



Ottawa Area Dressage Group

www.ottawadressage.ca

Newsletter



OADG is a chapter of CADORA Inc.

OADG is a Dressage Canada affiliated riding club.

Spring 2016

The common theme in this newsletter is: it's time to renew memberships or purchase new ones. And we don't mean just an OADG membership – while we think an OADG membership is well worth your investment, you are **required** to have certain other memberships in order to show. We hope the articles help explain what you need.

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Message from the President

Hello OADG Members! Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2016 season. Your Board of Directors has been quite active already this year and we are making progress on a number of interesting areas that you will find in this newsletter.

Right now, the most important message I have is that "we thank you for your membership last year and we encourage you to renew for the 2016 season".

Our local show schedule is published and you will find a good selection of shows and venues throughout the season, starting May 8 and ending on October 23. Please remember to check for any awards criteria changes for this season. All of these things can be found on our "new-look" website www.ottawadressage.ca.

I want to thank all the new and returning Board members, as well as our behind-the-scenes helpers, who put a lot of effort into ensuring things run smoothly. You will find the list of Board members at the end of this newsletter. I encourage you to communicate with any of us if you have questions / concerns / compliments ☺. You will see us around most of the local shows, so don't hesitate to chat. We have the largest and most active membership in Ontario which is due to the participation of you, our members, as well as the enthusiastic effort of the volunteers!

In closing, I encourage you to take a few moments to give us some feedback via our on-line survey so that OADG can continue to offer things of interest to you. You will find the web link here as well as on our website and Facebook page. The survey is open until June 1 and results will be posted afterward.

Survey web link: <http://goo.gl/forms/Dy7jPyhQ8Z>

See you soon!
Catherine Maguire, OADG President



Sponsors:

Cadora National (Cadora Inc.) dressagegames@aol.com

Cadora Ont., Don Barnes, President, dressagegames@aol.com

Equine Canada, www.equinecanada.ca; 1-888-282-8395

Ontario Equestrian Federation, www.horse.on.ca; 1-877-441-7112

Ottawa Area Dressage Group, www.ottawadressage.ca

Apple Saddlery, 613-744-4040

Circle J Ranch, Metcalfe, 613-821-2437

William McDonald, The Co-operators,
Manotick, 613-692-5070

Clarmell Farms Bakery, Manotick,
www.clarmellfarms.com, 613-826-2959

Crazy Carousel Tack Shop,
Rigaud, Quebec, 1-450-458-2430

Royal Lepage Team Realty,
Dan Morris, 613-821-7730

Dazzle By Design Graphics Studio Inc.,
Greely, www.dazzlebydesign.ca;

ECOGOLD HT Ecologic Product Ltd.,
www.ecogold.ca, 1-514-342-5893

Emerald Links Golf & Country Club,
Manotick Station, 613-822-6353

Encore Equestrian Tack and Apparel,
Hwy 43, Merrickville, www.encoreequestrian.com,
613-269-Tack (8225)

Jane Garbutt, RBC Mortgage Specialist,
jane.garbutt@rbc.com; 613-283-7610

Greenhawk Harness & Equestrian Supplies,
Nepean, 613-225-9900

Hawley's Corners Gift Shop,
Metcalfe, 613-821-1332

ISOLARA Solar Power,
613-738-2646

Surgenor Barrhaven Chevrolet Buick GMC,
1-613-692-3553, www.surgenorbarrhaven.com

Kate's Kreations, Kate Sim,
katepaintsonglass@gmail.com;

Kicking Horse Media,
<http://kickinghorsemedia.ca>, 613-257-5145

Maple Lane Equestrian Trailers,
Smith Falls, 1-866-235-3401

Peggy McQuaid,
Stittsville

Catherine Maguire,
Almonte

Mississippi Mills Animal Hospital,
www.mmah.ca, 613-256-8000

Metcalfe Golf & Country Club,
Metcalfe, 613-821-2701

Russell Equine Veterinary Services,
www.russellequine.com; 613-445-3521,
Dr. Carole Michon and Dr. Garth Henry,

Steve Morris,
Certified Journeyman Farrier,
Oxford Mills, 613-258-4417

Northern Equestrian Centre,
Osgoode, 613-229-5547

Oakhurst Farm,
Joan Allum and Mark Nelson,
www.oakhurstfarm.ca;

Ontario Federation of Agriculture,
Guelph, 1-800-668-3276

Susan and Terry Otto,
Metcalfe

Rainbow Ridge Ranch,
S. Curtis & L. Maltby,
Greely, 613-821-2939

RBC Royal Bank, Metcalfe Branch,
Mike Soloski, 613-821-2021

Red Dot Café, Market Square,
Osgoode, 613-826-0552

Stittsville Trailer and Auto Sales Inc.,
Orville Hartwick, 613-831-2080

Rocking Horse Stable,
Val and Jim Everson,
613-488-3066

Rowland Leather,
Merrickville,
1-800-806-6983, www.rowlandleather.com

Schleese Saddlery Service Ltd.,
www.schleese.com,
1-800-225-2242

Stone Meadows Equestrian Centre,
Robin-Lynn and Jon Brent,
www.stonemeadowstable.com; 613-295-9147

Top Riding Equestrian Centre,
Robert Gharibzadeh,
www.topriding.ca; 613-676-3521

Valley Vet Clinic, Carleton Place, equine@valleyvet.ca; Dr. Evangeline Wiens, 613-257-3202



Message from our Membership Director...

Welcome to spring! No, no, wait – still winter. One sec...yep, definitely spring! Hold on...ice storm...sigh. Despite the confusion of the seasons, one thing is still for certain – your OADG memberships are due on **May 31st!** Some of you have already impressed me (way to go, champs) and some of you have me worried based on last year's remedial calendar reading abilities. Regardless, I am willing to forgive and move forward for the collective benefit. This time.

NEW on the form for 2016: I need to know the name of the horse(s) you plan to compete and who owns said beast(s). In order to qualify for our end of season awards, both the rider **AND** the owner of the horse **MUST** be members of the OADG. What a super conversation starter for you and your horse pack:

“Hey (insert name here)! Isn't it awesome that both rider and owner need to be members of the OADG? Let's make sure (insert another friend's name here) knows too! And since we're all here together, let's look at where May 31st falls on the calendar this year!”

And they all lived happily ever after. Please note that ignorance and tears will not work on me as I have been hardened by my role in modern day education. Happy schooling – the countdown is on, people!

Mandy Spear, Membership Director
membership@ottawadressage.ca

Message from our Awards Director...

Here we are just about ready to start another show season. All information on the 2016 Awards criteria has been posted on the OADG website. Please ensure that you read over the criteria that apply to you.

A few things to note:

- The Team Challenge declarations must be submitted by May 31st. Freestyles are excluded for all levels. Young horse classes are excluded at the Gold level.
- PeeWee – A rider is considered PeeWee until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 12 years of age. Anyone born in 2004 or earlier is a PeeWee rider for 2016.
- Bronze show scores do not count towards any of the OADG awards.
- All trophies are expected to be returned by the Eastern Silver Championships (September 11). Keep an eye on the website and Facebook later in the show season for details on locations to return the trophies.
- All forms for Silver, Gold and FEI awards are due October 1st.
- Forms for ESD (schooling shows) are due October 24th after the last show of the season.

Caroline Peck, Awards Director
awards@ottawadressage.ca

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.

Memberships

Here is a handy-dandy chart to track which memberships are required, recommended and optional:

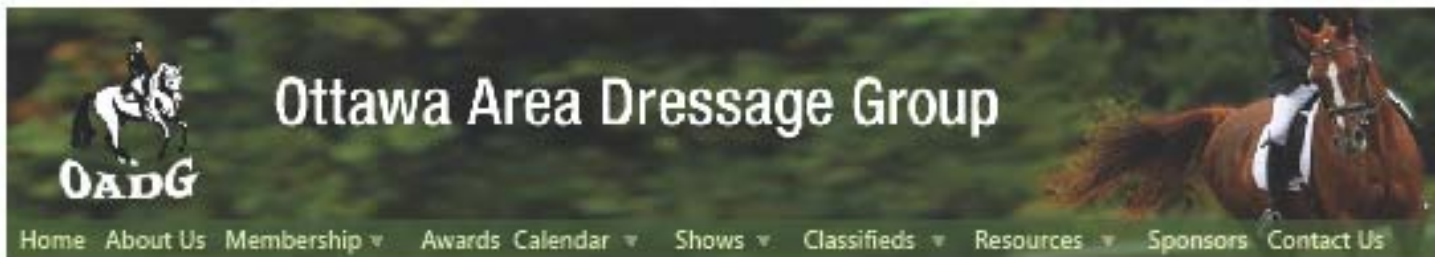
ORGANIZATION	MANDATORY				RECOMMENDED	
	OEF (OR EQUIVALENT PTSO)	EQUINE CANADA SPORT LICENCE	EQUINE CANADA HORSE LICENCE (PASSPORT)	DRESSAGE CANADA	OADG	CADORA
LEVEL OF COMPETITION						
ESD Schooling	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Bronze	✓	BRONZE ✓	✗	✗	✓	ONTARIO ✓
Silver	✓	SILVER ✓	✓	NEW ✓ 2016	✓	ONTARIO ✓
Gold	✓	GOLD ✓	✓	✓	✓	NATIONAL ✓

Note: Bronze show scores are not eligible for annual OADG awards.

The next page includes our new OADG poster, listing the advantages of joining the OADG. And finally, the pages after that provide a description of the required memberships for each level, and the membership form itself (also available on the website at www.ottawadressage.ca).

Look for our upcoming series in the next few newsletters:

- "Young Riders to Young Professionals"—interviews with Ottawa-area horsepeople who competed on the Young Rider circuit (up to and including 21 years old), maybe even made the team for the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYR); and have now established themselves as professionals and are coaching riders and training horses to compete in dressage
- "What inspired you?" - What inspiration or life lesson have you learned from your horse, from your training, or from someone else (your coach, another rider) or from a situation that you either observed or were involved in? We are hoping for contributions from our OADG members, similar to the "horse of a lifetime" feature last year. Stay tuned for more info!



Ottawa Area Dressage Group

Your source for dressage shows, clinics and annual awards

Support dressage in the Ottawa area by becoming a member of the Ottawa Area Dressage Group.

Membership benefits include:

- Local show sponsorship
- Trophies, Awards and Banquet
- Newsletter
- Facebook page and newsbriefs
- Web Site
- Free classified ads on the website and in the newsletter
- Clinics, Demonstrations and Education offered specifically for our members
- Discounts at OADG sponsored clinics

The OADG is a regional, non-registered not-for-profit organization dedicated to encouraging interest and participation in the sport of Dressage in the Ottawa area and its surrounding communities. It is managed on a volunteer basis by a Board of Directors elected yearly by the membership. The OADG is a chapter of the Canadian Dressage Owners and Riders Association (CADORA). The OADG is a Dressage Canada affiliated riding club.



Visit <http://ottawadressage.ca> for:

- Membership information
- Contact information
- List of local dressage stables
- Classified ads
- Listing of Ontario and Quebec Dressage Horse Shows



Description of the memberships required at each level

Depending on which level you want to show, you'll need to purchase certain memberships, and we recommend that you purchase other memberships. Here's a summary:

OADG Membership

Renew or purchase new before May 31st, 2016 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.

OADG membership is always optional. A rider or horse may compete in dressage competitions without any membership in any level of the OADG, CADORA Ontario, or CADORA National. However, both rider and horse owner must have memberships 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).
- Schooling Series: Equestrian Skills Development (ESD) and OEF Schooling Shows
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)
 - **NEW IN 2016:** A Dressage Canada Affiliate membership
 - The horse owner must have an Equine Canada passport for the horse, with valid "horse licence sticker" for 2016
- 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 Dressage Canada Affiliate membership
 - The horse owner must have an Equine Canada passport for the horse, with valid "horse licence sticker" for 2016
- 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 2016
 - o A valid FEI passport including a valid EC "horse licence sticker" for 2016

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



**OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP
2016 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 and 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**.

BOTH THE RIDER AND OWNER* OF THE HORSE MUST join no later than May 31st in order to qualify for awards*.

*If different from rider. Owners must have at least an OADG local membership for horse to qualify for OADG awards.

*Scores up to and including May 31st are also valid for year-end awards as long as rider/owner memberships are received by May 31st.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ OEF# _____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL (Please print clearly): _____

Newsletter Delivery by Email only (or write 'no newsletter' following your email address if you do not wish to receive one)

HORSE OWNER NAME(S): _____

(SHOW) NAME(S) OF HORSE(S): _____

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

DRESSAGE OFFICIAL: COACH _____ JUDGE _____ STEWARD _____ LEVEL _____

COMPETITION CATEGORY: JUNIOR _____ ADULT AMATEUR _____ OPEN _____ NON COMPETITOR _____

COMPETITION LEVEL: SCHOOLING _____ BRONZE _____ SILVER _____ GOLD _____ PLATINUM/CDI _____ NON COMPETITOR _____

Membership Fees:

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPES – PLEASE 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)	\$ _____	Stall Info Card (\$5.00 each)	\$ _____
Omnibus Rain Cover (\$3.00 each)	\$ _____	Test Planner (\$5.00 each)	\$ _____
CADORA Lapel Pin (\$5.00 each)	\$ _____	CADORA Key Chain (\$2.00 each)	\$ _____

TOTAL REMITTED FOR MEMBERSHIPS, SUPPLIES (Supplies ONLY for CADORA National members) **TOTAL \$ _____**

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

Membership is valid as of the date the completed **form** and **fee** are received **together** by the OADG membership director.

Mail to: Mandy Spear Phone: 613-513-3657
 3979 Diamondview Rd. Email: membership@ottawadressage.ca
 Kinburn, ON OADG Website: <http://ottawadressage.ca/renew/>
 K0A 2H0

Membership forms may be **emailed** to membership@ottawadressage.ca **IF** accompanied by an **email money transfer*** to the *same email*.
 *Please state your full name(s) in the description box of the transfer for the purpose of clarity.

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
2016 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 Ontario or CADORA National 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	<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. - 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.

The Stephen Clarke Clinic – October 3 and 4, 2015

By Peggy McQuaid, OADG Education Director

Once again, CADORA Inc. was able to have Stephen Clarke host the “Build a Better Dressage Horse” Symposium. This, the 11th annual in the popular series, was once again hosted at South Lane Farm in Vankleek Hill, Ontario. And again, Louise and Joe Palmer, their staff and volunteers and of course the hard workers of CADORA Inc. did a wonderful job putting together a great two days of learning for everyone who attended. Also, a special thanks goes out to Crazy Carousel of Hudson, QC who very generously donated the great door prizes.

Initially, I wasn't planning on writing an article because I felt that some of the sessions were very horse/rider specific. Then, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that the challenges that these riders had with their horses were actually quite common. All of us at one time or another have been presented with issues that we have been at a loss to solve on our own. While these riders did not solve their problem in their one session with Stephen Clarke, they certainly went away with exercises and good advice on how to proceed.

Without being too specific, here are the strategies, exercises and advice that were shared on those days:

-
- The rider's hands need to be close together to establish a better contact with the horse.
 - If the horse thinks of running away with you, do a downward transition instead.
 - Where the horse's head is, is his business. The rider's is to ride forward with still hands – your contact should be quiet and relaxed. If you keep your hands quiet and forward, your horse may decide to settle into a nice contact.
 - Want expression within paces but want true expression from impulsion not from tension.
 - Don't pull backwards but lift hands to raise head and poll.
 - For the very hot and tense horse, you need to work to achieve control and relaxation. One way is to take them down and round and then up again quite frequently during a session.
 - Leg yield must be straight with no bend. When going down the ¼-line, make sure you are straight before going sideways.
 - To improve collection, shorten thorough the corners and then lengthen. Also, in canter do 10-12 meter circles at every corner.
 - When stretching down, the horse must step into the contact with impulsion. Remember when taking the neck lower, it does not mean longer.
 - For the horse that does not stretch down with contact – you need to have contact and gradually work him down until he works through with a long and low frame on contact – you want him to stretch over his back. Remember your horse is only allowed to stretch in contact!
 - Remember to train your horse to step into the outside rein as soon as you put your inside leg on.
 - When the horse gives to your inside leg, your inside rein should be feather light.
 - The better the horse does the basics, the better the horse can do the “tricks”.
 - If your horse won't stay in walk, put him into shoulder-in.
 - For those of you looking to improve your canter pirouettes, here is an exercise to strengthen – do the “pirouette canter” through the corner and then go forward on the long side. Progress to doing it in all corners.
 - Rule of thumb, the size of the pirouettes is directly related to the quality of the canter.
 - The beginning canter pirouette is done via a 3-loop serpentine where the pirouette is done

at the centerline, i.e., using only ½ of the arena and only the two center loops and not on the short sides.

- Another exercise for canter pirouette: come in boldly and do a couple of strides and then ride out in shoulder fore. Also, if the horse takes over, ride out in shoulder fore right away.
- One of the best comments... “a little bit crooked is like being a little bit pregnant – 9 months later you have a problem”.
- Shoulder-in, need more stepping under rather than forward.
- Half pass, start with shoulder-in, then travers and then into ½ pass.
- Quarters-in at canter, correct with a bit of shoulder-fore.
- For the young horse, if he tilts his head, exaggerate the flexion and contact.
- Posting trot is really good to get the horse forward off the leg and teaches the horse to listen to your lower leg.
- In lengthening, make sure that your horse goes uphill and comes under from behind – not pushing downwards in front.
- When training lengthen or extended canter, to bring your horse back do a small circle – small enough to bring him back but large enough that your horse doesn’t lose his balance.
- To improve the extension in medium trot, break the long side down into 3 parts (can be done in rising trot): 1) start in shoulder-in 2) straighten and lengthen 3) back to should-in. Note: bring your horse back before he loses the rhythm and balance.
- When the horse hangs on the inside rein, i.e., say the left – don’t try to stop it by breaking the contact as that will result in the horse being behind the bit. Rather, use your left leg to raise the horse up and put him on the right rein.
- Exercise to improve the ½ pass in canter: do shoulder fore, a few steps in ½ pass, shoulder fore, etc. Make sure the angle is not too steep.
- When doing ½ pass, make sure you point your horse exactly where you want to go – aim the front of the chest.
- Turn on the forehand teaches the horse to move away from the inside leg.
- To train your horse to be straight down the long side in canter when the horse wants to drift and be crooked – come through the corner with a bit of shoulder-fore so that the horse comes on the track straight from the corner.
- When the horse pushes with the hind end and then runs away with the front end, you need to use a bit of shoulder-fore to help the horse come under more from the hind end, i.e., drop the hind and carry. Remember, shoulder-fore helps the horse take the weight on the hind end.
- When the horse does changes in 2s instead of 3s or 1s instead of 2 or 4 – rather than count the changes, say left, left, left, right, right, right (3,3), which helps the rider keep the proper position and this translates through the horse and will improve the changes.
- One tempis can be small in the beginning and then you must work toward making them bigger.
- To do flying changes, your horse must be absolutely straight in the canter coming in and going out of the change. Note: do not teach the horse flying changes until he is solid in counter canter and can pick up either lead in any direction.
- Remember your horse has to learn to maintain the contact, lower the neck and head, release their back and come through.
- Really important – don’t forget to give your horse a break from the pressure of work and then take him up again and ask once more.

That’s it for this session. I really hope that you take advantage of Stephen Clarke’s incredible knowledge at the next clinic, which has been confirmed for October 1 and 2, 2016 at South Lane Farm. I would also like to thank the riders and horses who participated in the clinic. By sharing their challenges, as auditors, we too were given an opportunity to learn.



Young Riders to Young Professionals – first in a series

The first in a series of interviews with riders/coaches/trainers from the Ottawa area who competed on the the Junior and Young Rider circuits (up to and including 21 years old), maybe even made the team for the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYR); and have now established themselves as professionals and are coaching riders and training horses to compete in dressage.

Jade Deter:

What was it like, competing on the YR circuit?

At the NAJYR Championships, I competed as a Junior in 2007 and a Young Rider in 2008 and 2009. Competing on the JR/YR circuit was a great introduction to bigger shows at the National and International levels. At such a young age, you are already exposed to top international procedure such as the vet check and jog. It prepares you well for your future years as you know the protocol and what to expect at CDI shows.

Was there a “watershed moment” when you decided to become a professional, or did you always have the plan to make your living as a coach/trainer?

No, no “watershed moment”. I’ve always wanted to do it, since I can remember. It was always the way I knew I wanted to live my life, I just knew I had to find a way to make it happen, to make my dream a reality.

What were the first few years like, being on your own and responsible for everything? And what is it like now, when you have had at least a couple of years to get established?

I moved to the United Kingdom when I was 18, and met Angus when I was 20; together, we run AJ Sporthorses. Until then, I worked as an underrider for riders in the UK such as Carl Hester and Pammy Hutton. When Angus and I started out, we began pretty small with about 6 horses; now 5 years later we have about 20. The first few years are difficult because you are just trying to get on your own two feet and you discover how much things like hay and bedding cost!!! Angus and I have always done all of the work on our own rather than hiring staff, in order to save money. We’ve had quite a few working students. So we are very much involved on the yard and much out 5 boxes each, every morning.

Do you have a sponsor? Is it easier to develop a horse business with a sponsor? Or does a sponsor make it more difficult because you have to consult with them over absolutely everything? If you don’t have a sponsor, do you wish you did? Why?

We each have numerous sponsors for tack, equipment and clothing. My parents have always been very supportive of my horses whether I am in the UK or Canada. We have owners who own some of our horses or part-own horses with us in some cases. We have just moved to one of our owners’ yards at the end of last year. The move has given us so much more opportunity to expand our business with young horses and breeding because with the move came so much more land! ☺... And the more horses out, means less mucking out...

Do you have a support team, or do you have to do everything yourself?

Yes, we do have a support team which includes our trainers, vet, farrier and physio. As I mentioned, we do a lot of the yard work ourselves. At the moment, we have one working student, Angus and I for 20 horses; 16 stabled. Over the summer months, we will probably add another working student to our team.

Do you still manage to compete, yourself; and what are your own competitive goals for the future?

Yes, I do still manage to compete. I think it's important to make time to compete yourself. I have an 8-year-old mare that I part-own with a family in Belgium who is training PSG. I have a 5-year-old mare that took me 3 years to save up to buy (I bought her as a 4-year-old, unbroken). And I also have a 4-year-old mare that I own with Angus. These two young ones will be aimed at the Young Horse classes.

What is the best thing about being a professional coach/trainer?

The best thing has to be when you make your students happy. And when you give them the confidence in themselves and the horse. It can be as simple as one of them finally perfecting a transition or riding a flying change. Another thing I love about being a coach/trainer is pairing pupils with the right horses for them. I find that very rewarding. There is nothing better than seeing a perfectly matched horse/rider combination.

What is the worst thing?

Paperwork is not that much fun, but it has to be done.

What do you wish you had known before making the big step of turning pro?

I think you learn as you go in this sport. Every day, you learn something new whether it is from a horse or one of your pupils in the way they interpret an exercise or explanation. Everyone has a different style of learning, and when you are a coach/trainer you have to be able to put one thing across in several different ways to appeal to various learning styles. So, is there anything I wish I'd known before? I'd say no because I am still learning everyday.

Has it been what you dreamed it would be, so far? Would you do it all over again?

Well... it's far from my dreams yet... I dream of having a yard like the Glock's stables one day! So we are not quite there yet!!! But it is great, I love my job and you have to love it to do it day in and day out. It's a job that is 24/7 all year round! It's very hard work but it is very rewarding. Yes, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. I couldn't see myself doing anything other than working with horses.

Contact info:

If you would like to join our team in any way, whether becoming an owner or coming as a working student, please contact us.

We always have a variety of horses for sale, from young horses to advanced horses for both jumping and dressage. If you are looking for your next partner, don't hesitate to ask us. We also have connections in Europe to help you find your dream equine partner.

We are both available for clinics in Canada, and Jade comes back to Canada twice a year for a week at a time to teach.

Please look at our website ajsportshorses.co.uk and like our Facebook page AJ Sportshorses. We also have Twitter. Email ajsportshorses@outlook.com

Future interviews in this series will be with other professionals with connections to the Ottawa area and, especially, with the OADG. We have already have sent out invitations to more "Young Riders to Professionals"; but contributions and suggestions from anyone are welcome!



Madison Crich was an avid horsewoman and member of the OADG. Sadly, she passed away in early 2015, in Kingston while attending university. The first annual Madison Crich Memorial Award was presented at the 2015 OADG Awards Banquet. This special award was created by friends and family of Madison to honour the memory of a local and well-respected young adult. The person who receives this award is someone who strives to make the dressage community a more positive place. Madison had many friends and admirers in the dressage community and is remembered for her love of the sport and wonderful horsemanship.

Profile: Ainsley Elisabeth Kee

Winner of the first annual Madison Crich Memorial Award

Submitted by Briannon Johnson, Head Coach and Trainer, Stonecreek Farm, Gananoque

Ainsley Elizabeth Kee is probably one of the most gracious and hard-working dressage enthusiasts I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Her patience with the horse she loves so dearly, her passion and dedication to the sport as well as her genuine and heartfelt enthusiasm for the dressage community in general is exemplary and is something I think many of us could learn from... and should be humbled by.

Ainsley has worked tirelessly, in front of my very eyes, to gain the trust of a horse that by every right should not have been able to do what he has managed to achieve this year. A former abuse case, and a cryptorchid (improperly gelded by his abusers and still has one testicle intact causing an imbalance in testosterone levels and aggression problems) he is quite the challenge even for a skilled rider. Ainsley has dedicated three years to polishing this little diamond in the rough, also known as Bangarang (the call of the lost boys) until he shone. Tirelessly and with a patience that baffled most, she coaxed him out of a shell that knew only fear and taught him to walk, trot and canter and the finer points of the dressage training scale. She dedicates all of her spare time to her "little mud scup", her "creature". Despite not owning him and having no vested interest in him other than the fact that she simply adores him, she continues to dedicate her every effort to ensure his progression up the training scale. After mastering the qualities of Training Level, and having achieved multiple scores over 70% this year, she has progressed to teaching him First Level movements and is as always so careful and patient with him. Despite the fact that their show season next year looks bleak due to her inability to commit a large amount of funds to her 2016 season, she is ever optimistic about his future. I cannot imagine someone who could love a horse more than she loves this little demon.

When Ainsley began her journey with Bangarang almost 4 years ago in 2012, she had little to no dressage training. Hailing from a hunter/jumper background since childhood, she sought out a "dressage coach" to teach her a more solid foundation. Shortly after beginning lessons with me at Stonecreek Farm in Gananoque Ontario, she discovered the intricate sport and endless pursuit of perfection that is dressage. It drew her in and after no time at all - she didn't miss the jumps! She was enthralled by this sport of "invisible aids and silent words" as she says, and started the pursuit! She reads every book she can get her hand on ("Dressage Masters", "The Simplicity of Dressage" by Coby Van Balen to name a few) and I'm fairly certain she has watched every single YouTube or Chronicle of the Horse online video that Carl Hester has ever done. She audits other riders' lessons during the freezing cold winters, watches me school my advanced horses with awe and always joins us at the shows even when she is not competing to watch all of the top riders. You never find her at the "big ring" though; she has her eyes on the warm-up ring. Never obsessing about the "finished product" or the "glitz and glam" but always watching and learning -

seeing what differences are made when the judges aren't watching, as horse and rider learn and grow together. Her efforts have not been in vain - I am impressed with her progress and her developing knowledge of the sport. She has also made tremendous strides as a rider as well and has received 8's for her rider collective marks.

Her dedication to the sport is genuinely humbling. As a professional for almost a decade now, I sometimes take for granted the opportunities in front of me and my ability to work with wonderful horses as a profession. Ainsley, who as previously mentioned does struggle financially with this overwhelmingly expensive sport, stretches herself to the absolute physical and mental limit to ensure her daily involvement in dressage. Working a full-time job from 9:00am to 5:00pm she commits herself not only to that job but to the farm as well. To work off her lease on the horse she loves and to continue her lessons, she arrives at our farm every morning at 5:00am, working diligently until 8:15 when she leaves for her full-time position. At the end of her working day she returns to the farm yet again to ride the horse that she works so hard for and yet - she **never** short-changes him. She never skips steps, cuts corners or puts him second. Despite what I can only imagine is complete exhaustion, she tacks him up diligently, cuddles him, massages him and allows him a proper warm-up and a quiet steady ride. Did I mention that she also works at the farm on weekends? A full day Saturday and half a day Sunday. Her work ethic is unreal. Her efforts are honestly very humbling and makes me re-think my grumbles about the last horse of the day, or my exasperated sigh at the early mornings. She makes us all think about things a little differently and brings new life to our tired bones and willpower, whenever they wax and wane.

She also brings new life to the dressage community when we are competing at events! She is a constant enthusiastic voice! She is a cheer from the side lines, a fantastic "honorary groom" for everyone and an honest team mate. She strives to make every show a positive experience for her Stonecreek Farm teammates, her fellow competitors and even the volunteers! Never having a harsh word for anyone, even when in my opinion it was due, she is starting to become a familiar face and a favourite of the regulars around the circuit. She befriends volunteers who are so often overlooked (like Shaun at the KLDA Fall Classic who became such a fan of her bubbly personality that he stopped his duties as a runner just to watch her rides, smirking at her constant grin), lends supplies to judges (Cara Whitham borrowed a large chunk of her knitting supplies as Ainsley helped her fabricate a costume for her adorable little dog Popeye for the annual dog show!), cheers on her fellow team mates even though they are in direct competition with her (no one was more thrilled for Anna Stone and Khaleesi when they achieved their first score over 70% together at the Ottawa Dressage Festival than Ainsley who hooted and hollered after her final salute) and shows humble support for competitors who are struggling through tough times with their horses.

She is not afraid to show how thankful she is for the things she has been given either, which was evident in her nominating Miki Johnson for OADG Owner of the Year in 2014. Despite her extreme fear of public speaking, she climbed up onto that stage and humbly thanked Miki for giving her the opportunity to be a part of the dressage world and allowing her to show her mare. It was very touching.

I would ask you to please consider Ainsley Elizabeth for the Madison Crich Adult Amateur Memorial Award. Speaking personally, she has really made me remember what so many of us so often forget; we do this because we LOVE it. Not for anything else. Not for ribbons, not for glory... but for the horses we love and the people we get to take this ridiculous journey with.

It is far better to laugh together and smile through the good times and the bad. Ainsley embodies that, heart and soul.

[Editor's note: Since the awards banquet, we have been informed that Ainsley is now the proud owner of Bangarang. Congratulations, Ainsley!]

OADG at the **Pan Am Games**

OADG was well represented at the Pan Am Games in Toronto in July 2015. We continue the stories here... Part 2 of 2 (see the Autumn 2015 newsletter for the previous articles).

A Pan Am Games Spectator's Experience

Peggy McQuaid, OADG Education Director and dressage competitor

Sue Otto and I decided to do one day of the Pan Am dressage events. Of course, the day we chose was the Freestyle individual finals. Both of us were recovering from surgeries and decided to reward ourselves. We couldn't ride so why not watch some of the best strut their stuff!

Not being in the best of physical shape, we found the enormous amount of walking quite daunting. The parking lot was in a conservation area some distance from the actual event venue. Once parked, we had a lengthy walk to where the buses were located to take us to the venue. There was a bit of rain coming down and the heat and humidity were already building. Sue had an umbrella so we kept dry and she put up a fight to retain it when boarding the bus. On our return trip, we realized not many people were successful in keeping theirs.

Once at the grounds, the rain had quit and the sun was out. To enter the venue, we had to pass through a security check point. Fortunately, it was quick and painless. Then, we were faced with an incredible walk all the way around the stadium to get to our seats. Neither one of us were up for that walk. With the help of the fabulous site volunteers, we commandeered the First Aid ATV to get us to our seats. Talk about small miracles, our seats were in the second row and not too far from the aisle.

The view was fantastic even though we were actually positioned at the far end of the long side of the ring beyond A. From a rider's point of view, it must be quite intimidating to compete in

such a huge expanse with spectator bleachers along all sides. The footing appeared to be excellent and certainly was not dusty. The flowers and shrubbery showed us that you really need to practice with these decorations at home. Even the judges' boxes were quite substantial and intimidating. There also were huge LCD monitors at each end. Imagine the bond of trust that must exist between horse and rider to do well in such an atmosphere! In spite of it all, the competitors and their horses did not appear too fazed.

We were presented with some pretty impressive performances. We got to see over 20 freestyles at the Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix levels. Most of us seldom have the opportunity to see the top riders from other countries compete in real life. Somehow, videos don't capture the atmosphere or the real beauty of it. It certainly was a privilege to witness some of the best performances of the Canadian team at such an important event and on home ground. I even managed to get a picture of Chris Von Martels in his individual bronze medal victory lap. I should have taken more pictures but didn't believe my old point-and-shoot camera could take decent photos at such a distance.

Our only regret was that we didn't have the time or energy to visit more of the site and do the trade fair.

With the WEG (FEI World Equestrian Games) coming to Bromont, Quebec in 2018, our suggestion is to start planning now to see the world's best. I know we are.

Pan Am Games: The View from the Rail!

Marsha Houlahan, Ottawa-area dressage enthusiast and parent of a dressage competitor

The level of excitement was rocking in the weeks that led up to the Games. Having to drive through Toronto prior to the Games and seeing the signage for the Cuddle-up Commuter lanes, and for each unique venue, only increased the anticipation.

Our family was lucky to procure seats for each dressage event. Advanced Google searches aided us in locating the parking at the Conservation Park just south of the venue site. Park and take the shuttle bus -note to self to arrive early! We bunked in with Kerry in Guelph and packed sunscreen, hats, cushions and rain coats - this is Palgrave, where the weather can turn on a dime! Every horse show rider who has ever shown at Palgrave knows to pack for everything.

The shuttle system worked really smoothly for those of us early risers! Attendees arriving closer to the start time of each event had to hike through wet fields to the shuttle area. Riding the bus into the Caledon Equestrian Park was like being on a school field trip! Everyone was excited and there were squeals from the back of our bus as we met the speed bumps. Entry into the venue was really quick for us - the bag check lines moved quickly, tickets scanned and we entered the shopping village. This was the first disappointment of the day. With the number of restrictions placed on vendors for what they could sell, and the high price of real estate, there were only a few shopping places available. We were disappointed for the visitors to our country, as the selection of fine leather-works, jewelry and art that can be found at so many other Canadian equestrian events were not present. However, washroom facilities were in abundance so that was a plus!

Arriving early had its drawbacks, however, as the food vendors were not prepared for serving coffee, snacks or breakfast on day 1...Day 2 fared better. The fencing system to guide the public to their seats worked well, and many people were having photos taken with the Pan Am Games logo and a beautiful iron equine sculpture - the artist was on hand and so happy to speak about his work...and pop into photos too!

Canadians were a welcoming crowd to all the competitors, but the stadium roared when our own riders entered the arena. People were busting with pride and enthusiasm to show their support - but you could hear a pin drop when each Canadian rider rode their tests, as the stadium held its communal breath so as not to jinx a movement. From our vantage point, it was fun to observe the crowd. In typical Canadian style, most of the public were wearing red-and-white comfortable clothing. Visiting country supporters stood out, because in most other nations, one dresses for the dressage...the ladies in lovely dresses with beautiful hats and heels were definitely from warmer climes...as compared to the Canadian sea of good walking shoes and summer cargo shorts.

Lunch was a challenge on day 1, although the variety increased on day 2 and 3 with some additional food trucks. Seating was limited, with most people finding a patch of grass in any possible shade on the sweltering days of the dressage. The volunteers at the event were many, and they did great work to aid people to their seats, to stop people moving during the rides, and to tell you what ice cream stand still had cold snacks by mid-afternoon. The exit process also ran smoothly, but veered the public away from the vendors, who would have liked to have a few more shoppers at day's end.

While Canadians were thrilled with the rides of our team members, there always needs to be a little drama - what is dressage without a little drama? Much quiet frustrated discussion ensued with the performance marking of US rider Steffen Peters on Legolas. Our sport has come a long way, but in any event where judgment is subjective, bias can always creep in. While none will dispute the ability of that specific rider combination, the rides at this event did not reflect the scores that were gained by this pair. However, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the Canadian fans for our Silver team finish - filled with personal best rides by all the members! The fans were crazy at the awards ceremonies, and the energy was evident in the horses during the victory tour of the stadium.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our team riders to perform in a large venue with such home town support. To be known on the international stage means competing abroad, where there are few supporters in the audience. It was as much a thrill to ride in front of such enthusiastic support, as it was to be in the audience cheering for them! Many people were sharing photos and video clips with the team members after their rides, which made us all feel part of the competition. With all the small hiccups in setting up such an event, our hats are off to the Pan Am organizers and their flood of volunteers, that made the transitions throughout the venue simple. Now we look forward to WEG in 2018...have you booked your Bromont hotel yet???

A Pan Am Games Volunteer...

Jane Hunt, local dressage competitor and EC dressage steward

Behind the scenes at the Pan Am Games

I was one of 23,000 “mango-coloured shirt” volunteers at the Pan Am Games. It was an amazing experience (“Pan-Amazing”, as Pinball Clemons would say!). I would recommend a similar experience to anyone who has the opportunity! Whether it is a horse show, some other sport or a music concert, you will see so much “behind the scenes”!

I was on site at the Caledon equestrian venue for every single competition day – dressage, eventing and show jumping – plus two non-competition days as well. I worked with the Media Relations group for the equestrian competitions, where 16 volunteers were assigned to 4 team leads for various jobs. We worked with the official photographers; gathered quotes from athletes; staffed the media office; and kept order in the press tribune (the space set aside for the journalists).

I learned how much planning goes into a multi-sport, multi-venue sports event. I also learned how some jobs that look easy can be much more difficult than expected! For example, one of the tasks was making sure the medal winners came directly to the press conference after the medal presentations. To give you an idea of how difficult this task actually was, we all referred to it as “herding cats”! Especially the team competitions, where we had to make sure that all four members of each team came to the press conference together!

The best seat in the house for the competitions!

The volunteers were often stationed right beside the competition ring, closer than any of the spectators would be. Best seats in the house! ☺

As volunteers, we got to experience the thrill of victory... in show jumping, Andres Rodriguez of Venezuela impressed all of us with his sincere enthusiasm, excitement and pure joy at winning a silver medal... and the agony of defeat... José Larocca Jr of Argentina was in the running for the gold medal until his horse knocked down one rail at the very last jump on the course. He screamed in frustration! That mistake put him into a 5-way tie for the bronze medal, but in the jump-off he dropped right out of medal contention.

[Editor’s note: Sadly, Andres Rodriguez, the Pan Am Games Silver medalist in showjumping, passed away in January 2016 as a result of a car accident in Florida.]

At the Pan Ams as a Coach: Ruth Koch (until recently, proprietor of Oxford Ridge Stables)

Top-level dressage coach, previously based in the Ottawa area, with very successful local Junior and Young Rider students

Ruth Koch is well-known to Ottawa-area dressage enthusiasts, as proprietor of Oxford Ridge Stables and coach of many successful local Junior and Young Rider students, including Brittany Fraser, Erin Josey, Jade Deter, Sarah and Amy McIlwham, and others.

Ruth was at the Pan Am Games as a coach for one of the Jamaican riders. She was very approachable, and was pleased to speak to everyone from Ottawa. In the widespread spirit of pin-trading (endemic at these types of events!), she graciously accepted a “North Grenville” pin and said to say “hello” to everyone in Ottawa!

Dressage, dressage and more dressage

In the dressage competition, Karen Atala Zablah of Honduras impressed all of the Press Operations volunteers with her attitude, love for her horse, and satisfaction with her results. She was the first and only equestrian athlete from Honduras and had no coach or trainer in attendance, only her family and groom (assistant). She explained that in Honduras, there are only 50 equestrians in total! She hopes that competing at the Pan Am Games will raise the profile of her sport at home and will demonstrate to the other Honduran riders that they can aspire to this level of competition. She met all of her goals!

The Canadian dressage team was impressive. Although they did not win the coveted qualification for the Olympics in Rio, they got the team Silver medal with great performances, with some personal-best scores. As volunteers, we got to watch their warm-ups as well as the actual performances. Brittany Fraser's horse, All In, has an amazing trot! Megan Lane's concentration during warm-up is astounding, and she has a very proud and supportive family. Chris von Martels had not one, but two personal-best scores on Zilverstar, on his way to the individual bronze medal. Belinda Trussell was the experienced anchor on the team, with Anton giving another stellar performance.

One disappointment for both the Canadians and the Americans involved the confusion over how many riders from one team would get to compete in the freestyles. At first, the daysheets had both Megan Lane and the fourth American rider listed; however, protests ensued and the FEI laid down the law – max 3 rides from any one country, no matter how well each of the four team riders did. However, all of the countries agreed to allow those two riders to ride their freestyles as “test rides” for the judges to warm up on. The American rider was on the “small tour” (Prix St. Georges and Intermediare) and Megan Lane was on the “big tour” (Grand Prix), so there was one “test rider” at the beginning of each division and everyone was happy... well, happy enough! ☺

This is going to sound a bit weird, but I almost enjoyed watching the “eventing dressage” tests more than the “strictly dressage”. The horses and riders at the Pan Am Games are such phenomenal athletes, have done so much preparation, and have been through such tough stringent qualifying rounds that it is actually difficult (okay... difficult for me!) to relate to their performances. I can only go “Wow!” On the other hand, although the dressage for the eventing competition is not to be compared in either quality or level (their tests were equivalent to Fourth Level, I believe), I could “relate” better to it. When the eventers made a mistake, the test was still better than mine would have been, but I could “see” where their mistake happened, or could understand how it developed (the rider didn't prepare enough, or the horse is not supple enough) and I could learn from it.

Sweetness and light and unicorns?

Not everything was sweetness and light and unicorns. The hours were long and the days were exhausting. It was hot, except for when it was cold and raining; but we had to be at our posts even if the weather was bad. Not all of the spectators were polite, and not all of the competitors were polite. The only things we got for free were our uniforms and meals; as volunteers, we had to provide our own accommodations and transport. Generally, we were on the other side of the quarantine fence from the horses – although we were steps away from some of the most athletic horses in the world, we were still going through “horse withdrawal”! We had to go through “airport-type” security checks every morning. But even so, at the end of every day we would trudge out to the volunteers' car park, completely tired out and totally used up – and high-five each other with the parting statement “what a blast! See you tomorrow!”



Perks of the job

Most of the work is fun! I worked with the photographers, and was lucky enough to be able to listen to their discussions and thoughts. The photographers are looking for the best angle to get the best action shot – and thinking about the position of the sun in the morning versus the afternoon; wondering which areas would be the most crowded; considering whether they want to get an action photograph of a particular horse in piaffe or in extended trot; where to place their remote cameras for the best effects – there are a lot of technical considerations that go into a professional photographer’s planning!

For the medal presentations, we were standing “right there” – closer to the ceremony than the athletes’ families! We could see the tears of joy on the athletes’ faces as they listened to their national anthems.

Throughout the Games, we received “shift gifts” occasionally—extra gifts when we checked in for our shifts. The first “shift gift” was blue-framed sunglasses with the Pan Am Games logo – not Oakley’s but fun and very welcome for outdoor shifts! We also got keychains and limited-edition collector pins. The last “shift gift” was a “stuffie” of Patchi, the Games mascot. Too cute!

Was it worth it?

Yes, it was worth it! I used all of my summer vacation time to be able to participate in this adventure. My friends know that I love to travel internationally; because I signed up as a Pan Am volunteer, I could not travel this year – but it was like going to a whole bunch of different countries! In the space of half-an-hour, I spoke to two people from Brazil (who were freezing in the rain and wind) and to a competitor from the far south of Chile (where it was winter, and he thought the same freezing rain and wind was warmer than back home at that time!).

In summary

“Wow! What a great experience! I want to go back and do it all again!” Hmmm... the World Equestrian Games (WEG) will be held in Bromont in 2018... ☺...

Congratulations to the following OADG members and local competitors on their Equine Canada (Dressage Canada) 2015 Achievement Awards! Look for their photos on the cover of the 2016 Omnibus (test book).

Rider Awards:

Katie Bell
Ainsley Kee (Bangarang)
Liz Steacie (Bellaryn)
Devlin Abergel Preston (Cinnabun)
Nicole Allen Dings (Noah)
Siri Solfjell Ingebrigtsen
Meaghan Cullen (Halston)
Briannon Johnson (Bakari)
Tiffany Randall

Horse Awards:

Bangarang (Miki Johnson)
Bellaryn (Liz Steacie)
Cinnabun (Devlin Abergel Preston)
Fuerst Gemini (Carolyn Healy)
Noah (Nicole Allen Dings)
Corwynt (Bethany Lee)
Halston (Meaghan Cullen)

Criteria for qualifying for the awards are listed on the Equine Canada website.

Local show schedule

Please check the OADG website regularly for updates and new information: www.ottawadressage.ca/shows
 The schedule below includes only local, sanctioned shows. For a list of the 2016 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 2016		June 2016	
Sun May 8	Oakhurst ESD Schooling	Sun June 5	Graystone Silver
Sun May 15	Centaur Gold	June 11-12	Rainbow Ridge Gold
May 19-22	Ottawa Dressage Festival Gold/Platinum	Sat June 18	ESD Schooling (Caroline Peck's show) location to be determined
Mon May 23	Meadowvale ESD Schooling		
Sat May 28	Stevens Creek Silver	June 25-26	Dewmont Silver / Gold
Sun May 29	Heroncrest ESD Schooling		
July 2016		August 2016	
July 9-10	Rainbow Ridge Gold	Sun Aug 7	Centaur Gold
Sun July 17	Heroncrest ESD Schooling	Sat Aug. 13	Oakhurst Silver
Sat July 23	Starlit Farm Silver	Sun Aug. 28	Meadowvale ESD Schooling
Sun July 24	Starlit Farm ESD Schooling	Sun Aug. 28	Centaur ESD Schooling
Sun July 31	Graystone Silver		
September 2016		October 2016	
Sun Sept. 11	Eastern Ontario Silver Dressage Championships, Oakhurst Farm	Sun Oct. 2	Centaur ESD Schooling
Sun Sept. 18	Preston Rosedale ESD Schooling	Sun Oct. 23	Centaur ESD Schooling

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

Website: www.ottawadressage.ca