



President's Message

We are now into the quieter part of the driving season and my thoughts have turned to member participation at club events and the future of pleasure driving.

Participation at events remains constant, averaging 11 hitches. Clinics are most popular with 10 to 19 active driving members attending. This was topped only by the Lindsay Grice presentation with 26 members and nine guests. The 10 most active drivers are usually the same people attending most of the events.

Considering that our paid-up membership is 73, we should be seeing some increases in participation at driving events, especially when beginning-level classes are offered in conjunction with training. The question that must be answered has to do with the future of pleasure driving and the level of commitment to the sport. Our area is not alone in considering this problem as it is a common concern in other driving clubs.

A pleasure driving show needs 20 entries to be cost effective. A clinic needs to fill seven to eight lessons per day to cover costs even if the event is subsidized. The club is grateful to the drivers who commit faithfully to our events and we hope to see more drivers out next year. We are also very grateful to our volunteers.

Margaret Monnelly

Phantom Farm Social Drive

Phantom Farm's **David and Carolyn Rees-Potter** invited the EOPDS for a

social drive on May 20. Thirteen turnouts enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of driving along the tree-lined driveway and through freshly mowed fields bounded by cedar hedges, exploring the nearby gravel roads, and experiencing the fun of selecting their own route through the cones course designed by **Margaret Monnelly**.

Margaret also gave a demonstration on harnessing and hitching to several new members who helped her as well with the food. A particular thanks to long-time member **Sue Vaillancourt** and **Gina Radic** for the food arrangements. **Jennifer Sigouin** took some grand photos of the turnouts and social hour.

Junior Drivers

One of the EOPDS goals this year is to encourage our juniors, particularly through education, to improve their driving skills.

Brandon Buchan and **Shelby Heinbuch** took in the Kirsten Brunner clinic and the Fiddler's Green Stables clinic/show. Brandon travelled to Kirsten's Beaverwood Farm on his own time for some extra lessons and competed at the Ottawa Valley Light Horse Association (OVLHA) show. Shelby is off to Walnut Hill in August. **Jordan Alma** enjoyed the driving options offered at the Mian Farm Fun Day.

'Fun Day of Pleasure Driving'

Billed as a "Fun Day of Pleasure Driving" with no pressure, no competition and very few rules, this June 2 event surpassed all expectations. Hosts **Ian and Mary**

Mulligan provided a relaxing environment for all at Mian Farm.

The 14 turnouts were able to practise their driving skills at one or all of the venues offered -- a cones course, a leisurely five-kilometre drive through the woods, indoor or outdoor ring driving, an obstacle, and a brand new, perfectly manicured 80x40-metre dressage ring, described by one observer as "just about the nicest driven dressage ring east of Toronto."

Two members rode their horses while observers had the chance to watch, learn, help out or just enjoy the day visiting with friends.

A total of 52 people – 20 drivers and grooms and 32 auditors -- enjoyed the activities with everyone looking forward to next year where Ian already has some surprises planned. **June Pelot's** refreshments made for a perfect ending to a perfect day.

Ottawa Valley Pleasure Driving Clinic and Show

By Margaret Monnelly

The annual Fiddler's Green Stables Ottawa Valley Pleasure Driving Show on June 23 and 24 took on a new format this year as a combined clinic and modified show. Eleven competitors took part with **Jeffery Kohler** from Barrie serving as both clinician and judge.

The first day was dedicated to new drivers who, following private and semi-private morning lessons, took part in a beginner's driving show in the afternoon. Jeffery walked courses with the competitors before each class so that they knew the strategies involved in competing in cross-country and cones obstacle courses.

The second day saw the more experienced drivers practise their skills in dressage, reinsmanship and on a challenging cross-country course. The activities ended with a competitors' party on the show grounds.

Participants included **Judy Senior** with two entries, **Brendan Buchan, Mary Hume, Shelby Heinbuch, Gina Radic, Mary Mulligan, Lynda Rivington, Diana Trafford, Peter Harding, Tina Sully** and **Walter Hambleton**.

Our faithful volunteers from former years once again made this event run smoothly. Special thanks to **Barry Beach** who worked on the grounds for two-and-a-half days, acting chiefly as cones and cross-country steward and scorer. Many thanks to **Pam and Joe Nuth** who have hosted carriage driving events for 13 consecutive years!

Out and About With Our EOPDS Members...

- **Eric and Diane Moore, Gwen and Wayne Byrne, Ian and Mary Mulligan, Lynda Rivington** and Gail Tod travelled in May with the Carriage Association of America (CAA) on its phenomenal annual trip to the Royal Windsor Horse Show in England. **Margaret Monnelly** joined the group there. With three rings in operation just beneath Windsor Castle and superb driving events all through the Great Windsor Park, there was always something to see and new friends to meet. The CAA offers several driving-related trips every year. Check out their activities online at www.caaonline.com.
- **Peter Harding** won the Preliminary Pairs Championship at the Bromont FEI CDE in May

- where **Tina Sully** placed 5th and 6th respectively in Single Horse Preliminary Dressage and the Marathon competition. Peter and Tina also competed in July at the Upper Canada CDE at Checkmate Farm near Collingwood.
- **Cathy Gretzky** and Lisa Headrick headed off to the Metamora, Michigan, CDE in June to act as navigator and groom respectively for whip Cheryl Beillard. Cathy describes their fourth-place finish as “a wonderful learning experience for their first CDE.”
 - **Mary Mulligan, Diana Trafford** and **Lynda Rivington** enjoyed several days of lessons at Kirsten Brunner’s in June and competed at the Central Ontario Pleasure Driving Association (COPDA) show at Halton Place in Georgetown before returning home. Diana won the Reserve Horse Championship and Mary came home with the Reserve Novice Championship. Mary and Lynda returned to Kirsten’s in July for further instruction.
 - At the OVLHA show in Richmond in July, **Brendan Buchan** won the Turnout Class, **Diana Trafford** was Carriage Pleasure Driving Champion and **Judy Senior** took home the Reserve Championship.
 - EOPDS Director **Barry Beach** has been busy this season. In June, he was volunteer co-ordinator at the COPDA show in Georgetown, and cones and cross-country steward at the Fiddler’s Green Show in Stittsville. July saw Barry working at both the cones and cross-country obstacle courses at the Checkmate CDE, and serving as Ring Steward
- at the Metamora Pleasure Driving Show in Michigan.
- **Wayne and Gwen Byrne** and **Sandy Beach** all volunteered at the Checkmate CDE where they helped set up the cones courses and worked as timers at some of the cross-country obstacles.
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- Upcoming Events***
- **EOPDS Social Drive, 4:30-5 p.m., August 8, Ferguson Forest**, Kemptville; pizza served at 6:30; call Ian Mulligan at 613-692-3296 for more info.
 - **Walnut Hill Pleasure Driving Show**, Pittsford, New York, August 15-19. Two EOPDS members will be competing – **Mary Mulligan** with Mian Farm’s Irish Thorn and junior driver **Shelby Heinbuch** with **June Pelot’s** Welsh pony Bambi.
 - **Richmond Fair**, September 15, offers a Carriage Driving Division; details available at 613-838-3420 or online at www.richmondfair.ca
 - **Carp Fair**, September 22, offers a Pleasure Driving Division; details available at 613-839-2172 or online at www.carpfair.ca
 - **St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club Pleasure Driving Show**, September 22, Blainville, PQ; call Yves Gour 1-450-455-0794 for info.
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- Metamora Pleasure Driving Show***
By Margaret Monnelly
- Irving and Audrey Rose’s Squeaky Windmill Farm at Metamora, Michigan, held an Inaugural Pleasure Driving Show July 20-22. The Metamora area is known for equestrian activities and boasts many excellent facilities as well as miles of

country roads that are conducive to driving and riding horses.

The Rose family is well acclaimed for its Annual Day of Traditional Driving so their new show had the advantage of being recognized as a great and elegant destination for those wishing to compete at an American Driving Society (ADS) show.

Driving on this property is to dream about. There is an impressive entrance to the property. Competition areas are marked by white rail fences or dressage ring accessories. The stabling area has its own site on hills overlooking the driving rings and cross-country driving courses. There are ample warm-up areas for each activity. Shade trees afford shelter from the Michigan sun and there is a cool breeze

emanating from the beautiful pond area, which features three fountains and a wonderful covered bridge. Surrounding the competition area are magnificent woods and meadows that enclose miles of driving trails.

Seventy lucky competitors competed at this show, including eight from Central Ontario. Among the successful Canadian competitors were Kirsten Brunner, David DeForest, Laurie Bruder and Jeffery Kohler. **Barry Beach** served as Ring Steward for the cones and cross-country course competitions.

It was a most entertaining weekend and well worthy of the long trip. Dinner at the White Horse Inn in Metamora is a treat not to be missed.

Classifieds

Commercial team for sale: Pair of bay geldings (Hackney/Clyde cross), 14-15 years. Very quiet. Previously used at children's camp. Well trained to drive and have also been ridden. May be seen just northwest of Port Hope at Campbellcroft. Owner must sell. Call 905-983-9888 or 905-987-2256.

Other suggested classified sites: www.equistation.com, www.equestrianconnection.com, and www.driveontario.ca, click on COPDA and then on Classifieds.

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Let us know about your driving-related activities. Send newsletter items to Lynda Rivington, 9 Belgrave Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0L9; telephone 613-567-7347; email rivington@rogers.com Classifieds are free for club members.
