create and take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to promote awareness of therapeutic riding and our centres' programs. In addition to getting the word out about the benefits OnTRA's disabled clients enjoy through riding,

opened July 31—a couple of weeks prior to the CNE—also continued simultaneously with the CNE's August 18 to September 5 run.

With free admission from the end of July to mid August, Horseplay 2006 attracted thousands of people, giving us the perfect opportunity to play a role in introducing many visiting youngsters to the world of horses. They got tips on how a horse “thinks”, enjoyed a wagon ride behind a pair of beautiful Belgians, met a mare and foal, watched grooming and shoeing demonstrations, and learned how to safely feed carrots. These lucky kids were also treated to a show that included several breeds participating in a variety of disciplines with a finale of trick-riding. Of course, the two Equine Simulators, which were located in a nearby booth, were well used—clocking 7,000 youngsters eager to sit in their saddles.

Meanwhile, the interests of OnTRA's member centres were well represented by OnTRA supporter Keith Brettell, who manned our display throughout the month-long exhibition. Keith did an incredible job of informing visitors

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OnTRA was given a prime location in the Western Fair's Agriplex Building.

we also try to encourage and inform other folks about the fun of equestrian activities, in general.

One of those excellent opportunities arose this past summer. After a lot of behind-the-scenes work, OnTRA president Peter Henderson arranged for our Association to exhibit at Toronto's giant Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), as well as Horseplay 2006, a fair devoted to introducing city slickers to everything horsey. Horseplay, which

Award acknowledges volunteer's commitment

Earlier this summer at SARI Therapeutic Riding centre, volunteer Meredith Milton was presented with the centre's 2006 Care & Commitment Award. The annual award, created in 1992, is given in memory of Ann May Dingwall, who was a long-time SARI volunteer and a well known London-area horsewoman. Her love, caring and lifelong commitment to animals are legendary. The Care & Commitment Award recognizes a volunteer who demonstrates exemplary 'care and commitment' to SARI, its horses and riders. Meredith Milton, this year's recipient, exhibits her support of the centre's programs and

services in so many ways, says SARI staff—showing a concern and care for all riders, along with an evident compassion for the centre's horses. Among her many activities at SARI, Meredith can be counted on for grooming, tacking, leading and side-walking, exercise riding and assisting wherever possible with SARI's fundraising events.

Congratulations Meredith! Along with your friends and colleagues at SARI, everyone involved in OnTRA's programs says thanks for all that you do in support of therapeutic riding for kids and adults with special needs.

Contributed by Sarah Ramsden

PRESIDENT'S REPORT...

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about the benefits of therapeutic riding, and encouraging riders and volunteers to contact a centre. He even handled sales of our ever-growing selection of equine gift merchandise. Thanks, Keith!

Although attendance figures for Horseplay and the CNE were unavailable, we're happy to report an estimated total of 150,000 visitors stopped by our booth.

Another successful venue at Western Fair

Just three days after our exhibit at Horseplay and the CNE closed, OnTRA packed up the display and the Equine Simulators, journeying to London, Ontario for the annual Western Fair. This is the third Western Fair for OnTRA. Because of our past performance at the 2004 and 2005 exhibitions, Western Fair agricultural co-ordinator Erica Levy kindly made sure OnTRA was included on this year's exhibitor/vendor list. We were also delighted to discover upon arrival that we'd been given a prime location by the main entrance.

Our 40-foot display, part of the agricultural presentation in the new "Agriplex" building, was manned by volunteers from SARI and Jabez Therapy Ranch—both located in south-western Ontario. Many thanks go out, once again, to these invaluable volunteers who went on to greet more



The OnTRA booth was one of the "stops" on the educational tour given to students visiting the Western Fair. Loys Fawcett, of the American Paint Horse Association, and Susan Morell, of SARI, helped deliver an entertaining lecture to 1,600 students.

than 40,000 visitors during the ten-day-long Fair.

As part of the agricultural presentation, OnTRA's "neighbours" included cows, goats, and horses of a variety of breeds, such as Connemara, Paint, Quarter horse, Miniature, Paso Fino, Arabian, and Canadian Sport Horse. In addition to therapeutic riding, several other equestrian disciplines were also represented.

The Agriplex Building was certainly a busy place. Every evening, a Parade of Horses entered the ring, giving the public an opportunity to see each of the various breeds at work. An accompanying commentary explained each breed's special features and history.

This year, the OnTRA booth was one of the designated "stops" on the educational tour given to students visiting from area elementary schools. The tours took place outside of regular Fair hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT...

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Wednesdays—resulting in some extra long days for our volunteers. With much help from Loys Fawcett, of the American Paint Horse Association, and Susan Morell, executive director of SARI, we created and delivered an entertaining 20-minute lecture to a total of 1,600 students, ages eight to ten. The presentation covered everything from safety and basic information about the horse to a look at a variety of riding equipment. The students were shown regular saddles, as well as several that had been specially modified for therapeutic riding. Following the lecture segment of each tour, Loys and Susan invited a male and female student, who'd never been on a horse, to come up and try riding on the Equine Simulators. These brave demonstrators were first asked to do some standard exercises while the horses were mov-

ing at a slow pace. Once the riders were relaxed and comfortably balanced, Loys and Susan notched up the challenge—asking each to increase the pace and "race for home". With one rider trotting on his Simulator and the other cantering, the audience was soon cheering on their classmates.

During the regular Show hours, our volunteers were even busier—welcoming a steady stream of families who crowded around the booth to watch their youngsters go for a ride on the Simulators. In total, an estimated 2,000+ youngsters climbed into the saddles. And as always, many enquiries were logged about riding, volunteering, and the locations of therapeutic riding centres around the province.

Finally, some heartfelt thanks goes out to those volunteers and supporters who made our appearance at all these venues possible. OnTRA couldn't have done it without you! 🐾

Know someone who should be an award winner?

Every year, OnTRA strives to ensure our members are recognized for the valuable contributions they make to their therapeutic riding communities. In order to do that, OnTRA is an active participant in the award program offered by the Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF), and the Ontario Sport Alliance. Through these organizations a long list of awards is available to members of all horse disciplines across the province—including therapeutic riding and driving.

OnTRA has the opportunity to nomi-

nate members for several of these annual awards—but we need your help. If someone in your centre—and that means everyone from riders and volunteers to administrators—goes consistently and frequently "above and beyond the call of duty", make sure he or she is recognized and rewarded for their efforts. Simply send a short descriptive note to 411 Brian Court, Pickering, Ontario, L1W 3H5 or call Peter Henderson at 905-939-4931 and an award application/nomination form will be forwarded by email to you. 🐾

ACCORDING to "Doctor Bob"

Q: How can I prevent my horses contaminating nearby waterways.

A: Horses are very environmentally friendly and they are rarely a source of, or concern for, groundwater contamination. However, to help prevent groundwater contamination, horse owners should:

- Refrain from using porous floors in stalls when the subsoil is gravel, sand or light loam.
- Maintain high volumes of bedding to absorb all urine. Sand-lined stalls could po-

tentially allow for urine to leach into the porous subsoil and affect the groundwater.

- Ensure that all wash water used on horses or to clean stalls is directed away from field tiles and water courses.
- Ensure that run-off and water from eavestroughs is directed away from manure storage areas.
- Maintain buffer strips of grass between winter pasture areas and waterways to prevent contamination of streams.
- Provide water bowls and/or water tanks year round, rather than depending on ponds/streams as water sources for horses.
- Maintain low stocking densities (one horse per acre or more). With higher stocking densities, special considerations, such as frequent manure pickup in fields and pastures, may be required. ➤

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

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OnTRA Newsletter

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Every rider a "winner" at provincials

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