



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

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Change in Western Ontario Director

According to our association’s bylaws, we have three directors as part of our board: one from Eastern Ontario, one from Western Ontario, and one Director at Large. If a director resigns prior to the end of the stipulated two-year term, the board must name a replacement within a 30-day period.

In early May, Tina McNaughton announced that she would like to step down from her Western Ontario director position. At the same time, she indicated she will continue to be involved in the planning and execution of our Canadian horse demonstration at the 2022 Ancaster Fair on September 25.

In early June, the board invited Sandy Addison of Vittoria to be the new director for the Western region, and she has graciously accepted. Sandy and her husband, Jack, are founding members of CCHAO and have participated in several of our riding and driving demonstrations with their lovely gelding, Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (#13350).

We owe a large debt of gratitude to Tina for her dedicated service to CCHAO and to the promotion of the Canadian breed. For several years, she was the Ontario representative

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to the Canadian Horse Breeders Association and regularly volunteered her time to support Horse Lovers Weekend at Upper Canada Village.

Thank you, Tina, for your dedication and thank you, Sandy, for increasing your involvement in CCHAO.

Upcoming CCHAO Events

June 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Horse Demonstration, Doon Heritage Village, Kitchener

September 25, noon to 1 p.m.

Horse Demonstration, Ancaster Fair

October 15, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Training clinic with Randy Bird and AGM,
Stonehaven Farm, Scugog Island (Port Perry area)

**Keep up to date by following us on the Cheval
Canadien Horse Association Ontario Facebook group.**

Introducing Two New Members

Two of our most recent members, **Tom Locke** and **Mark Trachy**, kindly agreed to answer a few questions as we welcome them to CCHAO.

Tom Locke



Q. Where do you live?

A. I live in London, ON.

Q. What is the number, sex, and age of the Canadian horse(s) you own?

A. I currently own two Canadians, both mares. Yvette is 11 years old (unregistered) and Soul Ridge Xpression Everlee (#14403) is five years old. Yvette was purchased as a three-year-old and Everlee was a two-year-old. I previously owned a third Canadian, Amy. She was purchased from Julie Hickie in Alberta as a two-year-old and sold to a couple in Syracuse, NY.



Soul Ridge Xpression Everlee

Q. When and why did you get involved with the Canadian horse breed?

A. I was looking for two things, a horse to start under saddle (I had never done that before) and a stockier one, and I came across a Canadian for the first time back in 2014 near Aylmer, ON.

Q. In what activities do you participate with your horse(s)?

A. We do a variety of different things—all my horses (I



have had others) have done cow sorting, trail riding, Xtreme Cowboy, riding with *la garrocha* (a pole around 12 to 13 feet in length traditionally used by Spanish riders to move cattle), barrels, poles, and flags.

Q. Why did you decide to join CCHAO?

A. To connect with other Canadian owners and support the breed.

Mark Trachy



Mark Trachy and Shadow

Photo Credit: Elise Genest

Q. Where do you live?

A. St. Thomas, ON.

Q. What is the number, sex, and age of the Canadian horse/s you own?

A. I own a 16-year-old Canadian gelding, Tremcel Kame Sweet-Shadow (#14600).

Q. When and why did you get involved with the Canadian horse breed?

A. I got involved with the Canadian horse breed when I purchased Shadow in August 2018. I liked Shadow's temperament, and although not the norm, Shadow was

the height that I need in order not to look like a giant on him.

Q. In what activities do you participate with your horse?

A. Dressage and jumping.

Q. Why did you decide to join CCHAO?

A. Since owning Shadow, I have become closer to a few Canadian horse groups, mostly from Quebec. Last year, I took part in a week-long training session in Sutton, Quebec, where 22 Canadian horses were brought together to start training for a "carrousel" — a musical ride similar to that of the RCMP. We are at the beginning stages of learning and coming together as a team. In fact, on June 24th, some members are performing for the public in Quebec. I am still actively involved with this group and we are getting back together again in September in Sutton, where we will review what we have already learned and add more complex movements. The intention of the group is to perform a carrousel ride under the tutelage of Frédérique Foiret, artistic director of [Ekasringa Cirque Équestre](#).



Mark and Shadow practising for the carrousel

Photo Credit: Tom von Kapherr Photography



The majority of the carousel participants belong to the Association Québécoise du Cheval Canadien, so I felt that I should join the Ontario association. I had looked at CCHAO a few times over the last couple of years but hadn't seen a lot of activity. However, I felt I should show my support and join. In addition, since owning a Canadian, I have come to appreciate their personality and abilities and it saddens me that they aren't showcased more. I would like to see some riding clinics as well as more promotion of the breed, especially, if possible, at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Canadian Horse Breed Origins, Part 1

By Roxanne Salinas

Note: This article is reprinted by permission of the author. It was first published on the internet over 10 years ago, so some of the links may no longer work, but it contains much valuable research that may be new to even long-time Canadian horse people. Some minor copy errors have been corrected. Archived by permission at

<http://marielynnhammond.com/LegacyCanadians/1098845.htm>

The story of the Canadian Horse begins in 1665, when the French Sun King, Louis XIV, sent the first horses to New France to be distributed among the military officers of the [Carignan-Salières](#) regiment, government officials, and religious communities of the colony. The first fourteen royal horses destined for the New World left Le Havre on the ship the *Marie Thérèse* on May 10, 1665. After nine perilous and stormy weeks at sea, two stallions and twelve mares set hoof on the

shores of New France at [Tadoussac](#) on July 16th.



Another shipment of fifteen royal horses arrived on September 25, 1667, with similar shipments reported in 1668 and 1669 (*Thomas Chapais 1914*). In 1670, a stallion and twelve more mares arrived to be distributed among the

gentlemen of New France. A final shipment of thirteen horses arrived in 1671, for a total of eighty-one horses.

While no one yet knows with certainty the lineage of these royal stallions and mares, we do know that France has a history of breeding distinguished horses dating back to antiquity. Several hundred years before Christ, horses were used in Gaul for military purposes, and in 58 BC, Julius Caesar noted the elegant, well-bred horses of the region in his diary. Small Asturian horses ([Asturcones](#)) from the Pyrenees mountains that were highly prized in their mountainous home territory for sure-footedness became popular as carriage ponies in Paris and throughout Europe, and many were exported to the British Isles where they contributed to founding the [Galloway](#) and Fell ponies. The now lost medieval *destrier*, the Norman Horse, when crossed with the oriental blood of the Arabian and Barb, contributed to the later development of the [Percheron](#) and [Spanish-Norman](#) breeds, renowned for their excellence on the battlefield.





Breton Horse



Dutch Horse

In northern France, stock was heavily influenced by the stock of the “Low Countries.” The English army requisitioned over 10,000 horses from the Netherlands in the 1500s for the invasion of France. Dutch horses were valued for their

ability to outwork the English horses three to one. In the 17th century, strong Flemish horses were brought to Poitou to drain the marshes. Cotentin and Breton



Cotentin Mare - This predominately black breed had disappeared in France by 1832

horses were prized for their smooth, brisk gaits and their ability to survive under harsh conditions. Even today, there is a marked similarity between Canadian Horses and the ancient Asturcone, Corlay Breton, Friesian, Merens, and Murgesse breeds



Louis XIV

Louis was known for his lavish tastes and loved to surround himself with baroque and beautiful things. His horses were no exception. He imported Iberian stallions to cross with hardy French mares to produce elegant, durable mounts for his Maison Royale, for the cavalry, and for the equestrian arts. Horsemanship and horse-breeding flourished during his reign with the founding of the equestrian school of Versailles and the Haras Nationaux (1665). When completed, King Louis XIV's Grande Écurie at the Palace of Versailles housed over 600 royal horses.



Records and artwork from the past survive to help us imagine what the king’s horses looked like. New World Jesuit missionary Louis Nicholas saw one of the first stallions to arrive in New France, and while his sketch in the Codex



Canadiensis is crude, he recorded in his diary that the stallion was one of the most beautiful he had ever seen. A century later, Dutch-Canadian artist Cornelius



Krieghoff painted the descendants of the kings' horses on his canvases, and French historian Etienne Faillon captured the essence of the breed with his pen: "*Small but robust, hocks of steel, thick mane floating in the wind, bright and lively eyes, pricking sensitive ears at the least noise, going along day or night with the same courage, wide awake beneath its harness, spirited, good, gentle, affectionate, following his road with finest instinct to come surely to his own stable.*"

A century later, western artist Frederick Remington would write in *Horses of the Plains (1889)* that "*the French Canadian pony, and the Morgan, for all practical purposes, are the best horses ever developed in America.*"

Northern French territory in those early times included not only Quebec, but what is now Vermont, New York, Michigan and Illinois. French horses found their way to the southern outposts, to French settlements at Chimney Point and Crown Point on the shores of Lake Champlain, and to the Jesuit mission farms near Detroit and on the shores of the Illinois River.



The horses adapted to their new frontier environment better than any other domestic animal sent to New France and soon became indispensable to the *habitant*: hauling wood, bringing in the harvest and maple sugar, working in the grinding mills, and providing much needed transportation over the ice of frozen rivers during the long cold winter months. It was near Montreal, in sleigh races across the ice, that the North American sport of harnessing racing began.



Canadian Horses saw early military service too. In 1759, they were used by the *Corps de cavalerie* until the surrender of Montreal in 1760. General Montcalm himself rode a fiery black stallion into battle on the Plains of

Abraham.

In 1777, 1500 Canadian Horses were purchased by The British army from Montreal and surrounding areas and used on General "*Gentleman Johnny*" Burgoyne's ill-fated southward march to Ticonderoga. Canadian Horses served with the "*Volunteer Corps*" through the War of 1812, and the Militia Cavalry during the Fenian troubles. During the worst years of the *Patriote* Rebellion, 1837 and 1838, the British army and volunteer militias are reported to have stolen over 800 Canadian horses when they burned, pillaged, and destroyed French Canadian villages in Lower Canada.

The Canadian breed became renowned for its abilities as a roadster, racer and stylish harness horse. By 1820,



classes for Canadian horses were being held at agricultural exhibitions in Lower Canada and in New York. Over the next decades, increasing numbers of Canadian horses, including the best stallions, were sold to the United States. Many found their way into the foundation stock of other breeds such as the Morgan, Tennessee Walker, American Saddlebred and Standardbred.

Even today, as evidenced by a *genetic similarity study* conducted by the University of Guelph, Ontario, in the year 2000, the Canadian Horse and the Morgan are still close genetic cousins. Two of the most famous Canadian stallions to leave Canada were Old Pilot (1829), and St. Lawrence (1846). Other Canadian Horses were exported to England where their easygoing nature made them popular as London omnibus horses.



A Superbtype of Columbus, #1156 in the Morgan Registry from the stock of Louis Danserau, Verchères

(Left: the stallion Columbus, owned by the Danserau family, Verchères, QC. Sold to the USA and became #1156 in the MHR (Morgan).



Left – St. Lawrence (1846)

With the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861,

Canadian horses once again were used for military service when thousands were exported to supply the

Union Army. By the end of the war in 1865, at least 30,000 Canadian horses had been exported for military service. Following the Civil War and the horrendous loss of human and equine life, American buyers continued to come to Canada for horses. Old Quebec newspapers such as *the Courier de St-Hyacinthe* reported on the influx of American buyers and the trainloads of Canadian horses shipped south.

Later, in 1874, Canadian horses took part in the historic



North West Mounted Police great March West and in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, and are even said to have served in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Canadian horses sent to serve in the Boer War in South Africa did so well that hundreds were subsequently



purchased for the British Imperial forces and shipped overseas. During World War I, more Canadian horses were shipped off to battle in France, never to return.

Ironically, the popularity and availability of the Canadian horse almost caused its demise as a distinct breed. Breeders began to realize the impact of losing their best stock, but even though all agreed that the Canadian horse was in urgent need of conservation and



replenishing, there were long and heated debates on how best to accomplish this task. One side felt that the Canadian horse was perfectly adapted to the Canadian climate and way of life, so it would be best to seek out any remaining native stock and rebuild the breed from those horses.

The other side felt that the breed had been so eroded by cross-breeding and export that there were not enough remaining individuals of quality as in previous generations. They reasoned that it would be better to resuscitate the breed by importing horses of similar ancestry, such as the Percheron from France, to cross with Canadian stock. The latter viewpoint found much favour with some influential academic agriculturists and politicians such as Louis Beaubien, director of the Quebec-based Haras National and importer of Norman, Percheron and Arabian horses.

Roxanne Salinas, a retired breeder of Canadian horses, has been researching the breed for 21 years and is currently completing a book on the history of the Canadian horse. She lives in BC and owns two Canadian horses, her mare Glenminguay Prior Ulster (#12658) and her gelding Legacy Kelbeck Yankee (#13562). Part II of this article will appear in the next newsletter.

Canadian Love at First Sight

Marie-Lynn Hammond

I'm always fascinated to learn how people discovered our favourite breed. I'd first heard about Canadians around 1980, from a horseman who told me they were close to extinction. Growing up, I'd owned a pony, then a horse, so I was curious to know more. But this was

way before the internet, so finding information about the breed was nearly impossible.

In my late thirties I start riding once more, and a decade later began to think about buying a horse. Someone mentioned Canadians again. By now the World Wide Web had been born, so I searched them out online.



Although I've yet to fall in love with a man at first sight, I did fall that way for a horse. Not only that, I fell for a dead horse. What I mean is, the horse came in the form of a small black-and-white photo, circa 1930, that I found on the internet. He took my breath away. He was a Canadian stallion, a prominent sire in his day. His name was Laurent de Cap Rouge, and I still can't fully articulate what it was that made me fall so hard, because he wasn't flashy. Maybe it was the proud head carriage, the kind eye, the alert and intelligent expression. Maybe it was his solid, compact, curvy build—forget those long, lean equines; I've always been a sucker for Baroque breeds. But there was something more going on.



Perhaps it had to do with my roots—my maternal grandparents were Quebecois—because Laurent seemed ... *familiar*. It was as though I'd known this horse in a past life.

As I began to research, the more I learned, the more I got hooked. I loved that the breed had deep roots in our country, and that the horses were hardy, versatile, calm, and low maintenance, with excellent feet: all things that mattered in my limited-budget middle age. Plus, they came in smaller sizes; being short, I wanted a horse I didn't need a ladder to mount.

In 2002 in Quebec, I found and bought, with uncharacteristic impulsiveness, a 15-hand, three-year-old gelding named Mainguy Bismark Joé (#9333), whom I nicknamed Beau.



Suffice to say it was quite an adventure. I'd never dealt with a young horse before, especially not a smart, strong-willed one! But I could bring him to clinics or horse shows and he'd take in all the new sights and sounds in stride. He was the best horse I'd ever ridden on trails: sensible, eager, brave, and perfectly happy to

go out alone. He had a trot to die for and he learned tricks in a minute. And every time he stood alert, ears pricked forward, he took my breath away, and I'd get that feeling I had when I first saw the picture of Laurent de Cap Rouge: somehow, in some deep mysterious way, this breed and I were *connected*.

Sadly, I had a terrible accident with Beau in 2006. Some of you may remember that Orono show, when out of the blue my calm, borderline-lazy little horse began to buck like a Calgary Stampede bronc. I was thrown and ended up with some broken bones and a brain injury. Beau had never come close to doing anything like that before (and hasn't since), so the likely explanation is he got stung by a wasp—they were plentiful that day at the fairgrounds.

The brain injury caused a visual disability that also creates balance problems. At that time I was earning my living as an editor and proofreader, and I had no idea if I'd ever see properly to work again—or ride. With a heavy heart, I sold Beau to a couple in Nova Scotia and haven't seen him since, though I know through the Canadian-horse grapevine he's doing well. While I'll never have fully normal vision, since then my eye improved enough



that I was able to work and ride once more. In 2015 I learned of a 14.3 Canadian mare for sale located only 20 minutes from the town I'd just moved to. It seemed meant to be, so—again on impulse!—I bought her. Crossview Eisen Rubicelle (#11904), aka Rubi, was a whole other adventure. It turned out she was extremely herd-bound, which her previous owners did not disclose. So I had to spend months working with a trainer to help overcome this problem. It was tedious work, requiring much patience and repetition, but things eventually improved.

Alas, Rubi and I never bonded. A year after buying her, I sold her to a horse-savvy family. (Of course I told them



about the herd-bound issue and what I'd done to address it.) When they came to try her out, she aced every test they threw at her, so they took her home to their farm. A few months later their 12-year-old daughter won Reserve Champion with Rubi in the Trilogy show series! Those two really *have* bonded, and she has a home for life with them.

I'm mostly retired now, so owning another horse is not in the cards. I do, however, ride a friend's quiet horse

once a week, and I keep up my love for, and interest in, the breed by volunteering for our organization and following several Canadian-horse Facebook groups.

And I continue to spread the word about Canadians on the somewhat rare occasions when I do a concert, because I always include the song I wrote in 2001 called "The Canadian (P'tit Cheval de Fer)." You can [listen to it here](#), and I think you'll all appreciate this part:

*"Ain't that just the Canadian way it goes
to have something special and no one knows
and to let it fade and dwindle till it almost disappears;
thirty years ago they were almost gone
but the Little Iron Horse is hanging on
and I figure they deserve to be around for the next four
hundred years."*

Saddle Fitting Webinar

On April 5, CCHAO sponsored a webinar on saddle fitting that featured a very informative presentation by our vice-president, Rhonda Turley.

Her talk covered a wide range of topics including horse physiology, saddle parts, choice of saddle trees, proper saddle storage, different types of saddle pads, correct saddle placement, and things to consider when searching for the ideal saddle.

If you would like a copy of Rhonda's PowerPoint presentation, please contact **Rhonda** [rhonda.turley@clorox.com] or **Gail Brandt** [gcbbrandt@sympatico.ca].



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: _____

