

Babbling Hound

Journal of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt

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Winter Walking – Sean Hall 2008

President's Foreword

Sitting down to pen these few words of welcome to this latest edition of Babbling Hound, it is difficult not to be proud of and thankful to all the many people involved in making up the successful, happy and enjoyable organization that is undoubtedly today's Wellington-Waterloo Hunt.

This journal, once again so ably edited by Celia Stone, contains many articles which portray well the varied activities,

hunting and non-hunting, which W-WH members, guests and friends have been able to enjoy since the last edition graced our coffee tables.

At the risk of sounding like a cliché, it is undoubtedly true that our members are our strength and we owe a great deal of thanks to those who volunteer to make sure that all our activities are able to go ahead. Over the past two or three years we have seen those more recently

joined lend their energy, time and fresh ideas to the continued success of W-WH: Helping walk hounds; serving as directors; editing this journal; running the Horse Show; looking after trophies and the bar; helping with kennel & trailer maintenance; contributing wonderful confections and dishes to hunt breakfasts...the list goes on.....and it's wonderful! Thank you all.

With Spring hunting not too many weeks away, I am personally looking forward to another year of our hunt moving forward,

promoting our sport among riders and non-riders of all ages and backgrounds, so that we continue to grow and become even stronger.

As you know, we welcome guests so please bring along your friends (just let one of the Masters know) even if they have not hunted before. Let's continue to prosper in good health and encourage understanding of and participation in Riding to Hounds.

Good Hunting!

Paul Sherman

Generosity, hope, and joy - The Colours of W-W Hunt - By Celia Stone



Gold = Generosity



Green = Hope and Joy

At the Hunt Ball in October, I was awarded my Colours. I was proud to be officially accepted as a member of the hunt and couldn't wait to sport the Colours on my

jacket. I was also intrigued by a tradition that hails back to a time of chivalry, when wearing Colours denoted loyalty and allegiance and where a particular colour conveyed its own message. A little research left me in no doubt that the spirit of the Colours is alive and well with Wellington-

Waterloo.

Since I joined our hunt, I have encountered boundless generosity. Generosity of spirit, heart, wealth and horseflesh (Remember, I am that riding member of two seasons who does not even own a horse!)

When I began hunting, I thought I would

eventually become blasé about the jumps and terrain, but I still find there is a lot of hope in my mornings in the field. Hope that I'll clear the jump. Hope that Patrick is right and that all horses eventually stop. And hope that the hounds will pick up a scent and give us

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Joint-Masters' Message



From the viewpoint of mid-winter, it feels as though fall hunting finished ages ago. You will recognize this as a fairly typical reflection of life in Canada. On the other hand, our memories of fall hunting and other W-WH events in the past six months, although dimmed, have not faded completely.

Our fixture card for fall '07 was enhanced by having hunts from Amarna and Ayr. Amarna is on Watson Road, south of Guelph and just north of the 401.



Jessica Solomon and Jeff Peller

We were lucky that Jeff Peller began boarding his horses, Presley and Cosmo, at the Amarna stables earlier last year

and that Chris Des Roches, owner of the property, was most willing to have us. This territory is made up of huge arable fields that surround great coverts and a few interesting wet lands. Some crown forest is interspersed that doesn't make for easy hunting but does allow staff entry as needed. The hunt itself in mid-November was enjoyed by one of the largest fields, many guests included, that we had all fall and everyone enjoyed the great drags. Colin Peace lead the

charge in building some new jumps on the property and these were not missed. Thank you to many who made this fixture possible, especially to Jeff,

Chris (who came out of hospital two days before the hunt), Chris's neighbours and to Colin & Anne Peace. This was a

great inaugural hunt from Amarna!



Ayr is a territory with which many who have been associated with W-WH for sometime might be familiar. We had hunted in that area as recently as 2001. Regrettably, Ann Maus from whose farm we used to meet, had died and so we then had nowhere to assemble. We were fortunate that John and Mary Gillespie were willing to have us meet from their farm only one line removed from where Ann Maus used to live. With great assistance from the Gillespies, we were able to reopen almost 1000 acres of beautiful rolling mixed farm land with terrific potential for some great drags and interspersed with trails through woodland. Although the field for the late November hunt in this territory was quite small, those who came enjoyed the day immensely. Thanks to the Gillespies and their very willing neighbours who received us so generously.

We had also great hunting days on our traditional territories ranging from the kennels and Sheffield in the south to Kenilworth in the north. At Kenilworth, we missed the customary hospitality of the Uptegrove family, as Pat had just left for Switzerland, but we were kindly received for the meet by Rose Pillar and Britta Welsh and taken in afterwards for a very

comfortable and hospitable breakfast in Britta's home. Thank you Rose and Britta! We enjoyed a joint meet with Hamilton from the home of Anne-Marie Casey-Christensen and Patrick McGuire on Sunday, October 21st. Thank you to Masters, Staff and members of Hamilton Hunt for sharing this day with us and especial thanks to Huntsman Ashley Hubbard for bringing the HH hounds to the meet. Despite a sting on the lip just as the field was assembling (ouch!), Ashley blew the horn most ably! Patrick and Anne-Marie and their family catered for a vast company at breakfast.

For the most part, the weather cooperated for good hunting: not too hot and dry in September and not too cold and wet in November. We had many good drags on Sundays and Wednesdays and riders, including Staff, were treated to the customary surprises in between .



We in the hunt are so indebted to the time and effort of our volunteer Huntsman and Whips. Out of their busy other lives, our Huntsman and Whips put out so much in taking out the hounds, not only for hunts but also for walking

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Notes from a First Hunt By: Christie MacLennan of Mount Nemo Pony Club



Christie MacLennan on Colada

My name is Christie and this fall I got an amazing opportunity to do a Pony Club hunt.

This is when you have a small group of Pony Clubbers who follow behind an actual hunt with all the hounds and hunters.

It is one of the most fun things that I have done. Galloping across fields; going carefully along roads, and riding up and down hills.

The thing I liked most was that because you

are out in all sorts of different territory, you never know what can happen.

I want to share some of the stories I experienced. For most of the time I was with quite a few friends such as Caleigh, Celia and Isabel and Paula who we met there. But about 30 minutes before the hunt was over Caleigh had the chance to join the main group of hunters and I decided to stay behind. Then a problem hit. My pony decided she would refuse to cross the creek that led home. Now, I knew she didn't like water too much, but this got ridiculous and Paula got off her horse and got on my pony. She tried everything for at least 15 minutes but she simply would not go. Paula tried using Celia's stock-tie around her rear end to pull her but the stock broke and still she wouldn't go.

Eventually, Celia and I

set off the long way back around, and like I said, you never know what can happen. So here we are, trotting along happily when we hear a few barks. We think maybe it's just a lost hound or something, until our ponies dodge to the side and run like the wind. We look behind to see a German-shepherd chasing us! Thankfully our horses were good and it was a laugh!

Addendum by Caleigh Levelly: After Colin offered to take me to join the main part of the hunt we walked awhile until we found the Hunt at the top of a hill. As soon as

Dancer saw the hunt she galloped to the top of the hill.

We waited around for a bit for the hounds to come back. After about ten minutes we were off. We were not allowed to go in front of the field master, but my ex-race horse was off trying to be in front. Twice I passed the Field Master – even after I was told I needed to stay back – I just couldn't explain the rules to Dancer! We galloped up hills and through fields. After about fifteen minutes we had to gather up the hounds. We did a bit more galloping and then it was time to head back. I can't wait to do it again, and next time my dad wants to come too!



Christie and Celia on the trek home (after the dog!)

Generosity, hope, and joy from page 1

another half an hour of hunting over land I'd otherwise never get to see.

And most of all there has been joy! The joy I feel in a flat out gallop across wide open fields. The joy I see in the hounds as they tumble out of the trailer for a day of hunting. And the joy of finding myself a

little behind the field so I catch a glimpse of the group ahead as they reach a clearing with the hounds, the Colours and the sounds.

And so as I wait for another season to begin I wait with anticipation of that hope and joy. And I remind myself to be generous with those still to earn



their Colours who have the nerve (as I may have once or twice!) to ride ahead of those of us so anointed!

Kris Hallman and Jock Buchanan-Smith award Colours to: Celia Stone, Jessica Solomon, Ken Rose, Rachel McClelland, Stephanie Dryden-Cripton, Melanie Mireault, Sharon Warriner

Joint-Masters' Message From page 2

exercises. Paul Sherman and Robin Cook were joined as Whips this fall by Allan Harold and Jeff Peller on regular occasions and by Perdita Cook, especially when we were in the Stratford area. It is great to see Allan (Dr. - our congrats.!) again whipping-in and to have Jeff now reinforcing the team so enthusiastically. We mustn't forget those Road Whips. We have great teamwork during the time of hunting and so many of our non-riding members contribute to this!

Thanks to those who prepared and brought food to our many scrumptious hunt breakfasts and to everyone who made the effort to get up early in the morning, groom their horse, trailer to the hunt and thus make riding to hounds in Wellington-Waterloo possible. In all fun we have hunting, we must never forget the landowners without whose cooperation, our sport would simply not be possible. To landowners who receive this newsletter, please note in your diaries our Landowners' Barbeque, set for Friday evening, August 1st. at Pitcaple Farm.

But Fall, 2007, was more than just hunting. We had a very successful hunter pace with 72 entries from the kennels on Sunday, September 9th. Thanks so much again to the Cook family for allowing

us to use their property for this event and especially to Robin for taking her valuable vacation time off to set the course and make key arrangements.

Our Hunt Ball was on Saturday, October 27th with the only problem being that we didn't have the extra hour to sleep in before hunting the next day! This did not affect the good food, dancing and fun that was enjoyed at the Galt Country Club.

Our congratulations to all who received their Hunt Colours: Stephanie Dryden-Crypton, Rachel McClelland, Melanie Mireault, Ken Rose, Jessica Solomon, Celia Stone and Sharon Warriner! You were all worthy recipients and we hope to see you in the hunt field regularly in the future and for many years to come! We were particularly pleased this year to announce at the ball that Club members had committed funds to enable Paul Sherman and Robin Cook to attend the MFHA Staff Seminar which is to be held in Reno, Nevada in April, '08



The Club again took a leadership role in putting on a display of riding to hounds on Friday, November 2nd, at the Spirit of the Horse, organized by the Ontario Equestrian Federation at the Royal Winter Fair. Thanks

to Paul and Robin for taking Monty, Chancey and 3 couple of hounds to this event and for making many of the detailed arrangements. They were ably assisted by several volunteers, not only from W-WH but also from other hunts in Ontario, to mount and man the display and answer questions from the public. We in W-WH strongly believe that this type of event is important to put riding to hounds in front of the public's eye and keep it there. Special thanks to Sharon Warriner who groomed horses in the short time available to us.

A successful workday at the kennels was held on Sunday, August 12th. At least a dozen of our members turned out to this event. Some wielded a paint brush and/or scraper. Some wielded a measuring tape and/or saw while others applied shiny wrenches to rusty old nuts and bolts. At the end of the day, we could say we had a new window in the transom on the west face of the edifice and we had rejuvenated walls to three of the four lodges that were left spanking clean and white. Most importantly, we had most of the heat-baked old paint on the hound trailer removed and prepared for subsequent lathering in the W-WH green. An enjoyable time seemed to be had by all who attended this day. This resulted in discussion of great ideas for further improvements, e.g. hound doors and a dry food bin. Clean-up day at the kennels requires brain as well as brawn! Thanks to all those who attended and helped to make this day so

successful.

Last but by no means least, we had two successful events at the Badenoch Community Centre. In December, a Christmas Party was held for children of all ages. Santa Claus made his traditional entry, this time on a miniature horse. Real children received wonderful presents from Santa, and adult children benefited in more diverse ways from the draw and gift exchange.



Bryce and Santa

The Annual General Meeting was held on the second weekend of January. For both occasions at Badenoch, thanks go out to Colin & Anne Peace for all they do to reserve and prepare this venue for the club.

When we sit down and write this article for the newsletter, we realize how amazing W-WH really is. The club accomplishes a lot in six months! It is great to be in a leadership position for a group like this and we only hope it all leads to an even stronger and more energetic club in the future!

Kris Hallman MFH
Jock Buchanan-Smith MFH

The Hunt Ball – Staff reporter



Marcy Lowes

For yet another year, the hunt ball was an evening of music, friends and finery.

Highlights of the evening included the traditional horn blowing competition and awards ceremony but it was also punctuated with special presentations, beautiful babies, and a blond bewigged Marcy!



Colin Peace – Proud grandfather

Awards were given out with a large group getting their Hunt Colours (a special thrill for me!)



Melanie Mireault and John Holmes

Social Member of the Year is given to the Hunt member who best displays a thoughtful and considerate contribution to the social activities of our Hunt. This person demonstrates exceptional dedication to the achievement of “fun for everyone” and the



**Dave Craig
Social Member of the Year**

betterment and enjoyment in all Hunt activities. No surprise, this year's recipient was David Craig. We all appreciate Dave's tireless Road Whipping and commitment to ensuring the club bar makes it to every event!

Field Hunter Sportsman of the Year is given to the Hunt member who best displays the qualities of fair play, humour, valour and epitomizes the spirit of field hunting. This person demonstrates a helpful attitude, sensibility and dedication to the enjoyment of everyone in the hunt field. Pat Van Esch-Dussault has been our



Anne Marie Casey Christensen and Patrick McGuire Ambassadors of the Year with Kris Hallman MFH and Jock Buchanan-Smith MFH

fearless field master aboard the dancing Frisco and always manages to keep the field close to the action. Frisco pulled a tendon this year but is recovering nicely and we hope to see him back in the field soon.



**Pat Van Esch-Dussault (left)
Field Hunter Sportsman of the Year with Tracey Furgeson & Pat Uptergrove**

W-WH Ambassador of the Year is the Hunt member who best demonstrates the attributes most representative of the principles and ideals of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt. This year the award went to Ann-Marie Casey-Christensen and Patrick McGuire.

Special recognition was given to Carol and Carl Cook for housing our kennels for 20 years.

We have all enjoyed the

opportunity to use their beautiful property for hunting and shows and their



Carol and Carl Cook with Kris Hallman MFH and Jock Buchanan-Smith MFH

combined hospitality is always generous and warm. Our hounds thank them too! And finally, there was horn blowing! Fairly fierce



Dave Coons

competition, but Tina Walker and Dave Coombs came out as the winners



Tina Walker

The Hunter Pace —Staff reporter

This years Hunter Pace was huge success. 72 riders set out to meet an undisclosed pace time of 2 hours and 7 minutes. The weather held as people set out as singles or in small groups through a well groomed course that led through the conservation area and 'golf course', up the lane and back in to the finish. Inevitably, there was rain, but a wonderful tent supplied by Chris Kerr and a well deserved half-way Stirrup Cup

distributed by Carol Cook, Barry Darin, and Paul Walker rendered the weather a non issue.

We continue enjoy co-operation with the Pony Clubs of the area. Mount Nemo manned the food concessions in addition to sending nine riders out on the Pace. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring out young riders for a taste of what hunting with us is like.

Thanks to the committee for their hard work!



Anne Marie Casey Christensen and Patrick MCGuire – Closest to 'the pace' - presented by Jock Buchanan-Smith & Robin Cook

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair—Staff reporter

This year we had a wonderful turn out and response to our booth at the 'Royal'. Visitors to the booth enjoyed meeting the hounds who were more than happy to greet fudge bearing patrons.

Those of us who brought our children and spouses along enjoyed the opportunity to combine family with entertainment and with this celebration of the horse. The Eglinton & Caledon Hunt was the official Hunt of the Royal Horse Show and presented a wonderful display of hunting for all ages in the main ring at the evening's performance.

This year, the many members of W-W Hunt

who turned out to man the booth were joined by representatives from Beaver Meadows Hounds and Eglinton & Caledon Hunt who took turns representing their love of the sport. Some might say that the booth may have been over manned but we all enjoyed the opportunity to mingle without mounts.

Kris Hallman MFH and then Paul Sherman, aboard Jock's steady Monty and Robin Cook on the ever reliable Chancey led hounds in the Spirit of The Horse ring for several demonstrations. Paul was eloquent as ever, engaging the crowd and presenting the attractions of hunting.



Robin Cook and Paul Sherman with Hounds in the Spirit of the Horse ring

Christmas Party By: Rachel McLelland

The W-WH Christmas party has become a wonderful tradition. It's a time to reflect on the fall hunt season and spread the cheer with friends and families associated with the club. This year was certainly no exception. We had a great turnout on December 2nd at Badenoch Community Centre. The food was scrumptious and we enjoyed carols at the piano thanks to club President Paul Sherman.

Santa Claus and his reindeer made an appearance much to the delight of the children, bringing gifts for everyone. Many thanks to all those that make this party happen. To Anne and Colin for helping to facilitate Santa's adorable reindeer and especially to Anne for organizing all of the food and the venue. Thanks also to Robin and Terry for arranging for Santa Claus to be there and all the others that helped out.



Special Recognition for Dedication By: Jock Buchanan-Smith, MFH.



Robin Cook and Paul Sherman have contributed in so many ways to the life of our hunt. They have at least 20 years experience between them in whipping-in. Whipping-in is great fun but it can be lonely off to one side of the field or looking for wayward hounds as hunt members and their guests begin tucking into the breakfast. By its nature, whipping-in entails walking hounds up to 3 times a week and

doing most of the trailering of hounds to hunts. In addition to these duties connected closely to riding, Robin has been, and Paul is now President of our hunt and both have shown great leadership and organizational skills in that position. They have contributed to the life of our club in numerous other ways as well.

The Hunt decided in the Fall to fund these individuals to attend the MFHA Seminar for Hunt Staff and members from across North America, which is to be held in Reno, Nevada from April

18th to 20th, 2008. They will be hunting with the Red Rock Hounds (for reference see frontispiece of the most recent issue of Covertside) on April 18th and on the 19th, they will visit the Red Rock Kennels and walk out hounds (nothing new there!). On the 20th, there is the seminar with topics on riding over obstacles and terrain, properly fitting your saddle to your horse and how animal rights groups are brainwashing our children. After lunch on the 20th, leaders of the MFHA are heading a discussion on taking

foxhunting to the next century. There will be little time left to visit any casinos!

Beyond membership dues, members of the hunt have provided support to cover hunting with Red Rock Hounds (horse included), the seminar, associated meals, four nights at the Grand Sierra Resort Hotel and airfare to and from Toronto. I am sure Robin and Paul will return from Nevada full of great ideas and refreshed for another 20 years of helping W-WH!



Notes From the Huntsman

Kris Hallman - MFH

Hounds Please! My two favourite words. They signify the beginning of a day of hunting. They unlock the energy of the hounds drawn for the meet. They greet me with the love of not knowing how the day will unfold.

Though a drag hunt is a preplanned orchestration of sport, hounds are not puppets, and sometimes the script changes.

Adlibbing is part of my job as Huntsman, just as is

providing an entertaining day for the Field.

Every day is different, even when we hunt from the Kennels. The Puslinch Conservation Area has long been our Wednesday fixture...more than the 20 years that I've been following those trails. The multi use of the tract makes things a bit tricky. The mountain bikes have scarred the woods with ad hoc routes that often mislead us. The hounds

are cast, and on occasion, can evaporate into thin air, possibly running these new bike trails. Their voices always give them away, and the chase is on. Last season, a small group of us were hacking home after an enjoyable day in the conservation area, when I sighted a healthy red fox, ambling along, heading east. My first instinct was to Tally Ho, but he was so handsome, I was reluctant to betray his presence. I fought with my conscience for at

least 10 seconds, then reasoned that the hounds were bound to pick up his line without my assistance. A hunt isn't over till the fat lady sings. The hounds gave cry, giving us a view as Monsieur Reynard ran south to the safety of the Duncan's woods, while giving us a final run for the day. Luckily for the staff, the hounds circled, and were packed up and returned to the Kennel....or something close to that.

p.s. Jim (Kopinak), you would have loved it! 7

Of course there is more than one way to follow a hunt. ..By: Tina Walker

Awhile back, Kris was hunting the hounds from Betty Millman's farm in Elmira – a meet that is always dear to my heart and I wanted to join you all. Unfortunately, I had just recovered from pneumonia and still had wobbly legs. My friend, Jackie Brosseau had particularly wanted to guest at this fixture so we decided to hitch up Broker. It took a little juggling as my trailer wasn't big enough for the buggy and the horse. I wouldn't recommend taking a horse and buggy hunting if the

horse hadn't been out before or it could get very exciting.

Arrival at the meet caused quite a stir, especially when Broker suddenly sprouted wheels! Horses were spooking in all directions and I'm sure I heard more than a few descriptive words. We were relegated to the back...way back... until the other horses became more accustomed to us.

The day was overcast and rain was never far away but the hounds were in good form, spirits

were high and we covered a lot of ground. Elmira is a perfect hunt to follow in a buggy as all the farms have connecting laneways and you can cut across fields and fence lines.

We were so cozy with our blanket, hip flasks, hot water bottles and umbrellas and Broker thought he was so smart and clever I didn't even need to steer him. And when we had a sudden downpour he spun around and darted for the trees for shelter. We kept a little distance from the field and had a

wonderful hunt and a super breakfast so generously hosted by Betty.

Of course, you can also follow by car, by bike... or, for those of you who are athletic, on foot...!



A Most Memorable Moment of Hunting By: Jock Buchanan-Smith, MFH.



Hunting days are generally filled with many joyous and happy moments. And then there are those extra-special moments that give memories to last a lifetime. For me, one of those extra-special moments occurred on a Wednesday hunt in mid-October from Mike and Amy Hahn's near Shakespeare. The day started out cool and misty, in other words, a day of suspense: will the weather clear or will it deteriorate?

From Mike and Amy's farm, the hounds took off at a cracking pace to the south. There was a pause while the huntsman drew the small covert that is within half a mile of Highway 7. Paul and Allan did their customary diligence in keeping wayward hounds with the pack as they began heading west, parallel to 7 and through the large covert that is split by the power lines. Being a whip that day myself, I took my instruction to head around this covert the longer way to the north and 'police' the pack from that side. As I was rounding the north-east corner, I could hear the hounds in full cry taking on across Road 111, passing the poultry

sheds and into the next covert further west.

Well behind everyone at this point, luckily Monty and I were able to gain the field before they reached this most westerly covert and while the pack was still in full cry. Kris, Paul and Allan were by this time further west and north. I thought it prudent to take the south side of the covert, which was closest to me at the time. When Monty and I had arrived at a respectable distance along that side of the covert, the cry of the hounds was coming closer to reach a feverish pitch. Then a buck with at least 10 points (I didn't have time to count them exactly) loped out of the cover only 100 ft. away

and just as the sun was now coming through the lightening mist to put a beautiful hue on the fall colours! Hearing the hounds' cry reach a crescendo as they approached me from my other side, opposite the deer, was to put it mildly an eerie experience. Fortunately, the hounds then redirected their attention to the north and as their cry began to fade and that buck disappeared from view to renew its browsing in the next wood, I thought how lucky I was to be alive!

Will there be a more memorable moment of hunting this coming year? I expect no less!

Hunting Horns 101 *By: Sidney Lineker*

Hunting horns (Cor de chasse or trompe de chasse) were invented in France in the 1600s. The sound of the horn informs the hounds what the huntsman wants them to do and helps the Field Master, Whippers-in and the Field know what the hounds are doing.



The first French horns were curved and made out of brass. They were worn around the shoulder.



Straight horns started to be made when fox hunting started in England in the late 17th century and were about 18 inches long. The typical horn now is nine to eleven inches long.



Some horns are slightly curved and are carried in a curved pouch that fits the shape of the horse. All are hand-made and take up to a half a day to make.

The distance the sound carries varies depending on the length and material of the horn and the skill of the user; the smaller the bell, the lower the tone. Silver horns sound lovely but don't carry as well as copper ones. Reeded

horns are the easiest to blow but have no variation in tone. Wooden horns also exist.



The major producer of hunting horns in England is the Keat Company. They have produced and sold horns since 1795. At one point, they made 70,000 hunting horns a year and now only produce about 300 a year. Prices in Britain range from £70 for a plain copper horn to £700 for a silver banded version.

Horns are prone to damage but most can be repaired and will last you a lifetime. Over-polishing will thin the copper.

Post horns, sometimes referred to as coach horns, are straight and usually longer than three feet and are used to announce the arrival of the coach. These are not sporting horns.



Reference:

Hunting Horn Calls and Hunting with the Fitzwilliam Hunt: The Hunting Horn: Its History and Use Today, Countryside Audio and Visual, Tadley, Hants.



Winter Exercise...for whom? *By: Kris Hallman MFH*

The biggest difference between Golf and Hunting, is that golf clubs may be stored for the off season, while horses and hounds may not!

All year long, our pack needs to get out and stretch their legs, while tuning up their bid ability. While we think that this is all done for the sake of the hounds, I assure you that there is a big bonus for the people who participate.

As we trot/stroll/amble down Side Road #10, the early morning light captures the newly snow-capped conifers which bracket the road. Long shadows play through the trees and split rail fence. It's interesting to note the fresh tracks which have recently run our way, and the hounds will often agree that something yummy has been by. With a stern admonishment from an alert

walker, hounds fall back into order and carry on. We often see so many Blue Jays criss- crossing our pathway, that my mind's eye has relocated BlueJay Way to Puslinch, instead of Toronto.

The eager gait of the young entries cause us to quicken the pace. Soon I can tell that I'm fulfilling my cardio workout for the day. The fresh air is invigorating,

and by the end of our walk, we all feel great (holier than thou), and are ready to tackle the rest of the day with a heightened energy.





We have a horse! Just think, housing, exercise, food, water, feet. And then, there are health injuries and teeth. All these considerations before we put on any tack or think of going for a ride! It is much easier to go to the local riding establishment and hire one while they look after the beast for the rest of the day. And yet our own horse is special. We willingly accept all the chores to have those special benefits. With the duties come risks – I bring up a few salient points to bear in mind.

Housing – Most horses, if allowed to grow a full winter coat, can withstand the winter cold outdoors. They need some shelter from storms and rain, but given enough food they survive surprisingly well and spend much of the time in the open. Of course if you want to have year round use and training and have an arena and the time available you will achieve better results, but there is a cost.

Feed – This time of year, horses need bulk. Good hay and some additional energy if they are going to be used in the winter months. Too much grain or alfalfa can produce problems like laminitis especially in ponies. Restricted water from frozen buckets and dry feed can lead to drying out of the body and impaction colic is a common finding. A wet bran mash is an excellent offering at this time of year. Bran is well known for keeping horses regular.

Teeth – Floating, filing or rasping teeth. Horses' teeth grow continually throughout their life. Today's horse is fed hay and grain instead of constantly eating rough grass like their ancestors. The result of this change in lifestyle is that their teeth are often not worn evenly. Points develop along the outside of the upper dental arcade and along the inside of the lower dental arcade. These can cause small ulcers on the inside of the cheeks and along the sides of the tongue. Bits can cause pressure against these points when horses are ridden. This can result in resistance or other undesirable behavior and stop your horse from enjoying being ridden.

The teeth should be checked for points regularly. Dropping feed, head tossing, excessive

salivation, choking, and weight loss can all be signs of dental problems and indicate the need for an oral examination. All horses benefit from an annual check by your vet which is approximately the time it takes to redevelop the sharp edges. This involves a sedative that will relax the horse's head and permit the vet to use both gags and sling halters to hold the head and jaw in such a way that they can view the entire arcade. Removal of the point edges and irregular wave formations is now generally done with a power float.

Vaccinations – Horses should receive vaccination against the common diseases, in particular against rabies, tetanus and West Nile Virus. There are vaccinations available for a number of other diseases which a discussion with your vet will decide which are recommended or appropriate depending on the use of your horse or your specific requirements.

Parasite control – There are a variety of parasites which effect horses at different times and for each there is a specific treatment so again this is a discussion for your vet. For instance, young foals commonly have the white ascarid worm while older horses develop an immunity against it. The large strongyle worms (red worms) emerge particularly in the spring and summer and can be

very serious as the larvae migrates through the blood vessels of the horse. These are now typically controlled with Ivermectin and Quest.

It is interesting that since these have been controlled, other parasites, particularly small strongyles and tape worms, have become more significant in the horse. There is a constant change in the interaction of parasitic worms and their hosts which is why it is always useful to consult with your vet and have a fecal egg count to determine which parasites are present.

Before we had chemicals to control parasites, the horse breeder used other livestock to reduce the worm burden of a pasture. After grazing with horses, cattle were turned onto the field who not only ate the infective larvae but also helped to eliminate their patchy grazing patterns. Others farmers picked up all the droppings in the field so the larvae could not get into the turf. These practices are as effective today and, combined with careful chemical control, can go far to keeping our horses free from parasite problems.

With these issues put to bed you should be all set to start training for the spring season.

From the Vet welcomes questions from the members that we can address in future editions.

Next newsletter – First Aid and injuries.

Junior Members *By: Annie McKay and Simone Wilkinson*

Hi! I'm Annie McKay. I am almost 11 years old.

When I started hunting I was around 5 years old. When I started hunting I started in the Hill-topping group on a very steady old horse named Brigadoon. Hill-topping is for people who like to go at a slightly slower pace. And usually go around the jumps. I then started being ponied on my faster pony No Matter What (Maddie). Later I rode on my own in the Field with other members in the club, Sam and Paul Brown, Dr Colin Peace, Perdita and Madonna Cook and a lot of others. One time in the fall of 2007 I even got invited to ride with

the Huntsman, Kris Hallman. It was so cool to be hunting the hounds with her.

When my Mom says it's too cold or wet for us to hunt, it's awesome fun to go road whipping. We get to see the hunt and talk on radio's. We also sometimes get out of the car to grab a hound. Sometimes we help one of the riders in the field. We also have some fun fund raisers. The Hunt Ball, Olde English Feast, Gymkhana, Hunter Pace and Hunter Trails. It is so much fun. Even though I don't like to go to bed early Saturday night, I love getting up to ride through the forest,

fields, hills and streams of Ontario with the best Hunt Club and the best Pony in the world.

Hi! I am Simone Wilkinson.

I am 10 years old. I just started fox hunting last year. My first fox hunt I went on was really fun because we got to ride in fields, forests, and

streams. I was in the hill toppers group. We went at a slightly slower pace than the field. I think fox hunting is really fun because you get to spend time with the horses and people. After the hunt we have breakfast and talk. Hunting is for all ages so if you love hunting and horses come join the W-WH!!!! (Wellington-Waterloo Hunt!!)



Annie McKay on Maddie

Upcoming Events

- April 9th, 13th, 16th – Cubbing (from the Kennels)
- Saturday April 12th – Olde English Feast at Tommy Blake's
- Sunday April 20th – Opening Spring Meet
- Sunday May 25th – Spring Games and Horse show
- Friday August 1st – Landowners' BBQ at Pitcaple
- Saturday/Sunday August 9th/10th – Kennel work weekend
- Mid August – dates tba – Fall Cubbing commences
- Sunday August 25th – Pony Club Meet at Pitcaple
- Sunday September 7th – Hunter Pace
- Sunday September 14th – Opening Fall Meet
- Saturday October 25th – Hunt Ball at Galt Golf & Country Club
- *Friday November 7th – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair commences
- **Sunday December 7th – W-WH Christmas Party at Badenoch Community Centre
- **Sunday January 11th 2009 – Annual General Meeting at Badenoch

* W-WH will likely be involved in the Ontario Equestrian Federation's Royal Winter Fair exhibit: "Spirit of The Horse", helping to showcase Riding to Hounds – date/timings tba.

Dates marked ** are to be confirmed



Ware deep snow!

Time to Tuck In

Oatmeal and more Cookies **Virginia Buchanan-Smith**

These cookies are really delicious; crispy with lots of flavours, and I'm sure they are very good for us. Don't let the long list of ingredients intimidate you. A trip to the bulk food store will soon help fill in any gaps which your pantry may have. This recipe makes lots, depending on the size you make them.



Virginia Buchanan-Smith

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup butter or margarine (not soft spreading kind)
- 1 cup salad oil (such as corn or Crisco Oil)
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 cups pastry flour
- 1 cup white all purpose flour
- 1 cup Rice Crispies or Special K
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup quick cooking oatmeal (not instant)
- 1 cup chopped nuts (Pecans roasted at 350F for 15-20 min. are best)

Procedure

Using electric mixer, cream together butter, egg, sugars and vanilla; add oil & mix well. Sift in white flours, soda, cream of tartar; add whole wheat flour. Mix well. Add remaining ingredients and stir until blended well. Use a tablespoon or small ice cream scoop to drop cookies onto a greased cookie sheet. Flatten cookie dough with a fork. Bake in preheated 350°F oven about 12 minutes or until they are nicely browned. Remove cookies while hot to a kitchen counter to cool. When they are cooled completely, put them into an airtight tin to store. They will keep at least 1 week. They can also be frozen.



President, Paul Sherman looks dashing as he relaxes at Breakfast after a good days hunt.