



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

CCHAO Board of Directors

Rhonda Turley, President
Email: neirinscooter@gmail.com

Millar Nicol, Vice-President
Email: millarnicol@rocketmail.com

Gail Brandt, Secretary
Email: gcbandt@sympatico.ca

Sandra Addison, Treasurer
Email: saddison12856@gmail.com

Sandy Churchill, Eastern Ontario Representative
Email: js4churchill@gmail.com

Samantha Rentner, Western Ontario Representative
Email: smile@snowyriverimages.com

Laura Hoy, Director at Large
Email: edgewoodcanadians@gmail.com

In This Issue

Scheduled Eventspage 1

Youth Award
By Gail Cuthbert Brandt.....page 2

Anatomical Tack
By Jane Hunt.....page 3

Ancaster Open House
By Gail Cuthbert Brandt.....page 5

Driving in London
By Sandy Churchill & Millar Nichol.....page 6

FEI Event
By Sandy Churchill.....page 7

CCHAO Breeders
By Gail Cuthbert Brandt & Sandy Churchill.....page 8

Our Breed’s Name
by Marie-Lynn Hammond.....page 10

Membership Form.....page 12

Scheduled Events

Sunday, June 15, CCHAO Horse Show,
Caledon Fairgrounds



Line and performance classes for registered Canadians;
performance classes for non-registered Canadians /
Canadian crosses. To access the class list, registration
form, and show guidelines, please go to
<https://canadianhorseontario.com/events/>.



Saturday, August 9, Merrickville Fair

Line and performance classes for registered Canadians



Merrickville Show, courtesy Merrickville
Agricultural Society

Sunday, September 21, Ancaster Fair

Line and performance classes for both registered and non-registered Canadian horses



Ancaster show, courtesy of Gail Cuthbert
Brandt

Your Board is working on additional events for different parts of the province to encourage members to get together with their horses in non-competitive settings. We will be sending out details by email once plans are firmly in place.

Youth Award

At its meeting on February 3, the CCHAO Board of Directors approved the creation of a \$250 youth award for this year.

The award will be presented to the individual who is 17 years of age or younger as of January 1, 2025, and earns the most points by competing in any or all CCHAO sponsored shows: Caledon, Merrickville, and Orangeville.

If you are interested in registering for this competition, please contact Gail Cuthbert Brandt (gcbbrandt@sympatico.ca). Last date to register will be September 21 at the Ancaster Fair classes.

The photo, taken by Robert Alexander, is of last year's winner of the high point youth participating in CCHAO sponsored events, Amber Hillis on Ronlieu Yugo Cresendo [CAN 14260].



Ergonomic and Anatomical Tack

By Jane Hunt

Given our lovely breed's conformation—I call them “robust, with a well-sprung ribcage”—ergonomic and anatomical tack might be worth considering. It sure was for my mare, Rowista Philip Windy-Skye [CAN 12895], aka Skye.

Changing to an ergonomic girth helped the saddle stay in the right place, allowing me to stay in the right position and keep my weight back and off her forehead. This type of girth is also called a “shoulder relief girth,” but that's not the reason I switched. I have the saddle fitter out once a year to adjust the saddle slightly and also, importantly, to check the padding, which gets “squished down” with use and can turn into a hard-packed wad of wool that creates a pressure point. For me, the bigger issue was that the saddle kept slipping forwards, especially during my jumping lessons. The saddle fitter suggested I try the ergonomic girth (see photos), and it works well!



I also recently switched to an anatomical bridle, and the chiropractor today confirmed that Skye's jaw muscles and her poll have relaxed and softened over the last couple of months.

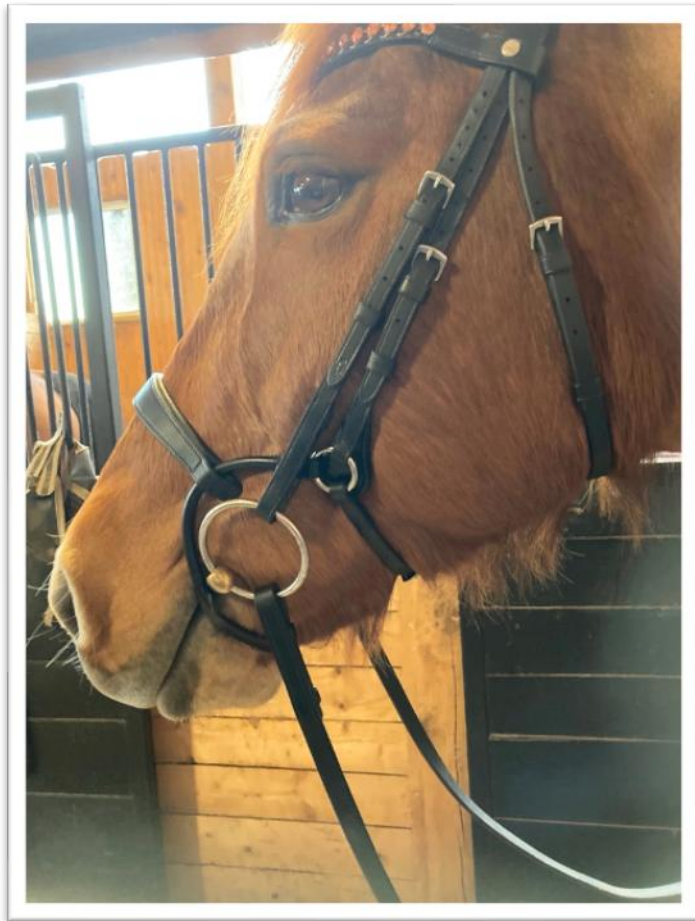
The temporomandibular joints (TMJs) are the two joints that connect the horse's lower jaw to its skull. More specifically, they are the joints that slide and rotate in front of each ear. Skye's TMJs have been a source of frustration for the chiropractor for a while—the muscles surrounding the joints were tight, and Skye reacted strongly when the chiropractor tried to adjust them. The chiro initially thought it was a dentistry issue, even though Skye's teeth had been floated regularly and recently. When the vet came, we explored more deeply to see if there were tooth, dentistry, or jaw issues that could be resolved. Each visit involved another detail, but finally the vet said there was nothing else to try. Skye's teeth were as good as they are going to be. We exhausted that potential source of the problem, so I basically asked, “What the freak else can I do? Could the problem be caused by using the wrong bit?” The vet and my knowledgeable barn manager, who is also my jump coach, both said, “No, it's not caused by the bit—it's a soft bit and you don't yank on it, and it fits Skye properly.” But they suggested that I might want to try an anatomical bridle.

I was initially reluctant to go that route, mostly because of the money—the anatomical bridles I had read about cost upwards of \$600! And I would need two: dressage and jumping, with different bits.

Luckily, Collegiate had just come out with a new range of anatomical bridles that were much cheaper but still



good quality, and they were even on sale. Bonus! I bought one that day and tried it out for a week. The responses from all the people were “Oh my! Skye looks SO PRETTY in that bridle!” and Skye’s reaction was “Hey, I like this, it’s comfortable!” The first chiro visit after switching did not find any difference in her TMJs, but the second visit found a huge difference in her left jaw and a noticeable difference in her right jaw, where stiffness may be caused by arthritis in the neck. The person who does a trace clip on Skye for the winter also noticed that she was much less reactive around her ears.



I like the way the crownpiece of the bridle is shaped across the poll and is wider and padded to distribute any pressure better. It seems to be this and the cut-

back at the ears, rather than the fancy noseband, that give the jaw relief that Skye needed.



The design also moves the cheekpieces away from the nerves on the face, although I don’t think that was an issue for Skye. But maybe it was—I’m just happy her facial, jaw, and neck muscles are all starting to relax, and she’s happier in the bridle.

Please note, though, that the rose-gold-bling browband in the photo is an after-market upgrade; the bridle comes with a plain black browband. Also note that the browband is longer than normal, so if you do your own after-market upgrade, take the plain one into the tack shop to make sure the new one is long enough.

One thing I wish was different is the lack of alternative to anatomical bridles that are “flash” or “figure-8” style. I believe these styles have something to do with keeping the bridle in place on the horse’s head; otherwise, it might slip or reposition during a ride because the noseband is looser with these types of bridles. But I don’t believe my horse needs a flash or figure 8; she doesn’t open her mouth during our



dressage tests—I worked really hard on getting my hands soft and steady!

Here are some things to watch out for. This new Collegiate line is so recent that I couldn't find any used bridles for sale. You also can't buy separate cheekpieces/nosebands/etc. yet—my “classic” bridles consisted of a horse crownpiece and noseband, a warmblood browband, and pony cheekpieces. I could purchase the Collegiate bridles only as a “full set” in horse size. I'm not pushing this particular brand but am just saying it worked for me.

Other manufacturers include PS of Sweden—lovely tack, but higher in price. If you compete in dressage, keep in mind that this bridle was recently disallowed for international dressage competition because the crownpiece does not have continuous padding. I'm not arguing whether that ruling is right or not, but national rules usually follow the international rules pretty quickly. The PS bridle is still fine for jumping, as far as I know. The Rambo Micklem is another anatomical bridle that people might be familiar with, and Schockemöhle has a range of bridles. There are others as well that you can check out online.

If you think your horse (or you) are having any issues that might be resolved by changing to this type of tack, I recommend trying it. If you can, borrow it for a short trial. If it works, you can always sell your old tack to offset the price of the new. I've had good success and I'm happy I switched.

I apologize that I know nothing about Western tack, but there may be equivalent anatomical bridles and ergonomic cinches available. (Apologies also for the

messy horse in the photo, but we're at the end of a very long winter, though not yet at days where a bath is possible!)

Ancaster Open House, Hitch & Drive, Saturday, March 8, 2025

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

I celebrated International Women's Day in a unique way this year by going with my son-in-law and two grandsons to the open house and exhibitor appreciation day organized by Ancaster Fair's heavy horse committee. This was an opportunity for horse owners to use the impressive Ancaster facility to give their horses a little spring tune-up, free from slush and mud.

We were intrigued to see the variety of horses and horse-drawn vehicles in attendance. The horses ranged in size from Hackney ponies and Haflingers to Spotted Drafts and Clydesdales. The horses we went expressly to see, however, were the Canadians owned by A Universal Carriage Company (UCC) from Melbourne, Ontario.



Karen Smout and Millar Nicol



With help from his supportive crew of family and friends, UCC owner Millar Nicol hitched up Luke and Bree to his 12-passenger wagonette and offered rides around the ring. It was great fun as the passengers ranged in age from five months to close to 80 years old. Since most were CCHAO members and their family members, it was a great opportunity to get together after a long, rigorous winter. Millar also invited anyone who wanted to experience pairs driving to sit up front with him and drive the team.



CCHAO members and family enjoying a ride

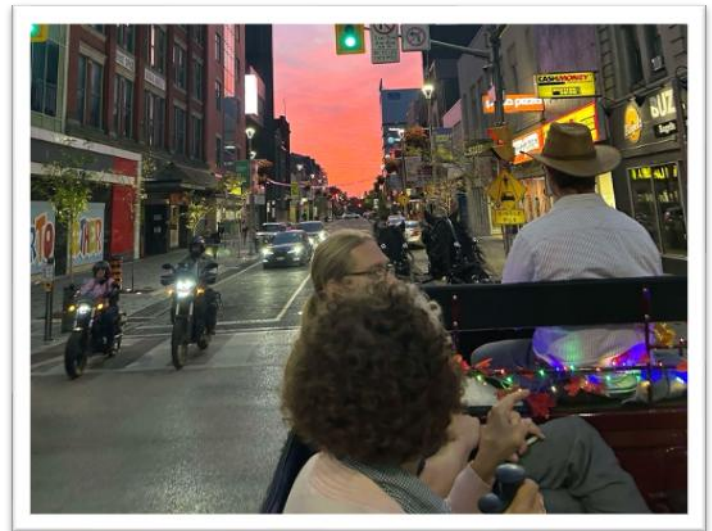
Many thanks to CCHAO members Cam Baker and Tina McNaughton and to the heavy horse committee for organizing this enjoyable event. Hope to see everyone back in Ancaster for the Canadian horse classes on Sunday, September 22!

Driving in the Heart of Downtown London

By Sandy Churchill and Millar Nicol

If you have ever been to Quebec City or Montreal in the past and taken a *calèche* ride through the city, you will recall the clippety-clop sound of horse hooves on the cobblestone streets, and the humour and history provided by the driver. People always seem thrilled to learn about the past. We're not sure if it makes them feel more connected to the places they live, or whether they're simply curious about bygone eras. But adding some local history to a wagon ride is like putting a cherry on top of a sundae: it just completes the story.

Now picture a winter evening streetscape, complete with lights and decorations, a fresh blanket of snow, a team of Canadians decked out with bells, a wagonette trimmed with colourful lights flashing and full of people, and Christmas music playing. Can you hear the hooves on the street? They would be the hooves of the horses from Millar Nicol's Universal Carriage Company.



Driving in London



Last year, Millar Nicol became involved with the Community History Centre, based at Huron University College in London, Ontario. The centre hired Huron student Nora Moir-Bazely to compile narratives about local sites that Millar could use during his wagon rides in downtown London. She developed several stories relating to unique city features such as Dundas Street (built in 1793–94), the Grand Opera House, Covent Garden Market, and the Imperial Oil building. The research resulted in an online historic London map that includes an item (#2) about the Canadian horse, thanks to Millar's involvement. You can check out the interesting map for yourself [here](#). While offering rides in downtown London during the Christmas season, Millar and his crew were able to use Nora's research to enrich the passengers' experience by talking about some of the historical venues they passed during their ride.

At the pickup point, people gathered in a lineup that often snaked back into Covent Market, where various festivities were going on. When it was their turn, riders mounted the rear steps of the 12-person Roberts wagonette, and once aboard, found warm blankets waiting for them at their seats. After completing the ride, passengers were encouraged to move forward and meet the team of Canadians. Many, especially those with children, expressed heartfelt appreciation to Millar and his crew for providing such a wonderfully unique opportunity to learn more about our national breed and historic London.

Perhaps some Canadian horses were present in the past to assist with the building of the roads and buildings

featured in the tour!

Federation Equine International (FEI) Driving Event

by Sandy Churchill

Last newsletter I wrote a short article about the cones and derby driving I participate in with my mare, Canadream Navajo Zaida [CAN 13589]. To further my driving education, I volunteered in Grand Oaks, Florida (one hour south of Ocala), in February for an FEI-sanctioned driving event. The course was designed and judged by an international team with representatives from the Netherlands, France, and Canada.



Four in hand

There were 110 entries drawn from across the States and Canada, which ranged from single to pairs to four in hand. Given that only 18 of the drivers were men, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of female drivers (many of them seniors, including one 81-year-old!), which is encouraging not only for young female drivers



in the future, but also for us older horsewomen who can still compete at a higher level while driving. Unfortunately, not a single Canadian horse appeared at this event. I longed to magically transport Zaida and our other mare, Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella [CAN 13323], to join us.



A Percheron Cross

The three-day competition included dressage, followed by marathon, and finally a cones course. Points earned in each driving category determined the winners in several sections, such as single pony, single horse, pairs, and teams, at different levels such as FEI 1, 2, 3, etc. There are many rules that are strictly enforced to ensure safety and fairness to drivers at all levels. Participating horses were inspected by veterinarians prior to being allowed to participate.

Many breeds of horses were involved in the event, with Dutch Warmbloods and Friesians being very popular. My Canadian-horse love affair led me to admire the strength, agility, and level-headedness of the Fjords, Gypsy Vanners, and the one Fell pony that was there.



A Gypsy Vanner

Volunteering at this event had the added benefit of being able to meet many wonderful horse people with great dedication to driving and to their preferred breed. I hope someday in the future there will be a Canadian single, pair, or team driving there to show off our historic breed!

CCHAO Breeders

by Sandy Churchill and Gail Cuthbert Brandt

According to statistics presented on the Canadian Horse Breeders Association (CHBA) website, the number of annual new registrations in Ontario rose from 7 to 15 between 2018 and 2023. No information is given about the horses' ages, but even if all were foals, it is still a surprisingly low number and worrisome for the future of our breed. In fact, the number of living



Canadians between the ages of 0 and 25 years registered with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation declined from 7519 in 2020 to 6962 in 2022, the last year for which data are available.

For members who may be thinking about breeding their mares, we are providing this brief overview of CCHAO members who are involved in breeding and are able to share their experiences.

A full listing of breeders located in all provinces and registered with CHBA is available on its website.

<https://www.lechevalcanadien.ca/en/find-a-breeder/>

DONALF FARMS

246 Webb Road, Uxbridge, ON

(905) 642-6271

<https://www.donalfarms.com/>

Owned by Barb Malcolm and husband Rob Atwill, Donalf Farms and its companion riding school, Churchill Chimes Equestrian Centre, have 13 registered Canadians. Barb has used pasture breeding and in-hand live cover with her stallion, Hidden Meadows Adanac Neirin [CAN 10170]. Neirin is heterozygous black, which means he may transmit chestnut to his offspring.

Sometimes a mare is not suitable to be pasture bred, due to anatomical or behavioural issues. Barb has recently transitioned her stallion to artificial insemination to assist in spreading his lineage further afield. She takes time to explain to off-property mare owners the cost of AI and the pros and cons of live, chilled, and/or frozen semen.

EDGEWOOD

3681 Vaughan Side Road, Ottawa, ON

edgewoodcanadians@gmail.com

To help the breed, Edgewood owners Laura Hoy and Martin Gasser started a small-scale breeding program in 2021 and promote the Canadian Horse through field hunting. They have a variety of Canadians in different colours (black, bay, chestnut) and sizes (ranging from 14.2 to 16.2 hh).

All their horses are kept in herds outside year-round to provide as natural a life as possible for them. Their mares have been bred via in-hand live cover, pasture breeding, or with artificial insemination of fresh or chilled semen. They have not used frozen semen to date.

Edgewood has nine registered Canadians, but they currently do not offer breeding to outside mares.

HERONWOOD FARMS

906558 Township Road 12, Bright, ON

heronwoodcanadiens@gmail.com

519 (684-7060)

Gail Cuthbert Brandt and Bernd Brandt started breeding Canadians in 2014 and continued until 2021 when they downsized their herd. At present they have five-year-old Heronwood César-2 Hugo-3 [CAN 15278] available for in-hand breeding. The Brandts continue to own Hugo's mother, Becketts Creek Ferari Rita [CAN 11488] as well.



They offer mare boarding and a live foal guarantee.

SNOWY RIVER CANADIANS

1944 Anderson Line, Coldwater, ON

smile@snowyriverimages.com

Owner Samantha Rentner and partner Zachary Vorvis currently own a dozen registered Canadians, including two stallions, Canadream Kelbeck Ébène [CAN 14485] and Sarrabelle Alias Jackpot [CAN15287].

Their stallions are available via shipped fresh semen or onsite insemination breeding. Mare care is available with accommodations for wet mares. They also offer a live foal guarantee.

Note that their email address is through Samantha's website for her photography business, but they do have a Facebook account for their farm and horses,

see <https://www.facebook.com/SnowyRiverCanadians>

Our Breed's Name: A Question

By Marie-Lynn Hammond

Along with Gail Cuthbert Brandt, I've been editing the CCHAO newsletter. Gail, besides writing articles, gathers other articles, collects photos, and reviews all the material. Then I do the copy-editing: fixing grammar and punctuation, smoothing out awkward phrases, etc., as well as editing and captioning photos.

To cap or not to cap

One main rule of editing is consistency. Which brings me to "Canadian horse." Or should it be "Canadian Horse," capital *H*? I see it both ways everywhere—online, in books, in magazines and brochures. So how should we style the name of our favourite breed?

I've been using lower-case "horse" in the newsletter, because that's how it appears in the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* (alas, no longer in print), see image. Also, most other breeds' official names don't include the cap on "horse" or "pony." E.g., Arabian horse, Thoroughbred horse, Shetland pony, and so on.



Our government says...

But I did more research. I learned that the act of Parliament passed in 2002 making this breed Canada's national horse used "Canadian horse" throughout, no capital letter on "horse." E.g., "WHEREAS the **Canadian horse** was introduced into Canada in 1665...WHEREAS the **Canadian horse** increased in number during the ensuing century..."

An exception?

Maybe, though, there's good reason for making an exception and capitalizing "horse" in the case of our—



pardon the pun—exceptional breed. Otherwise, confusion can arise in readers who don't know much about horses, or even in those who do. Is a "Canadian horse" simply a horse *born in* or *from* Canada? Americans or people of other nationalities encountering the breed for the first time might think so. Maybe styling it as "Canadian Horse" helps to indicate it's an actual breed.

And maybe that's why the CLRC website styles the name with a capital *H*—mostly; it's not quite 100 percent consistent.

"Canadian Horse" it is

So in future, this newsletter will capitalize the word "horse" in the name of our breed. But regretfully I have to step down from my editing duties due to two new, potentially serious, vision problems, on top of two existing ones. I will, though, remain a loyal supporting CCHAO member. And if any other members have experience copy-editing and would like to volunteer, please let Gail Cuthbert Brandt know!



PLEASE SHARE THIS FORM WITH OTHER CANADIAN HORSE ENTHUSIASTS

CHEVAL CANADIEN HORSE ASSOCIATION ONTARIO (CCHAO)

2025 Membership Form (January 1 – December 31)

Print this form and fill out by hand and mail to Sandra Addison (see address below).

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 \$_____

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

or by etransfer to cchaotreas@gmail.com

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: _____

