



### President's Message:

The 2008 driving season will soon be upon us and as your newly elected president I am very excited about my upcoming term. I am very aware that I have "big shoes to fill" in succeeding Margaret Monnelly, but will do my best. A special thanks to Margaret for all she has done for the club both as president and dedicated member over the years.

My top priority is to ensure that we both continue to have fun and learn this year, building on our successes from last year. To ensure that happens we have a very enthusiastic and talented executive and board of directors committed to that goal. I thank them for agreeing to share the load.

The board of directors and I not only want to hear from you, we want you to get involved. It's your club after all! I encourage you to think about two questions: first, what do you like about the club and wish to preserve and second, how do you think our club could be improved and what role could you play in making it happen? Please contact any of the club executive or board of directors (their info is in the newsletter), e-mail me at [mianfarm@xplornet.com](mailto:mianfarm@xplornet.com) or call me at 613-692-3296 with your thoughts and suggestions.

Together we can make the next year successful and enjoyable for all. Let's do it!

– Mary Mulligan

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### Welcome New Members...

Sue Buchanan  
Elva Douglas  
Stanley & Gayda Errett  
Valerie Everson  
Dr. Kelly Ferguson  
Charles Lalonde & Amber Walpole  
James Lewis, Lolita Thomas &  
Catherine Fong  
Myroslava Mykytyn  
Joanne Onyons  
Margaret Reid

### EOPDS Members Out & About:

- **Ian and Mary Mulligan, Wayne and Gwen Byrne, and Sandy and Barry Beach** visited the Austin Horse Park and Carriage Museum in Weirsdale, Florida in February and stayed to watch

- the annual pleasure driving show.
- Competing at the Live Oak CDE in Ocala, Florida in March, **Peter Harding** placed sixth overall in the Intermediate horse pairs division.
  - **Margaret and Pat Monnelly** spent time at the Live Oak CDE in Florida cheering on **Peter Harding**.
  - **Ian Mulligan, Wayne Byrne, June Pelot, Shelby Heinbuch, Micki Moir, Dr. Judy Senior, Walter Hambleton, Mary Hume** and **Roger Quesnel** joined the Leeds County Draft Horse Association on their April bus trip to Saint-Pie, Quebec, for a tour of Robert Carriages and the St. Hyacinthe Veterinary Clinic.

and fundraisers under Margaret's energetic, enthusiastic and knowledgeable leadership. As past president, she now takes on her new position as director ex-officio, continuing to run the website and beginning the new venture of "Young Drivers".

#### New President

The club is pleased to welcome **Mary Mulligan** as president. Mary's enthusiasm and drive, not to mention her non-stop energy, will begin a new era for the club. We wish her success and offer all our support in this new challenge.

#### Joe Nuth Tribute

Honourable mention must go to **Joe and Pam Nuth**. The EOPDS awarded them a handsome plaque in commemoration of their contribution to the sport of pleasure driving. Margaret spoke of Joe's many accomplishments, a speech which visibly touched him. Thank you, Joe and Pam, for your more-than-generous support for the EOPDS and for offering your beautiful Fiddler's Green farm for shows, social drives and clinics.

#### Centered Driving

The AGM was followed by a lively talk by **Mary Trafford** on "Centered Driving". Referencing Sally Swift, the founder of Centered Riding, and Peggy Brown, an expert on Centered Driving, Mary educated and entertained a willing audience for over an hour. Members were left with several enlightening remarks such as:

- A horse doesn't care how much you know until you show how much you care.
- Keep 75% of your attention on yourself, 25% on the horse.
- As whips (drivers), we need to establish our own stability within the vehicle for safety **and** in order to improve our ability to communicate with the horse.

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### **AGM and Horseless Trot 2008** By Jennifer Rennie

The annual general meeting/horseless trot on February 10 was once again a success. Despite biting winds and temperatures, 48 people filled the banquet room at the Red Dot Cafe in Osgoode.

#### Margaret Monnelly Retires

After seven years of leading the EOPDS, our devoted president, **Margaret Monnelly**, announced her resignation. **Sally Jorgensen** spoke for all when she thanked Margaret for stepping in when the club was at a low point. Sally remarked on Margaret's many accomplishments, including increasing our membership, securing club insurance, educating new drivers and opening club events to welcome all members.

We have enjoyed many years of successful clinics, shows, social drives

- In driven dressage, again soft, accurate communication is the key to balance, consistency and beautiful movement and harmony between horse and human.
- Along with the basic principles of soft eyes, breathing, centering, building blocks, grounding and clear intent, remember that it is the journey not the destination that is important.

For more information, go to [www.centeredriding.org](http://www.centeredriding.org) and [www.anatomyinmotion.com](http://www.anatomyinmotion.com).

All in all, the AGM/Horseless Trot, like a sleigh ride this snowy winter, was well worth braving the elements. Thanks to all the organizers and members for making this yet another memorable EOPDS event.

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### **Austin Horse Park: A Winter Getaway** By Barry Beach

Club members **Barry and Sandra Beach, Ian and Mary Mulligan,** and **Wayne and Gwen Byrne** attended the 2008 Austin Horse Park pleasure driving show at Weirsdale (near Ocala), Florida on February 23 and 24. Except for Saturday morning, the weather was perfect for a horse show.

The show is held at the Florida Carriage Museum & Resort owned by **Gloria Austin**. This 400-acre farm provided a beautiful, scenic setting for the show. It was an excellent show with classes from single to multiple, and horses/ponies to VSEs.

#### Carriage Museum

The group also enjoyed visiting the Carriage Museum which is located on the grounds. This wonderful collection of

carriages includes the Royal Coach from Austria complete with six horses with the appropriate harness. This coach was written up in the *Carriage Journal* a couple of years ago. It is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in the driving horse world to visit this museum if you are in Central Florida.

**Mary Cork** from Tottenham, Ontario, was the technical delegate for the show. Many club members will remember Mary as she was the show secretary for the late Canadian Driving Classic, and also the judge at the driving show at Joe Nuth's a couple of years ago. The show manager was **Ed Young**, someone else club members may remember as he was the show manager of the late Canadian Driving Classic, and of course presently for the Walnut Hill show.

Our president, **Mary Mulligan**, was able to arrange a driving lesson with head trainer **Melissa Warner** the day following the show. According to Mary, it was a wonderful lesson, and she greatly benefited by the experience.



Enjoying Florida's Austin Horse Park—left to right: Ian & Mary Mulligan, owner Gloria Austin, Gwen & Wayne Byrne, Sandy & Barry Beach

#### Gloria Austin

Gloria Austin was a wonderful hostess and was very pleased to see visitors from Canada. All six of us agreed it would be wonderful to be in a location,

like Ocala where we could drive our horses 12 months of the year.

For those of you who would like to escape the Canadian winter with your horses, Gloria Austin reminded us that they have facilities for both you and your horses that offer you that opportunity!

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## A Perfect Sleighing Day

### By Sally Jorgensen

It has been an odd winter for sleighing. I was really hoping to put some miles on my green-broke-to-harness Rocky Mountain horses.



Sally Jorgensen and Yoko enjoy a sleighing outing at Mian Farm

November started out with the “oof-ers” – you know, those bone jarring, lurching thumps when the cutter hits the frozen ridges and bumps in the field because the snow cover is not deep enough. You don’t drive with your tongue between your teeth in November.

### And Then It Snowed!

Oof-er season didn’t last long as it snowed...and snowed...and snowed. It wasn’t so much sleighing as pioneer-style slogging as the horses struggled through the knee- then belly-deep snow. When your horse gets stuck, it is time to quit. I tried a few times to pack the snow with the tractor, but had horrible visions

that the machine would get buried and not be retrievable until spring.

Every once in a while, though, it worked. And when it does...oh, my.

### A Perfect Day

The highlight for me was an opportunity to visit the Mulligans where I was fortunate to drive one day. Not only was the trail spectacular – oh, luxury of luxuries, it was rolled and packed.

The day was perfect – no wind, a crisp but not numbing chill to the air. My little horse Yoko was so impressed with the surroundings and footing she was on her very best behaviour. A few times around the main field to warm up and we were off down the trail.

Over gently rolling hills, through a bush, around some fields, sleigh bells jing-jing-jingling and the horse’s rhythm such that you HAD to hum *Jingle Bells* under your breath – the drive was perfect. The air was still, just the bells, the odd happy horse snort and the swoosh of runners on the snow. The steam rising from the horse, fingers getting a bit numb.

Ahead of me, the Mulligans and their Morgan looked like a Christmas card centerfold. That is one stylish horse.



Mary Mulligan and Thorn head home at the end of a perfect sleighing day

### A Day to Remember

We must have driven a good 10 kilometres before the Mulligans decided to head for the warmth of the house. I could not bear to stop, so Yoko and I did another loop of the trail before heading in. It was one of those drives you dream about. Thank you, Mary and Ian, for such an experience.

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### **Peter Harding at Live Oak By Margaret Monnelly**

March 27 was the first day of the Live Oak CAI combined driving event in Ocala, Florida. The weather was ideal. An early morning fog with bright sunshine breaking through the mist around at 8.00 a.m. indicated the prospect of optimum weather conditions during the day.

This spectacular show is held at the Live Oak estate owned by renowned four-in-hand champion Chester Weber and his family. Every activity had been masterminded to perfection.

#### Dressage

For the spectator on the sidelines, the dressage arena is a visual feast. The arena is set in an open area among the large oak trees that give the property its name.

FEI dressage was the first competition of the event, followed by single ponies, pairs and teams. Five top international judges were in the judges' booths which were placed strategically around the dressage ring. Every movement of the turnouts was scrutinized and evaluated.

#### Pairs Competition

The second morning was the momentous one for the Ontario drivers. The single horse Intermediate competition was underway when we arrived. While all the tests were

performed excellently, we were already anticipating the pairs division.

Eastern Ontario was well represented by **Peter Harding**, an EOPDS member from Kingston. Peter competed for the first time at the Intermediate level, the second highest level in combined driving events. He won fourth place in dressage, driving his pair of Canadian horses put to a Kuhnle presentation vehicle.

This left him in a strong position as he prepared for the marathon on the following day. He and his wife Cathy, accompanied by daughter Amy, were very upbeat by this success. Peter was definitely prepared for his first big challenge as he had won his last two Preliminary championships – one at the Laurels at Landhope in Pennsylvania and the other at the Bromont, Quebec CDE in 2007.

#### Marathon Day

On Saturday, marathon day, the weather was moderately hot. Five hazards were constructed in shady areas that protected the drivers and spectators from the direct sun. The marathon drivers provided a high degree of excitement as they skilfully drove their horses through the obstacles.

We were able to watch Peter as he entered obstacles one and two. He drove challenging obstacles in a very careful style and experienced a safely driven course.

#### Cones Course

Sunday was to be the final day ending with the cones obstacle course. The course design included 20 obstacles, two zigzag obstacles and an exciting bridge, which was the most obvious route for approaching four of the obstacles.

Onlookers consider the cones course to be the easiest of the three phases of the marathon. In reality, many placements are altered by this course, which is a test of the fitness, obedience and suppleness of the horse after the marathon, and the competence of the driver at the end of the competition.

Once again, Peter drove a very clean course in dressage style and finished his first Live Oak International competition in sixth place. EOPDS is proud to congratulate Peter on his outstanding success!

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## A Look Back...

By Maney McNeil, Club Historian

There is only one thing more exciting than a one-day drive – and that is an overnighter.

On May 19 & 20, 1979, at the estate of Colonel Michael Sifton near the west end of Brockville, the club held its second annual spring drive and the first of the society's overnight drives.



Jack MacDonell, who lived between Cornwall and Williamstown, driving his Hackneys, Model and Silver, at the Sifton estate.

The Sifton estate is situated along the 1000 Islands Parkway next to the St.

Lawrence River. For those who wished to come and drive on Saturday, overnight stabling was available in the area thanks to fellow club members.

Saturday evening, 49 people attended a buffet dinner at the beautiful Glen House Resort at Gananoque overlooking the St. Lawrence River and the 1000 Islands Bridge. An evening of laughter and relaxation followed.

## Sunday Drive

On Sunday, the society hosted a luncheon at noon at the Sifton estate. There were 86 people on hand. Twenty-one hitches, including five from the Toronto area and several saddle horses, participated.

Horses were hitched for 1 p.m. for a scenic drive west along the gravelled portion of the 1000 Islands Parkway overlooking the St. Lawrence River. The air was brisk and the horses loved it, wandering along, with each turn in the road bringing another stretch of breathtaking scenery.

It was fantastic weather, superb scenery, warm hospitality and fellowship. What a weekend!



Past president Gordon Byers from Brockville enjoyed driving his team at the Sifton estate.

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## Repairing Working Carriages and Cutters

### By Sally Jorgensen

Crunch! The sound that shafts make when they encounter an immovable object. Well, it looked as if there was enough room to turn around without snagging on that tree. I was wrong. Definitely beyond repair with carpenter glue and duct tape. So, where do you go for replacement parts or to get your buggy or sleigh repaired??

A friend suggested I try the Amish community in Heuvelton, New York, near Ogdensburg just across the border from Prescott. This was less than an hour away so off I went. Heuvelton was 10 km. beyond Ogdensburg which, by the way, is the home of a Wal-mart with a hitching rail to accommodate its Amish customers. How's that for customer service?

#### A Trip Back In Time

As I got nearer to Heuvelton, the black, unadorned, enclosed Amish carriages became more common. The skinny horses were making good time as they purposefully sped along the shoulders of the road. The carriage occupants were in traditional Amish garb with girls in bonnets and aprons and boys with long curls in straw hats. They smiled shyly and waved when I nodded in passing.

Spying an Amish farm with baskets for sale, I stopped for a basket, a chat and directions to someone who could repair buggies. "Mr. Martin, down the road, turn right at the snowmobile repair shop (not Amish – speak about two solitudes) then take the lane with the clothesline across it. It is the place that does not have a hydro line."

I passed fields of stoked corn and teams of horses pulling wagons piled high with the dried stalks. A carriage was in a front yard, the dozing horse

with the drooping head tied to a rail as it waited. I in my automobile was the one out of place and time.

#### Martin's Carriage Shop

As I pulled into the Martin yard, two young men were just heading for the fields with their team of Belgians. Mr. Martin Senior was in the shop. The shop was piled with shafts, buggy parts, strips of metal for working, wooden wheels and a forge. We had a wonderful chat while he rolled his eyes at my broken shafts. We pawed through several sets until we found one of similar size. He would take the hardware off the broken pair and put it on the new set.

"Where was I from?" I explained where Kemptville was. "Oh that is far, far away." "Not that far," I replied. He grinned and remarked dryly, "It is when you travel by horse!"

#### A Satisfied Customer

Amish commerce is not for the urgent, and we settled on "probably in a month or two", depending on weather, work, health and other jobs.

Telephoning ahead obviously is not an option (no phones). No business calls on Sundays (even I knew enough not to propose such heresy), and come before four in the afternoon. It took me a moment or two to realize that that was when the sun set, and in a shop with no electricity, of course it would be dark by then. American cash only when I picked it up as, of course, no VISA facilities, and foreign exchange was...well, foreign.

All in all, it was a most interesting expedition. When I returned two months later, the shafts were ready and I had another lovely trip back in time and got another hand-crafted basket to boot. Try it sometime.

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## Fun Day of Driving

The EOPDS is planning a "Fun Day of Carriage Driving" for Saturday, June 21 which will be hosted by Ian & Mary Mulligan at their farm in Manotick.

You will be able to drive a cone's course, thread your way through an obstacle or two, drive on a 5-km.winding trail through a bush, practise your ring driving, try your hand at driving a simple dressage pattern, drive in an indoor arena or simply observe. There will be no pressure, no competition and very few rules. Don't forget your helmet!

Hitching and driving will be from 12:00 to 4:00 and would be followed by a barbeque and social time.

So check your calendar and call the Mulligans at 613-692-3296 or e-mail to [mianfarm@xplornet.com](mailto:mianfarm@xplornet.com) to indicate you are planning to attend. Auditors should also call so that the conveners can prepare adequately for the food.

– **Mary Mulligan**

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### New EOPDS Logo

A committee, including Maney McNeil, Jennifer Rennie, Lynda Rivington and Mary Mulligan, has been struck to look into designing a new logo for our club. Now, we know that there is a great deal of untapped talent out there among our members and we would very much like your input. Therefore, we are inviting you to send ideas, suggestions or sketches for our logo to any one on the committee.

Dust off your imaginations and let your creative juices flow! These contributions, which should be in by the end of April, will be forwarded to our graphic designer and given careful consideration.

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## Ferguson Forestry Station Notice

Ferguson Forestry Station is a favourite destination for drivers, particularly those close to Kemptville. Indeed, the first EOPDS social drive of the season is scheduled for May 21 in the Forestry Station.

The station is in its peak busy season for tree transplanting and forestry management has requested that, until the end of May, we do not park horse trailers in the main entrance near the greenhouses and office buildings, nor block the roads for the wide equipment that will be in use.

Instead, they have asked us to park in either of the two landing stations, one at the north end of the nursery area and one by the fertilizer shed. Maps are available at the main office.

Horses are welcome on any of the wide gravel roads, but we are requested to stay off the walking trail paths as there are some small bridges on them that are not strong enough. Management also requested that we pick up after the horses in any of the parking areas to keep the areas clean.

Ferguson is a lovely place to drive and the Friends of the Farm are trying to make it as horse friendly as possible.

– **Sally Jorgensen**

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## Calendar of Events\*

April 25-26: Martin's Carriage Auction, Lebanon, Pa, 717-354-6671 or [www.martinauctioneers.com](http://www.martinauctioneers.com)

May 10-11: **EOPDS Gerry McCallum Clinic**, Sunset Farms, Stittsville. Beginner drivers May 10; open clinic May 11; auditors welcome, info Wayne Byrne 613-838-9699 or Barry Beach 613-839-2127

May 17-18: Societe du Bas Canada CDE, Bromont, PQ, 450-372-8698

May 21: **EOPDS Social Drive**, Ferguson Forest, Kemptville, 5 p.m., 613-258-5462

May 27-28: Kirsten Brunner clinic, Mian Farm

June 14: Recreational Drive & BBQ, St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club, PQ, 613-874-1421

June 15: Central Ontario Pleasure Driving Association pleasure driving show, Loretto, 905-939-2612 or [Gregorismary@aol.com](mailto:Gregorismary@aol.com)

June 19-22: Metamora CDE, Metamora, Mi, 810-664-2102 or [rtcecile@aol.com](mailto:rtcecile@aol.com)

June 21: **EOPDS Fun Day of Driving**, Mian Farm, Manotick, 613-692-3296

June 27-29: Bromont International CAI-A CDE, Bromont, PQ, 819-478-1411 or [lapierre@9bit.qc.ca](mailto:lapierre@9bit.qc.ca)

July 5: Ottawa Valley Light Horse Association Show, Richmond, 613-257-1558

July 10-13: CAA Conference & Pleasure Driving Show, Lexington, Ky, 859-231-0971 or [www.caaonline.com](http://www.caaonline.com)

July 18-20: Metamora Pleasure Driving Show, Metamora, Mi, 810-796-3024, [www.metamoracarriagedriving.org](http://www.metamoracarriagedriving.org)

July 19-20: Societe du Bas Canada CDE, Blainville, PQ, 450-372-8698

July 19-20: Lorenzo Driving Competition, Cazenovia, NY, 315-684-9229 or [lisa@coachstopfarms.com](mailto:lisa@coachstopfarms.com)

July 26-27: East Aurora Carriage Drive & Competition, East Aurora, NY, 716-662-5198, [mbyers159@roadrunner.com](mailto:mbyers159@roadrunner.com)

July 26-27: Pleasure Driving schooling show, St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club, PQ, 613-874-1421

July 27: **EOPDS Social Drive**, Fiddler's Green Stables, Stittsville, 10:30 a.m., 613-258-5462

Aug. 8-10: Merrickville Fair, 613-269-2229

Aug. 13-17: Walnut Hill Pleasure Driving Show, Pittsford, NY, 585-385-2555, [www.walnuthillfarm.com](http://www.walnuthillfarm.com)

Aug.TBA: **EOPDS Social Drive**, Phantom Farm, Ashton

Sept. 5-7: Laurels at Landhope CDE, West Grove, Pa, 610-486-6484

Sept. 10: **EOPDS Social Drive**, Upper Canada Village, 613-258-5462

Sept. 6: Spencerville Fair, 613-658-3333

Sept. 13: Pleasure Driving Show, St. Lazare Carriage Driving Club, PQ, 613-874-1421

Sept. 19-21: Gladstone CDE, Gladstone, NJ, 352-465-0197

Sept. 20: Richmond Fair, 613-838-3420

Sept. 20: Tri-County Carriage Association Driving Show, Witteveen Farm, Brantford, 519-848-6288

Sept. 27: Carp Fair, 613-839-2172

Oct. 17-28: Martin's Auction, Lebanon, Pa, 717-354-6671 or [www.martinauctioneers.com](http://www.martinauctioneers.com)

(\*EOPDS dates subject to change.)

**Recommended Websites:**

Carriage Association of America:

[www.caaonline.com](http://www.caaonline.com)

American Driving Society:

[www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org)

Drive Ontario: [www.driveontario.ca](http://www.driveontario.ca)

Drive Canada: [www.drivecanada.org](http://www.drivecanada.org)

Beall at 613-256-0631 or email

[pwolfe@istar.ca](mailto:pwolfe@istar.ca)

**Classifieds:**

Dressage carriage by Henri Meunier, Quebec (photo below). Very elegant and in good order. For single horse or pony pair. FEI level. 140cm wide, weighs 300kg. \$6,500.00 CDN or US. Call 819-324-7609 or email

[michelle.potvin@cqcable.ca](mailto:michelle.potvin@cqcable.ca)



Smucker's pleasure harness, beautiful condition. Black biothane with brass fittings. Easy care with the look of leather. Includes three sets of reins. Fits 14-15.2h. Perfect for everyday use and shows. \$700.00. Call Jennifer Rennie 613-831-2154 or email

[jennifer\\_rob\\_rennie@sympatico.ca](mailto:jennifer_rob_rennie@sympatico.ca)

Hackney horses and ponies for sale. Action, endurance and beauty all wrapped up in one breed. Great with children. Call Patrick, Newbigging farm, Tiverton (519)368-6025 or email [pjnewbigging@bmts.com](mailto:pjnewbigging@bmts.com)

Hackneys standing at stud. Four stallions offered from 12.2-16.3h. For information about booking for 2008, call Patrick at the Newbigging family farm (519)368-6025 or email [pjnewbigging@bmts.com](mailto:pjnewbigging@bmts.com)

For sale or lease: Robbie Burns (photo follows), 10-year-old, 11h, brown and white Shetland pony, rides and drives. Used as school driving pony for four summers. Showy little guy with good conformation. Call Pat Wolfe or Jane

**Contact the EOPDS:**

Mary Mulligan, President  
Box 955, 6120 Rideau Valley Drive,  
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613-692-3296

Lynda Rivington (V-P): 613-567-7347

Maney McNeil (Sec): 613-347-2541

Jennifer Rennie (Treas): 613-831-2154

**Directors**

Margaret Monnelly (past president):

613-825-3853

Barry Beach 613-839-2127

Sally Jorgensen 613-258-5462

Wayne Byrne 613-838-9699

Ian Mulligan 613-692-3296

Let us know about your carriage-related activities. The next newsletter should be out mid-summer. Send items by July 30 to Lynda Rivington, 9 Belgrave Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0L9; phone 613-567-7347; email [rivington@rogers.com](mailto:rivington@rogers.com). Classifieds are free for club members.