



Ottawa Area Dressage Group

www.ottawadressage.ca

Newsletter



OADG is a chapter of CADORA Inc.

OADG is a Dressage Canada affiliated riding club.

Autumn 2015

As I was putting the first draft of this newsletter together, I had to add in all the references to which edition it is – at first, of course, I typed “Fall 2015”... and then promptly thought “no! This is a riding-related newsletter! “Fall” might be a bad word!” Hence, this is the “Autumn 2015 edition” of our OADG newsletter! ☺ Hope you enjoy it.

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“Thank you!” to our sponsors

Important Information about the Banquet!

Clinic with Jacqueline Brooks

Annual General Meeting: Sunday Dec. 6th

Show Schedule / Contact your directors

Message from the President

Hello everyone. Well...it's that time of year again when we are digging out our rain sheets, coolers and winter t/o sheets (or clipping and planning/wishing to go to Florida?). Your team at the OADG is doing the same PLUS planning for the upcoming year-end Awards Banquet and Annual General Meeting! More on this in a minute... First I want to say that this Message from the President is being penned by me, Catherine Maguire, your Awards Director. Our President Pierre Paquette had to step aside to deal with some personal matters, so I am representing him as Interim President.

I want to draw your attention to the OADG Board News below -- there will be three vacant positions on the Board for 2016. These are critical positions, so please read on!

- The Annual Awards Banquet is Saturday, December 5 at the Hellenic Centre on Prince of Wales Drive in Ottawa. Later in this Newsletter you will find more specific details and a Registration Form. I invite you to attend to receive awards, congratulate award winners, have a chance at fabulous door prizes, meet friends and have fun. It is one of the few times in the year when we get a chance to socialize across the region, to re-connect and to swap stories!
- Our Annual General Meeting is the following day on Sunday, December 6 at Danby's Bar and Grill in Munster Hamlet (2858 Munster Road), starting at 1 pm. This is an annual overview of the year's finances and achievements. A significant agenda item will be voting on the new Board, as there are critical changes coming for 2016. If you only go to one meeting a year, this would be a good one! You will find the agenda in this Newsletter and on our website. Please notify us ahead of time if you plan to attend.
- OADG Board News:
 - Pierre Paquette has resigned as President. The new President for 2016 will be ratified by the Board at the AGM. The position of President is only open to Board members who have 2 years tenure. To date, one Director has put her name forward – Catherine Maguire.
 - Laura-Lee Brenneman will be resigning as Secretary-Treasurer at the end of this year. The new Secretary-Treasurer will be ratified by all OADG members at the AGM. The position is only open to Board members who have 2 years tenure. To date, one past Board member has put her name forward for Treasurer – Kiki Baggerman-Webster. This leaves the role of Secretary to be filled.

(continued on page 3)

Many Thanks to our Wonderful Sponsors

For the 2015 CADORA Ontario Silver Dressage Championships East

Hosted on September 12, 2015 by the team at Oakhurst Farm!

Major Show Sponsor - Cadora Ont., www.cadora.ca ; Don Barnes, President

Champion and Reserve Champion Ribbons - TwinPines Equestrian Centre,
www.twinpines.ca ; 613-821-0234

Oakhurst Farm, www.oakhurstfarm.ca ; Joan Allum and Mark Nelson

Mrs. Barbara O'Grady, Addison, Ontario

StoneMeadows Equestrian Centre, www.stonemeadowstable.com ;613-295-9147

Ottawa Area Dressage Group, www.ottawadressage.ca ; Pierre Paquette, President

Greenhawk Harness & Equestrian Supplies, www.greenhawk.net ;1-800-268-0484;
Slack Rd. location 613-225-9900

Intercity Insurance Services, www.intercityinsurance.com ;1-888-394-3330

Encore Equestrian Tack and Apparel, www.encoreequestrian.com ;613-269-Tack (8225)

Henry Equestrian Insurance Brokers Ltd., www.hep.ca ;1-800-36-36-HEP

Apple Saddlery, 1875 Innes Rd., www.applesaddlery.com ; 613-744-4040

Kate's Kreations, Kate Sim, katepaintsonglass@gmail.com; 613-285-4318

Graystone Equestrian Centre, kblaeske@sympatico.ca; 613-256-7887

BFL Canada, Classic Equine, 1-888-244-6709, www.BFLCanada.ca

The end-of-season update on Awards.....

The qualifying scores are posted to the website <http://www.ottawadressage.ca/awards/>.

There is one spreadsheet per circuit which includes all local and qualifying external scores reported. The Team Challenge scores can also be found there. The 2015 Award Winners are also posted. Congratulations to EVERYONE who competed.

We have 2 new trophies to be awarded at this year's banquet. The PSG combined AA/O trophy has been retired and we are introducing the PSG AA trophy and the PSG Open trophy. Thank you so much to Rhonda Burke and the Abergel-Preston family for their generous donations of the new trophies. Take a moment at the banquet to review the local history that is embodied in the retiring PSG trophy – many familiar names and much reminiscing to be had here!

We also have 1 new award to be presented at the banquet: the Madison Crich Memorial Adult Amateur Award.

Note: Those of you expecting CADORA Silver Awards can check your results at <http://ontario.cadora.ca/dressage-silver-circuit/>.

I will be resigning my position as Awards Director at the end of this year. The position is open for the 2016 season. Please contact me directly if you think you can help out. I can advise you of the role, responsibilities and skill set required. I found it a challenging and rewarding position over the last 3 years. I met many new people, made friends and learned a lot. The job was made much easier with the help of my team of score trackers and trophy assistants. It is however, time to move on. I encourage you to consider helping either by putting your name forward as Awards Director or offering to help with the score and trophy tracking team. There is something for every level of effort you are able to offer. And, I won't be going too far and will be available to consult!

Best Regards,
Catherine Maguire, Awards Director

Message from the President

(continued from page 1)

- Catherine Maguire will be resigning as Awards Director. The new Awards Director will be voted by all OADG members at the AGM. This position is open to all OADG members and is vacant. Please let me know if you wish to stand for this position.
- The position of Secretary is vacant. It will be voted by all OADG members at the AGM and is open to all OADG members. Please let me know if you wish to stand for this position.
- The Board welcomes Heather Kelly as our Banquet coordinator. Heather has accepted to be our Banquet Director for 2016 and this will be ratified at the AGM.
- Happily, the rest of the Board remains: Anne Galt, Peggy McQuaid, Sue Otto, Cathy Gordon, Mandy Spear and Jane Hunt.

Best Regards and I hope to see you at the Banquet.....

Catherine Maguire, OADG Awards Director and Interim OADG President



The following Championships were handed out at the Silver Dressage Championships - East at Oakhurst in September. Congratulations!

Junior Champion	Klara Bauermeister & Mi Golden Ticket
Junior Reserve Champion	Danika Charbonneau & Mr. Bigshot
Adult Amateur Champion	Sarah Catt & Drummore Bay
Adult Amateur Reserve Champion	Pam Overton & Pass N Style
Open Champion	Klara Bauermeister & Mi Golden Ticket
Open Reserve Champion	Sarah Gobey & Crown Ridge Timeless Dancer
Junior Training Champion	Klara Bauermeister & Mi Golden Ticket
Junior Training Reserve Champion	Danika Charbonneau & Mr. Bigshot
Adult Amateur Training Champion	Pam Overton & Pass N Style
Adult Amateur Training Reserve Champion	Carolyn Allen & Kavita
Open Training Champion	Klara Bauermeister & Mi Golden Ticket
Open Training Reserve Champion	Sarah Gobey & Crown Ridge Timeless Dancer
Training Champion	Klara Bauermeister & Mi Golden Ticket
Training Reserve Champion	Pam Overton & Pass N Style
First Level Champion	Sarah Catt & Drummore Bay
First Level Reserve Champion	Cyndi Boogaards & The Optimist
First Level Adult Amateur Champion	Sarah Catt & Drummore Bay
First Level Adult Amateur Reserve Champion	Jenna Mayhew & Kinsale
Open First Level Champion	Cyndi Boogaards & The Optimist
Open First Level Reserve Champion	Michelle Pyper & Charlie's Angel
Second Level Champion	Monique Lafleche & Sail Away
Second Level Reserve Champion	Catherine Maguire & Cleo
Second Level Open Champion	Celine Hutchison Majerus & Mr. Maple
Second Level Adult Amateur Champion	Monique Lafleche & Sail Away
Second Level Adult Amateur Reserve Champion	Catherine Maguire & Cleo
Third Level Champion	Kristin McLaren & Panamerra
Third Level Reserve Champion	Jennifer Rafaletos & Risci
Third Level Adult Amateur Champion	Kristin McLaren & Panamerra
Third Level Open Champion	Jennifer Rafaletos & Risci
Freestyle Reserve Champion	Catherine Maguire & Cleo

Equine Canada's By-laws Receive Ministerial Approval from Industry Canada

Ottawa, ON, Oct. 15, 2015 -- Equine Canada (EC) is pleased to inform all members and stakeholders that EC's By-laws have officially received Ministerial approval from Industry Canada and are duly effective as of September 30, 2015.

To view the letter from Industry Canada and read EC's official By-laws, please visit www.equinecanada.ca/bylaws.

(reprinted from an Equine Canada news release)

OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP



JOIN US FOR THE OADG ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

When: **Saturday, December 5, 2015**

Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. (cash bar)

Dinner: 6:30 p.m. (cash bar)

Where: **Hellenic Meeting and Reception Centre**

1315 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Tickets: **\$40 (adult) and \$20 (children 10 and under)**

Payable by cash or cheque payable to OADG)

OR NEW ***E-TRANSFER***

(email: Laura Lee Brenneman at oadg2012@gmail.com to make arrangements)

(Deadline to order tickets: Saturday, November 21, 2015)

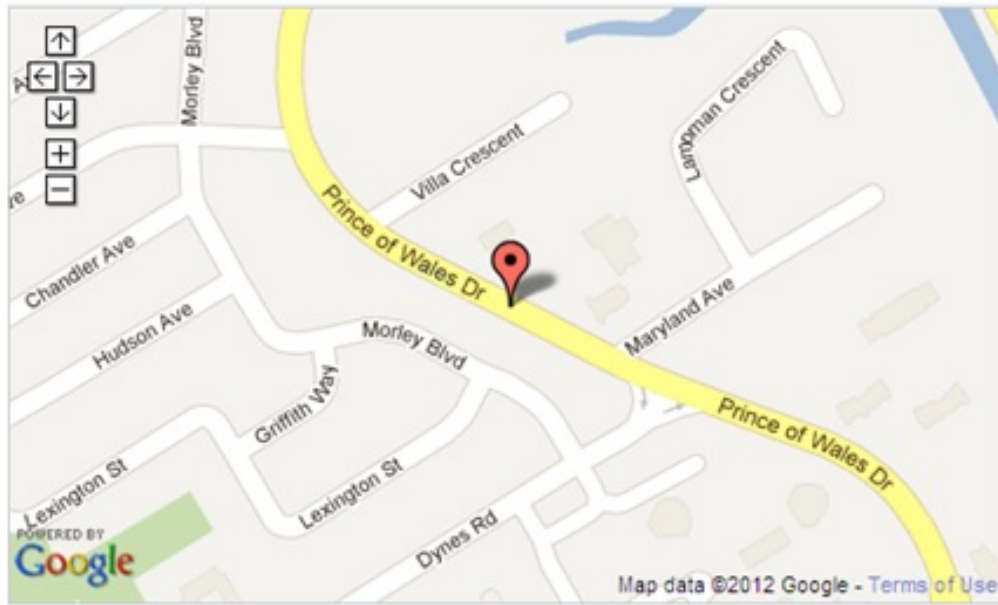
(Drinks are not included in ticket price. Cash bar is available at the event)

Contact: Heather Kelly at 613-795-7997 (Banquet Director)

Email: banquet@ottawadressage.ca

We are pleased to announce our special guest speaker: **Brittany Fraser**

Map to banquet venue:



www.hellenicottawa.ca

*If you have special needs (food allergies or handicap accessibility),
please contact the Banquet Director to discuss requirements.*



OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP

OADG AWARDS BANQUET
Saturday, December 5, 2015

TICKET ORDER FORM

All tickets must be ordered and payment received by one of the OADG Directors by the end of the day on Saturday, November 21, 2015.

All tickets will be available for pick-up at the door only. Tickets will not be mailed.
Tickets will not be available for purchase after Saturday, November 21, 2015.

For more information or if you have special needs (food allergies or handicap accessibility), please contact the Banquet Director to discuss your requirements.

Heather Kelly (Banquet Director)
613-795-7997 – banquet@ottawadressage.ca

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

	Price per ticket	Number of tickets	Total cost
Adult tickets	\$40.00		
Children tickets (10 and under)	\$20.00		
Total cost	*****	*****	

(Drinks are not included in ticket price. Cash bar is available at the event)

Table reservation name: _____

(Only **ONE** member of your party should reserve a table with the form on the reverse, all others only need to register the table name on this form).

Send ticket order form and cheque made payable to O.A.D.G. to:
OADG Banquet
c/o Heather Kelly
2013 Saunderson Drive
Ottawa, ON K1G 2E3

(hand-deliver to one of the OADG Directors by November 21, 2015)
OR NEW ***MAKE PAYMENT BY E-TRANSFER – Contact Laura Lee Brenneman at
oadg2012@gmail.com



OTTAWA AREA DRESSAGE GROUP

OADG AWARDS BANQUET
Saturday, December 5, 2015

TABLE RESERVATION FORM

Note that **ONLY ONE** person in your party needs to register a table. All other people in your party should indicate on the ticket order form which table they wish to be seated at.

A table reservation does not guarantee tickets. Tickets must be purchased separately in advance. (See ticket order form for purchasing deadline).

There are eight (8) people to each table. Ten (10) can be accommodated by special request, please send an email to: banquet@ottawadressage.ca

Table reservation name #1: (stable/person):
1:
2:
3:
4:
5:
6:
7:
8:

Table reservation name #2: (stable/person):
1:
2:
3:
4:
5:
6:
7:
8:

Send table reservation form to:

OADG Banquet
c/o Heather Kelly
2013 Saunderson Drive
Ottawa, ON K1G 2E3

The Ottawa Dressage Festival – A Competitor’s Perspective

By Briannon Johnston, Stonecreek Farm

May 2015 saw the return of world class dressage to the Ottawa area. The Ottawa Dressage Festival, held at the ever-improving Wesley Clover Parks brought the top riders in Canada to our doorstep and set the stage for one of the closest races for the Canadian Pan Am Team in history.

All of us gathered and watched with anticipation as Canadian riders like Chris Von Martels (who would go on to win an individual Bronze Medal for Canada) and International Riders such as Yvonne Losos de Muniz of the Dominican Republic performed with their horses at their absolute prime, just weeks before the opening ceremonies in Toronto. All of us, from the smallest Junior to the most seasoned competitor, could feel the excitement... it was an amazing event to be a part of. As a competitor who has been lucky enough to attend the Ottawa Dressage Festival for over a decade, from its days as the OADG Festival and now through to today; I have never seen a more spectacular dressage event held in Ottawa, at our beloved "park".

"The Park", as so many of us call it, has been the Ottawa area's main dressage venue for ages. The expansions and improvements that have been made under Wesley Clover have brought new life to what was starting to feel like a tired facility. The beautiful new footing in the main rings is exemplary – the same as the footing at the Pan Am venue, it is an absolute dream to ride on and held so well under the downpour of rain that tried, yet failed, to ruin our parade. The stabling area is immaculate – brand-new bright stalls with phenomenal drainage and footing for driving our trucks and trailers around and about as we unload and organize. New buildings for the

show office, volunteer cabin and fencing brought even more convenience to competitors and officials. There was even a coffee truck vendor by the top rings which I must admit made me just a little bit giddy because us equestrians, well; we love our caffeine.

The changes to the facility however, both large and small, paled in comparison to the efforts made by organizers and volunteers during this pivotal CDI***. National Capital Dressage, with Paul Teeple and his masterful crew at the forefront, charged headlong into the fray and worked their magic to accommodate every single horse and rider who wanted to attend. Last-minute entries were accepted as late as three days before the event without hesitation, no matter how much extra work was required on their part to re-organize and shuffle classes. Stabling was expanded and shifted to allow for extra horses with only days notice. Additional judges were put on standby. The organizers knew the stakes were high and they wanted to give everyone their chance.

As someone who stayed on-site with my horses I can assure you – the work never stopped or stalled, not even when the sun went down. When a problem with Ring 3 popped up after a malevolent downpour of rain, there were crews down in that sand around the clock and through the night raking, leveling and grading to make sure our horses were safe.

It wasn't just the CDI competitors. It was all of us. All of us were looked after, listened to and treated to nothing but pleasantries from the clearly busy and flustered show crew.

You could see them everywhere. The red shirted volunteers and ODF crew, milling around with clip boards and tests and prizes and sponsors and photographers making sure everything was on track and running smoothly with Paul Teeple in the middle of it all, his walkie-talkie never once leaving his hand. He personally kept watch over everything from taking care that people weren't leaning on the fence at Ring 1 to distract horses and riders whose team hopes rode on that moment, to helping line up horses and riders at the jog on Thursday. I even saw him at 7 o'clock in the morning with a rake in his hand inspecting the sand in Ring 3 to make sure he was personally satisfied with the fore-mentioned work that had been done to improve the footing after the rain.

At the end of the day, the show was a spectacular success. After having spoken to many of the competitors from out of area as well as some of the international competitors, it seems the general consensus is: Ottawa is now on the map as a top venue and will be

visited with enthusiasm in the future by many of the top Canadian riders. From the cooperation and generosity of the organizing committee right down to the International panel of judges that were selected, not just for the CDI but for the Gold Show as well, The Ottawa Dressage Festival has proven its quality and its commitment to excellence.

Not long ago our hopes for the continuation of the Festival seemed all but lost... now, we can hold our heads high as we host CDIs and invite the best in North America to see what Ottawa has to offer. With facility improvements and changes happening on a very-near constant basis, I for one am excited and encouraged to see what the combination of Wesley Clover Parks and National Capital Dressage will be offering us in the future. As someone who was lucky enough to grow up attending shows run by these great people I am so excited to now be coaching new riders who will be able to do the same, for years to come. We are all in good hands.

If you have a story, comment, perspective, or viewpoint, please feel free to submit it for the next newsletter! Contact us through communications@ottawadressage.com. Your contribution will be much appreciated.

Breeding

Many years ago I had a home-bred stallion's semen collected and frozen. His breeding is out of a Galoubet mare by Gromiko, whose sire was Bundspekt de Lazalle, a Belgium warmblood who was apparently Belgium's leading sire for 10 years. Galoubet is the now-deceased Grand Prix jumper from France who won 21 of his 22 Grand Prix showings and was second in the other one. In 2013 a trial breeding of six Thoroughbred mares produced three very nice foals. Semen is available to interested parties. Contact Sue Otto, em382@ncf.ca.

For anyone interested in visiting New Zealand in 2016...

For those of you who are dreading the upcoming winter weather, after the coldest February in 110 years, I would like to offer an idea for March 2016. Terry and I were in New Zealand; it is their opposite season so now is going into Spring there. For 2016 we are planning a reasonably active trip to the South Island that could involve riding, walking and a guided cycling trip through the majestic Otago Rail Trail. This trip would start and end in Christchurch, with a myriad of ways to get there. Interested persons, please contact Sue Otto, em382@ncf.ca.

JB Does IronWood Farms!

(thankfully the Brooks, not the Biebs)

By Mandy Spear

What could be better than a ride on your favourite equine partner on a crisp, late October weekend at Erin Josey's IronWood Farms? A ride on your favourite equine partner on a crisp, late October weekend at Erin Josey's IronWood Farms in a **JACQUIE BROOKS CLINIC!**

If you attended this clinic as either a rider or an auditor, you will smile, nod along to this article, and recall what a phenomenal clinician Jacquie is. If you didn't – what can I say? You missed out. I will do my very best to articulate the brilliance of the overall learning experience below but you've got to see it to believe it, people. Lucky for you, Jacquie *loved* IronWood and will be back next year to clinic with us once again!

I think the most efficient transfer of knowledge in this case will be through the use of bullet points. Efficient in the sense that I could go on forever about the experience of each rider in detail but I'll spare you the “next-I-half-halted-with-a-stronger-right-elbow-to-prepare-for-the-corner-at-K-in-order-to-tuck-her-left-hind-underneath-her-barrel-to-maintain-the-12-o'clock-position-and-lift-her-shoulder-blades” kind of play by play. ☺ You're welcome.

- There are five parts of the horse that we as a rider can control independently: head, shoulders, shoulder blades, lower back, and hips.
- The middle of those five parts is the shoulder blades – this where we should be positioned on the horse to remain in balance with the movement.
- Dressage as a sport is most closely related to pairs figure skating – your horse is the “man” that pushes his shoulders up to lift you above his head to be the pretty princess that you are – you are the “girl” and are responsible for staying in balance when you're up there.
- For your horse to be in balance, you as a rider must be balance-able – this position is a lot more forward than you expect it's going to be. Leaning backwards and driving the seat into the back hollows the horse.
- Each lesson began with the rider learning to “put the horse on the elbows”. Walk/halt transitions with the legs off teaches a horse to be sensitive to the elbow aid.
- When the rider's elbows come back to the body (think elbows to belt) the horse is to bring its hind legs underneath its body.
- You must think of your horse as a pendulum – you must get the horse under your feet and swing it forward from behind; use the elbow independently to swing the pendulum back and rebalance (half halt).

- Your horse is “on the bit” because you’ve *pushed* it ON to it. You don’t *pull* things ON. This is the pendulum.
- You have to decide how much impulsion you can balance – never EVER sacrifice balance for impulsion.
- Horses are hills, not teepees – we ask them to round the shoulder blades to carry us and push up. Just be thankful we don’t ask them to do that while gliding across the ice.
- Think of your horse’s body as always being packaged in a triangle with the nose in the top corner. This creates three possible body positions (angles):
 - **12 o’clock** – the nose is in the peak of the triangle and the haunches are straight behind in the middle of the base
 - **11 o’clock** – the nose is in the peak of the triangle and the haunches are in the bottom right corner
 - **1 o’clock** - the nose is in the peak of the triangle and the haunches are in the bottom left corner

These are the only positions that your horse EVER needs. These angles become lateral movements when you add the bend. For example, 11 o’clock becomes shoulder-in left with left bend and renvers right with right bend.

Huge thanks go to Erin Josey for bringing Jacquie to our area! Erin was a superb host and prepared every comfort for incoming guests from gift bags complete with autographed pictures of Jacquie (and Goose!) and IronWood swag to Encore Equestrian who served a fantastic menu and provided everyone with the opportunity to shop for all things bling!

Trust me when I tell you that you have to see Jacquie in action to believe the effect that she had on *every single horse and rider combination* she instructed. Riders were thrilled and inspired and auditors were both awed and entertained by Jacquie’s interactive teaching style – one of the requirements for next year is that spectators will have to provide an awesome joke as Siri has little to offer...

Jacquie Brooks at the *Pan Am Games*

As a lead-in to the next feature, OADG at the Pan Am Games – Jacquie Brooks was a fixture at the in-gate of the Pan Am Games, cheerleading for every single dressage competitor and high-fiving them as they came out of the ring after their ride.

We had an opportunity to see Jacquie Brooks compete with Grey Goose at the Ottawa Dressage Festival, as it was a qualifier for the Pan Am Games. Although Jacquie was disappointed in her attempt to be named to the Canadian team for this Pan Am Games, she was quoted in the Toronto media as saying something like “how could I pass up an opportunity to volunteer at the Pan Am Games, even if I didn’t make the team? It was a chance to be part of something that is every athlete’s dream, and I was thrilled to be able to be part of the volunteer team by managing the in-gate for each rider’s entrance and exit.” Jacquie exemplified the sportsmanship and volunteer attitudes!

OADG at the **Pan Am Games**

OADG was well represented at the Pan Am Games in Toronto, this July. We were spectators, volunteers, officials... and even in the ring! [Part 1 of 2]

OADG's link to a Pan Am Games Competitor!

Brittany Fraser, Dressage Team Silver Medalist

What were the two best "high points" of your Pan Am experience?

The two best high points were going into the stadium and hearing everyone cheering for you and stepping up onto the podium to receive my silver medal.

What did it feel like, to actually be in the ring at such a big international competition?

Of course it was nerve racking at first but once I cantered down center line, my horse All In felt amazing and I just did the best job I could!

Did you prefer the team part, or the individual part, or were both parts pretty equal?

I thought both parts were pretty equal. I enjoyed every second of the whole competition.

What did it feel like, being in the medal presentation and receiving your medal?

It was very exciting. It takes a lot of hard work

and dedication and receiving the medal really made it all worth it.

Did you have much opportunity to interact with the riders from other countries?

I met a few riders from different countries but I really tried to stay in my own zone so I couldn't really stay concentrated.

Did you have any opportunity to interact with athletes from other sports; for example, while having lunch at the athlete's village?

I am involved in a program CIBC team next so it was fun seeing the other athletes that are involved in the program at the athletes village.

What are your plans for the next few months, now that the Pan Am Games are finished?

My plans with All In are to compete Grand Prix and try to qualify myself for the Olympics in Brazil.

Brittany Fraser was a member of OADG for many years, and competed both locally and nationally as a Junior and Young Rider. Along with Erin Josey, Jade Deter, Sarah and Amy McIlwham and other Junior and Young Rider competitors, she represented Ruth Koch's Oxford Ridge Stables.

Brittany will be our guest speaker at the Awards Banquet on Saturday December 5.

OADG's 2015 Annual General Meeting

1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 6th

Danby's Bar and Grill, 2858 Munster Road in Munster Hamlet

Please join your Board of Directors for lunch combined with an interesting recap of last year's events and next year's plans, and a chance to give us your input in a relaxed social setting.

Danby's has a great lunch menu at reasonable prices (lunch is on your own tab!). Please be there by 1:00 pm to order. The meeting will start while waiting for lunch service, take a small break, and then resume for business.

**As an Official:****Christine Hickman, Level 3 FEI Dressage Steward**

(originally published in Equine Canada's Officials Newsletter, reprinted with permission)

Ten Days to Remember!

I arrived at Pearson International Airport mid morning on Sunday 5th July 2015 and immediately noticed a number of volunteers smartly dressed in orange tee shirts waiting to assist anyone involved with the Pan Am Games. Well that was why I was there so I introduced myself to a volunteer at the baggage reclaim who kindly escorted me to exactly where the transportation which would take me to my hotel left from. After waiting for 15 minutes I was in a mini bus and on my way to the hotel which would be my home for the next 10 days. I was the first Pan Am client for this driver who admitted he was not sure of the route so I had an interesting tour of the area!

In the late afternoon those of us who had not got our accreditation were taken to get this as security on the site was VERY tight and without the correct accreditation one could get nowhere.

Monday - was orientation day on the competition venue. A time to meet the other Stewards, and those involved with the organization. A time to become familiar with what was a lovely venue, the practice areas, stabling, competition arena etc. A few teams already had moved their horses in.

Tuesday - more team horses were moving in. Rings (other than the main arena areas) were open for training so stewards were kept busy monitoring these. As there were four other outdoor practice rings and one indoor arena, each with two stewards there was plenty to keep us busy.

Wednesday - rings open again for training so procedure much the same as previous day. The last teams moved in. Stewards were given a schedule each day which included being on different rings, checking of stables, indoor arena/lunging area. As we found out, sometimes one can be at a ring for two hours and see no horses at all, another time a ring can be really busy, that was just the luck of the game! Regardless of where we were located we needed to keep our eyes and ears open all the time! Today was the first chefs d'equipe dressage technical meeting and the draw for the horse inspection (jog) as well as the draw for the course familiarization. These draws only involve the Chief Stewards.

Thursday - Horse Inspection Day – always interesting! All stewards kept very busy during this time. It is necessary to keep on time and to keep things safe! Fortunately all went well (with some interesting moments and fast moving judges)! Only one horse did not pass the inspection. The afternoon was taken up with more training session. My turn for night duty tonight (not as bad as it sounds)! This meant I left the venue early to get some rest before returning to start my night shift. Night stewards were not alone, security personnel, veterinarians and two others with horse experience were also on site. There was always at least one steward is on the site 24 hours a day during competition.

Friday - having been on site all night, this was my day off! Returned to hotel at about 8am to have breakfast and sleep! In the evening, a treat for me, I was able to have dinner with friends who live in the area. At the venue it was course familiarization day. Each team is given time (as per the draw for this) to become familiar with the 10 minute ring and the actual competition arena. Both these areas must be supervised by stewards along with the other rings which are being used for practice. Second chefs d'equipe meeting and draw for starting order for next day. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GAMES in the evening. Stewards were invited. Unfortunately because it would have been a very late night and we started early next day most did not attend.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Saturday - Day 1 of actual competition, Prix St George and Grand Prix de Dressage team and individual qualifier – exciting – some stewards now on tack check and ringside while others continue

the duties as before, third chefs meeting. Great to have the opportunity to see our Canadian Riders achieve their personal best!

Sunday - Day 2 of Competition – even more exciting, Intermediate 1 and Grand Prix Special team final and individual qualifier followed by Medal Ceremony. Two lucky stewards got to be part of each medal ceremony. I was fortunate to be one of the two on this day, (especially as our Canadians were in the medals). It was my first experience of being part of this and I quickly realized how fast one has to be able to move when the grooms are holding the horses while the riders are on the podium!! An honour I will not forget. Fourth chefs meeting and draw for starting order of finals.

Monday - Sound checks for freestyles and lots of training in other areas. No actual competition. All stewards kept busy as on previous days.

Tuesday - Final day of dressage competition with the Intermediate 1 Freestyle and the Grand Prix Freestyle – very exciting, especially for those of us who got to watch some of the rides. Again great to watch our Canadian Riders doing so well. The day ended with the Medal Ceremony and once again two stewards took part in this. After competition finished we said good bye to some stewards who were leaving to be part of the Young Riders Competition.

Wednesday - Departure day and farewell for the rest of us who were not involved with the other disciplines.

This is just a brief look at the role of stewards in games competitions, a little different from our usual stewarding experiences!

There was an evening shift from 6pm to 10pm and as previously mentioned the night shift 10pm to 7am. Stewards are also required to be present when a horse is taken for drug testing and will stay with it until after the testing is completed. This applies to horses in treatment stalls as well. Those on barn duty are constantly touring through the barns keeping a sharp eye on everything around them.

At these Pan Am's stewards from the USA, Canada and one from Mexico worked together. We shared experiences, stories and good times. Most shared rooms (two to a room) and enjoyed meals together both on and off site. The site had a cafeteria where we could eat our lunch and supper at no cost to us. With the competition in full swing this tended to become a little crowded. Breakfast was available at the hotel. Transportation to and from the site had been arranged for us. This had a few challenges but hopefully improved for the other disciplines! The site was about a 20 minute drive from the hotel.

What an experience to see so many beautiful horses, to meet riders, grooms, chefs and all those involved with the various competing teams. I think we all learned something about each of the countries involved and for some a little Spanish! Thank goodness for our Spanish speaking Mexican steward!!

Our stewarding team was led by Chief Overall Steward Jan Stephens from Canada and Chief Dressage Steward Elisabeth Williams from the USA. They are both a wealth of knowledge and despite working very long hours remained in good humour throughout the ten days. Jan was the Chief Steward for all the equestrian events so still had the Eventing and Show Jumping ahead of her after most of us had had gone home!

A big THANK YOU to all who made this such an enjoyable TEN DAYS TO REMEMBER!



As a Pan Am Games Volunteer!

Barb Eamer, local dressage competitor and 3-day Eventing technical delegate

I first became aware of the opportunity to be a volunteer for the Pan Am Games from my son Mark Nelson who was involved in the planning and recruitment for one of the Equestrian disciplines – the Eventing portion and in particular the cross country phase of Eventing.

I had never been a part of such a huge competition and had no idea what to expect but wouldn't it be amazing to be a small part of such an event and be behind the scenes to see and meet some of these great athletes and their horses?

I filled in an application noting my experience as a technical delegate hoping that would increase my chances of being selected and eventually I was informed that I was selected and I would be starting my journey by completing a series of training courses online. They wanted volunteers to be ambassadors for the games in all aspects not just the job for which they had been chosen. Lots of reading and quizzes to complete!

Next was the uniform pick up and this was a process in itself for the thousands of volunteers required. A trip to downtown Toronto and as volunteers come in all shapes and sizes all shirts and jackets must be tried and scrutinized for fit before packing them into the official Pan Am backpack we would bring each day of our duties. The sea of orange could always be spotted as the volunteers performed their various duties.

Finally to the event. My son and daughter in law had their camper set up 5 minutes from the cross country site at a local equestrian farm- just perfect. Next was off to the briefing- very organized and professional. Looking around there were many familiar faces from the Ottawa Valley. I was to be a jump judge at fence 11 – the fort and cannon- with 2 other fantastic volunteers, Laura Kelland-May who had travelled down with us and Caresse Johnson who was more local and knew the Will O'Wind site well. Definitely one of the best jumps to be at since it was up on a hill with a view of the water complex and the finish line too! Armed with a radio and headset, whistle,

clip board and red flag we were ready. Such a straight forward fence we did not anticipate any problems. We were right – one by one the competitors sailed over the fort. A couple skimmed the top of the fence but no stops and no refusals. Then the last competitor Boyd Martin from team USA – we started to pack up, no issue for Boyd so we thought. Then the radio message in my ear – stop the next rider! He had already passed the last planned stopping point and I ran to get my red flag. Laura, Caresse and I jumped to attention and thank goodness Caresse had brought her personal stopwatch; because we were not at a stopping point we weren't issued one. Caresse saw a large rock at the base of the hill and started her stopwatch as Boyd passed and I stood in front of the fence madly waving my flag. The US group were on us in seconds –“Did you get the time? Where did you start the watch?” Nerve racking! The rider that was down in the water complex was finally moved safely out of the way and the horse was led away as well. Time to get Boyd restarted and he was at speed when he passed the rock and the timer went back on. He flew over our fence and finished the course within the time allotted. We were all congratulated for handling the situation well but it was all adrenalin and thank goodness it all worked out.

Now that the cross country phase of the competition was complete Laura and I took the opportunity to walk the course and see the jumps up close since we hadn't been allowed before to keep the track pristine. Wow! Works of art for sure. For some jumps, the course builders were already on course and dismantling when we got there.

An amazing experience for sure and would certainly do it again in a heartbeat. We half wondered since it had been so successful if a bid for the Olympics was in the future for this site but not yet it seems. Hope someday we get the opportunity.

The Pan Am Games TO2015 Experience!

Ruth Allum, Oakhurst Farm; Canadian Eventing Committee Coaching Chair; Pan Am Games Zip Tying Volunteer Expert ☺

This summer marked an exciting time for sport and athlete development in Canada with Toronto being the host of the Pan Am Games, and the opportunity for so many of us to be involved as volunteers was priceless.

Being married to the Eventing Director for TO2015 meant an action packed couple of years leading up to the Games. On this journey, a definite thought-provoking opportunity that I was privy to was the Sport Organizing Committee 'huddles' held at Pan Am central in Toronto. These provided all sport directors to work through table top exercises and discuss the challenges and successes they were encountering in their planning. The team at TO2015 were extraordinary and having the chance to sit in on a few of Mark's meetings with them was eye opening! Whether they were discussing medals, flags, stabling, quarantines, tables & chairs, uniforms, medical staff, gantries, security, volunteer training, work force support, horse transport, etc... the undertaking at first seemed both daunting and electrifying, and that's without even talking about the dressage, cross country and show jumping!

For me personally, some of the highlights of the Games included:

- **Chef's meetings:** All of the team Chef D'Equipes and Coaches coming together to draw orders of go and discuss daily events was a definite thrill and a 'who's who' of Eventing. When Mark Todd walked into the first meeting I sat in on I had to be reminded by Mark Nelson that I wasn't to act like a star struck teenager ☺. Fail!!
- **Putting the stall signs on the stabling at the Cross Country venue (CCE):** There's no job too small and when asked if I could zip-tie signs onto the stalls that the horses would move into for the day at CCE I couldn't have taken the job more seriously. Armed with zip-ties and pre-labeled stall cards for each horse that would arrive the next day I made sure that each nation had a clearly labelled tack stall, competitor stalls and feed stall. That night as we helped riders and grooms from each country unload equipment into their stalls it was with a sense of pride that I knew where each horse was going the next day... little pleasures.
- **Seeing so many old friends:** One of my first days volunteering at the Caledon site I was overwhelmed with emotion as I got a huge hug from team Guatemala's Chef D'Equipe, 'Cune' Jose Marroquin. Mark and I got the opportunity to work with the Guatemalan team leading up to the 2013 Central American Games, so to see everyone again was a joy! Not to mention on Cross Country day seeing so many friendly Canadian faces all over the course was awe inspiring.
- **Watching the horses arrive at the Cross Country Venue on the Saturday morning:** The logistics behind moving all of the competing horses from the Caledon Equestrian Park (CEP) to the Cross Country site required an unbelievable amount of preparation... Imagine, 40+ horses from different nations (some requiring specific quarantine protocols) all needed to be transported on the Saturday morning down a road narrow enough that the transports that brought them could not be turned around once on it, meaning that they had to back down a large stretch of road to unload and then be staged for the day even further down the road for the return trip to CEP. Right, and did I mention that this all had to happen while hundreds of volunteers were arriving?

After Mark and his crew at CCE got the call that the trucks were loaded, sealed by CFIA and on their way with police escort I don't think any one of them spoke until we saw the first huge, shiny transport truck arrive. Then it was a flurry of meticulous activity getting horses unloaded and into their stabling for the day. Equally, at the end of the day when all of the horses were reloaded on the transports and we got the call that they had all been safely



unloaded back at CEP there was an overwhelming sigh of relief and feeling of unmistakable victory.

- **The Legacy of the Pan Am Games:** There's lots of discussion over what people perceive as the Legacy of the Games. What struck me as awesome during the volunteer training day at the Cross Country site was the vast amount of expertise as I looked around the tent. In the crowd I recognized judges, technical delegates, stewards, coaches, riders, sponsors, and supporters of equestrian sport. While we were undergoing training at CCE the Canadian Event riders were walking their course and as they walked past the work force tent they applauded the volunteers. Talk about an emotion stirring moment.

Throughout the remainder of the show season I saw the signature backpacks and coats that the volunteers were given, worn proudly by those who helped make the Games a success.

In my opinion the 'Legacy' of the Games can be found in the people that were involved. The comradery, expertise and enthusiasm, that lives on with them is paramount in the future of our sport. Many of our Canadian officials acquired invaluable training throughout the Games that will prove fundamental in our sport throughout the next generation.

Congratulations to all who participated in any capacity, you picked up the ball as it rolled past and ran with it!

**(And there's more... Too much OADG participation for one newsletter...
Part II with more Pan Am stories will be in the Spring 2016 newsletter...)**

CADORA news... reprinted from the CADORA e-newsletter, Oct 2015

RIDERS & AUDITORS ALIKE TREATED TO QUIET WISDOM OF FEI 5* JUDGE STEPHEN CLARKE

Sixteen horse and rider combinations, ranging from Training Level to Grand Prix, participated in the Stephen Clarke "Build a Better Dressage Horse Symposia," October 3-4, at South Lane Farm, Louise & Joe Palmer's Hanoverian breeding farm.

[View Ontario Photo Gallery](#)

CADORA JUNIOR AWARDS PROGRAMME

Three "Junior Awards" are given annually to the highest, second highest and third highest placing applicants at any of Training, First, Second, Third and Fourth levels. Terrific cash prizes - don't miss out!

Deadline: December 1st

[Learn more and download submission form](#)

Local show schedule – Gold dates only!

Please check the OADG website regularly for updates and new information: www.ottawadressage.ca/shows
 The show schedule below includes only local shows. For a list of the 2016 Ontario and Quebec shows, go to the OADG website. For a list of all horse shows, go to Equine Canada: <http://events.equinecanada.ca/index.aspx>

Please note that the following Gold show dates for 2016 are provided for planning purposes only! The Silver and ESD show dates are not yet finalized. We will include all local dressage show dates in the Spring 2016 newsletter.

May 2016		June 2016	
Sun May 15	Centaur Gold	June 11-12	Rainbow Ridge Gold
May 19-22	Ottawa Dressage Festival Gold/Platinum	June 26	Dewmont Gold
July 2016		August 2016	
July 9-10	Rainbow Ridge Gold	Sun Aug 7	Centaur Gold
September 2016		October 2016	
<i>Date to be determined</i>	Eastern Ontario Silver Dressage Championships, Oakhurst Farm		

Please consider joining the OADG Board of Directors

Unfortunately, we are losing some of the dedicated directors from the past few years. Sometimes, “life gets in the way”! ☹ We are definitely looking for a new Awards director (the incumbent is planning on returning to the Board but in a different position), and would also welcome new perspectives in the position of Secretary (splitting it off from the joint Secretary/Treasurer). Please consider running for a position – voting will be at the AGM on Dec. 6.

Contact us -- Your OADG Board of Directors

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at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/OADG-Ottawa-Area-Dressage-Group/187355987992852>

Website: www.ottawadressage.ca