



Making New Friends, Having Fun, Promoting and Preserving Canada's National Horse
Visit us on the web www.canadianhorseontario.com

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President's Message
by Rhonda Turley

Our organization has set up a great year for 2024. We're moving forward with encouraging youth to join us in our admiration and promotion of Canadian horses. And, building on our first CCHAO Canadian show last June in Caledon, this year we're presenting Canadian horses to the public with not one but three competitive shows, for the first time in CCHAO history.

I would like to recognize our directors, who are working in the background to make our goals happen this year. We need our current members, as well as hopefully new members, to come and participate in our events to make 2024 the best year ever!



Meet the Members:

Jane Hunt

Gail has been asking me to write this article for a couple of years now. I kept putting it off, not because I don't like writing, but because the riding was so frustrating that I didn't want to put it down on paper!



Jane Hunt on Skye photo by Kelly Popoff

The Early Years

My mare is called Rowista Philip Windy-Skye [CAN 12895]. She is turning 15 this year. I leased a *cheval Canadien* before buying Skye, so I knew that I was getting a “slow maturing breed.” With the slow physical maturity comes longevity; I had been told that by a couple of people knowledgeable about the breed and sure enough, when I checked Skye's lineage, there are a couple of long-lived recent ancestors!

No worries—for family reasons, I wasn't in a position to push a baby (3½ when I bought her), but I was in the perfect position to give a baby a lot of short sessions: 20 minutes on the way home from work, four to six times a week. “Baby Skye” responded well to that regime, and as she grew up, my situation changed, as I knew it would, from 20-minutes-often-and-spread-out to 40 minutes, then a full hour's ride, and so on.

Seeking Balance

With the longer rides, her muscles built up slowly and the breed's athleticism started to display itself, although for a long time, we had “exuberant” canter departs (aka “bucking into the canter”). My mare wasn't trying to get rid of her rider, she just couldn't quite get her balance for the first few strides. Patience paid off: our Second level dressage movement of “walk-to-canter” is now awesomely smooth and powerful!

But with slow physical maturity also comes slow mental maturity—emotional maturity (if you prefer). “Baby Skye” was funny, marginally naughty, but tons of fun to work with, and it was also fun to experience her learning about listening to the rider, going for trail rides, going to her first shows, trailering, and all the stuff.

The “Teen” Years

And then we hit the horse equivalent of teenage years. Still funny, still slightly naughty, still tons of fun to work with and ride...but OMG! The teenage angst! “You're not the boss of me!!!” “Talk to the hoof!” Never dangerous—don't get the wrong idea—but any parent of a human teenager can relate, I'm sure. So much potential, buried under “I don't have to if I don't want



to!” And in riding, either jumping or dressage (and trail rides, for that matter), we need the teamwork.

Skye and I were stuck at Second Level dressage for so many years, just because she could not seem to learn to just listen to her rider’s aids, wait for the next instruction, and pay attention for the entire dressage test so that the test flows naturally and beautifully from one movement to the next.

A Breakthrough

But last year, all of a sudden, there were glimmers of hope! I felt like my horse was paying attention and not rebelling just for the sake of teenage rebellion. One day she thought about giving me a hard time about trailer loading, and then the next moment her brain caught up and she just stopped for a moment, walked on calmly, and has never given me a problem since! It’s almost as if she realized that when she loads up, we just go somewhere different and we do “fun stuff” —trails, cross-country jump schooling, and shows.



Skye and Friend in trailer

A Terrific 2023



A great showing

Last year we had one awesome dressage show, two more perfectly acceptable dressage shows, and we won a “Grasshopper” division at a local horse trial. Here are my Facebook posts from two of those days:

“So happy! Finally presented 2 respectable dressage tests to the judge! Skye listened to my riding aids throughout, and showed off in the show ring what she has been doing at home 😊 Never went into “la la la what, you talkin’ to me?” mode. What a great feeling, to do it correctly away from home, in front of the judge, not just once but all the way through! Ribbons are for Second Level, Test 1 (66.8%) and Test 2 (64.4%) and overall Division Champion.”

“Another ‘Woot! I’m SO HAPPY!’ post. Not just because of the results (yes, I’m happy with those 😊) but mostly because Skye tried her little heart out, and listened to me for all 3 phases, and willingly took me to every single jump (oh, except one...on the cross-country...but she jumped it without a stop!). Oakhurst horse trials, Grasshopper division (because the jumps are knee-high to a



grasshopper). My goals were to finish on my dressage score (that means go clear for both of the jump rounds), and to not disgrace myself in the dressage. 😊 Both goals achieved, and a first-place ribbon overall. 😊 Colour me happy with my horse's progress! (and mine, too)."

It's not the ribbons and placings that excited me so much (puh-lease! We're *still* showing at Second Level, for like the fifth year in a row!—although now schooling Third—and jumps in the Grasshopper division are very small). It's the feeling of harmony and "packaged power" and willingness—living up to the potential—and reaping the benefits of all that hard work!

Mature at Last



Jane and Skye

My dressage coach has always said while horses become physically mature earlier, they don't develop full emotional maturity until they are 12 to 14 years old. Skye is turning 15 in May! I felt a difference last

am already feeling (hoping? fooling myself?) that there is a big, huge, lasting leap in emotional maturity and I can feel the results every single time I ride. No more battles and "Who do you think you are, giving *me* orders?" and a lot more "Oh! We get to practice flying changes on command, and half-pass—wow! This is fun!"

Patience Pays Off

Yes, I could have beaten her into submission, but no, I wasn't going to do that. Slow, steady, persistent work pays off in a horse that does what she's asked because she understands the aids, she's confident that she is doing the right thing, and she has developed the necessary physical strength. And she enjoys the work—she walks up to the paddock gate to be caught!

But good golly gosh, I had to be so much more patient that I ever thought I could be. And yes, I almost gave up a few times, especially with the jumping, because falling off HURTS! I'm very glad I didn't give up, and that my coaches (dressage and jumping) stuck with us and just kept working us through the issues.

Give Them Time

This article describes only my experience with my mare, although I believe strongly in giving every young horse the time to develop physically, and the opportunity to have their "childhood": that is, not be forced to grow up too quickly just to meet a human's idea of when the horse should be capable, physically and mentally, of doing something.

year, but not enough of an improvement that anyone else would particularly notice it. This year, though, I



Can-Am All Breeds Equine Expo, Ancaster, March 22-24

by Gail Cuthbert Brandt

For the second year in a row, the Can-Am Equine East was held at Ancaster Fairgrounds. Touted as the country's largest equine education and entertainment event, it included over 30 clinics, demonstrations, talks, and performances.



Gail Collins and Wendy Bowden at CCHAO booth

The Canadian Horse Breeders' Association / Société des éleveurs de chevaux canadiens provided funding again this year to ensure that our breed would be showcased at this important event. CCHAO assisted by providing volunteers each day to hand out brochures, answer questions, and generally engage with expo attendees.



Amber on Shasta at the CCHAO booth

Beth Sipila kindly loaned her nine-year-old mare, Ronlieu Yugo Crescendo [CAN 14260], aka Shasta, to be the Canadian display horse. The mare and her rider, Amber Hillis, also took part in the breed parades that occurred each day, and together they did a wonderful job of demonstrating the Canadian horse's beauty, easy-going temperament, and talent.



Beth Sipila with Amber on Shasta



The attractive display booth, put together and installed by Gail Collins and Wendy Bowden, garnered second prize in the most attractive booth competition.

Thank you to all involved in making our Can-Am presence such a success again this year.

Youth Awards 2024

By Sheri Roberts

I am offering financial incentives to bring younger folks into Canadian horses. I firmly believe we need more enthusiasts to step up and join in. I have proposed two Youth awards for 2024. Each award will come with \$500.00 as well as prizes offered by sponsors and a keeper trophy for each recipient.

The first award will be given to a rider who attains the highest points with their registered Canadian horse at any or all recognized Canadian Horse shows: Caledon Fair, Merrickville Fair, and Ancaster Fair.

The second award will be given to a rider who attains the highest points with their registered Canadian horse at any open competition taking place in Ontario. This includes all disciplines.

Every participant can fill out a registration form and submit that form so points can be tracked throughout the season. The rules and explanations are part of the registration papers. If there are further questions, I would be happy to answer them.

I'm also looking into the feasibility of getting photos of our registered teams for updates on our website or on Facebook.

Highlighting and encouraging our youth with their Canadian horses is important to the future of the breed. It is also another avenue to introduce Canadian horses to the general public. More people seeing and interacting with them can only have a positive outcome.

Upcoming Events

CCHAO has committed to organizing two Canadian-breed shows this summer (Caledon and Ancaster) and to supporting a third show in Merrickville. The shows are prime opportunities for us to promote our breed, to learn from each other, and to have fun together.

For these events to succeed, we **must** have participants. Please give serious consideration to entering your own horse/horses in at least one of these shows and letting other Canadian horse owners know about them as well.

If you're unable to enter a horse, your attendance and support would be greatly appreciated by CCHAO and the exhibitors.

CCHAO Caledon Fair, Sunday, June 9

Caledon Fair Grounds, 18297 Hurontario Street,
Caledon Village, ON

Start time - 9:30 a.m.

CLASS LIST :

Registered Canadian Halter Classes

1. Canadian Mares – 2 years old & under
2. Canadian Mares – 3 & 4 years old
3. Canadian Mares – 5 years old & over



4. Canadian Champion & Reserve Mare: open to 1st & 2nd placings in Classes 1-3, no entry fee
5. Canadian Geldings – 2 Years old & under
6. Canadian Geldings – 3 & 4 years old
7. Canadian Geldings – 5 years old & over
8. Canadian Champion & Reserve Gelding – open to 1st & 2nd placings in Classes 5-7, no entry fee
9. Canadian Stallions – 2 years old & under
10. Canadian Stallions – 3 & 4 years old
11. Canadian Stallions – 5 years old & over
12. Canadian Champion & Reserve Stallion – open to 1st & 2nd placings in Classes 9-11, no entry fee
13. Canadian Grand Champion & Reserve 1st placing from classes 4, 8, 12, no entry fee
14. Senior Showmanship – handlers over 16 years of age
15. Junior Showmanship – handlers 16 years and under
16. Novice Showmanship – adult handlers, first year competing
17. Dressage suitability, emphasis on movement only – in hand
22. Youth Single Pleasure Driving, Pairs Pleasure Driving
23. Junior (under 18 years) Equitation Walk/Trot
24. Senior (over 50 years) Equitation Walk/Trot
25. Open Equitation – walk, trot, canter, rein back (English/Western)
26. Western Pleasure
27. English Pleasure
28. Hunter Hack – 2 jumps of cross rails, max 18 in.
29. Jump Course – first round at 18 in. cross rails, jump off at 20 in.
30. Dressage Suitability – emphasis on horse's potential as a dressage horse (English or Western)
31. Road Hack (English or Western)
32. Command Class (English or Western)
33. Trail Horse (English or Western)
34. Costume (ride or drive, NOT lead)

Registered Canadian Performance Classes – Young Horses

18. Single Horse Pleasure Driving – 2- & 3-year-old mare or colt
19. Under Saddle, optional tack with attire to match 3-year-old mare or colt, walk/trot only
20. Trail Horse – 3 years and under, led only.

Performance Classes – Open to Registered & Non-Registered Canadians and Canadian Crossbreeds

21. Single Horse Pleasure Driving



Having fun at Caledon Fair 2023



High Point Performance Horse Award:

Presentation Point Schedule

Note: In the event of a tie, the number of first-place ribbons will determine the winner. (Classes 15-34).

Classes will be scored as follows: 1st=6 points; 2nd=5 points; 3rd=4 points; 4th=3points; 5th=2points; 6th=1 point. Eligible classes will be 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 14-34.

Ancaster Fair, Sunday, September 22

\$10 entry fee payable to Ancaster Fair

- Halter classes (over 3 years, under 3 years)
- Performance classes (English riding, Western riding)
- Driving class (Single Pleasure)

Prize money per class of \$50 for 1st place: \$40 for 2nd place, and \$30 for 3rd place

For additional information, please contact Gail Cuthbert Brandt (gcbrandt@sympatico.ca)

Acton Fair, Saturday, September 21

Although CCHAO is not officially involved with the Acton Fair, we would like to draw our members attention to the fact that it has had one of the longest running Canadian shows among Ontario fairs.

The class list for this year is not yet available, but the description of the Canadian classes in the 2023 Acton Fair book can be viewed at:

<https://issuu.com/wellingtonadvertiser/docs/2023-actonfallfair-final>



Merrickville Fair's Canadian Horse - Horse Show Prize List 2024

Show Fees

Fees For	Amount	Additional Information
Open Exhibitor Classes		
All Regular Classes	10% of Prize Money	
All Championship Classes		
Junior Exhibitor Classes		
Lead-Line (6 of Age and Under) Class	FREE	
Showmanship Classes	\$5.00	
All Under Saddle Performance Classes		
Hitch and Harness Performance Classes		
Miscellaneous Fees		
Late Fee - Week of Show	\$10.00	
Late Fee - Day of Show	\$25.00	
Late Fee - Per Class Entered	\$2.00	Only applies too day of show entries
Additional Horse or Pony per Entry Form	\$2.00	For When Exhibitor is showing More Than One (1) Equine.
Administration Fee	\$15.00	When Entries Have to Be Entered into Assist EXPO by a Committee Member

Prize Money

Placing	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Open Exhibitor Classes						
All Classes	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00
		0	0	0	0	0
Junior Exhibitor Classes						
All Classes	\$25.00	\$22.00	\$18.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$8.00
		0	0	0	0	0

High Point / Champion

	Champion	Reserve Champion
Overall High Point Junior Exhibitor on Grounds	\$100.00	\$50.00
Best Registered Canadian Horse on Grounds	\$200.00	\$100.00
High Point Registered Canadian Under Saddle - Open Alex Hayword Memorial		
High Point Registered Canadian Under Harness - Open Donnie Prosperini Memorial		
Overall High Point Registered Canadian on Grounds	\$300.00	\$200.00

Merrickville Fair, Saturday August 10

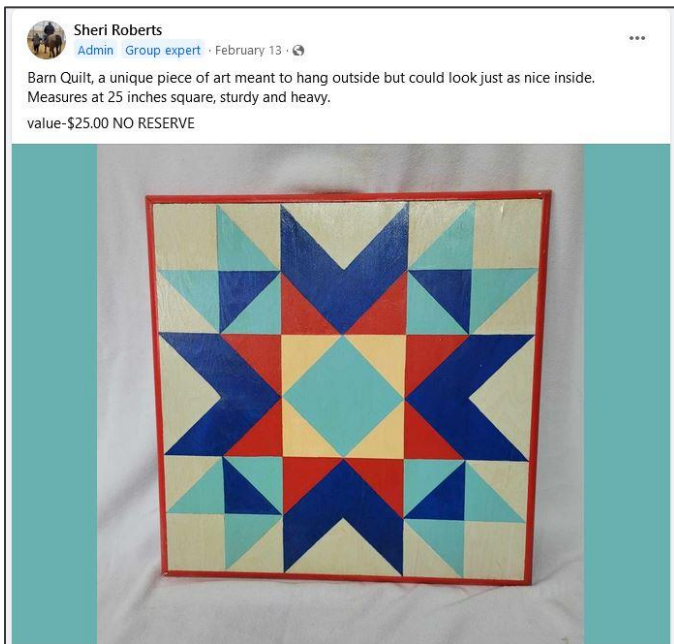
Please refer to this information regarding entry fees and prize money published by the fair's horse committee.



CCHAO Fundraising Auction Site

By Sheri Roberts

As a way to raise funds for various needs, we can hold auctions as often as we have items to offer. Cleaning out your garage? Basement? Tack room? Barn? Closet? We will take that item and try and find it a home, because one person's trash is very much another person's treasure! The auction is an earth-friendly way to rehome items that might otherwise end up in landfill. These auctions are akin to an online yard sale—one you can attend from your own living room.



A "barn quilt" successfully auctioned

No items to donate? Please share our auction site with friends and family or groups that may include interested people. The greater the number of people checking the items, the better the chances we can make a few dollars!

To date we have raised almost \$300 during two auctions held in February. I was unable to manage an

auction in March as I had hoped, but I am winding down from a few tasks that should free up my time to concentrate on more auctions. Keep your eyes on the Facebook page "CCHAO Fundraising Auction Site." We will have another lineup of donations up and running soon!

Article about the Canadian Horse in *Watershed Magazine*

By Marie-Lynn Hammond

In March 2024 *Watershed Magazine*, a beautiful, large-format Ontario magazine serving the area in and around Northumberland, Prince Edward Island, and Hastings counties, published an article with several colour photos about the Canadian horse. The article, which I wrote, features Canadian horse owners and one breeder from that area, including our own vice president, Sheri Roberts. The magazine is online, and the [link to the article is here](#).

The magazine wanted "The Little Horse of Iron" article to fit one of their regular columns, and as such, I was only allowed 1,000 words – otherwise, I'd have written much more about the breed! And if you're wondering why many of the photos in the article are of horses from outside Ontario, note that although I could make suggestions, choosing images was not up to me, but rather up to the magazine's art director. I was really pleased, though, that one of our members' horses, a lovely chestnut mare, was chosen for the full-page shot.



I was also pleased that the [Equus Survival Trust](#), an educational non-profit dedicated to tracking rare/endangered breeds, requested a copy of the magazine for their archives. I hope you enjoy the article!

Scroll down to see a letter of thanks from the St. Lawrence Parks Commission for the CCHAO's donation to the Canadian horse statue, as well as a membership form you can share with other Canadian horse enthusiasts.



Du Coteau Dandy Nancy, owned by Barb Malcolm, aka Sophie. Photo by Richard Hope.



Letter of Thanks from the St. Lawrence Parks Commission

THE ST. LAWRENCE
PARKS COMMISSION
AN AGENCY OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Parks of the
St. Lawrence



Les Parcs du
Saint-Laurent

LA COMMISSION DES
PARCS DU SAINT-LAURENT
UN ORGANISME DU
GOUVERNEMENT DE L'ONTARIO

February 1, 2024

Cheval Canadien Horse Ontario c/o Rhonda Turley
417-37 Eastbourne Dr.
Brampton ON L6T 3M1

Dear Rhonda:

On behalf of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of \$1,000.00 toward the building of a statue commemorating Canada's national horse, the "Canadian". Our organization is very happy to be a part of this project and we are delighted to allocate a place of prominence for what is going to be a magnificent commemoration, something that is a very important part of the history of Canada and the programming at Upper Canada Village.

It is through the generosity of your organization and the committee of passionate community members involved in bringing this statue to reality, that makes an important initiative like this possible. Once in place, this statue will be seen by tens of thousands of people each year and will be prominently featured in family photos for generations.

We are truly grateful for your support,

Hollie Kew
General Manager and CEO
St. Lawrence Parks Commission

Honourable Bob Runciman, OOnt
Chair
St. Lawrence Parks Commission

13740 County Road 2 Morrisburg, ON, K0C 1X0

www.parks.on.ca

An Agency of the Government of Ontario



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 N0E 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: _____

