# THE MANE ISSUE

The Official Newsletter Of The Canadian Pony Club







Left: Members at National Rally. Top Right: Manitoba Pony Club celebrating Pony Club's 90th Anniversary. Top Bottom: Alberta South Regional Dressage Finals.

IN THIS ISSUE

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT** 

**VAL'S CORNER** 

NATIONAL DRESSAGE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER

NATIONAL TETRATHLON SUMMARY



# Charlottetown Pony Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Andy Robb, Past DC

On Sunday, August 11th the Charlottetown Pony Club marked its 50th anniversary with a reunion party. The gathering at the 130 year old heritage building which now houses the Haviland Club in old Charlottetown drew a capacity crowd of past and present Pony Club people.

Two highlights of the affair were 'decade tables' with photos and memorabilia put together by past members, and a chronological computer slide show compiled by Nicole Kitchener that was shown through the afternoon. It was a trip down memory lane for older members and a glimpse of the past for younger folks.

Long-time Island horseman, Dr. Wendell Grasse, was M.C. for the afternoon, and Valerie Paton, National Director for the NB/PEI Region, shared a brief historical overview of the club with the audience.

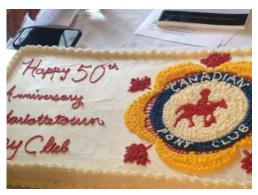
Page 1



DC Tracy Singleton and early DC Maylea Manning

It wouldn't be a party without food and there was plenty of it brought by people attending. And of course there was an Anniversary Cake! Val Paton, Tracy Singleton, Julie Scales, Deena Robb and Lily Robertson planned and organized the gathering which was certainly a highlight of the Island summer for many older and younger pony clubbers.

Valerie presented a certificate of congratulations from National Pony Club to Tracy Singleton, current DC of the Charlottetown club. Special guests at the party were some of the earliest leaders in the club, including several who were there at the very beginning. The 21 DCs of the club since its founding were recognized – 14 were present. The late Molly Armstrong was the very first, and Tracy Singleton is DC today.



## Chair's Message

by Jane Goodliffe - National Chair

The theme for our latest newsletter is all about summer pony club activities. I know that in my own region one of the highlights of the pony club year is the annual summer camp. Quite often when I read articles that our alumni have written, one of their fondest memories is often attending a summer camp with their friends and equine partners. What makes camp so special and memorable is not only the riding, but the excitement of camping with friends and learning new skills whilst having fun.

Fun is an element that should always be included in our pony club activities if at all possible. When we enjoy ourselves those memories stay with us for ever, and if we are learning new skills the process is that much easier to absorb. I hope that you all had a fun and memorable pony club year being with your friends and your horses and ponies. September is the month when most organizations start to look for new members to join their programs. Make this the month when you tell all your friends about the wonderful programs and activities that the Canadian Pony Club has to offer. Let's all be Pony Club Proud!

### **Alumni Spotlight**

My name is Amanda and I have been a member of the Clearwater Valley Pony Club in the Alberta North region for the past 8 years. My pony club journey started a bit differently than most, as I did not join until I was 20 years old. I had spent my childhood in 4-H and when I aged out, I discovered a way to continue my love for horsemanship by becoming a Canadian Pony Club

member.

I had always wanted to try Eventing but there were not many coaches in the area that specialized in English, so I had never had much of an opportunity to try it out. Joining pony club gave me access to some experienced coaches, who exposed me to all three phases of Eventing -I was hooked from the first year I was a member!

Over my career as an active pony club member, I had the chance to develop my horsemanship as well as the chance to hone my skills when it came Tackling the corral at Prentice Creek Equestrian Center



to stable management. When I initially joined pony club, I had hopes of getting my C (having never really done much in terms of jumping or dressage), I thought that would be a feasible goal for my horse and myself. My passion for stable management and assistance from amazing riding coaches, allowed me to surpass my initial testing goal. Before aging out, I was able to achieve my full C2 as well as my B stable management. I look forward to the opportunity to continue challenging myself and continue testing the levels in the future now that Horsemasters can test.



I am a huge theory fanatic and basically own a library worthy number of books relating to all horsey things. Being a pony club member has really given me the opportunity to expand my stable management knowledge and challenge myself to be a life long learner when it comes to equine topics. In my first year of pony club, I attended regional guiz and was immediately hooked. From the written quiz, identification stations to games – I enjoyed every aspect relating to quiz. I have had the opportunity to represent Alberta North region three times at National Quiz competing as an A/B member. Each year I attended, I strove to give it my best Fancy's favourite cross country element -water! shot – always coming back home with new knowledge,

friendships and a desire to continue learning! Now that I am a Horsemaster, I am focusing more on sharing my knowledge through teaching our pony club branches winter theory lessons. I get to pair my career (Grade 2 teacher) with my passion (horses) to promote good horsemanship to younger members. I get to mentor members while still furthering my own knowledge, it really is the best of both worlds! Page 3



Louie and I at our most recent pony club camp.

I have been blessed with some amazing horses over my riding career thus far, each one having taught me something (not all riding related) about what it means to be a "horsewoman." My very first mount was a welsh pony called "Mighty Mouse" who I got when I was 11 years old. His name was overly fitting – he was small but mighty. If he did not like how you were doing something, good luck getting him to do it. He taught me about perseverance – if at first you don't succeed, try again. Mighty Mouse was a fantastic teacher and we had many adventures together before I passed the reins

over to both my younger sisters. I got my mare Fancy right in the prime of being a teenager, she taught me about patience and that all great things take hard work to achieve. My rescue pony Louie has shown me the importance of creating a partnership. He came from an abusive past and it took patience (thanks Fancy!) and lots of basics to get him to the place he is today. Taking my time has allowed us to develop a strong bond – he now tackles whatever I point his way without hesitation. Many more horses (and ponies) have left hoofprints on my heart since beginning my equine journey – all instilling a different wisdom upon me.

A few words of advice for other pony clubbers (whatever age you may be):

- 1. Face each new challenge you are presented with as an opportunity to learn.
- 2. Always clean your bit after each ride (you would not want something dirty put in your mouth).
- 3. Find a positive with every ride, there are always areas for improvement but realizing the successes are just as important for you and your equine partner.
- 4. Appreciate the small victories!
- 5. Remember to smile, breath and have fun! (this is the most important one)



Taking a moment to appreciate the small victories.

Canadian Pony Club has given me skills and knowledge to be able to provide top notch care for my equine partners as well as a solid foundation of riding skills to condition, train and compete my own horses. I look forward to continuing my pony club journey as a Horsemaster now!

#### Val's Corner

Welcome to the beginning of a new membership year!

Remember to only use the 2020 Membership Forms, which are posted on the web site.

Remember to renew or purchase your PSO membership as soon as you apply for membership in CPC.

For parents and other volunteers that need Police checks, we have partnered with MyBackCheck.com to do a low cost, quick and easy online search. For \$25, they will provide the Police Record Check and the Vulnerable Sectors Check almost immediately. Their normal rate is \$59.00. All you need to do is send me an e-mail with your Region and request an invitation. It can all be done in one day. I will receive an acceptable copy for my records, and you can also share it with other organizations if you want.

Checks done by local police or RCMP take longer and may involve two trips. If you choose to do it this way, please be sure you get both checks done and mail me the originals.

Charter Renewals are due by the end of December. It is essential that I receive these at the office to keep your Branch able to continue operating.

#### **Member's Submission**

Want to submit something for the next newsletter?

Email submission to communications@canadianponyclub.org



Painting by Megan Harris from Prairie Breeze PC Riding Centre. 'It was placed in a draw which we give out at camp each year. We offer a camp scholarship draw for every active member attending Regional camp and Megan brought this to be included.' Submitted by Deborah Shepard

### **National Dressage Summary**

Submitted by Sam Eakin, BCIN Regional Chair

On July 4-7th, 2019, BCIN hosted National Dressage Championships in Terrace BC. There were 18 active member riders and 1 horse master rider as well as 18 grooms. The regions represented were BCIN, BCLM, ABC, ANR, ABS, Manitoba, WOR, and PEI/NB. There were 9 training level riders,

8 first level riders, and 2 second level riders.

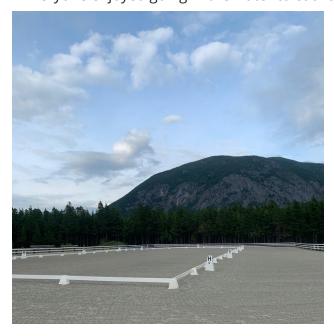
Thursday competitors arrived throughout the day and in the evening we had a pizza dinner and played Quiz games as ice breakers, we even had a team of chaperones compete in the quiz games!

Then we selected the horses!

Friday morning all riders participated in a clinic with Derek Huget. Then Friday afternoon we took everyone to Kitselas Canyon which is a First Nations tour that took us through 4 long houses with different First Nations artifacts in each one. Then we did a short hike to the picturesque



canyon on the Skeena River. We then took everyone to the lake for a bbq dinner and swim. Everyone enjoyed going in the water to cool off after a long day!



Saturday was competition day one! Riders rode technical Test 1 and 2 on Saturday. Then we had a banquet dinner featuring local fresh caught salmon! Sunday riders did technical Test 3. The first year without the mystery test! Sunday we were joined by a film crew making a documentary for TELUS. Several riders and grooms were interviewed, as well as the coach and judge. Sunday afternoon we had the awards ceremony.

#### Results:

Training Level Champion: Julia Hanson-PEI/NB Training Level Reserve: Kylie Dubovsky-ANR

First Level Champion: Desiray Kemps-ANR First Level Reserve: Grace Zayak- BCIN

Second Level Champion: Bailey Chapman-BCLM Second Level Reserve: Kris Melnychuk- ANR



BCIN would like to thank everyone for coming and we hope that everyone enjoyed their time in Terrace, we enjoyed hosting you all!





# **International Exchanges**

Submitted by Lezah Williamson

Over the past few decades, I've talked to people who have been in Pony Club for many years who were unaware that CPC offers international exchanges. So, in case you didn't know, CPC regularly sends teams to the International Mounted Games Exchange (IMGE), which runs yearly, and to the Inter-Pacific Exchange (IPE), which runs every second year. Over the years there have been other exchanges that people I have known attended, such as Fox Hunting, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon and Quiz. If you are interested in International exchanges, I will direct you to the information on the CPC site, as it will give you the exact information such as minimum ages and Pony Club levels, or due dates and try out specifics.

Here's a brief overview of the two regularly run International Exchanges. IMGE is a Prince Philip Games competition that rotates between Canada, the USA, England and Australia. Typically riders are 15; tryouts happen at the end of summer following a rider's last year on the A team. You may have to fly across the country for tryouts – in 2019 they take place in Prince Edward Island. The actual exchange takes place over a 10 day to two week period, and culminates with the riding competition. Prior to that, the emphasis is on the exchange, or tour aspect of the trip – you will be exposed to many different physical and cultural activities that the country has to offer. When Canada hosted IMGE two years ago, some of the activities the riders enjoyed were white water rafting, whale watching, a treetop adventure, dragon boat racing, and hiking Vancouver's Grouse Grind. In 2018, the UK hosted and riders toured all over England and Scotland

I recently returned from IPE, or Inter-Pacific Exchange, which this year was held in Hong Kong.

Minimum requirements for participants this year were to be 16 years of age and C2 testing level, riding at Training level or 3'3" jumpers. For IPE there are no physical tryouts, it's just a paper application. For the Hong Kong trip,



L-R: Coreena Koschewski, Carlie Wells, Emily Lindsay, Teagan Williams.

CPC had the most applicants they had ever had for one of these exchanges, and frankly, it showed in the quality of those chosen, because the four young ladies who represented Canada were top notch, and I'm not just talking about riding ability – these girls were hard workers, fantastically supportive team members, great citizens, and wonderful ambassadors for both our country and CPC.

The riding parts of the competition involved a dressage competition one week, and a jumper competition (at 3') the next week, all ridden on borrowed horses. The girls also got the opportunity to ride at two other stables, do a gymkhana, and visit the Sha Tin vet hospital at the racetrack. We were on the water a lot on junk (boat) trips, and went to the beach twice. We also enjoyed shopping at the mall and at the night market, museum visits, and had the opportunity to really up our chopsticks game with all the varieties of Asian food we were offered.

So, if you are at all interested, I would urge you to look into one of these exchanges; it'll be the trip of a lifetime.

## Horse Keeping in Hong Kong

Submitted by Lezah Williamson

In the summer of 2019, six representatives from CPC attended the Inter Pacific Exchange in Hong Kong. We experienced Hong Kong culture, and also had a lot of horse time.

Hong Kong is a former British colony that is now a special administrative region neighbouring mainland China. Over 7.4 million people reside in Hong Kong within a 425 square mile (1104 square kilometre) territory. It is one of the most densely populated places in the world, and is also one of the world's most significant financial centres, boasting the highest concentration of high-net-worth individuals of any city in the world. The city has the world's largest number of skyscrapers, and the rest of the land in Hong Kong is undeveloped hilly or mountainous terrain. Hong Kong has a humid subtropical climate that is prone to typhoons.

All of these factors contribute to how horses are kept in Hong Kong, which is significantly different than what we are used to in Canada. Due to the cost of land, keeping horses in Hong Kong is very expensive. One of the barns we were at, the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Beas River Equestrian Centre, is an exclusive club with an initial membership fee of \$8 million HK (about \$1.3 million Cdn). This does not include the \$2200 HK monthly fee, or the horse board. At another barn we were at, the manager mentioned that the cost of hay for her 46 horse barn was 8000 UK pounds (about \$16,000 Cdn) for every two months.



Newspaper bedding in a stall.



A two storey barn.

Horses in Hong Kong live in high density stabling areas – many barns are built like multi-level car parkades, with ramps at either end to move horses up and down. The racetrack has 1200 horses at it, while Beas River Equestrian Centre has 800 horses. Lo Wu Stables has a mere 46 horses, and the limiting factor here is how much rain run-off the facility can handle. The riding ring at Lo Wu is the only area that is not paved, and there is extensive drainage installed all over the property. Lo Wu is the only barn in Hong Kong that has a pasture; horses get turned out daily in groups for limited times in the barn's single one acre field.

Not only is all hay (in the form of compressed bales), grain and bedding imported by sea, typically from North America, all the horses are imported, as well, mainly from the UK and Australia. There were a few warmbloods, but the majority of horses in HK are thoroughbreds and cobs.

It is extremely rare for anyone to own a horse in HK – most horses are in livery (school horses), or are leased or half leased. All horses are working – there are no idle horses. If horses go lame or need a lay-off, they are exported, typically to New Zealand, and then reassessed at six months. The last horse born in HK was foaled in 2008 – this only happened because they were unaware that the mare being imported was in foal. There is no time or space available for horses that are not able to work every day. Because horses spend so much time in their stalls, most barns bed very deeply. Those barns that did not bed as deeply had a much higher incidence of horses with capped hocks and elbows.



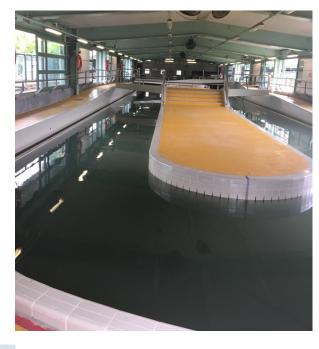
Deeply bedded high air flow stall

Due to the heat and humidity, horses are worked and cooled out quite differently in Hong Kong. All of our riding took place early in the morning, or later in the afternoon, in order to avoid the heat of the day. Beas River had signs posted around the facility advising that horses' rest period was between 11 am and 2 pm. Horses are pretty fit in Hong Kong as they are worked regularly, but due to the heat they also sweat copiously. Page 10

Cool out usually involves taking the horse to the bar immediately after working to untack, and then hosing down. If the horse is not cool then, he can get walked – and maybe hosed down

again!

One malady that affects some horses in Hong Kong is anhydrosis. This is referred to locally as the horse being 'dry' or having a 'dry coat'. This means that the horse has lost the ability to sweat. Consequently, this horse must not be overworked and it must be cooled down immediately after working as it has no ability to thermo-regulate, making this a critical care issue. Horses with this problem have a genetic pre-disposition to the ailment which only becomes an issue when triggered by the hot and humid climate.





Four storey horse stable with ramps at KH Jockey Club

Some barns have air conditioning, and all the stalls we saw have fans, some as many as three, to help keep the horses cool when inside. At Lo Wu, they had to build a new barn when they relocated about 15 years ago – this gave them the opportunity to erect a purpose built barn that addresses airflow, and as a result they have thick concrete walls that only extend part way to the roof; the roof is supported by pillars, and there are no windows. All stall doors are bar gates to further facilitate airflow.

#### **What I Did This Summer**

Submitted by Atlee Graham, Red Deer Pony Club, Alberta Central Region

My summer was very busy with Pony Club events, such as National Dressage Championships, Red Deer Pony Club camp and our Alberta Central Region Year End Finals Show.

July 4-7th, I attended the National Dressage Championships in Terrace, BC with three other members from Alberta Central, Caprice, Pyper, and Zoe. I groomed for Zoe who rode First level on a lovely chestnut mare named Felte. Zoe rode her for the first and third test, then a different girl from British Columbia rode her for the second test. This year the grooms had to stay with the horses when the other rider rode them for the second test. It's cool because you get to meet new people!



One evening, after the riding was over, they took us on a bus, we went hiking and saw the beautiful river. Later they took us to the beach and we had burgers and chips for dinner! They brought kayaks; it was lots of fun! On the last day there was a camera crew that filmed the event and interviewed a few riders, we might get to be on TV, I'm excited to see that! Overall, it was extremely fun and very hot!



July 25-28th was our Red Deer Pony Club Camp. We did stable management, riding and other fun activities. On the 27th we had the Ingrid Plaudis-Bowie Day of learning to celebrate Pony Club's 90th anniversary and to pay tribute to a former member who passed away. On this day we had Pony Club graduates come and do lectures on



biting and saddle fitting with us. At lunchtime we had a Prix St. George level rider (and former Red Deer PC alumni) demonstrate her test on her beautiful Andalusian gelding named Marado.

On the other days we had dressage and jumping, my personal favourite was dressage. I mostly benefitted from that. We also did lots of Stable Management, every morning we did bandaging and we learned about teeth, injuries and braiding. In braiding class, our instructor, Kelly, gave us braiding fanny packs that had everything you needed possible for braiding including candy! One other thing I enjoyed about camp was Bryan and Jenn's amazing cooking we all really appreciated that. I really learned a lot from this camp, can't wait until next year!!

On August 25th we had our Alberta Central Region Year End Final Show. There was Dressage and Show Jumping. I only did Dressage this year and I got second in both my Training levels tests on my 12.2hh Welsh pony named Casino. Sadly, I had to sell him because he's too small for me, but I was happy to get to show him before he leaves. I won the Tack and Turnout award, which I was very happy about!! Now it's time to work on getting my new horse ready for next year.



Now summer is over which means no more riding at Pony Club, but time to get studying for National Quiz!! Hope to see some of you there!



#### **National Tetrathlon**

Submitted by Rachel Lawson, BCLM

BCLM was proud to host athletes from across Canada who competed at the 2019 Canadian Pony Club National Tetrathlon from June 26 – 30. Tetrathlon is a multi-sport event combining running (2 km), freestyle swimming (200 metres), single handed air pistol shooting and riding. The athlete with the highest total points awarded from all disciplines wins. The riding portion is both unique and difficult for many reasons. This year's course consisted of stadium fences in the arena, followed by a slip gate out into a cross country section, then a slip rail back into the ring for more show jumping. What makes it harder is that all athletes may not ride their own horse or horses they have ridden before, and they are only allowed 15 minutes and 5 jumps to warm up with the horse before competing.

Tetrathlon is making a comeback and Canada has been invited to compete in next year's International Tetrathlon Exchange in the UK. Did you know that Pony Club Tetrathlon can lead you to the Olympics? Modern Pentathlon adds fencing to Tetrathlon's four sports. Many of our past and present Pan Am and Olympic Team members



started in Tetrathlon. Current Lima 2019 Pan Am athletes Joel Riker-Fox and Garnet Stephens both started in Pony Club.

BCLM was proud to host athletes from across Canada who competed at the 2019 Canadian Pony Club National Tetrathlon from June 26 – 30. Tetrathlon is a multisport event combining running (2 km), freestyle swimming (200 metres), single handed air pistol shooting and riding. The athlete with the highest total points awarded from all disciplines wins. The riding portion is both unique and difficult for many reasons. This year's course consisted of stadium fences in the arena, followed by a slip gate out into a cross country section, then a slip rail back into the ring for more show jumping. What makes it harder is that all athletes may not ride their own horse or horses they have ridden before, and they are only allowed 15 minutes and 5 jumps to warm up with the horse before competing.

We couldn't have put on an event of this size without the help of many people. Thanks to BCLM Region of Canadian Pony Club, Horse Council BC, Richmond Rod and Gun Club, Panorama Ridge Riding Club, Pentathlon Canada, TAG Hardware, the horse lenders, the billets, the drivers, the chaperones, and most importantly, the athletes who competed at the highest level in a sport that takes real athletic talent.

# Spotlight on a Tetrathlon Athlete

Submitted by Rachel Lawson, BCLM

My name is Elizabeth Lawson and I'm a Tetrathlete and Modern Pentathlete. No idea what that is? I didn't have a clue either until 2 years ago.

Like lots of kids, I started out doing many sports, settling on swimming, volleyball and riding. I have been riding with Georgann Gregory of Blenheim Stables for the past 3 years. I love riding, it's my favorite sport out of all of the things I do. She suggested that as I was a good swimmer, I should try tetrathlon and modern pentathlon. So I joined Pony Club to see what it was all about. 2019 is my second year in Pony Club but I have been riding since I was 7 years old. I'm now 14 and I belong to the Boundary Bay Pony Club from the BCLM Region. I'm testing my C level this

summer.

Pony Club Tetrathlon combines the sports of running, swimming, air pistol shooting and cross country and show jumping. Tetrathlon is making a comeback in our country and Canada has been invited to compete in the International Tetrathlon Exchange next year in the UK. Modern Pentathlon is an Olympic sport that adds the sport of fencing to the mix. Did you know that many of our past and present Pan Am and Olympic Team members started in Pony Club Tetrathlon? I'm hoping one day that might be me.



In 2018, I did my first tetrathlon. I qualified for Nationals in Saskatchewan where I was the youngest competitor and won the overall point total. The venue at Northwest Equest in Debden, SK was phenomenal and I loved flying over the cross country jumps. I also met athletes from all over the country who love horses and competition like I do. This past year, I started fencing which is really hard. In May, I competed in the Pentation Canada Nationals where I won the u15 category.



This year, BCLM hosted the 2019 CPC
National Tetrathlon at the end of June. We
had athletes from Ontario and BC, it was
great to meet up with the friends I made
from last year. There were 5 athletes
from BCLM and William Jack, (Allouette PC,
Senior Mens) and I were successful at
defending our National Titles. After the



competition was finished, we had a great time touring the sites of Vancouver and showing our guests the beautiful west coast. I would love to see more athletes try tetrathlon and pentathlon, it's really fun. Each Pony Club Region has a Tetrathlon rep who can help answer your questions and get you started.



## Saskatchewan Region Summer Summary

The Saskatchewan Region enjoyed a very busy summer this year with three major events to handle. We started the season with the Regional Rally which was held north of Debden Saskatchewan, adjacent to Prince Albert National Park.



fabulous facility Northwestequest. The show was so successful that I expect more Pony Clubbers will be putting Regional Rally on their bucket list for 2020!

The next event to be sorted was the Show Jumping championships.

There were 14 riders attending the event, and they came from a full spectrum of ages and abilities. Some clubs sent riders for the first time, and others lead the way with their experience and helpfully showing the newbies the ropes. Everyone in attendance were successful in all three portions of dressage, cross-country and show jumping. Laurel and Greg Vaadeland hosted the event at their



Page 16

This year the members were placed in a medals class that was held exclusively for Pony Club in the Mid Summer Masters at the formerly known as Ebon Stables. Four riders were in that class. Mya Viczko on Escondito came first, Skye Mushens on "Don't Steal my Thunder" came second and Rihannon Lynch on Crank came third.

The final Regional event to be enjoyed was the Dressage Championships held at Elevation Equestrian in Saskatoon. The placings for first were:

Regional Introductory Dressage Champion: Felicity Murch on Shine On Dori

Open Introductory Dressage Champion: Felicity Murch on Shine on Dori

Training Champion: Alexis Dewey on Protege CF

Horse Masters Training Dressage Champion: Lola Piche I'm She's Fanci Lace

Horse Masters First Level Champion: Karen Coates on Seth

The Pony Club members attended many shows outside of sanctioned Pony Club events. They placed well at Hunter Jumper shows, fairs in a variety of classes, barrel racing events and of course as eventers. We like to mix things up here in Saskatchewan!



## South Thompson Pony Club Camp



The young riders of South Thompson Pony Club have been eagerly waiting for Camp. It's the highlight of the year for most of them. They have baked pies, served spaghetti dinner, organized a silent auction, and sold flower baskets to raise money for their Spring riding lessons which culminate with a 3 day camp at Johvale Stables.

Friday, June 14, after frantically packing, the clubbers arrive at Johvale and make their ponies comfortable in their pens. They wheelbarrow in shavings, haul water, set up stall gates and organize their tack. The kids have their sights set on the ice-cream cake which is the prize for the happiest horse in the cleanest, most organized stall over the weekend. Once the ponies have settled in, they rush off to play "minute to win it". Raucous laughter fills the evening.



Saturday morning comes early – the kids feed, clean stalls, and have a hearty breakfast to fuel themselves. The riding starts with individual Dressage lessons with Heather. The kids not riding write a practice test for their testing level, or work in small

groups to prepare for their tests in the fall. After a delicious soft taco lunch, Cross Country lessons start. These are with the Irishman Darren Coady who challenges each of them and praises them highly for their efforts. After a dinner of baked potatoes and chilli, it's time for the annual game of Capture the Flag! The kids run off with glow sticks 'till well into dark.

Sunday morning, after tending to their ponies, they start Cross Country lessons, a little earlier to beat the heat. It seems that every rider has improved and is able to add in a new challenge or two. They love these lessons - galloping through the open fields, jumping logs and ditches... When the lessons are over, it's time for the knap week pulling contest!



The club is entered in the TNRD weed picking challenge and these kids and their parents manage to pull over 300 kg of weeds putting them in the lead for the moment. After a refreshing freezie, they tack up a final time for stadium jump rounds. A few of the kids even switch horses for a round or two. The spectator parents and riders cheer loudly!



It's nearly 5pm when the ice cream cake winner is announced and shares out cake. It's been an amazing weekend. Exhausted parents pack the trailers and take their dusty, smiling kids home for dinner and a shower

# Western Ontario Region & Erin Horse Day

Submitted by Theresa Rondeau, WOR

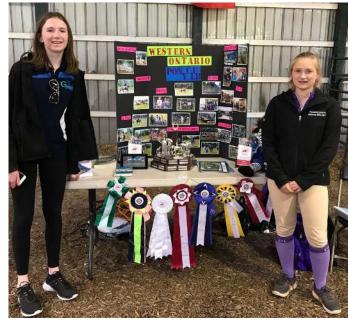
The inaugural Erin Horse Day hosted various equine events to over 2,000 guests and spectators on Saturday June 8th (Erin, ON). As the first event of its kind for the township we were thrilled and honoured that the organizers reached out to Pony Club for the opportunity to be involved.



Miss Claire McClelland (Guelph) and Miss Trinity Sachau (Caledon) working with mom's Rachel and Kerry provided opportunities for the general public to learn all about the great offerings of Pony Club. Located beside the mystical, magical real live unicorn, the girls shared opportunities to engage with the general public and expose everything that our wonderful organization has to offer young (and more mature) people alike. Thank you to all of them for taking on the task of putting together the display materials and volunteering their time!

A BIG Thank You to Krista Breen (WOR PPG Chair) for organizing

an exciting PPG demonstration filled with challenging races and relays. Five WOR members (Ava MacNeil, Cali and Laila DeCouto, Freya Prestwood and Trinity Sachau) with their adorable mounts (Lacey, Chinook, Pippin, Stetson and Patric) came out to show their skills within the fast paced, fun-filled and exciting PPG games. Always a highlight, the demonstration of games, relays, pony and rider fitness and agility never fail to WOW! the audience. GO PONY CLUB!





## Canadian Pony Club

Box 127, Baldur, Manitoba ROK 0B0 1-888-286-PONY www.canadianponyclub.org Loyalty Character Sportsmanship

# Directory Silver Sponsors

Golden Horseshoe Animal Health www.goldenhorseshoe.com

Strictly Equine www.strictlyequine.com/

ROAR Publications www.roar-group.com

Tipperary Equestrian www.phoenixperformance.com

Unbelts www.unbelts.com

#### **Bronze Sponsor**

hoofbeats! Podcast www.hoofbeats.libsyn.com

Submissions for the Winter Edition are due April 30, 2020

#### Find us on Social Media!



/CanadianPonyClub



@CanadianPonyClub



@CdnPonyClub



@CdnPonyClub

#### Calendar of Events

Oct 4-6, 2019 IMGE Tryout Hosted by NB/PEI

Oct. 11-14 National Quiz Hosted by Saskatchewan