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Toronto and North York Hunt

2016



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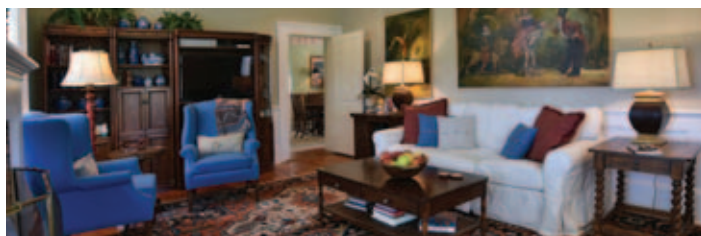
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President's Message



Michael Byrne

Welcome to our annual edition of HARK! magazine.

HARK! provides TNYH with an opportunity to recognize and thank our members and supporters.

Our club has been in existence since 1843 and is the second oldest foxhunt in North America.

During hunting season, hounds meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays and we have the good fortune to hunt some of the most beautiful country in Ontario.

With our kennels located south of Creemore, our country extends north along the Niagara Escarpment and northwest to Singhampton, Feversham, Maxwell and north to Thornbury.

This is only possible because of the generosity of our landowners, without whom hunting would not exist. Thank you on behalf of all of us who enjoy foxhunting and support country life style and pursuits.

Last fall and this spring we had some of the best hunting in years with rarely a day when hounds did not find. Credit for this goes to our Huntsman John Harrison and his partner Ros Balding, our professional whip, and our volunteer whipper-in Carl Feairs, who was made a Master in August of this year.

This year TNYH was honoured to hold a very successful edition of the Canadian Hound Show.

For 2016, our rotation of Board members brings to our Board both Ron Charles and Stuart Lazier, who not only are successful businessmen but also influential landowners in our hunt country. The hunt is indebted to our gracious Constance Boldt, a landowner and member who served for many years as Treasurer of TNYH. Constance will be relinquishing her Treasurer duties at the end of the year but has agreed to be a member of the Board.

We try hard to be 'user friendly' with invitational hunts, hunter pace events, gourmet hacks, events at our clubhouse, a Christmas children's party, and our traditional Hunt Ball.

Last but not least a big thanks to Carolyn Lane who does a great job in getting our message out, and to our wonderful editor of HARK!, Denya Massey.

With thanks and kindest regards, to all,

Michael Byrne, President
Toronto and North York Hunt



2016

Toronto and North York Hunt

Masters of Foxhounds

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Andy Bite, MFH
Carl Feairs, MFH

Professional Huntsman

John Harrison

Professional Whipper-In

Rosslyn Balding

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Editor's Note



Denya & Foster with Taddy & Millie at the TNYH Hunter Pace

work, sweat, cajoling, tail gate lunches, and camaraderie to produce a lovely cross country course, now a permanent fixture at the hunt club, which can be booked by trainers for schooling sessions.

All recognized foxhunts in Canada and the US belong to the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) which, as the governing body, protects and promotes the ideals and practicalities of the sport of foxhunting and the preservation of the countryside. See 'What Does the MFHA Do for Me' to learn more.

The MFHA lists 155 active member hunts in North America, and TNYH is the 2nd oldest. In this issue, all the Canadian foxhunts recognized by the MFHA are featured, each submitting their own summary with photos, including the oldest recognized hunt in North America in continuous existence, Montreal Hunt. (Like winning the gold and silver medal – Go Canada!).

As always, our topics range from travel to fun activities like the Hunter Pace events to foxhunting in the US - don't miss "Georgia on my Mind" by our dynamo Janet Feairs who was not only Secretary for the Canadian Foxhound Show but took on the same duty for the inaugural TNYH Combined Test. Her husband Carl was appointed a Joint Master for TNYH this past summer. Carl is very modest about his contributions, but he allowed Andy Bite to interview him for HARK! about being a honorary Whipper-In.

Photographs captivate, tell a story, provide a visual record, and bring colour to a magazine. Without them, HARK! would be pretty drab! Thank you to those who contribute every year, and to our newcomers, equally generous.

This will be the 3rd annual issue of HARK! under my hand. Three and a half years ago, Wolf von Teichman patted me on the back, and said, as only Wolf can, "You know, Denya, you should do the yearbook. You'd be good at it." Who says "no" to Wolf?! I reinvented the yearbook to be a proper magazine and enjoyed every moment of bringing these issues to life (despite grumbling once in a while – does anyone know what a deadline is????!). Carolyn Scime tackled the advertising side of the magazine, working with members to get the ads into shape and paid for, and without her, the magazine would not have happened no matter what I did – thank you, Carolyn.

Go Foxhunting!

Denya

Denya

This issue of HARK! describes our 'year of volunteering' – considerably more than usual! Hosting the Canadian Foxhound Show and then the Inaugural Combined Test Event required our fabulous foxhunting community to contribute huge mounts of time, energy and materials to make each event a success.

At the Canadian Foxhound Show, some very fine foxhounds competed for Grand Champion, won by our own TNYH Farquhar '14, shown by Huntsman John Harrison. Norman Fine, of Foxhunting Life, has written an excellent article about TNYH Farquhar '14 with John's comments.

Considerably more labour, time and materials went into bringing the first riding competition at the hunt club in Mulmur to life!

Conceived by Ron Adam, it took, as Karen Cybulski explains, hard

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Huntsman Report 2016

By John Harrison, Huntsman

Once again we were able to take the TNYH hounds and horses south for the months of February and March with the support of the Masters and Board of Directors. Many thanks to Wolf and Gill Von Teichman for accommodating us at their farm in Williston, South Carolina.

We left a snow free Ontario in the first week of February to head to Virginia on our way south where we ran into it! Snow had interrupted hunting there so we had a couple of days visiting friends before heading out to make the journey on down to Aiken. We hunted our hounds once at Whiskey Road and followed the Whiskey Road hounds on several occasions.

Martyn Blackmore, an old friend of mine, and his wife Sue moved to

South Carolina last year to hunt the Lowcountry hounds, and we were invited to hunt their country as Martyn had suffered a nasty fall and needed some time to recover. We hunted their country and thereafter we were made extremely welcome on numerous days following their hounds by all concerned, especially the Masters and in particular Christina Bates, who insisted we make use of her lovely house, barn and paddocks for an extended stay. A highlight of the trip was being able to visit Charleston and hunting from Airy Hall on the banks of the Ashepoo River.

We also travelled up to North Carolina to hunt with the Tryon Hounds for two days at the kind invitation of the Masters and Trey Bennett, their young huntsman, enjoying yet another type of country.

We had been invited to have a Joint Meet with the Deep Run Hounds in Virginia on the way home, so March 23 saw us kennelled and stabled

with Richard and Colleen Roberts at the nice and spacious Deep Run Kennels, ready for their closing meet next day.

The meet was very well attended and hounds were soon in action but quickly split on a pair of coyotes. Huntsman Richard soon had them reunited and shortly after they were running again in a piece of open country where we could see some very useful hound work which was very pleasing, as I was able to observe various of my hounds cutting the work out and driving on. It's so important to know for sure what hounds are capable of doing when hunting, to make sound breeding decisions.

Ros and Laura then took part in the Deep Run hunter pace at the weekend and did very well, with Laura and her pony Ellie making short work of some imposing coops along with Ros on her horse WP. Finally it was time to head home to Ontario and prepare for the spring season.



Photo by Cat



Photo by Cat

We had fairly good scenting days this spring with some hard running. Excellent sporting days were had from the Maxwell and Feversham meets where hounds drafted in from other hunts backed up our front running hounds to create pressure on the coyotes which made for much better hunting.

We finished Spring hunting about 10 days before the Virginia Hound Show on Memorial Day weekend so our hounds had good muscle definition for the show ring. Many thanks to Blue Ridge Hunt in Clarke County, Virginia, for housing hounds and humans while we were there, especially Graham and Sherry Bustin who hunt the Blue Ridge hounds. They had an excellent day in the ring at the Virginia Hound Show with their Blue Ridge hounds.

In the English ring, Carl Feairs, honorary Whipper-In for TNYH, and I had some success with Farquhar and Farley in the couples class, but after that we were only picking up 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths in the remaining classes while in the crossbred ring Ros showed the hounds and was placed 3rd with the Canadian winner, Drummer, in the unentered dog hound class.

We were a small but efficient team

that made the trip, with James and Laura jumping in when needed in the handling of the hounds and keeping the liquids flowing as it got very hot later in the day! And many thanks to Mike and Laurel Byrne and Carl and Janet Feairs for flying the flag with us

and helping out where needed.

The Canadian Foxhound Show was hosted by the TNYH this year on Saturday June 18th. It was a blisteringly hot day, even Jack McDonald, MFH, London Hunt, believed it was the hottest he could remember!



Photo by Ellen Cameron / Equestrian Photography

5 Hunts made the journey to support the show but, there was keen competition for honours and the company was good!

We won the 1st class for unentered dogs with a crossbred dog hound called Drummer and the class for a couple of unentered dogs with Fagin & Farmer.

Our Farquhar '14 won the open dog hound class with his brother Farley joining him to win the 'Couple Class'.

These two were then joined by another brother Farrier and Blue Ridge Glider to win the 'Two Couple of Entered Dogs' class.

I entered Clasher '10 and 2 of his sons, Fagin and Farmer, in the 'Stallion Hound with Get' class but our good Clasher carries many war wounds and is designed for work, not show,



so it was not surprising to be beaten into 2nd place by the classy London Hunt Bigwig and two of his sons.

The 'One Couple of Dogs and One Couple of Bitches' is an odd class and difficult to win, but I paired the two young dog hounds, Fagin and Farmer, with their litter sisters, Fiddle and Foxtrot, and they placed 1st.

In the afternoon after lunch, it was the 'Unentered Bitch' class and London put forward a lovely, light boned athletic little bitch called Jiggle who took the well deserved win over our Fiddle and Foxtrot with 4th place going to Eglinton Hunt Eclipse, who was one of a large draft of puppies I gave to ECH as they were short on puppies last spring.

Fiddle and Foxtrot won the 'Unentered

Couple of Bitches' class with the only other contestant, Wellington Waterloo Hunt, having a very nice couple but of a different type to ours, taking second.

WWH did extremely well in the novice division before the open division was won by them with our Goddess, for 'Single Entered Bitch' with her sister Godiva standing 2nd; paired up, they won the following couple class .

I was extremely proud to see Famous, whom I bred in England, win the 'Brood Bitch' class for the second year running as she is Pure Fellhound and up against Modern English in the ring.

In the Championships, TNYH Farquhar '14 was made Champion Dog Hound with Goddess being awarded Champion Bitch, before Farquhar was made Grand Champion English

Hound with the Champion Crossbred hound, London Hunt Jiggle pushing him hard in the run off for Grand Champion of the Show but for the 3rd year running TNYH prevailed with 3 different hounds.

The show ran very smoothly from what I saw, so many thanks to all who made it work, especially Janet Feairs who took on the daunting task of show secretary/treasurer on the retirement of long serving Wendy Somerville last year. Janet made it look like she had done it for ever!

Hound exercise will soon start and then we will be into another season so til then, Ros, James, Laura and myself send you all our very best wishes and here's to the season ahead!



The 2016 Canadian Foxhound Show

photos & text by Denya Massey

Toronto and North York Hunt had the honour of hosting the 2016 Canadian Foxhound Show in June, which proved to be one of the hottest and driest show days in Dr. Jack McDonald's memory. No one would have disagreed, yet the prevailing camaraderie, hounds showing very well, and the judges comments commending the quality of hounds they saw, proved the day to be extremely successful.

Under the leadership of J. W. D. McDonald, President of the Canadian Foxhound Show, Laurel Byrne, President of the Canadian District, MFHA, and our intrepid Secretary of the Show, Janet Feairs, the show ran very smoothly. The judges were Richard Tyacke, MFH and huntsman of the Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn Hunt, known as The Wynnstay, UK; Dr. Jon Moody, MFH, Mooreland Hunt, Alabama, and Apprentice Judge Katherine Selby, Huntsman, Green Mountain Hounds, Vermont.



"Me! Me! Pick me"



Our "Dapper Dans"



"Trophy ladies"



No wonder Gill hides Wolf's hats!



"Where is the Queen?"



"Aren't we grand!"

As the day became hotter, foxhounds were shown off 'the bench' (the wooden platform on which the foxhounds are stood up for the judges) as it became too hot for the hounds's feet.

Janet Feairs ably captained the show as secretary and was assisted by the following: recording the results of each hound class was Arlene Taylor, member of Eglinton Caledon Hunt; greeting and check-in were Constance Boldt and Beverly Nicolson; ribbons and trophies, Jill Gibson and Heidi Sauder-Mach; and taking official photographs for the MFHA and publications was Denya Massey. The ring stewards

were Alastair Strachan, MFH, Eglinton Caledon Hunt, Karl Christensen, MFH, Hamilton Hunt and Mervin Magner, Honourary Whipper-in for Beaver Meadow Foxhounds. Laurel Byrne, MFH, organized the lunch and afternoon tea on the day of the show, hosted the Friday evening dinner at the Caledon Mountain Trout Club, as well as our judges and the Canadian Masters of Foxhounds meeting.

Many thanks are also due to our Huntsman John Harrison, Tracey Vienneau, Maryse Chiasson and Carl Feairs for their hard work in setting up the portable kennels with its awning and show ring, and to



A trophy makes a great waterbowl

Rosslyn Balding for the flowers which decorated the kennels, stable and show ring. Janet also extended her thanks for support from Dr. Jack McDonald, MFH, President of the Canadian Foxhound Club.

Toronto and North York Farquhar is Grand Champion at Canadian Foxhound Show

by Norman Fine, *Foxhuntinglife.com*

Toronto and North York Farquhar 2014 was judged Grand Champion of Show at the Canadian Foxhound Show on Saturday, June 18, 2016. This was the third Grand Championship for the hunt in the last three years.

It has to be exceptionally gratifying to John Harrison, who returned as huntsman just two years ago, as all three grand champions go back to bloodlines he introduced to the pack during his earlier term as huntsman twenty years ago. Common to the pedigrees of all three, going back three generations, is Toronto and North York Crafty 1995 by their Freedom 1992.

In 1995, while Harrison was hunting the Toronto and North York pack in his first stint (1991 to 1996), he received a draft from the Berkeley (UK). One was Ballad 1987, who arrived in whelp to Berkeley Freshman 1984. Freshman was by Captain Ronnie Wallace's Exmoor Freestone 1981. "Freestone is the key," Harrison said.

Ballad's litter produced Toronto and North York Freedom 1992, who went on to sire an exceptional litter out of their Countess 1992, one of which was Crafty who appears in these three pedigrees. "That was one of the most beautiful litters I ever bred," said Harrison. Grand Champions at the Virginia Hound Show in 1995 and 1994 both go back to Freestone as well.

In 1996 Harrison received an offer he couldn't refuse—huntsman of the Ullswater Foxhounds (est. 1873). The Ullswater is one of the storied and most respected foot packs in the Cumbrian Lake District of England, where Harrison had hunted in his youth. He returned to England and remained there as huntsman for eighteen seasons, returning to the Toronto and North York Hunt in 2014.

Not having bred any of the recent Grand Champions himself, Harrison is quick to give credit for the successes to the interim breeding of his predecessors,



Canadian Grand Champion Farquhar with (l-r) Apprentice Judge Katherine Selby, huntsman, Green Mountain Hounds (VT); Judge Dr. Jon Moody, MFH, Mooreland Hunt (AL); Toronto and North York huntsman John Harrison; Mrs. Alice Tyacke; and Judge Richard Tyacke, MFH and huntsman, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn's (UK). / Denya Massey photo

huntsmen Antony Gaylard and Mark Powell.

"Farquhar entered very well," recalled Harrison. "Halfway through the season his littermate, Farley, came to the fore. Countess, who was Grand Champion here last summer, had a really good season hunting, so I put her to Farley. Farquhar came back strong in the latter part of the season, so I put him to a London bitch. I won't breed a hound that doesn't hunt well."

Wanting to breed back to those lines, Harrison also bred a first-year English bitch, Toronto and North York Festive 2015, to a Fell hound that he brought back from the Ullswater. Festive has Exmoor Freestone on both sides of her pedigree—sire and dam—just three and four generations back.

Harrison describes the day of the hound show as brutally hot and gives Farquhar great credit for staying energetic. "He kept showing all day," said Harrison, "even when I was ready to quit!"



Toronto and North York Farquhar 2014 (Eglinton and Caledon Noble 2006 ex Toronto and North York Faithful 2008), a closer look. / Denya Massey photo

Dr. Jon Moody, MFH, Mooreland Hunt (AL) judged the Grand Champion Class. The other show judges were Richard Tyacke, MFH and huntsman, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn's Foxhounds (UK) and Apprentice Judge Katherine Selby, huntsman, Green Mt Hounds (VT). London Hunt Jiggle, an un-entered bitch, was Reserve Grand Champion to Farquhar.



Foxhunting Across Canada



Photo by Lynn Swan / Liberty Shots

Foxhunt Clubs Stretch from Nova Scotia to British Columbia

*Introduction by: **Dennis J. Foster, Executive Director***

Masters of Foxhounds Association

The Masters of Foxhounds Association, MFHA, is devoted to preserving mounted hunting for future generations and enforcing and upholding fair and humane sporting practices, guidance and rules for its member hunts. There are few countries that have more tradition and history than Canada when it comes to hunting. Eleven Canadian hunts are outstanding members of the MFHA. Hunts in Canada and the USA work closely together sharing information and sport. Some Canadian hunts often go south with their hounds to the U.S. in the dead of winter when hunting isn't possible in Canada. Their U.S. counterparts often host them, as the Canadian Hunts host U.S. hunts with joint meets during Canada's hunting season. The foxhunting communities of both countries exhibit a rare camaraderie that is an example for all hunters who share the love of wild animals, horses and hounds, nature, and the thrill of the chase. I feel very privileged to have hunted with most of the Canadian hunts. The country is beautiful, the people are fun and generous to a fault. The hounds and horses are as good as anywhere in the world. If you love riding to hounds and gorgeous country, Canada is the place.

Welcome to HARK! 2016's Listing of Canada's Mounted Hunts

Laurel Byrne, MFHA Director, Canada District.

In this edition of HARK!, our editor, Denya Massey, created a feature exclusive to HARK!, showcasing all the foxhunts recognized by the MFHA in Canada. Each hunt submitted, in their own words, a profile of their club, complete with photographs. In the following article, the governing body for hunting on horseback, the Masters of FoxHounds of America (MFHA), details what the organization does for its members. Canada has a long history of fox hunting dating back to the oldest organized fox hunt in continuous existence in North America founded back in 1826 in Montreal. The clubs stretch across Canada from the Atlantic (Annapolis Valley Hunt) to the Pacific (Fraser Valley Hunt). Each club continues on the tradition of mounted fox hunting, each with its own unique territory, its own culture and history. The common thread linking these is the love of the sport of mounted hunting with hounds. I hope you take the time to read about each club and its activities.



Photo by Lynn Swan, Liberty Shots

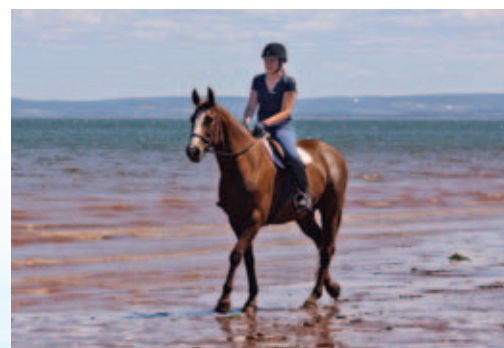
Annapolis Valley Hunt, Nova Scotia

photos by Jeff Newbery

The Annapolis Valley Hunt was established in Nova Scotia's agricultural belt more than 35 years ago as a result of a conversation among keen equestrians in the Nova Scotia horse community. To this day the AVH is still the only registered hunt pack east of Montreal.

Originally established as an English foxhound pack with three hounds, today more than seven couples of crossbred hounds carry bloodlines of American and Penn Marydels, courtesy of drafts from TNYH (Ontario), Bull Run (VA), Piedmont (VA) and Green Spring Valley (MD). A determined group of close to two dozen equestrians, including several juniors, can be found riding to hounds from September to December.

The hunt territory can include varied terrain such as rolling farmland, orchards, dykelands (reclaimed tidal marshes protected by a series of earthen dykes), mixed woodland, and if the time is right, sandy beaches at low tide on the Minas Basin of the Bay of Fundy. Ditches are an occasional obstacle with natural jumps sometimes encountered. AVH horses are as varied as the backgrounds of the riders. Capping is available for experienced riders with appropriate mounts. Hill topping is also offered several times throughout the season. Visitors from other clubs are also welcome, however, the availability of suitable hunt horses is often very limited. Please contact AVH well in advance of your trip to Nova Scotia to experience some good old Maritime hospitality!

A photograph of the interior of The Corner Café & Grill, showing a bar area with stools and a counter. The text "YOUR NEW FAVOURITE MEETING PLACE" is overlaid on the image.

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A photograph of a woman standing next to a horse and a dog. The woman is wearing a white shirt and a helmet. The horse is brown and the dog is white.

Beaver Meadow Foxhounds, Cobourg, Ontario

photos courtesy of Beaver Meadow Foxhounds

Beaver Meadow Foxhounds is a small, but very active, Hunt Club in the central area of southern Ontario. Fabulous territory is a part of its landscape with beautiful rolling sandy hills in the south, clay farmlands with plenty of coverts in the middle and rugged rocky forest territories in the north which is part of our famous Canadian Shield. Coyote is the basic hunting quarry with a number of runs also enjoyed on the famous red fox. Lake Ontario is the territories southern boundary with Hwy 12 to the west and Hwy 37 to the east. The northern boundary of Beaver Meadow territory stretches as far as the eye can see. The club is nestled between the mighty Hunt Clubs of Toronto North York and Eglinton Caledon on the west as well as Ottawa Valley Hunt and Montreal Hunt on the east.



Beaver Meadow members are sure to point out their fabulous territory with spectacular views as one of the clubs



boasting features, but quick to follow is the members ability for tremendous hospitality. The Masters and members for years have gone out of their way to make all visitors feel not only welcomed but honoured to have venture to their territory. A bi-annual Beaver Meadow Invitational which is a major fund raiser for the club boast great food, great social activities, great camaraderie and of course tremendous hunting. Each festival proudly displays a guest pack of hounds and some of the famous packs participating in the past have been Toronto North York with Antony Gaylard and Montreal Hunt with Andrew Marren.

Beaver Meadow is also proud of their own pack of bitches which have been carefully developed over the years beginning with Old Dominion Parsnip and Beaver Meadow Carnage.

Crossbred hounds (American and English) are predominant in the pack and in more recent years, under the direction of Huntsman Jamie Hughes, the PennMarydel hound has continued to be integrated. The Masters of Golden Bridge Hounds were very generous in drafting four lovely young PMD bitches to Beaver Meadow and this spring Blythe a full PMD has been covered by Ullswater Crowner presently with Toronto North York producing eight healthy active puppies.



Very important to the club is its great association with neighboring Hunt Clubs throughout North America. Regular joints meets are held with Limestone Creek (New York), Ottawa Valley Hunt (Ottawa), and the Beavers have a very special hunting bond with Lake of Two Mountains (Glen Robertson) and Montreal Hunt Club (Montreal). Quite often a group

from Beaver Meadow will wander to Virginia during late November to hunt with clubs in the south, a favorite being Old Dominion on the American Thanksgiving weekend. This is a great time of bonding for members of the club and the way to celebrate the end of a great fall season. It also gives new members opportunities to travel with their horses to a different country and try a variety of hunting experiences.

During any given week in hunting season hounds will be out Wednesday and Sunday and of course Sunday hunts are always followed by a sumptuous feast prepared by the members. During these hunt breakfasts tall tales are often shared.



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Eglinton and Caledon Hounds, Caledon, Ontario

photos by Karin McDonald

Eglinton and Caledon Hounds is very pleased to be part of the 2016 HARK! magazine. As the 'Club next door', we have many joint members, joint hunts and friends in common.

Eglinton and Caledon Hunt was formed in 1930, as an offshoot of TNYH. Located at the corner of Avenue Road and Roselawn Avenue in Toronto, it was recognized as a separate hunt under the Mastership of George Beardmore. When the expansion of Toronto necessitated finding new country, hounds were moved to their present location on Creditview Road in Caledon in 1963.

We currently have 13 fixtures we visit regularly, from Caledon to Southgate, Eramosa to Mono. Our country varies from our Reddickville fixture - which is known for long gallops and great views, to several areas with many wooded trails and beautiful vistas. And of course, our traditional Caledon territory with it's many coops and stone walls always provides great sport, due to the work of Huntsman Colin Brown.



Our 120 plus members enjoy numerous social and riding events throughout the year from Robbie Burns Night, Pub Nights, Summer Trail Rides, Hunter Paces, Elora Horse and Hound Parade and our Autumn Hunt Ball (October 22!). Our Joint Masters Alastair Strachan MFH, Christine Gracey MFH and Sue Rasmussen MFH are always available to answer questions and greet our guests.

We enjoy our joint meets with TNYH and are happy to welcome all those who would like to enjoy a day's sport with us. Contact our Honorable Secretary Tina Walker tina100@bell.net or check out our website: www.eglintoncaledonhounds.com for more information.



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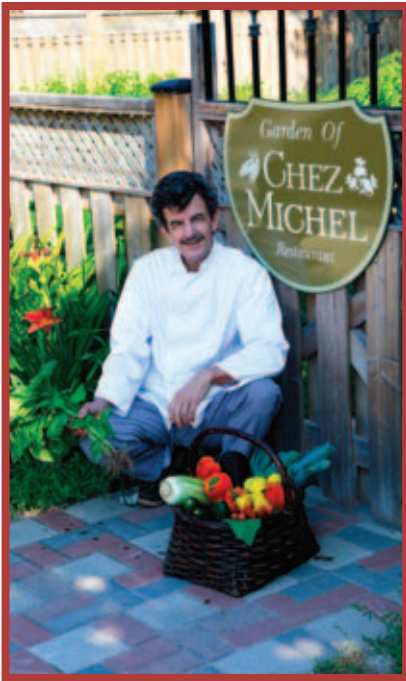
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Fraser Valley Hunt, Aldergrove, B.C.



The Fraser Valley Hunt Society was founded in 1968 and recognised by the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) in 1972. The kennels are located in Aldergrove, British Columbia, in the center of the Fraser Valley, about 50 minutes east of Vancouver. Our MFH is now Dr. Carol Champion. Dr. Raymond Wise, Kathrin von Trebra and Karen Hatch have retired, though Ray is still a Governor of the club.

Our hunts are drag hunts as our territory is comprised of hundreds of parcels of country owned by many different, mostly private, land owners, and bordering parcels are often not available to us for hunting. In addition we have permission to use some land owned by First Nations and by the Crown.



Photo by Sjoerd F. Nap

Our country goes from the coast east to the interior of the Province of British Columbia, and from Pemberton South into the Lynden-Ferndale area of Washington State. Our season runs from late September through Easter and hounds generally go out weekly, weather permitting.

Guests are welcome, but please contact the kennels at 604.308.6352 on the Friday evening after 18.00hrs to confirm the meet and the location.

The fixture card and the meet's addresses website, will be posted on our website, www.fraservalleyhunt.com.

This year we aim to start with a new huntsman, Alysha Baxter, as our previous huntsman of the past many years has decided to retire.



photo by Sjoerd F. Nap



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Hamilton Hunt Club, Caledonia, Ontario



Photo by Aunette Koolsberger

The Hamilton Hunt Club, started in 1958, is located in Caledonia, Ontario, along the banks of the beautiful Grand River. The hunt club property consists of 27 rolling acres on which the kennels, barns, clubhouse, and huntsman's lodgings can be found. At any one time, we have between 15 and 20 couple of hounds in kennels, made up of both English and crossbred foxhounds which are used for hunting, mainly coyote (described by some of our earliest members as brush wolves) and some red fox.

The lands we hunt are quite varied. We enjoy farm land, open fields, rolling pastures, both large and small covers, as well as many

hedgerows with a number of coops and ditches to keep us challenged.

The Hamilton Hunt Club holds nine horse shows each summer in our two large outdoor sand rings, held onsite at the kennels. There are 5 Hunter schooling shows and 4 Jumper schooling shows, with a banquet in October. We also host the Hamilton Hunt Hunter Derby. Thanks to our dedicated members and tireless volunteers, these shows have become increasingly popular and have grown threefold in the past two years, attracting over 100 entries each. These horse shows are a major fundraiser for our club, along with corporate advertising around the rings.

We have seen our membership rise as a result of the shows as riders that come to compete in the shows learn about the Hamilton Hunt,



and become interested in the club and the sport. We hold a number of other popular events each year, including scavenger hunts, a Halloween hunter pace, a Hunter Derby with \$1500 in prize money and of course a Hunt Ball, to name just a few.

Visitors are welcome at Hamilton Hunt, and the kennels have stalls for those bringing their own horses. Please contact Andrea Dreger for more information at:

Caymanstar@hotmail.com, or
Thehamiltonhuntclub.ca



photo by Annette Koolsbergen

[Editor's note: Foxhounds are counted in couples, so 20 couple of hounds is 40 hounds. If a Huntsmen hunts with an uneven number of foxhounds, say 25 hounds, he would say he is hunting 12 and a half couple. Another long held foxhunting tradition!]



Lake of Two Mountains Hunt Club, Glen Robertson, Ontario

The Lake of Two Mountains Hunt Club was founded in 1946. The uniform is scarlet with peacock blue collar. The kennels are in Glen Robertson, Ontario.

Lake of Two is the only hunt in Canada whose territory extends over two Provinces. Although the original territory of the hunt was on the southern shores of Lake of Two Mountains in Quebec, where the Saint Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers converge west of Montreal, it has since extended up the Ottawa Valley into Eastern Ontario covering 180 square miles of picturesque farm country. Riders in the LTMH field can expect to encounter varied terrain, with open and ploughed fields, as well as densely wooded coverts interlaced with several creeks. Obstacles include timber hunt jumps, post-and rail fences, coops, irrigation ditches and the odd ravine.

Our huntsman is Francois Seguin, who has been kennelman and huntman for 11 years. The pack consists of 13 Penn-Marydel couples, mostly bitches. This breed is well suited to the open terrain and elusive quarry that require a good nose and a high degree of tenaciousness. The Lake of Two Mountains Hunt is proud of its friendly and supportive membership united in their love of hunting and fun camaraderie spirit. The hunt enjoys the absolutely fabulous support of



the local farming community who generously allow the use of their properties for hunting.

Visitors are welcome, with a capping fee of \$50 and the opportunity to lease a hunt horse for a meet, \$125. For more information, please contact the Hunt Secretary at Sophie.maheo@gmail.com or by phone at 514.208.1837. We keep our Facebook page as current as possible, as it's a source of information for members or anyone interested in coming out with us: <https://www.facebook.com/LTMH46/>



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The London Hunt Arva, Ontario



photo by Shawn Tribe

Quarry include red fox, coyote and hare. Hounds are mostly crossbred with some English and few American hounds. There are usually around 35 couple of hounds in kennels. Hunting starts with cub hunting in mid August and continues until early December, weather permitting. We hunt Wednesdays and Saturdays in the early part of the season with by-days on many Mondays after Thanksgiving Day. On Thanksgiving Day, we start hunting at the London Hunt and Country Club where our

membership enjoys seeing the hounds and horses, including a frolick around our cross country course. Guests are welcome with notice. Hunting continues from the kennels afterwards.

Our country consists mostly of flat, arable farmland including corn, soybeans and wheat stubble. There are usually two flights, a first flight that moves at speed and a second flight that mostly stays at a walk and trot. There are very few jumps in our country and no jumping is necessary. We usually conclude

Although traditions of the London Hunt date back to the 1843 Grand Military Steeplechase and to the military drag, it was actually on March 30, 1885 that a group of stalwart equestrians formally organized civilian hunting buffs into the London Hunt and Country Club. These same sportsmen enjoyed golf, and the two activities were paramount from the beginning, with tennis and trap shooting added later.

the day with a tailgate breakfast at the meet. During the formal season, we usually stay out for 3 to 4 hours, depending on the scent and the weather.



photo by David Cooper



courtesy of London Hunt

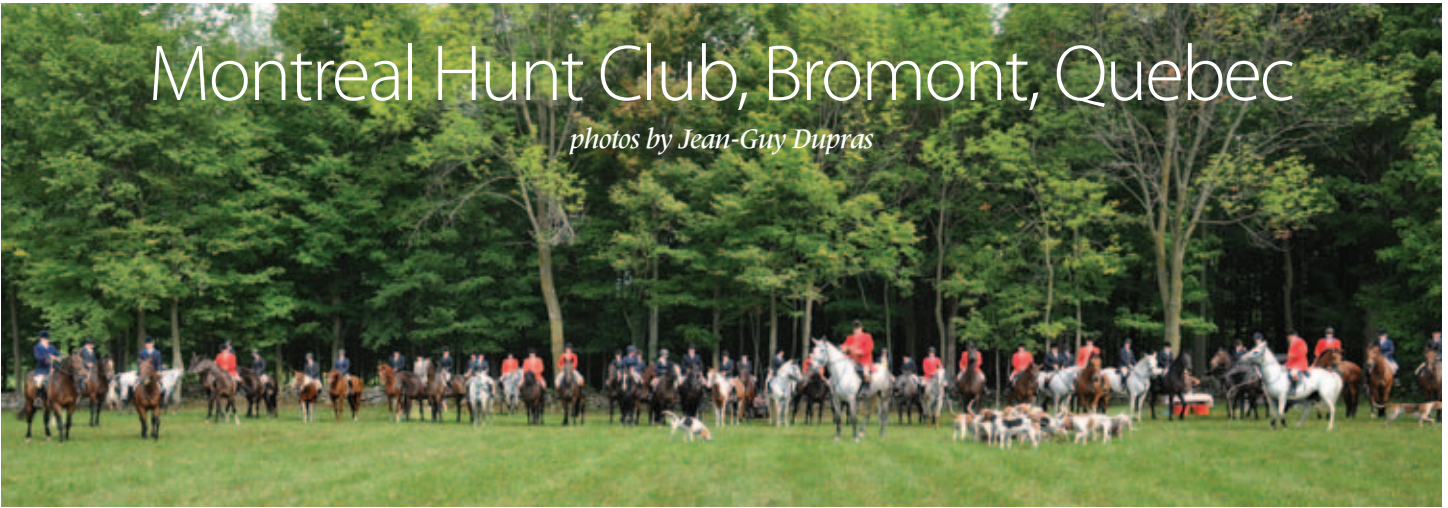
Other activities include the London Hunt Trillium Horse Show, a hunter pace which takes place on Labour Day Monday, and a silent auction fundraiser party towards the end of the season.

For more information about the London Hunt: www.londonhunt.ca



Montreal Hunt Club, Bromont, Quebec

photos by Jean-Guy Dupras



Our country is divided in two, with a territory north of Montreal in the Mirabel/Lachute area, and one south of the city in the Eastern Townships (Bromont/Cowansville/Dunham). We attempt to match hunts up equally in both. Our northern territory is characterized by cropland, some fallow land and wooded coverts. Obstacles include ditches, put in place stone walls and coops. The southern territory has a greater percentage of pasture, larger holdings in rolling countryside with a variety of obstacles put in place such as stone walls, rails, log jumps and coops.

We have 17 ½ couples of hounds in kennels, plus 4 couples of puppies. We have just entered 3 ½ couple of puppies this season from champion Irish blood out of the Ballymacad Hunt. Our four couples of puppies this year are out of Sapphire (TNYH) and Damage (Ballymacad). As you might infer, we are moving towards a modern full English pack.

We are fortunate in that we have witnessed a resurgence in Red Fox, which is our primary quarry, and always great sport, particularly in, at times, limited territory. No doubt the winter hunting of coyotes by farmers has assisted in this development.

Our regular joint meets include days with the Lake of Two Mountains, Ottawa Valley, Eglinton Caledon, and a major presence at the Beaver Meadow Festival.



event, preceded by the parade of hounds with our huntsman and whips, followed by cocktails, the event, dinner and live band dancing.

Challenges? They are many and myriad as any in the sport will acknowledge. Two of which certainly include ever shrinking headlands, provincial legislation notwithstanding, and the dance with the deer hunters, whose season spans bow, rifle, black powder and the interstitial rest periods between, and just happens to coincide with most of ours! Yet, we have found that with honest discussion and advance notice, there is room for all.

www.montrealhunt.org



Almost all our hunts in the formal season are followed by breakfasts hosted by a hunt member. Some are quite lavish affairs, to which the surrounding landowners are invited and welcome. Our summer dinner/dance/spectacle, instituted a few years ago, is always looked forward to. It takes place in mid-July at the Bromont Equestrian Centre (site of the 1976 Olympics), and includes a VIP tent viewing of a pre-Grand Prix jumping

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The Ottawa Valley Hunt, Ashton, Ontario

photos by Lynn Swan / Liberty Shots



The Ottawa Valley Hunt has been bringing the drama and adventure of fox hunting to Ottawa's countryside for more than 140 years. It is the oldest Drag Hunt in North America, founded in 1873 by the Earl of Dufferin, who had come to Canada the previous year as Governor General.

In the early 1970's, Master Earl Lacharity bought land west of Ottawa to house a permanent Kennels, Stable and Clubhouse. Our Hunt continues to thrive there today.

Our hunt country is within a 35 square mile area with a mix of cultivated land, scrub land and bush. Jumps are mainly natural log fences and coops. All trails are well maintained. New territory is being developed in neighbouring counties.

Our Huntsman, Antony Gaylard, thrills the Membership with his professionalism and attention to detail. At present, we have 9 couple of English and 8 1/2 couple of Crossbred hounds. We have a Spring and Fall Season, meeting on Wednesdays, Saturdays and statutory holidays.

Our current membership of 70 is active in our fundraising activities. We host seven riding events through the summer months and have a well attended Hunt Ball every Spring.

Particularly dear to Ottawa Valley Hunt are the Landowners who make our passion for foxhunting possible, so OVH members held a Neighbourhood Party complete with 'Elvis' in August. Our menu & theme of Barbecued Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Poodle Skirts and Cowboy Boots started off a great night of Thank You's! 'Elvis' rocked our night away and our Landowners can't wait for a repeat next year...so we've set the date

for 2017!! Over 100 groupies danced the night away under a full moon. Bare feet on grass is the most delicious sensation!!!!

Ottawa Valley Hunt is a strong community member, and invite guests to cap with us and enjoy our hospitality. Please contact us at

www.ottawavalleyhunt.com



Toronto & North York Hunt, Mulmur, Ontario



photo by Cat

As the 2nd oldest recognized foxhunting club in North America, Toronto and North York Hunt has a long history of great foxhunting over the past 173 years. The hunt settled as the Country and Hunt Club, in Scarborough, in 1893. The club is now in the heart of Mulmur, between Creemore and Mansfield, surrounded by beautiful rolling hills, and farmed country. Our neighbours to our west are Eglinton & Caledon Hounds, an offshoot of the Toronto Hunt in the 1930's.

Hunting traditions at TNYH are strong, and the kennels hold mainly English foxhounds, including the current Grand Champion of the Canadian

Foxhound Show, TNYH Farquhar '14. Under the hand of our fabulous Professional Huntsman, John Harrison, hounds hunt twice a week, with additional bye days, over country to the west and north of the kennels, right up to country overlooking Georgian Bay! Terrain includes farmed fields, rolling hills with lovely views of Mulmur, to wooded areas with trials. Most jumps are coops.

As you read HARK!, you'll see what a great community our members, associates and supporters enjoy, with social occasions, and many hunt related activities. Our Joint Masters are Laurel Byrne MFH, Andy Bite MFH, and Carl Feairs MFH.

Founded on May 15th, 1843, The Toronto Hunt was formed, and in 1893, the foxhounds were moved to a permanent home as the Country and Hunt Club on the Scarborough bluffs. The current "Toronto Hunt" is now primarily a golf club. In 1929, the hounds and club were moved to Beverly Farm (now Beacon Hall Golf Course) in Aurora, their home for 57 years, the longest the hounds, kennels, and hunting country ever stayed



photo by Denya Massey

in one place. City expansion forced the kennels to move north again in 1986, settling on the west side of

Newmarket. In 2001, the current clubhouse, kennels and stables became home to TNYH, located in the gorgeous Mulmur Hills between Mansfield and Creemore. For more information or to come as a guest, please write us at

info@tnyh.horse or visit
<http://www.tnyh.horse/>

Go TNYH! Go Foxhunting!



photo by Denya Massey



Wellington-Waterloo Hunt, Puslinch, Ontario



photo by Barry Chadbolt

The Wellington-Waterloo Hunt, established and registered in 1965 and recognised in 1967, is primarily a drag hunt.

With kennels in Puslinch Township, just east of Cambridge, our country encompasses all of Waterloo and most of Wellington Counties: A large expanse, unfortunately becoming increasingly highly populated, ranging from the very flat lands of the west to the rolling hills of the east, there is a great variance of terrain. Some of the land is held by Mennonite farmers who pasture in smallholdings, while large cash croppers hold other areas. Land is constantly being developed and hence we are constantly seeking to develop new hunt country further afield from kennels but within our established boundaries.

Hounds go out on Wednesdays and Sundays, from break of spring to crops in June, then September until the ground freezes in December.



photo by Ken Rose

The Wellington-Waterloo was founded by our founding Masters, Gordon Pass and his long time friend Clarence (Robby) Robbins, who had been hunting for years with the Toronto and North York Hunt from where the first draft of six couple came.

Hounds were originally kennelled at Passfields, Master Gordon Pass's farm, adjacent to Galt (now Cambridge) and moved to Hunters' Run (the farm of Carl & Carol Cook) in 1987 where they stand to this day.

We welcome visitors and guests – please contact one of our Joint-Masters:

Jock Buchanan-Smith
(beeftech@buchanan-smith.com);

Paul Sherman who is also Huntsman (paul@wwhunt.ca)

Judith Barr (jjb1@rogers.com).

Also, our website, www.wwhunt.ca contains much useful information and contact links.



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Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA)

All Recognized Foxhunts in Canada and the United States are members of the Masters of Foxhound Association (MFHA). While much of the following might seem 'wordy', it does give hunt members, and those who support both equestrian activities and hunting in general, some idea of the breadth of what the MFHA governing body does for its membership. This was written by the MFHA, and reproduced with their permission.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America (MFHA) was formed in 1907 and is the governing body of organized fox, coyote, other acceptable legal quarry and drag hunting in the United States and Canada. The MFHA's main activities are:

- To promote, preserve and protect the sport of mounted hunting with hounds.
- Establish and maintain standards of conduct for foxhunting.
- Register eligible foxhounds in a "Foxhound Stud Book" and improve the breed of foxhounds.
- Registration of hunts as a preliminary step toward recognition.
- Record countries and boundaries for organized hunting establishments.
- Recognition of organized hunts which have met MFHA standards.



What Does the MFHA Do for Me?

1. Legitimizes your Hunt. Hunts attain credibility by belonging to a professional organization that respects longstanding traditions and enforces rules for sportsmanship and standards.
2. Registers territory to Hunts. Enforces and interprets the MFHA territory policy for the good of foxhunting and its member hunts.
3. Assists Hunts in resolving disputes and problems.
4. Foxhound Registration. Records foxhound genealogy in a recognized registry and publishes this information both as a yearly Stud Book and as a searchable online database. The online database assists hunts in registering, breeding and maintaining their packs
5. Establishes and maintains standards of conduct for foxhunting and animal husbandry.
6. Manages the Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation (HSBF). The HSBF provides monetary assistance to hunt staff professionals and their families who are in dire financial need.
7. Manages the MFHA Foundation. The Foundation provides information and programs designed to educate and inform the public about the sport of foxhunting and works to obtain funding to secure the sport for future generations.
8. Provides a Professional Development Program (PDP): An educational program to enhance and improve the skills of current hunt staff encouraging them to stay in hunt service and to find and train new hunt professionals within the USA and Canada to fill vacancies. The program also assists hunts with problems by sending a team of experts to the hunt to analyze and work with them.
9. Works to minimize urban sprawl, encourage open space, and preserve hunting wildlife habitat and conservation by providing educational materials, information on conservation and hunting easements, and incentives/awards like the



photo by Denya Massey



photo by Denya Massey

annual Hunting Habitat Award, to encourage member hunts and landowners to participate.

10. Youth Programs created to help get children interested in foxhunting. We published A Kids Guide to Foxhunting and My First Foxhunt coloring book, continue to provide expertise, funding and assistance to the US Pony Club, and have created the Fairly Hunted Award which is given to any child (pony club or not) who has successfully hunted at least five times during a season and they receive a commemorative pin, certificate and a one-year subscription to Covertside.
11. Provides sanctioned Hound Shows with financial support, rules, guides and judges.
12. Maintains a Hunt Staff Registry with a current list of open jobs and positions and works to help find the right hunt position for each employee and the right employee for each hunt.
13. Publishes Directories of Hunts for the Baily's Hunting Directory in England, Covertside Hunt Roster and the Hunt Masters Association directory.
14. Helps provide an insurance program for comprehensive general liability insurance available to registered and recognized hunts.
15. Manages the MFHA website (www.mfha.com) and the MFHA Facebook page. Both

have a large amount of information on all aspects of our sport and are devoted to keeping members informed on current MFHA programs and events and to provide assistance to members, hunts and the general public.

16. Works with national and international organizations to save hunting with hounds around the world. The American MFHA is a world leader and is well-respected in other countries. In the USA we work closely with United States Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA); National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA); American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP); Association Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA); American Horse Council (AHC); Unwanted Horse Council (UHC); and American's for Medical Progress (AMP). Worldwide we work with the Countryside Alliance-UK and the International Union of Hunting with Hounds (IUHH-FACE Europe).
17. Works to proactively counter anti-hunting organizations misinformation and propaganda, and help to identify who the animal rights organizations are and their strategies.
18. When applicable, provides expert witness in State and Federal authorities on legislation and law suits pertaining to all aspects of mounted hunting.

19. Monitors and responds to media inquiries and requests to ensure fair and accurate reporting and often assist in the preparation of articles, radio and TV reports.

20. Publishes Covertside, a quarterly magazine for foxhunters to help strengthen the unity of our foxhunting community and a monthly edition of eCovertside. Each edition is packed with information on foxhunting history, art, hounds, horses, events, education, threats to the sport and entertainment for the serious foxhunter.

21. Plans and runs Educational Seminars for hunt staff, whippers-in, huntsmen, field masters and field members. We have numerous audio CDs and DVDs on foxhunting subjects to include, but not limited to the above and hound care.

22. Handles all corporation and administrative requirements for the MFHA, HSBF and MFHA Foundation to include tax and audit requirements.

23. Manages the Subscribing Membership program of over 6,000 members.

24. Manages the Legacy Program which was created for foxhunters looking toward the horizon to help save foxhunting for future generations.

<http://www.mfha.com/>

Opening Meet, September 10th

Photos and text by Denya Massey

The most important hunt meet of the year is Opening Meet, which is the first formal foxhunt of the year, when our hunting season opens, and it is followed by the Landowners Hunt Breakfast, to which all the landowners over whose land TNYH foxhunts are invited to share with the hunt members. The day dawned with threats of rain, and while the day looked a tad gloomy, it was a cooler day, more comfortable for hounds, horses, and riders than the high heat during the week's previous spell of weather. The crisp air encouraged a frolic or two as the field moved off and jumped a coop!

Opening Meet is traditionally held at the kennels, where John Harrison, Huntsman, Ros, James and Laura Balding turned out hounds, staff horses and themselves beautifully. The TNYH members on horseback turned out in formal hunt attire, marking the first time since last fall that the men with their 'colours' wore their scarlet hunt coats, and the ladies wore their black hunt coats with their 'colours' on their collars, the lovely blue of Toronto and North York Hunt. It is, without



Past & Present Masters of TNYH: Carl Feairs, Andy Bite, Laurel Byrne, John Elder, Michael Belcourt, David Cross, Taddy Cork, Wolf von Teichman, Gill von Teichman



a doubt, the dressiest of all the hunt meets in the calendar.

The clubhouse was decorated in fall colours, to celebrate the beginning

of the formal hunt season. Past and present Masters of the Foxhunt (MFH) were photographed mounted prior to John moving off with hounds. After hunting, at the luncheon, two more past Masters were photographed as part of the MFH group at the Landowner's Breakfast. Lovely to have the continuation of history.

The members host the breakfast, to show their appreciation to the landowners and to celebrate the beginning of the fall hunting season.



Masters on Horseback: Gill von Teichman, Wolf von Teichman, Michael Belcourt, Taddy Cork, Andy Bite, Laurel Byrne, Carl Feairs

Combined Test Competition at the TNYH Kennels

by Karen Cybulski, photos by Denya Massey

The idea for Toronto and North York Hunt to host a combined test came from Ron Adam. He presented his idea at the TNYH AGM in 2015. He stressed that in order for the event to come to fruition he would need the whole club to help out. It is unclear if, at that moment, the club members actually understood how much time, money and physical effort it would take to transform a hay field into a cross country course. But they came through in spades.



Most weekends of the spring and summer the kennel property was busy with activity. Many of our members and their families and friends, came out to build and install over 40 cross country obstacles, including coops, banks, hanging logs, tire and brush jumps. Almost all of the materials and equipment required were donated by hunt club members. Neighbours of the kennels donated large downed trees, rocks and brush. Those members



not handy with heavy equipment or hammers and screw guns, were kept busy painting flags and jumps.

It came right down to the wire, but everything was ready Friday by 5:00 pm for riders showing up to walk the course the day before the combined test. It was obvious to all, the amount of effort that had been put in to get the site into such great shape. John Harrison, Rosslyn Balding and family put in many hours manicuring the grass stadium and dressage rings as well as helping with construction.

The Stadium Course design was formulated by Olympian Jim Elder and he was on site to give encouragement



to all the competitors. He was assisted by Taddy Cork and Carolyn Scime who ensured that the course rode well.

Luckily, the services of the onsite veterinarian Dr. Jim Mitchell were not needed on the day. Our volunteer farrier, Dustin Mercer was ready for any shoeing emergency. Woody (M. F. Woodfine) from Tack Two EMS & Fire Suppression tended to a few competitors but no one sustained any major injuries.

The event went off without a hitch. Janet Feairs was able to coordinate 40 volunteers, (many who had never been involved with any sort of cross country event) and make it look like they had done it before. She also organized all the competitors and kept the event on track with the last rider finishing the course exactly on time.

Although we were a little light on competitors, it certainly was evident that going forward we will be able to handle many more competitors and make the event a success. We are well positioned to make the TNYH Combined Test an annual event.



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Carl Feairs, MFH – Amateur Whipper-In

By Andy Bite, MFH

(Ed. Note: Whipper-in is the correct term for an honorary or professional person on horseback who assists the huntsman with managing hounds when out hunting, including keeping the huntsman up-to-date, following foxhounds and preventing them from crossing busy roads or going into dangerous country, like a rock quarry. The Whipper-in is also called a 'whip' in foxhunting lingo. A 'road whip' follows the hunt in a vehicle, and carries a radio to keep in touch.)

1. When and how did you get into the sport of foxhunting?

I planned on giving foxhunting a try once I retired. At the time Janet had one horse, Max, at a boarding facility and was hunting regularly.

We decided that we should start looking for a farm prior to my retirement so that we could have things ready for retirement. The purchase of our little farm came quicker than expected and of course if we were going to move Janet's horse home, he would have to have a companion! Janet got on that and in no time we had a palomino named Soleil.

This all accelerated my 'riding in retirement' plans, as you can't have horses standing around doing nothing. In the winter of 2005 I took lessons and in the spring I started hunting.



Carl & Soleil

In August 2016, Carl Feairs' knowledge and enthusiasm for the sport of foxhunting were acknowledged by his appointment as Joint Master of TNYH.

Carl's appointment was recommended by Joint Masters, Laurel Byrne, MFH, and Andy Bite, MFH, and approved by the Board of Directors. In addition to his Master's duties, he will continue as Honourary Whipper-In for TNYH.

To add to the occasion of his appointment, Carl's exceptional horse Soleil was honoured with the presentation of the Susan Jane Anstey Memorial Field Hunter Cup, as Field Hunter of the Year for the 2015 Season.

2. How did you learn about hounds?

Anything that I know about hounds I have learned from Steve Clifton, at the time the huntsman of ECH, and John Harrison, huntsman of TNYH. Both of whom are very knowledgeable and both have been generous about sharing their knowledge of hounds, game and hunting in general. I am continuously learning more about hounds and the sport.

3. When and how did you become a whipper-in?

I would say that it was around 2008 that I started whipping-in.

I don't remember the exact reason that I ended up out with Alastair Strachan, MFH with Eglinton and Caledon Hunt who is also an honorary whipper-in but once I got a taste of it I knew that was what I wanted to do.

4. What qualities are required of an amateur whipper-in?

You have to be loyal to your Huntsman.

You must know how many hounds are out.

You must count hounds every chance you get and report to the huntsman.

You must learn to count in couples. (31 hounds would be 15 and a half couple)

You must have horses that can do the job.

You must be able to cross country at speed.

You must know the country and where the game will run.





Photo by Cat

I'm always working on that!

You must be comfortable taking orders.

You must be willing to take a little risk to protect the hounds.

You need to know the hounds by name. This is my biggest learning curve!

5. What are the responsibilities and role of the whippers-in the hunt? What about a 'road whip'?

The whips are out there to assist the Huntsman in showing good sport. We are an extension of his eyes and ears out there. We are also out there to keep the hounds safe from traffic.

I would say that the road whips have the same responsibilities as the mounted whips but without the ability to travel over the countryside although they can move faster!

6. What is the best part of being a whipper-in?

The best part of whipping in is when you are in the right place at the right time to do your job. If that happens to be when the hounds are in full cry and you are riding along beside them with the quarry in view – now that

is the very very best part of being a whipper-in.

7. What is the worst part of being a whipper-in?

The worst is getting left behind. When you are sent to a location and the hunt goes the totally opposite way. It is easy to be left a mile or two behind. Not the end of the world but usually taxes your horse to try to get back into the hunt.

8. How do you keep track of the hounds?

Listening would be the first and most used way of keeping track of hounds, followed by sight and radio communications.

9. Some hunts do not use radios – what are your thoughts on that?

My feeling is that radios are an absolute necessity in our country.

The size of the coverts and the terrain are such that I could not do any sort of a job of Whipping-in without a radio. There are many times when due to wind or distance, there is no way that I can hear the hounds or the horn. The radio allows us all to do our job better.

10. Describe your best day in the hunt field!

This is the toughest question! I have had so many great days!

I will tell you of the one that came to mind while answering your question regarding 'What is the best part of being a whipper-in'.

I was sent out ahead to the south side of a covert well out in front of the huntsman. The hounds picked up a scent in the covert and by the time the coyote popped out the south side, the hounds were in full cry and coming toward the open ground that the coyote had crossed. The hounds came out of the woods and were in a tight pack with very few stragglers. I ran south with the hounds until I came to a 3-strand electric fence. NO I did not jump it and carry on with the hounds.

This could have been the end of staying with hounds for me but while I was frantically looking for a way to get forward with the hounds, I hear their voices starting to get louder again. There is something about hearing a pack in full cry coming ever closer that makes your hair stand up! It is happening to me right now just talking about it!

The coyote had made a big loop in the farm south of the electric fence and was coming back. He popped through



the electric fence maybe 300 yards east of where he had gone south. The hounds were close behind and I rode along beside them, northbound on a horse that was into it as much as I was. The coyote and hounds entered a swamp, so it was time for me to ride hard to the east to the paved road to try to prevent them from crossing.

The hunt carried on from there but this is a bit of my history that I hope to never forget.

11. What else would you like to add to your story?

I would like to close with praise to the whip horses that I have ridden and continue to ride and to their trainer.

I have whipped-in on 3 horses and all were ridden and trained by Janet (Carl's foxhunting wife) long before I whipped-in on them. When I started riding, she gave me the best trained horse and took on the new and challenging mount and this generosity has continued with each new mount.

Max was the first horse I whipped-in on. He had hunted for years in the field under Janet before I even started riding. In his prime he could go forever and had a heart of gold.

Soleil was the second and was brought into the rotation as Max was getting a little old for the hard and fast running. Janet had ridden him in the field until she allowed me to use him for whipping-in. He is still going strong and seems to live for the moment when I drop the reins and let him



Carl & Janet Feairs

Photo by Karin MacDonald /
Beaumurage Digital Photography

go! And yet my young granddaughter Jaden rides him as well!

Casper came next and Janet was riding him in the field from the time I started riding Soleil. I had to be convinced by Suzanne Dow (honourary whipper-in for ECH) that I was up to the challenge! He is not the "easiest ride" at times but he is sure footed like a cat and he can get me places fast!



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Don't Judge a Book by its Cover!

by Denya Massey, photo by Gamecock



It might be hard to imagine, but once upon a time, when we were kids, we rode without helmets, bareback, fearlessly, and – this is bad – went barefoot in the stables and paddocks. Here are three little girls, with probably the greatest Three Day Event horse in the late 1960's, Eye Spring, whom I'm holding, while my two sisters pose for our mother, the famous horse photographer, Gamecock.

That book? Well, the cover would deceive you – my middle sister, the curly haired one, went on to become a foxhunter, an eventer, but found her calling in the horse show world, being the beloved rider for a famous horsewoman named Pansy Poe, of Thomasville, Georgia. Leslie could make the most ordinary horse look handsome and jump

neatly. Caroline, who is sitting up front, had no fear. She foxhunted, too, but rose through the eventing ranks in a flash, and bought Cajun, her first "Horse of the Year" from the late Stu Houlding of Guelph, a $\frac{3}{4}$ Clydesdale who was on the USET, campaigned in the UK, and was the dam of Ashford Castle, a show hunter who was inducted into the AHSA Hall of Fame. She had a 2nd "Horse of the Year" with Comic Relief. Me – the 'handler' on this day, I was already allowed to foxhunt on Tin Tac, and loved foxhunting as much as I loved eventing. My greatest horse Sneakers (an OTTB) and I won at long format Intermediate (24 miles, including steeplechase and cross country) which compares to CCI** today.

These three kids, no helmets, no shoes, in shorts, and one high powered eventer stood posing on their front driveway, with no idea of how horses would shape their lives. And be better for it. Bless all the horses.





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Cassie - Not Just a Hunt Horse

by Beverly Nicolson

Hunt horses often do not just carry their riders in the hunt field. They may participate in eventing, parades, polo, or teach young riders. My horse, Cassiopeia, known as Cassie, took on a new role in 2015 - she traveled 2500 km from Ontario to Newfoundland with the Communities for Veterans Ride Across Canada.

Paul Nichols and his family left the Pacific Ocean, British Columbia, on April 13, 2015 and 11,000 km later arrived at the Atlantic Ocean, Newfoundland November 9th, 2015. Paul is a veteran of the war in Croatia/Bosnia, and he and his family experienced the effects of PTSD. They found that the Canadian community was not aware of the experiences and needs of the contemporary veterans returning from serving our country around the world. They set out on a trek on horseback across Canada in the hopes of changing that and to share in the stories of other veterans.

I admit, when I heard 'veteran', my mind turned to my father's generation, those elderly veterans in our lives who fought in WW1, WWII, & Korea, although fewer of those veterans, but still prominent on Memorial Day. When I listened to Paul one night, I realized I knew nothing of younger veterans from more recent wars and peace keeping missions, let alone how they and their families deal with the trauma and horrors of what the veterans have gone through and seen. What could I do?

In conversation with Paul and his wife Terry, Paul mentioned that they were in need of solid horses to make the trip. Two of the horses who had travelled from Alberta were heading back home, this left them



Cassie on the last day of the Ride Across Canada coming into St. John's Newfoundland. Paul Nichols and Sylvain Nadon. Photo credit to Lindsay Chung

short a couple of reliable horses. Paul travelled approximately 32 km most days. Veterans were trained by Terry, as most were not riders, and after a couple of lessons they rode with Paul for usually half a day. The horse had to have a good head, be generous, be able to deal with inexperienced riders, and travel comfortably. The veterans and Paul rode trails, highways, and downtown streets (Toronto, Ottawa, Charlottetown). They would

have to walk for hours and miles, stand patiently during ceremonies, accept pats from a myriad of people, experience sirens, trucks, loudspeakers - the list goes on. I knew Cassie could make a contribution, but the question was: could I let her go. My husband decided he could set aside time to go with them; having an experienced horseman helping to transport horses would be an asset.



Bev Nicolson hunting Cassie, jumping a coop.

Still curious about the challenges facing Paul, his family, and his colleagues, I asked Paul what had changed to create that gap in understanding his issues. He explained that in the past men from a community were usually assigned to the same unit, and came back home together providing a support network in the community. In recent years a unit could be made up of soldiers from all across the country and when they returned they went back to their homes, where they often did not have the communal understanding

of their experiences. He found the 'contemporary veterans' were not recognized by most individuals, groups or organizations for the contribution they had made, nor did the veterans have the support services they needed to make the transition. Terry told her story of the sheep where the moral was we could step out of our comfortable space, recognize there is a need and do something to make a difference, or we can stay in our 'safe' space. What would or will happen to that safe space if people such as the veterans had not/do not step up? I was convinced – I would step up, or, more literally, let Cassie go on the trip in early August, on a trial basis.

Paul and Terry were not familiar with the hunt horse type, and weren't too sure how she might fit in. That is to say Cassie is a Clydesdale/Thoroughbred cross, 16.2 hands tall, home raised, solid mare who likes to jump. She



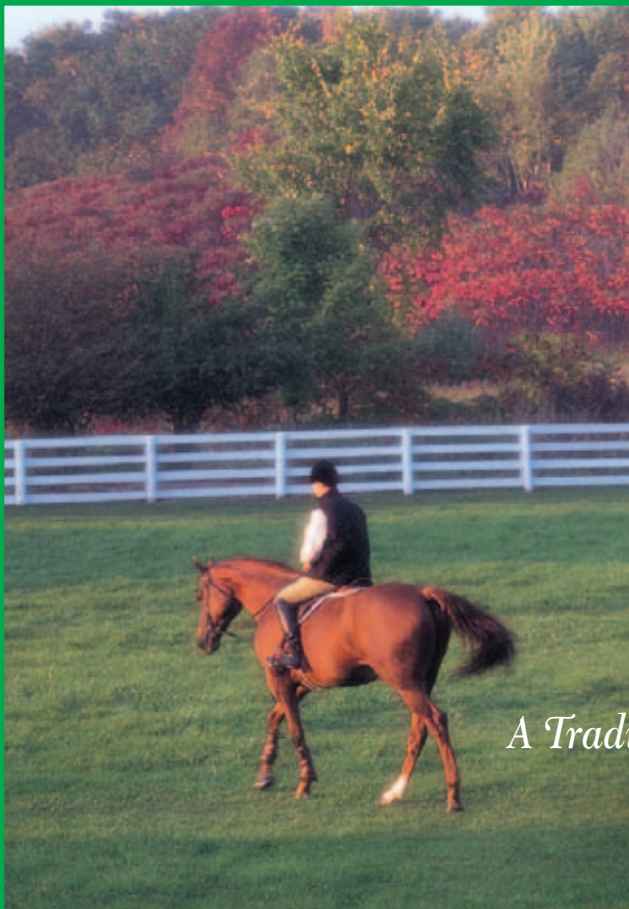
*Bev Nicolson on Cassie with
Nancy Beacon on Cob*


stepped into her new role, and won their hearts and those of the veterans she met. Paul said "I knew she was

a keeper when we rode across an overpass while an emergency truck with lights and sirens going passed underneath us, and she was steady as could be." Terry rode her to give lessons. Veterans rode her and learned to let go, release the tension from years of pent up memories. Her calm demeanour allowed them to realize they could talk as they rode, and talk they did. Their stories are being listened to and being told through the Communities for Veterans Foundation work.

Cassie came home in November healthy and fit. Cassie carried 83 veterans, travelled 2,500 km, took the ferry to Newfoundland, and helped bring awareness to the Canadian community that the contemporary veterans need us. I am so proud of her! We will be back in the first field to foxhunt this fall, but she's NOT just a hunt horse.







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The Magnificent Hunt Ball, Gatsby-Style in 2016!

photos by Leslie Shepherd, except the one Chris Dodd took of her!



Yet again, Laurel Byrne, MFH, and her crew created a magical evening for members and guests, with a beautifully decorated ballroom, a truly impressive dinner and desert from Gourmandissimo, great music, a well stocked silent auction, and a hugely successful live auction! We'll let the photographs tell the story!

Why It's Called a Hunt Breakfast Well After Midday, and Other Traditional Peculiarities

by Constance Boldt

When a hunt is over, the Huntsman says “Good night, Madam” or “Good night, Sir” to the Master as he leaves the field, even though it’s only early afternoon. Because in the past foxhunting could well last all day, this is a foxhunting custom no matter what time of day it really is, even early afternoon. Then we put our horses onto the trailers and go to have Hunt Breakfast together, though by then it’s about time for late lunch. Traditions can be puzzling, but a healthy appetite and good food are not.

The Hunt Breakfast has a history as old as the sport, more than 300 years. There’s nothing new about exertion making us hungry, but why is it called Breakfast? It is said that “the hounds should be in the cover at sun rising.” With horses to tack up and time for trailering, all before dawn, that wouldn’t leave much time for breakfast before the Meet. Although few, if any, of our hunts ever begin at dawn, the notion of earliness has stuck: we still hunt before Breakfast.

At the Toronto and North York Hunt, Breakfasts range from simple pot-luck tailgate meals eaten in a field by the trailers to lavish feasts, either home-cooked or catered, in the homes of members. When hunting near our Hunt Kennels, we often have pot-luck Breakfasts in our Clubhouse. Members can host a Breakfast feast at the Clubhouse too. Menus generally include typical breakfast foods like eggs, bacon, ham and even individually prepared omelettes, but hosts don’t limit themselves, so we find creativity and generosity are the most common ingredients. One hostess whose husband, her co-host, insists on the same menu for their Hunt Breakfast every year, was surprised to discover over time that several members actually looked forward to that repeat menu. Both custom and thirst mean that wine and beer are always part of a Breakfast, but modern ways are creeping in, so water, juice and pop are always on hand, too.

Even if you have your menu worked out, planning a breakfast can be a little nerve-racking because you never know how many guests you’ll have. No RSVPs are required: if you’ve hunted, you’re welcome. Poor weather will make the group small. Maybe . . . but maybe not. We’re a hearty and devoted bunch so there may be a full house. One dreary mid-November Wednesday threatening rain brought forty-five brave riders to a Breakfast planned for thirty, but no one went home hungry. Because Hunt Breakfasts are a great time of camaraderie, hosts often invite local landowners, friends and family to join. These are informal opportunities for neighbours to hear what foxhunting is about.



Photo by Cat



Photo by Denya



Photo by Cat

Happy experience shows that however many people come to your Breakfast, they’ll very cheerfully eat everything you provide, no matter what number of guests you planned for! After a full morning on horseback in the fresh air of the countryside, we have the pleasure of being really hungry. It’s meal at which you never hear complaining about the food and there is never fussiness. It seems that for everyone the food just tastes so good. Even the simplest bite at a tailgate Breakfast tastes deliciously satisfying. The pundits keep telling us that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. On a hunt day, any hunt member will agree. But thank heavens, cereal is never on anyone’s Hunt Breakfast menu!



Christmas Party 2015

by Karen Cybulski - photos by Cat

Despite the warmth and lack of snow on December 13th, TNYH members, families, and friends celebrated the Christmas season with great fun. The decoration of the Club House with Christmas trees and garland set the stage. Although there were no sleigh rides due to the lack of snow, the children present enjoyed making Christmas crafts while the adults shared good cheer and stories of the hunting from the Fall season.



The pot luck at the Christmas Party is always bountiful and delicious. As proven by the accompanying photos, all the children and some adults were excited at the prospect of sitting on Santa's lap to receive their present! Santa looked pretty cheerful too!

The awarding of TNYH hunt colours and buttons is a particularly important part of our Christmas celebrations. This year, Ron Charles, Janet & Carl Feairs, Fay & Walter Jensen, and Victoria & Stuart Lazier were delighted to receive the coveted blue collars and hunt buttons of Toronto and North York Hunt.

The recipient of the award for the best

field hunter in 2015 was Soleil, Carl Feair's cheerful and reliable palomino, on whom he whipped-in almost every hunt. We were very pleased to have Jennifer Anstey, daughter of the late Susan Jane Anstey, present the Susan Jane Anstey Memorial Trophy in recognition of the Field Hunter of the Year. Susan Jane's father was Lewis Scott, MFH from 1972-89; Susan Jane was herself an avid foxhunter, and was the founder/owner/editor/publisher of Horse Sport magazine as well as other horse related publications, a business which Jennifer continues today.

Michael Belcourt who recently retired from his role of MFH was recognized

and thanked for his generous contributions to TNYH. The photo presented to Michael of him out foxhunting on his black horse Samson will hang in the Club House.

In the spirit of the season, attendees of the party donated non-perishable food items to the Creemore Food Bank. This Christmas Party was a huge success because of all the people who donate their time and resources to organize, plan, and make it happen. We all look forward to next year's party!



The 350th Anniversary of the Charlton Hunt, Feb. 6, 2016

text and photos courtesy of Laurel Byrne, MFH, Canadian Representative MFHA

The Charlton Hunt is the earliest recorded foxhunt in the world, its fame drawing the elite of society including the Dukes of Monmouth, St. Albans and Richmond, illegitimate sons of King Charles II. The Duke of Richmond bought nearby Goodwood as a place to stay and entertain his friends during the hunting season. His son, the second Duke of Richmond, shared his love of the chase and when he became Master, due to the success and desirability of the hunt, he decided membership should be restricted to election. Almost every noble family had a representative at Charlton, including half of the Knights of the Garter.

When the hunt was moved to Goodwood in the mid-eighteenth century, it was known as the Duke of Richmond's Hounds. Magnificent kennels were built by the architect James Wyatt with an ingenious central-heating system, a century before Goodwood House had heating.

The Charlton Hunt was synonymous with some of the best sport in the country, with Mr. Roper its celebrated huntsman.

"Mr. Roper has the reputation of keeping the best pack of fox hounds in the Kingdom" -Alexander Pope, 1712

"In those days, hunting was just about the chicest thing you could do" says the present Lord March, the future 11th Duke and a man well known for maintaining Goodwood as a living, working, sporting estate. "Sport in all its forms has been part of Goodwood since the beginning and it was in order to be able to hunt in the nearby Charlton forest that the 1st Duke of Richmond originally bought a Jacobean house at Goodwood. That makes the Charlton Hunt extremely important to my family. It was one of the first properly organized fox hunts in the country and became very illustrious"



View from the room overlooking the old kennels and whelping lodges



Lawn Meet at Goodwood House, Laurel Byrne MFH, Mike Byrne and our nieces, Aoife and Sarah Byrne

Cameron Sadler MFH, her husband Lincoln, along with John Dorrier MFH, represented America, while my husband, Mike and I represented Canada on behalf of the MFHA. We were fortunate to receive a personal invitation from the Earl of March, son of the current Duke of Richmond and heir to Goodwood, for the 350th anniversary of the famous Charlton Hunt. Our group stayed at the Hound Lodge, Goodwood's brand new accommodation with only 10 rooms, with our room looking out over the old whelping lodges and kennels. The staff were wonderful, especially our butler, Sam. On Friday evening we were invited for a black tie dinner in the Egyptian Room at Goodwood House with our hosts, Lord and Lady March, and a few of their friends and sponsors.



The 350th Anniversary of the Charlton Hunt, Feb. 6, 2016, *Continued...*

On Saturday, the hunt was limited to 100 riders, dressed in the distinctive Charlton Hunt colors of blue and gold buttons. We were supplied with brilliant mounts from a local stable. The day began with a lawn meet in front of Goodwood House, where a stirrup cup was served by staff dressed in Charlton livery made especially for the event. The temperature was about 45 degrees, with some sunny spells. The drag worked well, we had beautiful views of the hounds crossing amazing countryside. There were 35 jumps, mostly tiger traps, some timber, and some rails, all were about 3'6". There were a group of ladies side-saddle including our 2 nieces from Ireland. Two hours later we stopped for a second stirrup cup at Fox Hall, a lodge built in 1732 for the 2nd Duke, as a resting place after a long day in the saddle.

At the end of the day back at Goodwood House, a lovely tea was served in the Long Hall, and we were awarded the Charlton hunt buttons.

That night we attended a Hunt Ball in the Ballroom at Goodwood House. The room was stunning, from the art on the walls, the orchestra, a symphony of hunting horns, a fabulous band to the delicious dinner.

On Sunday we all assembled in front of Goodwood House for the Duchess of Richmond's Chase presented by Hermès. Featuring 24 riders, who all hunted the day before (including our 2 nieces), riders were dressed in Hermès designed silks and covered 3 miles over 20 timber fences. Awards were presented at a Hermès designed horse box converted to a cocktail bar. Lunch in the ballroom followed with 130 Hermès place settings, and a Hermès gift at each chair!

The entire weekend was nothing short of spectacular, a wonderful experience and a great honour to be invited.

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Laurel and Mike Byrne, Cameron Sadler and her husband Lincoln in front of the Hermès horse box/bar

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Members of TNYH are equestrians of varying skill levels and ages who enjoy a day out together, following a pack of foxhounds while riding horseback. Members of 'the field' enjoy the thrill of following the hounds across farmland and through forests on the heels of the Field Master, who is following the Huntsman, the person actually managing the hounds as they hunt.

We always have a non-jumping group (known as 'Hilltoppers') and often have a group for people who would rather only walk or trot (known as the 'Leisure Field'). Consequently, there is a place for virtually every rider to enjoy the day!

We ride to hounds every Wednesday and Saturday from mid-April to the end of May, and from mid-August to the end of November. Through the kind generosity of landowners, we are able to ride in and around Creemore, Mulmur, Singhampton, Dunedin, Maxwell, Feversham, and Thornbury.

Guests and new members are welcome! Those giving foxhunting a try for the first time are always paired with an experienced member to guide you through the day. Rides are typically three hours in duration, followed by a well-deserved Hunt Breakfast at which we share stories of the day, laughter and camaraderie. We also have many social events throughout the year such as Gourmet Hacks, Hunter Paces, Hunter Chases, a Hunt Ball and a Holiday Season Party.

About TNYH:

We are one of the oldest clubs in Canada, founded in 1843 as the Toronto Hunt. It began in the City of Toronto and moved first to the Scarborough Bluffs and later to Aurora and Newmarket. Today, our kennels, stable and huntsman's house are located in the rolling hills of Mulmur, between Mansfield and Creemore.

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TNYH's Popular Gourmet Hacks, 2016

by Laurel Byrne, MFH - photos by Wendy Webb Photography

A Gourmet Hack generally starts off with a welcome 'stirrup cup' beforehand, followed by a leisurely hour and a half ride through beautiful countryside. Halfway through, we enjoy a welcome stop for refreshments. Once our horses are untacked, washed, given their lunch of hay with water available and tucked safely away, the riders are treated to a gourmet lunch of their own.

Each year, the Gourmet Hacks are tremendously popular, and are important fundraisers for the hunt. The hosts donate the lunch, and all proceeds go to TNYH to support our hounds, huntsman and facilities. It is very generous of all hosts.

Our first Gourmet Hack this year was at the home of Nancy Beacon, assisted by Bev Nicolson, who have kindly held hacks before. The ride was beautiful and very scenic with gorgeous views and even a waterfall through the Beaver Valley. We had a fabulously barbecued steak and salads after. We sat outside between the trees on beautifully set tables with tablecloths and flowers.

Our second Gourmet Hack was at the home of Glenn Jones and Ron Adam. We had a stunning ride through Mono

Cliffs Park and the Dufferin Forest. It is lovely and shaded, and the footing is excellent, especially appreciated in the summer drought with rock hard ground. They followed up the hack with a delicious lunch cooked and served by Glenn, set up in their handsome (and immaculate) stables.

The third Gourmet Hack was at the home of Walter and Fay Jensen, a gorgeous ride with spectacular scenery, overlooking Beaver Valley. Near the end we had a welcome rain on ourselves and horses, which felt

wonderful as it was a hot day and we've had such a dry summer. We were hosted to lunch in Walter and Fay's 'party barn', which is an actual barn converted into a stunning entertaining space. Fay made a delicious lunch of poached salmon and lovely salads.

Many thanks to our hosts; it is a lovely excuse for our members to get together during the summer, and what a better way than a joyful ride and delicious lunch in such gorgeous country



Anthony Trollope's Passion

by Polly Winsor

The portrayals of foxhunting in the novels of Anthony Trollope are unquestionably the best in all literature. Several other authors, R. S. Surtees for instance, also produced descriptions of hounds in full cry followed by enthusiastic horsemen, but these make dull reading unless you are a hunter yourself. Trollope is in a different league. Living by his pen, this man knew how to hold an audience. Victorian readers adored his long novels, filled with intricate layers of plot, often involving a penniless aristocrat in search of a wealthy bride, or a saintly girl in love with a cad, or a widow accused of forging her husband's will. Teachers of English nowadays judge Trollope rather more harshly than his contemporaries did, but the BBC won high ratings when it turned twelve of his novels into two television series some years ago, one about the fictional Palliser family, the other set in the imaginary county of Barsetshire. Julian Fellowes, author of the addictive TV series "Downton Abbey," is a staunch admirer. I have recently become a fan of Trollope myself, partly because of his narratives of my favourite sport.

Trollope (Fig. 2) admitted in his Autobiography that he loved to write about hunting, but he took care not to overdo it. Out of his 47 novels ("prolific" is an understatement), only 14 of them include a hunting scene; only one, *The American Senator*, gives hunting prominence. The dignitary of the title, visiting England, is constantly puzzled, which was Trollope's way to help non-hunting readers understand the action. In this excerpt Morton, the Senator's host, is pointing out the Master of Foxhounds, who in this case is not MFH of a private pack but of a subscription hunt, in which the members choose their leader:

"That's Captain Glomax, I suppose," said Morton. "I don't know him, but from the way he's talking to the huntsman you may be sure of it."

'He is the great man, is he? All these dogs belong to him?'

'Either to him or the hunt.'

'And he pays for those servants?'

'Certainly.'

'He is a very rich man, I suppose.' Then Mr. Morton endeavoured to explain the position of Captain Glomax. He was not rich. He was no one in particular... his one attribute was a knowledge of hunting. He didn't keep the 'dogs' out of his own pocket. He received £2,000 a year from the gentlemen of the county, and he himself only paid anything which the hounds and horses might cost over that. 'He's a sort of upper servant then?' asked the Senator.



Anthony Trollope ca. 1875. National Portrait gallery, London (x197419), reproduced with permission.

'Not at all. He's the greatest man in the county on hunting days.'

'Does he live out of it?'

'I should think not.'

'It's a deal of trouble, isn't it?'

'Full work for an active man's time, I should say.' A great many more questions were asked and answered, at the end of which the Senator declared that he did not quite understand it, but that as far as he saw he did not think very much of Captain Glomax.

'If he could make a living out of it I should respect him,' said the Senator;—'though it's like knife-grinding or handling arsenic,—an unwholesome sort of profession.'

'I think they look very nice,' said Morton, as one or two well-turned-out young men rode up to the place.

They seem to me to have thought more about their breeches than anything else,' said the Senator. 'But if they're going to hunt why don't they hunt? Have they got a fox with them?' Then there was a further explanation."

Likewise in *The Eustace Diamonds* Trollope has the young widow, Lizzie, following hounds for the first time in perfect ignorance, so that when she questions her companion, his answers enlighten us as well. That long outing leaves her bored, wet, and cold. Trollope says:

"the day was one of those from which all the men and women return home cross, and which induce some half-hearted folk to declare to themselves that they never will hunt again."

Trollope's Lizzie has many flaws in her character, but being half-hearted is not her style; her second hunt, which he relates in detail, leaves her thrilled to the core:

"To Lizzie it had certainly been the most triumphant day of her life....How glorious it was to jump over that black, yawning stream, and then to see Lucinda fall into it! And she could remember every jump, and her feeling of ecstasy as she landed on the right side."

You can read the details of Lizzie's two hunts in chapters 37-39 of *The Eustace Diamonds*. Physical copies of Trollope's novels, new or second-hand, are easy to find; all of them are available on line, for free, through Project Gutenberg.

Many of Trollope's novels first appeared in a magazine, a chapter at a time, with copious black-and-white illustrations, but the thing Victorian readers cared most about was the

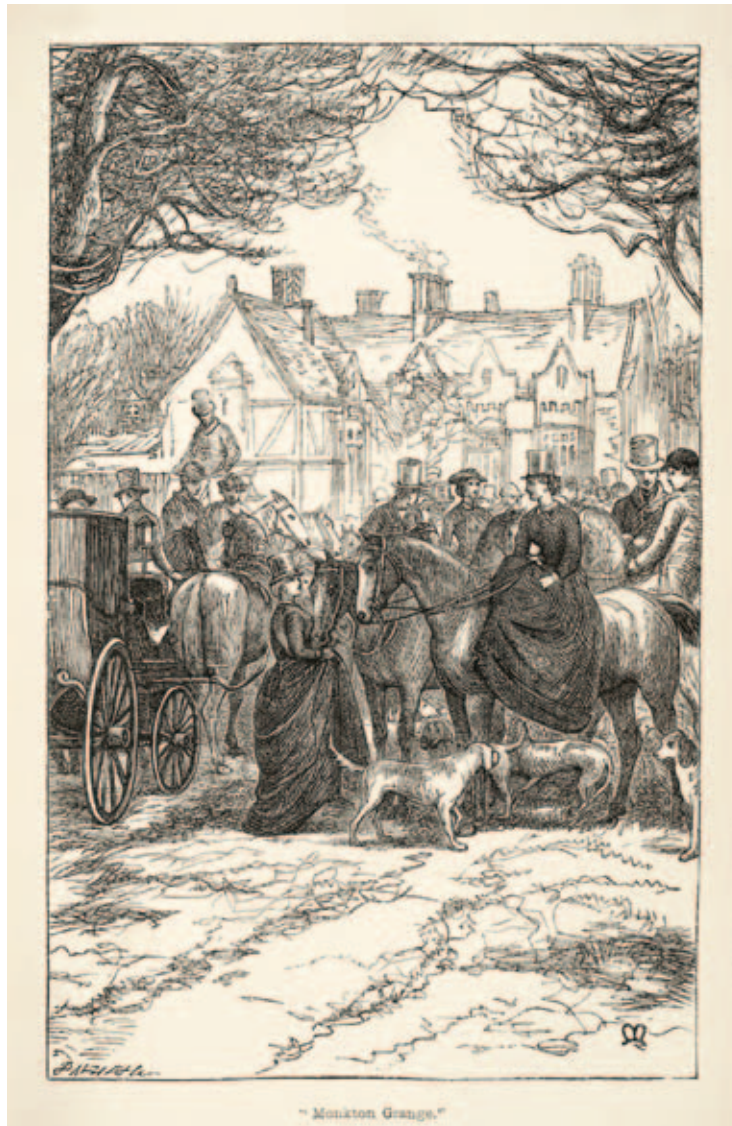
by a moat, dry indeed now for the most part, but nevertheless an evident moat, deep and well preserved, with a bridge over it which Fancy tells us must once have been a drawbridge.

It is here, in front of the bridge, that the old hounds sit upon their haunches, resting quietly round the horses of the huntsmen, while the young dogs move about, and would wander if the whips allowed them—one of the fairest sights to my eyes that this fair country of ours can show."

Trollope repeated this sentiment two years later in *Can You Forgive Her?*, chapter 17:

"Of all sights in the world there is, I think, none more beautiful than that of a pack of fox-hounds seated, on a winter morning, round the huntsman, if the place of meeting has been chosen with anything of artistic skill."

Recent paperback editions of Trollope often feature on the cover an attractive painting of a hunt, but after considerable searching I have found no colour image of appropriate date that satisfies me. Next year I promise to explain, with examples, what this search has taught me about the history of British sporting art.



"Monkton Grange," illustration by John Everett Millais for Trollope's *Orley Farm*, 1861. Image courtesy of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto.

emotional struggles of his characters, which explains why, out of many hundreds of those pictures, only four show a hunt. Here is one (Fig. 2), drawn by Trollope's close friend John Everett Millais, an avid foxhunter himself. It accompanied Trollope's description of a meet in *Orley Farm*, chapter 28. (This and the following chapter include two ladies, the Tristram sisters, who ride fearlessly and understand the sport perfectly.):

"And the old house itself is surrounded

By now you will not be surprised to learn that riding to hounds was Trollope's own passion. At the age of 27, after several years barely earning a living in London as a clerk in the Post Office, he moved to Ireland, where his job was to improve the delivery of mail. In his *Autobiography* he tells us that his supervisor

"kept a pack of hounds, and therefore I bought a hunter.... then and thus



Anthony Trollope's Passion, Continued...

began one of the great joys of my life. I have ever since been constant to the sport, having learned to love it with an affection which I cannot myself fathom or understand. Surely no man has laboured at it as I have done, or hunted under such drawbacks as to distances, money, and natural disadvantages. I am very heavy, very blind, have been—in reference to hunting—a poor man, and am now an old man. I have often had to travel all night outside a mail-coach, in order that I might hunt the next day. Nor have I ever been in truth a good horseman.... But it has been for more than thirty years a duty to me to ride to hounds; and I have performed that duty with a persistent energy. Nothing has ever been allowed to stand in the way of hunting,—neither the writing of books, nor the work of the Post Office, nor other pleasures....”

In 1859 Trollope, with a wife and children, returned to England, still employed by the Post Office. His literary income allowed him to resign that job in 1867, after which he earned his living by writing assiduously until his death in 1882. Again from his Autobiography:

“...in the winter of 1859-1860, I had almost made up my mind that my hunting was over. I could not then count upon an income which would enable me to carry on an amusement which I should doubtless find much more expensive in England than in Ireland. I brought with me out of Ireland one mare, but she was too light for me to ride in the hunting-field. As, however, the money came in, I very quickly fell back into my old habits. First one horse was bought, then another, and then a third, till it became established as a fixed rule that I should not have less than four hunters in the stable.... Few have investigated more closely than I have

done the depth, and breadth, and water-holding capacities of an Essex ditch.... The cause of my delight in the amusement I have never been able to analyse to my own satisfaction. In the first place, even now, I know



Stephen Dobson, huntsman of the Essex Foxhounds from 1867 to 1879, when Trollope rode with that hunt. From R. F. Ball and T. Gilbey, 1896, The Essex Foxhounds.

very little about hunting,—though I know very much of the accessories of the field. I am too blind to see hounds turning, and cannot therefore tell whether the fox has gone this way or that. Indeed all the notice I take of hounds is not to ride over them. My eyes are so constituted that I can never see the nature of a fence. I either follow some one, or ride at it with the full conviction that I may be going into a horse-pond or a gravel-pit. I have jumped into both one and the other. I am very heavy, and have never ridden

expensive horses. I am also now old for such work, being so stiff that I cannot get on to my horse without the aid of a block or a bank. But I ride still after the same fashion, with a boy's energy, determined to get ahead if it may possibly be done, hating the roads, despising young men who ride them, and with a feeling that life can not, with all her riches, have given me anything better than when I have gone through a long run to the finish, keeping a place, not of glory, but of credit, among my juniors.”

One of his longest descriptions of a run is in *Can You Forgive Her?*, chapters 16-17, which includes a minor character called “Mr. Pollock,” clearly a wry self-portrait. In the following excerpt he is bantering at the meet with three fellows who had partied the night before at a nearby inn. (Grooms had hacked the horses of all four gentlemen to the meet.)

“Well, Pollock, when did you come?” said Maxwell.

‘By George,’ said the literary gentleman, ‘just down from London by the 8.30 [train] from Euston Square, and got over here from Winslow in a trap [two-wheeled carriage], with two fellows I never saw in my life before. We came tandem [two horses in line rather than side by side] in a fly [carriage for hire], and did the nineteen miles in an hour.’

‘Come, Athenian, draw it mild,’ said Maxwell.

‘We did, indeed. I wonder whether they’ll pay me their share of the fly. I had to leave Onslow Crescent at a quarter before eight, and I did three hours’ work before I started.’

‘Then you did it by candle-light,’ said Grindley.

‘Of course I did; and why shouldn’t I? Do you suppose no one can work by candle-light except a lawyer?’”

Trollope did generally travel long hours by train to hunt, and he did take pride in never missing a publisher’s deadline.

Besides the novels already mentioned, there are hunt scenes in *Phineas Finn* (ch. 24), *Ralph the Heir* (ch. 31), *Phineas Redux* (chs. 7, 14, 16, 17, 42, 53, 75), *Is He Popenjay?* (ch. 8), *Ayala’s Angel* (chs. 23, 24, 49), *Marion Fay* (chs. 2, 38, 39, 40), and *Mr. Scarborough’s Family* (ch. 28). In *The Duke’s Children* (ch. 62), Trollope has his characters talking after dinner:

“When the ladies went out of the room Mrs. Spooner gave a parting word of advice to her husband, and to the host. ‘Now, Tom, don’t you drink port-wine. Lord Chiltern, look after him, and don’t let him have port-wine.’

Then there began an altogether different phase of hunting conversation. As long as the ladies were there it was all very well to talk of hunting as an amusement; good sport, a thirty minutes [run] or so, the delight of having a friend in a ditch, or the glory of a stiff-built rail were fitting subjects for a lighter hour. But now the business of the night was to begin.... And from thence the conversation of these devotees strayed away to the perils at large to which hunting in these modern days [1880] is subjected;—not the perils of broken necks and crushed ribs... but the perils from outsiders, the perils from new-fangled prejudices, the perils from more modern sports, the perils from over-cultivation, the perils from extended population, the perils from increasing railroads... and that peril of perils, the peril of decrease of funds and increase of expenditure! The jaunty gentleman who puts on his dainty breeches, and his pair of boots, and on his single horse rides out on a pleasant morning to some neighbouring meet, thinking himself a sportsman, has but a faint idea of the troubles which a few staunch workmen endure in order that he may not be made to think that his boots, and his breeches, and his horse, have been in vain.

...It may always be observed that when hunting-men speak seriously of their sport, they speak despondingly. Everything is going wrong. Perhaps

the same thing may be remarked in other pursuits. Farmers are generally on the verge of ruin. Trade is always bad. The Church is in danger. The House of Lords isn’t worth a dozen years’ purchase. The throne totters.

‘An itinerant Master with a carpet-bag never can carry on a country [hunt territory],’ said Mr. Spooner.

‘You ought really to have a gentleman of property in the county,’ said Lord Chiltern....

‘It should be someone who has a real stake in the country,’ replied Mr. Spooner,—‘whom the farmers can respect. Glomax understood hunting no doubt, but the farmers didn’t care for him. If you don’t have the farmers with you you can’t have hunting.’ Then he filled a glass of port.”

Echoes of this conversation, with or without the port, may be heard in Ontario today.

1. *Horses pulling a light carriage at a fast trot could not have gone over 12 miles in an hour, so they would have had to been galloping part of the way, which was possible (the Pony Express horses were changed every hour).*
2. *He metaphorically calls Pollock a citizen of Athens because it was the centre of classical culture.*
3. *This expression, like ordering draft beer low in alcohol, means “do not exaggerate.”*



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TNYH AGM, 2016

Andy Bite, MFH

The 173rd TNYH Annual General meeting was held on May 14, 2016 with over 30 members attending at the Hunt Clubhouse to transact the TNYH business and receive reports from the Officers and Members of the Board. Michael Byrne, Constance Boldt and Andy Bite were elected officers for a one year term as President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. Michael Byrne thanked Bill Carter, Leora Conway, and Elizabeth Hearn for their years of contribution to the Board of Directors. Three new Directors, Constance Boldt, Ron Charles, and Stuart Lazier were elected to the Board by the Members.



Photo by Chris Dodd

And Speaking of Lady Eaton...

by Denya Massey



A fox hunt at Eaton Hall in the 1940's

Overlooking the 173rd TNYH AGM is Lady Eaton, born Flora McCrea, widow of Sir John Craig Eaton. In 1937, she moved from Toronto into what has long been called Eaton Hall as her primary residence. In all the site plans, surveys, and construction, the house was called "Eversley"; perhaps the house had a unique name to distinguish it from the greater property. Lady Eaton was a Master of the Toronto and North York Hunt from 1938 to 1958, a remarkable achievement, and second only to George Beardmore's 38 years of mastership. Hunt meets were frequently at Eaton Hall. Her son Timothy C. Eaton was also an MFH (1933-1935), following his joint-mastership of the Crawley and Harsham Hunt in England.

My mother, whose family knew Lady Eaton, recalls being with her mother and seeing Lady Eaton in the elevator



And Speaking of Lady Eaton, *Continued....*

at Eatons Department Store. My mother said "Hello, Mrs. Eaton", to which Lady Eaton replied "Hello, Miss Massey", never acknowledging that my mother had erred in calling her 'Mrs.'. As a youngster, my mother went to 'Learning to Dance' parties at the Eaton's house in Toronto, which was tragically demolished in the 1960's, by being blown up as the walls were too thick for the usual demolition.

Our History:

May 15, 1843 – The Toronto Hunt was founded, making it the second oldest continuously run foxhunt in North America.

1860 – The foxhounds move to Hamilton for 5 years.

1893 – A plan was formed towards a more cohesive club atmosphere with kennels, stables and clubhouse on one property. As a result, the Country and Hunt Club of Toronto purchased land on picturesque Scarborough Heights, south of Kingston Road on the bluffs, and construction got under way. The property is currently occupied by The Toronto Hunt (primarily a golf club).

1910 – For twelve years, the Toronto Hunt Club hosted the Canadian Horse Show at the Armories or St Lawrence Market, until the Royal Horse Show took over in 1922.

1909 – Rapid city growth forced a move of the hunting territory north to Green Bush Lodge, an old hotel in Thornhill. At that time membership was around the \$300 mark. Annual fees were \$40 for gentlemen, \$20 for ladies and \$10 for non-residents.

1918/1919 – The onset of WWI caused the banning of all organized race meetings; so as a result, the King's Plate was run under the auspices of the Toronto Hunt Club 'Horse Show' at Old Woodbine (very south end of Woodbine Avenue in Toronto.)

1920's – The Master, George W. Beardmore, bought property at Avenue Road and Eglinton in the City of Toronto, and in 1929 the offshoot Eglinton Hunt Club was formed. The Toronto Hunt Club building stood until the early 2000's, at the s/w corner of Avenue Road and Roselawn.

1929 – Hounds were forced to move to Beverly Farm (now the Beacon Hall Golf Club) in Aurora by the end of the 20's due to more city expansion.

1932 – Financial pressure during the Depression years led to the remaining 'active' Hunt members transferring to Beverly and incorporating under the name Toronto and



A hunt at Eaton Hall, with Lady Eaton on the right, who fox hunted side saddle



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1246, Item 1619

Lady Eaton and Æmilius Jarvis enjoying the Stirrup Cup, at a meet at Eaton Hall in King City, Ontario, Canada.

North York Hunt Club in 1932. This venture was generously financed by Lady Eaton, who lived at nearby Eaton Hall.

1986 – The Hunt relocated to a splendid farm in the rolling hills near Newmarket and soon after acquired additional hunting territory near Creemore.

2000 – Because of busy roads and urban growth of the areas around the kennels, it was becoming unsafe to exercise foxhounds off the property in Newmarket. Properties open to foxhunting were increasingly restricted.

2001 – Hounds were moved to newly built kennels south of Creemore. A new stable and staff housing were also constructed. A few years later, when the farm in Newmarket was sold, a new clubhouse was built as well.





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Georgia On Our Minds

by Janet Feairs & Carl Feairs, MFH



Carl Feairs, Janet Feairs, Lee Harris, Meghan Harris, Honourary Whip for Bear Creek Hounds, Chris Hurt and Professional Whip Melanie Smith Bear Creek Hounds, Day 2 Hound performance Trial Belle Meade, photo courtesy of a friendly foot follower who captured this on Meghan's cell phone for us; the snow disappeared by the afternoon

Our motivation for a foxhunting trip to Georgia started when Huntsman Steve Clifton was hired to become huntsman for the Bear Creek Hounds in Georgia, USA. We had hunted with Steve for over 15 years in his previous position as huntsman with Eglinton and Caledon Hunt. He was our connection, and kindly provided our introduction to the Joint-Masters of Bear Creek Hounds.

After some discussion with Master Hal Berry, Senior Master and the man responsible for the inception of the Bear Creek Hounds, we were offered a two bedroom cottage to rent which would include paddock space with a run-in shed for our three horses. This was on Bear Creek Farm, within sight of the huntsman's home and the Bear Creek kennels, an ideal location for us. Oh - our two dogs were welcome to come along as well!

Plans were quickly made to arrive January 6th and stay for two months. Bear Creek Hunt is located near the small town (more like a village) of Moreland, east of the city of Newnan, which is just under an hour south of Atlanta. We stayed over one night at Dr. Barbara Poole's Layover in Lexington, Kentucky, which we highly recommend.

Upon arrival and settling horses and dogs, we had a tour of the kennels and the 900-acre property. Bear Creek Farm is owned by Linda and Hal Berry, and includes a 24 stall stable with all of the amenities of an "A" circuit boarding facility, with covered riding arena, outdoor jumping ring, and acres of groomed riding trails.

In the first two days our mandate was to bath and clip at least two horses so we would be all set to hunt on our first Saturday. Luckily our horses were still very fit from our season with TNYH which finished with our final hunt on Boxing Day so we were confident we would have no difficulty keeping up.

Walking out hounds each morning became a regular exercise and we enjoyed watching the unentered pups develop into confident, biddable, happy hounds over our two months' stay. During that time, we hunted 18 times - with Bear Creek 15 times, including two joint meets with the closest neighbouring hunt Shakerag, once in Alabama at a joint meet with Midland and Mooreland hunts, and twice at Belle Meade at their Hound Performance trials. Bear Creek won best pack on the first day and finished the trial to boast best Hunting Hound with Logic.



Carl enjoying a day in the field at a joint meet with Midland and Mooreland hounds at Midlands Alabama Fitzgerald Fixture, photo by Janet Feairs



Janet Feairs on Casper, helping with whipping in duties at Dooly County Fixture, Bear Creek Hounds, photo courtesy Laura Folkes



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Bear Creek hunts out of four primary areas, starting with Bear Creek Farm itself, where hounds successfully hunted grey fox, coyote and treed a bobcat, so game is varied in this forested/hay field country. Next a short trip to the fixture named Cedar Gate, where hounds treed a bobcat. The third fixture was land owned by members John and Mary Ann Cleveland in Alabama at their Chapel Hill farm, (we had a terrific run at Chapel Hill where hounds did a great job of working up the coyote and ran it very well). The fourth area was their Dooly County, which is quite flat and open with swamp coverts dotting the landscape. This is mainly agricultural country where fields of peanuts, cotton and pecan groves abound. Game in Dooly is plentiful and varied. While hunting the Dooly County fixtures, Bear Creek hounds successfully hunted coyote, feral pig, and bobcat. There were also great views of coyote and grey fox pressured by the pack. The Bear Creek Hounds were a joy to watch, by both the mounted field and the foot followers.

We can't say enough about the welcome we received at every hunt and especially by the Bear Creek Joint-Masters, Hal Berry, Larry Sellers, Mary Carol Harsch and Shane Lyle. Unfortunately we were unable to meet fellow Joint-Master Carl Bouckaert



Walking out Bear Creek Hounds from their kennels at Bear Creek Farm, photo by Janet Feairs

who was recovering from a motocross injury. {Editor's note: Carl Bouckaert is the owner/event organizer of the enormously popular Chattahoochee Hill Three Day Event, called "Chatt Hills" by all.}

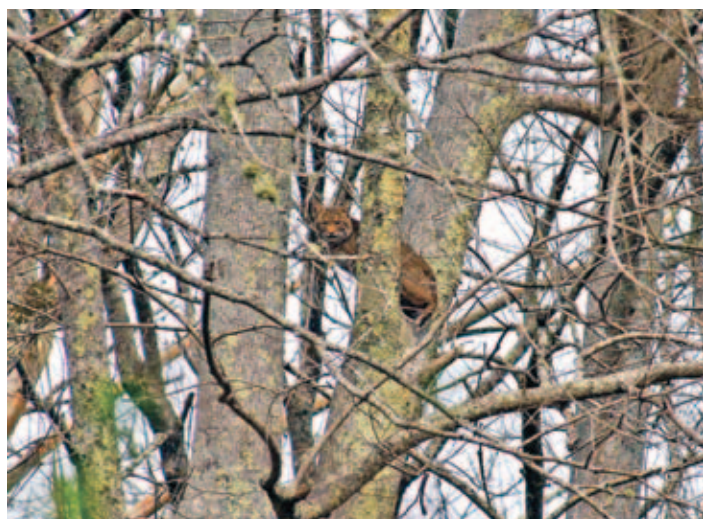
Southerners love their hunting and outdoor sports and enjoy the camaraderie of hunting friends and family. The hunt breakfasts and parties were always lively and fun. We were introduced to broiled fresh oysters and a low country boil which includes sausage, crab legs, corn and other sorts of various ocean and seaside fare. All of it was a lot of fun, and the best way to meet new people is to belly up to the oyster shucking stands and gain some pointers from the experts.



Children are a big part of the hunt with Bear Creek, this photo taken of kids catching a view on a chase at a Dooly County fixture



Carl sharing his flask with Matt Boyd, honorary whipper-in for Bear Creek Hounds at joint meet with Shakerag hunt in Georgia out of their kennels. Photo by Janet Feairs



Bear Creek Hounds treed a bobcat at their Cedar Gate Fixture, photo courtesy Lee Harris

Over the course of our stay we travelled a total of 8,000 kilometers and rode an accumulated 388 kilometers while hunting. Our horses stayed sound and healthy and were a joy to hunt. The hunt breakfasts and happy evenings with new friends will remain fondly in our memories.

Finally we can't say enough about the hospitality provided to us by the huntsman Steve and Melanie, who is the Bear Creek Hunt professional Whip. In addition to hosting visits from their friends, they always found the time and energy to include us. At one point, Steve and Melanie were hosting six overnight guests at their home!

We went to Georgia to hunt and that we did, great hounds, great sport, great people, and great food -- this is what you dream of a hunting trip delivering!

Thanks for the memories, Bear Creek!



TNYH Hunter Pace Event - June 11th, 2016

by Denya Massey - photos by Ellen Cameron Photography, Warren Byrne, Andrew Clarke, & Denya Massey

One of the summer highlights for TNYH members and friends is our own Hunter Pace Event, this year held on June 11th, generously hosted by Emily and Riccardo Bozzo at Cinespace Film Studios in Kleinburg. We've been fortunate to enjoy a Hunter Pace Event ride and gorgeous lunch in the lovely setting for three years in a row, and hope Emily and Riccardo appreciate our delight of such a super venue and fabulous lunch. Yet again, the weather was perfect, and the lunch disappeared quickly!

Houdini, the adorable donkey, has been a familiar face each year, and is truly sweet, but lurking behind those soft brown eyes must be a mischievous elfin self - when he spies new horses, he heads right to them, probably counting how many horses he could spook! I confess my Thoroughbred was one of the spooked newcomers, who nearly flew past Houdini to get through the open gate and beyond a fence.... not knowing that the fence was designed so that Houdini could just walk under it....!

As she has in the past, Taddy Cork created a varied course over trails through some beautiful woodlands and meadows, with the Humber River running beside the trail for a while - and it's a steep drop down, so horses need to be alert! I was fortunate to ride it this year, as the 'test rabbit' to



make sure the markers were visible, and to turn at the appropriate places. The weather was absolutely perfect, I didn't get lost, and each turn held a pretty scene ahead - a lovely course, thanks as ever to Taddy.

The winning team included Andy and his wife Karen, past President Bill Carter, and our longest foxhunting junior member, Oliver Harris. Oli started hunting 8 years ago on the infamous 'Midnight', an all-black super pony, who tolerated no guff from the big horses, and he graduated

to foxhunting on the very handsome 'Sky'. Do you think Oli was getting tips from Bill & Andy about becoming President or Master of TNYH?!

Ron Charles and Sally Brady were close on their heels for 2nd place, followed by Heather Haire and her two



guests for a 3rd, and in 4th for their cheerful yellow ribbons, Michael, Laurel, and Warren Byrne with Jill Gibson. Burnt Grilled Cheese team, with our youngest rider Jaden Feairs, Tracey Vienneau, Janet & Carl Feairs placed 5th. Just for fun, a non-riding hunt supporter who has a totally imaginary but enthusiastic team called "Burro Buster" was awarded a pink ribbon!



Joint Hunter Pace Event with Toronto North York Hunt and Eglinton Caledon Hunt

by Janet Feairs & photos by Denya Massey

Victoria Day Monday in May turned out to be the perfect day for our first joint Hunter Pace with TNYH and ECH hunts.



We invited our friend Karin McDonald to ride with us under the name “Grilled Cheese”, inspired by our posed photo with our two grey’s surrounding our palomino. It was great having the opportunity to take all three of our horses out.

When we arrived we started our search for a parking space, among the lines of truck and trailers that bordered the Townline and 15th Sideroad, near Horning’s Mills, north of Shelburne. This looked to be a well-attended event, and trailers continued to pull in while we were riding over to the starting gate. At the end of the day, we heard 130 riders had participated.

It was great to see teams participating for best costume, and I believe the winners, “The Pace Invaders”, had a clever name and costume, and they appropriately took the honours.

We had a small setback early on the course, having taken an incorrect track following old ribbons leading us into a neighbouring property where we interrupted the owners while they were gardening! With great good humour, they pointed us in the direction to go back to the start, which we did. Starting again, we managed to follow the correct route!

The course was varied and quite arduous at times with steep inclines and narrow single track, but this did change frequently into wide old road-sized cleared trails allowing riders to trot and canter along side-by-side. A river crossing appeared to be quite boggy on the banks but thankfully our horses navigated this with no trouble, finding a solid bottom barely covering their fetlocks. Riding on roads was minimal which was great, as we enjoyed escaping the heat of the sun by riding mainly in mixed coniferous and deciduous forests.



We enjoyed a brief rest and cold libations at the refreshment stop and want to thank ECH and TNYH huntsmen and whips for manning this station.

Our horses managed to move along the route at a good clip, they were fit and Carl and I were used to long hours in the saddle having just finished our Spring Hunting season. I’m afraid we demanded a lot from Karin who



hadn't been in the saddle since last fall; gamely Karin kept up and took the lead position upon leaving the refreshment station.

We happily pulled in to the finish and looked forward to catching up with friends and the lovely bar-b-q and salad bar, and the food was exceptional. Ted, our hosts' Heather and Derek's youngest son, gamely fished out our choice of beverage from the ice cold water trough!

When the ribbons started to be awarded we found out that 1st to 6th place were separated by mere minutes based on the optimum time, so we didn't hold out much hope of placing as we had added time going off course and had to start again! But I guess it was our lucky day as team "Grilled Cheese" was called up to take 2nd place!

All in all this was a terrific event and we hope to see more hunt collaborations in the future.



May 23rd

by Denya Massey

From Team "Grilled Cheese", Janet Feairs has given us a first-hand account of the superb Hunter Pace Event, held in the spirit of bringing two foxhunting communities together. A Hunter Pace is designed to give hunting fit horses an outing after the end of the spring hunting season, and to bring members and friends of the hunt members together to learn more about the clubs and foxhunting.

It was a fabulous turnout, with 41 teams, ranging from two singles to a team of 6, of all ages, ponies as

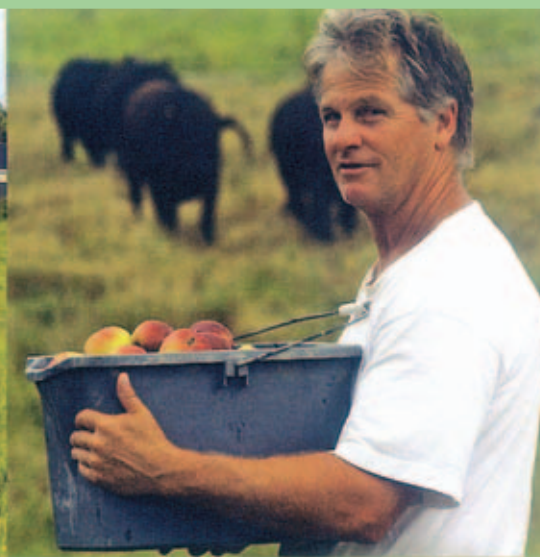
well as horses, teams in matching colours, and creative headgear (over the mandatory helmets of course). The best team name went to the imaginatively named "The Pace Invaders", of Carolyn, Chris, Sally, and Ron. For 'best hat' Elaine Kehoe deservedly won with her "Horse Pasture Hat"!

Heather Evans & Derek Ferris and Bill & Melody Duron hosted a gorgeous luncheon for 150 people and the compliments continued long after the teams had gone home!

The course itself was declared an excellent ride, well marked, nice country, and pleasant for both

horse and rider. Each team came home with compliments to the course crew, and appreciation was voiced for the volunteers who did the timing and managed the entries.





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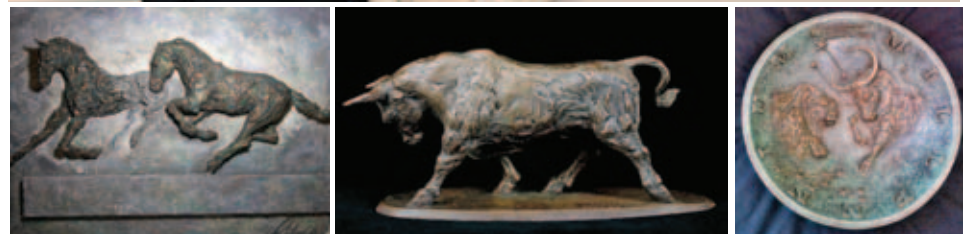
Ann Clifford: Sculptress, Horsewoman, & Child/Young Adult Activist

by Denya Massey~ photos courtesy of Ann Clifford

When I first sat down with Ann Clifford, I thought “oh, an artist who sculpts. How impressive.” I had seen some of her work online, and a few pieces in person at the lovely Mad and Noisy Gallery in Creemore.

The person whom I met cannot possibly be categorized as ‘simply’ an artist – she is complex, energetic, compassionate, and multi-faceted. Her education, work history, passions, and future are intertwined with the love of horses, art, and children/young adults who face difficult challenges. Ann has devoted years to working with young people who need compassion and support from adults who will champion them. Horses have been a large part of the work with these children as well as her art. Concurrently throughout her life, Ann combined sculpting professionally with her commitment to ‘her children’, channeling the emotions and life experiences into her sculptures.

She comes by her passion for art and creativity honestly – her Swedish grandmother was known for her collage work and water colours, and told a young Ann that she was her ‘comrade in the arts’ which made a strong positive impression on a young girl. Her mother Karin is a Swedish textile artist, and her father Micheal was an architect who contributed to the Creemore streetscape by designing the Creemore Train Station and the Noisy River Gallery, a delightful gallery which features well known artists who live and work in the Creemore/Mulmur area. His company Clifford & Lawrie Architects designed



The Manulife Centre at Bay & Bloor, and contributed to The Toronto Zoo, amongst other large scale projects.

Ann’s accomplishments in the world of sculpture are impressive – she has created awards for the corporate world, polo sponsors, equine organizations, and tourism. She has a lengthy list of private commissions, including traditional sculptures as well as wire sculptures, like Hickstead for King Township.

But her work with students and young people who face challenges are unquestionably the most touching. Ann and her students at Pine River Institute, a residential childrens’ mental health centre for young people facing challenges, created the World War I War Horse Memorial exhibit at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in 2015.

Over the years, Ann has sculpted many awards, including the Collingwood Art & Culture awards for the past 3 years, the 2016 Headwaters Horse Country

Awards for Excellence in the industry recipients included Beth Underhill and many sculptures for equestrian organizations like Equine Canada and the Ontario Equestrian Federation, among others. She admits her work is rugged and somewhat non traditional, but her well founded success and upcoming commissions have proven that concern to be unwarranted.

Ann explains that she “generated the relationships and/or commissions myself with all equine clients including Karen White, of Toronto Polo Club and the Siftons. Also with Ethan Hawk and Uma Thurman (wedding gifts through a friend). Mikhail Gorbachov, National Bank of Canada, and Tommy Hillfiger were through Patty Goldberg of Portfolio, a corporate awards company. I honed my skills to integrate the clients expectations/needs into with my creative vision.” An extraordinary example of her corporate work was “Bull & Bear” for the National Bank of Canada and 60 bronze bowls for Polo awards. 🐾

"Being AP" - the Movie about a Legendary Steeplechase Jockey.

Legendary steeplechase jockey AP McCoy battled through concussions, broken vertebrae, shoulder blades, punctured lungs and lost teeth in effort to be the world's best steeplechase jockey. For twenty years he leaped over treacherous fences and daunting ditches on horseback as he raced his way to the top of his sport. His maniacal obsession with winning combined with a supernatural ability to earn a horse's trust, McCoy rose to heights that will likely never be matched in jump racing or any other sport. Champion jockey for 20 consecutive years, nearly twice as dominant as Tiger Woods was to golf.

Directed by award-winning British filmmaker Anthony Wonke, Being AP takes viewers on an unflinching ride through the final year of McCoy's career and his decision to quit riding while he was at the top of his game. Raw and uncensored footage offers a glimpse into the mind of a man so consumed by winning that he teeters on the verge of self-destruction.

This is a story about a professional athlete who walks away from a job that has defined his entire life. He is a hero in Britain and Ireland and a man who regularly made headlines in European sports pages.

"I want to go out while I still enjoy riding and am still relatively at the top," he told reporters after the race.

"I love racing, and I'm probably the only person who is going to miss bouncing off the floor...I know I am never going to find anything to replace that buzz."

To purchase the film or to view the trailer, visit

www.beingap.com.



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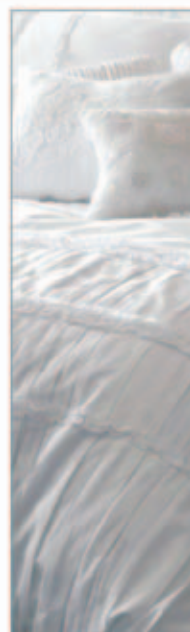
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Dec 18/ 10-4,
Dec 19-23 / 9-6,
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Dec 27-30/ 9-6,
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Ann Clifford, Continued...

Large outdoor exterior pieces are the most challenging to create, she explains, but very exciting for her, as they describe the animals in a more real sense, with movement, gestures, and visible energy of the animal.

Ann attended Northern Secondary School in Toronto, studying with the teacher she still considers her most inspiring, Warren Lucock, who encouraged her education with live models which continued on when she went to Ontario College of Art & Design, studying fine art. After her 7 years of drawing live human models, achieving accurate anatomy of horses and other animals was not difficult – as Ann explained, “all the mechanics, ergo the layers of muscle machinery, follows similar premises.”

After OCAD, she went to Pietra Santa, Italy, for a year, north of Pisa and Carrara, where old photographs of oxen pulling carts up and down the marble quarries caught her eye, and perhaps one day she says she might sculpt them.

Following her year in Italy, she attended George Brown College, in the Child and Youth Worker Program, which complemented her lifelong interests of art, youth, and horses. As a teenager, she was a Big Sister for two years, which sparked her interest in working with young adults, and later worked with the Street Outreach Service. She currently teaches art at the Pine River Institute which is a unique residential childrens’ mental health centre for young people facing challenges with addictions.

In 2006 she joined forces with Catherine Davis and Ainsley Burns, daughter of longtime TNYH member and supporter, Paddy Ann and Latham Burns, to form The Urban Youth Riding Project: Leadership and Horses Program. Ann says “Catherine, Ainsley and myself were a super team really complimenting each others wide ranging experience and approach. The kids benefited from that.” Working in conjunction with the Toronto Mounted Unit, directed by Terry Pheby and staff inspector William Wardle, the model was to teach urban kids from high priority areas about the gentle handling of horses. The empathy based program lasted 6 years, with over 300 kids enrolled. We worked with O.P.P., Toronto Police Services and The RCMP.

Ann continued her art career concurrently, and saw her work with disadvantaged or compromised youth as an added dimension to her growth as an artist. She had always been interested in the psychology of relationships and the interaction of people. This extended to her own involvement with Winnie Stott who was asked if she was a “Horse Whisper”, to which she dismissively replied that she’s a “Horse Listener”. Through her work with Winnie, Ann learned Liberty Training and cognitive games with horses, they often made surprising choices. Ann and Winnie were consistently amazed by what the horses were able to learn.



Ann currently is based in Mansfield, at the colourful Sasek’s Boutique. Her work is about 70% commission, and 30% for her own creative projects. Ann’s work is often at Mad and Noisy Gallery, or can be seen on her website: acliffordsculpture.com.



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What Would Lady Eaton Think?

by Alison Miller

In September, 2014, the TNYH Masters and Board of Directors decided to allow me to ride under Western Tack. So yes, I'm the confused one that rides in full English garb (right down to my velvet-covered helmet) with a Billy Cook saddle.

For the rest of the 2014 Season and the 2015 Spring Hunt I rode my Quarter Horse Rowdy, who took to the Hunt with his usual acceptance of whatever I throw at him and my big Paint Gizmo, who, up until the first Foxhunt I took him on, had to be kicked and seriously 'encouraged' in order to get him out of 2nd gear. Gizmo literally quivers with excitement when I take him for a Hunt now – there is no need any longer for manual encouragement.

As if Western Tack and Quarter Horses weren't pushing the envelope enough, in September, 2015 I brought my newly started, 4 year old Gypsy Vanner Corky to the first Cubbing Meet of the Season and threw myself on the mercy of Polly Winsor. I knew that in her 40+ years with TNYH, Polly has seen it all so what's one more anomaly???

Gypsy Vanners were originally bred by European Travellers to pull their Caravans (as in Cher's iconic "Gypsy's Tramps and Thieves"). They are an eclectic mixture of the Dales Pony and Shires with the occasional Clydesdale thrown in. Vanners are easy going and affable – pretty much on the border of giant dog-like creatures.

GV's are square and stocky, with flowing manes, tails and heavy feathers from their knees down (I should own shares in Cowboy Magic). They are only 14 hands to 15 hands tall, so even I can get on Corky from the ground!

Although they are known to be athletic and have a great deal of stamina (for those long Caravan trips), one of Corky's cousins has been known to lie down during a Hack to have a nap before the long trip back to the barn.



But perhaps the most interesting fact about Corky, and some of his cousins, is that they are the products of "Mule Moms Technology". Mule Moms is a program that was conceived (pardon the pun) when the first GV's were brought to North America in the late 1990's to safely increase the breed's population in a fast but controlled manner.

Hinnies (girl mules) cannot conceive, but through artificial insemination they can carry a foal to term, lactate like a cow, and are the most affectionate and caring Equine Moms. Corky's GV Dam is Shampoo Girl and his Sire is

Latcho Drom (one of the most famous Vanner Stallions). Corky's Mule Mom – June Cleaver (not kidding) became their Surrogate (sounds like of like an episode of the Kardashians).

Corky is a great little guy and with Polly & Frankie's continued tutoring (hint, hint), he will soon become a good Hunt horse.

But I have to wonder, first the Western Tack, then the Quarter Horse, then the Paint and now a Gypsy all infiltrating TNYH – what would Lady Eaton think?!



"Non-Foxhunting Spouse Report"

by Jill Gibson (the foxhunting spouse)

It is early on a hunt morning and Jamie, my '5 a.m. husband' of 27 years is up polishing my boots before he prepares hunt breakfast sandwiches for as many as 5 or 6 intrepid foxhunters. His signature hunt breakfast sandwich consists of a fried egg, crispy bacon, melted cheese, and honey on a nani bun. Wrapped in foil, they're put on the heated passenger seat of my car to keep warm until we arrive at the hunt.

The tradition of 'Jamie's Hunt Breakfast' started with preparing something for Catherine Davey who typically has four horses to get ready in the early hours of a hunt morning. Extra honey on Cat's sandwich when she brings Sterling (Horse of the Year!) for me to ride! In time, word got out and the orders started coming in. The first thing Jamie asks when I arrive home from a long day of great sport is "Did everyone like their breakfast sandwiches?" Very blessed to have such a supportive and generous non-foxhunting husband!



Photo courtesy of Jill Gibson

The non-hunting spouse doing what HE loves to do!



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Dufferin Forest: A Treasure for Riders

By Denya Massey

Foxhunters often meet to go for a hack in the Dufferin Forest, north of Mansfield, Ontario, which is a treasure for people who enjoy horseback riding with friends – but be warned: know how to use your GPS! It can be very difficult to find your way through the multiple trails. The footing is mostly sandy, with mixed hill/flat trails, and generally no one else in sight, although bicycles can appear quite suddenly. It's a great place for a hack on a very hot sunny day – the forest offers a lovely canopy, and it's happily very quiet.



From the website: "The Dufferin County Forest is a 1,054 ha (2,606 acre) forest divided into thirteen tracts that are located across Dufferin County. It is managed by the County of Dufferin on a sustainable, multi-use basis. The forest serves many important functions including erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production."

The County Forest Do's include "non-motorized recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding". No

motorized vehicles are allowed in the forest, but there is a generous parking area for horse trailers off Airport Road. The only exception are snowmobiles on designated trails who are members of a snowmobile organization – and obviously they would be in the forest in snow, when perhaps we might consider letting our horses stay snug in a stable!

For those who might consider hacking in Dufferin Forest, do check out their website for more information.

<http://www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest/>



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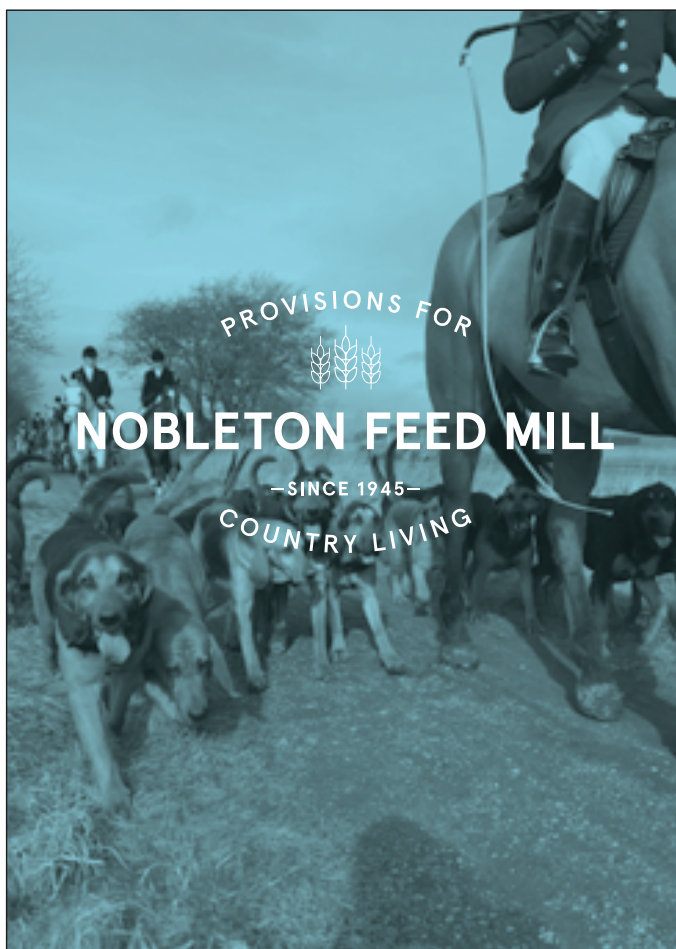
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Iceland at the Tölt

text and photos by Sam Bite

As luck would have it, this spring was the first year WOW Airlines flew from Toronto to Reykjavik and they offered incredible deals on airfares. Having just about finished my first year working as an intern Architect, I was ready for a vacation and the great airfares fit into my tight budget. My friends, Jenn, Emily and Ben were also up for an adventure.

As a kid, I had seen Icelandic Horses ridden in the hunt field and I knew that I wanted to spend some time on my trip riding these special gaited horses. The only one of my travelling companions who was up to join me in this venture was Jenn. She had ridden just a few times when younger but lucky for me she was game to give it a whirl.

We arranged an eight hour ride with Eldhestar Volcano Horses. Jenn and I were picked up from a hotel nearby our Airbnb lodgings and travelled 45 km to Eldhestars farm Vellir. It is situated in the heart of Iceland's south-western countryside, close to the town Hveragerði, one of Iceland's most popular tourist destinations nestled between volcanic mountains in a green valley with steaming hot springs.

When we arrived I was amazed to learn that they have 300 horses on site. The guides were careful to give us horses appropriate to our riding level. They also outfitted us in bright orange rain jackets and pants which were necessary because even though it was the beginning of June it was 5 degrees C, windy and drizzly.

After receiving instruction on how to master the tölt, we were off across the black sand beaches. The incredibly cute, fuzzy maned horses were a delight to ride. The scenery was spectacular. Despite the cold, it was

a ride I will remember forever. If I had my wishes, there would be an Icelandic Horse in the field of TNYH!

I've attached pictures from both the riding excursion and excursions from other parts of Iceland. The country is quite breathtaking, and the people are lovely.

Ed. Note: The Tölt is a natural, fluid gait of the Icelandic Horse, during which at least one foot always touches the ground. Foals often tölt in pastures at an early age. The tölt is an extraordinarily smooth four-beat gait, which allows the rider an almost bounce-free ride, even at 32 kmh (20 mph). It is said a rider can drink a pint while riding, without spilling a drop. The footfall is the same pattern as the walk, but is much faster, almost as fast as a gallop. Courtesy of www.riding-iceland.com



Heidi's Horse & Hound Retirement'

by Heidi Sauder-Mach

There is nothing else like riding to hounds. We are fortunate to observe a pack of foxhounds working together and leading us on a ride through the countryside giving us a great day of sport. For those of us who are puppy walkers, it is very rewarding to watch a hound pup grow up to be a well-rounded athlete and fulfilling its duties as a member of the pack.

But what happens to these hounds when it is time to leave the pack due to age, loss of drive, or injury?

In some hunts in Europe and the US, it is not uncommon for the hounds to be retired to their puppy walker's home, or to other members' homes, when they are no longer able to fulfill their duties. In Ontario, it has not been the practice, which is why we decided to establish "Heidi's Horse and Hound Retirement".

Foxhounds are smart, well trained, keen to please, and so loving. When it is time to be retired, it's generally because they have lost interest in hunting and are ready to enjoy their retirement years laying out in the sun rather than continuing their natural hunting instincts.

'Heidi's Horse and Hound Retirement' was initiated at our own home located near Meaford. My husband and I wanted to give the opportunity to those hounds (and our hunt horses) that have given so much to us, to live out their retirement in a loving environment. While not a registered charity, we rely on donations from friends and sponsors to help us fund our retirement facility at our farm.

The foxhounds come to us first to be assessed as to what type of home will be best. We work with them to help them transition from being a kennel dog to a family dog. We are lucky to have our local Thornbury Veterinary Hospital working with us to resolve any other issues that may need specialized attention. We want the hounds to be as adoptable as possible, thus giving them and their new 'parents' the best chance for a successful retirement.



There are always some hounds that do not transition well from hunt kennel life to a home. At the moment, our hounds live in-home but, in the future, we hope to be able to open a kennel facility for those hounds who would prefer to live out their days in this more familiar type of housing.

We have also starting working with Griffith Island, a member-based sport shooting club, in re-homing their retired dogs as well. The support of our members at Toronto North York, Griffith Island, and our community has been wonderful. It is exciting to see so many other like-minded individuals who care about these animals.

Huntsmen and kennelmen care very much and take great responsibility for their hounds, from the beginning of their lives to the end. We are so pleased to be able to take over that responsibility in their hounds' declining years. We are pleased to care for these wonderful animals who give us so much joy. If any hunt club or other individuals interested in setting up their own facility, we would be pleased to pass on any advice gained from our experience.



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Hound Retirement.



"Puppy Walkers" are Honoured at TNYH Reception

by Jill Gibson

On Friday May 20th, Toronto and North York Hunt held a Puppy Walkers Reception at our Kennels in Creemore to thank those of our hunting community who foster a foxhound puppy or two to teach them their names, to socialize them, and to introduce them to walking out with good manners. Laurel Bryne, MFH, and Constance Boldt, Honorary Treasurer, prepared delicious hors d'oeuvres and sandwiches for the occasion. President Michael Byrne served the Champagne to toast the Puppy Walkers for their generosity and helpfulness to the club.



Heidi Sauder-Mach, of HHH Heidi's Horse and Hound Retirement, kindly brought her retired foxhound Playboy for a visit. He was happy to see his friends at TNYH but delighted to return to his home with Heidi and Derek.



The dedicated walkers at the reception included Gill von Teichman, Laura Balding, James Balding, Briony Wilson, Heidi Sauder-Mach, and Laurel Byrne, MFH. Unfortunately, our puppy walkers Tracey and Maryse Vieneau, Pierce Pimiskern, and Laura Arrell were unable to come, but much thanked in absentia!

After presenting each Puppy Walker with a gift to show the hunt club's appreciation, we were off to the kennels to greet the previous season's grown-up puppies. Huntsman John Harrison

showed us his young entry, who were all very happy to show their talents to an enthusiastic crowd. Following the presentation of his young foxhounds, John was kind enough to give us a tour of the kennels which ended, to our delight, in meeting adorable newly born foxhound puppies – who will in turn be fostered out for puppy walking when they are a bit older.

It was a beautiful night in Creemore and we had a marvelous evening. Thank you again to all of the invaluable Puppy Walkers!



Sharing Winter Survival Notes at the Terra Nova Pub

by Denya Massey

Each winter there comes a time when the days do not seem to be getting longer – in fact, it's often colder too. So our TNYH Terra Nova tradition of a casual pub lunch with other snow bound foxhunters and friends in mid-March seems the perfect antidote to winter. We are the ones who aren't spending time in some sunny clime, feeling warm and pampered, but looking after our horses and waiting for spring. Twenty-four of us, including a couple of new members, remembered the previous winter of solid ice, so this winter wasn't as bad! As always, it was a noisy, happy lunch that drifted into the late hours of the afternoon!



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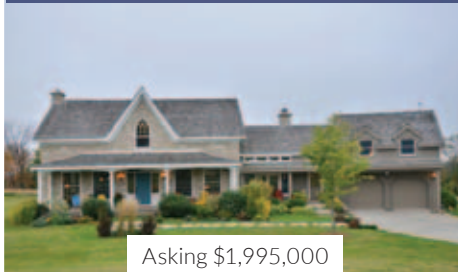


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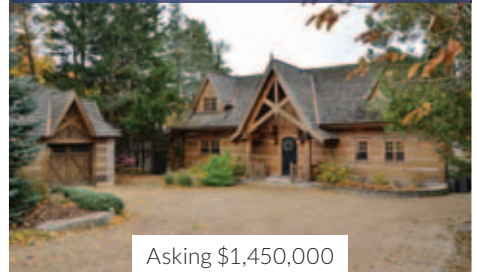


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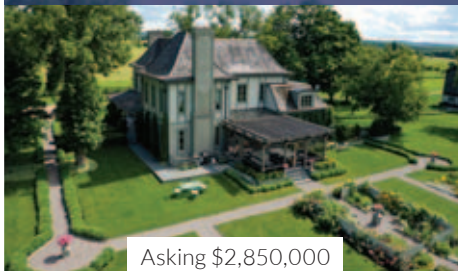


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