



## **President' Executive Summary for 2013**

Ladies and gentlemen,

The year 2013 was a relatively good one for the OADG. We did not break any records but we did not encounter any major problems as such either.

A total of 8 regular meetings of the Board were held during the course of 2013, all in the homes of the directors.

We started with a great educational clinic with Cindy Ischoy in late April. Thanks to the great work and dedication of Peggy we pulled through our best major clinic since the Stephan Peters' clinic of a few years ago. The time frame under which Peggy organized it through no fault of hers, was much too short and demanded quite a lot of work in a much too limited period of time. Nevertheless, she pulled it through. This is why in the future, major clinic will be planned and organized one year ahead of the event and more particularly OADG will not envisage running a major clinic every year but at intervals of 2 years at least.

I might add that Peggy became the education Director as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of February and Oswaldo Lazurri became the youth development Director as of the same date. Oswaldo retired from the Board as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and the position of youth development was put on hold for 2013 and projected to be part of the education mandate in 2014.

We followed with a reduced show season, even though we had 21 shows, 11 SCH, 6 SIL and 4 GO. Here again, faith played against us in that Huntingford withdrew its shows, the NNEP situation caused another 2 major one to be cancelled. Also, our close neighbours in Blainville PQ and Bromont PQ did not have the usual shows that they had in the past. Nevertheless I want to congratulate the organizers of the other shows for a job again well done.

We then had another successful Eastern Ontario CADORA Silver championship at Rainbow Ridge. Steve Curtis and Linda Maltby and their numerous volunteers for



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the second year in a row put up another very successful event even though the number of participants suffered a slight decrease due in major part, to the previous problem that I mentioned which had an impact on the qualifying requirements. We owe congratulations to the Rainbow Ridge organization.

Finally, on a snowy afternoon, we concluded our season with a very successful banquet at the Hellenic Centre where I noticed that 95% of the attendees appeared to be very satisfied with the evening and the way it was run. Our attendance stood at 165 participants, with 5 or so no-show persons because of the weather conditions.

51 trophies were awarded which is about the same as last year but while Schooling increased its trophies won, Silver slightly decreased and the Gold and FEI remained about the same.

29 merit awards were handed out which was an increase over 2012, and 8 special cash awards were given out, one more than last year as we added the Gold junior class.

Our 4 individual recognition trophies were presented to Peggy (volunteer), Sheila Trusdale (senior rider), Michel Allen and Claude Blanchette (horse owners) and Danielle Myronik (Brian Mills award). Peggy also received the CADORA ONTARIO Volunteer award for 2013 which I presented to her on behalf of CADORA.

Finally, Dr. Yves Rossier, vice-chairman of the Veterinary Committee of la Fédération Équestre Internationale, provided the audience with a most interesting and educational video presentation on his experiences on behind the scene action during an Olympic event. Here again, I have received but praises from the participants on how interesting and educational his presentation was.



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I would conclude by saying that with all of the award presentations, the buffet, the one hour presentation of our guest speaker, individual class photos and the numerous draws, I was able to conclude the evening at a few minutes past 10 o'clock to every one pleasure.

In the field of communications, 3 newsletters were issued and numerous e-mails to the membership at large as well links to Face Book and our Website were used during the year to keep our members informed of happenings in the area covered by the OADG.

Our sponsors again were very generous. We had a total of 59 sponsors, covering the Silver championship, the banquet and the AGM, and which translated in approximately 113 gifts that were handed out at those events.

In addition, on the promotion side, the OADG provided 26 OADG saddle pads as prizes for different local shows or events.

In the membership area, in 2013 we had a total of 223 members, 142 returnees, 78 new ones and 3 honorary. 90 members did not renew. This means we dropped by 12 in our total membership compared to 2012. Considering our economy, the ones that drop out of riding because of change in life style, age and lack of interest, lameness or loss of horses and residential moves to other cities, I do not believe that discontented members account for a high percentage of members who left. In comparing our figures with other groups in Ontario, Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston for example, we did well and as long as we do not fall under the 210 figure, I find that we are doing well.

I would mention that Michelle Crocker, who was the membership Director on the present Board, resigned on July 15<sup>th</sup>, and that the President took over on an interim basis to complete her term.



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On the treasury portfolio, I would like to say that as a non-profit organization, the OADG did very well financially speaking in 2013. The overall figures provided by our treasurer, indicates that our revenues in 2013, which came from membership fees and from the Ischoy Clinic totaled \$23,193 and our expenses as of today stand at \$22,632. Some minor adjustments related to the banquet could be made. It means that we should conclude the year with a token profit of about \$500.00, indicating that the decisions of the Board throughout the year were sound and reasonable. As always, the membership breakdown was as follows: CADORA Ontario and National: 46.7 %, sponsorship 15.5 % awards 14.7%, insurance 13.1% and miscellaneous 10%.

The Board this year slightly reduced the amount allocated to the sponsorship budget. In doing so, it allowed the projected OADG budget to balance as the figures previously cited show.

There is no planned increase in membership fees for 2014.

I conclude by mentioning that our secretary-treasurer was on justified leave of absence from August to October and the President acted as interim secretary-treasurer during her absence.

On the CADORA Ontario front, 4 meetings were held in 2013, in September by tele-conf, in January by tele-conf., in April in Kingston and in November in Guelph. The major change that was decided was that the CADORA Ontario AGM would be held in the late Fall of the current year, starting with 2013. This materialized as it took place last November 24<sup>th</sup>. Cadora held a Stephen Clarke clinic in Vankleek Hill On. in September 2013. Finally, proportional voting was continued by the Board with OADG having 6 votes based on its membership number.



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I would like to conclude my executive summary by thanking the Directors of the Board for the work they have all performed during the year and for having provided me with assistance and support when needed, in particular,

Peggy for organizing the clinic;

Sarah for organizing the banquet;

Dorothea for doing the library and archives functions and doing the photography at the banquet in particular;

Catherine for organizing the awards;

Sue for organizing the recruitment of sponsors;

Jane Hunt for organizing the communications;

Cathy Gordon for the upkeep of the Web;

Jane Garbutt for organizing the OADG sponsorships;

Laura-Lee Brenneman for managing the financial aspect of the OADG and the Board's secretarial duties;

and

Michelle Crocker for organizing the membership drive.

I would also like to thank Jane Garbutt, Jane Hunt, Laura-Lee, Anne, Cathy and Sue for having hosted in such a cordial way the different meetings of Board.

Finally, my 1<sup>st</sup> year as president of the OADG was a challenge that I enjoyed very much even if at times it was strenuous and most demanding but working with you the directors, was a pleasing and rewarding experience.



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Thank you.

Pierre M. Paquette, OADG President