

Babbling Hound

Journal of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt

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Editor: Celia Stone
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Thanksgiving Hunt 2008

President's Foreword-Pat VanEsch-Dussault



The past president, Paul Sherman, deserves thanks and respect for the many ways that he has contributed to the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt. His important contributions will surely continue. As he moves on with his responsibilities as Huntsman and Joint Master, I welcome his guidance and support as I do my best to take over the position of President of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt. I will endeavor to keep communications open and timely and to provide what-ever service I can to our club and the sport of Riding to Hounds.

February saw the first

regular meeting with the new board of 2010. We have a nice mix of seasoned veterans and new directors and I am excited about the energy and commitment I saw. Committees are being formed and I hope everyone reading this considers participating in one of them. You don't need to be a riding member, just bring your enthusiasm! See our website; contact me, or any board member directly for more information. You may not know me, so I'll bore you, (only once I hope), with what Wellington-Waterloo Hunt means to me. I strongly believe that this club is made up of its entire membership and associates. Outside of the very important tasks our Masters perform, W-WH has some wonderful, hard working folks that are quietly working behind the scenes and can be depended upon for day-to-day operations and emergencies.

The club also depends on those good folks that cannot be part of those day-to-day tasks. We see support for the hunt, hounds, fund raising and social events in a myriad of different ways. Some of you have never ridden a horse (we won't hold it against you!), or have not been on a hunt in a while (but plan on it soon), or have had to regretfully give up the ride (but not the joy of it). And then there are our precious land owners and others who are far away in body but close in heart. On Hunt day the excitement and stirrup cup is shared by all. It's especially well earned by those of you who rise early to ship horse(s), equipment, people (not all of them joyful) and/or refreshments from gosh knows where. Riders and hounds seem to have a jolly good time in the field while providing some breath taking photo opportunities.

Over the years I have learned that there are many of you quietly and generously contributing to the success and enjoyment of this sport we call Riding to Hounds. More importantly, I have found a group of like minded folks that care about man, beast and the land. That, to me, is very precious.

To everyone I ask; Please stay involved and connected anyway you can. Visit Events Page on our website, Contact the Newsound or the Editor of the Babbling Hound (thank-you Celia Stone). Or say "hi" at a hunt or social event or over the phone if you like! We also invite you to attend our Directors' meetings. The protocol is simple; contact me if you are interested!

I know I speak for the Masters when I say we need your individual participation to ensure the wonderful spirit of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt stays alive and well!

'Till I see you in the field,
keep riding life!

The Masters' Report

It is difficult for the Masters to be entirely unbiased in their view of hunting and other activities of our club! However, we think most would agree that 2009 was another vintage year for the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt. Our hunting seasons were characterized by many great runs with hounds giving good chase to the drag and occasional live quarry. The new approach we took to laying drag using a real drag, i.e. cloth soaked in scent and carried by a rider, has proved to be more effective than the alternative of dripping scent from a bottle which we had practiced for many years. The hounds performed well and there were lots of opportunity for good listening and



Nettle

seeing. As we have not had any new hound litters in the past two years, we are most grateful to Eglinton Caledon Hunt and huntsman Steve Clifton, for drafting a total of three couple to WWH. So we had sufficient hounds with good ears and noses to support each hunt. Hunting in the spring was challenged to some extent by the amount of wheat that was seeded in our territory in 2010. In the fall, we had very few issues on our hunting territory and

were graced with some excellent weather, especially in November, although the colours were not as special last year as they have been in previous years.

We are grateful to so many who made hunting in 2009 successful. We couldn't hunt without cooperation of our landowners. Their acceptance of having us and being patient in understanding our requirements is nothing short of remarkable. We are especially grateful to those who are hosts through providing a place to meet and have breakfast afterwards. For a few hunts, we have been graciously received by non-hunt members for the meet and/or breakfast and our hunting enjoyment throughout a 16 week season would be much less if we didn't have these landowners to depend on. They add variety to what otherwise could become a monotonous experience. Thank you, thank you!

Our thanks go out to all those who made hunting so successful, especially Paul Sherman, Huntsman, and Whippers-in Robin Hall, Jeff Peller, Allan



Lyn, Sydney & Anne

Harold and Jock Buchanan-Smith. In our territory, road whips are critical and we thank both those who perform road whip duties on a regular basis, Ann Peace, Sydney Lineker, David Craig and Lyn Sherman, and those who volunteer or are enlisted usually right before or even after the stirrup cup and serve on an *ad hoc* basis!



Bermuda Master Daniel Greenslade MFH

Safety of our hounds was greatly enhanced in 2009 by the club having purchased a GPS system, including ten collars, to keep track of them. By giving direction and precise distance of how far the hound is from the receiver, we were able to locate any missing hound sometimes within minutes and always within a couple of hours of when hunting finished. We heartily recommend the GPS systems to anyone hunting hounds who is concerned with the whereabouts of their animals.

For the Thanksgiving hunt in the fall at Lexington Farm, we were visited by members of the Bermuda Hunt.

This came about through the contacts that have been made by Tracy Ferguson as a result of her visits to Bermuda to shoe island horses. Our visitors stayed for the long weekend and brought with them not only much joie-de-vivre but a goodly number of gifts. Thank you BH for this and making the long trip. Unexpectedly, Thanksgiving Day was one of the coldest of the fall season but this didn't seem to deter anyone. We were able to provide our guests with an Oktoberfest experience and Kris and Gord kindly hosted a reception on the evening before the hunt. We want this to become a regular exchange. Plans are afoot for a cohort of



WWH members to visit Bermuda for the first weekend in May this year. The masters are indebted to Tracy for all the hard work she did not only in establishing this connection but in organizing horses and taxiing riders and horses to and from Lexington last Thanksgiving.

We also enjoyed joint meets in the fall at Cornerstone Farm with Hamilton Hunt on October 25th, and at the Mimosa pits with Eglinton Caledon on November 18th. We are in gratitude to the masters and members of HH for changing their weekly schedule from

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Spring Games Report

Pat Van Esch-Dussault



Caleigh Connelly & Salty—Junior Hi-point

The weather for the 2009 Spring Games was fabulous! Just as fabulous was the turn out for this long running annual event. This year we implemented a few changes; one being cash prizes up to third place and the second was to hold the Gymkhana on a separate day from the Spring Games. I think these changes were positive and the day was a success in all manner of the word!

The morning Pace saw an impressive 46 entries and the afternoon Trials classes saw the most entries in years. The order of the classes was modified for this year and I believe most people found the change allowed them to try a class they normally wouldn't have.

We had 17 Seniors and 7 Juniors competing in the afternoon. Tracy Ferguson and her wondrous mare, Gold Glory, were unstoppable and made an impressive showing of themselves this day but, and I'm sure she'd agree with this, regardless of placings and trophies, everyone who entered a class is a winner! I know many of you had to dig up some courage to step into that "ring". It was a real pleasure watching you and your horses and ponies give your best and come out smiling!

Congratulations to our Trophy winners:

Senior Hi-Point - Tracy Ferguson

Junior Hi-Point – Caleigh Levely-Connolly

Hunt Team Trophy – Tracy Ferguson, Melanie Mireault , Kate Kurrat

Versatility Trophy - Melanie Mireault

Hunt Pair Trophy – Paula Dupuy, Colin Peace

Open Hunter Trophy – Tracy Ferguson

Low Hunter Trophy – Caleigh Levely-Connolly

Novice/Green Trophy – Paula Dupuy

Gunnar's Run Trophy (no points) – Tracy Ferguson

The competition was very fierce for the second Annual Gunners Run which saw 10 competitors jump obstacles in the hunt field then out to the bush for a short cross country track and back to the hunt field to the Finish. Tracy Ferguson on Gold Glory won the \$150.00 first prize money with a 2.02 minute run. Naomi Krucker and Ken Rose were right at her heels with less than

a 10 second difference to take the second and third place money. I know these folks are very grateful to Pat Uptegrove for sponsoring the total Cash Prize of \$250.00 and for creating the course. The Committee is thrilled to be able to offer this class again for next year and is very appreciative to Pat for providing this good sport open to all.

Our heartfelt and sincere gratitude go to Carl and Carol Cook for allowing us to use Hunters Run for the Spring Games once again. I know many of us enjoyed the grounds and jumps that Carl and the rest of the Spring Games committee and crew maintained and built.

With-out this venue, the Games would not be what they are. Thank-you Cook Family.

The Pace was a fun adventure for all and we owe Robin Cook a great big "Well done" for her hard work and support in creating this always popular event.

The Spring Games owes its gratitude to the day's Sponsors whose big hearted, financial contributions allow the cash prizes for the classes and thereby make the day that much more exciting .

Finally, a huge thank-you to those loyal and hard working volunteers that are so important to an event like this. Our secretaries, the announcer (and audio system supplier), Mount Nemo Pony Club (for feeding everyone), the jump builders and ground prep folks, the kind,

personable and knowledgeable judge – Marg Quayle, the cleaner uppers, the ones who provide jump numbers, competitor numbers and all the sundry supplies and tasks that need to be done and somehow always get done with-out complaint or strain. You guys and gals are

The Best!



Marg Quayle

Of course the day is nothing with-out horses and riders, so a hearty "Cheers" to you (and your own support crew!) for coming out, providing "jolly good sport" and giving it your all !

Olde English Feast

As always, our generous host, Tommy Blake, opened his incredible home to our Hunt and we had an amazing meal and competitive auction. This is our major fundraiser for the year and we thank our members and their friends for their support although we know the items submitted for the auction bring pleasure to their successful buyers. This year offered such items as gourmet dinners, flights over the Falls, cottage stays, framed art, and some excellent 'spirits' – both figuratively and literally!

Farewell to Murphy's Law *Robin Hall*



It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Murphy's Law (aka Murphy). At the age of 26 Murphy had enjoyed the last 8 years of his life in retirement at

Hunters' Run. Previous to that, he had been my whip horse for 8 years and then for 2 years following, the mount of Paul Sherman and occasionally my father Carl Cook.

He was a great whip horse. Murphy had a keen ear and a keen eye and always seemed to know where he needed to be without instruction from me. He was bred to be a whip horse. He had the agility of a quarterhorse and the speed and endurance of an arabian. Murphy loved to be out front of the hunt field working with the hounds. The sound of the horn was truly music to his ears.

Murphy represented the

Wellington-Waterloo Hunt twice at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in the Hunt Teams Class and three times at the National Hunter Trials. He loved to jump and loved a new challenge.

My mother Carol recently wrote:

A fabulous field hunter. He and Robin, in my mind, painted the absolute most beautiful picture together. If ever a horse was made for one person and one person only, that was Murphy for Robin. Each complimented the other.

Murphy always showed his true colours. He was strong minded and strong willed. He was the leader of the pack at Hunters' Run and even in his last days, managed to keep that status.

He will be sadly missed by the Cook family, Chancery, Wizard and Ben. And not to forget Doctor, who enjoyed his own 'thrill of the chase'. Murphy is now sharing greener pastures with his friends from the past; Cool, Dandy, Topper and Penny.

You are missed my Murph Man and I will love you forever. xoxo

The Masters' Report – *Continued from page 2*

hunting on Saturday to Sunday and to their new huntsman, Robert Howarth, for putting on a fine show. The pursuit of coyotes that took place towards the end of that hunt was memorable! With ECH, those of us fortunate enough to hunt on Wednesday were equally entertained by a long run (unfortunately no quarry was seen this time) across field, wood and stream that occurred in the middle of a long day. Tina and Hugh Walker put on a splendid breakfast afterwards. Thank you ECH! We are looking forward to continuing the joint meets with our hunting neighbours.

Our hunt put on the customary equine events in 2009 and we were graced with many riders for the Hunter Trials and

Mini-Pace on Sunday, May 24th. and a Hunter Pace on Sunday, September 13th. Thanks to the many who contributed to the success of these events and especially to the Cooks for letting us use Hunters' Run, with associated territory, for each event. Gunnar's Cup (thank you Pat Uptegrove) at the Trials ran a course from the field in front of the Cook's house and through the adjacent wood and this timed event went over extremely well. A new approach taken last year was to separate the gymkhana events from the Trials and put them on a different day. The Peace family kindly hosted the Gymkhana, which is for both the really young as well as the young at heart. This was held in conjunction with

the Guelph Pony Club on Sunday, June 28th. The wet weather that day didn't seem to deter anyone - we were all soaked to the skin after



Members of the W-W Hunt are introduced to the Duchess of Cornwall at the RAWF*

an hour and from then on it didn't seem to matter! Thanks to the Peace's for having us.

Our hunt again supported the Spirit of the Horse by providing two horses and three and a half couple of

hounds to put on two displays during the Royal Winter Fair. We haven't searched through the annals of the WWH in detail but are certain that the visit of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall to our display area was the first time we had been visited by Royalty in our 44 year history. For further details, please refer to the article of Paul Sherman's elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to all those members and visitors from other hunts who supported us on that day.

We had the customary social events in 2009 - pub night in February, Old English Feast in April (thanks to Tommy Blake for again graciously letting us into his home), Landowners' Barbeque at Pitcapple Farm in July and our Hunt Ball at the Galt Country Club in November.

(continued on next page)

So many of our members helped in the planning and staging of these events and we are most grateful to them. These events by providing for times of great social enjoyment as well as being most integral to the revenue side of our balance sheet, are key to our success.

Our hunt was invited by ECH to put forward sufficient riders to run a W-WH steeplechase during their Hunter Trials and Summer Games on August 2nd. Tracy Ferguson, Melanie Mireault, David Coons, Sarah Peterson and Jeff Peller participated and performed above and beyond expectations!

Though Gold Glory stumbled before the penultimate jump, Tracy managed to maintain contact with her mount and not only catch up but even surpass her competitors in the field before the last jump, much to the delight of all the spectators. Quite a performance and quite a day! Many thanks to the five of you for entering this event and organizing yourselves and your mounts to represent our hunt so successfully.

We have had many new members start hunting with us regularly over the past two years so it gave the Masters great

pleasure to give colours during our hunt ball to Stephanie Campbell, Tony Connolly, Paula Dupuy, Jordan Heron, Chris Kerr, Meghan Sykes and Lisa Yeo.

Congratulations to you all - we know you will continue to be strong supporters of our hunt in the future

Finally, Kris and Jock have felt for sometime that as our club and activities continue to grow and we are growing as well (!), it was necessary to nominate new Masters. During November we took the plunge and nominated Allan Harold and Paul Sherman to assist us. The Board approved the

nominations at their meeting on Wednesday, November 25th. So we are now an enlarged team of four and with the support of our membership, we look for many more successful years in the life of the W-WH!

Our best wishes to all our members, riding and non-riding, and friends of W-WH. We look forward to seeing you when cubbing starts on April 7th with the opening meet for the spring season to be held on April 25th.

Kris, Jock, Allan and Paul.

Notes From The Huntsman

Paul Sherman, MFH



As set out in the Masters' report, we enjoyed much good sport during our Spring and Fall seasons in 2009 with the pack performing well for the most part. At the risk of repetition, none of this could have taken place without the support and help from our regular cadre of whippers-in: Allan Harold, Jock Buchanan-Smith, Jeff Peller, Pat Van-Esch Dussault and Ginny Hawthorne. Robin (Cook) Hall will also be back in the saddle this Spring to help.

Thanks, also, to our regular crew of Drag layers:

Virginia Buchanan-Smith, Rachel McClelland and Colin Peace as well as being able to call on a spare whip or member of the field. Last, but by no means least, are the regular road-whips, so often essential to the safety of hounds, horses and riders: Anne Peace, David Craig, Lyn Sherman, Sydney Lineker and many others who come along to follow the hunt and find themselves roped in to one job or another.

Trailering hounds is another essential component and thanks are due to Robin, who helped as often as possible, and to Virginia (especially on the Wednesdays away from the kennels) and Anne.

We currently have ten and one-half couple of hounds in kennels which includes three couple drafted in

from Eglinton & Caledon Hunt at various points during the year – the last couple to arrive came towards the end of Fall hunting and immediately settled into the pack.

With the better than usual weather we have experienced this winter, there have been only a few hound-walking days lost. Our younger hounds are maturing and developing well and together with our own more experienced steady hounds and the drafts we are looking forward to going into this Spring season with a fit and biddable pack.

My thanks to everyone who comes out to help with hound-walking even on the blustery days when the warmth of home is very inviting.

As we get closer to Spring Cubbing, scheduled to start on 7th April, please join us at the kennels to walk hounds.

It's a great way to get to know hounds' names and their individual personalities and can be of great help if ever one is asked to help whip-in or for letting us know if a hound is seen that may be separated from the pack.

We usually go at 10am on Sundays, 9am on Wednesdays and 8am on Fridays. If you'd like to bring your horse, please do – it's good to get hounds and horses together again without all the excitement of an actual hunt and a good opportunity towards getting our horses, not to mention ourselves, legged up for the coming season.

A final word of thanks – to our hard-working Kennelman, Carl Cook who attends to hounds, keeps an eye on their welfare in all weathers and is always willing to "go the extra mile" preparing hounds for special events like the Spirit of The Horse at The Royal.

Hope you continue to winter well.

The Hunt Ball – More than dinner and dancing

Editor



Jeff Peller proposes to Lisa Yeo

This year's ball was its usual glamorous event full of its usual surprise with how beautiful we all are out of our stable attire. But this year the Ball held an extra surprise. The high point was definitely when Jeff Peller got down on one knee to propose to his lovely Lisa Yeo and we were all so delighted when she said yes. I think we all felt some entitlement to be voyeurs to the event as we have had the pleasure of watching this relationship blossom in the hunt field. After the faith a non-riding Lisa has put in both Jeff and Cosmo by learning to ride and hunt in the same season we all feel that a lifetime of love is definitely a fitting reward. We all wish them the best and look forward to having Mr and Mrs Peller in our membership for years to come.

As is the custom, our Hunt Ball is our opportunity to recognize contributions from our members and award colours. Colours were awarded to newer members who have

demonstrated the commitment and passion for riding to hounds that is so representative of our Hunt. Medieval aficionados, Stephanie and Jordan have been wonderful additions to our club, providing archery days, beautifully crafted stock ties and entertaining (and aptly named) guests.

Dawn Peace has been a supportive social member of our hunt for years but has finally reached a point where her career, Pony Club and family commitments can allow her to ride regularly with us.

Megan Sykes is a 'member without horse' and we admire her temerity of turning up each week on a new and often unfamiliar mount.

Tony Connelly – whose horse is aptly named 'Colours' – has clearly been bitten hard by the Hunt bug and he has claimed a regular spot near the front of the field.

As mentioned before, Lisa Yeo has become quite an

accomplished rider in a very short time and is always a shining example of good turnout.

Paula Dupuy has ridden with the club intermittently as her career and family allowed, but is now a regular member of the field and generously volunteers as Second Field master when her daughter Isobel is along.

In his time with us, we have watched Chris Kerr go from a non-riding social member to a fearless member of the first field. Chris leaves us this year for the Maritimes, but we have no doubt he'll be back for frequent visits.

Congratulations to you all and thank you for your enthusiasm.

This year's Masters' Award winners ...

Celebrating Social Member of the Year was Mary-Pat Monteith. Not only does she lend a very willing hand at every event, she's been invaluable as a board member and wonderfully capable as our Treasurer.

husband Tim, will be leaving this coming year to move to North Carolina. Her intelligence, wit and charm will be terribly missed. But, before she bids us adieu, we are delighted to report that she will join us on horseback for the spring season.

Field Sportsman was given to Jeff Peller. Jeff and his mount, Presley, have been a splendid Whipper-In pair both with their quick response to errant hounds and their flawless turnout.

Ambassador of the Year went to Pat VanEsch-Dussault, our new president, sometime field master, whip and Horseshow chairwoman.



Paul Sherman (R) introduces the hopeful horn blowers. Todd Stone & Hugh Robertson wait to compete.



Mary-Pat, Daughter Tegan, & Husband Tim

A more melancholy note was struck when a special presentation was made to say farewell to Mary-Pat. Our long-time, loyal, club member and her darling

Our traditional Horn Blowing competition drew a competitive crowd with much practising before hand. With several accomplished musicians and visiting hunt staff, it was a comical surprise to have Todd Stone put aside the horn and call 'gone away' using just his mouth! Perhaps not fair, but he won hands down on nerve and hilarity!

The Vet's Corner *By: Dr. Colin Peace, M.A., Vet. M.B., M.R.C.V.S.*

In August this year, we were thinking of getting our fat, well summered horses back into an athletic state for the fall hunt season – weight loss, muscle fitness, sound wind, and of course, feet reshod.

In the hunter pace on Sunday 13th Sept. there were definitely two groups of people and horses – those who had ridden all summer, trail riding, pony clubbing, showing, etc., and those hunting folks who traditionally took a few months off and whose horses wallowed in lush pastures and put on lbs in remarkably short time.

Heidi, my stalwart hunting partner, belonged to the second group. She must have put on 200lbs at least. On Sept 13th she felt good, if a little big, and the two of us opted to join Jeff Peller and Lisa to take a steady course – all three of us on sizeable charges. I hadn't been thinking straight because I knew Presley and Cosmo had been ridden regularly, but I under-estimated how much fitter than Heidi these two would be. Two thirds of

the way around, Heidi got tired and started to stiffen up – she was "tying-up", and soon could not walk at all. I had to send the others on while Heidi and I took 10 minutes rest before very slowly walking the last 2 Km. home on foot. I have been there before and understood the warning signs. Heidi needs more regular slow exercise, less food and time to get fit. I tell this story because it reminded me of the need to appreciate the risks of trying to push an unfit horse too fast. Azoturia occurs when the muscles work faster than the blood supply can



clear the waste products. Acidosis occurs, and the breakdown products of muscle glycogen cannot be cleared from the muscle fast enough with the result that the muscle fibres start to cramp, and may even break down resulting in a black pigment in the urine. In severe cases, the horses break into a profuse sweat, start trembling and become weak in the hind legs. This turns into a stiff gait and reluctance to move. Some horses will go down – it can be very serious.

The incident emphasizes the need to get our horses fit slowly and in good time before exposing them to lots of violent exercise. Those riders who in their athletic days submitted to school or club athletic coaches, will remember how careful the good coaches were to prepare their stars, with graduated exercises and plenty of ground work conditioning. Horses are such athletes, especially those who live

much of the day in stalls, or who, like Heidi, have been over indulging in paddocks rather than galloping around.

Several months on. Now our horses are so much fitter and a new plan needs to be developed as we approach the winter regime. If they are to stay in outdoor paddocks, they will need good winter coats (their own?) or wear special rugs, and they will need some substantial shelter. Those that are to be exercised will need help in cooling off after work. This is much easier when the horse is clipped, but these will need extra and appropriate rugs – ones that allow evaporation, whilst still protecting from wind and rain and snow.

Horses kept in stables are easier to manage but still require proper cooling before ruggering up, and ventilation should always be a consideration. It is surprising how well the horse copes with the changing seasons, but, please remember, that a sweaty wet horse can get chilled and it is important that they should be dry before leaving in the stall.

Wellington-Waterloo Hunt at the Royal with the Royals –

Paul Sherman, MFH



HRH Duchess of Cornwall and the author talk about hunting*

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (The Royal) has been held in Toronto annually since November 1922 and has become the World's largest indoor agricultural and international equestrian competition. According to their website, The

Royal draws more than 300,000 visitors to Toronto annually to see thousands of unique entries from elite Canadian and International breeders, growers and exhibitors.

It features numerous shows, activities, dining and – of course – The

Royal Horse Show.

Last November The Royal was honoured by being officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

Since 2004, Wellington-Waterloo Hunt has spent a day at The Royal displaying hounds as

well as setting up an information booth by invitation from the Ontario Equestrian Federation's (OEF) "Spirit of The Horse": 2009 was no exception.

Each year, many of our members have volunteered to spend a day at The Royal helping to man the booth and meet visitors to the fair, answering questions about our sport and introducing them to a few hounds. Over the years, we have been helped at the booth by members of other Hunts and so it was last November. We were delighted that friends from our neighbouring hunts in Southern Ontario joined us to lend a hand. It was also good to welcome like-minded folk from hunts further afield who were in Toronto visiting The Royal and dropped by for a chat.

In addition to the booth, we take hounds into OEF's Spirit of The Horse ring two or three times during the day to demonstrate some mounted exercises accompanied by a commentary explaining Riding to Hounds generally and Wellington-Waterloo Hunt in particular. At the end of our demonstration, questions are asked of the audience – over the years we've had some interesting ones, such as "How many bones does your horse have?". Fortunately I had been reading up on that just the previous evening and was able to answer accurately "All of them!"

When Wellington-Waterloo Hunt began doing our stint at Spirit of The Horse we were able to arrange for it to be on the same day as Hunt Night in the main ring at the Royal Horse Show. This used to be a full evening of social and competitive events, including Hunt Teams and a Parade of Hounds by one of the professionally hunted packs from Canada. Sadly for the hunting community, over the last dozen or more years this has diminished to virtually nothing. This is one of the reasons we at Wellington-Waterloo Hunt are proud to help our sport put on its public face at The Royal each year and sincerely thank OEF for continuing to invite us to do so. We also hope that other hunts will continue more and more to share this honour in the future, particularly since Hunt Night seems to be a thing of the past.

For the 2009 edition of Spirit of The Horse, we had requested the second Friday of the fair to put on our exhibit. Past years'



HRH Duchess of Cornwall meeting Nabob as W-WH members look on.*

experience had shown us that this is usually a "good traffic" day at The Royal, being the beginning of the closing weekend, affording good-sized audiences for our displays in the ring and keeping our volunteers at the booth fully occupied with visitors. Understanding this, OEF was very obliging and we had everything planned accordingly. However, with just about a week's notice, I received a call asking if we would be willing to change our day to the first Friday – Opening Day – as it was

felt that HRH Duchess of Cornwall might like to see some hounds during her walkabout. (It was planned that Prince Charles would visit livestock and agricultural exhibits after the official opening ceremony, while the Duchess took in Spirit of The Horse and other areas.) When our many volunteers heard this request there was immediate agreement to the change. In fact, I'm not sure that we didn't receive even more offers of help! I remember Pat van Esch-Dussault, who was taking care of setting up and manning the booth, telling me not to worry – she had it covered "and some".

Many of our volunteers had the opportunity to meet HRH Duchess of Cornwall, who seemed to enjoy talking about our hounds and asked about our hunt and the country we covered. We were honoured that Her Royal Highness chose to spend more than a little time with us and was obviously very interested in foxhunting in this part of the world.

We look forward to continuing our association with OEF's Spirit of The Horse at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair as ambassadors of riding to hounds but will always especially remember 2009 as the year of "Wellington-Waterloo Hunt at The Royal with The Royals".



The author answering questions from the audience*

All photographs marked with * in this & other articles courtesy of Jodi Gray, Beaver Meadow Hounds.

The Hunter Pace *Robin Hall*



This year's Hunter Pace was attended by 83 riders who were greeted with a fun and challenging course. The optimum time of 1 hour 40

minutes and 31 seconds was set by our Huntsman Paul Sherman, Jock Buchanan-Smith MFH

and Virginia Buchanan-Smith.

The top ten teams were presented ribbons.

1st place - Frank & Wendy Debartolo: 1:39:50 2nd place - Jackie Brosseau & Jade Devas: 1:41:57 3rd place - Brandi Powell & Andrea Nit: 1:38:55 4th place - Kris Hallman MFH & Tina Walker: 1:42:57 5th place - Sara Pederson & Mel Mireault: 1:43:02 6th place - Nichol Stewart & Shannon Hogan: 1:45:08 7th place - Sara Freedman & Danny Ingratta: 1:45:23 8th place - Jacqueline & Debbie Gray: 1:45:28 9th place - Caitlin Baukham &

Kathy Talaska: 1:45:34
10th place - Emma McGuire & Bonnie Fife: 1:46:23

Congratulations to our winners and the teams that placed in our Hunter Pace.

I'd like to thank all our members who helped with the prep work before and on the day of the Hunter Pace. Also, I'd like to thank the Mount Nemo Pony Club for organizing a successful concession booth. Lastly, a special thank-you goes to Carl and Carol Cook for allowing the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt to hold the Hunter Pace on their property.

A Word From the Past President —Paul Sherman, MFH

My introduction to Wellington-Waterloo Hunt came about fifteen years ago when I was invited to guest hunt from Blue Heron Valley Farm by Priscilla Reeve and Tony Delaunay. That day awoke in me the long dormant love of hunting, first experienced as a young Pony Clubber in England. At that time and place, being in Pony Club meant you hunted – that is if you wanted to keep up with the other boys and girls. Actually, in our branch I was one of only two boys so hunting was *de riguer*. Mother, not brought up in country ways, did her best to point me towards “safer” hobbies but Father, from the time he delivered me to my first meet, saw the potential benefits for a young boy growing up. So you see, being a member of Pony Club really did encourage my love of hunting!

It has been my privilege to

serve our hunt as a director from 2001 since when, alongside hunting, I have done my best to fulfil a variety of non-hunting roles within the club. During all this time, the pleasure of enjoying the company of good friends has been one of the most satisfying and sustaining facets of being part of the W-WH family. Every hunt club has its own characteristics, including its style of hunting, individual personalities (which applies equally to members and hounds!) and sociability. Surely, the “About WWH” page on our website describes us well: “The Wellington Waterloo Hunt is a small friendly group of enthusiasts who enjoy the camaraderie and sport of Riding to Hounds.” Small is, of course, a comparative word. It has been very pleasing to see our non-hunting membership grow to around the same number as riding members and to

see many of these Supporting Members joining in the fun by following the hunt and socially at breakfasts and functions like the Hunt Ball, Pub Night, Landowners’ BBQ, Olde English Feast. And it doesn’t stop there! Those of us who enjoy the thrill of the hunt owe much to Supporting Members who are always on hand as Hound Walkers, Road Whips, Field & Show Secretaries, being part of work-parties for Kennel and jump maintenance and other essential functions like handing out Stirrup Cups and generally looking after beverage requirements! Special thanks, too, to those members who help with organising social events. As outgoing President, I am particularly aware how much the success of our hunt club owes to all these happy volunteers who give

selflessly of their time. Thank you all for helping. Thanks, too, to all the members who have allowed their names to go forward for election to the Board of Directors and to others who have served on various committees during my tenure. Again, we all benefit from the time these individuals take out of their busy lives to work behind the scenes to make sure that the business and social affairs of the club continue in good order. So now, as I continue to give you my best endeavours to help provide good sport as Huntsman and a Joint-Master, it is with great pleasure and confidence that I welcome our new President, Pat Van Esch-Dussault and Vice-President, Patrick McGuire, wishing them, along with the entire W-WH family, continued success, enjoyment and Good Hunting!

Editor's note Celia Stone



This picture is a familiar site for me. I love to see Toby as he greets me over the fence with an expectant face. He has never been shy to come when called – why would he be when he knows he might be going hunting!! As I pen this note, the start of hunting is days away and I share his anticipation. We have been working on getting us both back into shape so we can enjoy the chase without lingering aching muscles. We have had quite enough of arenas and icy ground and are ready for a season of good chases.



A typical Bermuda Hunt scene
Photo courtesy of Gavin Howarth

This spring, I have an added incentive to get my legs back. Todd and I have the good fortune to be part of a group from the Hunt who will be participating in a joint hunt with the Bermuda Hunt Club – in Bermuda. This is a reciprocal trip as we had the pleasure of a group

from their Hunt at the Thanksgiving hunt at Lexington in October. Having ridden alongside one of their members in, I recall that he remarked that our terrain was quite different from the island and that our hunts were longer. I agreed that we might have more space and different vegetation but assumed the scenery from horseback was essentially similar. Never did I imagine that his typical territory on the 20 mile island included oceanfront beaches and sand dusted roads.

The Bermuda Hunt Club has a long history. It was established in 1870 by a group of army officers who missed hunting in England. Initially, they had no hounds so kept their hunts strictly to paper chases. These were a cross between hunting and point-to-point racing. After following the trail to a checkpoint about two miles from the home mark, the hunt became a race to the

finish.

Inevitably, paper chases didn't give the same thrill as a real fox hunt so the officers imported foxes and hounds. Unfortunately, the hounds found the foxes harder to catch than the abundant population of local chickens. This brought a quick end to live hunting. Today, the Bermuda Hunt Club again utilizes paper chases but maintain all the other usual hunt traditions...if gallops on the beach in hunt attire can be called tradition rather than romance!

So, with only days to wait, I am slightly regretful that Toby won't join me on the beach for the final dash. Nevertheless, I am excited and grateful to our Hunt for continually providing breathtaking experiences for us to share.

I will look forward to sharing a full report for the next edition!

Upcoming Events for the 2010 seasons

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| April , 7 th (Wednesday) | Spring Cubbing started. |
| April 17 th (Saturday) | Olde English Feast |
| May 30 th (Sunday) | Mini Hunter Pace & Spring Horseshow |
| June 27 th (Sunday) | PPG /Gymkhana for all ages |
| July 23 th (Friday) | Landowners' BBQ |
| August 25 th (Wednesday) | Pony Club clinic, mini-Hunt & BBQ |
| August 25 th (Wednesday) | Fall Cubbing starts |
| September 12 th (Sunday) | Hunter Pace |
| November 6 th (Saturday) | Hunt Ball |
| December 5 th (Sunday) | Annual Christmas Party |
| December 12 th (Sunday) | Christmas Ride at Cornerstone |