



Making New Friends, Having Fun, Promoting and Preserving Canada's National Horse
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CCHAO Board of Directors

Rhonda Turley, President

Email: neirinscooter@gmail.com

Millar Nicol, Vice-President

Email: millarnicol@rocketmail.com

Laura Hoy, Secretary

Email: edgewoodcanadians@gmail.com

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

Robert Knowles, Director at Large

Email: robertknowles1@outlook.com

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President's Message

By Rhonda Turley

We all had a busy year in 2025. CCHAO wants to thank all our volunteers/members who made this a great year!

We ended the year at the *Spirit of the Horse* at the Royal Winter Fair. We had our booth there and had many inquisitive visitors with questions. We also had two demos that day, and the afternoon demo had over 300 people in the audience watching.

We had two youth winners for 2025—Bianka St. Denis and Tori van Lenthe. (See pages 4-5 for their stories.)

Please remember: our members make a difference with their hard work and dedication. Let's all continue promoting the Canadian Horse!



Rhonda with her colt Donalf Neirin L'Amour



Ancaster Fair Canadian Horse Show

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

On September 21, CCHAO held its third annual show at the Ancaster Fair. This year there were eight classes on offer, with seven horses participating.

Because we shared the expansive indoor ring with the heavy draft horses, there was a good audience on hand to appreciate Canada's national breed.

The official results (up to first five placings) were as follows:

Shown on halter, under 3 years old

1. Abercrombie Gontran Kamikaze 'Kami' [CAN]15527

Owner: Tina McNaughton, Alberton, ON

Shown on Halter, over 3 years old

1. Canadream Navajo Zaida [CAN 13589]

Owners: Sandra and John Churchill, Blackstock, ON

2. Rainville Wilfred Prince- Noir [CAN 10780]

Owner: Ryan Kennedy, Erin, ON

3. His and Hers Kontiki Brianka [CAN 14073]

Owner: Joanna Foote, Mississauga, ON

4. Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi [CAN]13350

Owners: Sandy and Jack Addison, Vittoria, ON

5. Beckett's Creek Ferari Rita [CAN]11488

Gail Brandt, Bright, ON

English Rider

1. Rainville Wilfred Prince-Noir

2. His and Hers Kontiki Brianka

3. Beckett's Creek Ferrari Rita

Western Rider

1. Canadream Navajo Zaida

2. Beckett's Creek Ferari Rita

3. His and Hers Kontiki Brianka

Driving Class - Cart

1. Canadream Navajo Zaida

2. Beckett's Creek Ferari Rita

3. Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi

Driving Class - Team

1. Bo and Luke

Owner: Millar Nicol, Melbourne, ON

Open Trail

1. His And Hers Kontiki Brianka

2. Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi

3. Beckett's Creek Ferari Rita

4. Canadream Navajo Zaida

Junior Showmanship (10-18 years)

1. Emma Kennedy, Erin, ON

Rainville Wilfred Prince-Noir,

2. Rayden Weeks, Drumbo, ON

Beckett's Creek Ferari Rita

3. Breanna Nanni-Szus, Melbourne, ON
Luke

Thank you to everyone who came out and made this such an enjoyable and successful event.

We are planning to be back in Ancaster next fall on Sunday, September 27, so mark the date on your calendar!



Ancaster Fair 2025



Top Left: Tina McNaughton with Kami

Top Right: Joanna Foote on Brianka

Middle Left: Halter Class, Horses 3 years and over

Middle Right: Youth Showmanship Class

Bottom Right: High Point Horse, Rita

Photo Credit: Andrew Cairns



Youth Award Winners

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

Amazing! Awesome! Fantastic!

These are but a few adjectives that can be appropriately applied to our two youth award winners this year—Bianka St. Pierre and Tori van Lenthe. Both are already accomplished competitors who proudly demonstrate the Canadian Horse's ability to excel at various equine disciplines

For the second year, Bianka won the youth award for scoring the most points at CCHAO-sponsored shows. Tori earned her award by attaining the most points in open shows. Each received a \$250 cash prize and a handsome inscribed trophy made in Ontario from recycled wood.

Fifteen-year-old Bianka, who hails from Limoges, a community located 35 km east of Ottawa, began riding at the age of seven. She met her first Canadian Horse in 2019.



Bianka with Zaida and her award at the Royal

Photo Credit: Samantha Rentner

In 2022, she began riding her horse, DLA Ferrari Dino [CAN 14254]. They now compete at the EV75 level in eventing that includes dressage, showjumping, and cross country.



Bianka and Dino

Photo Credit: Delany Graham Photography

Unfortunately, Dino suffered a torn flexor tendon injury early this spring and had to miss most of the 2025 season. Undaunted, Bianka put out a request through CCHAO for someone to loan her a horse so that she could compete in Caledon and Merrickville. Her call was generously answered by Sandy Churchill of Blackstock, who not only allowed Bianka to ride her mare, Canadream Navajo Zaida [CAN 13589], but also taught Bianka how to drive her.





Bianka and Dino

In October, Bianca and Dino were able to enter the show ring together once again. In the first dressage show following his recovery, they scored a 75.7% and a 73%. Two weeks later they moved up to Level 1 Dressage and scored a very respectable 61% and 62%.

In November, Bianca joined Sandy and Zaida at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to demonstrate both riding and driving at CCHAO's *Spirit of the Horse* demonstrations.

Tori's riding career began when she was two, thanks to the encouragement of her parents who own Conestoga River Horseback Adventures, located on the northeast corner of Waterloo. The facility, currently home to 49 horses, offers riding lessons, trail rides, and wagon and sleigh rides. Tori's mother, Tatyanna, was so impressed with the first Canadian Horse she purchased, Whisper Meadow Furie Eurythmy [CAN 6978], that she has continued to include Canadians in both her riding and driving activities.



Tori with her award. The drawing over her left shoulder shows her as a little girl leading one of the farm's Belgians.
Photo Credit: Andrea Brandt

Tori's dedicated mount is Joly Rêve Bucéphale [CAN 14142], an 11-year-old gelding, whose stable name is Bruce. Together, they are a winning combination, competing in hunter-jumper, hunter derby, field hunting, cow sorting, and cross country. They had a great season in the Trillium Series this year, finishing 4th overall in the .75 division.

Tori is a member of both the Waterloo-Wellington and the Eglinton Caledon hunt clubs. Last year, she participated in the Junior North America Field Hunting Championship (JNAFHC) in Ohio. It was the first time judges there had seen a Canadian Horse in the competition. This year, Tori and Bruce competed at the JNAFHC in North Carolina and placed fifth out of 34 entries in the First Field division.





Tori and Bruce at the JNAFHC in North Carolina

Photo Credit: Mark Jump Photography

For the past two years, Tori and Bruce have also demonstrated their abilities at cattle sorting, winning prized buckles at the Ancaster Fair open competition.



Tori and Bruce at the Ancaster Fair

Photo Credit: Pete's Western Photography

Currently a Grade 12 student at Bluevale Secondary School in Waterloo, Tori hopes one day to take over the family business.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting (Online) held

Thursday, October 23, 2025

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

Members Present: Jack Addison, Sandra Addison (Treasurer), Gail Cuthbert Brandt (Secretary), Sandy Churchill, Joanna Foote, Laura Hoy, Rob Knowles, Saira Knowles, Millar Nicol (Vice-President), Rhonda Turley (President)

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Sandra and seconded by Rob that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2024 AGM

Moved by Rhonda and seconded by Millar that the minutes of the 2024 AGM, previously circulated, be adopted. Motion carried.

3. President's Report

Rhonda noted the success of our 2025 shows at Caledon, Merrickville, and Ancaster and hoped we could explore various means to encourage more horses to participate in these events in 2026. Moved by Sandra and seconded by Rob that the president's report be adopted. Motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

Sandra presented the audited income statement for 2024. The opening balance on January 1 was \$2,618.68. Incoming revenue for the year was \$7,095. That amount included membership fees (\$1835) and donations



(\$335). Expenses totalled \$5421.23, leaving a balance of \$4292.45 on December 31, 2024.

This year we received an anonymous donation of \$2500 to support the Merrickville Fair Canadian Horse Show. \$500 was donated to the Fair to fund the top prize, and the remaining \$2000 was divided among the 17 participants to help offset their show costs.

Moved by Sandra, seconded by Laura that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried

5. Secretary's Report

Gail reported that paid-up membership comprised 47 individuals.

Since our last AGM, there were three directors' meetings: February 3, May 28 and July 10. We organized our own horse shows in Caledon (June) and Ancaster (September) and helped promote the Merrickville Fair Canadian Horse show.

CCHAO would be participating once again in the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's *Spirit of the Horse* program. Our demonstrations were scheduled for Sunday, November 16.

Two issues of the electronic newsletter (Spring, Summer) were distributed, and a Fall/Winter issue was scheduled for December. Gail thanked Marie-Lynn Hammond for her role in editing the newsletter for the past several years and Susan McClenaghan for doing the layout. Due to health concerns, Marie-Lynn had to step out of the editor's role before the summer issue, so a search for a replacement was underway.

Gail also thanked Rob Knowles, the CCHAO website coordinator, for his ongoing work in keeping the website up to date.

Finally, Gail expressed her gratitude to the members for their support over the past eight years. She thanked the board for its kind gesture in presenting her with an appreciation plaque, a beautiful canvas print of her farm's stallion (made from a photograph by Robert Alexander), and a Canadian Horse travel mug. While she would be stepping down from the duties of Secretary, she planned to continue as an active member of CCHAO.

Moved by Gail, seconded by Sandy that the secretary's report be approved. Motion carried.

6. 2025 Membership Fees

Moved by Sandra, seconded by Rhonda that we keep the 2026 membership fees at the same level as they were in 2025: Individual Adult- \$50; Couple - \$80; Family - \$100; Youth - \$25; Associate - \$25.

Motion carried.

7. Website Manager's Report

Rob pointed out that he had added directors' photos to our website and that the "Contact Us" feature was working smoothly. The "Events" page was updated, and new photos had been added to the photo gallery. Rhonda expressed her appreciation for all the work he had done on the website.

In response to a question from Millar about how much traffic we have on our site, Rob replied that he would find out and let the directors know.



Moved by Rob, seconded by Millar that the website manager's report be accepted. Motion carried.

8. Election of Officers

Gail had received the following written nominations for executive positions prior to the meeting:

President – Rhonda Turley

Vice-President – Millar Nicol

Secretary – Laura Hoy

Treasurer – Sandra Addison.

There being no other nominations at the meeting, all four positions were filled by acclamation.

9. Selection of New Director at Large

Since Laura was now Secretary, the position of Director at Large was vacant. Under the by-laws, the Board has the authority to appoint a new person to fill a vacant position until the next AGM. It was moved by Laura and seconded by Millar that Rob be appointed interim Director at Large. Motion carried by all members of the Board present.

10. Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2025

Two members, Sandy Churchill and Joanna Foote, would be demonstrating their horses on Sunday, November 16, and there would be a Canadian Horse information booth as well.

Gail had applied to SECC/CHBA for a subsidy to help cover the travel costs for Sandy and Joanna, a commentator, and a photographer.

10. Youth Awards

We would be handing out two youth awards of \$250 each before the end of 2025. The first would go to

Bianka St. Denis of Limoges, Ontario for obtaining the highest number of points in CCHAO-sponsored shows. The second would be awarded to Tori van Lenthe of Waterloo for securing the highest number of points in open shows.

11. Event Planning for 2025

It was agreed that we would continue to host/support the following events:

- a. CCHAO show at Caledon Fair (June)
- b. Merrickville Fair (August)
- c. Ancaster Fair (September)
- d. Royal Winter Fair (November)

In addition, Gail reported that she had been approached by a representative of the Erin Fair who asked if we might be interested in having a Canadian Horse show there in October 2026. There was agreement that we should pursue this opportunity. Rhonda offered to follow up by contacting the Erin Agricultural Society.

12. Other Business

Gail proposed that we produce a CCHAO poster featuring some of our members' horses to give to individuals joining/renewing in 2026. While the calendar last year was well received, the cost of printing and mailing was considerable, even after we received a generous donation from one of our members. Sending out a single-page poster would be less expensive than mailing a calendar. It was agreed that she should contact Robert Alexander and work with him to produce a poster.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned shortly after 8:00 p.m.



Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2025

By Sandy Churchill and Gail Cuthbert Brandt

For the second year in a row, CCHAO members participated in the *Spirit of the Horse* program at the Royal. We were given a morning and an afternoon time slot to perform in the Animal Theatre on Sunday, November 16.

There were good-sized audiences for both performances, with approximately 300 attending the afternoon demonstration.

This year's demonstrators were Sandy Churchill, Bianka St. Denis, and Joanna Foote. Sandy brought her 13-year-old mare, Canadream Navajo Zaida [CAN 13589], to demonstrate English riding (with Bianka) and driving (with Sandy and Bianka). Joanna's 11-year-old mare, His & Hers Kontiki Brianka [CAN 14073], aka Bree, contributed to the demonstration by performing several tricks and taking part in a trail course alongside Zaida.

While our announcer Helena Mazzacato spoke about the history of the breed, Zaida was hitched to the carriage in front of the crowd. Sandy then went through the elements of the Preliminary B carriage dressage pattern while the crowd was told about what judges look for in the horse (relaxed and forward) and in the presentation of driver and horse (suitability and professionalism.) The pattern was then repeated with music with Zaida picking up the pace and the crowd clapping to the music. Sandy then turned over the driving lines to Bianka who drove Zaida through cones to show how a marathon carriage is used. While Zaida was then unhitched and saddled in front of the crowd, Joanna's horse, Bree, entertained the crowd with a

series of tricks. They included pushing a ball, collecting hula hoops around her neck, shaking a hoof, high stepping, and stepping onto a bridge. Impressively, most of the tricks were performed liberty style.

At the end of the demonstration, Joanna and Bianka rode through a set of obstacles—gate, jump, poles, flag carrying, bridge, and a jump—while Helena explained the various skills required in a trail class.

Both mares demonstrated versatility with different disciplines while displaying their calm personalities and willingness to perform in a noisy and unusual environment.

It is also noteworthy that this was only the third time for Bianka to ride and drive Zaida. She did a beautiful job, and we look forward to watching her horsemanship with our Canadian breed progress.

At the end of each demonstration, there was an opportunity for audience members to approach the rail and interact with the horses and riders. This “meet and greet” was a highlight, as there were many questions asked, photos taken, smiles exchanged, and pats bestowed on the horses.

Following the afternoon demonstration, we presented Bianka with a youth award trophy for her accomplishments at CCHAO-sponsored shows this year.

We also had an information table located beside the stalls where the two horses were on display throughout the day. There was a steady stream of visitors stopping to admire the horses and to learn more about the Canadian Horse breed. It was also enjoyable to engage in conversation with several non-member Canadian



Horse owners and discuss the features of our association. We handed out many Canadian Horse Breeder Association and CCHAO pamphlets during our nine-hour stay.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sandy and Joanna for the time, effort, and money they invested in ensuring that we had a professional and highly successful presence at the Royal.

To get some idea of the depth of their commitment, here are some of the elements involved in their participation:

- horse registration, with Coggins Test required
- designing and practising the elements of the demonstration
- choosing music for their routines
- transporting equipment to use in the ring
- trailering their horses through Toronto traffic
- navigating the back lanes of the Exhibition Place and accessing the correct loading dock
- habituating their horses to a strange and noisy environment
- staying overnight in a Toronto hotel
- putting on two demonstrations in one day before large crowds.

We would also like to thank our announcer, Helena Mazzacato, who did a wonderful job of informing audience members about the elements of the demonstrations and about our breed.

Kudos as well to Samantha Rentner who acted as our photographer for the day and to Rhonda Turley for assisting at the information booth.

Owners, riders, and volunteers were all thrilled with our Canadian mares' performances at the Royal!

Happy Holidays to You and Yours

(and don't forget to renew your 2026 membership!)



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR



Clockwise:

Bianka and Sandy driving Zaida

Bianka riding Zaida

Brianka (Bree) playing ball with Joanna and husband John

Joanna and Bree during the "Meet and Greet"

Joanna with Bree, Sandy with Zaida

Photo Credit: Samantha Rentner, Snowy River Images



PLEASE SHARE THIS FORM WITH OTHER CANADIAN HORSE ENTHUSIASTS

CHEVAL CANADIEN HORSE ASSOCIATION ONTARIO (CCHAO)

2026 Membership Form (January 1 – December 31)

Please print in block letters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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 \$ _____

Other Voluntary Donation: \$ _____

Total remitted: \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario and mail to: Sandra Addison, 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: _____

