

Rothenburg Family

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I think we might all agree that we're looking forward to the coming Pony Club year with greater anticipation than usual, given that we might actually have something to look forward to! After a year that ended abruptly almost before it started, and only virtual activities to get us through what is normally a busy outdoor season, plans are being laid for a safe return to regular Pony Club programming at the branch and regional levels. Kudos to those volunteers who have put together what they could, and to those members who engaged in what were some pretty fun virtual activities!



Testing Update



Because of COVID-19, it sure was a slow start for Pony Club this year, and of course that includes Testing. The good news is that four Branches are now cleared by Central Ontario Region to test their candidates. Three cheers to the Test Reps and DCs of Kawartha, Temiskaming, Toronto-North York and Horseshoe Branches for their determination in graciously making it through the paperwork required for this critical step.

Many thanks to the National Testing Committee for creating the required documents - I'm sure I speak for us all that we are grateful each Branch and Centre didn't have to come up with their own Testing re-opening plans!

If your Branch or Centre is still planning to do any testing (including written tests), but hasn't done the COVID Testing Protocol sign-off yet, please let me know, so I can help with that. If your Branch is already cleared, don't forget to send me a signed p7-8 of the Protocol for each Testing day, even for the writtens!

Take care, everyone. We hope you all have a safe return to your usual September activities.

Nellie Bradbury, COR Testing Chair & Emma Green, COR Asst. Testing Chair



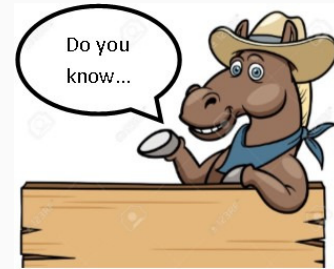
Still Virtual!

COR continues to engage members with virtual, at-home and online activities. Over the summer, we've had a two-phase interpretive horse show, Bookworm badge, and a Virtual Tetrathlon challenge - including riding! Visit COR's facebook page for book selections and Tet video submissions (search for COR Pony Club and ask to join). Instagram is another way to engage and follow along (at /cor_ponyclub).



Saddlewood Strong

A favourite overnight destination for COR Pony Clubbers is Saddlewood Equestrian Centre. Whether for our own weekend-long Working Rally, or for those who have gone to summer camp there, this facility has created great memories. Saddlewood found itself challenged due to closures during the pandemic, and the Pony Club community responded! \$1775 was raised across Central Ontario, with Kawartha Pony Club presenting their portion - \$750 raised via a bottle drive - directly. The ponies, horses and staff at Saddlewood surely appreciate the support!



... you might go up the nose to fix a runny eye?

If your horse has chronic tears, your veterinarian might do a tear duct flush to remove any blockage. This entails sedation so that the horse doesn't feel too uncomfortable, and running a tube up the tear duct from where it drains in the nose to rinse with a saline solution. Who knew?!

International Mounted Games Exchange

In big IMGE news, we will see a shift of the intended host countries for the next couple of years. With Covid-19, Australia's intention to host the 2020 tour was cancelled. Instead, Australia will host in 2021 and Canada now in 2022, which means our COR candidates have a shot at travelling to the Land Down Under next year! COR's 2020 season was cancelled, as was the 2020 IMGE Selection Camp to be hosted by Nova Scotia. Therefore an alternative tryout format was introduced. Candidates were asked to submit applications and videos of themselves completing specific skills and games as asked by the National PPG chair. In order to have our COR candidates riding with standard props on a standard playing field, COR hosted an IMGE

tryout for our candidates Sunday, August 23rd at the Berg-Solomon Farm. Riders rode their own ponies and a 'borrowed' pony through a series of skills. We also prepped the candidates for their interview with the National Selection Committee (to happen October 24 via Zoom) by hosting a mock interview with our Feedback Committee of Anita Barnes, Michelle Cruickshanks and Jessie-lyn Boadway. Riders are now busy putting together their video footage from the tryout, to be submitted by October 1, 2020.

We look forward to having our COR candidates move on to the next phase of the selection process and wish them the best of luck!



Catching Up with our Alumni

Pony Club is known for providing a solid foundation for youth as they go on to achieve great things, whether in the equestrian world or beyond. CORBits will catch up with some of our local alumni and share their news and insights with you.

This season we had a Q&A with Amber Wavryk, who also guest-judged COR's recent Virtual Tetrathlon challenge!

What years were you active in Pony Club, and in which branch?

I was part of Maple Pony Club from 2003-2009

What was your favourite discipline?

My favourite parts of Pony Club were participating in Rally and Tetrathlon. Although I never competed in PPG, I often went to the COR PPG meets to help with setting up all of the props for the games. Our barn also participated in Dressage and Show Jumping, and that was my first taste of loading way too many horses on a giant trailer at 4:00am to head to Saddlewood and grooming for multiple horses and riders all day!

Do you have some particularly favourite memories?

My favourite memories in Pony Club were competing in Tetrathlon, and all of the people I got to meet! In 2006, International and National Tetrathlon was held in King City, and I met a young man (at the time) from England who ended up riding my horse that I brought for the stadium/cross-country part of the competition (held at Cedar Peaks). To this day, 14 years later, he and I still keep in touch! In 2007, I competed in National Tetrathlon in Alberta, and that was my first taste of riding a 'borrowed' horse over a big cross-country course, which was exhilarating and a bit scary at the same time.

I tested up to the C1 level in Pony Club, but definitely wish that I had been able to achieve more levels before I went off to University.

What kind of equestrian pursuits do you continue with?

I currently compete in eventing at the Training Level with my horse. Her name is Spice (her show

name is Spice It Up).

In the summer of 2019, I travelled to Lima, Peru for the Pan American Games as a groom for my coach, Karl Slezak. Fun fact: Karl was a member of Albion Pony Club growing up, and achieved his "A"! Karl competed at the Pan American Games with his horse Fernhill Wishes, and Team Canada came home with the Team Bronze Medal!

What kind of advice would you offer current members?

I rode through elementary and high school, and then stopped riding in University because school took over and all of my energy and resources were focused on finishing University. But riding a horse is like riding a bike - you'll never forget, and when you decide to get back on a horse, you will pick up right where you left off. In fact, in my fifth year of University, I ended up buying my first horse and now, 6 years later, I have another horse and a job and a continued passion to keep riding, competing, and learning. You are never too old and your dreams are never too big! (I never in my wildest dreams thought I would have the chance to travel to the Pan American Games!) And above all, stay focused!

Thank you, Amber, for your continued support of Pony Club!

