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Past President: Tracy Mallory
Vice President: Sonia Koczekan
Treasurer: Victoria Davidson LaCombe
Secretary: Gay Harper
Directors: John McClellan, Judi Island, Pat DiMambro, Chris Peare, Julia Thompson

COMING EVENTS

May 24 - Roadbreakers Road Hockey Tournament in conjunction with the Memorial Cup Junior A NHL Tournament, Kitchener. Funds raised will benefit OnTRA centres.

Contact OnTRA to see how your centre can get involved!

July 25-27 - 2008 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games hosted by Variety Village, Scarborough with Equestrian held at C.A.R.D., North York.

To advertise your Events in The ManeLine please send them to: ontra@ontra.ca

OnTRA News

**The Mane-Line Launch
 A Success!**

By Judi Island.
 OnTRA's NEW Mane-Line NEWSLETTER a wonderful choice to merge with 'The Rider' Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association's (OnTRA) choice to merge their newsletter, The ManeLine' with 'The Rider' has met with positive response. The Jan/Feb 2008 issue of The Rider was our first newsletter in this new format.

We are thrilled with the following positive benefits:

- The ability to identify all member centres to the equine community
- The opportunity of reaching a much larger audience
- The potential of informing all Ontario Equestrians about the activities of OnTRA and its 44 member centres
- The capability of thanking our supporter/sponsors to a much larger audience
- Providing all OnTRA members with a bonus, free subscription to "The Rider" (worth \$27.50)
- The possibility of informing all equestrians about OnTRA Clinics, Competitions, grants and events!
- Providing member centres with a great opportunity to promote their center's COMING EVENTS to a much higher audience.
- The ability to introduce our riders and volunteers to an increased audience

Thank you to Barry Finn and all the staff at The Rider for helping promote the benefits of our discipline "Therapeutic Riding".

OnTRA Patron

The Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association (OnTRA) is pleased to officially announce that the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, has agreed to be our Honorary Patron. We are thrilled that the Lieutenant Governor supports the work of OnTRA.

The Honourable David C. Onley took office on 5 September 2007 as Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor.

Born in Midland, Ontario, His Honour attended local schools and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1975 with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He worked as an intern at Queen's Park and attended the University of Windsor Law School.

His Honour has championed disability issues on many fronts and for many years. Having lived with polio and post-polio syndrome since the age of three, he has broken through social barriers and become a role model for many people.

In his 22-year career with CityTV, His Honour was Canada's first senior newscaster with a visible disability. A popular news anchor, host/producer, science and technology specialist, and weatherman, he showed that ability outshines disability.

His Honour has chaired the Government of Ontario's Accessibility Standards Advisory Council, served on the SkyDome Accessibility Council and the Air Canada Centre Accessibility Committee.

For his public service, His Honour has



The Honourable David C. Onley, O. Ont.

been presented with the King Clancy Award for Disabled Persons, the Courage to Come Back Award, and the Positive Impact Award. He was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame and the Scarborough Walk of Fame, and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Canada Christian College.

His best-selling novel Shuttle was nominated as Book of the Year in 1982 by the Periodical Distributor's Association. He co-founded and was President of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation.

**OnTRA Rider Devon Gibbons
 Awarded OEF Bursary Funds**

A 15-year-old London, Ontario, rider with a disability has won two major honours from the Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF).

Devon Gibbons has received:

- A prestigious 2008 OEF Bursary for junior riders
- The 2007 Cassy Bonnar

Photo: Devon Gibbons at the '2007 Ontario Summer Paralympic Competition', Sarnia. Photo by Judi Island



Award
 The OEF offers a minimum of five bursaries annually to Junior OEF members (youth between 14 - 17 yrs) wishing to pursue an equine career and/or further their competitive goals.

The winners are awarded the prestigious OEF Bursaries based on their current involvement with horses and their future goals, as well as letters of recommendation from their respective coaches.

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OnTRA RIDING CENTRES

- | | |
|--|---|
| ASBBURN
The Stables at WindReach Farm
905-655-0889 | NEWMARKET
Horse At Heart Therapeutic Equestrian Adventures Inc.
905-898-1530 |
| BAILIEBORO
Mirabel Morgan Farm Special Riding Centre
705-939-6485 | NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
Red Roof Retreat
905-684-0235 |
| BANCROFT
Equine Assisted Living and Learning
613-339-1668 | NORTH AUGUSTA
Touch A Rainbow - 613-926-2116 |
| BARRIE/ORILLIA
Stonegate Farm
613-339-1668 | OWEN SOUND
Georgian Riding Association for Challenged Equestrians (GRACE)
519-372-2721 |
| BELLEVILLE
Quinte Therapeutic Riding Association
613-395-2990 | PETERBOROUGH
PARD Therapeutic Riding
705-927-0358 |
| BRACEBRIDGE
With Care Oke-Cook Family Farm
705-645-5866 | PETROLIA
Tomlynn Acres Registered Quarter Horses
519-882-0958 |
| BRANTFORD
The Heart of Dream Equestrian
519-750-9940 | PLANTAGENET
Passage Equitation Therapeutic Riding Association - 613-673-4875 |
| CALEDON EAST
Peace Ranch Inc. - 905-584-9156 | PORT BURWELL
Jabez Therapy Ranch - 613-528-1616 |
| CARLETON PLACE
Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program - 613-257-7121 | PORT ELGIN
Pegasus Riding Association Nurturing Challenged Equestrians 519-832-2522 |
| CORNWALL
Brave-Hearts Riding Club
613-528-1616 | PORT HOPE
Therapeutic Riding Association in Northumberland 905-885-5770 |
| CORNWALL
Second Wind Acres - 613-528-1616 | RIDGEWAY
"I Can" Therapeutic Equestrian Riding Association of Niagara (ICANTER)
905-894-3276 |
| DESERONTO
Dare To Dream Therapeutic Riding Program
613-396-3045 | SAULT STE MARIE
Therapeutic Ride Algoma
705-759-2965 |
| DURHAM REGION
Durham Therapeutic Riding Association
905-668-6680 | SHELBURNE
Traditions Farm Therapeutic Riding Centre
519-925-1866 |
| GREELY
Therapeutic Riding Association of Ottawa-Carleton - 613-821-1844 | STOUFFVILLE
Giddyup, 905-642-8001 |
| GUELPH
Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre 519-837-0558 | ST. CATHARINES
Horse Alternative Therapeutic Services
905-682-3924 |
| HAMILTON
The Equestrian Association for the Disabled 905-679-8323 | THUNDER BAY
Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association
807-472-5650 |
| INNISFIL
Springland Riding Stable
705-431-7009 | TIMMINS
Timmins Therapeutic Riding Association
705-269-5994 |
| KINGSTON
Happy Heart Hippotherapy (Uniquistri Ltd.)
613-546-7770 | TORONTO
Community Association for Riding for the Disabled 416-667-8600 |
| KITCHENER
Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program (CODRP)
519-6534686 | TORONTO
Exhibition Therapeutic Riding Academy
416-790-2502 |
| LONDON
SAFARI Therapeutic Riding 519-666-1123 | TORONTO
Saddle Up for Success
905-932-1919 |
| MILTON/CAMPBELLVILLE
Windrush Stable Therapeutic Riding Centre
905-854-6008 | VAL RITA
Northern Lights Therapeutic Riding Association
705-335-2441 |
| NEW LISKEARD
Catch A Dream Therapeutic Riding Association
705-647-8607 | WINDSOR
Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association
519-969-1261 |

Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association

Please return this completed form to:
 OnTRA, 660 Eglinton Ave., E., P.O. Box 50058, Toronto, ON M4G 4G1

2008 OnTRA Individual Membership Application
 January 1st to December 31st, 2008
 (Please print clearly)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Res. Phone: () _____ Bus. Phone: () _____
 Fax: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Which therapeutic riding centre are you associated with? _____
 What is your affiliation with therapeutic riding? _____
 ___ Rider, ___ Volunteer, ___ Instructor, ___ Therapist, ___ Educator, other

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

___ Individual	\$20	___ Family	\$30
___ Junior (under 18, non-voting)	\$12	___ Life	\$300

It is mandatory that all OnTRA Games participants be current members of OnTRA
 ___ Please check this box if you are an OnTRA Games participant
 Please make cheques payable to: Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association
 Charitable Registration No. BN 88745 8867 RR0001
 NEW! OnTRA Members will receive free subscription to *The Rider*. Sign up today!
 Don't miss out on 2008 Clinic, Competition and Grant information.



NO HOOF, NO HORSE..... NO KIDDING!

By Kate Romanenko.

How do you judge a hoof? By its size? Or perhaps colour? Or how good it looks from outside?

What makes a good hoof anyway? Breed? Age? Hoof Colour? Hoof ointments? Type of shoe? Hoof supplements?

Well, as far as I concerned and from what I've seen, let me share with you what really makes a good hoof. First we need to understand the hoof functions and how important they are to the whole horse.

Hoof functions include, but are not limited to, traction, shock absorption, circulation, protection of inner structures, and waste and protein excretion. Many do not realize the blood flow in the hoof not only nourishes and grows the outer hoof wall, the inner hoof acts as a metabolic organ (like liver and kidneys) cleaning the blood. The blood also carries toxins and wastes that the hoof uses to produce the outer hoof horn that we see. For this process to occur, the hoof needs maximum circulation to freely move the blood around, not only riding the body of unwanted wastes, but growing healthy hooves and lessening the stress on the other organs. If the hoof is doing its job, then the liver and

kidneys can also function properly without working overtime. You may not realize that the horses heart is not strong enough to create correct circulation in the hoof when the horse is confined or restricted from continuous movement (stalled or kept in small areas). The horse was designed to move and its body depends on it. You'll notice that all hard hoofed mammals like horses, cattle, goats and deer are up and walking only hours after birth. They are created to move and with each step, heart supporting - blood pumping action occurs.

So first and foremost hooves need movement to create optimum circulation which creates growth.

So what about hoof treatments such as hardeners, oils or topical dressings. We need to ask ourselves why are the feet cracked and dry, or in some cases too wet, and what is the hoof made of so you can safely dress it without damaging the hoof capsule or coronet band. We have seen a hoof clipping become dry, brittle and shrivel up shortly after our horse has been trimmed so the hoof wall must have some water in it. So the second most important element next to movement would be moisture in the

form of water, snow, mud (as long as the horse has a dry place to get out of it) and even morning dew is helpful. Most commercial hoof products contain oils that rot the hoof wall so I do not recommend them. In order to get traction and absorb shock, hooves need to be flexible. Just as the cloven hoofed animals (cows, sheep etc) foot spreads, so must the horses. Anything that binds the hoof or restricts its movement can be damaging.

Lastly, a natural, well balanced trim to allow for proper hoof movement. My definition of a natural trim is trimming the hoof in such a way that the horse does not suffer from thrush, hoof cracks or splits. He should be comfortable to walk on any ground surface. This may take some horses longer than others depending on hoof condition. I have seen many horses with so called "bad" feet. Once they are given a well balanced trim, provided with movement and moisture, which allows for circulation, the hoof can grow to its full potential and the horse will have "good" feet. Its pretty simple really. Give the feet what nature provided for them in the first place, and there is no problem, right?

I suggest you take a

good, hard look at your horses hoofs. If there are snow balls building up, or thrush you just cannot get rid of, or cracks that won't go away even with shoes, or rings and ridges on the outer hoof wall, or your horse has thin soles, or soft rotten frogs, you should have some concerns. Rather than just treating the symptom try to find out the cause of the problem. For example, if your hoofs are to dry, don't just cover with oils, walk the horse in water or give him a hoof soak. After all, in the wild he would have a hoof soak daily when he went for a drink at the local watering hole. If he has thrush, in most cases the hoof cannot function and is not allowing dead hoof horn and other junk to loosen itself from the sole of the hoof.

Now just add moisture and you have a great environment for thrush. So if you try to treat the thrush that's great, temporarily it may seem to help but in most cases it reoccurs. You need to get that hoof working, exfoliating and kicking out any debris it accumulates.

What about those thin soled, sensitive hoofed horses? Rather than just covering up the sole and giving it artificial protection, why not provide circulation and blood flow to

grow a thick healthy sole and wall so the horse can handle the ground it was designed to roam on? It all comes down to this. We have the ability to give the horse what it needs to be healthy and strong both physically and mentally. Most of the problems horses have are because

we, as humans have interfered with their lifestyle. We may be able to tame them, but we should never expect them to adapt to our human way of life.

Remember.....Horse needs not human needs



Springcreek Farm

1243 Springcreek Rd.
Vineland, ON.

BUBBLEGUM SHOWS FOR JUNIORS 2008



WEDNESDAY, JULY 2
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Don't Let The Kids Have All The Fun!

'Adults Only'
Show on
Sunday
June 22nd

For Programs
Contact Brenda
905-563-6191

OnTRA NEWS

Continued from Page 46.

The \$1000 OEF Bursaries go towards riding lessons, training, competition fees, continuing education, or other activities that will assist the winners in reaching their equestrian objectives for 2008.

At the 2007 OEF Annual Awards Banquet, Devon was awarded the OEF Cassie Bonnar Award. Devon was chosen because of his willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need as well as his strong commitment in supporting therapeutic riding in his community, exemplifying the qualities of a great young humanitarian.

Devon Gibbons is a 15 yr old rider with a disability who has made an outstanding contribution of time and effort to the Ontario equestrian sport of para equestrian and therapeutic riding. Devon has Cerebral Palsy, which affects his fine and gross motor skills on his right side. He started horseback riding through the therapeutic riding program at SARI in London, ON about 9 yrs ago. When he began riding, he needed two side walkers and a leader. He now rides independently. Through his dedication and perseverance at SARI he has gained self-esteem, confidence, and core strength assisting with his posture.

Devon has gained a great sense of accomplishment through horseback riding. He has learned he can dream big and those dreams can be realized regardless of his abilities. Devon has a quiet confidence about him that helps him connect with the horses he rides. He is able to bond with the horse and is able to keep moving forward in his training.


Devon competes at the Grade 1 Level which is the class for riders with the most severe disabilities. As the youngest competitor at the 2005 OnTRA Open Dressage Championships, Devon placed 2nd. At the 2007 Ontario Paralympic Championships in Sarnia, he tied for 1st place and received the Silver Medal for Grade 1. He also competed at the 2007 OnTRA Open Dressage Championships in Kitchener where he received the OnTRA Provincial

Dressage Grade 1 Championship.

"Devon is a quiet, steady, focused rider who works hard to achieve his goals. After classes and after the shows Devon helps out untacking and putting the horse away, making sure she is groomed and fed, and her equipment is put away neatly. Although Devon does most of the work he does have a volunteer to help him for safety's sake. I was extremely proud of Devon's efforts this summer at the shows. He definitely rose above the challenges and let his abilities shine through." Wendy Johnson, BHSAI, CanTRA II, SARI Head Instructor.

In addition to Devon's many equestrian achievements, his academic achievements are as equally impressive. Devon is presently in grade 10 at John Paul II School in London. He averages about 70% overall. He was awarded the Dennis DeMelo Award in 2001-2002 from St. Roberts School for overcoming diversity and reaching his personal best.

OnTRA wishes to congratulate Devon Gibbons on all of his achievements in 2007 and wishes him every success in the future.



ILDERTON EQUINE SERVICES

13985 Ilderton Rd, Ilderton, On
519-666-0911 fax 519-666-3997
Ildertonequineservices@bellnet.ca

Dr. Kendra Boehnke Dr. Tara Foy
Dr. Stan Henderson Dr. Chris Robson
Dr. Robert Boyce

Digital Radiography Pre Purchase Exams
Digital Ultrasonography Herd Health
Shock Wave Therapy Reproduction
Dentistry (Powerfloat) Lameness Evaluation
In House Lab Emergency Service

2008 Schooling Show

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Open to Riders of all ages

Give you season a 'jump-start' at this friendly, low-pressure schooling show!



BRIGHTWATER FARM

2008 Challenge Series Hunter Show Dates

June 22 - Challenge Series Hunter Show #4
September 14 - Challenge Series Hunter Show #9

CrackerJack Junior Hunter Show Series 18 & Under

July 9 - CrackerJack Junior Hunter Show Series #1
July 23 - CrackerJack Junior Hunter Show Series #2
August 6 - CrackerJack Junior Hunter Show Series #3
August 20 - CrackerJack Junior Hunter Show Series #4

Adult Hunter Show Series over 18 Years

June 8 - Adult Hunter Show Series #1
July 6 - Adult Hunter Show Series #2
August 10 - Adult Hunter Show Series #3
September 7 - Adult Hunter Show Series #4

For information, contact: **Brightwater Equestrian Centre**,
9575 5th Sideroad, Erin, ON N0B 1T0 Call (519) 833-2233,
email info@brightwaterfarm.com • www.brightwaterfarm.com

2008 Challenge Series Hunter Shows

- May 4 - Twinholm Stables, Campbellville, ON, (905) 332-9679 or Twinholm@aol.com, www.twinholm.com
- May 18 - Deer Run Stables, Rockwood, ON (519) 856-9322 or laurie@deerrunstables.ca, www.deerrunstables.ca
- June 1 - Milestone Stables, Campbellville, ON 905-854-0762 or aoc@milestoneac.ca
- June 22 - Brightwater Equestrian Centre, Erin, ON (519) 833-2233 or info@brightwaterfarm.com www.brightwaterfarm.com
- July 13 - Meadowlarke Stables, Mississauga, ON (905) 821-0419, info@meadowlarkestables.com www.meadowlarkestables.com
- July 27 - Deer Run Stables, Rockwood, ON, (519) 856-9322 or laurie@deerrunstables.ca, www.deerrunstables.ca
- August 17 - Meadowlarke Stables, Mississauga, ON (905) 821-0419, info@meadowlarkestables.com www.meadowlarkestables.com
- August 31 - Milestone Stables, Campbellville, ON 905-854-0762, or aoc@milestoneac.ca
- September 14 - Brightwater Equestrian Centre, Erin, ON (519) 833-2233 or info@brightwaterfarm.com www.brightwaterfarm.com
- September 21 - Twinholm Stables, Campbellville, ON, (905) 332-9679 or Twinholm@aol.com, www.twinholm.com