

OADG 2015 AGM Report

Interim President's Executive Summary (Catherine Maguire as Interim President)

- Overall 2015 was a good year for the OADG and for dressage in general in our area. We had good weather and encountered no major problems save a small disturbance dealing with an EHV threat that affected the scheduling of a few shows.
- Board update:
 - A total of 9 regular meetings of the Board were held during the course of 2015, all in the homes of the directors.
 - 2 directors resigned in 2015: Pierre Paquette, the President and CADORA ON Representative (October), and Laura-Lee Brenneman the Secretary/Treasurer (September). Pierre's role was assumed by Catherine Maguire, the Awards Director in an acting capacity. Laura-Lee continued to perform her duties until the year-end. A big thank you is extended to both Pierre and Laura-Lee for their continued hard work and donation of their time and expertise to the OADG.
 - We started 2015 without a Banquet Director; however, a volunteer stepped forward later in the season to manage the banquet details. Heather Kelly has done a stand-up job with the 2015 banquet and she has agreed to stand for Banquet Director for 2016.
 - Going into 2016, we have candidates for 10 of the 12 Director positions on the Board.
- Show update:
 - Along with our regular roster of show venues, we welcomed 3 new competition sites this year (Graystone, Meadowvale and Mountain Star) and welcomed back Starlit.
 - We had an active and vibrant show season in 2015. All 3 circuits provided healthy competition for our local riders and OADG was able to provide sponsorship to a total of 25 shows by donating prizes in the form of lovely white dressage pads embroidered with our group's logo.
 - 6 Gold shows were held, including the very successful Ottawa Dressage Festival, which featured (in the Platinum portion) the final selection trial for this summer's Pan Am Games.

- The Silver circuit held 7 regular competitions plus we hosted the Eastern Silver Dressage Competition, ably assisted again this year by Oakhurst Farm.
- Our schooling riders had great choices to compete at 12 different ESD shows.
- We were once again very fortunate to have 14 sponsors for the Silver Dressage Championships-East, who with their donations provided over 24 prizes and included the cost of the Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons for the show. (The sponsors included OADG – we donated 3 saddle pads.) For the Annual Awards Banquet, we had 45 sponsors who provided either gifts or funds for the prize table and table centerpieces. OADG provided one saddle pad for the prize table. Many thanks go to the sponsorship team led by Sue and assisted by Peggy, Michele Paquette, Lynda Maltby and Anne Galt. Anne delivered the saddle pads to the shows.
- The 2015 Financial statement. This is an approximate, although quite close, statement as the Annual Awards Banquet was only held last evening and we have not adjusted all the figures. The final version will be available at the 2nd regular meeting of the Board in 2016 :
 - The revenues totaled \$15,869 (2014 \$16,650), the expenses \$14,690 (2014 \$16,821) generating a year to date surplus of \$1,179 (2014 -\$171).
 - The decrease in revenues and expenditures for 2015 over 2014 is due to a decrease in flow-through associated with CADORA memberships.
 - The revenues for 2015 include a one-time donation from BMO of \$1,000 as a result of the generous volunteer work provided by Meredith Haggart, daughter of Catherine, who works for BMO. This money was used to support our annual sponsorship and awards and will be used to help offset any remaining costs for the year.
- The CADORA Ontario representative attended the CADORA Ontario Board meetings. We did not attend the CADORA AGM in person however our OADG prizes were picked up and distributed by Mark Nelson from Oakhurst Farm who is also the newly elected President of the Ontario Equestrian Federation. Thank you Mark.
- 3 OADG Newsletters were issued during the year. An attractive element of our newsletters is that the content is provided primarily by our membership -- which speaks volumes about the interest our members have in this communication vehicle. One very popular feature of this year's newsletters was the "horse of a lifetime"

series of stories – submitted by our members -- which were heartfelt and very moving. We will continue this tradition next year with a new topic. Our OADG Facebook page is an excellent resource to quickly reach our membership. We have 465 “likes” on our feed. Also, we continue to use email bulletins judiciously to inform and advise. Feedback is good on all fronts from our membership on our Communication initiatives.

- Our Website continues to be very active and a go-to resource for information about OADG activities as well as local and regional shows and clinics. Thank you Cathy for keeping things always up to date and easy to find.
- The Annual Award banquet was held again at the Hellenic Centre on Saturday, Dec 5. The attendance this year was approximately 168 individuals (down from ~200 in 2014). The banquet was held 2 weeks later than we would like, due to hall scheduling conflicts – hence why this AGM follows so close on the heels of last evening’s festivities! Brittany Fraser was the Guest Speaker this year. As always, the door prizes and special prizes were well done and appreciated by the members. We held a silent auction this year to disburse the Board’s library items. Also, we offered the retiring FEI PSG trophy on auction as we now have two shiny new trophies for each of AA and Open category for this award. The silent auction generated \$130. In addition, the existing promotions cash box held \$71. The money will be used for sponsorship and awards for 2016. And finally, the Board is currently investigating another Banquet venue for 2016 in order to provide some variety to our members both in the menu and the location -- as well, of course, to keep the costs under control.
- Awards Report:
 - In the technical class awards, 51 trophies (of 77) were awarded, 32 reserve champion plaques, 10 third place medallions and 33 merit medallions.
 - 12 Team Challenge Plaques were awarded to: The Preston Rosedale Team, the Mountain Star Stressage Team, The Centaur Gold Team and the Stonecreek Farm Monstars.
 - Our 4 Special Award Trophies were awarded to Kiki Baggerman-Webster for Senior Rider, Michele and Pierre Paquette for Volunteer, Shirley Guertin for Horse Owner and Karina Cudahy for Para-Equestrian.
 - Devlin-Abergel Preston was awarded the Dr. Brian Mills Award for Junior Rider.

- We had a new special award this year, sponsored by the friends of Madison Crich. Ainsley Kee was awarded the Madison Crich Adult Amateur Memorial Award.
- We presented 8 special cash awards for the highest scores in each circuit and category.
- This year we did not present the annual OADG Special Achievement Award. This was a new cash award created by the Board in 2014 to recognize achievement not necessarily related to competition performance (last year it was presented to the Centaur team in recognition of their achievement at the Lendon Gray Youth Dressage Festival).
- Our Education portfolio was fairly quiet in 2015. Peggy attended both recent Steven Clark clinics sponsored by CADORA and has done write-ups for our membership. We pursued one clinic; however it didn't gain enough momentum to take off and give us the success we would require from an OADG sponsored event. We will re-visit the education and clinics plan early in 2016.
- The membership this year was a total of 210 (2014 - 216) members. 106 AA, 55 Open, 41 JR/PW, 6 misc. (non competing, etc.)
- The 2015 annual fees remained the same for all members. We introduced using Interac e-payment for membership this year and it was very successful. We also used it for the banquet and again it was well received. So it appears this will be a returning feature for OADG.
- In concluding, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board for the work they have all performed throughout the year. We had some challenges with various members of the Board being unable to contribute fully due to personal, family or health reasons. However the hallmark of the generosity of all members is that we pitched in where necessary to cover items and make ourselves available. So thank you, Anne...Peggy...Sue...Jane...Cathy....Mandy....Laura Lee....Pierre. Also to the energetic Heather and welcome back to Kiki...both of you helped out immensely in the latter part of the year. And let's not forget the behind the scenes workers....my daughter Meredith, Rhonda and Kiki for score tracking. As well, Michele and Lynda for sponsorship assistance and prize preparation.