

President's Report for 2019 & 2020

By-Laws.

At the Board meeting of July 29, 2019, the following changes were approved:

- Paragraphs 16, 17 & 18. Amended to expand the definition of reimbursement of expenses, to allow one free banquet ticket to each Director, and to clarify conflict of interest statements.
- Paragraph 32. The AGM date was moved from early-December of each year to mid-April of the following year.

Annual General Meeting.

Our last AGM was held in December of 2018. Our 2019 AGM (now called 2020 AGM) was scheduled for March 2020 as an in-person meeting. It was subsequently cancelled due to City of Ottawa regulations prohibiting in-person meetings to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The Board at that point decided to hold both the 2020 and 2021 AGMs together in April 2021 – that being this meeting these notes are prepared for.

Board of Directors.

2019 saw the addition of Jane Garbutt as Education Director, replacing Peggy McQuaid who retired from the Board. Jennifer DiStefano joined as Secretary and Carolyn Allen was our Treasurer. 2020 saw the move of Kathey Rowsome from Membership Director to Treasurer, replacing Carolyn Allen.

The Board as it stands right now for 2021 is

- Catherine Maguire President and Membership,
- Kathey Rowsome Treasurer,
- Jennifer DiStefano Secretary,
- Anne Galt Shows & Cadora Ontario Rep,
- Tami O'Dette Awards,
- Heather Kelly Banquet,
- Jane Hunt Communications,
- Jane Garbutt Education,
- Sue Otto Sponsorship,
- Cathy Gordon Website.

Membership.

Year	Seniors	Juniors	Total
2018	171	49	220
2019	214	44	258
2020	86	25	111
2021 (forecast) 80% of 2019 #'s			95 (+111=206 for 20/21)

In 2019 fees increased from \$30 to \$35 (Seniors) and \$20 to \$25 (Juniors) to keep up with rising costs and manage an annual break-even on the operating budget. The last fee increase was in 2013.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic disruption of the 2020 show season, memberships will be carried forward into 2021, as will any scores achieved.

Local Sponsored Shows.

Year	Schooling	ESD	Silver (+SDC-E)	Gold	FEI	Total
2018	n/a	14	9 (+1)	7	1	32
2019	n/a	10	8 (+1)	7	1	27
2020	6	2	2	4	0	14
2021 (forecast)	9	12	5 (+1)	7	1	35

In 2020, in collaboration with the local Show Organizers, we added OADG sponsorship of, and year-end awards for, selected Schooling Shows. Schooling shows are non-permit with respect to Ontario Equestrian regulations. OADG with the support of the show organizers has stepped in to oversee the circuit. A set of agreed upon rules has been put in place for show venue eligibility and show governance. The result is a series of safe, introductory level shows at affordable prices for competitors – and with OADG year-end awards. 2020 was to have been the pilot year. It will continue as established for 2021 and a review of the program will be held at year-end 2021.

Year-end awards.

At our 2019 Year End Awards banquet, we awarded 58 of our 82 available trophies, plus numerous stall plaques and medallions for Reserve, 3rd place, Team Awards and Special Awards. In collaboration with the National Dressage Pony Cup organization, we sponsored a local partner-show-series for the Pony Cup for the first time, awarding Champion and Reserve to Emmanuelle Lord and Nicki VanWyck respectively.

In 2020 we added 6 year-end awards for the Schooling Show Series sponsored by OADG. Medallions were to have been awarded to Champion, Reserve, and 3rd Place in 6 Levels from Walk-Trot, Equitation and Training. As the 2020 Year End Awards banquet was cancelled, scores achieved from 2020 sanctioned local shows will be rolled into 2021 tracking.

Banquet.

For the second (of usually three years), we held the 2019 Annual Awards Banquet at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre. The venue was popular again with good food and the ceremony itself ran smoothly and efficiently. The silent auction was popular and raised funds to offset additional banquet costs. We cancelled for 2020 but will return in 2021. Our numbers that attend have grown from previous years and now are steady about 180 or so participants. The 2021 banquet is planned for Saturday November 20.

Website & Communications.

In 2019 we moved away from an “attached document format” to a more streamlined e-Newsletter format for our newsletters. Along with the occasional e-mail blast to members, we hope we have been able to keep you abreast of key need-to-know information as well as our more in-depth articles.

In 2021 we have introduced Instagram to complement our Facebook page as part of an initiative to re-energize our social media presence and reach a wider, more demographically diverse audience. OADG thanks Lindsay Cooper-Kelly for her enthusiasm and assistance on this project.

The OADG website can be found at: www.ottawadressage.ca. It is also formatted for compatibility with cell phones. All official documents and related member info can be found there.

Sponsorship.

Direct solicit sponsorship provides funding and prizes for the Silver Championships, Eastern Division as well as the Banquet. Fundraising at the 2019 banquet from the silent auction provided \$610 to the OADG to help offset extra banquet costs.

OADG funded and provided saddle pads & helmet bags to all local shows for 2019. In 2020 we sponsored embroidered scrims and helmet bags and will continue with these for 2021. The funds to support this sponsorship comes from OADG annual operating budget.

Cadora Ontario.

The 2019 Silver Dressage Championships – Eastern Division was held at Westar Farms. There was no 2020 SDC-E and for 2021 it is planned to be held again at Westar on September 19.

Mr. Don Barnes has retired from Cadora Ontario and Cadora INC. at the end of 2020. Anne Galt has been elected president of Cadora Ontario to replace Mr. Barnes. At the National level, Angie Szokol is the incoming president. OADG wishes to thank Mr. Barnes for his tremendous effort over the years in promoting dressage and wish him well in his retirement. And we enthusiastically welcome Anne Galt to her new position!

Education.

On February 29, 2020 OADG held a “Fun with Stix” interactive educate-your-eye style clinic. It was held at Quantum Farms and facilitated by Casey Gillis. We had 23 people attend for the day.

End of President’s Report for 2019 & 2020.