



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 2014

It has been a very long winter! The days are finally getting longer, the horses are shedding their winter coats, and the temperatures are flirting with the idea of being above freezing! We're not into spring yet, but it's getting closer – here's hoping this newsletter will help kick-start your ideas for training, conditioning and showing!

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Message from the President

I hope all of you have had a good winter even if it has been cold and snowy.

The activities of the 2014 season of the OADG began on February 1st with the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

- A Governance Committee chaired by the Award Director and comprising the Award Director Catherine Maguire, the Show Coordinator Anne Galt and the President Pierre Paquette was created. The purpose of the committee was to review the policies and procedures of the OADG. In order to do so, the Committee was to contact via e-mail, all members and past members of the OADG asking them for their views and constructive comments on the existing policies as well as their general comments on what they expect from the OADG.

I wish to thank all of you who replied and provided interesting suggestions that your Board will attempt to put into practice in 2015 or earlier if at all possible, having taken into consideration external requirements that could be necessary (for example, finances).

A report is to be presented for discussion and appropriate action by the directors at the March meeting.

- The 2014 Show schedule was also approved by the Board. In 2014, there will be 25 events: 14 OEF Permit Schooling shows, 7 Silver shows, and 4 Gold shows; and in addition, the Ontario East Silver Championships.
- The Board decided, at the request of many members, to expand its event calendar on the website to include shows that could be of interest to the membership in the Ontario and Quebec regions as well as educational clinics.
- The awards criteria for 2014 were also modified in order to allow more “outside” shows to be taken into account for OADG award purposes, including Ontario, Quebec and U.S.A. venues.
- Although the number of directors on the Board remains at 10, the nomenclature of two portfolios were changed to better reflect their role: the Education Director becomes the Education Coordinator and the Show Ambassador becomes the Show Coordinator.
- The Eastern Ontario CADORA Silver championship this year will be held at Oakhurst Farm on Sunday, September 14th.
- The Annual Year End Award banquet will be held at the Hellenic Centre on Saturday, November 22nd, 2014. In order to allow for more socializing (which was requested by some members), the schedule of the event will be slightly modified.

Pierre Paquette, OADG President



A big **thank you** to our sponsors of the 2013 Silver Championships East, the OADG banquet and the AGM... as members, be sure to thank them for their support whenever you can, - if we are lucky, they may help us again!!!!

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www.ottawadressage.ca, 613-821-6206

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What's new in the OADG Awards...

The Awards Director has a few interesting notes to pass on to members regarding changes to the 2014 Awards Criteria and information on our Freestyle Trophies:

2014 Awards Criteria Changes

The eligibility requirements for all awards remain the same....all competitors must have 3 scores >50% from 3 different shows and a minimum of 2 different sites. **New this year** – Gold & FEI competitors may have 2 of their 3 scores from non-local venues (Canada or USA).

Also **new this year** – OADG is introducing a **Team Challenge!** Get your friends together and participate in a friendly competition for the season. Cheer on your team at shows! See which barn or group can come out on top! Create some wacky team names! One award per circuit (ESD Schooling, Silver and Gold) will be presented at the year-end Banquet to the team with the highest qualifying scores. Teams must be declared by May 31, 2014. Team members can be combined from JR/AA for the ESD Schooling circuit or JR/AA/O for the Silver & Gold circuits. Scores from any level may be used.

For more details on the awards criteria, visit www.ottawadressage.ca/awards or contact the Awards Director at awards@ottawadressage.ca. Remember – **Team Challenge** forms must be submitted by May 31!

What's Your (free) Style?

Did you know that OADG awards trophies for freestyles? Do you have your favourite freestyle on YouTube that you watch? (Mine is the perennial favourite Blue Hors Matinee at the 2006 World Equestrian Games, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKQgTiqhPbw>.)

Why not turn your love of riding to music into developing a freestyle ride to present at shows? It takes some effort but pays back in the development of your horse's rhythm and partnership with you. And it's fun to do! The qualifying criteria for the OADG Freestyle Awards are the same as other awards. Most shows offer a freestyle class in their prizelist. Check the eligibility requirements – ESD schooling shows have none, but for Silver and Gold you must achieve a 55% in the technical score before you can ride the freestyle at the same level.

The ESD Schooling circuit Freestyle Award is a lovely silver plate donated many years ago by Barb O'Grady. It was originally presented in 1951 as an Open Hunter Hack award. Ms. O'Grady donated it to the OADG in memory of the Littlewood Girls: Brenda McKibbin, Doris Littlewood and Kelva Gattey. Last year's winner was Christy Leroux on Spot The Difference.

For the Silver circuit Training Level we have a memorial trophy donated by Kerstin Blaeske, a local Equine Canada Coach 3, in memory of her daughter Patricia Blaeske. Currently, it is being lovingly cherished by Anne Galt, one of our favourite judges, but I am sure she would willingly relinquish to another deserving winner.

At the Silver level we also recognized the achievement in 2013 of our past OADG president, Kiki Baggerman-Webster and her mount Froeya. They won the First Level Freestyle year-end award donated by David and Carolyn Rees-Potter from Phantom Farm as well as the Eastern Ontario Championships Freestyle Champion Award donated by OADG and Claire Smith.

We have Freestyle Awards available at all levels in Silver and Gold. Check out the website awards section.

There are plenty of resources available to help with developing a freestyle ride. Start with your coach or other riders who are doing freestyles. The rules can be found from Equine Canada (<http://www.equinecanada.ca/> under "Rules"). Check out the book "Dancing with your Horse" by Mary Campbell and there are many websites including this free one with music suggestions sorted by "beats per minute" (<http://www.equimusic.com/>).

So give it a try! And if this is not your year, then make it a point to watch the freestyles at the shows this summer to see what it is about and definitely to applaud the competitors.

Here's hoping you have a great competition season!
Catherine Maguire, Awards Director

A big **thank you** to our sponsors (continued)...

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www.horse.on.ca
1-877-441-7112



Memberships

At this time of year, the most important news is – it's time, again, to renew memberships or purchase new ones.

OADG Membership

Renew or purchase new before May 31st, 2014 to be eligible for OADG year-end awards or discounts at OADG events (such as educational clinics). Both rider and horse owner must hold 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.

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 book”), you must purchase a full CADORA National membership (which includes OADG and CADORA Ontario memberships).

Other Memberships

For a rider or horse to compete in dressage shows, you **must** have certain memberships and licences:

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 additional 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 2014

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 2014

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 2014
 - o A valid FEI passport including a valid EC “horse licence sticker” for 2014

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



**OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP of CADORA
2014 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.

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_____

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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: Cathy Gordon
819 Drummond Rd., R.R. 1
Carleton Place, ON
K7C 3P1

Phone: 613-257-5145
Email: membership@ottawadressage.ca
OADG WebSite: <http://ottawadressage.ca/renew/>

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 2014 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) - Local OADG shows are designated in the Local column at http://ottawadressage.ca/shows/ - See http://ottawadressage.ca/awards/ for awards criteria, which include external show scores - 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.

Catching up with Brittany Fraser

Brittany Fraser and her horse, All In, have been achieving excellent results on the Florida winter circuit. Many of the OADG members will recognize Brittany's name – she competed in the Ottawa region as a junior and young rider, and still has strong ties to the area. Here's a chance to catch up with her!

What drew you into dressage? Was there a "lightbulb moment" where you said "that's what I want to do", or was it a general interest in horses and a natural progression into dressage?

I have been involved with horses all my life. My family was into horses so at a very young age I was introduced and fell in love. I always had a natural interest for dressage, I competed in a few jumping shows but never fell in love with it.

What is your connection with Ottawa? You're originally from Nova Scotia – how did you end up in Ottawa, and how long were you here?

Roz Farber who was in charge of finding talented kids all around Canada (making the FYRST program with Albrecht Heidemann) put me in touch with Ruth Koch at a young age. I was 12 years old at the time and would fly back and forth a couple times a month from Nova Scotia to ride with Ruth and Albrecht. It was a challenge at times because like most kids the weekends were your times to have fun with your friends but I made life-time friends in Ottawa and the passion for the sport kept me going.

You trained with Ruth Koch in Oxford Mills. Can you tell us about that, and describe your time there? Was Ruth your main coach? Did you work with other coaches, and/or go to clinics? Did your parents move to Ottawa, or were you here as a Junior/Young Rider on your own?

Being at Ruth's barn was like being at home. I lived with Ruth and Steve (her husband) during the summer months when I wasn't in school and on weekends I would fly to ride my horses. My horses stayed at Ruth's and she would train my horses when I was back at home in school. Oxford Ridge Stables was always so much fun; we had such a great team around us all the time. Ruth had a lot of juniors and young riders in her barn, we all had so much fun and so many memories were made that I will never forget.

Albrecht Heidemann travelled in to do a clinic at Oxford Ridge once a month. Ruth and Albrecht had a very close partnership and worked great together.

When I graduated from high school in 2006 I moved to Ottawa to go to Algonquin College and ride full time with Ruth. I loved living in Ottawa so much I never moved back home!

After working with Ruth, you worked on your own for a couple of years. Did you go to clinics, or did you work with a coach?

Once Ruth retired I started going to Florida for the winter months to train and compete. During the rest of the year I was stabled at Swan Manor in Oxford Mills. On a monthly basis I would travel back in forth to Montreal for clinics with Albrecht.

Please tell us a little bit about your family. What would you say is the number one thing they do, to support you and your competitive career? Do you get to see them often? And how about your "life outside of horses" – what hobbies do you have, or interests outside of horses?

My family has supported me from day one. My dad, Craig Fraser, especially. He has financially supported my career since day one and I am very thankful for that. Most of my family still lives in Nova Scotia. I try and make it home twice a year to visit. During the winter months my family comes to Florida for a vacation to watch me compete.

My boyfriend Marc Beaulieu, who I met in Ottawa, is also a big supporter of mine. He is currently attending engineering school at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. We try our best to schedule our visits between competitions and around his exam times. My life outside of horses is mostly visiting family or my boyfriend. At this point in my career I don't know much time outside horses! Working towards Pan Ams takes a lot of focus and hard work.

Currently, you're working with Ashley Holzer. Can you tell us how you got this opportunity, and how you're enjoying it? You're based in New York City; how do you enjoy living there? And how do you ride and train horses in the middle of one of the biggest cities in the world?

I first got introduced to Ashley Holzer through another great friend of mine, Chris von Martels. The first two winters I spent in Florida were with Chris at Ashley's barn. When Ashley had time she would give me a few lessons. When I decided I wanted to make the move to New York, I contacted her, packed up, and went. Being at Ashley's stable in New York in the Bronx is amazing. Her barn is situated just off Broadway in a park. The horses get used to all kinds of different things being stabled in NY. It is an amazing opportunity to be coached by one of the best riders in the world and I am so grateful she took me on as a student.

How many horses do you ride, at the moment? Do you own them, or are you riding horses that are owned by sponsors? Can you tell us about each horse? What is the main strength of each horse? What is the best thing about each horse's individual personality?

I have two horses now, both owned by myself. My father was very generous and purchased them for me. I ride them 5 days a week with Ashley and the other 2 days are their days off. Ashley is a very positive coach and knows exactly how to prepare you before entering the competition ring. With all her experience, each day I learn great techniques that I can carry on and teach to others.

All In is a 9 year old Dutch warmblood gelding. I bought him as a 5 year old in Holland at the Equine Elite Auction. I started showing him first level and have worked my way up the levels. He is consistently receiving 70% and higher in the small tour level (PSG & I1). He is now schooling the Grand Prix at home and will make his debut soon. He is truly a horse of a life time and I am so fortunate to have him.

I just recently purchased a 12 year old Grand Prix mare, Countess. I bought her from a Canadian girl Eiren Crawford who is based out of Denmark. Countess has the best personality and I am learning all the Grand Prix movements on her. I have shown her a few times this winter and so has Ashley. She is still a little green in the ring so Ashley is helping me give Countess positive ring exposure.

Your winter dressage season in Florida this year has been fantastic! What can you tell us about it, overall? What has been the biggest thrill so far?

The biggest thrill about this winter season was being put on Canada's number 1 Canadian team for the Nations Cup. All In and I had the top score for the small tour. My teammates were Belinda Trussell, Chris von Martels and Megan Lane. With all our great rides it led us to a silver medal!

How does a regular day, or week, play out? Do you have a routine in preparing for competition on this circuit? Do you continue to train your horses to higher levels while in Florida, or do you peak for this circuit and then try to maintain the horses at this level?

My regular week is looking after my horses 6 days a week. That includes feeding 4 times a day, mucking out, turn out and tacking up. I have a young rider helping me at shows and on my day off. When there is a competition we leave for the show on Wednesdays and come home from the show either on the Saturday or Sunday.

After Nations Cup Ashley and I have decided to move All In up to the next level. The next show I will be competing him in the Intermediare 2. This will get him ready for Grand Prix. With Countess I am trying to gain a partnership with her because she is a new mount for me. I will continue to show her in the Intermediare 2 level and maybe by the end of the season Grand Prix.

Do you have a "go to" training exercise that you use for every horse, for many situations?

I think it is very important to have a good warm up when you get on your horse. For me, every time I get on my horses I always allow them to stretch long and low and go forward for at least 15 minutes. I think this warms your body up along with your horse's body. Your warm-up tells you how your horse is feeling that day and what you might have to work on if your horse is feeling stiff in a certain area or not.

Is there anything else you think the OADG members might like to know?

In 2013, I was chosen to be sponsored by CIBC Team Next Program. They chose 67 athletes from 52 sports and gave each athlete \$15,000, and I was the only equestrian athlete chosen. This year, I am hoping to get some funding together to go to Europe in August and compete until December.

Perspectives

What the Show Organizer sees...

1. I get asked a lot of questions. About 99.9999% of the answers are found in the prize list. So read it. All of it.
2. If your horse has a name with apostrophes in it or capital letters in odd places or oddly spelled (everyone tries to be artistic when naming their horses!), please write it out legibly on your entry form. This information must match Equine Canada's (EC's) records.
3. Verify the information you receive back from organizing bodies such as EC, Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF), or better yet, go check for yourself on the EC website in the Competitions section. I have had countless errors with horse names, people names, or membership cards missing affiliations.
 - a. If your horse's name in EC's records doesn't match the passport, or the name you gave the show secretary, things will get messed up.
 - b. If the rider name doesn't match up with the one EC has, things will get messed up.
 - c. If your membership card doesn't show that you are a Dressage Canada member, you probably aren't, even if you tried to be, and things will get messed up.
 - d. Make sure that EC has your first name as your first name and your last name as your last name, or things will get messed up.
 - e. By "messed up", I mean countless communications from EC and/or me, or your year-end points being split between the different names (could be regarded as two different horses).
4. Coggins – should match your horse's show name, not his barn name.
5. Riding Times – I always try to do riding times according to riders' needs. Some people prefer to ride their 2 or 3 tests as far apart as possible – to let the horse rest in between. Others prefer to ride their tests close together - to not have to warm-up again. I get both requests. The reality when doing up times is that I first have to schedule in anyone who is riding more than one horse – they set the tone for the day's times. After this it's judging concerns – making sure all the breaks are in properly. After this I deal with special requests – i.e., having a plane to catch. Then any other requests – I want to ride with my friend if at all possible.

Once times are posted, I start getting the calls - the day is too long, rides too far apart, too close together, it's too late, too early. And I can't help but wonder why someone entering a horse in 2 or more classes in a one-day, one-ring show wouldn't plan on the possibility of perhaps spending the whole day at the show.
6. Prizes – I once received an anonymous letter saying that the ribbons were too plain. Then I was told that we should not bother with ribbons to cut costs. Given the fact that pretty well every ride receives a ribbon (what with all the categories, and few numbers of rides per class/category), ribbons can be an expensive part of putting on the show. Some riders return the ribbons to me to use at another show (thank you!). Then the complaints about the time of day when the Division prizes are given out. Maybe we shouldn't have prizes? So hard to know where to go with this ...
7. Parking – there is always the one who will park to block off as many spots as they can – as if no one else will need to use the parking area that day. So if everyone could park in a common sense kind of way...
8. Stalls – they are limited at many shows, so enter early. There are even some who enter in the winter, well ahead of time. Clean up your area – no bits of bailer twine tied to stall bars, trash in the aisle, and **NO NAILS** in the walls to hang up your stuff.
9. And I won't mention the obvious – send in your entry in time and completely filled in, and legibly... oops, I just did!

I cannot end this without a special mention to the neatest barn in the Ottawa Valley- the former Kars Riding School. After they left you could not see where they had been, they had even raked up their spot in the parking area. There was no evidence – no hair (or mane) elastics, braiding tape, trash, shavings, hay bits... Thank you, we noticed!

Thank you and see y'all May 18 at Centaur Riding School!

Shirley Guertin, Show Organizer at Centaur Riding School since 1973 (sometimes up to 11 shows per year...)

Perspectives, continued

The view from the judge's booth...

You only get one chance to make a first impression.... This is a quote we have all heard and possibly even used as it applies to many things in life including job interviews, acceptance into a program, or simply meeting someone for the first time. It relates to many varied and wonderful experiences but I would argue that every time you come down centre line you get an opportunity for a start fresh. The judge isn't comparing your centre line to your last ride, it is a new chance to make an impression.

This being the case, be sure you make the impression you want. Don't waste the opportunity! Present yourself and your horse well. In our sport looking the part isn't just about creating a nice picture, it's about respecting your horse, the training that you have done and testing your progress. It is not about your bling (or do they call it swag now?). The first thing you want a judge to notice about you as you enter at 'A' is that your centre lines are good (8!) and secondly that you are both well turned out and tidy. The entry and the final salute are two very important parts of your tests and all sound horses and riders have the ability to manage an 8 or more on the movement. Practice! Your grandmother, your neighbour and even your 7 year old can give you feedback on this (you can borrow mine as she loves to give her opinion).

As someone that didn't always enjoy riding down centreline I believe I likely rode down a bit apologetically at times (I know I left apologetically as well after a few disobedient tests!) however, having been sitting at 'C' for a number of years now, I realize I did my horse a disservice. I signed up for the test, paid to be there and we were ready. Mistakes will happen but go in with a fresh attitude and know that the judge is with you, we want you to do well so give us the opportunity to use the marks. Ride confidently down the centreline and show your horse off.

You only get one chance to make a first impression... except in dressage.

Good luck in 2014!

Renée Young, EC Dressage Judge

Au coin du vet (the vet's corner)... part 1

Basic Biosecurity – simple steps for keeping your horses healthy

Safety when traveling [editor's note: e.g., to shows or clinics]

- Buckets should be disinfected both inside and out
- Be sure to maintain an up-to-date Coggins test for all your horses and carry it with you when you travel, along with a list of all current vaccinations and medications
- Do not use common water buckets or feed areas at shows or event grounds
- Do not share twitches, halters or other items that may touch a horse's eyes, nose or mouth
- Keep daily temperature logs for your horses, particularly if they show signs of malaise or loss of appetite
- Isolate any sick animals immediately when signs are recognized
- If you are travelling outside Canada, check with your veterinarian or a CFIA veterinarian regarding the entrance requirements of your destination. Be sure you have the required documents in place for your trip

Reprinted with permission from a presentation in Feb. 2014 by Ottawa Valley Large Animal Clinic (OVLAC) and Zoetis Canada Inc.

Perspectives, continued

Classical dressage

Dressage simply means training of the horse and comes from the French word "dressur" which means to train. Classical dressage has been around for hundreds of years and is the technically correct way to train a horse. The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the mental and physical aspects of the horse. Classical dressage creates athletic horses that are relaxed, balanced, supple and confident in their work.

One of the key elements of classical dressage is that the horse's head is positioned on the vertical which means that the horse is on the bit and accepting the bit. The only position or frame of the horse's body that produces muscular, supple, strong horses is when the nose is on the vertical. The horse learns to use its core muscles, lift its back and develop powerful haunches. The horse's energy is created in the hind legs and channeled through its body into the rider's soft hands that maintain an elastic contact to the bit. One of the great riding masters, Herbert Rehbein, was quoted as saying he "rides with tranquilizers in his hands".

When a horse is classically and harmoniously trained, the horse's muscles are able to lengthen, become supple and ultimately strengthen. Muscle physiology requires that muscles be relaxed, stretched and strengthened without tension or overflexion. This also means that there is no room for mental tension in the horse in order to develop supple muscles.

Classical dressage dates back to 400 B.C. when the Greek statesman, Xenophon, wrote a book on the art of riding. His book contained precise explanations and insights into the feelings of the horse. His training was based on intuition and kind treatment – a policy that, sadly, was not always followed by riding masters in later years. This attitude of kindness is best stated in his own words ... "Anything forced and misunderstood can never be beautiful." Classical dressage is the only way to preserve the beautiful nature and spirit of the horse.

Debra Quirt, B.Sc.
Equine Canada Certified Competition Coach
DLQ Dressage Training Services
www.dlqdressage.com

(In the next newsletter, we will have a second installment from Debra; the follow-up article will be on "Classical versus 'modern' dressage" – stay tuned!)

Au coin du vet (the vet's corner)... part 2

Basic Biosecurity – simple steps for keeping your horses healthy (continued)

Handling sick horses:

- Immediately isolate sick horses away from the rest of the herd
- Follow disinfection techniques with all equipment that comes in contact with sick horses
- Consult with your veterinarian about needed health care or vaccination protocols
- Carefully sanitize all stalls, buckets, flooring and other equipment when a sick horse leaves the facility
- Use a shallow basin full of properly mixed disinfectant for staff to wash their shoes or boots in before leaving the area containing sick horses
- Offer hand sanitizer to any and all people who have touched sick horses before healthy horses are touched
- Carefully read and follow directions on the labels of any disinfectants or sanitizers used

Reprinted with permission from the same presentation as "part 1".

If you have a story, comment, perspective, or viewpoint, please feel free to submit it for the next newsletter! Contact us through communications@ottawadressage.com. Your contribution will be much appreciated.

Another equestrian discipline...

...Driven Dressage

Reprinted from the Caballus Driving Society, <http://www.cs.uic.edu/~clitberg/cds/dressage.htm>

Driven dressage is exactly what it sounds like – dressage in harness. As with regular dressage, driven dressage competitions demand a high degree of training, suppleness, obedience, and safety. In all paces and movements, the horses must be on the bit and correctly positioned. Cadence and impulsion must be retained throughout the test. Driven dressage, despite not being as well known as other sports, is an FEI recognized sport, with the FEI providing international level tests.

The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. Through progressive training the horse becomes calm, supple, and flexible as well as confident, attentive and keen in his work. These qualities are revealed by the freedom and regularity of the paces; the harmony, lightness and ease of movement; the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion; and the acceptance of the bridle, without any tenseness or resistance. The horse, confident and attentive, submits generously to the driver, remaining straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines. His walk is regular, free and unconstrained. His trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active. Because the horse has impulsion and is free from resistance he will obey without hesitation and respond to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally. In all his work, even at the halt, the horse should be on the bit. A horse is said to be on the bit when the hocks are correctly placed, the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the driver.

Driven dressage is not just for single hitch, but for multiple hitch types. In multiple horse hitches, such as a pair or a four-in-hand, the team must give a picture of harmony, and should match in conformation and action. A groom is optional for singles, mandatory for pairs, and

two grooms are mandatory for unicorns [a three-horse hitch] or four-horse hitches.

There are four levels of driven dressage: training, preliminary, intermediate and advanced. The tests must be driven from memory, except in training level tests, where the test may be called.

To view a video of driven dressage, go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_ApnOQasBE

Comment from a friend on viewing the video:

“Oh my... that is, quite simply, the... the... the... most ELEGANT thing I have ever seen!”

Training level tests: The purpose of these tests is to establish that the correct foundation is being laid for the training of the driving horse requiring the green horse to move freely forward in a free walk on long rein and the working trot, in rhythm while accepting the bit with relaxation, through transitions and 40m circles. This level is also intended to encourage the inexperienced driver.

Preliminary level tests: The purpose of these tests is to establish that the horse has acquired a degree of balance and suppleness in addition to the rhythmical, free forward motion expected at the Training Level. While consistently accepting the bit the horse exhibits more activity of the haunches in the working trot and lengthened walk. To be demonstrated in 30m circles, 20m half circles, 3-loop serpentine, and lengthened trot.

Intermediate level tests: The purpose of these tests is to establish that the horse has become more freely forward with greater use of the haunches than at the Preliminary level, while remaining light in hand without resistance. To be demonstrated in working walk and trot, lengthened trot, 5-second halt, reinback, and 5-loop serpentine.

Advanced level tests: The purpose of these tests is to establish that the horse has acquired a greater degree of suppleness, balance and lightness in hand than at the Intermediate level while remaining reliably on the bit, producing more impulsion through further strength in the haunches and relaxation of the back and poll enabling the driver to collect and extend the trot. To be demonstrated in collected and extended trot, reinback, and 10-second halt.

Note that no OADG shows currently offer driven dressage classes (also known as “driving dressage”). A local competitor, Diana Trafford, added some comments about this article; see her contribution under “Perspectives” on the previous page.

See the Equine Canada website, Rules, “Section C: Driving – General, Pleasure, Driven Dressage, Draft, Recreation”.

Perspectives, continued

A local OADG connection to driven dressage (see previous page)

Diana Trafford, former OADG Board Member and Chair for several years, had a very successful dressage career under saddle, showing Intermediare 1 on Pharoah. Since 2006 she has focused on driving. In 2011, she placed 1st in Training and Preliminary Dressage at the Metamora Pleasure Driving show in Michigan and went on to win Reinsmanship for her division at the prestigious Walnut Hill Show in New York State. In 2012, she and "J. D.'s Abigail" placed 1st in the 5-mile Presentation Drive at Walnut Hill. Diana rides and drives at Graystone Equestrian Centre with Kerstin Blaeske.

Diana added the following comments about the article on Driven Dressage:

"The ring dimensions are 40x80 m for lower levels, 40x100 for more advanced. There are also tests designed for indoor arenas that would fit the 20x40 ridden dressage arena. So it would be possible to include that type of test in a ridden dressage show. The problem is that many dressage horses go crazy when they see a horse being chased by a carriage!

"Sometimes dressage tests are offered at the pleasure shows. The show we used to have at Fiddler's Green had dressage tests, and pleasure style cross-country. The pleasure show at Metamora - sadly no longer running - had tests at Training, Prelim and Intermediate.

"Readers might also like to know that dressage is the first phase of combined driving, as it is for eventing. Combined driving was developed on the model of eventing. Credit for this innovation is generally given to HRH Prince Philip.

"The Collective Marks include some considerations that are specific to driving. For example, under Gaits the judge will assess the 'maintenance of even pace and equality of work' for pairs or multiples. Under the Driver mark, the judge evaluates "Use of aids, handling of reins, whip and voice, position of driver." (Unlike competition in dressage under saddle, voice is a valuable aid!)

"The basics remain the same - the driving horse should show the desire to move forward, with elastic steps, a relaxed back and engaged hindquarters. The acceptance of the bit, correct lateral bend, attention and confidence, and calmness, lightness and ease of movements are all expected. Of course, the fact that the horse is pulling a carriage will affect the degree of collection, and the shafts will limit the bend."

Au coin du vet (the vet's corner)... part 3

Basic Biosecurity – simple steps for keeping your horses healthy (continued)

At home precautions:

- Work with your veterinarian to design an appropriate vaccination program for all horses in your care
- Be sure that horses entering your facility have up-to-date vaccinations as required and that they are free from communicable diseases
- Isolate incoming horses for at least 2 to 3 weeks before allowing them exposure to horses currently on the grounds
- Do not share water or feed buckets among horses
- When cleaning buckets, be sure not to let the hose nozzle touch the bucket itself
- Assign a set of grooming tools to each horse in your facility and clean them regularly
- Remove all manure and waste products to an appropriate location away from the barn
- Take steps to limit horses' exposure to pest disease vectors (such as flies)
- Consult with your veterinarian about ongoing wellness care for your horses, including regular physical and dental examinations and a recommended deworming program

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Local show schedule

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

This show schedule includes only local shows. For a list of the 2014 Ontario and Quebec shows, go to the OADG website. For a list of all horse shows, go to the Equine Canada website: <http://events.equinecanada.ca/index.aspx>

May		June	
Sun May 4	Spiritwood Schooling	May 30-June 1	Ottawa Dressage Festival Gold
Sun May 11	Heroncrest Schooling	June 14-15	Rainbow Ridge Silver / Gold
Sun May 18	Starlit Farm Schooling	Sat June 21	Heroncrest Schooling
	Centaur Gold	Sun June 22	Dewmont Farms Silver
Sun May 25	Spiritwood Silver	Sun June 29	Spiritwood Schooling
Sun May 31	Oakhurst Schooling		
May 30-June 1	Ottawa Dressage Festival Gold		
July		August	
Sat July 5	Numech Equestrian Centre Silver	Sun Aug 3	Centaur Silver
July 12-13	Rainbow Ridge Gold	Sun Aug 10	Spiritwood Silver
Sun July 20	Centaur Schooling	Sat Aug 16	Oakhurst Schooling
	Spiritwood Schooling	Sat Aug 23	Numech Equestrian Centre Silver
Sun July 27	Heroncrest Schooling	Sun Aug 31	Spiritwood Schooling
September		October	
Sun Sept 14	Ontario East Silver Championships Oakhurst	Sun Oct. 5	Centaur Schooling
Sun Sept 21	Preston Rosedale Schooling		

News from CADORA Ontario

There are no new developments to report at this stage, except for the Silver Championship which has already been covered in the President's message.

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).

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at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/OADG-Ottawa-Area-Dressage-Group/187355987992852>

Website: www.ottawadressage.ca