



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

Minutes of AGM.....page 2

The Headless Horseman Rides Again  
By Gail Cuthbert Brandt.....page 5

Meet Our New Members  
Andy Thompson & Grace Bradish,  
Kilmakee Canadians.....page 5

Ancaster Fair 2023  
By Gail Cuthbert Brandt.....page 7

Churchill Chimes Show  
By Barb Malcolm.....page 8

Images from the Churchill Chimes Show... ..page 10

Membership Form.....page 11

**President's Message**  
**by Rhonda Turley**

I would like to thank my predecessor, Ron Marino, for his work while president of our organization for two consecutive terms. I would also like to welcome to the CCHAO board our new vice-president, Sheri Roberts; our new treasurer, Sandra Addison; and our new Western Ontario director, Samantha Rentner. Our secretary, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, has agreed to continue in her post until a replacement can be found.

During the past year, the board held three online meetings and will need similar meetings in the coming months to plan and organize 2024 events. As you will read in the minutes of our recent AGM meeting contained in this newsletter, we are planning three major shows: Caledon in June, Merrickville in August, and Ancaster in September. Another of our major goals is raising \$1,000 for the Canadian Horse Statue Project at Upper Canada Village, expected to be completed in September 2024.

We are a growing organization and increased our memberships in 2023 to include over 50 individuals. I would like to thank those members who assisted in our growth and provided many volunteer hours to help us out at CCHAO events this past year.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and 2024 New Year!



# **Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Sidney Township Office, Belleville, Ontario

October 14, 2023

Members Present: Cam Baker, Bernd Brandt, Gail Cuthbert Brandt (Secretary), Sandy Churchill, Don Cook, Candace Gomes (Treasurer), Rob Knowles, Saira Knowles, David Leitch, Ron Marino (President), Tina McNaughton, Kelsey Roberts, Sheri Roberts, Rhonda Turley (Vice-President)

Regrets: Sandra Addison, Allan and Gail Burns, Wendy Bowden, Susan McLenaghan, Laura Snider, Mark Trachy, Andrea Wilson

Guests: Darlene Burns, Gwyneth Freeman, Janet Moore, Adam Parr, Gary Roberts

The meeting began at 12:45 p.m.

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

Moved by Ron and seconded by Sheri that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of 2022 AGM**

Moved by Gail and seconded by Rhonda that the minutes of the 2022 AGM be adopted. Motion carried.

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

Ron prefaced his report by thanking Sheri and Kelsey Roberts for providing the excellent groundwork demonstration that took place that morning at the Windhill Equestrian Centre.

In his remarks, he pointed out that this was a bittersweet occasion since the bylaws limit a president's time in office to two consecutive two-year terms. He really enjoyed his time as president and was proud of all that our association had accomplished in such a short time, despite the pandemic occurring when we were only into our second year of operation. He was especially happy to note that our objective of creating an organizational culture based on collaboration, friendship, and fun had been met. In the past four years, he had witnessed no signs of discord among our members.

Ron thanked the members for creating such a positive atmosphere within CCHAO and reminded them that it was their organization. They should continue to make suggestions to the board relating to activities and events they would like to see CCHAO undertake.

Moved by Tina and seconded by Sandy that the president's report be accepted. Motion carried.

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

Due to problems with the software that she had been using, Candace was unable to generate a balance sheet or income statement for 2022. According to the last bank statement she had received, we had just over \$2000 in our account.

Candace also announced that she would not be standing for re-election for the treasurer's position.

Moved by Ron, seconded by Sheri that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried.

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



Gail began by thanking Sandra Addison for taking notes at last year's AGM while she was home battling COVID.

Two changes were approved at the 2022 AGM:

- an increase in membership fees across all categories.
- a change in the newsletter publication schedule from four times to three times yearly.

Both changes were well accepted by our membership. The number of new members grew over the past year, and we now had 43 individuals/couples/families on our paid-up membership list. We received no negative reaction to the reduced number of newsletters, and they were now longer and contained more stories and photos. Gail thanked Marie-Lynn Hammond (editor) and Susan McLenaghan (layout designer) for the many hours of volunteer work they invested again this past year in producing the newsletter.

It was a very busy past year for our association, as the following list indicates:

- January 24 Webinar on working equitation conducted by member Lise LeBlanc. There were 12 participants.
- February 4 Meet and Greet Luncheon in London for southwestern Ontario Canadian Horse owners, organized by member Millar Nicol. Fourteen individuals were in attendance, and we gained two new memberships.
- March 31-April 2 Booth at the Can-Am Equine Expo in Ancaster. Members Wendy

Bowden and Barb Malcolm set up the award-winning booth; member Samantha Renter and her horse, Litjens Navajo Florence, took part in demonstrations; other CCHAO members volunteered to hand out brochures.

- May 25-26 Table at the Can-Am Working Equitation Expo in Ancaster. Members Sandra Addison and Samantha Rentner also entered their horses, Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi and Litjens Navajo Florence, as part of the Canadian team in the "Battle of the Breeds" charity WE competition. Lise LeBlanc not only took a lead role in organizing the event, but also held practice sessions for the Canadian Horses that took part.
- June 11 CCHAO show at Caledon Fair. This was our first show, with 15 horses competing in 26 classes. Special thanks to Rhonda Turley for doing the groundwork with the Caledon Fair authorities to bring this event to fruition.
- September 24 CCHAO demonstration classes at the Ancaster Fair Heavy Horse Show. There were six horses who competed in a total of five classes. Many thanks to Tina McNaughton for working with the Ancaster Fair Board to make this event happen.

There were three online directors' meetings (January, April, June) to plan most of these events. In addition, the board began conversations with representatives of the Royal Winter Fair to see if we might have a presence



at the RWF in 2024. David Leitch and Ron Marino were spearheading this initiative.

We were also approached by a representative of the Merrickville Fair committee to work jointly to increase the number of Canadian Horses at its 2024 Fair. It was the first fair in the province to have classes for Canadian Horses, and it continues to offer very attractive show money.

Having filled the role of secretary for the past four years, Gail indicated her desire to step down. She thanked the members for their encouragement and support during her time as secretary. Without them CCHAO would not be where it is today.

The idea to create a new provincial organization came out of two breakfast meetings Gail had with Ron Marino and Rhonda Turley in Guelph in early 2018. She thanked them for sharing their visions for a new provincial association and for their myriad contributions to the development of CCHAO.

It was a source of great pride for her that we were able to develop such a strong, welcoming association to represent Canadian Horse owners and enthusiasts in Ontario in such a short time. This result was even more remarkable since the COVID pandemic kept us from holding in-person events for more than two years.

Moved by Ron, seconded by Sheri that the secretary's report be approved. Motion carried.

#### **6. Approval of Membership Fees for 2024**

There was a consensus that we should maintain the membership fees at the 2023 level since they had been raised at the last AGM.

Moved by Rhonda and seconded by Sandy that the current membership fee schedule be maintained.

Motion carried.

#### **7. Election of Executive Officers**

- a. President: Moved by Ron, seconded by Gail that Rhonda be elected to fill the president's position. Motion carried.
- b. Vice-President. Moved by Ron, seconded by Kelsey that Sheri become the new vice-president. Motion carried.
- c. Secretary. Moved by Tina, seconded by Ron that Gail continue in the role of secretary. Motion carried.
- d. Treasurer. Moved by Gail, seconded by Sandy that Sandra Addison assume the treasurer's position.

#### **8. Planning events for 2024**

Members reviewed the various events that CCHAO organized or supported during 2023 and agreed that they had been successful. We will focus on the following events for 2024:

- a. Can-Am Equine Expo, Ancaster (March 31-April 2)
- b. Caledon Fair (June 9)
- c. Merrickville Fair (August 9-11)
- d. Ancaster Fair (September 19-22)
- e. Royal Winter Fair (November 1-10)



## 9. Other Business

### a. Canadian Horse Statue Project

Don and Darlene provided an update on the project that was officially launched on September 1 this year. The goal is to raise \$300,000 to erect a life-size bronze statue of the Canadian Horse outside the Discovery Centre entrance at Upper Canada Village in 2024. To date, nearly half of the funds had been raised. The volunteer fundraising group is supported by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. It will issue charitable donation receipts for gifts of \$50 or more. Donors who provide \$1000 or more will be recognized on a bronze plaque located in front of the statue.

Don and Darlene asked CCHAO to help by spreading the word about the project.

After discussion among the members, it was moved by Ron and seconded by Tina that CCHAO commit to raising \$1000 so that our association's name would appear on the donor plaque. The motion was carried unanimously.

### b. Show Guidelines

It was agreed that we should develop a set of simplified show guidelines based on Equine Canada's regulations that are available online. Both Rhonda and Sheri indicated an interest in working on this document.

### c. Letter to the RCMP

Laura Snider had approached Gail about sending a letter to the RCMP Commissioner asking the RCMP to employ some Canadian Horses in its operations. Montreal Police

Force, for example, uses Canadian Horses in its mounted patrol.

It was agreed that CCHAO support Laura in her endeavour and that once we have a draft letter available, we circulate it to CHBC/SECC and other provincial Canadian Horse associations for their endorsement.

### d. Stepping Stone Dressage Virtual Series Award

Rhonda announced that the award she sponsors in CCHAO's name for the high point Canadian Horse in the virtual series was won this year by Jennifer Conway, riding MM Dark Nouki.

Sandy asked if Rhonda could contact Stepping Stone and ask them if they might be interested in setting up a series for driving dressage.

## 10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## The Headless Horseman Rides Again in Port Ryerse

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

On Halloween evening for the past 17 years, the Headless Horseman and entourage have ridden through the streets of the small community of Port Ryerse, located on Lake Erie southwest of Port Dover. And, as in the past several years, a brave Canadian horse by the name of Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi [CAN 13350] took part in this well-attended event. This year approximately 2000 revellers—many in colourful costumes—descended on the small village to witness the eerie spectacle.





*Karen Smout on Yazhi left, with Charlotte Elliott on Freebird*

Yazhi, ridden by his trainer Karen Smout, acted as the escort horse for Charlotte Elliott and her horse, Freebird. According to Yazhi’s owners, Jack and Sandra Addison, he remained calm, cool, and collected while leading the way for the headless rider through the agglomeration of strange-looking creatures. Way to go, Yazhi!

## **Meet Our New Members**

**Andy Thompson and Grace Bradish, owners of Kilmakee Canadians, Mount Brydges, Ontario**

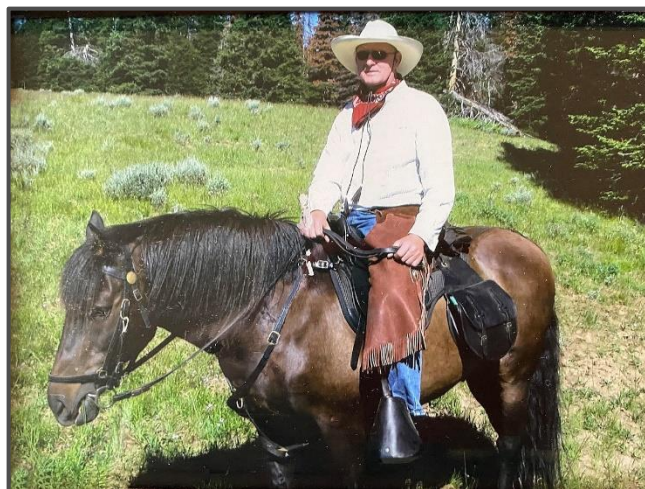
**By Andy Thompson**

**W**hen our daughter Jean was eight years old, she asked if she could have a pony. I had seen that this situation often did not work out well, so I decided that if we were going to get a horse, we would get a horse that I could ride as well.

I was aware of Canadians and decided to investigate them further. We went to the Royal Winter Fair and saw a remarkable Canadian horse—might have been J P Casselman Wilfrid Dazzler [CAN 6279]—and decided to

buy one because of its conformation, hardiness, and history.

We found Pat and Mike Garland in Winchester in the spring of 1999. They had a six-year-old gelding, Francel Robi Clone [CAN 6513] aka “Teddy,” and a two-year-old filly, Schmucki Cesar Glorye [CAN 7235]. We brought them both home. We trained Glorye to drive and ride while Teddy was already accomplished at both. Glorye was bred to Cosyland Remi Bandit [CAN 5957] and then Quebecois Lalou Wilfrid [CAN 5201] and produced two offspring: Kilmakee Bandit Napoleon [CAN 10968], aka “Sammy” (2003); and Kilmakee Wilfrid Reine [CAN 12359], aka “Button” (2005). They were both trained to drive and ride.



*Teddy and Andy on the Bighorn Mountain ride c.2009*

I rode Teddy, Sammy, and Button on several trail rides in the Bighorn mountains of Wyoming as well as in Kentucky and states in between.

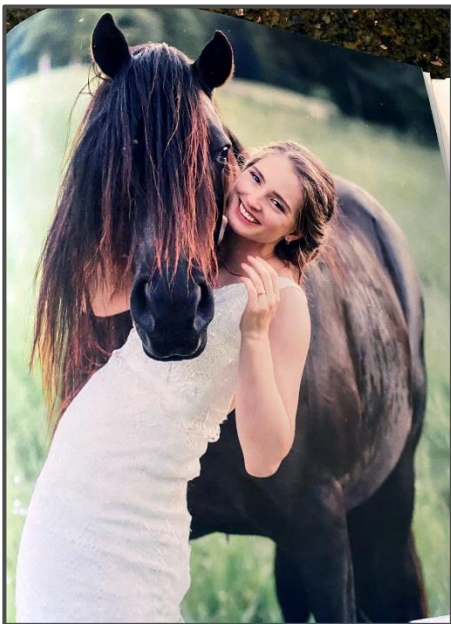




Steve Hartwick and Andy Thompson, wearing period cavalry uniforms, ride at London's Wolsey Barracks. They are among seven members of the 1st Hussars Cavalry troop who will join an international commemorative ride in Europe this fall, retracing Allied forces' advance from Cambrai, France, to Mons, Belgium, in the last 100 days of the conflict to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War's end. For more on the story, see Page A3.

*Teddy and Sammy on parade with 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars, 2018  
Photo courtesy of the London Free Press*

Teddy and Sammy were also both ridden in commemorative events with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars' Cavalry troop stationed in London, Ontario.



*Andy's two "princesses" (Jean & Button ) at Jean's wedding 2019*

The only remaining Kilmakee-bred Canadian we have is Button.

However, this summer we purchased Heronwood Dartagnan-2 Geo [CAN 14839], aka "Joey," from Gail

and Bernd Brandt, a beautiful four-year-old gelding with some solid training. I look forward to future adventures with him both riding and driving.

## **Ancaster Fair 2023** **By Gail Cuthbert Brandt**

**O**n September 24, CCHAO and the Ancaster Agricultural Fair partnered to showcase the Canadian Horse during the fair's popular Heavy Horse Show. Five demonstration classes were on offer before an appreciative audience, with six horses participating from as far away as Belleville and Coldwater.

The classes and entries included:

1. Shown in halter, under 3 years old – Litjens Champlain Illegro [CAN 15044] (Kelsey Roberts); Sarrabelle Alias Jackpot [CAN 15287] (Samantha Rentner); Soul Ridge Taj\*Mahal Journey [CAN Z223830] (Samantha Rentner)
2. Shown in halter, over 3 years old – Ironwood Promise Zephyr [CAN 13912] (Sheri Roberts); Litjens Navajo Florence [CAN 14664] (Samantha Rentner); Ronlieu Yugo Crescendo [CAN 14260] (Amber Hillis rider/ Beth Sipila owner); Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi [CAN 13350] (Jack Addison)



*Halter Class 3 Years and older*

3. English pleasure riding – Ironwood Promise Zephyr (Sheri Roberts); Ronlieu Yugo Crescendo (Amber Hillis); Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (Sandra Addison)





*Amber Hillis and Sheri Roberts*

4. Western pleasure riding – Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (Jack Addison)

5. Single pleasure driving class – Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (Sandra Addison)



*Kelsey Roberts and Illegro*

Many thanks to Tina McNaughton for acting as our liaison with the Ancaster Fair board and for agreeing to organize next year's classes as well.

## **Canadians Shine at Churchill Chimes Show**

**by Barb Malcolm**

**A**bsolutely, Canadians can show! And what a joy it was to work with the *cheval Canadien* school horses at our August 13th schooling show held at Churchill Chimes Equestrian Centre near Uxbridge.

Between the competitors and spectators, more than 100 people saw firsthand the beauty, versatility, and talent of our beloved national horse. We had showmanship, flat, and over-fences performance classes in the morning and gymkhana classes in the afternoon. The latter included pairs, command, egg and spoon, steady hands, and one of my favourites, bucket jump. Our Canadians excelled in every type of class and impressed all in attendance.



*Sandra Addison driving Yazhi*

The judge and Ancaster Fair officials were impressed by the excellent quality of the entries, and plans are already underway for a larger number of Canadian Horse classes at the 2024 Ancaster Fair. That event will be one of three shows that CCHAO will be officially sponsoring in 2024.





Our passion and respect for the Canadian started with a single, spectacular, unregistered pony gelding. Ten years later, of the 18 horses competing at our in-house show, 13 were Canadian or Canadian cross.

My husband and I own sister businesses—Churchill Chimes and Donalf Farms Canadian Horse Breeders—

and we couldn't be prouder of the fact that most of the horses used in our riding school are Canadians.

With the right partner and training, the Canadian horse can easily earn its place in any type of competition.



## Churchill Chimes Horse Show August 13, 2023



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7



Image 8

**Image 1-** Lizzie Welland riding Jalna Luckybud Whisper [CAN 13579] **Image 2** Group shot right to left (visible horse/handlers only)- Jalna Luckybud Whisper with Ana Miric, Mid-Lan Marco-Pat Precious [CAN 11087] with Wendy Bowden, Flash with Lizzie Welland, Moonshadows Alex Mallon [CAN 9942] with Richard Johnston, Demi Duc Rickey [CAN 11208] with Jane Rutherford, Annie with Gail Collins **Image 3** Show Spectators **Image 4** Barb Malcolm presenting ribbon to Allison Lam and Moonshadows Alex Mallon **Image 5** Wendy Bowden on Mid-Lan Marco-Pat Precious and Gail Collins on Annie **Image 6** Jane Rutherford and Demi Duc Rickey **Image 7** Jae Ramlill on Norton **Image 8** Richard Johnston on Moonshadows Alex Mallon **Photo Credit: Richard Hope**



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

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

**2024 Membership Form (January 1 – December 31)**

**Please print in block letters.**

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

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

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

**MembershipType:** (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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested \$20 Donation to Upper Canada Village Horse Statue Project** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Voluntary Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount remitted:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario and mail to:** Sandra Addison, CCHAO Treasurer, 32 Kitchen Road, Vittoria, ON NOE 1W0

If you would **NOT** like to have your name and e-mail 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: \_\_\_\_\_

