



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

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President's Message from Ron Marino

Hello everyone! I hope you have all been safe and healthy. As we make our way into 2022, we are very optimistic with the recent COVID restrictions being eased. We are hopeful and excited that this trend will continue.

With this "light at the end of the tunnel," I can't help but think back to the creation of our association. Of course, unknown to any of us, we began our journey on the heels of the start of this COVID pandemic. We have only existed in this pandemic. We continue to exist, growing stronger each year. And that's because of you. It's because you have trusted us. It's because we all share the same vision, passion, and love for our incredible horses and Canada's National Horse. Without you we can never succeed. And for that, and I know I speak for the rest of the Board, we sincerely thank you for your continued support.

Over the last many months, your board has met to discuss plans for 2022. We held our Annual General Meeting last October, where further business was discussed for planning and elections were held.

We are very excited, and we are planning to attend some fairs, hold some clinics, and host our 2022 AGM in person this year. The minutes of our most recent Board meeting are included in this month's newsletter. Further details of our plans can be seen there.

Thank you for everyone who has renewed their membership, and if you have not yet done so, we encourage you to renew at your earliest convenience. We'll really appreciate it if you do!

Continue doing the amazing work you do with your horses and educating everyone about our national treasure, and I look forward to finally meeting many of our members this year at some of our events.

Thank you again!

CCHAO Board of Directors

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How to Enjoy Winter



Candace Gomes and Moncton Meadows Brandy Saxon (#11585) enjoying a sunny winter ride

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not already renewed your 2022 membership, please do so as soon as possible.

The membership form can be copied from this newsletter or downloaded from our website, <https://canadianhorseontario.com>.

The good news is that our fee structure has not changed, so we're doing our part to combat inflation.

Please encourage others who own Canadian horses (purebred or crossbred) or non-owners who are supportive of our breed to become members as well.



Minutes of CCHAO Directors' Meeting

February 15, 2022
held via Zoom

Present: Ron Marino (President), Rhonda Turley (Vice-President), Sandy Churchill (Eastern Ontario Director), Tina McNaughton (Western Ontario Director), Kelly Ferguson (Director-at-Large), Gail Cuthbert Brandt (Secretary and Meeting Recorder)

Regrets: Candace Gomes (Treasurer)

Ron brought the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approved Agenda

- CCHAO memberships
- CHBA membership
- March newsletter
- Insurance
- Canadian Horse Day at Doon Pioneer Village
- Ancaster Fair
- Activities for Central and Eastern Ontario members
- Webinars
- Website updates

Membership

According to information submitted by Candace prior to the meeting, she had received only a handful of membership renewals/applications by the end of January.

Another renewal reminder will go out in the March newsletter.

Members receive a receipt, thank-you letter, and club pin when they send in their fees.

CHBA/SECC Membership

It was agreed that CCHAO should renew its CHBA membership.



March Newsletter

Gail reported that there were already a few articles in hand for the March newsletter. In addition, she would include information about our 2022 events. Members will also be encouraged to continue to send in photos of them and their horses.

Ron pointed out that the logo on the last newsletter was incorrect and asked that it be replaced by the latest version.

It was agreed that the association's code of conduct be included in the March newsletter. *(Given the length of the current Code of Conduct that applies almost exclusively to CCHAO directors, an abbreviated version for members will be prepared and subsequently published.)*

Kelly also requested that an announcement about the opportunity to have a Canadian horse on display at the 2022 International Plowing Match be included in the upcoming newsletter. The IPM will take place in Kemptville, September 20-24.

Insurance

After investigating alternative insurance companies to provide CCHAO with directors' and officers' liability insurance at a lower cost, Gail reported that one of the least expensive options could be obtained if CCHAO joined Ontario Equestrian as an affiliated group. However, there are still questions to be answered about whether CCHAO needs to have both directors' and officers' liability coverage and separate corporate liability coverage. It was also unclear in the information that Gail was able to obtain from the insurance broker prior to the meeting if all CCHAO members, or only those participating in a CCHAO-sponsored event, must

be individual OE members for corporate liability coverage to be valid in case of an accident.

Gail has asked the insurance agent to send the full text of the insurance policy in question so that she can do further investigation and report back to the Board.

Canadian Horse Day at Doon Pioneer Village

The directors confirmed that they would like to accept the invitation extended by Waterloo Region Museum to put on a Canadian Horse display at the Museum's Doon Heritage Village in Kitchener on June 25, 2022.

Members will be invited to volunteer themselves and their horses to participate in this event.

Ancaster Fair

Tina updated the directors on her latest communications with Ancaster Fair management. It has offered CCHAO a chance to conduct a demonstration to showcase our breed at the 2022 fair. After discussing the four possible time slots we were offered, it was decided unanimously that we opt for the lunch hour slot during the heavy horse show scheduled for Sunday, September 25.

This slot offers several advantages: there will already be a substantial audience on hand; the event will take place indoors in the new 75,000 sq. ft. equine facility (ring size is 124' x 285'), so inclement weather will not be a detriment; there are bleachers for the audience; and the facility has a sound system.

It was agreed that Tina should try to reserve six stalls for Saturday, September 24. That way we can have



Canadian horses on display in the stables Saturday and on Sunday morning, engage with the public, and hand out brochures. It would also make it possible to arrange a social get-together among participating members on the Saturday evening.

Tina will also investigate if it might be possible to show the Canadian horse video at this event.

Scheduling Events in Central and Eastern Ontario

Board members reaffirmed their commitment to support/organize events for CCHAO members who live in Central and Eastern Ontario and find it impossible to travel to Kitchener or Ancaster for the previously discussed events.

Sandy offered to contact Cecil Pring at Stonehaven Farm on Scugog Island to see if we could host an event there on the first weekend in October that would include our 2022 AGM. She will also see if Randy Bird might be available to do a clinic at that time.

An effort will be made to encourage owners of non-registered Canadians or Canadian crossbreeds to come out to these events.

CCHAO will also encourage its members to take part in Horse Lovers' Weekend at Upper Canada Village if it is held again this year. It normally takes place on the Labour Day Weekend

Webinars

Rhonda offered to conduct a webinar on proper saddle fitting. The format and date will be announced shortly.

Website Updates

Ron asked for a volunteer to take over the task of keeping the website up to date. It was agreed that we should maintain the website but that we should also set up an official CCHAO Facebook page. In that way, information could be shared in a timelier fashion. It would also make it possible for members to post their own announcements, ads, etc.

Rhonda volunteered to set up a Facebook page for the Association.

Other Business

It was agreed that the next Directors' meeting will be held on May 17 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.



Ready, Set, Go ... Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Webinar: "Oh My Aching Back: Rider's Reaction, Horse's Reaction or Both?"

Ever wondered about whether your saddle is really a proper fit for you and your horse? Rhonda Turley will be sharing her insights about what to look for in an English saddle on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

This webinar is free for members!



Canadian Horse Demonstration

Doon Heritage Village at the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum, Kitchener
Saturday, June 25, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The CCHAO Board is pleased to announce three important opportunities for our members to come out and help promote our breed.

Once again, we have been invited by museum staff to showcase the Canadian horse. We are looking for owners and horses to demonstrate the versatility of our breed by engaging in various equine disciplines, such as riding (English and Western), dressage, pleasure driving, and liberty work.



Canadian Horse Day, Doon Pioneer Village, June 2019
Photo courtesy of Gail Brandt

International Plowing Match and Rural Expo,

Kemptville

Tuesday, September 20 – Saturday, September 24

CCHAO Director Kelly Ferguson, member of one of the organizing committees for this year's IPM, is looking for a Canadian horse to be part of their heritage display.



Canadian Horse Demonstration

Ancaster Fair

Sunday, September 25, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

We will be providing a one-hour demonstration of the Canadian Horse over the lunch hour at the Heavy Horse Show and are seeking owners and horses to participate.

We are also investigating the possibility of renting some stalls the previous day to give us an opportunity to engage with members of the public and with one another.



New equine facility under construction at Ancaster Fairgrounds, February 2022. Photo courtesy of Tina McNaughton



Volunteers are also needed at these events to interact with the public, answer questions, and hand out materials.

If you are interested in participating in any of these events and would like additional information, please contact Gail Brandt (gcbrandt@sympatico.ca).



Miller Nicol driving Bree and Ubac, February 2021

A Universal Carriage Story **By Heather Nicol**

Beginning

Miller Nicol was a young man with a new family working in the Standardbred racing business. In early 2000, he moved his family from London, Ontario, to the small town of Melbourne, Ontario, so he could utilize the local track to train Standardbreds. After the move, though, Miller didn't have enough time to train Standardbreds as well as be with his family, so he left the Standardbred business behind.

Not wanting the driving skills he had obtained through his years racing horses to go to waste, he looked for a way to continue using them. One day he found an ad from a company called A Universal Limousine looking to sell off the other half of its business, A Universal Carriage. Miller excitedly purchased A Universal Carriage along with several teams of horses, carriages, trailers, and trucks. The horses that came with this company were an older pair of palomino geldings, Prince and Jagger; a pair of double-dilutes, Duke and Duchess; and a pair of Canadians, Thunder and Dakota. For a year the two companies worked in tandem before they went their separate ways.

The importance of the Canadian team fell under the radar at first. As Prince and Jagger aged, they were retired. Miller acquired two new teams, one being a pair of Clydesdale-Quarter horse mixes, Tom and Jerry, along with another team of Canadians, Jason and Logan. As Miller's young family grew and his children got into the world of sports, Miller stopped booking as many events for the company. Prince passed on. Jagger, Tom, and Jerry were given to Circle R Ranch, a summer camp outside of Delaware at which Miller had worked while he was growing up. Jason and Logan were sold to Sunshine Therapy, a place where Miller trusted they would be used and loved in the way they deserved. He kept Duke and Duchess as well as Thunder and Dakota, and continued the business with a smaller number of events, since he wanted his children to grow up with the horse experience.

Now

With his children in their teens and the team of double-dilutes retired due to their age, Miller decided it was officially time to retire A Universal Carriage. His oldest child, Heather, had taken an interest in the business and shared his passion for horses. Between her and her



younger brother, Hunter, they convinced Miller to keep the business going with their team of Canadians, Thunder and Dakota. Dakota is a registered Canadian gelding (Chatham Lalou Dakota #6925). Thunder was supposed to be registered as well; he was Dakota's cousin, but his mother's papers were lost. As Heather and Hunter grew to love Thunder and Dakota dearly, they wanted to know more about the Canadian horse breed. Duke and Duchess passed on and the demand for business grew. A team of Haflinger mares, Suzie and Sandy, was purchased. They were both registered and thus helped grow the understanding of the importance of having the horses registered.



Bree and Thunder meeting Power for the very first time, September 2021

In March 2019, the Nicols acquired two non-registered 16-year-old Canadian geldings—Sirius and Ubac. Unfortunately, Sirius died from an aggressive form of bladder cancer the same year.



Sirius and Ubac, April 2019



Terra, Power, Ubac, and Bree running around in the field during off-time, September 2021

With the sudden loss of Suzie during the summer of 2019 and the retirement of Dakota, the Nicol family decided it might be time to get a Canadian mare, one that could both work and hopefully produce foals. Thus came Bree, named Jenny at the time, who was supposed to be registered and in foal to a Belgian. Sadly, Bree was neither, though the hope is still to breed her with a registered stallion and be able to register her foal.

Wanting to become a completely Canadian horse breed-based business, Miller sold Sandy, the Haflinger, and looked for another Canadian team. In 2021 the family added Power, a 14-year-old gelding, and Terra [Keppel Cornr Fresco Tarantella #13370], a 14-year-old mare. Power can be registered; the previous owners never thought it was necessary. The main reason the Nicols purchased this team was that in an online document Terra's bloodline was tied to the same bloodline as Dakota. Sadly, this information was wrong,



and they are not related. Thunder passed away in late January of this year, so now the Nicols hope to breed Terra and Bree and continue the Canadian legacy.

A Universal Carriage tells the story of the Canadian horses at any event they are hired for, spreading the knowledge of the breed as wide as they can while trying to give back to the breed they have come to love so dearly.



Thunder and Bree, Miller Nicol, Tom Jacobs, and Heather Nicol in Victoria Park, London, Christmas Eve, 2021



Equestrian Trails in Ontario



Photo courtesy of Saugeen Bluffs

We would like to encourage our members to reach out to other members in their own regions and perhaps plan some joint activities.

One possibility is to arrange a trail ride on someone's property or on one of the many beautiful equestrian trails in our province.

A listing of dozens of public equestrian trails can be found at <https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/index.php?url=trails/activity/equestrian#filter>.

Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area offers horse camping facilities, as does Horse Country Campground near Ottawa.

<https://www.saugeenconservation.ca/en/outdoors-and-recreation/saugeen-bluffs.aspx> (near Paisley, ON)

<https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/index.php?url=trails/viaw/horse-country-campground-trails>

If you would like to share a review of a horse trail or horse camping facility that you have used, we would be delighted to include it in an upcoming newsletter.



PLEASE SHARE THIS FORM WITH OTHER CANADIAN HORSE ENTHUSIASTS

**CHEVAL CANADIEN HORSE ASSOCIATION ONTARIO (CCHAO)
2022 Membership Form (1 January—31 December)**

Please print in block letters:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Type: (Please check appropriate type.)

Adult - 18 yrs and over, 1 CCHAO vote \$40 _____

Youth - 17 yrs and under, 1 CCHAO vote \$20 _____

Couple - 2 adults, 2 CCHAO votes \$60 _____

Family - 2 adults & related youth, 2 CCHAO votes \$80 _____

Associate - Does not own a Canadian Horse, non-voting \$20 _____

Voluntary Donation: _____

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 email address shared with other members, please check the following statement:

_____ 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 of age: _____

Date: _____

