

## It Was A Summer Of Fun With The Toronto & North York Hunt

*Submitted by the Toronto & North York Hunt*



Photo courtesy of Catherine Davey, photosbycat.ca

Napkin, the 2015 TNYH Puppy Show winner, kisses puppy walker Susanne Wilson.

The spring hunting season finished at the end of May, but that didn't stop members of the Toronto & North York Hunt (TNYH) from riding together and doing fun activities all summer!

The hounds competed at the Canadian Hound Show in Ottawa on June 6. The Toronto & North York Hunt hounds won 16 classes, including Champion English Dog Hound, Grand Champion English Foxhound and Grand Champion Foxhound of the whole show.

The TNYH Hunter Pace was held on June 13 in Kleinburg, ON, and a record number of riders and guests were in attendance. A Hunter Pace is a low-key competitive event deriving its roots from riding to hounds. Teams of two to four riders follow an outdoor course. It's up to each team to guess what the ideal time to complete the course might be and to adjust its pace accordingly. The ideal time is determined ahead of time by sending out the Huntsman to ride the course before the event.

The hunt's annual Puppy Show & Tea was held at the TNYH Clubhouse on June 20 and year-old hound pups were judged for conformation and movement before they joined the pack. There was also a children's dog show, open to any child with a pooch, followed by ribbons, prizes and afternoon tea.

TNYH members were also fortunate to enjoy three Gourmet Hacks throughout the summer – a two-hour ride over gorgeous countryside, starting from a member's farm, followed by a delicious gourmet lunch.

The Hunter Chase and Lurcher Races were held on Aug. 15. Similar to a Hunter Pace, groups of riders followed an outdoor course and prizes were awarded for the fastest and most leisurely team. Fun Lurcher (dog) races followed, capped off with a gourmet lunch.

Guests and new members are always welcome! We always have a group for people who would prefer not to jump, and usually have a "leisure field" for people who would rather walk or trot. Smart Western attire and tack is perfectly acceptable. Visit [www.TNYH.Horse](http://www.TNYH.Horse) or follow us on Facebook. Tally ho!

## Social Drives Focus On Fun And Camaraderie

*Submitted by Ken Armstrong, Tri-County Carriage Association*

If you've never been to a Tri-County Carriage Association (TCCA) social drive, what are you waiting for? A social drive is not a competitive event, but rather an opportunity for like-minded people to get together, drive their equine partner and have some good old-fashioned fun.

They are also an excellent opportunity for anyone wanting to do a "first ever" attempt to drive with others at a site away from home ground. You will be welcomed by participants who may be taking their first step into driving and by others at various levels of experience and knowledge – all wanting to share, assist and enjoy this great sport!

Following the pleasure and excitement of the morning drive, and with equine partners and equipment are taken care of, it is time to partake in everyone's favourite – pot luck lunch. Enjoying a selection of dishes prepared and brought by participants for all to enjoy while sharing conversation and stories is the perfect way to wrap up the event.

TCCA social drives are planned for weekends, where possible, and at times when there are no conflicting shows and events in nearby locations. The venue will normally consist of a cross-country trail, a cones course and a set of hazards. Participants have

the option to take part in all three, a selection, or simply attend and enjoy the day. For insurance purposes, TCCA membership is a requirement for those wanting to participate in the driving portion of the day.

TCCA members enjoyed two successful social drives this past summer. The first was held on the grounds of Halton Equine Veterinary Services Clinic in Puslinch, ON, where trimmed trails provided an opportunity to navigate both trails and cones course. And thanks to the weather person, there was also a water hazard for those that felt a little adventurous.

The second was held at Country Heritage Park in Milton, ON, where there were roads to drive around. It allowed attendees to enjoy a heritage setting, as well as the option to use two fields – one with a cones course and one with hazards.

"Where driving begins" is Tri-County Carriage Association's motto, as the club was established with a focus on entry into the sport of carriage driving. The board and members of TCCA are committed to helping those with an equine partner, harness and carriage to enter and enjoy this traditional sport in a relaxed and fun environment. Social drives are the beginner's best venue.