

December, 2022



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

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

## President's Message

Hello everyone:

I hope you have all had a wonderful year and have stayed safe and healthy. It has certainly felt like a much more "normal" year with restrictions being removed, and I know many of you enjoyed getting out with your horses and friends.

As we come into winter and the holiday season, I want to wish you all a very safe and healthy season, and I hope many of you get to spend the holidays with family, both two-legged and four-legged.

Your Board of Directors has met several times this year, and we are very excited for 2023. We have several ideas and possible venues that we will be going ahead with for you, our members. As we finalize these events, we will be sharing the details with all of you.

Thank you once again for your support and dedication to the CCHA, and we look forward to a fabulous 2023!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year

Ron Marino  
President, CCHA

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## Annual General Meeting

By Sandy Churchill

October 15 was the date for this year's AGM, and it was held once again at the welcoming and beautiful Stonehaven Farm on Scugog Island. Our morning was spent in the arena due to bad weather, with equine educator Randy Bird presenting a clinic on starting horses for hitching and driving. He first shared his background, experiences, and strategies about training horses. He then explained his various pieces of equipment and how and why he uses them for his successful training routine. He often has damaged horses to get back to driving as well as young and disagreeable horses to train! Ensuring the safety of his staff and that any horse he is working with will consistently stop are paramount requirements before he actually hitches the horse.

Randy started his demonstration with Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella [registration pending], a sixteen-month-old filly, owned by my husband and me and whom we affectionately call Izzy. When working with young horses like Izzy, Randy uses a chain lead. He then puts hobbles on them. We watched Izzy struggle when he first put on the hobbles, but then she decided on her own to stand still. He then sent her to the back of the arena and began moving forward with his Australian stock whip (which sounds like a gunshot inside an arena) until he was about 10 feet from her. She was able to stand with minimal movement.

Another of our horses, Canadream Navajo Zaida [13589] was then brought out. Randy had trained her to drive

eight years ago. Once again, he used the stock whip, and she did not even flick an ear at that sound. Randy talked about harnessing basics, changing her bridle, adding a tie down, and hitching while he went through the processes of harnessing and hitching her, and then he drove her. Recently Zaida had started to rear on first walk off after being hitched, so Randy demonstrated his method to lessen and eventually stop that behaviour.

Lots of questions and conversation ensued following the conclusion of Randy's demonstration. Subsequently, Cecil Pring and Don Tribbling took interested people onto the driving courses so they could see the property. Due to the inclement weather, however, the tour was by golf cart, not by the planned horse drive.

Following the tour, clinic participants proceeded to the common room for lunch provided by CCHAO and for the ensuing AGM. (Details of the AGM were provided in the Fall newsletter.) The day's events concluded by 2 p.m.

For more information on Randy Bird, please visit his website <https://www.randybird.ca>.



## **A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members**

**W**e are delighted to welcome the following individuals to our association and look forward to their participation in our activities.

*Victoria Adams, Elmvale*

*Lise Carruthers, Mallorytown*

*Nancy Cooper, Dundas*

*Laura Hoy, Ottawa*

*Lise LeBlanc, Wilsonville*

*Olivia Paquette, Ottawa*

Thank you as well to current members who have already renewed their memberships for 2023. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet renewed, you can still take advantage of 2023 membership rates until December 31, 2022.

Gail Brandt

## **Meet Our Youngest New Member**



**S**ixteen-year-old *Olivia Paquette* recently joined CCHAO, although she does not have a Canadian Horse—yet. She kindly agreed to share some information about herself and her passion for our national horse.

### **Where I live:**

Hammond, Ontario. (Hammond is a village located 40 minutes east of Ottawa and south of Clarence-Rockland.)

### **Why I got interested in the Canadian Horse breed:**

I fell in love with my grandfather's Canadian mare about three years ago. Unfortunately, she passed away this past October. As a history lover and horse lover, I find the Canadian horse is the perfect mix for both my interests. They are incredibly beautiful and smart horses!

### **Why I decided to join CCHAO:**

I joined to connect with other Canadian horse lovers! As a youth, I want to advocate for the breed with other young people.

### **Other Information:**

I'm also a photographer. I offer discounted sessions for Canadians. You can check out my work at [https://www.instagram.com/pony\\_crazy\\_photography/](https://www.instagram.com/pony_crazy_photography/)



## Canadian Breed History Part II

by Roxanne Salinas

In 1865, the Board of Agriculture of Lower Canada offered a prize at the provincial exhibition for the best French-Canadian horse, and of the 22 entries, were disappointed to find that not one was of pure blood. In 1868 the Board considered forming a commission to search for stallions of the pure French-Canadian breed.



Horse Fair, Sherbrooke, PQ.

But when local politicians representing the Board declared that there were no such horses to be found as they had all been taken to the United States, the Board regretfully concluded that the task would be almost impossible.

Had it not been for the tireless efforts of a small group of gentlemen inspired by patriotism, the Canadian horse may well have disappeared from our landscape forever. Dr. J.A. Couture, distinguished Quebec agronomist Édouard Barnard (who had worked so tirelessly for the preservation of the Canadien cow), and a few associates remained dedicated to searching out, inspecting, and

recording any remaining Canadian horses of quality. Initial progress was slow—decades of depletion and crossbreeding had taken their toll, and the purpose of recording individuals not well understood by average horse owners. Nevertheless, in 1886, the first registry for “La Race Chevaline Canadienne” was opened, and Édouard’s beloved stallion “Lion of Canada” became #1—the first registered Canadian horse.

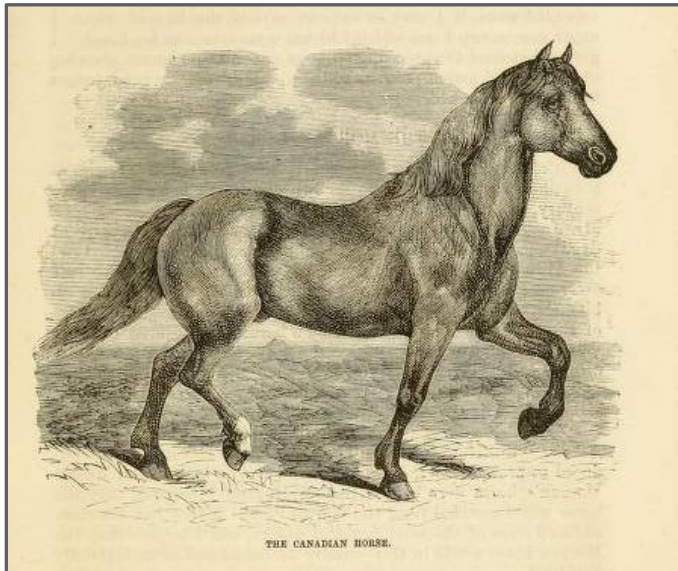
In the years that followed, over 1,800 horses would be inscribed by hand in Volumes I and II of the first registry. Depending on the registrar, some entries were made with great care: with markings, birthdates, height, weight, pedigrees, changes of ownership dates, and progeny noted under the mares’ names. Some horses made the 2:30 mile requirement for Wallace’s Trotting registry, and were double-registered, often under a different name.

In 1895, the Canadian Horse Breeders Association (La Société des Éleveurs de chevaux Canadiens) was formed, took over registrations, and proceeded to validate the integrity of the stud book’s entries and inspect the horses registered therein. With the passing of the federal Livestock Pedigree Act in 1905, all breed associations in Canada were encouraged to incorporate under one umbrella, to standardize registration procedures, and to scrutinize their existing herd books to meet new federal regulations.

Each breed association had the choice of bringing their existing books up to standard, or starting fresh with new inspections to record their foundation stock. For the Canadian horse, the task of bringing the old books up to standard would have been formidable—many



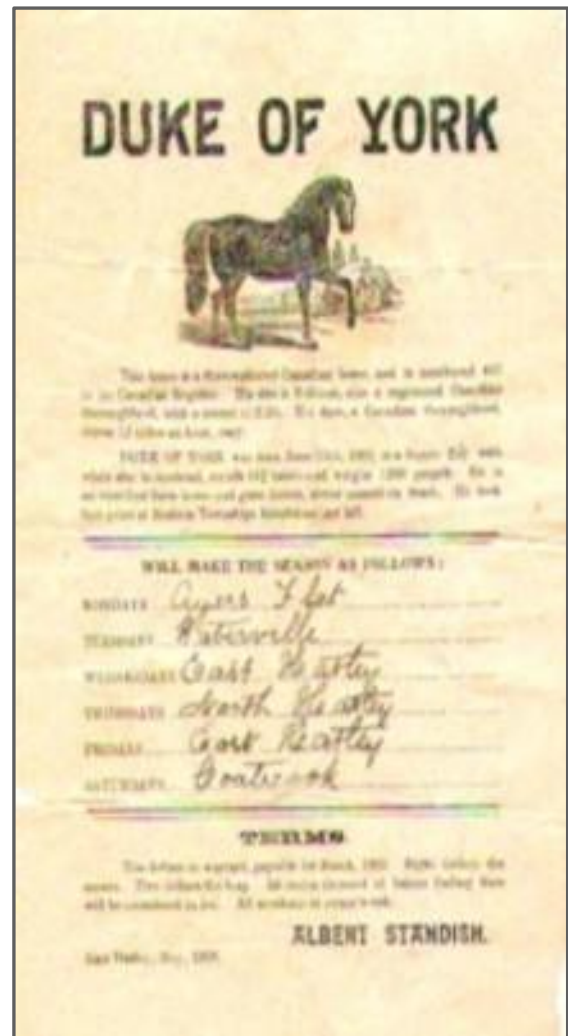
horses had died, or could not be located as they had been sold to other provinces or the United States, some without transfer of certificates.



*An old engraving of the Canadian horse.*

Dr. Couture consulted with Canada's first Veterinary Director General and Live Stock Commissioner, Dr. Rutherford, and they agreed that the best course of action would be to dissolve the existing registry, re-inspect registered horses as well as previously unregistered horses of Canadian type for suitability as foundation stock, and cull any off-type horses from the breed record books. Dr. Rutherford informed the association of the procedures to be taken—only those horses that could pass inspection by a strict committee would be permitted entry into the new books. The new inspections continued until 1909, and out of 2,528 horses inspected, 969 were accepted as foundation stock. Many horses from the first books were not presented, but still well over 300 horses that had been previously registered passed the new inspections.

Others were progeny of sires and dams registered in the old books.



*Duke of York, a chestnut stallion f. 1898, sired by Brillant, and owned by C.E. Standish, Ayer's Cliff, PQ, is one of the horses registered in both books.*

Regrettably, the inspection teams did not inspect horses outside of Quebec and parts of Ontario. And those horses that had been sold to the United States or other provinces before the inspections took place, regardless of pedigree, were simply dropped from the registry, and lost to the breed forever.



Dr. Couture still felt that the breed was in need of ongoing systematic preservation efforts. He lobbied for, and obtained, support from the federal government, and in 1913, the government established a stud farm in Quebec at Cap Rouge, followed by a second at St. Joachim in 1919. Experimental breeding programs to conserve, revitalize, and fix the type of the Canadian Horse breed were undertaken, but, as elsewhere, with mechanization, the use of horses diminished. The population of horses in Quebec dropped from one horse for every five inhabitants to one for less than every ten inhabitants over the next two decades.



*A copy of page 187 of the old Volume 1 of the genealogical record of “La Race Chevaline Canadienne,” showing the horses’ new registration numbers in the new book above the old.*

***(Our thanks to Roxanne Salinas for giving us permission to use this material. The second half of this article will appear in the next newsletter.)***

## **A Passion for Working Equitation**

**By Lise LeBlanc**



I am a classical dressage trainer and rider specializing in French classical dressage. I am passionate about the sport of working equitation (WE) because it builds on the classical foundations and offers a fun, developmental progression for teaching horses and riders in an enjoyable yet challenging format. For several years now I’ve been training WE and helping to build the sport of working equitation in Canada and the US.

Currently, I am a Licensed Official Candidate with the United States Working Equitation organization (USAWE) and pursuing my USAWE judging card. I’m also the president of the Ontario Society for Working Equitation (OSWE), which is an independent Ontario not-for-profit grass-roots society focused on the education,



development, promotion, and accessibility of working equitation sport in Ontario-

Working equitation is a sport that builds on correct training foundations. It's inclusive of all breeds and disciplines. OSWE wants to establish the sport in Ontario by introducing it to equestrians of all disciplines through education, clinics, schooling shows, seminars, coaching clinics, and online virtual events. Our society aims to grow the WE community of riders, facility owners, judges, and officials so that WE shows and events are affordable and accessible to all interested people, and most of all, fun. Our club has already organized many events in 2022—which was our first year of operation. And we are just getting started!

Currently I am training two Canadian horses in classical dressage and working equitation. I find the breed excellent for the sport. Canadian horses are intelligent, quick learners and capable of performing a variety of jobs (e.g., dealing with obstacles or cattle). They are a smaller horse, which is an advantage in a tight course and when executing the challenging smaller circles in the working equitation dressage tests. Canadian horses are very easy to round up and collect. Even though they may not have the expressive long-legged or high-stepping action of other breeds, this is not a focus in working equitation. WE sport evaluates “correctness” of gaits, precision of execution, obedience, and a working attitude, which requires above all, relaxation—because a “working horse” cannot be resistant or stressed, otherwise it will strain. Canadian horses deliver all that.



As president of the Ontario Society for Working Equitation, I invite you all to visit the website [www.OSWE.ca](http://www.OSWE.ca) and to learn more about the sport. We are hoping to excite Ontario equestrians with many appealing events, including a breed challenge show, where teams of three or four compete on course. Each breed brings different strengths to the table. What a delightful way to represent and build awareness of our special breed!

There are many levels to the sport, and no pressure to move up. The development is enjoyable and engaging. Best of all, the obstacles can be integrated into already existing lesson programs for fun reinforcement of riding instruction.

Working on my USAWE judging licence has taken me all over the United States and to the 2022 World Working Equitation Championships in France. What I find so impressive about all these events is the growing, enthusiastic community of people from a variety of disciplines and breed groups who are united in passion



for the sport. Our goal in Ontario is to create this community.

*I am happy to offer a free introductory webinar and Q&A session about working equitation to CCHAO members this January 24th at 7:00 pm. More details will be sent to you in early January.*

Ontario Society for Working Equitation membership has many advantages, including free online obstacle training videos, downloadable content on our website, and virtual events. Our rules and tests are free to use. We are also developing a resource page to support facilities that wish to learn more about WE and hold schooling shows. This May, OSWE is hosting Antonio Vicente, an international Senior World Association of Working Equitation (WAWE) judge-at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. Antonio will be teaching all levels about the sport, giving a judging seminar and a clinic, and officiating at two shows. We also are planning evening entertainment that might include demonstrations, quadrilles, and activities to promote local equestrian clubs. It would be wonderful to see the Canadian Horse being presented! Please feel free to reach out for more information.

## Management and Feeding of Horses in Cold Weather

Thank you to Gail Brandt for providing this timely and very comprehensive article filled with information that will keep our barn babies healthy and happy this winter.

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, it was not possible to insert it into the newsletter. You can access it by clicking the link below.

### **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs: Management and Feeding of Horses in Cold Weather**

<http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/info-coldweather-man.htm>





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

**CHEVAL CANADIEN HORSE ASSOCIATION ONTARIO (CCHAO)  
2023 Membership Form (January 1 – December 31)**

**Please print in block letters:**

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:** (Please check appropriate type.)

Adult: 18 yrs and over, 1 CCHAO vote \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Youth: 17 yrs and under, 1 CCHAO vote \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Couple: 2 adults, 2 CCHAO votes \$80 \_\_\_\_\_

Family: 2 adults & related youth, 2 CCHAO votes \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Associate: Does not own a Canadian Horse, non-voting \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

