

OnTRA accomplishments highlighted at Annual General Meeting

In his annual report on the 2003-2004 season, OnTRA president Peter Henderson also described our organization's plans for the year ahead

A Guelph hotel was the host venue for OnTRA's Annual General Meeting, which was held, last November, in conjunction with the Ontario Equestrian Federation's (OEF) Annual Conference. The Conference, which is always well attended by Ontario's horse industry, included a presentation from two OnTRA members, who spoke on The Therapeutic Riding Horse: Myths & Truths. (See sidebar on page 3.)

Speaking to a small audience of OnTRA members, president Peter Henderson kicked off his AGM report with a summary of the Association's accomplishments, over the past year. He told the group OnTRA continues to grow because it offers many services and activities benefiting the membership. Those services include:

- a financially responsible organization
 - an accurate and up-to-date directory to centres across the province
 - educational clinics held across Ontario
 - competitions
 - fundraising opportunities for member centres
 - public relations through the OEF, Trillium Foundation, and participation in a variety of events
 - communication through *The Mane Line* newsletter
 - providing grant opportunities for member centres
- Henderson said, the Association added to that list through the 2003-2004 season, initiating several other well-received services, such as:
- telephone communication/discussion with all provincial member centres
 - preparation and maintenance of a profile on all member centres
 - recognition of members' contributions and service through the OEF awards program
 - development of an OnTRA website with a 2005 launch planned

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AGM REPORT...

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- participation in an increased number of regional and provincial events designed to promote therapeutic riding

Although the Report was generally upbeat, Henderson introduced a sobering note by reminding the audience that an increase in services and activities resulted in more demand on the time and energy of each board member. Peter emphasized that because OnTRA was a unique organization dependent upon volunteer service rather than paid employees, the reapportioning of the

additional workload would have to be addressed in the coming year. (See Board of Directors sidebar on page 5.)

Committee Report Highlights

Following the president's address, board members gave their reports.

Membership: OnTRA saw an overall membership increase of eight percent, with a 20 percent increase in the number of member centres.

OEF: Through our affiliation with the Ontario Equestrian Federation, ten

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OEF Conference

OnTRA workshop dispels myths and dispenses truths

In their clinic titled Therapeutic Riding Horse: Myths & Truths, education chair Sonia Koczekan and well-known therapeutic riding instructor Gay Wood guided the audience through a wide range of information. The pair covered many "truths", such as what to look for when "shopping" for a therapeutic riding horse, safe and effective training of therapeutic riding horses, and the pros and cons of different forms of "ownership"—borrowing, leasing or buying.

Gay and Sonia also spoke to those

in the audience perhaps less familiar with the work done by our therapeutic riding horses. They outlined several popular misconceptions that often lead people to decide to "donate" a horse to a therapeutic riding centre. Examples given were: *a horse is too old and stiff for competition, but he wouldn't have to work very hard at a therapeutic riding centre, or, a horse is chronically lame, but at a therapeutic riding centre it won't matter because all he'll have to do is give "pony rides" to children with disabilities.*

As Sonia and Gay showed, nothing could be further from the truth—our horses need to be healthy and injury free to meet the enormous demands we and our riders place upon them. ▽

The MANE LINE/19-1

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members received recognition awards. (See sidebar on page 8 and 9 for scenes from this year's Awards presentation.) OnTRA also received a portion of the OEF's ongoing grant fund. OnTRA has pledged to continue its support of the OEF and member associations.

Fundraising and Promotion: OnTRA heightened its profile at three important events in the 2003-2004 season. They included: 2003 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - For our annual appearance at the RAWF, OnTRA organized three areas to generate funds and

promote therapeutic riding. There were sales of merchandise at our booth, rides on simulated horses, and a portion of the sales of early edition equine books; Can-Am All-Breeds Equine Emporium (March 2004) and the Outdoor Show (June 2004) - Both shows proved to be wonderful experiences. They succeeded in giving us access to a whole new audience of horse enthusiasts who were eager to hear about OnTRA and the therapeutic riding scene in this province; 2004 Woodbine Entertainment - Through our fiscal year, OnTRA was invited to participate in three dif-

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OnTRA receives sport grant allocation

During last November's OEF Conference, OEF president Allan Ehrlick (right), presented OnTRA with a cheque for \$1,840. OnTRA board member Sonia Koczekan (left), had the pleasure of receiving the cheque, which represented our Association's portion of the 2004-2005 sport grant allocation. We join with Sonia in thanking the OEF for their continued support of our Association, its riders and members. ➤



Something to **THINK** about

Fundraising is both an art and a science. It combines the creative and innovative energies of people with a well defined, systematic methodology. Creativity is important, but so is productivity.

Excerpted from the OnTRA Fundriasing Manual, October 1993.
For a copy of the full text, call Helen Brcko at 905-731-7037

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ferent events at GTA's Woodbine Race-track, including the running of the Queen's Plate, which celebrated the 40th anniversary of Northern Dancer's

win of the prestigious race. OnTRA received excellent recognition and financial support at all three venues.

Equestrian: Although our annual provincial competition attracted some tal-

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OnTRA elects 2004/2005 Board of Directors

During the AGM, the following individuals were elected to serve on the OnTRA board for the coming fiscal year: President - Peter Henderson; Vice-President - Sonia Koczekan; Treasurer - John McClellan; Secretary - Laura Smith; Directors - Karen Sibbald, Sarah Ramsden, Gay Harper, Marg Ameli, Tricia Prato

Committee Chairs directed to inventory tasks

Due to the expansion of services to members and member centres, additional pressures are being placed on the OnTRA board members who generally coordinate all activities within their areas of responsibility. The AGM attendees discussed a number of ways to more efficiently deal with the increased workload. Three options came under consideration: 1. employ an individual to help with the added volume of work; 2. reduce the services offered by OnTRA; 3. expand our committees and thus spread the workload. Since OnTRA is traditionally a volunteer-run organization with a good track record of introducing valuable services to its members, option number 3 was deemed most feasible.

Consequently, OnTRA's board is in the process of inventorying all tasks required to keep the organization running efficiently. Over the coming months, the board's goal is a simple one—break down each project into a group of smaller tasks that are more easily handled. President Peter Henderson is calling on all members who are interested in becoming more involved with a progressive organization like ours to contact him or the committee chairs listed below. For more information email: phenderson0307@rogers.com.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education - Sonia Koczekan
Equestrian - Peter Henderson
Special Events - Peter Henderson/Sonia Koczekan
Membership - Nancy Winton
Newsletter - Peter Henderson
Ontario Equestrian Federation - Karen Sibbald
Fundraising - Sarah Ramsden/Peter Henderson
Public Relations - Gay Harper
Therapist - Marg Ameli

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ented riders from four west and south central member centres, disappointingly there were no teams representing the north or east regions. [Editor's note: All centres are urged to initiate competition at their regional level, so that more riders may enjoy the thrill of meeting new goals.]

Education: OnTRA provided six workshop/clinics for OnTRA members. Presenters travelled to Sault Ste. Marie, Owen Sound and London. Plus,

a successful administrative clinic took place in Toronto, followed by a clinic and well-attended daily presentations at the Royal Winter Fair. A final clinic was held later in November at the OEF Annual Conference.

Treasurer: OnTRA continues to operate in a financially responsible manner. Although the organization increased member services, it did so while ensuring revenue continued to exceed expenses. Members should be proud of their association's health. ▽

Good response to used tack collection

Last August, at Palgrave, Ontario's beautiful North Caledon Equestrian Park, the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA) held its third annual tack collection day. Each year, the Collection brings in a wide variety of equine and equestrian items that are used but in good condition for redistribution to OnTRA member cen-

tres. This year, education chair Sonia Koczekan and public relations chair Gay Harper were on deck to receive the many donated items. Cindy Fisher, fundraising co-ordinator for Jump Canada, gave the drive a big boost by donating a number of beautiful Jump Canada T-shirts.

A 2005 event is planned—stay tuned to The ManeLine for details. ▽



Gay Harper (left) and Sonia Koczekan (right) thanked Craig Collins, managing partner of EMG, for his assistance with the tack drive.

Horse Treats

Here's a sweet treat for the real Valentine in your life.

Sugar And Rice Crispies

Coated Apples

2 apples

1/2 cup sugar

Small bowl of molasses

1 cup rice crispies

Cut apples into about 5 slices each.

Put sugar and rice crispies in a big Zip-Lock™ baggy. Dip apple pieces in molasses and add to baggy.

Once all are added, zip shut and shake.

Recipe for informational purposes only. Use at own risk.

NEWS from AROUND the WORLD

FRDI NEWS

Effective December 21, 2004, FRDI has revised its contact information.

New telephone/fax number:
61 3 9375 3987

E-mail: frdi@rda.org.au

Postal address: P.O. 416, Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032, Australia

FRDI RECEIVES A BEQUEST

Late last year, the Executive Board received notification of a bequest from the estate of the late Mary Selway-

Swift. Mary will be well-known to many of our members—especially RDA-UK, Hong Kong and Singapore. Mary and her husband spent some years in Asia and she was actively involved in the establishment of RDA Hong Kong and Sin-

gapore. FRDI members who were present at the International Congress in New Zealand in 1994 may remember meeting Mary there. The FRDI executive board was gratified that in the disposal of her estate Mary chose to recognize and try to assist the further development of therapeutic riding internationally.

In recognition of Mary's efforts in establishing groups, the FRDI Board will use a portion of the bequest to establish the "Mary Selway-Swift Development Fund". The Board has had many requests from countries needing the training necessary to establish therapeutic riding programs. The Education and Training Committee is establishing a skills bank of personnel with expertise they are willing to share with others. They will prepare guidelines for the administration of the Fund, and present these guidelines to members. In the interim, any friends of Mary or interested persons wishing to make donations to the Fund in her memory should contact the FRDI Office.

The Executive Board and all members of FRDI hope this fund will be a fitting memorial to Mary and her commitment to the work of therapeutic riding. ▽

GET CONNECTED with Persons with Disabilities-Online

Persons with Disabilities-Online, part of a new Government of Canada initiative, is a website where persons with disabilities, their family members, caregivers and service providers can access a full range of information on disability-related programs and services in Canada. PWD-Online links to other information sites including Assistive Technology, Health, Taxes and Financial Benefits, Travel and Transportation, Employment, Housing, Learning and Education, and Rights and Legislation. To introduce PWD-Online and its services, the Government of Canada is hosting four presentations, across Canada. Visit www.pwd-online.ca to find out more!

Several OnTRA members take home Ontario Equestrian Federation awards

Once again, OnTRA was invited to participate in the OEF's annual Award Program. Earlier last year, on behalf of our members, president Peter Henderson submitted the names of ten nominees to the OEF as being worthy of recognition in a variety of award categories. Although all nominees were deserving, we are pleased to announce that the following five members took home honours for their service and contributions to therapeutic riding. Awards were presented at the OEF's annual Conference in Guelph, last November.

[Editor's note: Just a reminder—these annual awards are open to our entire membership. If someone at your centre deserves recognition, please let us know. Nomination forms, outlining the qualifications of each award, are mailed each spring to all member centres.]

YVONNE COLLARD AWARD presented to Sonia Koczekan

The Yvonne Collard award is given to an adult member of the OEF who has made an outstanding contribution of time and effort to Ontario equestrian sport, recreation, industry and/or equine welfare. In memory of Yvonne Collard, who devoted a great deal of energy as an OEF director and official to further the sport. Sonia has dedicated much of her adult life to helping physically and cognitively chal-



Sonia Koczekan (left) accepts her award from OEF president Allan Ehrlick.

lenged adults and children through therapeutic riding. She began her volunteer career over twenty-five years ago. Today, Sonia, now a certified instructor and ex-

aminer for the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA), is a leader in the field of therapeutic riding. Sonia actively works with three therapeutic charities including OnTRA, where she is vice-president, chair of education, co-chair of special events and consultant to member centres. She also instructs several classes each week at both Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD), and Exhibition Therapeutic Riding Academy (ExTRA), where she also acts as director of therapeutic riding. Sonia is the recipient of the 1998 Governor General's Caring Canadian Award for her volunteer work with riders with disabilities. In 2002, Sonia was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal in recognition of distinguished service to her fellow citizens, her community and to Canada.

OEF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD presented to Alexander (Sandy) J. Mitchell

The OEF Volunteer of the Year award is given to an OEF member who has made an outstanding contribution of time and effort on behalf of the Ontario Equestrian Federation. The recipient of this award will be put forth as the OEF nomination for the Canadian Equestrian Federation Volunteer of the Year Award.



Sandy Mitchell (left) accepts his award from OEF president Allan Ehrlick.

"Of course we can!" is a familiar response from Sandy Mitchell. Sandy had a dream—to provide a place where disabled people of all ages could enjoy nature and the authentic experience of a working farm. In 1989, he opened WindReach Farm, a 109-acre facility specifically designed for people with disabilities. With its fully wheelchair accessible grounds, WindReach visitors can participate in recreational activities and explore the entire property—from fields to ponds, and barns to playgrounds. In 2003, Sandy expanded the WindReach Farm experience, creating the beautiful Cedar Lynde Stables. Cedar Lynde is a state-of-the-art facility for equestrians with special needs. In 2004, Sandy learned a major problem was confronting Canada's disabled dressage riders. In order for a team to qualify for the 2004 Paralympics, riders had to compete in two international competitions before the date of the Athens event. Although one competition was available in the U.S., a second site and event was necessary. Sandy, a past Paralympic rider for Bermuda, quickly organized the use of Cedar Lynde Stables. And along with facility staff, tirelessly hosted the entire week-long qualifying competition, which included social events for riders, as well as a training clinic. Sandy also supplied three top horses to riders—without his help we would not have had a Canadian team.

OEF MEDIA OF THE YEAR AWARD presented to The Rider

The OEF Media of the Year award is given to 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 September 30 of the current year.

The Rider has a long history of serving Ontario's horse industry. It began over 34 years ago as *The Canadian Western Rider*, the first western discipline horse publication in Canada. In 1994, it merged with *The Canadian Quarter Horse Journal*, and *The English Rider*—becoming simply *The Rider*. Today, *The Rider* is the most widely-read all breeds, all disciplines, equine newspaper in Ontario. It offers readers specialized and general sections and columns, a comprehensive coming events section, plus, service directories and classifieds. *The Rider* covers all English disciplines, including dressage, hunter/jumpers, driving, endurance, and breeds such as sport horses and thoroughbreds. All aspects of the west-



On behalf of *The Rider*, ----- (left) accepts the award from OEF president Allan Ehrlick.

ern horse industry, such as reining, barrel racing, team penning and western pleasure are also covered. This publication is the official voice of many Ontario associations and their memberships, including the Eastern Ontario Quarter Horse Association,

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OEF AWARDS...

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the Ontario Appaloosa Horse Association, the Ontario Barrel Racing Association, and the Ontario Trail Riding Association.

OEF OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD presented to Dorrit de Demeter.



Dorrit de Demeter (left) accepts her award from OEF president Allan Ehrlick.

The OEF Official of the Year award is given to an official who has enhanced or improved competition activity through their judgement, tact and effectiveness

Dorrit has been extensively involved with horses for more than four decades. Her accomplishments include coaching riders, training horses and competitive riding. She has helped organize hunter/jumper, three-day event and dressage shows. She has been a Canadian senior dressage judge since 1974, judging up to and including Grand Prix level competition. Dorrit is also an international-caliber Paralympic judge who served at the World Dressage Championships for Disabled Riders in Britain (1994) and Denmark (1999) and at the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996. She regularly judges OnTRA's annual regional and provincial competitions, and is actively involved with the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association. With our national body, she acts as a volunteer/advisor, judge, cli-

nician, chairman of the competition committee, and member of the selection committee for Canada's national team.

OEF PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD presented to Christine Baburek as Outstanding Volunteer with a Therapeutic Riding Program.

(Nominated by OnTRA's Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program)

In recognition of the behind-the-scenes effort of many equine enthusiasts, the OEF bestows People Make a Difference awards upon recipients identified by each of our member associations.

Christine Baburek began volunteering with the Lanark facility in 1998, and since that time has been a tremendous benefit to the program. Chris, now an AI, comes out three times a week to help with lessons, working one-on-one with riders who need individual attention. She is a very caring individual who takes great interest in riders' development and progress—striving for each rider to reach full potential. Chris is a member of the fundraising/advisory committee and is a terrific help with planning and executing fundraising activities. She's always ready to help out at special events, such as a recent International Plowing Match where the Lanark Riding Program did a demonstration. Chris continues to update her knowledge by taking sign language courses, and attending clinics and conferences. Chris' talent as a riding instructor, her energy and expertise with planning and fundraising, and the encouragement she gives to other volunteers, make her a wonderful asset to the program. ➤

(At far right) Christine Baburek, who was absent from the OEF Awards, is shown assisting a rider.



COMING EVENTS

CAN-AM shows offer wide range of equine activities and programs

Has winter got you down?

If we just heard a resounding 'Yes!', then shake off the blues at this spring's Can-Am All Breeds Equine Emporium.

There's loads of fun horsey things to see and do. So bring a friend. Heck, bring your entire centre.

Last June, OnTRA received a big boost of support from Can-Am Equine Marketing when the western Ontario company selected OnTRA as its "2005 charity of choice". As a result of the new partnership, over the coming year OnTRA will receive a portion of proceeds from Can-Am Marketing's two annual exhibitions—the Can-Am All Breeds Equine Emporium and the Can-Am International.

The Equine Emporium, which began three years ago, gets underway March 17 and runs to March 20. It's a "breath of spring" show that's become increasingly successful with horsey folks who can't wait to find out about new products, programs and activities—equine to equestrian. (See Equine Emporium Highlights on the next page.)

The inaugural Can-Am International, running September 27 to October 2,

2005, will also showcase a variety of equine vendors and horse disciplines. (More details will be listed in *The ManeLine's* Coming Events section, later this summer.) Both shows are held in the new state-of-the-art Agriplex at the Western Fairgrounds in London,

Ontario. OnTRA will have a major display at both events.

In addition to sharing proceeds, Can-Am Marketing is offering OnTRA members a special reduced price—25 percent off—on Equine Emporium en-

trance tickets, if you order on or before March 1, 2005. Ticket price includes some special events, plus a further 25 percent will be donated to your centre. So don't delay. Bring a friend or your entire centre. Contact OnTRA at 905-839-4931 or Phenderson0307@rogers.com for details.

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**Find out about
the special prices
and attractions
offered to
OnTRA members**

CAN-AM SHOW...

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OnTRA hosts many activities

During the Equine Emporium, OnTRA will be conducting a daily Silent Auction of lots of great items donated by the commercial exhibitors and vendors at the Show. A presentation of each day's lineup of items takes place in the main foyer of the show. And here's a look at the many other fabulous activities and programs we'll be hosting:

Wednesday, March 16

- Meet and greet Karen Brain, 2004 Athens Paralympic Dressage Double Bronze Medallist, at the pre-show wine and cheese party
- Auction of Sage Art collection

Thursday, March 17

- Day One of Silent auction
- Equine Simulators rides available for the public at a nominal fee
- Ring Demonstrations by SARI
- Booth Display
- Exceptional Riders "Pony Man Presentation" Friday March 18th
- Day Two of Silent auction
- Equine Simulators rides available for the public at a nominal fee
- Ring Demonstrations by SARI
- Booth Display
- Exceptional Riders "Pony Man Presentation"

Saturday, March 19

- Day Three of Silent auction
- Equine Simulators rides
- Booth Display
- Exceptional Riders "Pony Man Presentation"

Sunday, March 20

- Day Four of Silent auction
- Equine Simulators rides available for the public at a nominal fee
- Live auction of "Classic" stalls and Soft Mat Flooring
- Ring Demonstration - Clinic Saddle up for Success
- Booth Display
- Exceptional Riders "PonyMan Presentation"

Equine Emporium Highlights

Here's what you can look forward to during the rest of the Show.

Wednesday, March 16

- Exhibitors' Wine and Cheese Party
- Daily demonstrations of various breeds and disciplines

Thursday, March 17

- Daily Demonstrations of various breeds and disciplines
- Extravaganza Show
- Trick Horse Training with Tommie Turvey
- Horsemanship with author/trainer Chris Irwin
- Dream Works/D.V.D Production
- Music Tribute with Jerry Lee Lewis Legend
- Trailer Loading Demonstration with Cleve Wells
- *Molds & Mycolotoxins* by well-known OMAF veterinarian Dr. Bob Wright

Friday, March 18

- Daily Demonstrations of various breeds and disciplines
- Dream Works/D.V.D Production
- Music Tribute with Jerry Lee Lewis Legend
- Dream Works/D.V.D Production
- Music Tribute with Jerry Lee Lewis Legend
- Trailer Loading Demonstration with Cleve Wells
- *Hay for Horses* with Dr. Bob Wright

Saturday, March 19

- Daily Demonstrations of various breeds and disciplines
- Country Legend Concert
- Trick Horse Riding with Tommy Turvey
- Dream Works/D.V.D Production
- Music Tribute with Jerry Lee Lewis Legend
- Trailer Loading Demonstration with Cleve Wells
- *Current Events & Research / Helpful Hints for Horse Owners* with Dr. Bob Wright

Sunday, March 20

- Daily Demonstrations of various breeds and disciplines
- Music Tribute with Jerry Lee Lewis Legend
- Trailer Loading Demonstration with Cleve Wells
- *Pasture Management* with Dr. Bob Wright

See the Can-Am Marketing website for complete details: www.can-amequine.com 🐾

2004 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair a great fundraising venue for OnTRA

Last November, during the 2004 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, OnTRA hosted perhaps one of our biggest displays to date with a 40-foot-long stretch of booth space. The display encompassed four 10x10 booths. Two of the booths offered



informational material promoting Ontario's therapeutic riding movement and OnTRA's member centres. Along with OnTRA info, visitors to the Fair could also shop for shirts, cards and other "horsey" items. Meanwhile, the central booth areas housed the two electronic life-sized "horses" supplied by our fundraising partners, Equine Simulators. The horses are always a hit with visitors and, this year, OnTRA added to the simulated riding experience by offering instant photos of riders up in the saddle. The whole venture was quite successful, generating over \$11,000 in revenue. 🐾



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

www.ontra.ca coming in 2005 to a computer near you

OnTRA has been working hard to develop a website dedicated to keeping in better touch with our member centres and volunteers, plus informing the general public about therapeutic riding programs in Ontario. We're pleased to announce it's just about ready—a March 2005 launch date is scheduled. Check it out—we value your feedback. Better yet, let us know what's happening at your centre in the coming year.

OnTRA honours Canada's Paralympic riders at Royal Winter Fair presentation

During the 2004 Royal Winter Fair, OnTRA took centre stage in the Cavalcade of Horses ring to honour the members of Canada's Paralympic Dressage team who competed in Athens, last September. Ian Millar, a well-known Canadian rider and a generous supporter of therapeutic riding, was on hand to make the presentation even more special. Our **cover photo** shows Millar (centre) presenting Dax Adam (right) and Karen Brain (left), with their awards. Al-



Peggy Evans (left), of Lansdown Action Rugs Limited, donated a beautiful horse blanket, which Ian Millar (centre) presented to double bronze medal winner Karen Brain (second from left).

though absent from the presentation, team member Judi Island, who like Dax and Karen is from Ontario, was also saluted for her successful performance in Athens.

In addition to the team riders, Alexander (Sandy) Mitchell, of Cedar Lynde Stables in Ashburn, Ontario, was also recognized for his invaluable support and efforts in putting a Canadian dressage team in place for the Athens event. (See the OEF Awards article on page 9 for the full story.) Although not a dressage team member, one final Paralympic athlete was also honoured during

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DRESSAGE RESULTS from the 2004 Paralympics in Athens

Dax Adam placed 14th in Championship Dressage and 13th in Freestyle Dressage. Judi Island placed a respectable 11th in Championship Dressage, but was unfortunately injured when thrown from her horse prior to the Freestyle Dressage. Karen Brain won a bronze medal in the Championship Dressage and later repeated this feat, winning a second bronze medal in the Freestyle Dressage.

PARALYMPIC PRESENTATION...

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the Fair presentation. Chelsea Clark, a challenged rider at Windrush Stable Therapeutic Riding Centre in Milton, Ontario, was recognized for her accom-

plishments as Canada's representative in Wheel Chair Racing. She came home with a gold medal in the 200 meter race and a gold for a world record result in the 100 meter event. Congratulations to all! 🐾



ACCORDING to "Doctor Bob"

Dr. Bob Wright is a staff member at Health Management, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Wellington Place, R.R. #1, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2W3.

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Winter Hazards — The story of Henry the Horsicle

By Drs. Dan Kenney and Bob Wright

The winter weather comes with its own special hazards and challenges. Horse owners and horses have to deal with everything from frozen water buckets to icy paddocks. A case in point was Henry the "Horsicle", a seven year-old Quarter horse gelding. He was presented to the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) for treatment of hypothermia (low core body temperature).

Henry was found swimming in a pond on January 18, 2004. How long he was in the pond is unknown. After removal from the pond, Henry was recumbent, but did try to rise. The referring veterinarian treated Henry with intravenous fluids, anti-in-

flammatory drugs and muscle relaxants, and sent him to the OVC at the University of Guelph for further treatment. On arrival, Henry's rectal temperature was very low, 32.2 C (normal is 37.5 to 38.5 C). He was still down, unable to stand and was shivering severely. He did not respond to touch or manipulation but seemed aware of the surroundings. Henry had rapid and shallow respirations and an elevated heart rate. Mucous membranes were severely blanched and digital pulses were very poor to absent, consistent with severe vasoconstriction as a response to hypothermia.

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**WINTER
HAZARD TIP
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ACCORDING TO DR. BOB...

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Henry was given supplemental oxygen into his nose. Laboratory tests revealed marked signs of muscle injury and poor circulation. Intravenous fluid therapy was given to restore circulation and to help warm him. Once the circulation improved, warm water baths and enemas were given to increase his body temperature. Henry's rectal temperature rose slowly over the afternoon and shivering subsided. By mid-afternoon, he stood and was moved to a stall. He passed urine that was very dark due to dehydration and muscle breakdown. Fluid and anti-inflammatory therapies were continued. Antibiotics were given to help fight pneumonia and any damage that may have happened to the gut. Over the next day, Henry developed generalized

OnTRA needs your HELP

Each year, OnTRA relies on a number of fundraising events and opportunities to create revenue that benefits and supports our member centres' programs. But in order to continue taking advantage of these wonderful and generous opportunities, OnTRA needs the support of all its members.

A big smile and a few hours of your time are all we're asking. To find out more about participating in an OnTRA fundraising event, please contact the OnTRA Event Co-Ordinator at 411 Brian Court, Pickering, Ontario, L1W 3H5 or 905-839-4931.

Winter HAZARD Tip

To prevent injury to livestock and damage to embankments, keep horses fenced and away from pond, stream and river banks. Even in good weather, embankments are often slippery and hard for horses to navigate. Make sure your horse has a fresh source of water year-round—but especially in the winter. Snow is not a suitable substitute for clean fresh water. A horse would have to consume up to ten times the volume of snow to meet its water requirements. Impaction colics can occur when horses have restricted access to water.

edematous swelling over his body. Serum began to ooze from cracks under the jaw and over his biceps muscles but he had a good appetite and continued to become brighter and more alert. His respiratory rate and heart rate were elevated and his temperature returned to within normal range. Lung sounds were increased and harsh.

Over the following week, Henry's edema began to resolve, and the muscle-enzyme levels in the blood normalized. On January 23, Henry began to sweat mildly, possibly due to revascularization of the skin and this was thought to be a good prognostic indicator. He was discharged from the hospital eight days after admission. He continued the convalescence at home and has since returned to normal activity.

A tip of the hat to the OVC staff! 🐾

the mane **LINE**

OnTRA Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 1



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