



Ottawa Area Dressage Group

www.ottawadressage.ca

Newsletter



OADG is a chapter of CADORA Inc.

OADG is a Dressage Canada affiliated riding club.

Jan/Feb/March 2013

Welcome to the start of the new dressage year, and a big *thank you!* to our volunteers and sponsors from last year. We're looking forward to the 2013 clinic, the show season, numerous training tips and tricks, profiles of local coaches, stables, judges, stewards, scribes, and competitors and, eventually, to the end-of-season banquet.

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Message from the President

Well, the new season of the OADG started on January 27th, with the first meeting of the Board of Directors that was held on that day at the President's residence, followed by our second meeting on February 10th at the residence of our Promotion Director.

Some of the main items that were discussed and decided on January 27th, included the following matters:

1. The **By-Laws of the OADG were approved** and will be published on our website.
2. The **Directors' individual responsibilities were approved** and will also be published on our website.
3. The **Cindy Ishoy Clinic was confirmed** and will be held on April 27 and 28, at Oakhurst Farm in Ashton (additional details on page 7)
4. The **2013 local show calendar** (schooling, Silver and Gold) has been approved and will be published on our website.

On February 10th, the following items were discussed and approved:

1. The Board approved **the criteria that will be used for the 2013 year-end awards as well as the related forms.** A special effort was made to ensure that the criteria would be simplified and no ambiguities would be present. Those items will also be published on our website as addendums to the By-Laws.
2. It was also decided for clarity purposes to limit the show list on our website to the shows that are sponsored by the OADG and tracked by our Awards administrator for result purposes, therefore preventing the use of report forms for award purposes at year-end.
However, for other shows that may be attended by our riders but that require a report form at year-end for award purposes, a quick link has been included on our website to facilitate the search for those shows.

As you can see, your directors have been quite active in preparing for a successful 2013 season and will continue to strive towards providing you with clear and concise information as the season progresses.

I will conclude by reminding you that the organization of a dressage clinic such as the Cindy Ishoy clinic is a major task that requires much work to be done and costs that are far from negligible but the success of the venture depends entirely on the interest that will be shown by our members. **It is meant to be an educational exercise at a reasonable cost for the participants and not a money-making endeavor.** I am therefore urging you to participate and get involved in it as riders or auditors in order that it turns out to be the success we are hoping for and encourages your Board to plan again for such an event in the coming year.

Pierre Paquette, OADG President

And our volunteers...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members who left the Board:

Kiki Baggerman-Webster	Chairperson and Membership Director
Darlene Grant	Banquet Director
Rebecca Hanbidge	Communications Director
Heather Snipper	AGM Director

There are a number of persons who worked very hard at making the OADG a success in the past year. It is therefore with pleasure and gratefulness that I want to thank them on your behalf and that of the past and present OADG Boards. Three of those individuals were Board directors for part of 2012:

Caroline Anderson who was the Education Director for 2011 and part of 2012 and who never hesitated when available to help with the Promotion venue as well as with the Banquet organization,

Joanne Doyle who was the membership director, and

Diana Bayer who was the news editor for 2011 and part of 2012 and who helped along in many other areas.

Other people worked in the background but provided a lot of support to our Board members throughout the year and in many cases, they have been doing it for a number of years. They spent many hours of their free time to help us achieve our goals. Some of these behind-the-scenes volunteers were:

Marilyn Anions and Rhonda Burke in the tracking of shows for the Award committee

Peggy McQuaid in the Sponsorship, Education and Banquet areas and at many shows during the past years

Michele Paquette in the Award, Sponsorship and Banquet areas

Lynda Maltby in the Sponsorship area

James Grant in the Banquet area

Dorothea Larsen for her photography services at the banquet

Local show schedule

(Please check the OADG website regularly for updates and new information: www.ottawadressage.ca/shows)

<i>April</i>		<i>May</i>	
April 27-28	Cindy Ishoy Clinic, Oakhurst Farm	Sun May 5	Spiritwood Schooling
		Sun May 12	Centaur Gold
		Sun May 12	Heroncrest Schooling
		Sun May 19	Starlit Farm Schooling
<i>June</i>		Sun May 26	Spiritwood Silver
Sat June 1	Oakhurst Schooling		
Sat June 8-9	Rainbow Ridge Silver/Gold	<i>July</i>	
Sat June 15	Numech Equestrian Schooling	July 6-7	[open date; to be confirmed]
Sat June 23	Dewmont Farms Silver	Sun July 14	Heroncrest Schooling
Sun June 30	Spiritwood Schooling	July 20-21	[location to be confirmed] Silver/Gold
		Sun July 28	Spiritwood Schooling
<i>August</i>		<i>September</i>	
Sun Aug 4	Centaur Gold	Sun Sept. 1	Spiritwood Schooling
Sun Aug 11	Spiritwood Silver	Sun Sept. 15	ON East Silver Championships, Rainbow Ridge
Sat Aug. 17	Oakhurst ESD Schooling	Sun Sept 22	Preston Rosedale ESD Schooling



Memberships

First and, at this time of year, most important news – it's time to renew memberships, or purchase new ones.

OADG Membership – renew or purchase new before May 31st, 2013 to be eligible for OADG year-end awards. Both rider and horse owner must hold memberships.

A rider or horse may compete in dressage competitions without any membership in any level of the OADG, CADORA Ontario, or CADORA National, but must have a membership to be eligible for any year-end awards or competition grants sponsored by the OADG, CADORA Ontario, or CADORA National. To receive an Omnibus (the official “test booklet”), you must purchase a full CADORA National membership (which includes OADG and CADORA Ontario memberships).

There are many benefits to joining OADG. You will support local initiatives to promote shows, learning opportunities, sponsorships, and building a “community” of like-minded riders, owners, and “ground crew”. Your Board of Directors is planning newsletters and email “news briefs” to disseminate information, and our Facebook page provides a social community.

Other memberships – For a rider or horse to compete in dressage shows, you do require certain other memberships:

All levels of showing: Both the rider, and the owner of the horse, must be members of their Provincial Sport Organization (Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF), Federation Equestrian du Quebec (FEQ), or equivalent for other provinces).

OEF Schooling Series: Other than OEF/equivalent, no other memberships are required.

Bronze Series: In addition to OEF/equivalent, both the rider and the horse owner must hold an Equine Canada Bronze Sport Licence (with Adult Amateur designation if applicable)

Silver Series: In addition to OEF/equivalent, both the rider and the horse owner must hold:

- An Equine Canada Silver Sport Licence (with Adult Amateur designation if applicable)
- The horse owner must have an Equine Canada passport for the horse, with valid “horse licence sticker” for 2013

Gold Series (National): In addition to OEF/equivalent, both the rider and the horse owner must hold:

- An Equine Canada Gold Sport Licence (with Adult Amateur designation if applicable)
- A full membership in Dressage Canada
- The horse owner must have an Equine Canada passport for the horse, with valid “horse licence sticker” for 2013

Platinum Series (CDI): In addition to OEF/equivalent, both the rider and the horse owner must hold:

- An Equine Canada Platinum Sport Licence (with Adult Amateur designation if applicable)
- A full membership in Dressage Canada
- FEI membership (purchased through Equine Canada)
- Permission from Equine Canada to compete
- The horse owner must have either:
 - o For CDI 1*, 2* (within Canada), an Equine Canada passport for the horse, with valid “horse licence sticker” for 2013
 - o A Valid FEI passport including a valid EC “horse licence sticker” for 2013

Please note that Equine Canada rules apply at all shows, and drug testing may occur at any show.



**OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP of CADORA
2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



OADG is a local group affiliated with both CADORA and Dressage Canada. The OADG is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to foster the sport of Dressage by encouraging participation in Competitions, Demonstrations, Lectures and other activities which increase knowledge and understanding of good horsemanship. Memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. Senior memberships must be renewed with the OADG, CADORA Ontario and CADORA National no later than **May 31st** to retain voting privileges and ensure eligibility for all applicable awards.

You MUST join no later than May 31st in order to qualify for OADG awards (except for the overall PeeWee Award).

Both the rider and owner of the horse (if different) must be members of the OADG by May 31st. Owners must have at least an OADG local membership. (Scores up to and including May 31st are also valid for year-end awards as long as your membership is received by May 31st.)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: NEW__ RENEWAL__ CADORA#_____ OEF#_____ EC#_____

LAST NAME_____ FIRST NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ PROVINCE_____ POSTAL CODE_____

HOME PHONE_____ BUSINESS PHONE_____

**Newsletter Delivery by Email only (or mark no newsletter if you do not wish to have one)
– make sure your email address is legible and correct!**

EMAIL (Please print clearly) _____

DRESSAGE OFFICIAL: COACH__ JUDGE__ STEWARD__ LEVEL_____

COMPETITION CATEGORY: JUNIOR__ ADULT AMATEUR__ OPEN__

DATE OF BIRTH FOR JUNIOR:_____ JR PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:_____

COMPETITION LEVEL: SCHOOLING__ BRONZE__ SILVER__ GOLD__ PLATINUM/CDI__

Membership Fees:

(Only a full CADORA National membership includes one Omnibus, CADORA National Membership Card and CADORA INC newsletters.)

MEMBERSHIP TYPES – Select One

CHOOSE ONE ONLY

OADG LOCAL ONLY	SR \$30.00__	JR \$20.00__	
CADORA ONTARIO	SR \$40.00__	JR \$30.00__	(Includes local membership)
CADORA NATIONAL	SR \$70.00__	JR \$50.00__	(Includes local, and Ontario membership)
CADORA QUEBEC NATIONAL	SR \$60.00__	JR \$40.00__	(Only for Quebec residents not showing Silver)

Membership Type Selected:_____ FEE: \$_____

Supplies: **You can only order from these supplies if you have joined CADORA NATIONAL**

Additional Omnibus (\$20.00 each) \$_____	BaseBall Cap RED (\$20.00 each) \$_____
Omnibus Rain Cover (\$2.00 each) \$_____	BaseBall Cap BLACK (\$20.00 each) \$_____
Additional Lapel Pin (\$5.00 each) \$_____	Additional Test Planner (\$5.00 each) \$_____
	Policy & Procedures Manual (\$25.00 each) \$_____

TOTAL REMITTED FOR MEMBERSHIPS, SUPPLIES (Supplies ONLY For CADORA National) \$_____

Make cheque payable To: Ottawa Area Dressage Group of CADORA (or OADG) **(NO POST DATED CHEQUES PLEASE)**

Membership is valid as of the date the completed form and fee are received by the OADG membership director.
Fee must accompany completed application form

Mail to: Michelle Crocker-Wells
3952 Rockdale Rd.
Navan, On
K4B 1H9

Phone: 613-835-2947
Email: membership@ottawadressage.ca
OADG WebSite: www.ottawadressage.ca

A membership in any level of the OADG, CADORA Ontario or CADORA National is not required for a rider or horse to compete in dressage competitions, but is required to be eligible for any year-end awards or competition grants sponsored by the OADG, CADORA Ontario or CADORA National.

**OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP of CADORA
2013 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Privacy Policy: The OADG will not share your personal information with third parties unless required for business directly related to the OADG (such as forwarding member information to CADORA). If we judge an issue or information item to be of interest to our members, we will forward that information to you directly by email from within the OADG Director group.

The OADG membership packages are divided by levels identifying total fees required to join either: OADG (local group), CADORA Ontario (COAI), or CADORA National. There is also a level for those residing in Quebec, not having a provincial affiliate and thus not required to join CADORA Ontario. Each member can choose the membership package that fits their particular preferences.

A membership in any level of OADG, CADORA Ontario or CADORA National is not required for a rider or horse to compete in dressage competitions. However; it is necessary for both the rider and at least one owner of the horse (if different) to be members in order to be eligible for any year-end awards or competition grants sponsored by the OADG, CADORA Ontario or CADORA National. Memberships are required to be in by **May 31st** to be eligible for OADG, CADORA Ont or CADORA Inc awards.

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES:

- LOCAL: OADG Local membership ONLY (Senior/Junior)
- ONTARIO: OADG Local membership and CADORA ONTARIO membership (Senior/Junior)
- NATIONAL: OADG Local membership and CADORA Ontario membership and CADORA National membership (Senior/Junior)
- QUEBEC NATIONAL: OADG Local membership and CADORA National membership (Senior/Junior)

The following is a summary of what each membership package includes:

LOCAL – OADG Ottawa Area Dressage Group of CADORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligible for local OADG year-end awards for FEI, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Schooling Permit competitions. Rider and at least one owner of the horse must be members by May 31st to be eligible for year-end awards. (Except for the overall PeeWee Award) - OADG Local group newsletter - Eligible to ride in OADG sponsored clinics - Eligible to vote in local OADG group elections at AGM, and stand for director - Affiliated with Dressage Canada
ONTARIO - COAI Cadora Ontario Association Inc.	Local OADG Package plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligible for COAI, Silver, Bronze awards - CADORA Ontario newsletters - Vote in COAI elections and stand for director - Access to CADORA Ontario scholarship programs
NATIONAL - Cadora National Inc.	Ontario package plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One CADORA Omnibus - CADORA National quarterly newsletters - Purchase CADORA National supplies (Omnibus, lapel pin, rain covers) - Eligible for CADORA National FEI, Gold awards - Vote in CADORA National elections at AGM and stand for Director (if renewed by May 31st)

Quebec residents competing on the Ontario Silver circuit must join CADORA Ontario to be eligible for year-end CADORA Ontario Silver awards. Quebec residents do have the option of not joining CADORA Ontario if they are not competing on the Ontario Silver Circuit.

Supplies: Supplies are for CADORA NATIONAL members ONLY

Note: All OADG members participating in OADG shows and clinics must be members of the OEF for insurance purposes. It is recommended that clinic organizers ask for participant OEF number.

Please do not send the OADG membership director Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF) memberships or Equine Canada (EC) memberships or Dressage Canada (DC) memberships. These should be sent directly to the respective OEF or EC membership offices.

OADG is proud to present a clinic with Cindy Ishoy April 27-28, at Oakhurst Farm

Cindy Ishoy is one of Canada's most successful international dressage riders. At the 1971 Pan Am Games, she was a member of the gold medal team and placed fourth individually. In 1972, she was the youngest equestrian competitor at the Munich Olympics. In 1979, she became the first Canadian to win an international dressage Grand Prix event. Cindy was seventh at the 1986 World Championships and second at the 1988 World Cup in the Netherlands. A member of Canada's bronze medal winning dressage team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Cindy was also fourth individually. She also competed at the 1980 Alternate Olympics in the Netherlands and the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

16 lessons of 45 minutes each, will be available – 8 on Saturday and 8 on Sunday. The clinic will begin at 8:00 a.m. on both days. The lessons can be private or semi-private (2 riders) depending on the choices made by the riders. To show that this exercise is for the benefit of the OADG riders and members, although the public will also be most welcome, the Board decided to provide a grant of \$1000.00 to the event and as a consequence, established the riding fees at the minimum financially permissible: private lessons will be at a cost of \$250 per lesson and the semis will be at \$125.00 for OADG members and at \$300 and \$150.00 for non-members. For auditors, the cost per day will be \$25.00 for OADG members and \$35.00 for non-members. Based on the qualifications of our guest clinician and on the facilities used, it is felt that these prices are quite a bargain! Further information on the clinic will be distributed between now and the date of the event via email, or website and posters in local barns and equestrian facilities in our region.

Rider applications are due by April 5.

Please note that this clinic has been sanctioned for coaching upgrades.

For OADG membership purposes, the list of 2012 members will be our guidelines but any person who was not a member last year and becomes one before the event takes place will be granted the same recognition.

All forms and additional information are available on the OADG website: www.ottawadressage.ca :

- Rider registration
- Auditor registration
- Criteria for selection
- Rules and expectations (braided manes, fitted attire, approved helmets, etc.)

The clinic will be held at Oakhurst Farm, 8249 Fernbank Road, Ashton, ON. www.oakhurstfarm.com
This facility has a large indoor arena. Bleacher seating is available, but auditors are welcome to bring their own chairs.

Food and refreshments will be available on-site – a fundraiser for the Ashton First Field Pony Club. You may bring your own lunch, or find an alternative in Stittsville.

Stabling is available, at additional fee. Oakhurst can accommodate FEI riders who require quarantine stabling (please indicate on registration form).

Any questions can be directed to the Clinic Secretary, Peggy McQuaid at 613-831-2692, education@ottawadressage.ca



Interview with the scribes

Have you ever wondered how the judge manages to write all of those detailed comments in the tiny boxes without ever taking their eagle eyes off the horse and rider in the ring? If you expected them to answer “Ve haf our evil vays...”, guess again! They have the incomparable and irreplaceable companionship and support of a dressage scribe—the judge *_never_* takes their eagle eye off the competitor, while the scribe’s eye barely looks up from the test paper!

(This also solves the mystery of why the test marks and comments are always in a different handwriting than the judge’s comments in the “overall impressions” box! And don’t try to tell me that you’ve never wondered about that!)

Lesley Cruikshank and Cheryl Anderson have volunteered as scribes at all levels of shows. They have worked with both local and international judges, including Stephen Clarke (head of the 2012 London Olympics dressage judging panel, 2008 Beijing Olympics), Maribel Alonso (2012 Olympics), Gary Rockwell (ditto), Bernard Maurel and, well, most of the world’s 5* judges as well as pretty much all of Canada’s FEI judges and, to be honest, almost all of eastern Canada’s judges as well!

Although they are rarely paid, they gain incredible insight to the judging of tests and to the “view from the judge’s booth”, they have the opportunity to spend time with a range of people from many countries and from many places within Canada, and the show provides them with lunch, snacks, coffee, and so on.

What drew you into scribing? What caught your interest, and why did you continue after your first scribing experience?

Cheryl: Anne Galt coerced me into going to Blainville in 2000 (I think?). My very first time scribing was with Anne at a Spiritwood show three weeks before Blainville, my second time was at Blainville for four days of national showing. What a trial by fire! But it was an incredible amount of fun and did I ever learn a TON. I realized very quickly that one day in the judging box is like a private three-day clinic with the clinician sitting right beside you!

And you do get to look up when things are going right. So, think about it – you are having your private clinic, learning (ad nauseum) what is actually important in each movement and then you get to look up only when it is being done right. So you have the repetition of the theory by writing the comments, and then you get the visual of it being done correctly. Talk about reinforced learning!!!

Lesley: What drew me to scribing ...? Not sure that I remember, someone said they needed someone to write for a judge and I was standing there ... The rest is history and I do mean history.

The first test that I remember was for a very senior judge, (Cara) with whom I had worked teaching Pony Club in another life. She asked me to write for her at ‘Intermediere II’. There was certainly no time to look up during that test, it was just write, write, write. Any time you heard muffled hoof prints that didn’t match the rhythm you were expecting you wrote even faster and with longer words that had to fit into the little spaces given on the test paper. Had no clue if what I was doing was OK but there were no complaints and I was asked to write again and again. (to this day I have never seen an Intermediere II test)

During the ‘young family’ days and when my own children were competing regularly there were only a few occasions to scribe but as soon as the kids were launched I was ‘volunteered’ again. If you stand still at a dressage show for any length of time you are sure to be given something to do, especially if you board at Spiritwood.

Are you a dressage competitor yourself? How do you balance competing with scribing? Is there any conflict of interest? In order to become a scribe, does a person *have* to be a dressage rider, themselves?

Cheryl: Me? Compete? You have to be joking! I am the world’s WORST rider!!! But Paula Baxter and my mare did quite well in competition (the mare is to be bred this year). When the mare competed at a show, I couldn’t scribe – certainly not for the same level, due to conflict of interest, but also because there simply wasn’t time.

Lesley: I was a competitor only as a teenager and for a short while later on. Someone else always seemed to need my horse and I was a better tuner, ground person and groom (read Mom). The same is still true today as I have family who compete and someone else shows my little horse.

Yes, you have to be careful that no one reads anything into the results when you are scribing for a judge that is on a



I do think a scribe needs to know something about the sport, because it is pretty much impossible to get the judge to where they need to be if you don't know how shows are run. And there is NO way to keep up with scribing if you don't know the tests. You also have to know the movements, and as you move up in the levels you need to really understand what is what, because you are also expected to do things like count the tempis, reinback steps, steps in simple changes, know when to start timing disobediences, etc. Nothing is that difficult, but the freestyles can get challenging if the competitor's movements are not clear. (How I wish I had a dollar for every time I was asked "Did that look like a shoulder in to you?")

I suppose I should be clear here: Even though the judge may ask the scribe what they saw, it is ALWAYS the judge that decides the score and the comment...end of story. The rules for scribes are:

- 1) Never say anything about anything unless specifically asked by the judge; and
- 2) Never discuss any competitor (horse or rider) until their classes are finished for the show, and even then to use discretion.

My personal rule is when asked about what I saw on a specific movement in a specific test, I only offer information if I think it will help the competitor; otherwise my response is that I was looking down at the time so I don't know.

ring where either your family member or close friend is riding. I never mention anything personal to a judge and if possible ask not to be on that ring for obvious reasons. There has never been an occasion for questioning.

There may be non-riders who scribe but unless you have a real interest in the sport (art) of dressage it would be difficult to do a good job of scribing. Just spelling and understanding the terms would be tricky.

What is the best experience you have ever had, as a scribe at a show?

Cheryl: Every time the judge has said "put down your pen and watch this". For example, I saw Ashley Holzer and Pop Art get a 10 for piaffe ... and my judge and I were at C. Magical. I learned the difference between a medium and extended trot, between an extended and free walk, and I learned two methods to prepare for a pirouette with plusses and minuses to each strategy (like I am ever going to need that!). I saw an extraordinarily musical horse try to canter in his 2nd level test to the trot music from the freestyle in the next ring. I also saw a rider attempt a pirouette while cantering on the wrong lead. And, I saw an unkind and unprepared rider be disciplined by her horse in the show ring (judges words, not mine!).

Lesley: You know, in all the years of scribing I can only think of two judges with whom I would prefer not to work again. And one of those redeemed himself before the show was over. There are so many dedicated and knowledgeable judges out there and on only a very few occasions have I wondered if they saw the same horse that I did in the ring. If you sit tight they usually explain themselves and you learn a valuable lesson. Although there is little time for conversation during a show most judges are teachers and you get a private lesson from every one.

For some reason I have gained a reputation for being able to write for anyone, even the judges that no one else wants to work with. So, you have to quickly come to grips with the fact that you are not there to make friends but to do a job and people (the competitors) have worked hard and paid good money, to have you do your scribing job with the right attitude. And by the way, your opinion is yours only and keep it that way.

So, best experience They are all great experiences.

Do you have to go through formal training to become a scribe? What about for local shows? And what about Gold and Platinum shows?

Cheryl: As I mentioned above, I learned under trial by fire. I suppose I did ok but it is not something I would recommend. Working your way up through the levels of shows and judges is much better, and yes, I have paid my dues. The truth is the actual scribing is easier at FEI level than at the lower levels because the judges say less – they know exactly what to say, and tend to be very concise. But expectations of a scribe at FEI levels are considerably higher: often the judges fly in the night before, are jet lagged and sometimes are even working in another language. So you are expected to do whatever it takes to make the judge happy, comfortable and able to do their job.

Lesley: As far as I know there is no formal training for becoming a scribe. The thing that helped me the most was my day job as a dental assistant for an office that did a lot of pre-treatment insurance write-ups for orthodontics. You know, fill in this form in 30 seconds or less as the dentist rhymes off what he sees in the mouth etc. One of the dentists was so fast that most of the other assistants couldn't keep up. I made it my goal not to let him get me and scribbled as fast as my fingers could go. (I made a second copy in my best hand after the fact and if he ever noticed he never mentioned but he always asked me to do his cases. If I could keep up with speedy Dr Brian nothing much was ever going to phase me.

The only prerequisite really is knowledge of the subject, clear small hand writing and spelling (my biggest down fall). Every spring I go to the dictionary and look up all the forms for loose, losing, loss etc. For some reason at 4pm when all the words start to blur before your eyes those words totally escape me. You will always have moments but they are usually an occasion for lightening the mood of the judging booth. A little comedy at the right moment never hurts. Especially if you are on the receiving end.

Who is the most interesting judge you have worked with, and why?

Cheryl: Tough question! I think each one has shown me something special... I am constantly awed by Stephen Clarke's tact. He has consciously decided to be kind to the horse and to the rider. I think we can learn much from him. Anne Galt's commitment to the adult amateur rider doesn't get the recognition it deserves. Don Barnes' ability to make judging fun is ... diabolical. Lisette Vega de Purcell's commitment to do her very best each and every day is inspiring. Joanne White's consistent application of the training pyramid is exemplary. Barnabas Mandi's uncompromising insight is brilliant. The laser precision of Birgit Valkenborg's comments is remarkable. I could go on and on but I am running out of words. All the judges lead interesting lives, all are highly dedicated to the sport and to the welfare of the horses. All are remarkable people.

Lesley: The most interesting that's hard. Linda Zang, Axel Steiner, Libby!! I have enjoyed them all. One of my favourites is Rockwell but then there was the lady judge (you see my ability for names??) from Hong Kong who was on her way back from judging the Para Worlds. She sticks in my mind, also the lady dentist from Australia, really interesting and fun. I love writing for Lorraine MacDonald and Joan McCartney (known her for ever). The list goes on. One true friend is Lisette Vega de Purcell.

The only time I get testy is when the judge is being really silly and marking according to their latest peeve. Spare me. But smile!

If Canada wins the bid for the next World Equestrian Games, will you possibly have the opportunity to scribe at the Games? Or for the upcoming Pan Am Games?

Cheryl: I honestly don't know. Scribing gigs are not "scheduled" like judging contracts... usually four to six weeks out, as the entries and the times firm up, the organizers suddenly realize they need scribes and the hunt is on. Sure I would love to scribe.... But at this point I don't even know who to contact to offer my time!

Lesley: I would love the opportunity but I am sure others have friends in high places. It really is who you know but sometimes you get a surprise. Happy with whatever comes my way.

Is the day long? Hot and dry, cold and wet? How do you manage to sit, all day, watching dressage tests? Is it difficult to sit still, or does the day go by quickly? Are there ever any language or culture problems, working with judges from other countries?

Cheryl: The day can be long, there is no doubt. I have learned to be ready for anything both for myself and my judge. I regularly bring a spare set of winter clothing to our spring shows, full bug repellent régimes to anything after May, extra rubber boots... you name it... simply because I know the foreign judges aren't prepared. Ponchos for rain, various heavy things to weigh down the papers in wind. Blankets for cold. Antihistamines. I also try to find out what snacks the judge likes and bring them along. Happy judges mean happy riders (and happy scribes!)

It gets so focused in the judging box that I get lost in the moment. The upside to this is that time goes by quickly. The downside for me is I kind of lose track of other things. For example, more than once I haven't notice the sun and ended the day with HALF my face and neck sunburned. It looks pretty bad.

And those chairs are not comfortable - that's why I bring my own cushion to put on my chair. And the cramps in my hands and fingers...ow! I have to admit, by the end of the day, my brain hurts too. More than once, Lesley and I have had a good laugh at ourselves as we find we are completely incapable of the most basic thought process by the end of the day... things like deciding if we should go back to the hotel, if we should eat... So we have learned to plan ahead.

Language can be interesting for sure. You learn to pay attention, just in case the judge is looking for words - sometimes it is appropriate to tactfully offer the equivalent expressions in English. One time I was scribing for a French judge - it got to the point he was judging in French and I wrote his comments in English. Then we got a rider who clearly preferred French. Naturally we switched languages: he judged in English and I wrote in French. Go figure! (We both laughed 2/3 of the way through the test when we realized what we had done.)

Lesley: The good, the bad and the ugly Yes it is hot or cold or windy or wet. You have to be ready for anything and everything. The sitting is not something that I notice. You are busy either writing or getting the next sheet ready or checking on your sheet number against the number of the rider coming into the ring and against the schedule given you by the office, is this the test sheet for this class etc. OK, I stress to be sure I get it right (not always easy) P.S. If you are watching the rides either you or your judge are not doing their job!! Usually, the better the ride the more you get to see but that is just an off chance bonus. OK, 25 PSG tests on a warm afternoon gets a bit long.

Never had a problem with judges from overseas. Sometimes they struggle for a word which if you can supply is always welcome. These people are professionals and expect you to be there for them.

What advice would you give, to riders for preparing for their next trip into the ring? To people who might think about becoming a scribe?

Cheryl:

Riders: In all the years of scribing, I have NEVER seen a judge not try to give the absolute highest mark they can when they believe the rider is doing his or her best. So do your best: Be pleasant to the stewards (yes, we often see those discussions). Warm up properly (yes, we often can see the warm up too!). Come in on time. Know your test but be smart about using a reader. Be sparkling clean. Ride a sparkling clean horse. Be

Lesley: For anyone who would like to scribe – well, talk to someone who has been there for ever. It is not a holiday or a chance for a ring side seat. It helps if you know the tests you will be working. Be on the site a good ½ hour before hand and go over your whole package of tests against the entry program. As a matter of fact do this twice as I once got caught with one wrong test in a group and I had no extra. Still sends chills down my spine. (And for a really ratty judge too)



pleasant to the judge. Breathe. Have fun. Show off your horse! And remember to give an honest thank-you not only to the judge, but to the steward, to the show office, and to the volunteers.

Potential scribes: go for it. Have fun. LEARN.

Meet your judge in plenty of time to decide on which side they would like you to sit and any preference they have for the job. (you never know). Get set up with everything under the sun that you might need. I carry a whole handful of pens and at least two red ones. Also, Kleenex, cough drops, extra wipes, band aids, aspirin, sun glasses, sun screen and your book of tests (up to date). I have a kit that also doubles a seat cushion, idea from Cheryl and worth every penny. Also, I bought something called a "weather writer". It's a clip board that has a pop-up feature that is made of see-thru plastic that keeps your papers dry and out of the wind. This item should be mandatory for scribes and yes the judge can see what you are writing.

Is it fun? ☺

Cheryl: In all the times I have scribed, I think I only regretted one day. But that was one day out of roughly 150 days of scribing so far - clearly the exception. So yes, scribing is fun and very much worth the time and effort. At the very least, I have come away having learned something new every single day. At the very best, it has been a rollicking good time and the judge and I are now good friends.

Lesley: Go in prepared and with a good attitude and energy and you will always be a welcome member of the clan.

What's new in the OADG awards?

- The eligibility requirements have been revised:
 - All circuits have a requirement of 3 scores > 50% from 3 different judges
 - OADG Schooling: all scores must be from local shows (defined on the Shows page)
 - Silver: one score may be non-local from Ontario
 - Gold: one score may be non-local from Canada
 - FEI Classes at Gold or CDI Shows: Two scores may be non-local from Canada or international
- A Para-Equestrian Award has been added to the list of overall Year-End Awards.
- The Merit award criterion for OEF-Schooling shows is changed to 60%. Silver and Gold remain at 65%.
- OEF-Schooling Show Awards: The PeeWee Award age criterion has been raised to 12 years of age. PeeWees must be JR members of OADG.
- The Horse World Medals are no longer provided.
- Interim standings will be published on the OADG website mid-season, and draft year-end standings (including non-local scores) will be published at the end of the season. Competitors will have a deadline to inform the Awards Director of any errors or omissions.

For full details on the various OADG awards, and submission requirements for forms, see the Awards section of the website: <http://www.ottawadressage.ca/awards/>

Perspectives

The view from the judge's booth...

What's one thing to improve your test scores that you can practice now, even if your arena isn't regulation size? Your centre lines. They come up twice in every test, and because the judge only sees your horse from the front, it doesn't matter how well your horse moves. Even an average horse can get great marks here.

The first thing we look for is straightness. To ride a good straight line, look right at the judge. (If you can't bear to look at the judge, pick a point above her head.) At home, choose a point on the wall. Keep focusing on that point as you ride right up to your halt.

Prepare your horse by giving him a few half-halts to encourage him to sit. Once the halt is established, exhale. Letting out your breath will help you relax and sit deeper, making immobility easier. Then count three seconds before you ask him to move forward.

If you have a green horse, don't worry too much about making the halt square. Immobility is more important at the lower levels. For more advanced horses, use a mirror to help you adjust your seat and legs for a square halt, or ask a friend to watch you.

The move-off needs to be prompt and straight, so keep watching your same spot. Experiment with your aids to find how much you need to apply for a crisp depart.

Keep practicing, and wait for those 8's (or 9's)!

Anne Galt, EC Judge

A competitor's experience...

Cindy Ishoy attended her first Olympics in 1968 in Mexico City as a groom for veteran rider Christilot Boylen.

Check at the steward's tent...

Once again we are looking towards another competition season. For all the years I have been a Steward it never ceases to amaze me how many competitors, coaches, and organizers do not keep up to date with RULES. Each year there are some changes to the rules both discipline and general and I would urge you ALL to become familiar with the rules before you arrive on the competition grounds – or even before you sign that entry form!!

As a Steward, when we encounter a problem more often than not, where do we turn 'to the rule book'. Many times we are able to point out a rule and the other party will state "oh, I don't have a rule book for this year" or "I haven't had time to look at the new rules" or something similar! We as Stewards have a job to do but so do you, so please let's all keep up to date!

Have a great competition season,

Christine Hickman, DC/FEI Steward

The view from the scribe's chair

You've all seen us ... the person sitting next to the judge in the booth. We're usually busy shuffling papers and taking notes; however, we're not too busy to give you smiles as you enter the competition area before your ride. We're the 'scribes' and we LOVE what we do. I'll agree that it's not for everyone because the mental and physical effort is quite high. We sit in a small space concentrating for long hours, writing all those notes in sometimes horrible weather conditions. We need to constantly be aware both of the big picture of what's happening with the class as a whole, plus take care of the small details for each ride of recording the mark and judges' comments accurately. That's a boatload of stuff to take care of! However it does make for great resume material in the personal skills section. And that's not the main reason we scribes are so passionate about our role. *Here's the secret:* I can't think of a better way to get an "educate-your-eye" clinic. The judges are always happy and eager to share information and help scribes develop a better eye and understanding of what makes a successful test, a successful rider, or a well-developed equine athlete. Over the 15+ years that I have been scribing I have had the pleasure of watching many local athletes progress through the ranks. I look forward to continuing to see you over the next 15+. And don't forget to make sure to let us folks in the booth see your competition number (and smiles) prior to the ringing of the bell!

- **Catherine Maguire** ☺

Perspectives, continued

A parent's perspective...

Showing horses with a less than perfect daughter.

Right away I want to say I don't call her less than perfect to be mean, it is just true. She strives for it not to be true but she can't help it, she will never be perfect. Well, at least according to dressage judges and herself. In my eyes she is perfection, but I am her mom.

I drive her crazy with my lackadaisical approach to showing. She coifs and combs her hair making it fit perfectly under her helmet, where I would just stuff it all and tuck up any strays. (She long since stopped asking me to do her hair) She would have us to the show 3 hours ahead, so we can prepare. I make darn sure that doesn't happen and wander out to the barn to hook up the trailer with a few minutes to spare.

She stresses and frets about every small mistake, when we all know you can't get a 10 in this sport. We kill ourselves for an ok, with an 8. I want to stop and watch and look around at the roses, she is too busy panicking and vomiting from the stress.

Never fails, 5 minutes before she goes in the ring, she screams in a breathless panic. "I forgot the test, where's the book?" everyone scrambles and runs about looking like headless chickens. And she then says without fail. "No. I'm good, I got it now." And strides like a princess over to the ring, the very picture of calm and cool. Meanwhile her show team (mom) is left holding all the accessories, dripping with sweat from running back to the trailer to get the book.

But as a mom I wouldn't miss this bonding for all the fine wine in the world. After the show we laugh about all the silly things that happen. (Where she cried not hours before) Watching her grow up from the ringside (she's been showing since she was 2) has been a blessing as a parent. Seeing how she can cope with stress and challenges, and overcome them all.

I know from watching her she will be an excellent driver after seeing her in the warm-up ring. I know she can handle criticism thanks to judges. I know her skin is thicker than it looks, and that she will survive almost anything.

Diana Bayer; Coach, Rider, and Horse Show Mom

Au coin du vet (the vet's corner)...

When getting your horse inoculated this year, consider that the West Nile Virus has been confirmed in the Ottawa Valley, and that the West Nile Virus is a serious neurological illness in horses. The West Nile Virus has an approximate 33% fatality rate and 40% of affected animals that make it through the acute phase show neurological signs for up to 6 months after initial presentation. The prevalence of this disease and its effects on our equine friends makes the West Nile Virus vaccine a necessary vaccine.

On the other hand, Lyme disease appears to be more common in dogs and humans. Although the disease is rare in most other species including horses, cats, goats, cattle and llamas they can become affected and no vaccine is available for these species. The tick that carries Lyme disease (blacklegged deer tick) is now found in the Ottawa and surrounding areas. Symptoms generally include lethargy, decreased appetite, fever, swollen and/or stiff joints, lameness and laminitis. There is less to worry about with your horse as regards to Lyme disease, but please take steps to prevent infection of yourself and your pets! The tick requires about 24 hours to transmit the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease, therefore if you, your dog or your horse are spending time in forested areas or travelling through long grass check yourselves and your pets upon return for quick tick removal and reduce the risk of infection!

Dr. Melissa Rocheleau, DVM
Ottawa Valley Large Animal Clinic (OVLAC)

Discover an equestrian discipline...

...Western Style Dressage

By Sherry Beaudoin (the original article includes photos of Sherry demonstrating Western Style Dressage on her Cheval Canadien, "Morr-Mcnaughton Lou-II Ray 11187", but unfortunately we do not have space to reprint the photos here) (reprinted with permission; this article first appeared in the Autumn 2012 edition of "Le Cheval Canadien Newsletter", the official newsletter of the Canadian Horse Breeders Association, Volume 30, No. 2)

A new equine discipline is growing here in Canada called Western Style Dressage. In the United States its known as Western Dressage and you may have also heard the term Cowboy Dressage which has been trade marked by Eitan Beth-Halachmy.

There are two components to Western Style Dressage: Western and Dressage. What we first need to ask is, What is dressage? Dressage by definition is a French term most commonly translated to mean "training". It's the athletic development of the horse both mentally and physically, that brings out the natural talent, beauty, and grace of the animal. Dressage movements develop the horse's physical strength and ability to display its maximum range of motion unhindered. Proper Dressage instruction helps you understand your own body, and how your position influences the horse. It helps you attain communication and understanding with your horse. Dressage approaches the horse in a manner that satisfies its mental prerequisites: confidence, trusting, submission, a strong work ethic, sensitivity, and clear communication between horse and rider. It doesn't matter what discipline you ride, what breed of horse you own, or what kind of saddle you're in – training is training.

What is Western Style Dressage? Simply put, it's dressage done western style. Western equipment and attire with any breed of horse utilizing classical training principles and techniques. A good Western Style Dressage horse has a ground-covering stride of reasonable length in keeping with the individual's conformation. Ideally the horse should have a balanced movement that requires no more than light contact by the rider. The head and neck are carried in a relaxed, natural position. The hindquarters display activity and engagement in all movements. Balance is a priority in all aspects both longitudinally and laterally. The horse and rider are seen to work in unison and harmony. The Canadian

Horse with its selective breeding has many of the required attributes already bred into them. This makes them wonderful Western Style Dressage mounts.

The objectives of Western Style Dressage is the correct development of the horse so it becomes an athlete who is a pleasure to ride, who works in harmony with the rider. The result of this training is a horse that is calm, supple, loose, balanced and flexible. The horse is confident and willing to perform the correct basics with little effort. The Western Style Dressage horse will give the impression of doing, of its own accord what is required. The horse will appear confident, attentive and submits generously to the control of the rider.

In October 2011, the Western Style Dressage Association of Canada received its certificate of incorporation for a Canadian not-for-profit corporation. The WSDAC is still in its grassroots stages allowing the members to help mould and make this unique discipline prosper, grow and make it their own. The WSDAC is also an alliance of the Western Dressage Association of America.

This is such an exciting time for western equestrians. We now have a new discipline where we can showcase our horses regardless of breed in the tack we are comfortable riding in. It's a discipline that is progressive, fun, and each horse is judged based on its own conformation or type.

It's a win-win situation. We all want the same result in the end: a happy, willing, and obedient horse that is a joy to ride and a pleasure to behold. Western Style Dressage will help accomplish this.

More information on the Western Style Dressage Association of Canada can be found on the web at www.westernstyledressage.ca or join them on Facebook under Western Style Dressage Association of Canada.

An idea whose time has come? Western Dressage is also mentioned in the editor's column of "Dressage Today", January 2013 (Vol. 19, No 5).

Note that you cannot ride a regular dressage test at an OADG show (or any other "standard" dressage show) in a Western saddle – the Equine Canada rules state that an English saddle must be used. Anyone wishing to ride a dressage test in a Western saddle must either go to a Western show, or request the show organizers to add "Western Style Dressage" classes under "miscellaneous classes" (those classes are at the discretion of the show organizer). Some OADG schooling shows offer Western Style Dressage classes; check the prize lists and entry forms!

News from CADORA Ontario

A meeting of the Board of Directors of CADORA Ontario was held on January 20th, via a tele-conference.

The following points of interest were discussed:

1. As of November 30th 2012, the overall profit stood at approximately \$3,100.00 for the current year. In general terms, income came from memberships, OEF grant and the Spring Stephan Clarke symposium. Expenses were the Stephen Clarke symposium, year-end awards to members and the Annual General meeting.
2. The Ontario Equestrian Federation experienced a 5% cut back in their funding but their grant to CADORA Ontario nevertheless was up by \$250.00.
3. CADORA Ontario's newsletter should be distributed in March.
4. CADORA Ontario will include in 2013, a year-end award scheme for bronze shows along the same line as they do for Silver. I advised the Board that OADG would not join this year but that negotiations with show organizers would take place in 2013 with the goal of joining next year if there is a majority consensus.
5. This year's CADORA Ontario Annual General Meeting will be held at 11 a.m., on Sunday, April 14th, at the Queens Inn in Kingston, Ontario. I therefore greatly urge and encourage all OADG members to attend, especially the riders who will be receiving awards on that day. It has been a long time since the meeting was held in the Eastern area and we should show our appreciation by being there.

Marketplace

Got stuff to sell? Need to buy stuff? Need services, or offering services? Check the classified section on the OADG website (www.ottawadressage.ca). OADG members can advertise for free – please send your item description, any photos, email address, phone number, and any website link to the OADG webmaster (webmaster@ottawadressage.ca).

Contact us Your OADG Board of Directors

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