



**Making New Friends, Having Fun, Promoting and Preserving Canada's National Horse**

Visit us on the web [www.canadianhorseontario.com](http://www.canadianhorseontario.com)

## Member's Profile

### Donna Hoffman



Hoffman Duc Esprit

I became involved with the Canadian Horse in 1988 when the numbers were estimated to be as low as 1,000 horses in all of Canada.

My neighbour showed me an article written in the 1982 *Canadian Geographic* about Alex Hayward and Donnie Prosperine and their horses and suggested we go to the Royal that year to see the Canadian horse. I saw Ginny Dailley's liberty act with four Canadians and I was hooked. I met Donnie Prosperine after the performance, and he led me up to the stalls to meet Ginny and her wonderful horses.

## CCHAO Board of Directors

Ron Marino, President  
Email: [marinoathome@hotmail.com](mailto:marinoathome@hotmail.com)

Rhonda Turley, Vice President  
Email: [rhonda.turley@clorox.com](mailto:rhonda.turley@clorox.com)

Gail Brandt, Secretary  
Email: [gcbbrandt@sympatico.ca](mailto:gcbbrandt@sympatico.ca)

Candace Gomes, Treasurer  
Email: [Candace.gomes82@gmail.com](mailto:Candace.gomes82@gmail.com)

Tina Morrison, Western Ontario Representative  
Email: [canadian@rogers.com](mailto:canadian@rogers.com)

Sandy Churchill, Eastern Ontario Representative  
Email: [johnsandychurchill@gmail.com](mailto:johnsandychurchill@gmail.com)

Kelly Ferguson, Director at Large  
Email: [fergy244@hotmail.com](mailto:fergy244@hotmail.com)

## In This Issue

Pages 1–4 Member's Profile—Donna Hoffman

Pages 4–5 Director's Profile—Gail Brandt

Page 6—EMS (Equine Metabolic Syndrome)

by Rhonda Turley

Page 7–9 Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Page 10—Membership Form



Donnie had first heard of the Canadian horse himself from Alex Hayward at a meeting of the Eastern Ontario Pleasure Driving Society in 1977. Donnie was driving hackneys, but he called Alex to say he wanted to find some Canadians. (At that time, there was only one registered Canadian in all of our province!) Donnie and Alex were instrumental in bringing a handful of Canadian mares to Ontario, along with the stallion La Gorgondière Viger Duc (#4049), and they began breeding and promoting Canadians.

It's hard to imagine, but back then there was no information to be readily found on the Canadian horse. No internet, the CHBA newsletters were all in French, and there was only one member in BC and none in Newfoundland. Also, Canadian horse breeders in Quebec were wary of selling their horses to anyone outside of the province, and the language barrier made things even more difficult.

Shortly after I bought my first Canadian, a filly that Ginny brought back from Quebec—Ranch-L Loupin Xircon (#5301)—Donnie Prosperine, Alex Hayward, and June Pelot were instrumental in forming the Ontario-based group called the Upper Canada District, or UCD, which would provide an English language newsletter to members outside of Quebec. I eventually became involved with that group and spent some time on the board of directors. At that time there were 92 members outside Quebec.

In the early 1990s I organized the Great Canadian Horse Rally, spring and fall, which was a fun trail ride to raise funds to help cover some of the costs to send the Canadian horse to the Royal Winter Fair. We did breed demos at that time in what was called the Walking Ring. As well, the numerous articles that I had published in newspapers and horse magazines raised awareness of the plight of the Canadian horse, and I was active in communicating with people all across Canada.

Eventually I moved from Horseshoe Valley outside of Barrie to Markdale, and I was unable to continue to organize the rally. However, I stayed active with the newly formed Canadian Horse Breeders of Ontario (CHBO), which I helped found, along with Alex Hayward, Frank Prosperine (Donnie's son), Kelly Ferguson, and several others. It was a very successful club with over 100 members at one time. I also maintained a library of information on the Canadian Horse for many years, most of which can now be conveniently accessed on the internet.

I also recorded Ginny Dailley's liberty shows at the Royal, and her "Canadian Horse Story," which she performed with her horses at the African Lion Safari near Hamilton, owned by Ginny's parents. Eventually I copied these performances from the old VCR tapes to DVD. Although the quality had already started to deteriorate, I feel fortunate that these recordings have been preserved, because this was an exciting time for the Canadian Horse, and the numbers were beginning to increase across Canada.

In the 1990s, we started work on the Canada's National Horse bill and on getting the Canadian commemorated on a stamp. In fact I remember in the early 1990s collecting names on a petition for Ginny Dailley to get the horse on a stamp.

Alex Hayward's first attempt with a private members bill to make the Canadian our National Horse didn't get very far in Parliament, so I contacted our local member of Parliament, Murray Calder, and got him involved in trying for a second time. Kelly Ferguson eventually contacted her local MP and he was successful in getting the bill passed through the Senate in 2002. It was a long process, with many enthusiastic Canadian horse owners helping along the way.

A group in Quebec continued the work on the stamp. Finally in 2009 Canada Post issued a pair of stamps featuring the Canadian horse and the Newfoundland pony.



As well, I kept copies of television coverage and newspaper and magazine coverage for many years. I recorded Ginny's visit with her horses on the *Dini Petty Show*. I still have copies of the newsletters printed since 1988, along with the stud books published by the Canadian Horse Breeders Association (CHBA). I have always believed it is important to preserve this information and share with others who may be interested.

In 1995 I was involved in producing a Canadian horse brass to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the CHBA, which was formed in 1895. The project was financed by Frank Prosperine and myself, and the profits made it possible to donate some of the brasses as prizes at the Merrickville Fair and the Uxbridge Fair for winners in Canadian classes.

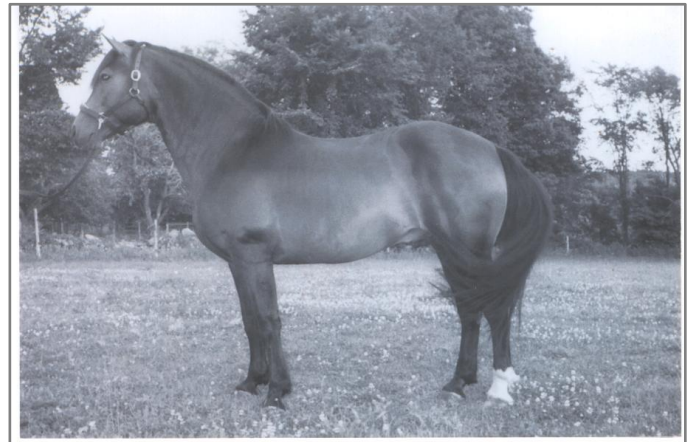


Canadian Horse brass and promotional items

As for my horses, that first filly brought from Quebec by Ginny Dailley came from John Litjens's farm. Xircon was a treasure: pure black, wavy mane and tail, and the docile temperament the Henryville horses are known for. She was built like a tank and looked like a little war horse. I still have her first foal here, Hoffman Duc Esprit (#5894), and she is 28 years old this year.

I also co-owned, with Sylvie Denault in Quebec, Maple Lane Midnight Rebel Alf (#5303; Prosperine breeding). Alf produced some wonderful foals with exceptional temperaments and good conformation. His semen was

collected when he was 12 and is stored in Quebec to be used in the future. He was with me until early September of this year and stayed in wonderful shape to the age of 32. Sadly, though, he began experiencing serious health issues, including wobbly back legs that left him struggling to get up after he'd lie down. When medication didn't help, I couldn't see the sense in waiting for this old boy to go down and suffer all night because he couldn't get up again. I made the difficult decision to let him go. I will miss him—he was a great horse.



Maple Lane Midnite Rebel Alf at 12 years of age



Alf at 30 years of age

The second last son of Viger Duc is also here on the farm at age 29. Melville Duc D'Artois (#6522)—co-owned with Alex Hayward and Frank Prosperine—was born in 1991, and he was the last son until someone used frozen semen from Viger




Duc and produced another son. D'Artois was to be Alex's replacement for Duc.

I brought a daughter of Alf's up from Quebec named Granduc Alf Tess (#12513), born 2007, and I still have her here at age 13. She displays Alf's wonderful temperament and good conformation.



Granduc Alf Tess

I love the looks, temperament, and heritage value of the Canadian Horse. I'm hoping that we will continue to have young, enthusiastic horse lovers discover and get involved in keeping this great breed from ever disappearing. 

## Director's Profile

### Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Secretary



Le Baronet Lyons Ruby with owners Gail and Bernd Brandt

**H**orses have always had a special place in my heart. Growing up on a dairy farm near Ingersoll, one of my earliest memories was riding on the back of a plough horse while my father worked a field. Dad was also actively involved in the Standardbred horse racing industry, and there was usually a racehorse or two housed on the farm. However, we could not ride them, so one of my fervent wishes was to have my own riding horse.

Realizing this goal, however, would take a very long time. I left the farm at age 17 to pursue a university education, eventually settling in Scarborough, where my husband, I, and our three young children lived until 1992. When we bought our farm near Bright that year, as I took up a new academic appointment at the University of Waterloo, the dream seemed a little closer. However, it was only when I retired in 2011 that I felt I had enough free time to devote to a horse.

Choosing the Canadian breed for my foray into horse ownership was an easy decision. As a Canadian historian, I specialized in Quebec history and had a deep appreciation for the Canadian's unique role in our national history. Who doesn't love the Krieghoff paintings depicting the "little iron



horse” spiritedly pulling a sleigh loaded with *habitants* through the harsh Quebec winter weather? Learning that Canadians had a reputation for being easy keepers, very intelligent, good tempered, and eager to please only increased my resolve to own one.

As a senior citizen preparing for my new adventure, I took riding lessons for the first time in my life, and in 2012 I bought my first horse, a two-year-old gelding named Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (#13350), who now belongs to CCHAO members Sandra and Jack Addison. I immediately joined the Upper Canada District Canadian Horse Breeders Association and drove Yazhi at the UCD show that year. I was hooked!



Heronwood Tolou Dartagnan-2


In the spring of 2013, Le Baronet Lyons Ruby (#11224), a stylish black eight-year-old mare, joined our family. She is a wonderfully versatile horse, equally at ease when being ridden or driven. She won the Senior Showmanship class at Merrickville that year and High Performance Horse honours at the UCD show in 2014. She also produced our first foal, Heronwood Tolou Balou (#13981), whom we call Brio, in 2014.

In December 2013, we purchased our third horse, Graham Farms Kamouraska Xplorr (#13884), who now belongs to CCHAO member Deborah Shore Reid.

The next addition came a year later when we purchased Beckett’s Creek Ferari Rita (#11488). She was the High Performance Horse at the 2017 UCD show and has since produced two colts. The first, Heronwood Tolou Dartagnan-2 (#14431) is now our stud. Rita’s second colt, Hugo, was born this June.

By this point, you would think that, at our age, we had more than enough work feeding horses, cleaning stalls, maintaining paddocks, and harvesting our own hay. However, who can resist a beautiful Canadian when you see one? In November 2017 we added Starfield Jay Andromeda (#13836) to our herd, and last year she foaled Heronwood Dartagnan-2 Geo (registration pending).

As you can see from this account, the Canadian horse can easily lead one into temptation. From being someone who wanted only one riding horse, I have now become a breeder and owner of seven Canadians. My husband and I have enjoyed showing our horses at a number of fairs and demonstrations as part of our efforts to educate the public about our magnificent national breed, and we have made some great connections with other Canadian horse owners.

What a wonderful retirement project this has been! 



Graham Farms Kamouraska Xplorr held by Bernd Brandt;  
Hidden Meadows Neirin Yazhi held by Libby Peters;  
Heronwood Tolou Balou held by Monty Peters; Le  
Baronet Lyons Ruby held by Gail Brandt, UCD Show 2014



## EMS (Equine Metabolic Syndrome)

by Rhonda Turley

Recently my Canadian, Hidden Meadows Neirin Scooter (#12005), was diagnosed with equine metabolic syndrome, or EMS. This syndrome has long been recognized among horses who are called “easy keepers,” “air ferns,” or “difficult to keep the weight off” types. Involving obesity and chronic laminitis, it can be seen in young adult animals and can be diagnosed as early as eight years.



Scooter slimmed down, September 12, 2020

EMS is the current “umbrella” term that covers hypothyroidism, Cushing’s/pre-Cushing’s/PPID (pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction), and IR (insulin resistance). Insulin dysregulation is the key feature. Scooter was diagnosed with both PPID and IR. Horses with EMS may not respond well to current therapies, including pergolide and thyroid supplementation. In the past few years researchers have been looking closely at EMS.

EMS is not a disease, because it involves hormones that control many processes in the body, which is why it is termed “metabolic.” EMS likely begins with a genetic predisposition and most commonly occurs in middle-aged horses (approx. 8 to 18 years) and certain breeds—Canadians, Morgans, and Quarter horses, for example. These horses are very efficient at utilizing calories and often require a lower plane of nutrition to maintain body weight than other horses. Why

should owners be concerned? Symptoms can be very subtle and go unnoticed until they are advanced. Symptoms can include:

- obesity
- lethargy/depression
- difficulty in losing weight
- swollen sheath or udder
- recurring episodes of laminitis (also termed LGL or low grade laminitis, which can appear as chronic hoof abscesses and foot soreness and can lead to founder)
- chronic thrush
- wearing of the hoof much faster due to increasing poor horn quality
- puffiness in the hollows above the eyes
- goopy eyes
- changes/fading in horse body colour
- red tinges in mane hairs
- skin issues, itchiness

More advanced symptoms are increased thirst and urination, loss of body condition, and muscle wastage. Horses can have some of these symptoms in various degrees.

Diagnosis can only be done by blood testing for ACTH levels (adrenocorticotropic hormone), glucose, and insulin levels. I had this done by the University of Guelph’s Animal Sciences Laboratory, as they give the most consistent and accurate results.

Causes have not been determined (more research is needed), but triggers are known, and the main one may be inappropriate diet and mineral imbalance. Many inappropriate feeds come in bags from the equine feed industry. Often these are loaded with molasses, for example, to add weight and taste appeal. Many are labelled, and appear to be, low carbohydrate—but are not.

Regarding minerals, I’ve learned that too much iron (iron overload) in the diet can act as a trigger. In Scooter’s case, I realized that he really liked those red salt licks that I’d been buying him—and I’ve discovered that the red colouring comes from iron. Many supplements and horse feeds that come in bags/containers have iron added. Lyme disease can also trigger EMS.



Mineral balancing is the key to improving the equine diet. I had a steep learning curve in this area and received incorrect diet advice from my vet service. As well, I did my research to find out what a true low-carbohydrate diet to cause weight loss involves. I also needed to learn how to reduce the cycle of insulin resistance that was causing high insulin and subsequent laminitis in my Canadian.

Through trial and error and the help of a free website in the US (see links below), moderated by a vet who has done 30 years of research, and along with the help of my excellent farrier who comes every three weeks to continue correcting Scooter's hoof angles as his hooves grow out, I've been able to save my horse, who is back in light work.

For more information: <https://www.ecirhorse.org/>

Diet information (download):

<https://www.ecirhorse.org/assets/documents/ECIR-Group-DDTE-Safe-Feeds.pdf>



## **Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario**

### **Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting held via Zoom**

**September 26, 2020**

Present: Sandy Churchill, Kelly Ferguson, William Garvey, Jane Hunt, Ron Marino, Susan McLenaghan, Tina Morrison, Bob Scott, Kathleen Scott, Laura Snider, Rhonda Turley, Gail Brandt (Secretary)

Regrets: Sandra and Jack Addison, Andrew Boone, Wendy Bowden, Candace Gomes, Marie-Lynn Hammond

[Due to increased provincial COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting—originally scheduled to be held at the RCAFA hall in Kingston—was changed to a virtual meeting held on the Zoom platform, hosted by President Ron Marino.]

The meeting began shortly after 10 a.m.

#### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by Susan McLenaghan, seconded by Tina Morrison that the previously circulated meeting agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes of 2019 AGM**

Moved by William Garvey, seconded by Bob Scott that the minutes of last year's AGM held May 25, 2019 be adopted. Motion carried.

#### **3. President's Report**

Ron Marino briefly outlined the history of CCHAO since its inception in 2018 and underlined the progress that had been



made to date. He also made reference to the various activities that had been planned for 2020 but had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. They included the Canadian demonstration day at Doon Pioneer Village, the Canadian horse classes at Merrickville Fair, Horse Lovers' Weekend at Upper Canada Village, participation in the parade and equine display at Erin Fair, and demonstration and Canadian horse classes at Ancaster Fair.

Ron thanked members for their ongoing support of CCHAO and encouraged them to send photos to him that he can use on our website.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Candace Gomes was unable to attend the meeting but submitted documents relating to the 2019 fiscal year that were presented by the Secretary. The income statement showed a net income of \$110.99. The major expenses were directors' liability insurance (\$696.60), 2019 AGM and clinic expenses (\$418.03), and incorporation fees (\$255). The balance sheet at the end of December 2019 showed a bank balance of \$620.99. Moved by Gail Brandt, seconded by Ron Marino that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried.

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

Gail Brandt noted that members had received five newsletters since May 2019 and thanked Marie-Lynn Hammond and Susan McLenaghan for their invaluable contributions to editing and lay-out. The next newsletter would be sent out shortly and would contain the minutes of this meeting.

The Board of Directors met in Port Perry in November 2019 to discuss various topics, including the newsletter, the development of a publicity brochure that could be handed out at events, and activities for 2020. In February 2020, a Board subcommittee met in Morryston to plan for CCHAO's

participation in the Ancaster Fair. Unfortunately, that event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Board also approved the purchase of not-for-profit Directors' liability insurance that provides up to \$2 million in coverage in case there is legal action against CCHAO.

The Secretary also reported that the Canadian Horse statue project initiated by volunteers at Upper Canada Village, and officially endorsed by CCHAO, was not successful in obtaining Canada Heritage Funding. The project organizers are now working with other organizations to secure the necessary funds for the installation of a life-size Canadian horse statue outside the main entrance to the Village located near Morrisburg.

CCHAO has joined the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association/ Société des éleveurs de chevaux Canadiens as a chapter of that organization. The Secretary wrote a report on our development that was published in the Spring 2019 issue of *Le Cheval Canadien*.

#### **6. Membership Fees**

Moved by Ron Marino, seconded by Bob Scott that the existing membership fees be continued; namely, \$40 per adult over 18 years, \$20 for youth under 18 years, \$60 per couple, \$80 per family, and \$20 for associate members (non-horse owners). During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that an additional box be added to the form to encourage donations. Motion carried.

#### **7. Election of Directors**

The three Directors positions were up for election. As provided under the bylaws, Sandy Churchill had submitted a duly certified nomination form for the position of Eastern Ontario Director. Her nomination was unanimously approved. It was then moved by Susan McLenaghan and seconded by





Sandy Churchill that Tina Morrison be elected to the position of Western Ontario Director. The motion received unanimous consent. It was moved by Bob Scott, seconded by Tina Morrison that Kelly Ferguson be elected Director at Large. That motion also received unanimous consent.

## **8. Planning for 2021**

Despite the uncertainty created by the current pandemic, it was agreed that the Directors should start planning soon for 2021 CCHAO-sponsored activities. Events we will try to participate in, providing they are held, include the Paris Ontario Peace Day, Doon Heritage Village Canadian Horse Day, Merrickville Fair, Landsdowne Horse Festival, Horse Lovers' Weekend, Ancaster Fair, Erin Fair, and Norfolk County Fair. It was also suggested that members seek out local fairs and parades for opportunities to showcase our breed.

Members also expressed a strong interest in having more clinics relating to topics such as an appropriate body score index for Canadian horses and hoof health. Given the current obstacles to meeting in person, it was suggested that we conduct some clinics online. The Board was urged to make the development of some virtual clinics a priority.

## **9. Other Business**

Given a general lack of knowledge about Canadian horse breeders located in Ontario, Gail Brandt suggested that we include a directory of members who are breeders on our website and also publish it in our newsletter. This proposal was approved.

The question was also raised about how we could attract more members and whether Canadian horse owners in

Ontario are aware of our association. Gail indicated that in 2018 she had contacted every owner listed on the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation registry who resided in Ontario to let them know about the creation of the new association and had invited them to the founding meeting. They were subsequently sent minutes of that meeting and were invited to join CCHAO. Susan McLenaghan, with the help of the Secretary, offered to do follow-up outreach with those who have not yet joined our association.

Bob and Kathleen Scott spoke about their efforts to rescue Canadian horses and to get them registered. They have been successful in a number of cases and have offered to assist anyone who needs help getting their horses registered. They can be reached at Cedar Rock Canadians on Facebook.

## **10. Meeting Adjournment**

Moved by Bob Scott, seconded by Susan McLenaghan that the business portion of the AGM be adjourned.

## **11. Virtual Clinic**

Rhonda Turley gave a very informative PowerPoint presentation entitled "Equine Body Work: Making a Difference." She explained the objectives and benefits of Trigger Point Therapy for horses. The presentation was very well received, and Ron thanked Rhonda for her excellent presentation. The Secretary offered to send it out to all members via e-mail. It will also be made available on our website.



**PLEASE SHARE THIS FORM WITH OTHER CANADIAN HORSE ENTHUSIASTS**

**CHEVAL CANADIEN HORSE ASSOCIATION ONTARIO (CCHAO) 2019**

**2020 Membership Form (1 January—31 December)**

**Please print in block letters.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

Adult - 18 yrs and over, 1 CCHAO vote	\$40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth - 17 yrs and under, 1 CCHAO vote	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Couple - 2 adults, 2 CCHAO votes	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family - 2 adults & related youth, 2 CCHAO votes	\$80	<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate - Does not own a Canadian Horse –Non Voting	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please make cheques payable to Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario and mail to:** Candace Gomes, CCHAO Treasurer, 5933 Battersea Road, Battersea, ON K0H 1H0. If you would **NOT** like to have your name and e-mail address shared with other members, please check the following box:

I do not wish to have my name and contact information published in CCHAO's membership directory.

**Photo/Video Release Authorization**

I, the undersigned, give permission to CCHAO and to its designated agents, to photograph/video me at CCHAO activities and to use such photographs/videos in all forms of media, for any and all promotional purposes.  
I further consent to the use of my name in connection with the photographs/videos. I understand that I will not receive any payment for my time or expenses or any royalty for the use of the photo/video, and I hereby release CCHAO from any such claims.

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

For Couple or Family Memberships, please provide additional names and signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature for members under 18 years: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

