

OnTRA AGM - November 19, 2011

President's Report

It is a pleasure to reflect on what has been another highly successful year for OnTRA. We began the year with two successful clinics hosted by CARD and TEAD. Those who attended were very pleased with the clinicians and the knowledge and information gained during the day. Sonia Koczekan gave many useful and practical tips on how to improve our lessons as well as an informative course on the safety precautions necessary for riders, coaches and helpers when mounting and dismounting. Our next event was the Pippa Hodge clinic at TEAD. I will admit that I was a little disappointed with the turn out for the Pippa Hodge clinic and sorry that more people were not able to attend the day and a half session with such an amazing therapist. Those who did attend were treated to a lot of one on one access to Pippa so everyone had at least one great idea to take back to their program.

Our Fundraising and Grant committees worked very hard this year. Though some of the *Show Your Stuff* grants were not awarded due to lack of interest, those centres who applied were provided funding to assist with their in house show or fun day. A somewhat similar instance happened with our *Leg Up* grant program. We had only 4 applications at the original deadline which would have left the program vastly under utilized and OnTRA in a position of having to return monies to the companies that generously provided our funding. I must admit that considering we have a 2 page application (versus up to 30 pages for some grant applications) we were a bit frustrated with the lack of timely participation. However, we did not want to send the money back to our supporters. Not just because we were worried how it would be received by those companies and concerned about future implications for our fundraising, but also because we knew that this was a good program that would benefit our riders. So we sent out a plea for applications and extended the deadline. Are we ever glad we did! \$38,000 later we have had one of our most successful programs and given away more money than ever before in OnTRA's 28 year history.

We really reduced our number of shows this year (which was the reason for the *Show Your Stuff* grant) and poured all of our effort into the OPSG's in Petrolia on Saturday August 20. With beautiful weather, great horses and excited riders, it was a wonderful day. Special thanks to Megan Vance and those at Fiddick's Stables for their tireless efforts to make the day such a smashing success.

We have the new *Ribbons for Rides* partnership with OEF that began this past September 2011. Details are available on both OEF and OnTRA's websites. Please make use of this wonderful program and spread the word to any and all centres you are associated with.

Finally, it is with some regret that I am formally announcing that I will be stepping down as President effective today. This was not an easy decision for me, but I do feel that it is the right decision to make. I have been with OnTRA through some rather turbulent times and am happy to say that I believe that stability has returned. In my years with OnTRA, I have had the pleasure of getting to know so many people across the province and the country. I would like to thank everyone for all of their support and encouragement over the years. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as President of such a wonderful organization. OnTRA is moving forward with a vibrant, youthful board who have a lot of enthusiasm and fresh ideas. I am confident that the remaining board members, and any new board members who join today, will continue to serve our membership well and continue to provide new and exciting opportunities for our individual and centre members. I wish each and every one of you every success in your present and future endeavours.

Best regards,

Viki LaCombe