

THE



INGATE



NEWSLETTER FALL 2020



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Three generations of the Millar Family.

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 Secretary/Chair Banquet:
 Sharon Batista

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THE **INGATE**

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 Victoria McDonald and her horse California.

Visit the OHJA website at

www.ohja.ca

You will find the specifics to all
 OHJA programs and all necessary
 membership information



ONTARIO HUNTER-JUMPER ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear OHJA Members,

Welcome to another edition of our digital InGate. This was definitely a challenging year in which the OHJA had to make some very tough decisions due to the Covid-19 Pandemic including suspending our programs and deferring memberships to 2021. Despite the challenges we saw our community come together and are grateful to Angelstone Tournaments, Caledon Equestrian Park and Wesley Clover Park for running safe competitions for our membership to attend.



This year also brought a partnership with the Trillium Hunter Jumper Association to create a Horse Show Life Webinar Series with six informative and entertaining sessions that aired on Mondays starting October 19th. All of which are available for on demand viewing. See page 5 for more details. We also had our first ever virtual AGM on November 30th. We had great attendance and successfully voted in two new Board Members; Katie Blum and Heather McCann-Cuddy. We are excited to have these two new Directors join us. I would also like to take this opportunity to send a big thank you to outgoing Directors Gabrielle Gallant and Nanci Forfellow for their many contributions to the Board.

We are optimistically planning for our 2021 season, and hopeful that we will be able to continue to support our programs next year. We are currently evaluating how to best utilize the resources that we have at our disposal to that end and we are reviewing our existing and new programs for next year. If you are interested in participating or sharing your ideas, please contact us at info@ohja.ca.

Don't forget to renew! Although we have deferred memberships through to 2021 you will still need to renew through Ontario Equestrian (OE) but there will be no charge. More details included in this issue and our website.

On behalf of the rest of the Board, I wish all of our members and their four legged friends the happiest of Holidays and New Year. Be safe and enjoy!

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.





2021 OHJA MEMBERSHIPS

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suspension of OHJA points and programs in 2020, anyone who has purchased an OHJA membership for the 2020 calendar year will have their **OHJA membership fees waived for 2021.**

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- A valid 2021 OHJA membership is still required.
- This means you must either join or renew your OHJA membership for 2021.
- If you paid for a membership in 2020, no fees will be applied in 2021.
- For more information about the OHJA membership, and step by step instructions on how to join or renew your membership, please visit: <http://ohja.ca/join/>

ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN & EQUESTRIAN CANADA MEMBERSHIPS

- Please remember to also validate your Equestrian Canada and Ontario Equestrian memberships for 2021. You can visit the follow websites to learn more:
 - i. <https://www.equestrian.ca/programs-services/licences/join-renew>
 - ii. <https://ontarioequestrian.ca/membership/>
- Without valid memberships, provincial points cannot be counted and as per EC RuleG113.4 points are not awarded retroactively.





HORSE SHOW LIFE WEBINAR SERIES HOSTED BY THE OHJA & THJA

This fall OHJA and THJA teamed up to present their first joint venture - Horse Show Life Webinar Series. Since 2020 didn't allow for many in person gatherings, the two associations came together for some unique, and socially distanced, programming.

This was the first time the OHJA and THJA have joined forces and after launching six very successful and well attended webinars, it's safe to say that this is the beginning of an exciting new partnership!

The six webinars covered a wide variety of topics:

THE NEW HORSE SHOW LANDSCAPE IN ONTARIO

- Craig Collins, Martha Worst and Karen Sparks addressed how COVID 19 changed the horse show environment in 2020. It led to many challenges but also some new opportunities for each of the organizers.

WORK, LIFE AND HORSE BALANCE

- Elyse Batista, Vimy Henderson, Deb McFadden and Taylor Brooks answered tough questions around managing the pressures of life, COVID 19 and horses in their everyday lives.

BREEDING AND DEVELOPING YOUNG HORSES AND PONIES

- Claire Hunter, Joanna Fast and Dru MacGregor discussed the process from making the perfect match in breeding and how they prepare their young horses/ponies for the show ring, Cup Classes and beyond.

HELMET SAFETY & CONCUSSIONS

- Dr. Stephanie Bonin led a unique conversation around helmet technology and how our understanding of concussions has changed significantly over the years. As the head of the ASTM Equestrian Helmet Committee, Stephanie shared how helmets are tested, what requirements they have to meet to be safe and how research is evolving the safety standards.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE OF BEING AN EQUESTRIAN

• Dr. April Clay led an intriguing conversation around navigating one's mindset as we try to overcome our fears in a dangerous sport and develop the tools needed to 'get back on the horse'.

MAKING THE TEAM

• Lexi Ray, Sam Walker and Karen Sparks shared their experiences and unique paths from competing in Canada to International competition. They spoke to the challenges they have faced and how COVID has impacted their plans this year.

Didn't get the chance to watch the webinars? Luckily they're recorded and available to all OHJA and THJA members. Tune in here: <https://globalmeet.webcasts.com/viewer/portal.jsp?ei=1384399>

We hope you enjoy them - Happy watching!

OHJA ASSOCIATION

TRILLIUM HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU SPONSORS
FOR SUPPORTING
HORSE SHOW LIFE *webinars*

HORSE-SPORT
YOUR EQUESTRIAN AUTHORITY

GlobalMeet

HORSEWARE
IRELAND

CHARLES OWEN
ESTABLISHED 1911

PEMF CADENCE THERAPY

OVERSEAS HORSE SERVICES



One of the first OHJA InGate Issue's ever published.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE OHJA

As an OHJA member, you may have found yourself asking: what is the purpose of the OHJA and how did it get started?

In order to help our current membership understand a bit more about why our association exists, we thought we would speak to one of the initial members of the OHJA Board of Directors, Barbara Mitchell.

The OHJA was first established by Mark Samuels and the late Rip Gauthier in 1994. Mark was the first President and he continues to support the OHJA to this day, along with his family, and Rip's wife Willa continues to show in the adult hunters. Barbara served on the Board for close to 20 yrs., including 6 years as President. Some of the initial OHJA Board Members include, Debbie Weir, Yvonne Collard, Marg Dennis, Nancy Faulkner, Heather Delfino, Gary Cooper, Sandi Ballard and Dr. Mary Bell.

In speaking to Barbara, I asked her how the OHJA came to be. "The OHJA was initially put together to provide additional support to hunter, jumper and equitation riders in Ontario. At the time, Equestrian Canada (EC) and the Ontario Equestrian Federation (now known as Ontario Equestrian) were not meeting the demands of the growing equestrian industry in Ontario."

One of the key areas of opportunity was trying to find a way to tabulate and track points. Initially Equestrian Canada had been reviewing ways to do this on a National basis but in the end, this was not possible. If you can believe it, there used to be a big black book that would be at each horse show where riders could check the provincial standings – luckily technology helped automate, and facilitate this process! In 2000, the OHJA, was able to introduce their own point tracking system. This system allowed for provincial points to be tracked for year-end awards, and help to facilitate entries to the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair.

Through the introduction of the points tabulation, the OHJA membership fee was put into place. Rider, horses and owners were required to be OHJA members to have their points tallied. These funds from the membership went towards paying for the points tabulation system.

As the points system was being put into place, there were also a number of OHJA programs being developed and introduced.

- Sally Sainsbury established the OHJA Show Committee which helped to support horse shows in terms of suggesting venue improvements, providing an OHJA jump and facilitating the running of OHJA programs at the Ontario shows.
- The Rising Star program was developed by Barbara and Yvonne Collard and later became one of the top programs led by Equestrian Canada in the form of Talent Squad and presently as the U25 division. The OHJA supported this program with funding.
- Young Riders selection and financial support was provided by the OHJA
- The Young Jumper development program was also an early initiative by Charlie Ormston from the OHJA, and continues to run to this day.
- In the hunter and equitation worlds, the young hunter development program was introduced, along with the OHJA medal.
- In 1999 the first issue of the OHJA InGate magazine was also published by Heather Delfino and Nancy Faulkner.

I asked Barbara what she was most proud of accomplishing during her time as part of the OHJA Board.

Barbara replied that she was very proud of the way the Board was able to quickly establish itself as a fiscally responsible organization— it never went into debt, and still hasn't to this day. When

the Levy was introduced by EC, the provinces began receiving monies yearly from EC to assist the funding of provincial programs. In addition to the Levy remittance and with the membership funds that were collected, not only was an Ontario point tabulating system put into place and paid for by OHJA, but programs were developed that met their memberships needs. The Board was also built around strong values of transparency and openness to its membership, which remain top of mind today.

As Barbara and I wrapped up our conversation, I asked her to share any advice she might have for our current Board and/or our OHJA members. "For the members, I would encourage those that have the time, to get involved in the OHJA, whether that means volunteering on a committee or working at the Board level. If you have feedback to share, it can't be done from the outside, and it's important to understand what it takes behind the scenes to make horse shows and programs happen." In terms of advice for the Board, Barbara shared that it's important that as a group we continue to adapt to the times and the needs of our membership. Just like everything else in the world, the Ontario equestrian community continues to evolve and it's important that the OHJA programs reflect these changes. It is also important to remember that for the past 26 years, the OHJA has been the work of a large number of volunteers working for the good of our Horse Show Industry in Ontario.

I'd like to thank Barbara for taking the time to meet with me and for sharing all of these great insights. On behalf of the Board, we look forward to upholding the strong foundational values that were initially put into place and continuing to evolve to meet the needs of our membership.





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 inquiries to: info@ohja.ca .



FOLLOW AND SHARE WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

You can find us on Facebook & Instagram, and we want to put the spotlight on you – our OHJA members! Tag us in your photos and don't forget to use our hashtag “#OHJA” to be featured on our account.

<https://www.facebook.com/OntarioHunterJumperAssociation>

<https://www.instagram.com/onhunterjumper/>



ONTARIO HUNTER-JUMPER ASSOCIATION

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT ASSOCIATIONS: THE OHJA, ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN AND EQUESTRIAN CANADA

Each year many of us renew our memberships with some, or all, of the following associations: the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA), Ontario Equestrian (OE), and/or Equestrian Canada (EC).

We know that each association is somehow related, but it is not always clear how each one works together and what responsibilities they each own.

As the OHJA often gets questions from our membership about these various associations, we wanted to share a summary and some examples that we hope will highlight how each association works in conjunction with one another

Using examples such as rules, points and membership, the follow images depict each organization's mission, and their responsibilities.

Be sure to check out www.ohja.ca in the new year to reference these examples.

MISSIONS



MISSION:
To lead, support, promote, govern and advocate for the equine and equestrian community in Canada



MISSION:
To attract people to the equestrian sport, develop rider-centric programming, provide professional certifications, and facilitate community engagement



MISSION:
The OHJA develops Hunter, Equitation and Jumper programs for Gold Rated Hunter and Jumper competitions held across Ontario



MISSION:
The THJA exists to provide an affordable, high quality provincial hunter / jumper circuit allowing equestrians to compete, grow and develop their horsemanship and sportsmanship skills

MEMBERSHIP



- Sport License (Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum)
- Digital Horse Recording



- Provincial Membership required to compete with Ontario at any sanctioned competition
-Gold, Silver, Bronze and ESD



- An OHJA membership is required to participate in OHJA Hunter, Jumper and Equitation Programs
- A valid OHJA membership is required to collect points at Gold Rated competitions
- Points are tabulated for Year End Provincial Awards
- Points are used as part of the qualifying criteria for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
- An OHJA membership provides voting privileges to members at the OHJA AGM



- A valid THJA membership is required to collect points towards zone awards and the provincial Trillium Championship horse show
- A THJA membership provides voting privileges at zone AGM meetings
- A THJA membership also includes representation as a registrant (non-voting) of the THJA. The Zones represented at the THJA by two members who are elected at the Zone AGM for two-year terms.

POINTS



Equestrian Canada Rule Book Section A and Section G

- EC calculates national program points - U25, CET, JC
- EC manages Platinum and Gold Show Sanctioning
- For Gold Rated shows, EC also reviews provincial calendar dates to avoid show date conflicts
- EC issues National electronic horse recordings which are required at all provincial level horse shows
- EC certifies all officials (judges, stewards, veterinarians, course designers) and ensures that competitions are hiring officials with the necessary credentials



- Provides sanctioning for Bronze, Silver and ESD Shows
- Oversees provincial coaching programs
- Members benefit from automatic and discounted insurance coverage
- Horses and Riders must be OE members to collect points within Ontario towards Year End Awards for both the THJA and OHJA
- Oversee the provincial and facility programs in Ontario



Current membership status dictates whether OHJA points can be awarded for year end awards and Royal Winter Fair qualification

- Points are calculated based on Section G Article G113.4
- Points are not retroactive if memberships were not in place at the time of competition
- Riders, Owners and Horse need to have valid memberships in place at time of competition
- Competitors may not collect points on Temporary Horse Licenses



Current membership status dictates whether THJA points can be awarded for year-end awards and Trillium Championship Show qualification.

- Points are calculated based on Section G Article G113.4, Section A Article 1605.5 and a standard multiplier factor
- Points are not retroactive if memberships were not in place at the time of competition
- Points towards Championship Show and Zone Awards are calculated at each show based on the number of riders in the class, a standard multiplier factor, and the placings 1st to 6th
- Competitors may not collect points on Temporary Horse Licenses

RULES



- All sanctioned Hunter / Jumper competitions in Canada are governed by Equestrian Canada Rules-Section A and Section G
- Horse show stewards are in charge of monitoring and enforcing these rules at competitions
- Proposed rule changes are submitted through Equestrian Canada and reviewed by the Equestrian Canada Rules Committee
- Gold and Platinum Hunter / Jumper competitions are sanctioned through the Equestrian Canada competitions department



- Silver, Bronze and ESD Hunter / Jumper competitions are sanctioned through the Ontario Equestrian competition department
- Note: Gold Competitions are sanctioned by Equestrian Canada



- OHJA Programs are only run at Gold Sanctioned Competitions, these competitions are sanctioned by Equestrian Canada
- OHJA Programs are run and officiated by Equestrian Canada competition rules
- OHJA Programs are officiated by judges, stewards, course designers, etc. that are licensed by Equestrian Canada
- OHJA Programs are funded partially by the Equestrian Canada Levy fund

- Class and Division Specs are finalized for Championship Show qualifying divisions in the fall of each year
- Specs change proposals can be submitted to the THJA annually for any changes to Championship Class and Divisions specs
- Each zone also has miscellaneous classes and divisions they set the specs for and often award prizes for their banquets
- THJA programs are funded locally by THJA Development fees collected at individual Trillium shows
- THJA programs that are province wide are funded by the THJA



Photos courtesy of RingSide Media.













On behalf of the 2020 & 2021
OHJA Board of Directors,
we would like to wish all of our members
and their four-legged friends,
a happy holiday season,
and all the best in 2021.

Diane Ratigan
Alexa Law
Christine Whalen
Sharon Batista
Sandi Ballard
Kelly Nicholls
Kristine Kubota
Victoria McDonald
Elizabeth Rous
Natasha Skupsky
Gabrielle Gallant (outgoing in 2020)
Nanci Forfellow (outgoing in 2020)
Katie Blum (new in 2021)
Heather McCann-Cuddy (new in 2021)

