



Ottawa Area Dressage Group

www.ottawadressage.ca

Newsletter



OADG is a chapter of CADORA Inc.

OADG is a Dressage Canada affiliated riding club.

Summer 2015

Where did the summer go? It isn't quite over yet, but it feels like only a few weeks ago that Spring was delivering flowers and warmth. Of course, the recent heat-and-humidity wave could have stayed away... but it certainly provided a contrast with the winter weather! Hope everyone's show season is going well. Check out the information about awards and start planning to attend the banquet!

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Message from the President

Fellow OADG members,

Even though the temperature keeps rising we reached the tail end of the 2015 dressage season; as a matter of fact we have the CADORA Silver Dressage Championship coming up this Saturday, the local Gold shows are finished and there are but a few schooling shows remaining for this season. All in all we believe the season was a success and we hope that all riders and owners have had a successful season.

Having said that, there are two very important events that remain for this season. The banquet on December 5th and the following day, the Annual General Meeting on Sunday December 6th. I would encourage you to attend both events which are the only two that bring us together as a social group.

Two directors resigned since my last message. Christine Boucher in July and Laura-Lee Brennehan effective at the end of the current year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both of them and in particular Laura-Lee who has been on the Board for the last six years.

The Board has met seven times so far this year and will be meeting twice before the general meeting.

I must point out that 4 of the 10 Director's positions will be vacant for the next season which represents 40% of our Board. It is therefore necessary for the good functioning of the OADG Board to have replacements; otherwise some functions will have to be curtailed because of the lack of people power. I am therefore urging you to consider filling these vacancies. Should you be interested in becoming an OADG Director, I would ask you to email me your intentions or if you wish more information do not hesitate to contact me. The Board of Directors including new Directors will decide based on requirements, credentials and experience who will be the holders of the different portfolios. If you are interested in applying please consult the OADG website or any of the existing Directors concerning the functions and duties of each Director.

Pierre Paquette, OADG President

Save the date!...

The OADG 2015 Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015

**Hellenic Meeting and Reception Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa
(the same location as the 2013 and 2014 banquets)**

More details to come...

Important Information about Awards!

Madison Crich Memorial Adult Amateur Award

We wish to announce the "Madison Crich Memorial Adult Amateur Award". This is a new Special Award created to honour the memory of a local and well respected young adult who passed away earlier this year. Madison had many friends in the local dressage community and a group of them have formed to create this Special Award to honour her memory. It will be a yearly award, accompanied by a plaque, and will be presented at the OADG Annual Awards Banquet. Selection will be by nomination accompanied by an essay. Nominees and nominators must be current OADG members. More detailed information on the selection criteria (essay requirements) and forms will be available shortly in the OADG website.

Return of the Perpetual Trophies

By now, most of you would have received the following information via a special email bulletin from OADG. It bears repeating, since the deadline is approaching...

All trophies are to be returned by September 12.

Between now and September 12, you can return trophies to: Vision Saddlery, Encore Equestrian, Queenswood Stables (c/o Laura Lee Brenneman), or any OADG Director. In addition, you can drop them at the Silver Championships at Oakhurst Farm Show Secretary's Office (c/o Catherine Maguire), on show day only.

Please contact the awards director at awards@ottawadressage.ca if you have questions. I would appreciate an email informing me of your selected drop-off location, so I can track the returns. Thank you to those who have already sent an email!

Checking Mid-term Results

When the mid-term results are ready for checking, you will receive a reminder email notice to check your scores. They are available on the OADG website and will include an update on the Team Challenge. This year we have added a final column showing Top 3 Scores per competitor. Please note that this does not reflect "standings" for awards, as we still need to verify the eligibility criteria for number of different judges and venues. Final award standings will be published in late October.

Making Sure Your External Results Count! And PeeWee, Young Horse too!

Don't forget to submit your external score reporting forms as well as PeeWee and Young Horse forms! Email is the preferred method and as soon as possible is always appreciated!

Catherine Maguire, Awards Director
awards@ottawadressage.ca

Ve vant your blud....

New blood, that is! ☺ At the AGM, there will be some openings on the Board of Directors for the OADG. We would love to see some new faces on the Board, with new perspectives and new ideas. More information is available on the OADG website, or contact Pierre Paquette, President, president@ottawadressage.ca.



Horses of a Lifetime

[Editor's note] I saw many references to "horse of a lifetime" in recent newsletter articles (such as "Catching Up with Barbara O'Grady", "Catching Up With Jade Deter", "Having Hope"... and I wondered if other OADG members had a "horse of a lifetime". Yes, indeed, you do! I hope you all enjoy these stories as much as I did!

Zeus

by Tina Leach and Valerie Leach

At a young age of 6, the life of this horse was in danger as he stood in agony on 3 legs. It was three weeks in hospital and another two years of slow recovery and rehabilitation. With the support of a wonderful home, an amazing farrier and our equine masseuse we were proud to be back in the saddle.

Hoof surgery didn't stop him. We were fortunate to have two jumping show seasons, and when jumping was no longer an option we had another three amazing dressage show seasons.

In 2013 he was the OADG Silver AA Training Level Champion AND Gold Level Reserve Champion. He placed 3rd at the Ontario Dressage Championships. His rider was pronounced Dressage Queen for the year at our barn year-end awards ceremony.

You beat the odds, time and time again!

With a willpower to live and heart of gold, with the patience to heal and the love to perform, our horse has taught us to appreciate what we have and he inspires us to soldier on when obstacles cloud our vision.

Together we are proud and strong! We love you, Zeus!

Horse of a lifetime?...

My Horse of Course!! by Marion Bailey-Canham

As a little girl growing up in Saskatchewan I LOVED horses, but had rare opportunity to connect with them, other than my cousin and her horse Nellie, but they lived too far away. Then life carried on (I was a competitive figure skater as a kid) and I enjoyed many adventures, good (and sometimes bad ;o) – then, one day, I was visiting my friend at a horse stable – and thought, "Hay!" why not take some lessons, so I did and then the mid-life crisis hit. Not only was it fundamentally important to have a horse in my life – but yes, I must train in dressage (kind of like ice dance) – go figure! So I did!!

There have been wonderful, amazing and supportive people in my life (thank you Queenswood Gang) and, of course, well My Horse – Sir Matteo, the silliest, most talented, quirky and beautiful horse that ever was. It has been 12 years since Matteo came into my life and he has helped me through some hard times. Health, cancer and a whole bunch of other stuff" and if it weren't for My Horse (of Course) I am not sure if I could have survived as well as I did. He took care of me, in his own special way.

I just look into his eyes and, well, there it is, love, fun, understanding and support. Now, don't get me wrong – Matteo is no angel, rather he is a character and a half. He loves to play with me (Simone thinks that I am



Matteo's toy) and then he wraps his head around me and gives me the best, most loving, hug ever!!

Life is interesting, challenging and wonderful. I have many supportive, terrific people in my life – and I have My Horse of Course and always will in my heart and soul. Matteo is a special, special part of my life and always will be. I love you Buddy!

Kumara by *Laura-Lee Brenneman*

The first horse I ever bought was named Schnitzel - he was a 3 year old 17.3 Hanovarian. Ute Busse moved heaven and earth to help me buy him and I worked at the farm to pay his board and lessons. Our goal was for me to reach young riders with Schnitzel and for me to travel to Germany to work as a working student, but that wasn't to happen. In March of 2000 Schnitzel was diagnosed with wobbler's syndrome and euthanized shortly thereafter, he had just turned 6. My life was destroyed and my dreams gone. I then decided to become an accountant and I didn't ride for nearly 9 years. Fast forward to 2010 and I met my current mount Kumara. Kumara is an amazingly talented horse who puts up with her less talented rider. It was love at first sight and I bought her months after we met. Now we are riding at the Prix St. Georges level, a dream that I had dismissed long ago with the death of Schnitzel. There are not enough words for how much I love and respect Kumara and she has made my dreams come true.

Last Picasso (Pix) by **Kathi Burns**

Purchased as a five-month-old TB-Paint-Clydesdale filly, from a very small photo on the internet in 2002. Ear-marked for the feedlot. Arrived from Manitoba a month later as an extremely fearful and homely COLT.

Many hours were spent being able to get close and eventually touch him. For months we could not touch his face and when he was tranquilized for gelding found that his front teeth had been shattered and many shards were still imbedded in his infected gums. Once this was dealt with, he improved in leaps and bounds but would often retreat back into his shell if he became fearful at all. To this day he is the only horse I know that can successfully “hide” in a boxstall. LOL!

As his fears lessened his trusting nature started to evolve. With this trust came a huge want to please. No matter what you throw at this boy, he comes back with something even if he

doesn't quite understand what you are asking. He always “tries”. Over the years we have been learning together and this quality in him makes learning a pleasure. He has developed into the type of horse that you can do virtually anything with, from taking to a show to riding bareback though the fields or simply spending time with in the field or stall. He has grown to love people and has always been great with other animals. I have never seen him display any form of meanness (he still prefers to hide). His initial timid personality has remained ingrained but only surfaces on rare occasions.

He is far more than simply one of my horses. He is a dearly loved member of my furry family and I would not part with him for any amount of money. No matter what, he is always there for me with a welcoming look on his furry face.

I do love my Pix dearly. :o)



Member Advisory - Proposed 2016 Equine Canada Rule Changes Now Available for Review and Comment

The following text is a reprint of an email from Equine Canada about the draft proposed rule changes for 2016. All Equine Canada members have the right to propose rule changes, and also to review and comment on the proposals from other members.

Of possible interest to OADG members (this is not a complete list!):

- It is proposed that bitless bridles be permitted for walk/trot through Fourth Level.
- Riders who use the Micklem bridle may want to note the proposed addition of “without clips”.
- The rule about “braiding bands” for the mane has been clarified.
- The rule about ear nets (fly hoods) has also been clarified.

Don't forget to also review the General Regulations (Section A), as that rule book also applies to dressage competitions.

Please note that if you like a proposed rule, it might be a good idea to submit a positive comment! 😊

Deadline for comments is September 30!!!

Ottawa, ON, September 3, 2015 - It is the right of every member of Equine Canada (EC) to propose amendments to the rules, subject to the current policies, procedures and schedules.

Earlier this year EC members were invited to submit suggestions for 2016 rule changes. These were reviewed by the respective rules committees. The 2016 Rule Change Proposals (RCPs) are now posted for public comment.

RCPs will be posted on the Equine Canada website beginning September 1st to allow for a 30-day member review. During this time members are encouraged to read the proposals and offer comment. The deadline for member comments is September 30.

The National Rules Committee and the respective discipline rules committees will consider pertinent public comments and modify/correct/withdraw any RCPs requiring attention prior to October 15.

Finalized rule changes will be posted on the EC website by December 1, to be effective January 1, 2016.

To send comments or questions regarding Equine Canada rules process, please contact Emilie Church at rules@equinecanada.ca

What I wish I'd known then: Build a Foundation with Suppleness

The Training Pyramid was presented at a lecture that I attended in the early 70s. Memorizing the six steps was easy; the challenge was understanding the importance of following the sequence and building the foundation needed for success at the higher levels. I wish I'd known then to have the patience to follow the steps throughout the development stages and recognize there are no shortcuts.

I now appreciate the importance of suppleness, not only in the initial training, but the necessity of maintaining it throughout the horse's development.

The quality of every movement is determined by the first three steps of the Training Pyramid: RHYTHM, SUPPLENESS and CONTACT, Rhythm is paramount in assessing gaits. Suppleness improves the gaits making them more elastic and rhythmic, developing the horse gymnastically and producing the much talked about "happy athlete". A steady elastic contact can only be achieved when a horse is working with a relaxed swinging back.

Introducing the stretchy circle at training level encourages correct training. The horse must maintain a balanced rhythmical trot and demonstrate longitudinal suppleness and acceptance of the bridle by stretching over the back into the contact. This is the beginning of teaching the horse to work through the neck and back into the bridle.

The forward and downward lowering of the head softly stretches the neck and back muscles allowing full range of motion at each joint. The shoulders become freer, the gaits more elastic with the horse working through its top-line into the bridle with more engaged hindquarters. The relaxed swinging back improves the balance producing correct rhythm, a soft chewing of the bit and acceptance of the forward driving aids. The horse can now meet the Training Level test purpose: to confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit. This thoroughness must be further developed and maintained throughout the horses training for success at the advanced levels.

When the muscle groups are constricted, the horse's elasticity, freedom and range of motion are restricted. Choppy hurried steps, broken necks, mouth problems, sluggish hindquarters, above and/or behind the bit, stiff hollow backs and contact problems are some of the resistances that can be attributed to a need for longitudinal suppling. Through suppling exercises, the horse must be willing to stretch its top-line, and work through the back and neck accepting a steady elastic connection from behind. Horses that are ridden front to back with constricted short necks lack shoulder freedom and the ability to swing over their backs with active engaged hind legs.

Irregularities in lateral work often manifest themselves in a sound horse lacking lateral suppleness. The compassionate rider will resist the temptation to use stronger aids. The sign of a good trainer is one who has the patience to go back and address the root of the problem. More often than not the problem is not a lack of communication, but a need for suppleness. With suppleness (longitudinal and lateral) the well-muscled horse will perform the movements with balance and ease. The horse that is forced into submission will always appear stiff and tense. Looseness and relaxation must be obvious in every movement at all levels.

I wish I had known from the beginning how to use suppleness to make the right things easy and the wrong things hard. There are no shortcuts.

Doreen Horsey, Dressage Canada Senior Judge

This article was originally printed in the May 2013 issue of Dressage Today magazine, and then reprinted in The Officials Post. It is reprinted here with permission of Doreen Horsey.

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.



Sponsorship news...

Many thanks to the great sponsors who are once again making the Cadora Ont. Silver Dressage Championships-East a very attractive show with so many wonderful prizes to be won by competitors. This show is on Sept. 12 and is being held once again at Oakhurst Farm.

Sue Otto, Sponsorship Director
sponsorship@ottawadressage.ca

News from CADORA Ontario

There are three main events coming up in relation to CADORA Ontario:

- The CADORA Eastern Silver Championship will be held at Oakhurst Farm on Saturday, September 12th, 2015.
The two judges who will be officiating for that event are Anne Galt (Eastern representative) and Dorita Peer (Western representative).
- The CADORA Annual General Meeting will be held at the Mohawk Inn in Guelph on Sunday, November 29.
- CADORA is hosting a Steven Clarke clinic at Louise Palmer's South Lane Farm in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, on Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5; please visit the Cadora Ontario website for additional details.

Pierre Paquette, CADORA representative for the OADG

Breeding

Many years ago I had a home-bred stallion's semen collected and frozen. His breeding is out of a Galoubet mare by Gromiko, whose sire was Bundspekt de Lazalle, a Belgium warmblood who was apparently Belgium's leading sire for 10 years. Galoubet is the now-deceased Grand Prix jumper from France who won 21 of his 22 Grand Prix showings and was second in the other one. In 2013 a trial breeding of six Thoroughbred mares produced three very nice foals. Semen is available to interested parties. Contact Sue Otto, em382@ncf.ca.

For anyone interested in visiting New Zealand in 2016...

For those of you who are dreading the upcoming winter weather, after the coldest February in 110 years, I would like to offer an idea for March 2016. Terry and I were in New Zealand; it is their opposite season so now is going into Spring there. For 2016 we are planning a reasonably active trip to the South Island that could involve riding, walking and a guided cycling trip through the majestic Otago Rail Trail. This strip would start and end in Christchurch, with a myriad of ways to get there. Interested persons, please contact Sue Otto, em382@ncf.ca.

Local show schedule

Please check the OADG website regularly for updates and new information: www.ottawadressage.ca/shows
 The show schedule below includes only local shows. For a list of the 2015 Ontario and Quebec shows, go to the OADG website. For a list of all horse shows, go to Equine Canada: <http://events.equinecanada.ca/index.aspx>

May		June	
Sun May 3	Centaur Gold	June 7	Mountain Star Schooling
Sun May 9	Oakhurst Schooling	June 13-14	Rainbow Ridge Gold
Sun May 17	Heroncrest Schooling	June 20	Numech Equestrian Centre Schooling
Sun May 23	Mountain Star Silver	June 27-28	Dewmont Silver/Gold
May 28-31	Ottawa Dressage Festival Gold/Platinum		
July		August	
July 4-5	Rainbow Ridge Gold	Sun Aug 2	Centaur Gold
July 19	Numech Equestrian Centre Silver	Sat Aug 8	Mountain Star Schooling
	Centaur Schooling	Sun Aug 9	Graystone Silver
July 25	Starlit Silver	Aug 15	Oakhurst Silver
July 26	Heroncrest Schooling	Aug 22-23	Numech Equestrian Centre Silver/Gold
		Aug 23	Skyline Schooling
		Aug 29	Starlit Schooling
		Aug 30	Oakhurst Silver (rescheduled)
September		October	
Sept 6	Meadowvale Schooling	Sun Oct. 18	Centaur Schooling
Sat Sept 12	Eastern Division of Silver Championships, at Oakhurst		
Sun Sept 20	Preston Rosedale Schooling		

Contact us -- Your OADG Board of Directors

President and CADORA Rep.	Pierre Paquette	613-821-6206	president@ottawadressage.ca
Secretary/Treasurer	Laura-Lee Brenneman	613-421-1741	treasurer@ottawadressage.ca
Awards	Catherine Maguire	613-256-2725	awards@ottawadressage.ca
Show Coordinator	Anne Galt	613-252-4360	showambassador@ottawadressage.ca
Education Coordinator	Peggy McQuaid	613-831-2692	education@ottawadressage.ca
Membership	Mandy Spear	613-513-3657	membership@ottawadressage.ca
Communications	Jane Hunt	613-258-6074	communications@ottawadressage.ca
Sponsorship	Susan Otto	613-821-1428	sponsorship@ottawadressage.ca
Banquet			banquet@ottawadressage.ca
Webmaster	Cathy Gordon	613-257-5145	webmaster@ottawadressage.ca
***Governance Committee	Catherine Maguire	613-256-2725	awards@ottawadressage.ca



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