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Layout & design of newsletter courtesy of Lindsay Feller

ON THE COVER:

A true test of equitation....at the finals of the equitation classes for the Capt. de Kenyere's scholarships held at our September show, two of our riders found themselves without a horse to ride. A couple of generous club members came to the rescue. The riders had a short practice ride on the new horses and then were into the ring where they did a wonderful job and both achieved scholarship wins! Congratulations to Virginia Canal riding Wendy Barnett's Joshua and Jade Warkentin riding Sue Braun's One Perfect Melody (pictured on our cover). Thank you to Wendy and Sue for demonstrating true sportmanship and club spirit by sharing your horses.

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Mark Your Calendars!

NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting

November 15, 2013
Shooters on Main Street
Cash bar, appetizers

FEBRUARY

Equine Canada Annual Convention

Radisson Hotel, Winnipeg
February 5 – 9, 2013



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"There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse..." Robert Smith Gutrens

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Annual General Meeting

Shooters, 2731 Main Street

November 15, 2013

Food compliments of DW - 6:30 p.m. & Cash bar
AGM - 7:30 p.m.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED AT THE AGM.

Come out and participate in this important event. If you cannot attend, please use a proxy form and ensure that someone votes for you.

Hard copy information packs will be mailed out shortly.

Hope to see you there.

Heather Thomas,
Vice Chair, DW

***Editor's note: I went to the AGM last year for the first time in a while (I am ashamed to admit) and was glad I did. The food was fantastic, I learned a lot about our club's activities and concerns and....no...they don't make you sign up for anything! Please come out, our board members work so hard on our behalf. They would really appreciate your support at this event.*

ONE TIME ONLY OFFER AT AGM!!

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Message from the Chair

Courtesy of Merelyn Hunkin

DW has had a busy year with several new ventures in addition to the usual slate of dressage shows and a dressage camp. I have also been pleased to see more communication and joint ventures with Westman Dressage Club.

In May, we helped organize the presentation of an In Hand clinic by Michael Rohrman. This presentation has inspired the board to offer this type of opportunity to other stables for their clinicians in the coming year. Later in the year, we held a dressage camp, which was not well-attended, so the DW board will have to think carefully about any similar ventures in the future.

DW also held a Give It A Go Day Clinic at Bird's hill Park during the MHC Horse week in August. Dressage Canada offered financial support for our province for this pilot program. A DC judge, Doreen Horsey, evaluated a rider's tests and then worked with them to improve the skills found in their tests. These 45 minute sessions were very well received; we had 16 rides over two days. DC covered any shortfall in expenses, so we were able to keep the clinic fees to a minimum. Also, MHC only charged for the cleaning of the stalls, but not for the use of the stalls or any other facility fees.

Another new venture for DW, was assisting MHC to send a dressage team to the Canadian Inter Provincial Championships in Alberta. The team required First Level riders, and in the end we were able to send two senior riders, and one junior rider to represent Manitoba at this competition in Alberta. We assisted by participating in a bingo as a CIEC fund raiser and by donating \$500 from DW, which will be covered by the silent auction of wines at the Awards dinner. We also sent the data to MHC from our shows to help in the team selection. We had previously met with a rep from Westman Dressage to help plan the dressage clubs' involvement in CIEC and also in the Manitoba Equestrian East/ West Championships.

Together with Westman, we revamped the organization of the dressage teams for this year's MEC. The clubs are trying to make this annual event more fun and to generate more participation. This year, we tried requisite freestyles and offered some prizes from the dressage club, as previously all you received were your scores and a medal as an overall Team East or Team West rider. Westman still had a hard time finding riders, but we helped out with a couple of DW riders. The participants all had a great time and all of the riders hoped to participate in MEC again.

During the MEC, DW with the help of MHC and other volunteers planted trees on the berm at BHP. We received \$5000 in funding from the Canon Take Root Program for this venture. It seemed a Herculean task when we started to plan and complete the planting of over 250 trees and shrubs, but eventually the deed was done; the berm will definitely be more beautiful and user friendly as a result. Many, many thanks to Cheryl Heming, who was the main organizer of this event.

DW expanded their scholarship program this year and offered participation to Westman riders as well. For any participants from Westman, their club would assist monetarily on a pro-rated basis. We also offered three categories of scholarship this year instead of two. The three categories are: 11-15 years, 16-21 years, and 22 years and over (These adult riders had to be AA riders not competing past First Level this year). If all scholarships would be awarded to DW riders, the maximum total award monies would be \$1700 for our club. This year, only 4 awards were presented, for a total of \$1200. No Westman riders participated as of yet.

The DW board has reviewed the DW Bylaws as a committee, and have made suggestions for changes. Sue Matthews was instrumental in reviewing the Bylaws, making suggestions regarding the bylaws before the board met on September 24, retyping these suggested bylaws and having them reviewed by a lawyer. At that point, the Bylaws could be sent to all members, so that at the AGM they could be reviewed and accepted or amended by the DW membership. Thanks Sue!

The board, or committees thereof, have also met to discuss the future of DW shows and educational opportunities for our members. Many new suggestions have arisen regarding Travelling Schooling Shows, Assisted Shows (where we help a stable with their own schooling show), a winter lecture series for 2014, changes to our show dates etc. Many policies and procedures were finalized during our October meeting to help the future boards in running DW activities.

All this, and I haven't mentioned shows. I'll be brief. The May show was cancelled. The June show ran efficiently but was down in participation. The July show, held in conjunction with camp was fun but again, lacked strong participation. The September championship show, again, was low on riders. I hope that as a club we can find ways to increase participation at our shows; the show committee and the board will have suggestions in this regard.

Continued on next page

Message from the Chair (continued)

Thank you sincerely to all the board members, as well as a few other members, who worked above and beyond the call of duty to support the activities of DW this year. We were very busy and I can only hope that the general membership will step up to support this amazing group in 2014! I hate to say it, but 8 hours of volunteer time per member, is not enough to insure that all of the DW activities, especially shows, can be run efficiently. If we are to be a successful club, we need your assistance and participation in all DW ventures in 2014.

CLINICS CORNER

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The 2014 Equine Canada Annual Convention is set for February 5-9 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The host hotel, Radisson Hotel Winnipeg, is located in the heart of downtown, only blocks from the Winnipeg Convention Centre, MTS Centre and many other attractions.



Members of the equestrian community from across Canada are invited to participate in a selection of meetings and clinics tailored to address the unique needs of participants involved in equestrian sport, recreation and industry.

The convention will also play host to the 2014 Equine Canada Awards Gala which consists of an evening of dining and entertainment in honour of the successes of 2013.

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Photo: Fiddle, Wild West Customer owned by Linda Ridley

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Manners: Chapter One

*Courtesy of Liane Parker
Written By Jake Davidson*

Manners are not a topic that would normally be associated with Jake Davidson. Truth be spoken I have been known to make a few odd sounds in public that would not have received my grandmother's blessings. I am going to venture forth anyway and expound my version of the 11 rules of equine politeness.

These rules deal primarily with issues related to boarding stables. I, thank goodness, do not have to follow these rules because I have my own barn, arena and associated accoutrements. This is a good thing because I am told I do not follow directions well (if at all). The reality for many of you is that this will never happen and to be a horse owner means that you are a boarder. So based on my experience from years gone by here are Just Jake's 11 golden rules of boarding.

1. Remember at all times that you are a guest of the facility owner. Just because you transfer a huge chunk of your monthly pay check to the barn owner does not mean that you are somehow entitled to order them around and demand special attention be paid to either you or your horse. Just because your pay board does not make the barn owner a lower class citizen than you.
2. Your horse depends on the barn owner for all his needs. In reality, in your horse's eyes the barn owner is more important to your horse than you are. He or she is the source of all that is good whereas all you do is show up to ride. Therefore pay your board bills on time. Don't make your "BO" have to ask you for the money. Pay promptly and acknowledge the care your horse is getting.
3. Leave things the way you found them. This translates to "clean up after yourself and your horse". You are paying to have your horse taken care of, not to have someone follow you around with a broom and a shovel. Leaving things clean and tidy also makes life easier for the other boarders. No one wants to clean up your mess before bringing their horse to the grooming area.
4. If it isn't yours, leave it alone. Just because another boarder has mistakenly left a brush or crop or other small item out when they leave doesn't mean that they were donating it to your favourite charity (i.e. you). Respect other people's property and they will respect yours. Don't borrow anything without the express consent of the owner.
5. When riding in an indoor or outdoor arena with other boarders, follow the rules of the road. Pass oncoming horses "left to left". Allow faster moving horses room on the rail and don't make sudden directional or speed changes that will disrupt another horse's movement. You are sharing the facility. Remember how your mother taught you to share.
6. If there are other people riding in the arena don't march into the middle of the facility and start lunging your horse. By hogging the centre of the arena you prevent the riders from doing manoeuvres like diagonals, small circles and serpentines. Plus if you are snapping a whip it may distress the other horses. If there is a set of posted "Arena Rules" follow them. They are there for a reason.
7. Leave your dog at home. Generally speaking horse lovers are dog lovers. That does not translate into horses are dog lovers. Having a dog running loose in a barn may not be appreciated by fellow boarders and the quick movement of your dog as he spies the barn cat out the front door may frighten a horse that isn't used to having your dog in the barn. Even if there is a dog at the stable, remember he lives there, it is his home and he may not appreciate your dog's presence.
8. Don't become the "Barn Queen". We have all encountered a "Barn Queen". She is the person who tries to rule the roost and control the barn by demanding a certain stall, a special paddock and monopolizes the best times on the arena schedule. Everyone tip toes around her to avoid listening to her whine and complain. Co-operate with your fellow boarders, rotate lesson times and generally be pleasant to everyone.
9. Don't talk about other boarders behind their backs. Don't complain about the facility, the feed or other boarders. If you think something is wrong, discuss it with the "BO". They are the only ones who can make changes. If you aren't happy, get the heck out of Dodge and find another place more to your liking.

Manners: Chapter One (continued)

10. If the barn is the centre of your social life, decide if you are going there to socialize or ride. Boarders who are seriously trying to train their horses for some sort of equestrian event are focused people who don't want to stop and chit chat while riding. If you are a purely recreational rider, link up with others of the same inclination and leave the serious riders to do their own thing.
11. The "BO" is being paid to care for your horse, not your children. If they don't have a horse at the barn to occupy their time and attention – leave the kids at home with the dog. Not all that complicated. If everyone used common sense and my 11 golden rules of horse boarding, life at the barn would be a pleasant experience for everyone involved.

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A First-timer's Experience at the Manitoba Equestrian Championships

Courtesy of Karine Duhamel

Recently, I was honoured to be chosen as a member of Team Westman for the Manitoba Equestrian Championships with my wonderful Thoroughbred mare, Windlass (affectionately known as Big Bertha). Though Bertha and I had competed at several shows this season, the MEC afforded us the opportunity to show technical tests at First Level, which we had reserved for our freestyles only earlier in the season. For this reason, the MEC was in fact a big challenge for us, but one that we were happy to be a part of.

One of the best parts of the competition for me was the positive atmosphere of the MEC's. The small group of dressage riders gave us all an opportunity to visit and to get to know each other better, and the positivity of the group was overwhelming. In addition, the multiple events happening at the MEC's during my warmups – which included driving and barrel racing – made me extremely happy to be riding a horse who, by virtue of her experience on the racetrack, has nearly seen it all! Though the carts were initially quite the mystery to my mare, she dealt well with the challenges of warming up in an environment she was not necessarily used to. For me, it was also an excellent opportunity to observe and appreciate equestrian athletes in other disciplines hard at work with their equine partners. Though I don't think I will be taking up barrel racing anytime soon, I enjoyed the excitement of that venue!

This year, the MEC's featured a new feature for Dressage which included a mandatory freestyle both Saturday and Sunday in addition to our technical tests. On Saturday, Bertha gave me the best performance of her life on a technical test she had never done in competition. The success of that ride fueled her for a great performance



Wendy Barnett and Joshua having fun at the MEC.

in her freestyle, which the (modest) crowd of spectators enjoyed. Riders performed freestyles at Training, First and Second Level, many for the first time. As both a rider and a spectator, I appreciated the many different styles of music that appeared in the freestyles, from current hits to classical to movie themes. Riders and horses truly enjoyed the dancing, and it provided some light-hearted fun after some difficult technical rides

Overall, as a first-time competitor at the MEC's, I plan on trying to qualify again for next year. It was a great experience: I made new friends, had the best rides of my life on my wonderful horse, and got to see the best of Manitoba's equestrian sport all in one place!

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Abraxas

1991 - 2013

Abraxas was a registered Hannoverian, foaled in 1991 in Alberta. His sire was Arkansas and his dam was Egeta, sired by Eiger 1. He was bought by Dierdre Kozminski and came to Manitoba as a young 4 year old. His original barn name, Rex, was changed to Campbell.

He was not an easy or straightforward horse. Abraxas, affectionately known as Campbell, became known as a bit of a "problem horse." Many trainers, coaches and professionals from all over Canada became acquainted with this beautiful looking, but quirky animal.

"He was the first horse I rode when I moved to Canada in 2001. At the time Campbell was owned by Dierdre Kozminski. He was a very nervous horse with confidence issues that represented a challenge. My daughter, Anna, remembers him quite well as I used to have her kick a bright green ball around the arena while I rode. As unpredictable as he was, he used to let Anna (4yrs) go in his stall and wrap her arms around his legs. I still remember the day I mentioned to Petra about this nice horse that I was working with, with a big heart and talent, if we could get him to believe in himself. She wanted to see him but I wouldn't let her at first. I knew she would fall in love with him and I wasn't sure if he was ready. After a few weeks I brought her with me to see him, and it was love at first sight." - Lucero Desrochers

The turning point in his life probably came when Petra Loro decided to take the gamble, and buy him. They spent 10 years together, training with Bonny Bonnelo and Armand Valkenborg amongst others. It was not always an easy road. For many years Campbell boarded at Oakwood Stables and benefited from expert training from Melissa Bosma and expert veterinary care from Dr Cyndi Kaspar.

Despite his sometimes difficult character, he became a talented dressage horse, rising through the levels with Petra and with Melissa. The pinnacle of his career came in 2009, with Melissa in the saddle, when they competed at Intermediare One, just two small

steps down from Grand Prix, the highest of the dressage levels. The following year he and Petra successfully competed at Prix St George; what an accomplishment for "the problem horse."



"Campbell was a loyal friend, a teacher and a gentleman. He was quirky and sweet and very, very kind. My absolutely favourite thing about Campbell was that after a good ride -- often a technically difficult or physically demanding one -- he would nicker, often loud enough for the coach or spectators to hear. I loved that most of all. I knew that I never asked too much when he followed up with that delightful nicker. I would give anything for one more..." - Petra Loro

"Campbell was a really special horse. He was a constant surprise from the first time I started with him until the very last ride. He was so ridiculous and dramatic, everything was a very big deal to him but we just kept at it and that made him soooo happy. I would think that I had just had the worst ride ever but try to end on a positive note and he would nicker when we were done like he was a ROCK STAR! I never ever dreamed that we (Petra, Campbell and I) would go as far as we did but all three of us were determined. Sometimes he seemed determined not to cooperate!! But we persevered and far surpassed anyone's expectations! I loved that horse so so much, of the many I have owned, ridden or trained Campbell was a horse of true character, he had so much to say he just couldn't talk! He was a gentleman, an idiot, a lover, a sissy, he was funny, obnoxious, and a crazy man. Campbell was my friend and a great partner to both Petra and I and he will live on in my heart as one of my most special horses. I feel honoured to have been part of his great life!" - Melissa Bosma Dopheide

In 2011, he successfully took junior, Emma Tarvis into the ring at both third and fourth level. At the end of that season, he passed on to Izzy Biron and in the following year, 2012, he and Izzy competed at the FEI junior level. He taught Izzy SO much. The aids had to be ABSOLUTELY correct, or he went into denial and refused to perform the movement. She first had to learn how to ride a circle and a straight line, and if it was not good enough, he knew!! He would not allow sloppy riding; you had to be correct. What a teacher. Izzy's first competition dressage test was at FEI Junior level and this she could not have done without a horse of this calibre.

Campbell had a horrid imagination. He truly believed that everything was out to get him in one way or another. Flowers gently blowing in a breeze were a particular threat in his mind and his point-blank refusal to go anywhere near moving flora or fauna were the ruination of quite a few dressage movements over the years. His particular party piece, when the going got tough, was to lay down and faint.

Sadly in September of 2013, after a short illness, Campbell died. He was 22 years old.

“Over the past 8 years, Nevarre and Campbell were pasture mates at Oakwood Stables and recently this past year at Misty River. The two of them always got along trailering, showing and riding on the trails together. Campbell took comfort in Nevarre and vice versa on any adventures Petra or myself would take them on whether it be on the trails or just exercising them in the arena. It was very evident this past fall when I went to

bring Nevarre in from the paddock, to find Campbell and Nevarre hanging out together in the same stall inside the run in shed as if a couple of old men hiding out from the heat of the sun and the bugs. Campbell was always a gentleman in the pasture and good natured around the group of dogs and kids that accompanied his owner and riding friends. He will be sadly missed and certainly remembered for a lifetime.” Christy Warawa

What a unique accomplishment; to take five riders into the dressage ring, some at the highest levels of the sport. He overcame his issues, and he became a great teacher. I believe this to be the hallmark of a great horse. Campbell will always be fondly remembered.

By Sarah Biron (with Melissa Bosma Dopheide, Lucero Desrochers, Petra Loro & Christy Wawara)



Campbell with Petra Loro



Campbell with Lucero DesRochers



Campbell with Melissa Bosma



Campbell with Izzy Biron, 2012



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Pony Club Dressage Nationals

Courtesy of Erika Rob

This year I had the pleasure of competing in Pony Club Dressage Nationals at the training level.

To qualify for nationals, one has to compete at the Pony Club Dressage Regionals which take place at the MHJA show, Summer in the City. I decided last year, since my horse Jackson (Levario), seemed to be on a training level roll to give it a try. Since Summer in the City is at the Red River Ex, it is a new venue for a horse that competes on the DW circuit, but Jackson took everything perfectly in stride and helped me qualify with scores in the low 60s. By holding the regionals in conjunction with Summer in the City, it lowers organizing costs and handily lures the more jumping-oriented pony clubbers into the dressage ring, as the Show Jumping Regionals take place on the Saturday and Sunday. In fact, one of this year's Manitoba competitors was Brennan McCullough, an accomplished hunter rider.

This year's Nationals were held at the Rocky Mountain Show Jumping Facility in Calgary. It was a fantastic opportunity to see RMSJ and Spruce Meadows, two of Canada's top equestrian competition venues.

Pony Club Dressage Nationals is a unique opportunity as no rider gets to ride their own horse. Every rider is assigned a mount. The first day you get a 40 minute supervised warm-up, the second day you ride two tests (EC for training level and above) and on the third day you ride a mystery test (which you get to look at five minutes before entering the ring and then is called for you).

It is an interesting format as it puts the competitive focus more squarely on the rider. Of course some riders draw more experienced or easier mounts than others, but with such a small window of time to learn and ride the horse, your ability to give clear, effective aids and to adapt to the movement of a new horse is a large part of the competition.

My first draw was a seven year old, TB/QH/Percheron gelding named Louie. This year they asked for rider bios, and in keeping with my own age and having developed a handful of riding horses, I was given a younger/greener horse. Louie had a great trot and walk, but had not yet reached the point in his training where he had a consistent training level canter. There is one coach supervising all of the riders and she noticed this, and that I had steady hands (10 years of combined driving does come in handy at dressage nationals after all!).



Based on these factors I switched to a 14 year old Zangersheide gelding named Louisville, who had not been compatible with his first rider. I got a 10 minute try out at 9pm and was assigned the new horse.

The next day, in a crowded warm-up ring, I realized Louisville did in fact need spurs. Losing part of our warm-up to a hasty spur acquisition, our first test was more of a try-out than a competitive ride. Louisville was powerful, and we consistently scored 6s and 7s on trot and canter work, but with naughty halts and a horse not inclined to stretch, our first score was in the 50s. We came out later that day to ride our second test and, with a better feel for each other, we pulled a 64% (1st place on that test was a 68%).

The mystery test (which you only view for 5 minutes before entering the ring) was a bit of a shock. It asked for sitting trot, 10 meter half circles and lengthening, movements expected at the 1st level, and as such I had not practiced with Louisville. We had two small circles at the end of the ring to figure out sitting trot and then we were on! Thankfully Louisville was a real sport and

Pony Club Dressage Nationals (continued)

managed a semi-collected trot of sorts that allowed me to do sitting trot for the half of the test it was required in. I was grateful, as his natural trot had the amount of thrust that took the mystery out of the invention of posting. I also have to believe his owner began schooling first level on him, for our lengthened trot across the diagonal was an explosive extended trot, the likes of which I will probably not ride again for some time. We gave that test our best and scored a 60%.

Dressage Nationals was a fantastic experience. It is not every day you fly across the country and compete out of a backpack and suitcase. The competition was a large pool of genial young ladies who had all brought their A game. I didn't place at the top against my fellow 12 training level competitors, but the end point spread was minimal, and to hold my own against the type of competition I had was something I was still proud of. My competitive English riding career started about three

years ago, and I was happy that I had learned enough and done enough to do this type of competition. Louisville was not the easiest training level horse in the draw, but personality wise he was so similar to Jackson (my own horse) that our relationship was instant. I truly enjoyed having him as my mount for the competition.

I have to thank my pony club, North Hill Pony Club, for their great support and encouragement along with this year's Manitoba team, Karen and Shannon Maclean, and Catherine, Brennan and Kiernan McCullough, for their help and guidance at Nationals. I also have to thank Lucero, Barb and Ingrid who helped me ride different horses in preparation. By far, the best part of Pony Club is the sense of community and the people you meet! This past week I qualified for next year's Nationals at the 1st level on Jerrycho and I look forward to competing again.

2013 Show Season Wrap Up

By Karine Duhamel, Show Chair

This year has been a learning experience for me, as both my first year on the Dressage Winnipeg board, and my first year as Show Chair. I remember when I first took on this role: I was warned about the size of this portfolio, but nothing could have prepared me for the amount of work, including blood, sweat and tears, that it actually required. Nevertheless, I'm happy with my first year on this wonderful board, and my first year chairing our fabulous shows. A big thank you to our many volunteers whose hard work ensured our club's success and who contributed to the positive reviews received from both judges and stewards who attended our events.

Some notable changes for this year included:

- The re-introduction of the Travelling Schooling Show despite the very cold weather. Competitors appreciated the opportunity to try a test before the show season began, and spirits were high despite the extreme cold.
- The forced cancellation of the May show due to the late start of summer. In May, there was still over 2 feet of snow on the show grounds. For this reason, DW felt it most cost effective to cancel the first show.

- June, July and September shows were poorly attended, with less than 40 competitors each. After investigating, I had to conclude that the season has been a difficult one for most clubs, and all but one seem to be experiencing the same drop in attendance at events.

For next year, we plan once again to host 4 Gold shows, in addition to our regular Bronze and Fun shows. We also plan to offer at least one schooling show. We would encourage you to enter as much as you can, and to encourage those whose membership may have lapsed to once again join us in celebrating Dressage. Our shows need to break even for us to continue to offer high quality judges and a good number of Gold shows – to do so, we need your help!

Details about next year's shows will be forthcoming, but a few changes are definitely in the air. These include an early May show to be held INDOORS (yippee!) as well as three shows at the Bird's Hill Park facility on new dates that do not fall on Mother's Day or Father's Day weekends! We truly hope that you will consider joining (or re-joining) us for what promises to be a fun and full season in 2014!



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Berm Beautification with the Canon Take Root Program

Courtesy of Merelyn Hunkin



Have you ever wished that your dressage horse could not see the polo players on the east side of the berm at Birds Hill Park? Your wish may be granted, but it might take a few growing seasons. After receiving a \$5000 grant from the Canon Take Root Program, Dressage Winnipeg, assisted by the Manitoba Horse Council, organized a tree planting event for the berm beside Dressage Ring 1. Over 210 native shrubs and trees were planted during the Manitoba Equestrian Championship weekend, September 7 and 8. Due to their large size, the remaining 40 basswoods were planted later by the park staff.

The hard work started on Friday September 6. DW board members Merelyn, Jane, Sandra, Susan and Cheryl, with help from a few others placed the plants on the berm, according to a design previously created by Jennifer Labella. One change to the original plan was the substitution of snowberry for red osier dogwood which needs a moister environment to grow well.

Another change was adding some snowberry shrubs on the inside of the fence adjacent to dressage ring 1 for a landscaping effect. Extra topsoil and water were put on the berm by MHC in preparation for the Saturday event.

Tree planting started in earnest the next morning with DW volunteers and their families digging the holes and planting the shrubs and trees; various volunteers came throughout the day to continue the work. The rest of the small trees were planted on Sunday. MHC has agreed to water the plants this fall to assist survival, hopefully once a week unless it rains. They are also considering drip irrigation in the future.

At this point the berm shrubs and trees are looking good; the larger basswoods' leaves are even turning colour. Cheryl Heming will review future management of the trees with Bruce Rose from MHC.

We wish that we could list all the special volunteers who gave their time and effort for this project. Not only were there DW volunteers, but many riders from other horse disciplines competing in the MEC, helped when not competing in their events, as did many of their friends and family members. We need to especially thank Cheryl Heming and Bruce Rose for writing the initial proposal for this project.

Thanks to all the volunteer effort, when you visit the MHC equestrian facility at Birds Hill Park in the future, you will no longer see a bare berm but a beautiful one. And, when the trees and shrubs mature, no polo players or their ponies will distract our dressage horses from performing at their brilliant best!



My Summer as a Working Student

Courtesy of Nachele Forde, Photos by Les Leiman



This past summer has been one of the best experiences I've ever had. I was given the opportunity to become a working student at Valkenhof Dressage, located in Saint-Marthe, Quebec. Not only have I learned to properly care for high performance horses, but my riding skills and ability have also increased and developed under the supervision of my coach, Armand Valkenborg. The most important thing I've learned since I've been here is to focus on the "details".

Back in October of 2012, I was more than fortunate enough to introduce a new member to my family. Sir Elton is a 14 year old imported Hannoverian, who stands at 17 hands, and is a dark bay gelding. I got to know and develop a bond with Elton over the winter of 2012-2013. Being in my graduating year of high-school, I decided to stay in Winnipeg for the time being. After I graduated in June of 2013, Elton and I packed up and travelled out east to fulfill my working student position. The reality of this was to have the experience to compete at a whole new level with a new horse, a highly skilled coach, as well as, training in a new province. I admit, at first, I was terrified.

As the first few weeks went by, Elton and I gradually settled in. We started training right off the bat, developing an even greater bond. One of the things that has been repeatedly said since day one is "pay attention to the small details". The details you put into a movement in your test, will reflect your score. The details you put into your riding may sometimes be so small, that they may not be visible, but make all

the difference in your overall riding. Details are what separate you from receiving a 7 or 8 in the ring, rather than receiving a 5.

My favorite memory this past summer was the 2013 Canadian National Youth Dressage Championships, held August 30th, 2013 - September 1st, 2013. Elton and I qualified for the championships at the beginning of August, at our first show in St.Laurent. The championships were held in Peterborough, Ontario, hosted by the Kawartha Lakes Dressage Association. Having my grandpa, Les, my mother, Trish, and my boyfriend, Evan, fly out to support me at this show, made me more than determined to show how much I had improved over the past month and a half. Competing in the FEI Junior division, we received a 64.054% in the team test, and a 66.4% in the individual test. We won the championships, giving Elton and me the title of; 2013 Canadian National Youth Dressage Champions. I couldn't be more proud of my partner, and can't express enough how grateful I am to have an amazing coach, and wonderful, supportive family.

The last show I attended this season was held in Saugreties, New York. This show was different than any show I've ever attended, it was my first CDI, which stands for Concours de Dressage International. CDI shows are international shows recognized by the world as well as Federation Equestre Internationale (F.E.I). This show was different because it required qualifying scores, a jog test in front of a group of veterinarians, and an award ceremony for each class. After riding in a show at that level, it opened my eyes, and has motivated me to train, perform, and work harder.

Although summer is over, I've decided to stay at Valkenhof Dressage and further my training and skills. Elton and I will stay for the fall, and then head down to Florida this winter, with the goal of qualifying for the 2014 NAJYRC. None of this would be possible without my coach, Armand Valkenborg, my supportive family, and of course my grandpa, Les Leiman. If it wasn't for the wonderful people in my life, I wouldn't be the rider I am today. Thank you, Papum. Elton and I received reserve champion in the FEI Junior division, and I am looking forward to future CDI shows.

Give It A Go Day

Courtesy of Barb Wansbutter



Dressage Winnipeg's Give It A Go Day was held on August 10th & 11th during Horse Week at Bird's Hill Park. Along with our dressage riders, the park was hosting Turn & Burn for the Cure, a driving demo, drill team, sponsored trail ride and gymkhana. It was a busy and exciting to place to be!

The Equine Canada Give it a Go Days pilot program provides non-competitive education and development clinics for riders of all ages and skill levels. Participants are able to ride a test of their choice in front of an EC judge who will then give them feedback on

how to improve. After a chance to work with this new information, the rider is able to re-ride the test to measure improvement.

Our first Give it a Go Day was a huge success! Twelve riders took part, some for one day, most for two days. Our judge was Doreen Horsey, an EC Senior judge who has often sat in the box at our shows. She was well liked by the participants and was a very good teacher. A follow-up survey was sent out and many of the participants responded. Here is a synopsis of their remarks:

The riders unanimously found the experience to be very beneficial. They appreciated the chance to ride their tests in the ring in front of a judge but without the pressures of a show environment. They gained new perspective of how the judge sees the test – accuracy, the degree of bend, suppleness and elasticity required at the various levels, and practical tips on particular movements. They found it to be a real confidence booster going into the final show of the year.

Several people commented on enjoying having it at the same time as the other Horse Week events. It was great fun to be part of all the excitement going on and good for the horses to be exposed to the carts, barrel racing and general activity although there was repeated suggestions that our sound system could have been better as it was not always able to compete with the other events. Auditors would have benefitted from being able to hear the judge's remarks. There was also the suggestion that it might be a great way to start off the show season by having it in the spring.

There was a lot of discussion about the cost of the event beforehand but the participants all felt that they got excellent value for their money and would attend again if they can. Although having your own coach there was one aspect of the EC plan, no-one brought their coach, mainly because of the extra expense involved. The riders this year were all experienced dressage competitors who used this event as a clinic experience. The comment was made that if we want to attract new people to give dressage "a go", that we would need to use local coaches/judges and arenas to make it more affordable for the grass roots riders.

The overall feeling from the participants was that the Give it a Go Day was a great chance to improve test movements and the riding of a test in general. It was very valuable for both the riders and the spectators/auditors.



My Trip to the CIEC

Courtesy of Lindsay Feller

My journey to the CIEC began on Monday September 9. This was the first time I have shown out of province with my mare, Unbelievable, or Nelly as I call her. I was super excited about attending CIEC because this was my first time showing with Nelly out of province at a national show, and this was the first year that Manitoba had sent a team for CIEC. My teammates were Kayla Kuebler with Mary Poppins and Anna Davila with E.R.'s Graziella, with team coach Elaine Banfield. As well, we were accompanied by the full team of Manitoba jumper riders (2 seniors and 2 juniors), and Chef d'equipe Gerri Sweet. MHC outfitted both jumper & dressage teams with team jackets, coolers for our horses, saddle pads and a 'goodie' bag filled with various items.

The horses were hauled out to Calgary by Eric & Danae Martin. We dropped Nelly off at Eastridge Farm around 2:30 p.m. on Monday, as they would be hauling out later that day. I decided to drive to Calgary rather than fly out, so my mom (Sheryl Feller) and I headed out on the road about 3:30 p.m. Switching between the two of us, we arrived at Rocky Mountain Show Jumping – the facility hosting the CIEC – on Tuesday morning at about 5:00 a.m.! The horses arrived at RMSJ around 10:00 a.m. Nelly was first off the trailer. She came off the trailer with a bit of a wide-eye, but I put her in her stall and she started eating pretty much right away, and once Anna's horse came off and was put in the stall next to her, she was quite relaxed!! Nelly and Graziella had become quite the friends on the ride out!!

After we let them settle for a little bit – Anna and I took our girls out for a walk around the grounds. We found the competition ring so we hand-walked our mares in there for a little bit. The footing was a sand/fibre mix – very interesting the first time you see it. I ended up really liking that footing – it was great to ride on. We eventually made our way back to the barns. After a long drive out – Monday & Tuesday felt like one day – we finally made our way to the hotel.

Wednesday and Thursday were warm-up days, as well as the opening ceremonies Wednesday evening. We got as much time as we needed in the general warm-up ring and each province got 20 minutes in the competition ring to school. Elaine gave each of us a lesson on Wednesday and Thursday before our allotted warm up time.

Friday, September 13 – First day of competition!! Finally, it was time to show! At CIEC I was competing against 25 horse/rider combinations – all at first level! Since we rode later in the day, I worked Nelly earlier in the morning, with instruction from Elaine. Nelly's first test of the show went well. We scored 60.541%, not bad, but not good enough to get in the ribbons. Ribbons were awarded to 10th place, and points towards the team total were obtained from 1st place to 15th place.

Saturday, September 14 – Second day of competition. Saturday's test ended up being my best day of the entire competition. I had ridden Nelly earlier in the morning and again and she was great, however my warm-up prior to going into the show ring I felt was only ok. Nelly was doing some things I didn't want her to do and was getting tense at times. Our turn in the show ring came – we started off great, until it came to the canter work. First she was being a bit playful on a canter circle, and then we had to lengthen down the long side of the ring. Well, I guess Nelly wanted to show she could do flying changes as she switched her lead on me while lengthening and it then took me almost until the corner to get the proper lead back. Eventually going the other direction, same thing, lengthen down the long side – again she switched her lead on me and took me just about to the corner to correct. Finally, we came to our final halt at X. I didn't think I would get a very good score on that test. Later on, we got our tests for Saturday – I had scored a 62.742% - which was good enough for 15th place and one point for team Manitoba, as well as my best finish of the entire competition!

Sunday, September 15 – Last day of competition. We rode earlier than we had on the other two days because we had closing ceremonies later in the afternoon on Sunday. By this time, Nelly was quite comfortable at the facility, which in turn, she was starting to look at more things and spook more. We had a decent warm-up. I rode my test and came out of the ring feeling pretty good about it. Thought for sure I would be getting close to getting one of those beautiful ribbons! Not so. We got our tests back and I only scored a 57.581% - my lowest score at first level all season long. Not how I wanted to end the competition at all, nor end my show season on such a low score. I was one of the last competitors to go, so maybe the judge was a bit cranky by the time I went...I'm not really sure.

Continued on next page

My Trip to the CIEC (continued)

At the closing ceremonies Izzy Biron, one of our jumper riders, ended up an individual silver medalist, and the entire jumping team earned the team Bronze medal in jumping overall! That was great to see Manitoba in the medals! The jumpers did very well over the three days of competition.

Overall, CIEC was a GREAT experience for both myself and Nelly! It was great to be able to compete against riders from across Canada, and gave me a good idea of where I stand on a national level. Before leaving for CIEC, I figured that I would have to score above 65% to be 'competitive', which pretty much ended up true as you needed to be around that score to be in the ribbons. Hopefully I can make it back to RMSJ to attend one of their dressage shows in the future, or an even bigger goal for me would be to qualify and compete at the new Royal West horse show in Calgary. Regardless, I hope to make it back to RMSJ to show again sometime in the future.

One of my personal highlights of the trip was having a chat with John Anderson, owner of Rocky Mountain Show Jumping, while watching the CET Medal Final. RMSJ was running their own show at the same time as the CIEC competition so there was lots of action the whole weekend! It was great to have three different disciplines all at one venue.

After the closing ceremonies, we got all the horses ready to get on the trailer to go home. Everybody was loaded and ready to go at about 5:30 p.m. My mom and I also headed on the road home that time as well. We followed the trailer until we got onto the Trans Canada highway. I got home Monday morning at about 9:00 – Sunday & Monday felt like one long day to me. I had to go to work on Tuesday but I was not very productive as I was still on Calgary time!

I encourage those of you who will be able to qualify for next year to do so! MHC covered the majority of the costs so up front there was very little expense for the riders. The CIEC organizing committee and AEF did a great job. It was a great competition for those of us who are too old for NAJYRC, or who aren't lucky enough to have access to funds and /or sponsorships to travel to other dressage shows out of province. In my opinion I think it was nice to have a higher level competition focused towards Adult Amateur riders and their horses.

At this time I would just like to say a big **THANK YOU** to: Chef d'equipe – Gerri Sweet, (who managed everybody and everything extremely well!) and Bruce Rose from MHC, Dressage Team Coach (and my dressage coach normally), Elaine Banfield, Danae & Eric Martin for taking such good care of my girl trailering to and from Calgary, Cyndi Kasper for all her advice prior to leaving for Calgary and making sure Nelly was in 'tip top shape', my mom, Sheryl Feller, for all her support, coaching and help – not only at CIEC but all the time, and Manitoba Horse Council – without MHC we would not have a Manitoba team at the CIEC!

CIEC Dressage Results

Individual medals:

Juniors:

- GOLD Vanessa Creech-Terauds & Finja (ON)
- SILVER Audrey Laurence Farmer & a leased horse, Arturo (QB)
- BRONZE Georgia Wade & a leased horse, Quantum (ON)

Seniors:

- GOLD Sarah Sewell & Brazil (BC)
- SILVER Carol Hall & Homayen (AB)
- BRONZE Natalie Tourikian & Cumulus Effect (ON)

Team medals:

- GOLD Team Ontario
- SILVER Team Alberta
- BRONZE Team British Columbia



Unbelievable (Nelly) & Lindsay during their dressage test at CIEC on the Saturday of the competition.



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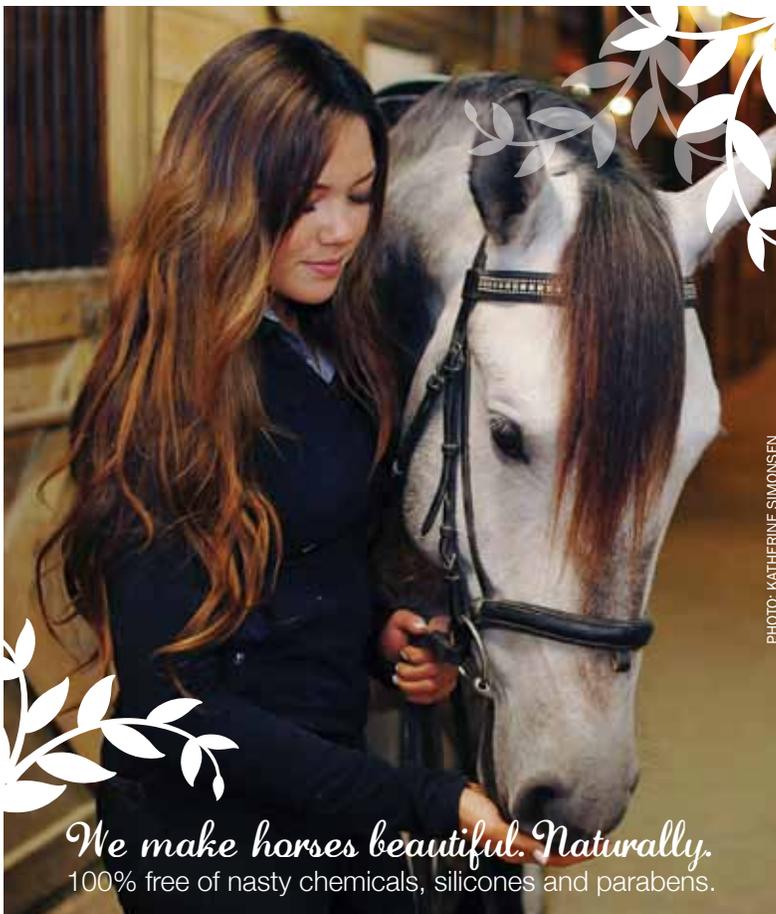


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September Show Results

AUTUMN CLASSIC BRONZE SHOW

Open W/T Champion: Kris Bhattachara & Flynn

Jr. Training Champion: Kyra Schamber & Wolkenraum MHS

AA Training Champion: Tiffany Pass & General

Open Training Champion: Kris Bhattachara & Flynn

Jr. First Champion: Jaime Hasiuk & Deception

AA First Champion: Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable

Open Second Champion: Cheryl Heming & Don Arminio

Open Third Champion: Cheryl Heming & Don Arminio

Equitation Champion: Jaime Hasiuk & Deception

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jr. Training Champion: Anna Davila & E.R.'s Graziella

AA Training Champion: Cathy Toews & Diesel Will Do

Reserve: Robyn Cochrane Fones & Fortune's Flight

Open Training Champion: Gaetane Manaigre & Donnerwetter

Reserve: Lucero Desrochers & Atlas

Jr. First Level Champion: Anna Davila & E.R.'s Graziella

AA First Level Champion: Sue Braun & One Perfect Melody

Open First Level Champion: Lucero DesRochers & Atlas

Reserve: Gaetane Manaigre & Donnerwetter

Jr. Second Level Champion: Alicia Enns & Liebe

AA Second Level Champion: Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable

AA Third Level Champion: Hannah Goddard & Ornelia

Reserve: Megan Henry & Piksun

Open Third Level Champion: Stephanie Ruud & Jerrycho

AA Fourth Level Champion: Dr. Brandy Catton & Welwyn

Open Fourth Level Champion: Lauren Fedoriw & Modano

Open FEI Prix St. Georges Champion: Ariana Chia & Wishtadanz

Open FEI Jr. Freestyle Champion: Mackenzie Ryall & Danao

Capt. De Kenyere's Jr Scholarships: Alicia Enns & Virginia Canal

Capt. De Kenyere's AA Scholarships: Jade Warkentin & Kayla Kuebler

September Show Award Photos

Photos by Barb Wansbutter

BRONZE SHOW



*Kris Bhattachara & Flynn
Open Walk/Trot Champion*



*Kyra Schamber & Wolkenraum
Jr. Training Level Champion*



*Tiffany Pass & General
AA Training Level Champion*



*Kris Bhattachara & Flynn
Open Training Level Champion*



*Jaime Hasiuk & Deception
Jr. First Level Champion*



*Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable
AA First Level Champion*



*Cheryl Heming & Don Arminio
Open Second Level Champion*



*Cheryl Heming & Don Arminio
Open Third Level Champion*



*Jaime Hasiuk & Deception
Equitation Champion*

GOLD SHOW



*Anna Davila & E.R.s' Graziella
Jr. Training Level Champion*



*Cathy Toews & Diesel Will Do
AA Training Level Champion*



*Robyn Cochrane Fones & Fortune's Flight
AA Training Level Reserve Champion*

September Show Award Photos



*Gaetane Manaire & Donnerwetter
Open Training Level Champion*



*Lucero DesRochers & Atlas
Open Training Level Reserve Champion*



*Anna Davila & E.R.'s Graziella
Jr. First Level Champion*



*Sue Braun & One Perfect Melody
AA First Level Champion*



*Lucero DesRochers & Atlas
Open First Level Champion*



*Gaetane Manaire & Donnerwetter
Open First Level Reserve Champion*



*Alicia Enns & Liebe
Junior Second Level Champion*



*Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable
AA Second Level Champion*



*Hannah Goddard & Orneilla
AA Third Level Champion*



*Megan Henry & Piksun
AA Third Level Reserve Champion*



*Stephanie Ruud & Jerrycho
Open Third Level Champion*



*Dr. Brandy Catton & Welwyn
AA Fourth Level Champion*

September Show Award Photos



Lauren Fedoriw & Modano
Open Fourth Level Champion



Ariana Chia & Wishtadanz
Open FEI Prix St. Georges Champion



Mackenzie Ryall & Danao
Open FEI Jr. Freestyle Champion



Alicia Enns
Capt. De Kenyere's Jr. Scholarship Winner



Photo Not Available
Virginia Canal
Capt. De Kenyere's Jr. Scholarship Winner



Kayla Kuebler
Capt. De Kenyere's AA Scholarship Winner



Jade Warkentin
Capt. De Kenyere's AA Scholarship Winner

CANDID SHOTS - SEPTEMBER SHOW

1. Megan Henry & Piksun
2. Gaetane Managre & Donnerwetter
3. Lauren Fedoriw & Modano
4. Kyra Schamber & Wolentraum
5. Robyn Cochrane Fones & Fortune's Flight



2013 Annual Awards Banquet

AND THE WINNERS WERE....

2013 DW PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAQUES:

- Jr. Training Level Champion:** Anna Davila & E.R.'s Graziella
- AA Training Level Champion:** Cathy Toews & Diesel Will Do
- Open Training Level Champion:** Gaetane Manaignre & Donnerwetter
- AA First Level Champion:** Sue Braun & One Perfect Melody
- Open First Level Champion:** Lucero Desrochers & Atlas
- Jr. Second Level Champion:** Alicia Enns & Liebe
- AA Second Level Champion:** Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable
- Open Third Level Champion:** Stephanie Ruud & Jerrycho
- AA Fourth Level Champion:** Brandy Catton & Welwyn
- FEI Advanced Champion:** Ariana Chia & Wishtadanz
- FEI Junior Freestyle Champion:** Mackenzie Ryall & Danao
- Jr. Dressage Seat Equitation Champion:** Alicia Enns
- Adult Dressage Seat Equitation Champion:** Kayla Kuebler

2013 DW HIGH POINT AWARDS:

- Walk/Trot:** Kyra Chamber & Wolkenraum
- Training Level:** Lucero Desrochers & Atlas
- First Level:** Kayla Kuebler & Marry Poppins
- Second Level:** Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable
- Third Level:** Megan Henry & Piksun
- Fourth Level:** Lauren Fedoriw & Modano
- Capt. De Kenyere's Scholarship Winners:**
(16-21 yr old category) Alicia Enns & Virginia Canal
- AA Rider Development Scholarship Winners:**
(riders 22 yrs and over) Jade Warkentin & Kayla Kuebler

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

BRONZE AWARDS:

- Training Level:** Jeneen Deschamps & Marty
- Training Level:** Robyn Cochrane Fones & Fortune's Flyte

GOLD AWARDS:

- First Level:** Wendy Wotton Dryburgh & Rhubi
- Fourth Level:** Brandy Catton & Welwyn

OTHER AWARDS

- Gold Dressage Seat Equitation:** Alicia Enns
- Rising Star Award:** Robyn Cochrane Fones
- Gillian Sevier High Point Award:** Gaetane Manaignre & Donnerwetter
- Capt. De Kenyere's Jr. High Point Award:** Alicia Enns & Liebe
- Spirit of Dressage Award:** No nominations

Annual Awards Banquet Winners



Bronze - Awards of Excellence



Gold - Awards of Excellence



*AA Rider Development Scholarship Winner
Kayla Kuebler*



*AA Rider Development Scholarship Winner
Jade Warkentin*



*Capt De Kenyeres Scholarship Winner
Virginia Canal*



High Point Award Winners



Gillian Sevier High Point Award



Rising Star Award



Jr. Training Level Provincial Champion



Open Training Level Provincial Champion



AA First Level Provincial Champion



Open First Level Provincial Champion

Annual Awards Banquet Winners



AA Second Level Provincial Champion



AA Third Level Provincial Champion



Open Third Level Provincial Champion



FEI Junior Freestyle Champion



Adult Dressage Seat Equitation Champion



Over and above volunteers!

From left to right: Christine Stevens with Krista Thiessen, Gerri Sweet, Sue Matthews, Maureen Demkey, Janet Goddard, Shelley Kuebler and Cindy Schamber



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