

THE

INGATE



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2019 Spring Edition of the OHJA In Gate!

I hope that everyone had a successful and productive winter. Congrats to all our members who were able to compete throughout the winter at various venues – it is so great to see OHJA members doing so well in the US and Europe.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our outgoing Directors Debbie Weir and Diana Langmuir. The contributions of both of these ladies to the OHJA are countless and we are grateful for their many years of support and dedication towards the OHJA Membership. I am happy to report that Debbie will continue to be involved at the Committee level. We have 9 returning Directors and two new Directors joining us for 2019. Please join me in welcoming both Victoria McDonald and Elizabeth Rous to the OHJA Board of Directors.



Our OHJA Committees have been hard at work this past Fall and Winter to put together all the programs for 2019. I am happy to share with you our lineup for 2019: The Pony Power Series, Jr/Am Derbies, Beginner/Low Stake Classes, Water Jump Schooling, Super Jumper Weekends, OHJA Jumper Medal, OHJA/CET Mini Medal, Equitation Weekend, OHJA Banquet and the Young Hunter and Jumper Development. Start thinking about participating in the OHJA Hunter Special Weekend this Fall and the Tailgate Party. We had a lot of fun last year and want to see you there! Check out our website at www.ohja.ca for all the Program details and dates for 2019.

Don't forget to make sure you have all your memberships renewed before you show in order to collect points. There are some helpful tips in this issue. New for 2019 - you won't be able to renew memberships at the show office – all membership purchases and renewals must be processed at www.ontarioequestrian.ca.

Do you want to get involved or give us feedback on our Programs? Reach out to us at info@ohja.ca. We love hearing from our Members and are always looking for new Committee Members.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Good luck this season!

Diane

Diane Ratigan
President, OHJA



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The OHJA is a member association of Ontario Equestrian responsible for Hunter and Jumper activities in the province of Ontario.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome New 2019 OHJA Board Members	2
Have You Renewed Your Memberships?	3
Celebrating The Great Success Of One Of Our OHJA Members – Nikki Walker	4
OHJA 2019 Hunter, Jumper & Equitation Programs	6
Balancing Work, School And Riding	13
Behind The Scenes	16
Get Involved In The OHJA	20
Reminder-OHJA Travel Grant	21
OHJA Annual General Meeting	22
Remembering The Fun At The 2018 OHJA Banquet	23
Paparazzi	27



Photo courtesy of RingSide Media.

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Visit the OHJA website at

www.ohja.ca

You will find specific information
 and forms dealing with
 all OHJA Programs.



ONTARIO HUNTER-JUMPER ASSOCIATION



WELCOME NEW 2019 OHJA BOARD MEMBERS



New 2019 OHJA Board Member - Victoria McDonald.

VICTORIA McDONALD

I have had the pleasure of being involved with horses and the horse industry for 30+ years. My family moved to the Halton Hills area in 1980 and that is where it all began. I moved through the show ranks on the A circuit in the 80's and early 90's competing in the Junior and Amateur Owner Hunters as well as the Low Jumpers. I took time away from the sport while I raised my family and came back to it in early 2000 when my daughter became interested. You can find me these days hanging out at the Amateur Owner Hunter ring with my daughter and her lovely horse California. I continue to ride recreationally and when I am not at the barn or a horse show I spend my time working as Vice President Human Resources for TD Bank.



New 2019 OHJA Board Member - Elizabeth Rous.

ELIZABETH ROUS

I was fortunate to begin riding at a very young age and rode with the Gisborn family from ponies through to the juniors and equitation classes. While attending university, I began teaching in New York during the summer months, which turned into a full time position after graduation. I gained a lot of experience teaching and showing in the United States for several of years. Upon returning to Ontario I worked with other professionals before branching out on my own. I now operate Hollybrook Farm and teach a wide range of students, from novice to successful equitation riders. I am looking forward to being a part of the OHJA board, helping behind the scenes, and working with the board to continue to develop our circuit for future generations of riders.



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIPS? SOME IMPORTANT TIPS FOR THE 2019 HORSE SHOW SEASON

The phone rings in the horse show office and the person on the other line is asking about their Ontario Hunter - Jumper Association membership and why their points are not showing up in the standings. This is the phone call that horse show offices in Ontario receive on a regular basis and usually the answer is simple – you have not renewed your membership!

Here are a few simple reminders before you begin your horse show season:

- Each year, if you want to collect points for the year end awards, you must renew your OHJA membership before your first show. Points are not awarded after the fact, so you must have a membership before you step into the ring!
- You must renew all your memberships. Points for provincial standings are only awarded to OHJA members in good standing (paid-up membership) and it's also important to be a current member of Equestrian Canada and Ontario Equestrian.
- Those on temporary Equestrian Canada memberships will not earn points. If you have a question regarding the status of your membership, please contact Ontario Equestrian. (<https://ontarioequestrian.ca/>)
- If you lease a horse/pony, within Canada or internationally, both yourself and the owners of the horse/pony must have their OHJA memberships. If you register the lease with Equestrian Canada, then only the lessor requires the OHJA membership. Remember, both the recorded horse owner and the rider must have current OHJA and Equine Canada memberships, as well be current members of their respective provincial association.
- If the ownership of a horse/pony is a barn/farm/business/syndicate or partnership, this entity must become an OHJA member. In addition, a director of the entity must also be an OHJA member.
- If you are not seeing your points show up on the OHJA website (see www.ohja.ca). Don't panic! There are a few reasons for this to happen. Perhaps your membership information wasn't included on your entry form. Please remember that entry forms are an exhibitor's responsibility. If your coach fills out your entry form, be sure they have a photocopy of your current membership cards. You may need to check your membership status. Sometimes class results are under review by the horse show Stewards. Points are dependent on results being submitted in a timely fashion by the horse show – please be patient and keep watching the OHJA website!
- The final question that is asked many times throughout the year is – how are the points tabulated? Good question and it involves the Equestrian Canada rules and math! Points are calculated following Equine Canada rule G113.3. Placing in the class multiplied by the number of horses competing in the class, multiplied by the factor determined by EC based on total prize money awarded in the respective hunter/jumper category. Some of the seasoned show parents have the point calculations down to a fine art! Kudos to them!

The OHJA runs some fantastic programs at Ontario Gold Shows and if you want to show in these OHJA classes, you must have an OHJA membership to do so. To see all the programs, visit the OHJA website at www.ohja.ca. The class prizes are always fantastic too!

Good luck to all competitors in 2019 and please reach out to OHJA Board Members should you have any questions or feedback. info@ohja.ca

CELEBRATING THE GREAT SUCCESS OF ONE OF OUR OHJA MEMBERS – NIKKI WALKER



Nikki Walker and Falco Van Spieled.

Earlier this year, the OHJA had the chance to catch up with one of its younger members, Nikki Walker, who has been an OHJA member and competing in Ontario since her pony days. Most recently, Nikki was just one of 4 riders to go double clear in her first ever Nations Cup in Wellington this past winter.

1. So Nikki, can you tell us when you first started riding and showing?

- I started riding when I was about 6 years old. I was around 12 years old when I first started competing. My first coach was Darcy Hayes and I competed in the Medium Pony Division in Ontario.

2. When did you first show at the Royal?

- My first show at the Royal Winter Fair was in the Medium Pony Division. My pony, Goldmine, was the best teacher around. I swear he could find the distances himself. We ended up being champion!

3. How long was it before you moved on from ponies and started showing in the jumper ring?

- I showed in the ponies, then the junior hunters and equitation for a couple of years. When I was 15, I began competing in the jumper ring on a horse named Diplomat.

4. Outside of the jumpers, I know you also had a lot of success in the equitation ring, including the OHJA Medal. What are some of your equitation highlights?

- I always enjoyed showing in the equitation. Some of my biggest highlights were in 2010 and 2011. In 2010, I won both the OHJA Medal Final and the Jump Canada Medal Final. I was also Reserve Champion in the CET Final. In 2011, I was able to go back and win the CET Final.

5. What would you say are some of the skills that you took away from your time in the equitation ring that have helped you in the jumper ring?

• I think all of the equitation divisions are a great transition to the Jumper ring because they enforce using a proper line and track on technical courses. Once I was able to finesse challenging lines by practicing in the Equitation ring, it translated to accurate riding in the Jumper Ring. Additionally, Equitation tests and finals teach you how to ride under pressure. There's a lot of emphasis on winning an equitation final, the courses are challenging and riders really want to succeed. No matter the result, mentally that kind of pressure helps you grow as a rider. I was more nervous for Equitation finals than I have been for any Grand Prix!

6. So speaking of the jumpers, could you tell us about some of your recent success down in Wellington in the Nations Cup? What was it like to show as part of a team?

• In March, I was very excited to be named to my first Senior Nation's Cup Team in Wellington, Florida. I ended up jumping a double clear with my horse Falco Van Spieveld to help our team finish 3rd overall. Riding on a team was great. Riders always talk of the added pressure, which is certainly true, but it's also one of the only days in this sport where you have the support of so many other riders and horse enthusiasts! It was special that I got to ride on my first team with so many veterans, including my former coach Beth Underhill. Our Chef D'Equipe, Mark Laskin, was also very helpful in my preparation for the class.

7. Now that you've started to represent Canada on Nations Cup Teams, what are some of your next goals?

• In the short-term, my main goal is to continue to be consistent each time I have the opportunity to represent Team Canada. I really want to be able to prove myself as a key member of the team. I feel lucky every day that I have this fantastic opportunity with my horse Falco. In the long

term, I'll continue to dream big and hopefully progress towards being part of a Championship team.

8. If you could share 1 piece of advice with our OHJA members aspiring to show on a Nations Cup Team, what would it be?

• Nothing comes without hard work, dedication and lots of repetition. This sport is challenging because there are going to be more downs than ups. For me, it always comes back to the love of the horse. Remember to treat your horse as your teammate and surround yourself with good people that support your goals.

9. Speaking of your horses, can you tell us something funny about your horses Falco and Excellent B?

• Falco is an absolute sweetheart and never forgets to bring his A Game to the ring. He's always looking for a stablemate outside of the ring, often you'll hear him nickering for his friends. In fact, he actually has his own Instagram account @falco_and_friends managed by his groom – it's quite hilarious! I've had Excellent B since he was a young horse and he's always had this amazing "I got you" attitude. Nothing phases him and he's happy to step up to any challenge. He also loves drinking Gatorade out of the bottle !

10. Ok last question....Can we expect to see you back showing in Ontario this summer?

Definitely!



THE OHJA IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE ITS 2019 HUNTER, JUMPER & EQUITATION PROGRAMS



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

2019 Hunter Programs

OHJA Pony Power Series

What would a show season be without the OHJA Pony Power series? Back for another year, the Pony Power classes will be included in each of the EC Small, Medium and Large Pony Divisions at select venues.

The class is one round, over a handy styled course. The class may consist of a rollback, trot fence, hand gallop fence, bending line, a halt, option fence, bounce or a fence jumped in a direct line to/from the in gate. Rounds will be scored based on traditional hunter criteria and the scores will be announced. There will be a final for those qualifying in the EC Small, Medium and Large Pony Power Series Qualifiers. Qualified entries will have won a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th place ribbon in at least one EC Small, Medium and Large Division Pony Power Class in 2019.

Qualifying Classes will be held at the following competitions:

- Classic @ CEP Phase 2 : May 22-26, 2019
- Angelstone Headwaters Cup: June 5-9, 2019
- Caledon Premier 1 @ CEP: July 3 – 7 2019
- Ottawa International #1: July 9-14, 2019
- The International @ Angelstone: Aug. 21-25, 2019
- The National @ Angelstone: Aug. 28- Sept. 1, 2019

Finals will be held at: Caledon Autumn Classic on Saturday September 14, 2019 as part of the OHJA Hunter Special Program.

At select shows there will also be one hunter round of the Children's Pony, Short Stirrup, Low Children's and Beginner Children's division that will be run with open



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

scoring and awarded special prizes-these classes do not qualify for a final.

OHJA Beginner & Low Children's/Adult Hunter Stakes

After a successful introduction in 2017, the OHJA is excited to continue to support the Beginner and Low Child/Adult Stake classes. This will be a one round class judged numerically out of 100 on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going. The Stake round may contain multiple single jumps, roll backs, bending lines or longer lines.

Classes will be held at the following competitions:

- **The Champions @ Angelstone: June 12 - 16 2019**



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

- **Summer Classic @ CEP: June 26 - June 30, 2019**
- **Ottawa International #2 @ Wesley Clover Park: July 16 - 21 2019**

OHJA Young Hunter Development Series

Back by popular demand, the OHJA will once again be sponsoring the Young Hunter Development Series. New for 2019 the OHJA will be offering a Champion and Reserve Championship for the horses cumulating the most points over the three classes. We are also excited to let you know that the Canadian Sport Horse Association (CSHA) will be providing a prize to the top Canadian Sport Horse so make sure you bring proof of CSHA breeding to qualify.

As part of the series, the Young Hunter Development classes will include a model, an under saddle and over fences class restricted to Young Horses ages 3 to 5 years old. The Model, Under Saddle and Over Fences class are run and judged separately, and scoring will not be cumulative. Horses are not required to compete in all three classes

These classes have been offered to the following competitions:

- Ottawa Welcome Horse Show June 19-23, 2019
- Ottawa International #2 July 16 -21, 2019
- CEP Equestrian Festival CEP July 31 – Aug. 4, 2019
- Angelstone The National Aug. 28 – Sept. 1, 2019

OHJA Junior/Amateur 3'3" & 3'6" Derby

As an extension of the OHJA 3'0 Derby classes, the OHJA is proud to present the 3'3" & 3'6" Derby which will be open to 3'3"- 3'6" Junior Hunters and Amateur Hunters.



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

These classes are to be traditional Hunter competitions reminiscent of open field type classes. To be shown over a set course that mimics the conditions found in the hunt field. There will be two height sections – a 3'3" and 3'6". The course will be set with a minimum of 10 jumps. The course should include field hunter type fences such as a coop, straw bales, natural post and rail, gates, hedges. Handy test options must include roll backs, unique approaches, broken lines, trot jumps, unrelated distances, bounce, wingless jumps, skinny jumps and jumps with no ground lines, handy test/track options.

This class will be held at Caledon Autumn Classic on Saturday Sept. 14 2019 during the OHJA Hunter Special Program.

OHJA 3 ft. Junior/Amateur Derby

This popular class is back for another season. These classes are to be traditional Hunter competitions reminiscent of open field type classes.

Open to Juniors and Amateurs who have not competed in classes requiring them to jump any horse higher than 1.0M at the same horse show. No requirement to have competed in another hunter class or division at the same horse show in order to enter this class.

Classes will be held at the following competitions:

- The Headwaters Cup @ Angelstone: June 5-9, 2019
- Summer Classic @ CEP: June 26- 30, 2019
- Ten Sixty Stables Classic @ Ten Sixty July 25-28, 2019
- Autumn Classic @ CEP: Sept. 11-15, 2019

OHJA Hunter Special

On the Saturday and Sunday of Autumn Classic at the Caledon Equestrian Park the following OHJA programs will be featured:

1. OHJA Pony Power Final
2. OHJA 3' Jr/Am Derby
3. OHJA 3'3" and 3'6" Jr/Am Derby
4. OHJA Top Score Award for 3', 3'3" and 3'6"
5. OHJA Tailgate Party

NEW OHJA Top Score Award

During the OHJA Hunter Special Weekend the OHJA will offer a Top Score Award in the 3 ft., 3 ft.3" and 3 ft.6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Divisions. Horses to show in their respective divisions. One class from their division will be designated a one round classic and one a handy. Both will be awarded an open score. Their score in the OHJA Jr/Am Derby will also count. Horses must jump the same height Derby as their Division to qualify for the Top Score. All three scores will be added together to get a total. The highest total will win the OHJA Top Score Award. There will be three top scores awarded: one 3 ft. Horse, one 3 ft.3" Horse and one 3 ft.6" Horse. The Top Score Winners will receive a cooler and will be presented on Sunday. Winners must bring a horse for the presentation. Ties to be broken by the OHJA Jr/Am Derby score. Further ties to be broken by the one round classic score.

OHJA Tailgate Party

In addition to OHJA Special Hunter classes on Saturday, the OHJA is excited to host its' 2nd annual Tailgate party! Dress up your tailgate, bring your food and bring your friends and enjoy a great day of Hunters showing off their derby skills. The theme will be "What are you Thankful For?". Get your barn together to show us what you got. The best set up and representation of the theme will receive prizes courtesy of the OHJA

2019 OHJA Jumper Programs

OHJA Super Jumper Weekends

The goal of this program is to offer a Grand Prix styled competition experience to Junior and Amateur riders. Competitions will be offered over heights of 1.10m, 1.20m, 1.30m and 1.40m, under FEI Jumping Rules with a regular jump-off.

Over the course of the Super Jumper weekends, the OHJA is excited to sponsor \$10,000 in prize money and



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

each of the host venues has matched the amount for a total of \$20,000 to be given out during the event. Super Jumper Weekend will be held at the following competitions:

- August 3rd-4th 2019: The Equestrian Festival at CEP - Heights: 1.10m & 1.20m
- OHJA members are invited to join their OHJA Board of Directors at a luncheon courtesy of the OHJA on Saturday August 3rd, at The Caledon Equestrian Park.
- August 24th-25th 2019: The International at Angelstone - Heights: 1.30m & 1.40m (water jump will be mandatory)

Please note: OHJA membership not required to participate in this program.

OHJA Water Jump Schooling

Want an opportunity to practice the water jump before the competition starts?



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

Whether you are bringing along a young horse or you're a rider that wants to gain valuable experience – the OHJA Water Jump Schooling is a great way to give riders and trainers the opportunity to school over the water jump in a supervised show environment. There will be a short course available in addition to the water jump.

We will be offering this schooling at the following shows:

- Tuesday May 14th at the Caledon National at CEP
- Tuesday July 31st at the Equestrian Festival at CEP
- Tuesday Aug. 20th at the International at Angelstone

NEW Grass ring water jump school

Both the small and big water jumps may be available. Giving participants the option to start over the small

water jump and work their way up to the big water. An experienced schooling advisor will be present to assist.

OHJA Young Horse Provincial Bonus

The OHJA is proud to be part of the Ontario Young Horse Jumper Series. This Bonus identifies the top 5, 6, and 7 year olds competing in the Ontario classes of the Young Horse Jumper Series. \$15,000 in total to be awarded; \$5,000 for each of 5, 6, and 7 year old horses competing in the Ontario classes of the Young Horse Jumper Series. The Champion of each age group will be presented at the Angelstone National (Aug. 28-Sept. 1st 2019).

2019 OHJA Equitation Programs

OHJA/CET Mini Medal

The OHJA is proud to present the CET Mini Medal for 2019. Open to Junior and Amateur Riders. The OHJA/CET Mini Medal is a series of classes which serve as an introduction to the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET) Jumper Medal. The OHJA/CET Mini Medal will be run under the same rules and regulations as the CET Medal, with exceptions such as eligibility and height of fences. Please refer to EC Rules article G1107 for full class requirements and restrictions

Competitors competing in the OHJA/CET Mini Medal series are eligible to qualify for the OHJA/CET Mini Medal Finals. The Ontario Finals are open to those riders in the Top 20 and will be held at Fall Finale during the OHJA Equitation Weekend.

OHJA Jumper Medal

In 2019, The OHJA is pleased to once again offer the OHJA Jumper Medal Series. This class is open to all Junior/Amateur riders with a current OHJA membership. Height 1.10m to 1.15m with a time allowed. Regular Jumper Course with a posted Jump Off and second round ride off for the top 4 riders. The class will be held over a



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

jumper type course including a Liverpool, a double and a triple combination or 3 double combinations. The OHJA Jumper Medal is offered to all Gold Competitions. Check individual horse show programs for availability. The Top

20 riders based on the OHJA standings can qualify to participate in the Finals which will be held at Fall Finale during the OHJA Equitation Weekend. We are pleased to announce that in 2019 we will be partnering with Bruno Delgrange and awarding a bursary as follows: 1st place \$1,500, 2nd place \$1,000, 3rd place \$750, 4th place - \$500 A cooler to the Winner, Ribbons to 10th, medals to the top 3. In addition, the winning Trainer will receive \$1,000 from the OHJA.

The overall OHJA Jumper Medal Series winner will be presented the Matthew Mulligan Year End Award and a \$500 bursary at the OHJA banquet. Results from the finals will not count towards the overall award.

OHJA Equitation Weekend

Returning once again in 2019, the OHJA is proud to present the OHJA Equitation Weekend to be held during Fall Finale at the Caledon Equestrian Park from September 25-29, 2019



Photo courtesy of Ringside Media

This special weekend will showcase the following very prestigious equitation finals:

- The OHJA Jumper Medal Finals
- The Grand Prix Hunter Medal Finals, including the Grand Prix Pony Medal Final, the Grand Prix Junior Medal Final, as well as the Grand Prix Amateur Hunter Medal final.

OHJA Members are invited to join your OHJA Board of Directors for the morning and afternoon receptions being held during the Saturday competition.

OHJA High Point Equitation Award

Ontario Hunter-Jumper Association (the OHJA) High Point Equitation Award is awarded to the rider with the highest number of points overall based on the point standings of the following for medal classes: OHJA, CET, Jump Canada, and Rider's Habit/Grand Prix Junior at October 1st of the current year. This award will be presented at the year-end Awards Banquet.

For complete OHJA program information, including class specifications, please visit our website: www.ohja.ca



BALANCING WORK, SCHOOL AND RIDING



Kendra Martenfeld continues to show in the Jumper Ring while working for Running Fox. Photo courtesy of Sportfot.

Kendra Martenfeld: Works for Running Fox while continuing to compete in the Jumper Ring

1. Where do you ride and what job do you have while you are in Wellington?

I ride at Looking Back Farm with Erynn Ballard and in Wellington I worked for Running Fox Equestrian Products.

2. How do you coordinate your timing between work and riding?

I was really lucky this winter because Jen and Debbie Smith (owners of Running Fox) were extremely accommodating when it came to my riding time. When I was just flatting, I would usually come in for our morning start time of 8am, and then head out to ride when we hit a quiet lull. If I had to show or ride at a specific time, that was more than ok. The scheduling this year actually worked in my favour, as most of my classes were the first of the day and I typically



Kendra Martenfeld competing in Wellington this past winter. Photo courtesy of Sportfot.

went early in the order, so oftentimes I was done showing before our mornings really got busy.

3. What is your favourite part of working & riding in Wellington?

My favourite part about working and riding in Wellington is missing Canadian winter! Just kidding, although that is a part of it. My real favourite part is being surrounded by so many top-tier riders and being able to watch their day-to-day showing. Down here, you don't just see the McLains and the Beezies jumping on Saturday night. Being able to see them school the 1.30m/1.35m and manage their circuit to peak at the right time is such a valuable learning experience in program and preparation.

Christine Carlsen: Balances University while continuing to show in the Jumper Ring

1. Where do you go to school and where do you ride?

I am currently in my second year attending Queen's



Christine Carlsen competing in Wellington this past winter. Photo courtesy of Sportfot.

University. I ride out of Valhalla Equestrian of King City, and train with Millar Brooke Farm.

2. How do you schedule your showing during the semester?

In order to be able to compete more, I took two online courses at school to free up my class schedule. I knew I wanted to keep up with riding in the winter semester, so when I was making my course calendar I purposely tried to schedule my classes Monday, Tuesday and early Wednesday, giving me flexibility later in the week to make my trips down to Florida. When I was competing in Florida I would attend my classes on Monday through Wednesday and then would drive back to Toronto to fly out to Florida on Wednesday night. Then I would be able to compete all weekend and fly back to school Sunday night. I would typically show two weeks in a row and then take a week off to give my horses a rest and catch up in school.

3. How do you organize your school work during the weeks you show?

I would try and get as much work done in the first three days of the week while I was still at Queen's so I could focus on riding when I left for Florida on Wednesday. During show days I would catch up with my school work once the show day was over.

4. When you are showing, what does a typical day look like for you?

On show days I would typically wake up early to flat any

horses that I needed to in the morning before the show day would start. Then I would head over to the show to walk my courses and show whoever I was competing with that day. If we had long breaks between classes or course walks, as there could be so many in one class that day, I would run back home to flat one and then return to the show.



Christine Carlsen with her coaches Jonathan and Kelly Soleau Millar. Photo courtesy of McKenzie Clark.

5. When you are at school, how do you keep yourself riding ready?

When I'm at school I'm lucky that everyone in Florida is keeping me updated on how my horses are doing. Jonathan and Kelly would let me know how my horses felt each day that they rode them, so it was comforting to be able to know that my horses could still be in training and getting worked while I was away. I would also reflect on my videos from previous show weeks so that I could keep in mind what I had to work on and improve on when I returned to show, and also what were things that I did well that I should continue to do in the ring.



Abby McCorriston showing at Caledon Equestrian Park. Photo courtesy of Ben Radvanyi.

Abby McCorriston: Focuses on school without forgetting her passion for horses

1. How long have you been riding?

I started riding literally before I could walk on my own two feet! I was extremely lucky to have been introduced to horses right from the start with several horse people in my family. I started riding ponies and then eventually horses who were way too big for my short little legs at my aunt's farm at a very young age. I fell in love with the animal of the horse itself, and I was hooked ever since.

2. What was the dynamic between riding and school while you were growing up?

While riding and competing on a consistent and demanding schedule while in school, my parents continuously made it clear that "School came first, riding came second." To some, that sounds like a chore but to me, that was my motivator. I knew without a certain average amongst my grades, I wasn't entering any show ring that coming season. The two worked simultaneously together, no matter what. However, come grade eleven, I knew my current high school at the time would no longer be able to accommodate me in order to be successful in both my studies and my riding. I eventually made the decision to move to John McCrae Secondary School in Barrhaven of Ottawa, where they offered a High Performance

Athletic program for athletes with a time demanding schedule. Switching schools in the middle of high school was scary on a social perspective however, looking back this was the most beneficial transition of my life! I encourage anybody in the same position that I was to take that leap. If it's a sacrifice for something you love, it is beyond worth it.

3. What was your motivation to share your experience?

Sharing my experience in regards to taking a break from riding was difficult for me. It was not a reality I was ever willing to face, or even admit. However, once I started to identify the parts I have been learning about myself over the past year, I knew I was ready to share it with both people within and outside of the horse community. I was extremely touched by how many responses I received from current and previous equestrians, as well as so many other athletes who were able to relate to the feeling of putting your passion sport on pause. The reactions I received made the experience rewarding and heartwarming, so thank you to all who took the time to read it!

4. What piece of advice or words of wisdom would you share with someone who is taking a step back from riding?

Riding will always be there for you. The community you were apart of, the horses you worked with, lessons you learned and memories you made, nobody can take that from you. To anybody taking a break now or in the future, you need to remember that. It's something I remind myself often! My advice from a personal standpoint would be to continue to keep yourself busy, explore new passions and develop new relationships amongst different social groups and organizations of your interest. Remind yourself life is short, so take this time as an opportunity to better yourself in other ways as before you know it, you'll be back in the saddle! At least, that's the plan for me!



Abby McCorriston competed in the hunters, jumpers and equitation

BEHIND THE SCENES. THE BUSY AND HARD WORKING LIVES OF A GROOM, A PHOTOGRAPHER AND A BRAIDER



Michael Montreuil works hard to ensure that the horses he looks after are always looking good.

Micheal Montreuil: Super Groom

1. What is a typical day for you when you are working?

My mornings at the shows are usually early! My day starts with wrestling two Jack Russell's through the horse show grounds and trying to get them safely to the stalls is a great time! Once we have all arrived safely, my day begins. We typically start by having a quick safety meeting with my fellow co-workers, yes of course Tim Hortons is involved! Once the safety meeting is done, we scatter like mice. One person is working on hay and grain, one person is taking off wraps and dumping water buckets, and one person is booting horses and tacking. Then I get ready for my a.m. lunging party. Once I grab the Bluetooth speaker and my coffee, it's off to the lunging area we go! As being a part of the "PGG" (professional grooming group) I'm already late to the party. Getting a good spot in the morning means you got to beat SI.

As one horse is done I switch them out until the list is complete. While this is happening, the barn is having another type of party - They are tidying up, bathing, cleaning up legs and feeding hay. OK, now it's 6 AM, yay! Time for another safety meeting as my professional has arrived with more coffee. Quick hello and review of the morning and we are off for a.m. ring rides. Exchanging horses, tidying them up and adding a finishing polish to them, now we are ready to rock 'n' roll.

We are now approaching 7:30 AM "good morning back at the barn from hunter 2" comes on the PA system and it's now my favourite time of the day, we are half an hour from show time which means I jump on the dirt bike and head to the rings to socialize with the in gate managers, cracking jokes and catching up from the day before. I also make sure that all my horses are checked in and ready the horse show. It's now 8 AM and I am getting our horses out of the stabling area and down to the ring. Once the rider is on it's the fun part, the "warm-up"

ring. If you're standing on the sidelines you're most likely going hear "up two, oser, up two behind, vertical, let's go with that!"

I work very hard to make sure my horses enter the ring shiny and beautiful. After the horse trip comes the clapping and whooping! If you don't know me, my whoop sounds like two Chihuahuas fighting at dinner time!! As each horse is done showing they finish their day with bathing, ice therapy, unbraiding, wrapping and lunch! OK. Once the show's done, we start by making the communication board, feeding a round of hay, locking them in and then night check just before bedtime. Let's go day two!

2. Do you find there are many differences between grooming in Ontario versus Wellington or Ocala?

Whether it be Trillium, a circuit or Florida I always put the same effort into my job. I would have to say that being in Wellington would be the most different out of all the circuits because you are continuously surrounded by the best in North America and that in itself is huge.

3. What would be your biggest piece of advice for someone looking to work in Ontario and Florida?

My biggest piece of advice I can give would be to be prepared to work hard but remember to play harder! Laugh at the funny things, be social when you can and try to make friends with in the brusher community, in the end we all stick together!

Photo courtesy of Vanessa French.

4. What are you looking forward to for this upcoming Ontario show season?

I can't wait to see all my fellow horse friends, my great group of horses and all the client's happy smiles as they bring ribbons back to the stalls each day. I am also excited for the grooms class! Let's go 2019!!

Vanessa French: Equine Photographer Extraordinaire

1. What is a typical day for you when you are photographing?

I ended up shooting for Kathy Russell at the Palm Beach Masters series at Deeridge Farms just down the road from WEF. A typical day when photographing at Deeridge would be to arrive at the show an hour before the first class to meet with the other photographers and to make a plan for the day. Before I would start shooting the first class I would always sneak a couple of macaroons in my bag to take with me while shooting at the ring. After photographing the morning class if there was some event that was happening, I would shoot some photos of that. For example, one day the My Little Peepers pony came to the show with other miniature ponies to raise support for the My Little Peepers Sanctuary. After a lunch break, the other photographers and I would walk the course and make a plan for shooting the big afternoon class, such as The Nations Cup. After the jump off would be complete, we would then set up for shooting the awards and the victory gallop. Once we were done with taking all of the photos we would give our SD cards to the girls that were in charge of uploading the photos to the computers.



2. Do you find there are many differences between photographing in Ontario versus Wellington?

There aren't too many differences between photographing in Ontario versus Wellington. Both locations have beautiful horses and great venues, but the main thing that was different for me was that I didn't know as many people at the shows in Wellington as I do in Ontario. At the horse shows in Ontario I feel more comfortable walking around and taking photos of everyone because I feel like people are used to seeing me with my camera. WEF is such a large venue with so many people that sometimes I would feel a little intimidated, especially because there are so many other professional photographers shooting. Also I love that at WEF they have a night class every Saturday. It is a real artistic challenge to shoot at night with the big lights, but it can make for some really creative and beautifully unique photographs.

3. How have you managed your photographing schedule with your riding/showing schedule?

Managing my photography schedule with my riding schedule wasn't as tricky as I thought it was going to be. On the weeks that I was shooting at Deeridge we would plan for that to be my horse Clarke's week off of showing. That way I could focus on photographing at the show, and after if the show ended early enough I would go and ride Clarke at the barn. The great thing about Wellington is that everything is five minutes away from each other. If I had a long lunch break one day in-between classes, I would pop over to see Clarke to hand graze him.

When I am photographing at WEF and I am showing in the same week, I am just always walking around with my camera ready to take photos. During the course walks I will walk with my camera in my backpack. I have learned that I have never regretted bringing my camera, I have only regretted not bringing it.

4. What has been your favourite venue or 'spot' in Wellington so far?

My favourite venue to photograph in Wellington was at Deeridge Farms because they have the most beautiful grass field, and a large pond between the grass warm up ring and the International show ring. The pond is my favourite feature of any horse that I have photographed at because in the morning it would create the most beautiful reflections.

5. What is your favourite photo you have taken at WEF so far?

My favourite photograph that I have taken at WEF so far is the one of the horse with the arched neck that highlights the beautiful braids. This photo really stands out to me from any of my other ones I took at WEF because I submitted it for my schools annual photography gallery and it was awarded an honourable mention in the documentary category.

Be sure to check out Vanessa's great work:

Instagram: @vanessaannefrench

Website: vanessaannefrench.com

Krista Moyer: The Brilliant Braider

1. What is a typical day/night for you when you are working?

This past season in Florida I averaged 10-14 horses on a weekend, I usually start around midnight and finish late morning or early afternoon the following day. I plan an hour to braid a mane and tail, some horses and ponies I can do in less time because they get fewer braids some horses who have a big mane and tail take an over an hour, so it averages out. After braiding I will go home and 'cat nap' for an hour or so. I try not to sleep all day so I can get to the gym as well as experience some of the Florida activities like spending the day at the beach, kayaking, or hanging out with friends. After enjoying a more normal schedule during the afternoon, I try to get some sleep before its start all over again.

2. Do you find there are many differences between your braiding schedule in Wellington versus Ontario?

Yes, I find there is a difference between braiding in Ontario and Wellington. All of my horses in Ontario are based at one venue, versus, in Wellington I travel between different barn communities and the horse show. I usually keep my braiding within 10km of the horse show. Traveling like this adds time, I have to load my ladder, drive, and check in with gate security, which can add up to 15-20 minutes between barns to my schedule. When I am at home in Ontario, I can walk to all my stalls if I need to. This can make scheduling in Florida more difficult. Many of the classes in Florida have 40+ entries, which makes the days long!! I try to make sure I keep up to date with how the show is running to make sure my braiding



Krista likes to get creative with her braiding

schedule best reflects my clients timing. I also find I use a lot more coloured yarn in Florida. Some barns request certain colours like their barn colours or fun colours for different classes or occasions! WEF is also special to braid at because people come from all over the world. I have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to braid for some of the top hunter, jumper and dressage riders.

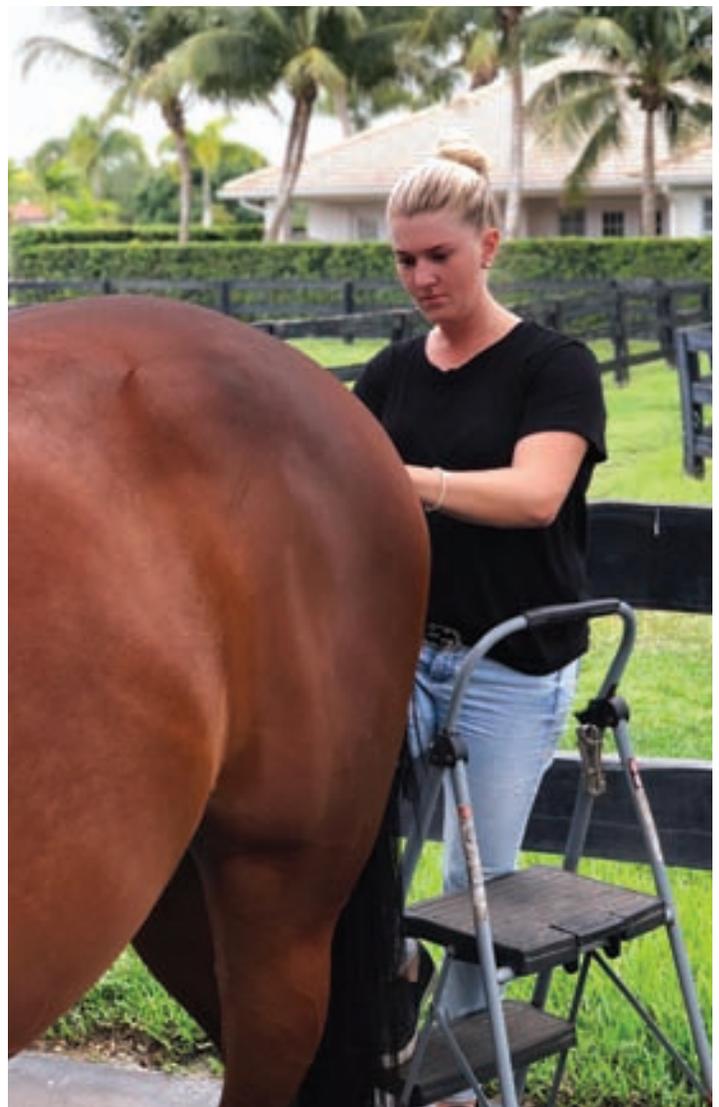
3. What would be your biggest piece of advice for someone looking to start braiding professionally?

Practice! Start working for a professional as a helper or

pay a pro to teach you few new tricks. The braider world is very small, there are not many of us and we are always helping each other out.

4. What are you looking forward to for this upcoming Ontario show season?

I am very excited to be home this summer, I am looking forward to spending time with my Ontario friends and seeing my Canadian clients. Some of my clients have new horses and ponies for this season and I am looking forward to watching their partnerships grow. I enjoy braiding for the derbies because that's when Canadians like to use coloured yarn! I LOVE braiding for Canada Day because my clients really let me get creative!



Krista Moyer concentrating on putting together a beautiful tail braid.



**LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?
WANT TO SHARE INPUT ON HOW WE CAN
CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OHJA PROGRAMS?**

The OHJA is always looking for enthusiastic individuals to join the various OHJA sub-committees, which include:

The Hunter & Equitation Committee

The Jumper Committee

The Banquet & Awards Committee

The Communications Committee: Ingate/Web/Social Media

Committee members can expect to attend monthly meetings, provide input on programs and be responsible for leading and/or supporting committee and Board initiatives.

Please email all member inquiries to info@ohja.ca.
We look forward to working with you!



DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR THE OHJA TRAVEL GRANT DEADLINE DECEMBER 1, 2019

Returning in 2019, the OHJA is proud to continue to offer the Travel Grant Program.

This grant is to provide provincially targeted athletes with travel assistance towards participation in national and/ or high level sporting events. In order to be eligible for the Grant, the athlete must meet the following criteria:

- Athlete must be a current OHJA member competing at gold level competitions.
- The athlete must be a resident of Ontario or representing Ontario.
- Athlete must be under twenty-five years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
- Horse and rider must attend the eligible competition to which the assistance will be provided.
- Only one grant per athlete per year
- Value not to exceed \$1000. Dollars - Exception Ontario Regional CET winner.

The above are guidelines for the distribution of funds collected on behalf of athletes under the age of twenty-five ("young riders"). The allocation of funds will depend on the amount and availability in the current year. Funds may be rolled over to the following year and/or allocated to other programs for athletes under the age of twenty-five, at the discretion of the OHJA Board.

The OHJA board decision shall be final.

ELIGIBLE COMPETITIONS:

- FEI Children's Finals
- North American Young Riders Competition: either Junior or Under 21.
- Jump Canada <25 program Canadian Finals (RAWF) or American Finals – top five that qualify from Ontario CET Regional Final Winners.

APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:

**Applications must be made in writing to
The Ontario Hunter Jumper Association:
150 First Street, Box 21026, Orangeville, Ont. L9W 4S7**

*Applications must be submitted by December 1st of the current year, stating name, address, and competition name, date, and location.



ONTARIO HUNTER-JUMPER ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ONTARIO HUNTER-JUMPER ASSOCIATION

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Ontario Hunter-Jumper Association is advising that the 2019 Annual General Meeting has been scheduled.

DATE: Saturday, November 30, 2019 after the awards presentation

LOCATION: Woodbine Racetrack, Paddock Room, 555 Rexdale Blvd,
Etobicoke, ON M9W 5L2

- A. To receive and consider the annual report, financial statements and report of the auditors since the last Annual General Meeting;
- B. Elect directors;
- C. Appoint accountants and authorize the directors to fix their remuneration;
- D. Amend the bylaws;
- E. To notify all of the acts, bylaws and proceedings of the directors and officers;
- F. Transact such further business as may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment.

You may vote in person only, no proxies permitted.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the Board or one of the Association's committees.

Nominations may be sent to Diane Ratigan - OHJA President - at info@ohja.ca

Your support would be greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

REMEMBERING THE FUN AT THE 2018 OHJA BANQUET





























2019 HORSE SHOW COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION NAME	LOCATION	DATE
Caledon Jump Into Spring	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	April 25 - 28
Classic At Palgrave Phase I	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	May 8 - 12
Caledon National CSI2*	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	May 15 - 19
Classic At Palgrave Phase II	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	May 22 - 26
The Headwaters Cup	Angelstone Tournaments Erin	June 5 - 09
The Champions CSI2*	Angelstone Tournaments Erin	June 12 - 16
Ottawa Welcome Horse Show	Wesley Clover Parks Ottawa	June 19 - 23
Show Jump for Heart	Ten Sixty Stables Uxbridge	June 20 - 23
Summer Classic	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	June 26 - 30
Caledon Premier I	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	July 3 - 7
Ottawa International # 1 CSI2*	Wesley Clover Parks Ottawa	July 9 - 14
Ottawa International # 2 CSI3*	Wesley Clover Parks Ottawa	July 16 - 21
Ten Sixty Stables Classic	Ten Sixty Stables Uxbridge	July 25 - 28
Equestrian Festival	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	July 31 - Aug 4
Summer Festival	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	August 7 - 11
The International CSI2*	Angelstone Tournaments Erin	August 21 - 25
The National CSI2*	Angelstone Tournaments Erin	August 28 - Sept 1
Autumn Classic	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	Sept. 11 - 15
Canadian Show Jumping Tournament CSI2*	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	Sept. 18 - 22
Fall Finale	Caledon Equestrian Park Palgrave	Sept. 25 - 29
The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair	Ricoh Coliseum	November 1 - 10

