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President’s Message:

Here we are in 2009 and your Board of Directors is busily making plans for the new driving season. We are looking forward to providing some interesting functions for you to attend. Please read the details in this newsletter and mark your calendars to ensure that you will be able to participate. Remember – your attendance is our reward.

Hopefully, many of you are enjoying the snow and getting in some sleighing. Our 6 km. of trails are in great shape due to Ian’s dedication to grooming with a double roller – so if anyone in the club would like to come out and use the wooded trails, you are more than welcome. Just call the day you plan to come – that way you can be sure of the weather.

I’m always trying to look outside the box and offer our members something a little different. Two years ago, we planned a trip to the Royal Windsor

Horse Show in England and it was a great success. Now I’d like to plant a seed for your consideration for the year 2010. The FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games (or WEG) are being held in North America for the first time in October 2010 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. I think it would be a great opportunity for some of us to form a group under the Carriage Association of America umbrella and attend the driving portion of this event. As before, each member would be responsible for making their own reservations, travel arrangements and payments, but we would qualify to receive all the CAA perks during the three days of driving – October 7, 8 and 9. Check out the website at www.caaonline.com and follow the links for relevant information. Down payments are being accepted now, believe it or not, as it promises to be a sold out event. Join the Fun!

– **Mary Mulligan**

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 28 at 4 p.m.** This year, it will be held in the **Church Hall in Carsonby** (on Hwy. 16 just north of North Gower). Everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda will be as follows:

- 4:00: Punch, Fellowship
- 4:45: Video of Coach Driving in the Berkshires
- 5:30: Annual General Meeting

6:00: Beef Dinner ending with homemade pies provided by the United Church ladies. It promises to be delicious!

7:00: **Kevin Brunner** will speak on the traditional “Sounding of the Coach Horn” and demonstrate his skill. Hence, we needed to find a place in the country where neighbours wouldn’t be bothered! Kevin is very accomplished and sounds for Harvey Waller who is a top four-in-hand driver in the States.

Memberships and items sporting your new logo will be available to purchase that evening.

Please plan to attend all or part of this fun and informative evening. The cost of the dinner is a mere **\$20** each. If you are unable to attend the dinner, you are still welcome to attend the meeting. Please send a cheque payable to EOPDS to Mary Mulligan, Box 955, 6120 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick, Ont. K4M 1A8 (613-692-3296) by March 7 to indicate your intention to attend.

Welcome New Members...
Morgan Tape

EOPDS Receives Ontario Equine Federation Grant

The Eastern Ontario Pleasure Driving Society is an affiliate of the Ontario Equine Federation. As such we receive many benefits, including affordable insurance for the society, without which

we would not be able to host our events. We are also eligible for funding to support our efforts to promote recreational driving.

The grant process works in mysterious ways but includes credit for educational and promotional activities. The application process takes place early each year, and grants are announced at the Ontario Equine Federation Annual Meeting in November.

On November 29, 2008, at the OEF Annual Meeting, Sally Jorgensen accepted a cheque for \$1,343 on behalf of EOPDS. This grant, together with the membership fees received, will fund the social and educational activities of the society in 2009.



Sally Jorgensen accepts the OEF grant on behalf of the EOPDS from OEF 2nd vice-president Jack de Wit at the November Conference

Volunteer of the Year Award: Congrats to our Maney! By Sally Jorgensen

Maney McNeil was awarded the “People Make a Difference” award at the Ontario Equine Federation Annual Conference Awards Banquet held at the Delta Meadowvale Resort & Conference Centre in Mississauga, November 29,

2008. The award was presented by Jack de Wit, second vice-president of the OEF.

The EOPDS nominated Maney for outstanding service to the society since its inception. She served on the EOPDS board of directors for at least 16 years with one short break during the year when her late father was very ill. In addition to being the club secretary since 2001, she has maintained the archives of the club for a long time.

Not many realize that this responsibility requires consistent dedication. Maney not only archives the minutes of the club meetings, she also has collected an extensive media collection of the history of the club, which she displays at the annual general meetings.

In 2007, a young club member, **Jay Rennie**, produced a CD called *EOPDS Slide Show 2007*. This CD is a remarkable synthesis of the photographs which Maney has collected since 1977. This production is indeed a visual history of the club and its activities.

Maney is a very independent, competent carriage driver who attends most local carriage events, although she travels longer distances to venues than the majority of other members. In addition, she can drive her horse while photographing other turnouts at the same time. While she no longer competes at shows, Maney has been an indispensable support person for fellow members at leading pleasure driving shows and professional clinics.

Nursing has been her full-time profession for over 30 years. Although her career was very demanding, Maney

has a long record of commitment to the club, which has been exemplary.

A traditionalist at heart, Maney has preserved the spirit of the founding directors of the club. Her understanding of the ideals of the club, while evolving with today's changing carriage driving standards and practices, has benefited the direction of the club. Her personal demeanour at club gatherings exemplifies the helpful and friendly environment necessary for the free association of fellow members.

The club membership is privileged to have Maney McNeil as one of its founding members. She generously contributed her efforts to the advancement of the EOPD Society. Congratulations, Maney!



Maney McNeil receives the 'People Make A Difference Award' from OEF 2nd vice president Jack de Wit at the OEF Conference in November

Congratulations to club member **Jacquie Young** and Steven Wall on the birth of daughter Erin on December 1, 2008. Jacquie is the club's resident graphic artist who designed the new EOPDS logo.

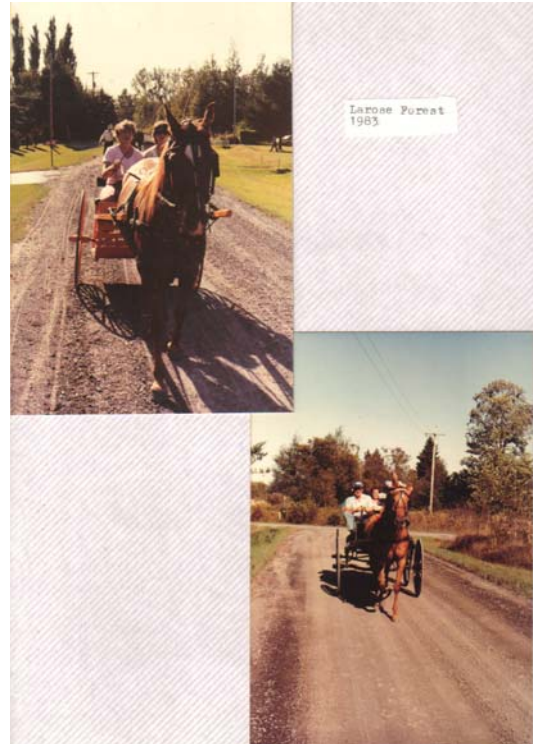
A Look Back...
The Casselman Drive
 By Maney McNeil

What a great delight is a clear blue sky with a day of sunshine. It was just such a day in September 1984 when EOPDS members gathered at Jacques Rainville's in Casselman for a social drive.

Leisurely, we organized ourselves and horses for an afternoon drive through part of LaRose Forest. Everyone was to be hitched and ready by 1 p.m. when the leader would take us through the village of Casselman to connect to a trail leading into the forest. There were 10 to 12 carriages pulled by a variety of horses, singles and pairs.

We enjoyed a relaxed drive through the vast system of trails in the magnificent LaRose Forest. There were tremendous nature viewing opportunities, the graceful sounds of hooves trotting on the dry earth, and the happy chatter of the passengers. As in other social drives, we had a break about half way through where the horses rested and the humans enjoyed some social time before heading back to Casselman.

Once the horses were unhitched and cared for, our Casselman area members' gracious hospitality was highlighted by a sumptuous buffet that they provided for the participants. A long row of picnic tables allowed everyone to sit, eat and enjoy each other's comradeship. All of this made for an interesting afternoon which continued to be annual event for several years in the 1980s.



LaRose Forest 1983



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Harry de Ruyter Clinic

By Mary Mulligan

When I was first approached about attending a driving clinic in November I thought, “rain – cold – wind – snow!” However, because the clinician was renowned four-in-hand driver Harry de Ruyter from the Netherlands and the location was the fabulous Hawkridge Farm, I decided to go ahead and enter.

Am I glad I did! The weather was warm and sunny and the lessons were amazing. My first lesson consisted of ring work as well as a 30-minute cross-country run, utilizing all the hazards. What a blast! In the second lesson, Harry demonstrated effective driving during which he was very complimentary about Thorn. I learned that Thorn is not producing anywhere near his potential with me. More miles and being more demanding are the two keys he kept reinforcing. A final run over the cross-country course topped off a very productive clinic.

Saturday evening Morag O’Hanlon, manager of Hawkridge Farm, invited all of the participants to her home for dinner and a great social time. An added highlight was a viewing of a video of Harry driving his four-in-hand at a show in Europe. This was followed by pictures of the Beijing Olympics and China with commentary by Selena (Morag’s daughter) who, along with her horse, Columbo, competed at the 2008 Games. Both presentations were most entertaining and the meal was delicious.

Harry mentioned that he plans to return to give more clinics next year. The EOPDS will keep you informed and I’d

highly recommend you capitalize on this opportunity and consider attending.

Calendar of Events

(EOPDS dates and times subject to change)

March 21-22: St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club Beginner’s Driving Clinic; Carol Ann Mills 613-874-1421.

March 28: **EOPDS AGM**, United Church, Carsonby, 4 p.m.; Mary Mulligan 613-692-3296.

April 4: Ontario Combined Driving Association – Introduction to Combined Driving and Navigation Clinic, Relhok Farm, Barrie, Ont.; Jeff Kohler 705-725-5225 (days) or email jeff@relhok.ca for details and to sign up. Limited spots available.

April 24-25: Martin’s Annual Spring Carriage Auction, New Holland, Pa., www.martinauctioneers.com

April 25-26: St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club Ground Driving Clinic; Carol Ann Mills 613-874-1421.

May 2: Ottawa Valley Light Horse Association Auction, Fairgrounds, Carp; Rae Ann Brunton, 613-257-1558.

May 13-18: CAA trip to Royal Windsor Horse Show, England; 859-231-0971, www.caaonline.com

May 16-17: **EOPDS Francois Bergeron Clinic**, Sunset Farm, Stittsville; Wayne Byrne 613-838-9699 or Barry Beach 613-839-2127.

May 20: **EOPDS Social Drive**, Ferguson Forest, 5 p.m.; Sally Jorgensen 613-258-5462.

June 3-4: Kirsten Brunner Clinic, Mian Farm, Manotick; Mary Mulligan 613-692-3296.

June 8: **EOPDS Social Drive**, 1 p.m., Hawkridge Farm, Elgin; Mary Mulligan 613-692-3296 or Sally Jorgensen 613-258-5462.

June 14: COPDA Pleasure Show, Halton Place (TBC); Mary Gregoris 905-939-2612

June TBC: **EOPDS Social Drive**, Rocking Horse Farm, Wendover; Val Everson 613-488-3066 or Sally Jorgensen 613-258-5462.

June 19-21: Metamora CDE, Metamora, Mi.; www.metamoracarriagedriving.org

June 26-28: Bromont International CDE, Bromont Quebec; Roger Deslauriers 450-534-0787.

July 3-4: Metamora Carriage Pleasure Driving Show, Metamora, Mi.; 810-678-2500.

July 4: Ottawa Valley Light Horse Association Show, Fairgrounds, Carp; Rae Ann Brunton, 613-257-1558.

July 12: **EOPDS Social Drive**, 10 a.m., Fiddler's Green Stables, Stittsville; Sally Jorgensen 613-258-5462 or Ian Mulligan 613-692-3296.

July 12: OCDA One Day Driving Trial, Glencameron Farm, Limehouse, Ont.,

July 18-19: Lorenzo Driving Competition, Cazenovia, N.Y.; Lisa Shotzberger 610-469-6556.

July 25-26: East Aurora Carriage Driving & Competition, East Aurora, N.Y., 716-389-5724.

July 25-26: St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club Intermediate Driving Clinic; Carol Ann Mills 613-874-1421.

August 12-16: Walnut Hill Carriage Driving Competition, Pittsford, N.Y., www.walnuthillfarm.com

August 21: **EOPDS Social Drive**, 1 p.m., Phantom Farm, Almonte; Margaret Monnelly 613-825-3853.

August 29: **EOPDS 'A Carriage Sporting Day'** with Jeff Kohler, Mian Farm, Manotick; Mary Mulligan 613-692-3296;

Sept. 13: St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club Pleasure Driving Show, St. Lazare, P.Q.; Carol Ann Mills 613-874-1421.

Sept. 19: Richmond Fair, Richmond; 613-838-3933

Sept. 26: Carp Fair, Carp; 613-839-2172

Sept. 27: COPDA Fall Pleasure Show (TBA), Mary Gregoris 905-939-6288.

Oct. 7: **EOPDS Social Drive**, 1 p.m., Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg; Maney McNeil 613-347-2541 or Sally Jorgensen 613-258-5462.

Oct. 16-17: Martin's Fall Carriage Auction, New Holland, Pa.; 717-354-6671, www.martinauctioneers.com

Nov. 4-16: CAA trip to Argentina; 859-231-0971, www.caaonline.com

Nov. 6-15: Royal Winter Fair, Toronto



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WWW.RELHOK.CA

Classifieds

For Sale:

Lovely pony Meadowbrook, dark oak stain, custom built for 11-12.2hh pony, has fenders, very smooth ride, \$2,200.

Well-made Easy Entry Cart, two-wheeler, custom made, green and black, wood wheels, adjustable seat, fits 14-15.3hh, nice enough for pleasure shows, strong enough for entry level CDEs, \$2,500.

Lovely yellow and black Wipply Brook Cart (similar to a Meadowbrook), removable groom's seat, and adjustable shafts, used for preliminary CDEs, fits 14.2-16hh horse, very smooth ride, \$2,500.

Older model pair horse Kuhnle marathon carriage, excellent shape, carries four adults, adjustable driver's seat, comes with pole and shafts (new \$18,000), a deal at just \$5,000.

Antique original condition McLaughlin single horse sleigh in perfect condition, very lovely. New shafts, fits 13.2-15.2hh, \$800.

Contact Kirsten Brunner: 1-519-833-7169, www.beaverwoodfarm.on.ca

For Sale: Pony Road Gig (photo follows), black with red pinstriping, black vinyl tuft seat. Red wheels, hard rubber tires, gig shafts with brass harness tugs and footman's loops. Patent leather dash. Wheels 35", wheel base 47", shafts 64", ground to seat 43". Fits 12-13.2 h pony, fits 1 adult and 1 groom. Restored in 2004. Well balanced. \$1,200. Call 1-450-458-2364 or 514-726-7846, email fuzzballs@videotron.ca



Membership Notice:

If you have not renewed your EOPDS membership by mid-February, this will be your final newsletter.

Participants in club events must have a current membership. Send proof of insurance with the renewal form (available at www.eopds.ca) to: Jennifer Rennie, EOPDS Treasurer, 7 Crantham Crescent, Stittsville, Ontario K2S 1R2; phone 613-831-2154. **Fees:** Individual \$25, Family \$35.

Contact the EOPDS:

Mary Mulligan, President
Box 955, 6120 Rideau Valley Drive,
Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A8; 613-692-3296

Lynda Rivington (VP):	613-567-7347
Maney McNeil (Sec):	613-347-2541
Jennifer Rennie (Treas):	613-831-2154

Directors

Margaret Monnelly:	613-825-3853
Barry Beach	613-839-2127
Sally Jorgensen	613-258-5462
Wayne Byrne	613-838-9699
Ian Mulligan	613-692-3296

Send items for the spring newsletter by April 30, 2009 to Lynda Rivington, 9 Belgrave Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0L9; phone 613-567-7347 or email rivington@rogers.com. Classifieds are free for club members.