



The Canadian Connemara

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Inside this issue:

<i>Ally Dunlop</i> <i>Rebecca David MacIssac</i>	2
<i>Western All Breed Show</i> <i>Kestral Fair's Story Part 1</i> <i>Life with Turfie</i>	3
<i>Elodon News</i> <i>Across Canada— Slowly</i>	4
<i>Kestral, Anna and Friends</i>	5
<i>Lavender Downe News</i> <i>Traa Dy Liooar Farm News</i> <i>Classified Ads</i>	7
<i>2010 AGM Minutes</i>	8
<i>Important Reminders</i>	9
<i>Ballencrieff Farm News</i> <i>Caraway Merle</i>	10
<i>Pony Show— Red Deer</i> <i>Centuryhill Farm News</i>	11
<i>Battle of the Breeds 2010</i>	12
<i>Cedar's Padraig-Lee Taylor</i>	13
<i>Rill Farm News</i> <i>Wilderness Experience!</i>	14
<i>Sidesaddle Trainer</i> <i>K.S. Priceless progress report</i>	15
<i>Ali Mark's Story</i> <i>More reminders!!</i>	16

A tribute to Melanie Jacobi 1964-2010



Melanie started riding her little pony "Jingles" when she was 4 years old, and her talent soon became apparent. When she was 10 years old her mother, Doris, brought the first three Connemara ponies to Alberta. These ponies came from Dr. O'Halloran in Montana, and one of them was a 3 year old dun mare that they called Avenns Golden Ruby.

Melanie and "Goldie" soon became a legend on both sides of the border. They had many wins in hunter/jumper and eventing. Highlights of their career were:

1977 Gold Medal winners at Preliminary Jumper at the Alberta Summer Games (the only one with 4 clear rounds) –

Melanie was 13, and this class included adults.

1977 2nd Preliminary level jumping Spruce Meadows mini Grande Prix.

1978 Champions of the Buckskin Association of North America.

1979 Qualified for the Continental Young Riders (Eventing) at Graham Ranches where Melanie was the youngest, and Goldie the smallest of the competitors.

1979 Alberta team at the Continental Young Riders competition held near Boston, Mass. – the team placed 2nd.

1979 Canadian Equestrian Federation Reserve Pony Jumper champions for Alberta.

1982 Represented the Connemara breed at the Challenge of the Breeds in St. Louis, Missouri – including barrel racing and driving, along with jumping & trail.

When Goldie had her first foal in the mid 1980's Melanie took on her mother's stallion Lynfields Cormac McCarthy. This also proved to be an incredible team with

numerous wins in every discipline, including side-saddle. One of their specialties was Combined Driving. They competed for many years at the Battle of the Breeds at Spruce Meadows, initially for Team Pony, and then for our Connemara team, until Cormac was retired aged 26.

In March 2010 Melanie lost her battle with cancer. There can be few people who have done more to promote Connemaras at a time when the breed was little known. Despite being a tall girl, Melanie was never tempted to transfer to a larger mount, and proved that her Connemaras could "do it all". Melanie will be remembered with affection and admiration by her fellow horse-lovers.



Address from our New President— Bridget Wingate

*Connemaras:
For all
disciplines...
For all
the family...*



First of all I want to thank Heather for 4 years of extremely hard work getting this Society off the ground. In particular her efforts on the by-laws and dealing with Agriculture Canada were quite exceptional. It now falls to me to keep up the good work.

I am very pleased to see that there are several new and enthusiastic owners, and we now also have representation from the

Maritimes. We have some exceptional ponies in all disciplines out there showing just what this breed can do. We have decided that ponies competing under an EC passport name (rather than their registered name) can be included in the awards program. We are going to have a photo gallery on the web-site, so please send in your photos – the best may end up on the front page of the newsletter!

And now...A salute to our amazing young riders...

Erin Meadows Tir na nog (Oke Doke)-by Ally Dunlop

This past year has been crazy! In January 2010 Oke Doke and I travelled to Florida to compete in the winter dressage circuit! It was truly an experience of a life time. Being able to experience different venues, the almost warm weather, and staying in an equestrian community was unforgettable. Oke and I were able to walk right out of the barn and hack beside canals with tropical flowers and palm trees. The showing was something I have never experienced before it was very competitive and there was only an open division. Oke Doke was exceptional; travelling to Florida, adjusting to the warm weather and new barn. The barn we stayed at was a lot like a jungle with vines and palm trees everywhere – not to mention sand! Oke and I placed in the top six in open second level. For those who do not know the transition from first level to second is huge! Although I could have never imagined the experience to be so different from Canada, I loved being there and so did Oke. This was the perfect occasion to prepare Oke and me for our FEI pony début!

This summer rocked! Oke was awesome and we improved our partnership immensely! It now feels like we are dancing. I can not pick a favourite event from this summer however there were several highlights: competing



at my first CDI, showing FEI pony, my first freestyle, achieving that dreamt of 67.8% in FEI pony individual, hacking around the fields with my mom, playing with Oke and just being around ponies and horses as much as possible. It was an amazing year!!!!

Riding my first freestyle was spectacular! Our music, Disney's the jungle book, suits Oke to a tee! A smile brimmed off my face whenever we performed especially as Oke started moving in perfect time to the music! Also hacking was incredible. I love giving Oke a break to just be a horse and have a good gallop over hills (it helps their muscles too!). To top of our summer of all summers, we actually WON the Ontario Dressage Championships Technical champion and Reserve in Freestyle! Oke was so proud however, he tried to eat our award! I love my pony more than anything and he truly has an Oke Doke attitude! I hope everyone had a super summer, I know I did!

Pony Power -by Rebecca David McIsaac

A pony technically stands 14.2 hands or less but do not equate their small size with their performance ability. Take Rills Carrick Fergus for example. He and his Partner Rebecca David McIsaac had a show season that they will never forget.

It all started with the Bow Valley Classic at Anderson Ranch in Calgary. Competing in the 1m show jumping ring, Rebecca watched as several of the giant breeds- the Warmbloods, the Thoroughbreds and the Trakeners to name a few navigated a very difficult course that featured tight turns and long distances. Then, in comes Fergus. At 14 Hands High he was definitely the smallest competitor. The bell rang and Fergus and Rebecca attacked the course. As they crossed the finish line, the new leader Fergus was announced. It was another three hours before all 60 competitors had completed the course. In the end Fergus was edged out to third place. Quite a feat for the smallest competitor!

Next on to Amberlea Meadows where Fergus switched roles from jumper pony to dressage pony. Competing at Training Level Fergus's movements were accurate and flowing. Despite the snowy cold weather (several tests were ridden in snow squalls) Fergus worked hard to win

the Training Division Championship. He also succeeded in capturing the Overall High Point Junior Championship.

In June, eventing season was well underway and Fergus and Rebecca coached under the expertise of Sandra Donnelly prepared themselves for a summer road trip. The first stop was Whidbey Island, Washington for the 34th Annual Three Day Event. Dressage went well with Fergus tied for 2nd place in the Novice Division. The next day was cross country day. Fergus went clear with an impressive run for both jumping and time. Still tied for 2nd, the third day would determine the results. Many riders were taking rails



and incurring penalty points. The order of go was the reverse order of placing so Rebecca would be second last. The girl tied with her had lower collective dressage marks than Rebecca so she went ahead of her. She went clear. The pressure was on. Rebecca and Fergus went clear and fast- they posted the fastest time of the day. The 1st place rider started off jumping well but then things started to fall apart after she took a rail, then another one. Rebecca finished off by winning the Novice Division. In addition to this award Fergus was also awarded the "Speedy" Award named in honour of a pony who was a Whitby Island Pony Club favourite. This award was for the best scoring pony in the whole event.

The next day the horse trailer was packed up and off they went to Heron Park, Montana for a week of training in cross country. Next it was Rebecca Farms. Fergus and Rebecca had a beautiful dressage test scoring 27.5 penalty points and placing 1st. Cross Country day brought clear skies and a double clear round for Fergus and Rebecca. The final day- show jumping- saw the riders and horses challenged by a difficult jumping course. Many riders took rails. Fergus sitting in 1st place was the last competitor to go.

Continued on page 7

The Western All Breed Pony Show



The ponies from L to R are Devon Ridge Ms Congeniality (Bantry Bay Dillon x Avenn's Eirynn Bay) and rider, Talia Amyotte
 Devon Ridge Ridge Rhiannon (Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan x Avenn's Golden Ruby) and rider, Emma Klapstein
 Devon Ridge Rapunzel (Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan x Devon Ridge Magnolia) and rider Amanda Whitfield

this was performance day of the show....
 dressage, hunter and flat classes.

Kestrel Fair's Story –part 1

In 2002, a horse trailer wound it's way carefully north from California, towards Devon Ridge Farm, Spruce Grove, Alberta. You see, this particular trailer was carrying a very precious cargo on board, as Jocelyn Davies had purchased Kestrel Fair 6 months in-utero! "I wasn't disappointed", Jocelyn said when she saw her new filly for the first time.

Five years later, I contacted Jocelyn regarding a GELDING that she had listed on her website. Later that summer, I found myself glued to my bay window, awaiting the arrival of a MARE with FOAL, re-bred to gorgeous Bantry Bay's Dillon. It was a beautiful moonlit night, & 3 coffee pots later, Kestrel stepped off the ramp - my jaw dropped, & a lump formed in my throat. She and a stunning big bay filly stood looking at me, & it occurred to me that these two could easily have stepped out from the pages of a fairy tale. T

The transport driver commented that he wished he had a lot more Connemaras to transport, as they are so gentle, and easy to work with.

They settled in easily, & I enjoyed spending time with Kestrel & her foal. Devon Ridge's Destiny proved to be very comical, & a touch mischievous at times! Any hat or lead rope lying on the ground was fair

game, & these "games" once included a friend's camera & case. I wondered how much that darned camera cost, as Jane & I struggled to keep up through the bush, while trying to keep Destiny in sight! She loved to go out to the far pasture with Kestrel and me, to tear around and around the hay bales, stopping to bat her front legs in the air at them, then whirl around & kick out at them with distain. When she was grazing around the yard on her own, she would come up onto the deck, peek into the kitchen window, to let me know that she was ready for a drink. If a pail of water didn't appear quickly enough, she would stamp her hooves on the deck and



Continued on page 5

Life with Turfie – Chapter 2 -by Jane Stephenson

The 2010 season has come and gone already – and again it was a very successful one with "Irish Park's Turf Fire". We spent last winter working on our dressage and show jumping skills, and since the weather was often good and the footing excellent, we were able to spend some time doing trot and canter fitness work around the farm fields. I even tried riding bareback and learned how difficult it can be to stay on when your pony has a fuzzy winter coat and round withers! Our lessons in dressage were still focused on finessing our basic skills and adding in some lateral work, but it was in our jumping lessons that Turf really excelled. He loves to jump and is so handy in his turns!

Our season in the PreTraining division began in April with the Grandview Combined Test, and concluded in September with the Glen Oro Horse Trials. During that time, Turf compiled an impressive record of four 1st place finishes and four 2nd place finishes. He also was the top placed Junior dressage score at the Will O'Wind Farm Summer Horse Trials in July. This show was extra special for us, as his breeder,

Lise Johnston, came to visit us and cheer Turfie on. After the show, she sent us some photos of his mother, "Cedarhill's Reendesert Lass", taken at her inspection, around 1980. It was wonderful to learn about Turf's family tree, and we have added all this info to our ever-expanding scrapbook.

Our most memorable show that we attended this year was the Richland Park Horse Trials in Michigan in August. It was exciting this year as all of the Canadian and American riders that were trying to make their National Eventing teams for the World Equestrian Games were in attendance. It was an amazing venue and terrific to watch some of the best Event riders in North America compete against one another. It was also interesting to watch and learn about the care that those amazing equine athletes receive. Our show began with a very respectable dressage test – ridden "out in the corn" – the rings were surrounded by farm fields that just so happened to have 7 foot high corn in them – and the rustling noise sure was distracting! We were tied for 3rd after dressage and

faced a fairly challenging stadium course the next day. Our round was neat, tidy and clean – just the way I like them, and we then moved up to be tied for 1st! Cross country day was a brute – the temperatures had been climbing each day that we were there, and by 1pm on the Sunday, it was close to 34C with no wind. The course was a good galloping one, with fair questions to deal with. In typical fashion, Turf was a super star and sailed around the course, arriving at the finish just 15 seconds under the optimum time. We sure learned the difference in cooling out a thicker skinned, fuller coated Connemara that day – he really felt that heat but recovered like a star and was looking for his treats soon after! Needless to say, I am so proud of that blue first place ribbon that is hanging by his stall!

Turf is now enjoying a much deserved holiday, grazing daily in his paddock with his mate, Henry, and going on occasional hacks – even my mom has taken him out for a ride several times!

Till next time.....

Jane Stephenson and "Irish Park's Turf Fire"

Elodon Connemaras Fall News

2010 has been a busy year as usual though distinctly unique with the record breaking rainfall in Sask. Outside activities have been a challenge though the novelty of riding through creeks and water in our normally semi-arid area of the province has been fun.

It has been a wonderful training year for our stallion Century Hills Aedan Zodiac (and myself). Aedan schooled over fences and in three shows took home a few ribbons. After 30 years (how did they go by so fast?) of very limited and infrequent jumping I found that I have a mount that I trust and went in a jumping clinic which restored my confidence enough that I rode in 2'3" and 2'6" hunter classes. So much fun and very much reflects the confidence I have in Aedan.



Aedan and I also worked on dressage this year participating in 4 dressage clinics and 4 shows. The culmination was Aedan winning the Level 1 Bronze Championship at the Sask. Provincial Dressage Champion-



Elan and Elsie out checking the crops

ships. It is a wonderful challenge for me to learn with him and to keep up to his ability. He received judge's comments such as "lovely pony with a great future", "what a prize he is", "handsome fellow, fluent and rhythmic", "a grand pony with warmblood movement – lovely to watch." He has already begun some Level 2 movements and I hope to continue showing next summer.

My daughter Elan and I also enjoyed working with our youngstock this year. Elodon Maeve, 3 in 2010, has been slowly but steadily schooled and shows herself to have the ultimate Connemara temperament, sensible, easy going, quiet, confident and absolutely loves to be with people. She was free jumped and has

lovely hunter form. Elodon Torin, 2 in 2010, has been started this fall and he also is a very sensible fellow, "born broke" could easily apply to him. Winter will be spent putting some miles on these two.

We are pleased that Glenn Erinn Emma has her own family now. We hear that in good Connemara tradition she is truly a family pony, being enjoyed by both her new owner Pamela Graham and her daughter Lauren, and that Lauren's grandparents have plans to drive her.

Have a good winter everyone, enjoy your ponies and the camaraderie of your fellow Connemara enthusiasts as we do.

Elsie Priddy - Elodon Connemaras

Across Canada The Slow Way .. with dog, cat and little horse

On almost a whim, two years ago, we trailered our patient part Connemara pony, 4,000kms from his mountain home, along with his faithful friend, Holly the Collie and Kitty, the Cat, to a whole new environment in Ontario, and then, 18 months later we trundled back again. The intention was to find a country property and stay out in Ontario, while his owner-rider attended University. However, plans changed, as they do, and after a fun and interesting time in Ontario, back came my husband and I, across those wide, Prairie Provinces, then on through the mountains to the Pacific coast islands. Before we headed back west, we competed Wizard in a few Horse Trials, went on amazing trails, attended clinics and boarded at some wonderful Frontenac area barns.

As the fall colours slowly morph the western BC maples around me, I think of the red



maples brightly snapping into a spectacular show in Eastern Ontario, while back in Alberta it was always touch-and-go if the snow would cut short the bright yellow display of the Foothill's aspens. Little Wizard has seen them all in the last two years; although who knows if he can see anything except green with his horse eye vision, but he was *there* to experience Fall in all three provinces. His taste buds have experienced many new flavours; rose hips in Alberta, maple syrup tapping buckets to be investigated in Ontario and the ferns, mosses and fungi of BC; all new sensations to check out, and some to avoid!

I regret that we didn't go on through Quebec and into the Maritimes, so that Wizbie

...continued on pg 6

left- Clare Higgs and Rising Sun Little Wizard at a clinic in BC

Kestrel Fair's story continued...

whinny, to let me know I needed to hurry it up a bit.

We spent magical winters at a local barn & arena located on Otter Lake, one of the many lakes to be found near Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba. Kestrel really enjoyed the luxury of an occasional bath - (anyone who has been in Manitoba in the middle of January, has already guessed that this particular barn had in-floor heating!)

The following spring, Kestrel surprised me one morning, by appearing with "May Girl", Destiny's little sister. She was as cute as a button, looking very pleased with herself, and ready to enjoy life.

For weaning that year, Destiny & May Girl remained at home, while Kestrel was trailered up to the ranch I gave pony rides

at, and where my son Chris, worked as a trail guide. He and his girlfriend Amber would ride the park trails together in the off-times; Amber on the pony, and Chris on the tallest horse on the property. It has been mentioned that Kestrel particularly enjoyed the occasional horse race across an open field!

Cowboys, being cowboys, issued a "dare" to Amber, to enter the heading box, & chase a steer. They didn't get the rodeo they may have been hoping for, because Kestrel simply entered the box, turned around, backed-up, & then chased that funny-looking critter with two sticks coming out of his head. In a very matter-of-fact manner, Kestrel "scored" 3 more steers, but she was becoming just a little too enthusiastic about the chasing part!

Unfortunately, all of our happy times

together ended suddenly, when I sustained a broken back from a fall, in August of 2009, leaving me facing spinal fusion, & a long convalescence.

Homes needed to be found for my girls quickly. Jocelyn stepped in, and purchased Destiny. My sister, Eddie, had May Girl join her much-loved Connemara gelding, Drogheda's Owen Grey. Merilee Mollard, of Triple M Ranch, Stonewall, Manitoba, arranged for Kestrel to go home with her trainer, as a mount for her daughter, Anna. In true Connemara fashion, Kestrel had charmed Anna, during a spring break visit with her mom to Triple M Ranch!

The next stage in Kestrel's life will take her far away from a ranch at Riding Mountain National Park, east to Oakbank, Manitoba, where she will begin a new life with Anna.

Kestrel, Anna & Friends

During Kestrel's stay at Triple M Ranch, she drew a lot of attention & positive comments. Anyone who came near her pen or stall, was checked out for attention, & hopefully a nice treat. Many an apple destined for another horse further along the line, was given to the Connemara Pony with such a fetching manner. Definitely a friendly pony, & great advertising in a Province that for the most part, has yet to learn just how wonderful the Connemara Pony is! Every enquiry on her type of breed gave Merilee an opportunity to point out that the striking carriage horses seen on the TV series "Pride & Prejudice" are in fact Connemara Ponies, & hence their tremendous eye-catching appeal!!

Kestrel was ridden by Merilee Mollard, & her niece "Panda", when she first arrived at Triple M. No doubt their interest was piqued, by knowing that Kestrel's trainer in Alberta had said she would make a lovely dressage horse, owing to her very nice movement. (Dressage is a very popular riding style of choice at Triple M).

An increasingly busy show schedule meant that Kestrel needed to be taken over completely by Merilee's rider/trainer, Lucero Desrochers. Lucero is well-known in Manitoba, as a knowledgeable & accomplished Riding Coach. She also devotes her time to training several different breeds, for the hunter/jumper circuit.

Anna is very fortunate indeed, having a mom who is her own private, built-in Coach! What a terrific opportunity for Kestrel also, to increase her training, & develop her abilities. When Kestrel & Anna are ready, they will make their mutual debut into the hunter/jumper ring. Watch out all you other breeds - there's a Connemara just waiting in the wings, for her turn to show what she & her young rider can do! ha!

Lucero was already familiar with the Con-



nemara breed, as she has ridden some in the past in South America, where she rode & trained for most of her career. Lucero is also very familiar with Kestrel's bloodlines, as she came in contact with M&M Stables in Vancouver BC, during her coaching years in Vancouver. Her daughter, Anna, also had the chance to lease a Connemara pony in BC for a summer.

On a warm spring day in May, I arrived at Triple M with a horse brush in hand, planning to finally do something I hadn't had the pleasure of, during the course of a very limited & careful year of recuperation - I climbed through the fence, entering Kestrel's pen, for a goodbye brushing & talk. She was, of course, a perfect lady. Too soon a car pulled into the drive. It was Lucero, with two happy, beaming young ladies in tow. School didn't fit into the picture that day, needless to say!

Introductions were made, and then I tried to fade into the background, but close enough to watch. Lucero pulled out special scissors & equipment, & a pony "makeover" began. Kestrel shouldn't have had any hair left, when Anna & her friend Tera were finished brushing her! Kestrel was basking in all of the attention from the two girls, & I felt relieved & happy inside, knowing that Kestrel was on her way to a excellent home, where she would have

her "very own" loving human.

A horse trailer pulled in, Kestrel loaded right away, Lucero assured me that I would be welcome to come & see Kestrel any time, & they were gone. She now lives with 4 big warmbloods; it didn't take her long to put her foot down, and find her place within the group. Of course, she had to choose the biggest of the four to be her best buddy, a large 17 hand Hanoverian gelding named Walsum. Walsum just so happens to be the horse that Anna's friend Tera rides!

Lucero tells me that Kestrel is great on the trails, when Anna & Tera ride into nearby Bird's Hill Provincial Park, & she has been trailed to several arenas for fun riding too.

For show experience, Lucero, Anna & Tera trailered Kestrel to a recent Manitoba Hunter/Jumper competition. Lucero was coaching some of her students for the show, so Kestrel was housed alongside some huge warmbloods. It wasn't hard to spot her! Two days at the show, & her biggest interest seemed to be in the container of apples that Anna was treating her from! Unfortunately I had just missed an opportunity to see Anna with Kestrel under saddle, strutting their stuff in one of the warm-up rings.

The girls are never short of ways to entertain both themselves, & their horses. They take the barn cats for horse rides in the barn aisle, & Kestrel seems to love it. Anna can easily jump on Kestrel bareback, no halter, and sit, pretending to have a nap. Tera & her big bay gelding Walsum are quite amused by all the antics. The girls have discovered that Kestrel loves mints! All they have to do is crinkle the wrapping paper from the mints, & she goes crazy for them. Lucero chuckles and says "they are quite a group, those four!"

One day Anna was listening to music, & while she was with the pony, the song Dani California came on, & she started singing it to Kestrel. She said "mom, it suits her, Dani suits her, and she is from California!" Anna has been calling her Kestrel/Dani, and Dani

Continued on page 6

Across Canada the slow way -continued

could have put a hoof in both oceans; but he did see the St Lawrence River, which flows to the Atlantic. Interestingly, Ontario has many reminders of the history of European settlement, but not much obvious acknowledgement of the role of horses in that history; from hauling the huge limestone rocks for the Irish and the Chinese immigrants to create the Rideau Canal, to the settler's horses pulling cutters across the frozen, and otherwise inaccessible, back swamps – there were all sorts of horse histories that I had never appreciated before. I also had not thought of the huge difference climate plays in horse management; for example, eastern Ontario seems to have a lot of bugs who want to eat horses and humans alive. In Alberta, my tack would dry out, while here in BC I have to watch out for mould on anything that's not always in use. Arena design, barns and stables, types of rugs, even the way halters are put on; all seem to be regionally different. And don't get me started on shoeing 'styles'! Also, in Alberta, indoor arenas are often heated, while Ontarians just wrap up warm, and in BC – well, it's often either open sides or no roof, and besides, it just never gets cold ;)

We were lucky enough to have eight sunny August days to travel East. This meant that rest stops were quite easy to find. Tourist Information Centers and Provincial parks often have lots of space for trailer turning and a quiet spots to unload for the lunch break. I made it a policy to stop every four hours and would aim to unload Wizard, let him eat grass, which meant his head was down and any sinus drainage that needed to happen could do so. He would usually drink and after the two days, he seemed to get the idea of the routine and was always keen to jump back into the trailer after half an hour or so. I gave him electrolytes in his feed, which seemed to guarantee he would drink a few hours later. Compared to a commercial hauling or professional competitors, this slow way of travelling allowed us all time to relax, enjoy and appreciate the distance that we were covering. We could see some of the local sights, and wait for some incredible summer storms to pass over.

I'd spent a lot of time pre-booking our overnight stops; most of which I had found online, but with difficulty as they aren't conveniently listed on one site. I optimistically thought an average of 900kms a day was reasonable, so I Google-searched for Barns in and around the towns nearest to our ideal distances and came up with 'Bed and Bales' or a Barn for Wizard with a motel or campground nearby. This was pretty

easy in August, although we often arrived pretty late. However, our return trip was in early April, which created problems in addition to driving through some ugly wet snow. The convenient rest areas and tourist pull outs that I'd relied upon on our outward journey were barricaded off, and snow blocked the pull outs, so our rest stops were a lot fewer. Rural Fair and Rodeo grounds provided a great place to stop in summer, but the only one I used on the return trip held an unexpected surprise. As I was just about to unload in the quiet, ghost town, I noticed honey bees bombarding my trailer. The local 4H club had a hive, and this was the first warm day in a long time, so they were excited! As the pony has a 'thing' about bees we quickly decided the other end of town was a better bet.

Realistically, 700kms a day was much more restful on us, with only one driver, and to allow for winter weather. I hadn't realised how slow the speed limits and driving conditions are in rural Ontario; and how it's a much bigger province than I'd thought – it took 3 days out of our 8 days crossing just one province! Travelling with a horse meant we usually stopped for the night in rural areas, at private barns, providing us with great interactions with wonderful Canadians, their dogs and horses, with interesting stories and life-styles. I felt we'd dipped into the richness of this country's heritage, so much more so than if we'd stayed at chain motels.

It was fun travelling with a horse, and somehow everything is simpler when the horse is small and cute, from the size of the 'muffins' to general social acceptance – it was easy to make friends on the road. It seems that a lot of people love a chance to 'pet a horse'. We'd stop in a grocery store parking lot and come out with our groceries (including carrots and Fig Newtons for Wizbie) to find an instant fan club around the trailer. It helped remind me how lucky I am to be able to own him. On our walk breaks we must have looked like a Disney movie – my daughter leading Wizard, me leading the dog and behind us, a furtive cat leading my husband!

I now describe Wizard as a 'little horse' and not a 'pony' although he is only 13.3hh, as some people seemed to assume that a pony would be pocket-sized and could be stabled at their barn with the goat or in a small shed. After a day in the trailer, I wanted him to have space to move around and lie down. At one stop, he spent the night in the arena, sleeping

underneath his reflection in the mirrors. Everywhere we stayed, people were so helpful and welcoming and there were usually other horses for him to whinny at.

I worried quite a bit about 'bio-hazards' and was concerned about staying in unknown barns, with the potential for spreading disease. In the end, I made sure he had all his shots and coggins, and otherwise, I had to relax a bit, kept him to himself as much as I could and did the obvious things like using my own buckets and cleaning up the stall before and after. I think we were probably lucky, but it was a serious consideration.

Wizard was always a fairly excitable character, but all his adventures seem to have made him super easy in unknown environments, and, by his reactions, I believe he actually 'enjoyed' the new sights, sounds, smells and situations that he's experienced over the past two years. As I drove across the miles of Prairie I was looking forward to taking him to a Pacific beach and a short while ago, that's exactly what we did. It amazed me that he knew, instantly, that the low-tide seaweed was edible and delicious. I think those Connemara genes are still strongly there, guiding his instincts – and perhaps there are gypsy genes guiding me!

If anyone is interested in any details of the trip or the stop-overs, they can email me at suerhiggs@gmail.com

By Sue Higgs

Kestrel, Anna and friends continued from page 5

California ever since.

Interesting & different things are happening for Kestrel. The girls will be going to the horse show at Pineridge Equestrian Park Oct 22-23-24. They are even going into the costume class. Anna & Kestrel are entering as "Dino and Pebbles". Guess who will be painted purple, as "Dino"?!!!

Lucero says they have become quite the little couple, Anna & Kestrel/Dani. They have begun their jumping training now, and will continue their lessons indoors over the winter. Under Lucero's tutorage, Kestrel the ranch pony is rapidly making a transition into Kestrel the desirable all-around Connemara show pony!

Finally, I want to express my thanks to Anna, for her part in highlighting some of the fine traits & abilities, to be found in the lovely, spirited Connemara pony.

May God bless Anna & Kestrel, as together they continue growing & developing into the skilled pony/rider pair they will no doubt become, during this wonderful, exciting journey they are on.

Submitted by Jeannie Walsh

Lavender Downe Farm news



.Elodon McCrae (Avenns Kimble Wind X Rills Romany Lace) a five year old gelding has just been purchased for Baylee Kivela. Baylee is 10 years old and has been riding since she was 5. She loves dressage, trail riding and trains with Libby Naylor. Baylee lives on an farm so McCrae could not have found a better loving home. McCrae sired a half bred filly Ceilli, and colt Balladeer out of my POA mare and a colt Taric out of Rills Silver Nutmeg (Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan X Erin Meadows Lexilip) All are very lovely with McCrae's unflappable and loving nature and are for sale.

The farm was blessed with an extremely lovely filly foal this year out of Rill's Mariette of Legacy (*Patty's Dreama Litl Dream X Frederiksmide Marion) by Honnhorst Branni. I am keeping my 2008 very striking Blue Roan colt by Honnhorst Branni out of Rills Silver Nutmeg as my farms future stallion prospect. Lavender Downe is now home to 9 Connemaras in an array of colours. Young stock for sale.

Cheryl Miller, Lavender Downe Farm, Qualicum Beach, B.C

Pony Power continued from pg 2

Everyone watched with bated breathe as Fergus had a beautiful round leaving all the rails up and making time easily. Rebecca and Fergus had won the Novice Division at Rebecca Farms. Now that's Pony Power.

After Rebecca Farms Sandra and Rebecca discussed the possibility of showing Fergus at the next level- Training Division. Rebecca would probably have to forfeit the chance to win the High points for the Pretraining division. She would also have to agree to withdraw Fergus if Sandra felt that the questions or jumping difficulties were unfair or over faced him. Rebecca made the choice to continue to learn more and to continue taking on new challenges. Their first event at the Alhambra Summer Event saw them place 6th in Training. At their second event in Grande Prairie, it was clear that Fergus had figured out what Training Division was all about. Placing Third after dressage, Rebecca and Fergus entered the jumping ring. When they walked the jumping course Rebecca and Sandra discussed the triple line. Although it was set for a long horse stride of a 1 stride to a 2 stride, Fergus due to his small size would probably put in a 2 stride and a 3 stride. The jumping round started off brilliantly with Fergus easily clearing the 3' 6" jumps. Then he rounded the corner to take on the triple line. Waiting for the 2 stride to a 3 stride, Rebecca felt Fergus rev up and lo and behold he made the horse strides of 1 to 2. He ended his round by going clear and making time. What was incredible was that he was the only competitor to go clear. Every other horse had taken rails. Fergus was now in first place. In Course Country no one made time but the smallest competitor posted the least time penalty points and had no jumping penalties proving that the pony power really does work.

Traa Dy Liooar Farm, Athabasca

2010 has been a quiet year for us - We had no foals born on our farm this year and have bred two mares for 2011. We have decided to slowly get out of raising Connemara ponies and just keep enough for our own needs for riding and driving, this also includes some ponies for our grandchildren to ride in Pony Club. We had decided to have our stallion Avenns Kieran Gleann gelded - the Vet had been booked and then tragedy struck - our beautiful boy had to be put down, he had a bowel obstruction, so on September 25, 2010 we buried our boy out in the meadow. We have a grey gelding and a chestnut filly for sale both two year olds, plus we are selling at least one brood mare - if anybody is interested I can send photos and bloodlines. Wishing you all a good fall and a wonderful winter.

Pat and Terry Francis

Classified Ads

I have a Connemara Pony called Cedar's Savanagh born Aug.1996 to sell. Her last foal is 3years old. She is a Dun and so is he. She is presently the only pony on the property and I have difficulty with keeping the weight off. I would like to sell her for \$600.00. She was born in Kansas and her sire is Tre Awain Medelago and dam is Wendover's Cool Emmy Lou. I tried to put a saddle on her but she was too fat. She has had some round penning but she mostly was used for breeding purposes.

Phone # 604-881-6074. Diane Hanson. Time Out Farms

Langley, B.C. timeoutfarms@shaw.ca

Centuryhill Farm Ads. visit www.centuryhillfarm.com

Centuryhills Hazy Maire (Eastlands Glendearg x Kippure Cara) filly born April 27, 2010 -dark bay turning grey. Maire has great bone and correct type with outstanding movement- a great performance and breeding prospect.

Centuryhill's Hazy Kate (CH Maidin Realta x Kippure Cara) filly born June 24, 2010- dark bay turning grey. Kate has a real presence, great substance, strength, speed & balanced fluid movement -also a very promising performance/ breeding mare

Centuryhill's Hazy Meallan (Tathams Ballinanna x Kippure Cara) gelding born May 4, 2009- chestnut. Meallan has movement, strength, intelligence and is an eye-catching performer.

Centuryhill's Good Vibrations (Eastlands Glendearg x Wild-wych Eclipse) gelding born April 16, 2008 bay turning grey. Noah has just been started under saddle- his trainer loves how willing, kind and safe he is for children and adults alike.

Rick & Dale Doner 705-426-4451 rpdoner@sympatico.ca

He won his second ever Training Event with impressive style.

The close of the season ended with the Alberta Championships. Despite only competing in 2 events at Training Level, Fergus had scored well enough to qualify for the championships. After two days of dressage, cross country and show jumping Fergus placed 2nd in the Championships. Pony Power had come through again.

Training Level is the level that Fergus, a pure Bred Connemara will stop at but he has proven despite his small size that with a willingness to work and a big heart, pony power can achieve great things.

Canadian Connemara Pony Society

Annual General Meeting

10:10 a.m. October 23rd 2010 – Elgin, P.Q.

Present: Heather Sherratt, Bridget Wingate, Margot Watson, Christine Carey, Rick Doner, Doris Jacobi, Jenny Smythe, Violaine Fortin, Scott Longmire, Guylaine Caza and Eric Theroux.

President's welcome and remarks – Heather Sherratt

Heather welcomed those present and reported that the first 4 years have been devoted to building a democratic, functioning Society in accordance with the by-laws and Animal Pedigree Act. She felt that we now needed active representatives and committees from across the country to continue this work.

Minutes of 2009 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2009 AGM had been circulated, and were taken as read.

Treasurer's Report – Margot Watson

The Treasurer reported that from Jan 1st to December 31st 2009 the funds of the Society had remained substantially the same with a balance of \$1,179.77. In the period January 1st to October 2010 additional moneys from the stud fee auction and stallion directory had increased funds to \$3,391.74.

In view of the current financial state of Society, and current economic downturn, it was agreed that there would be no increase in the membership or registration fees for the coming year.

Society Insurance

A discussion took place on the advisability of the Society having insurance coverage for activities and the board members.

Membership

CLRC reported that there are currently 56 paid up members of the Society.

It was agreed that a committee be set up with representatives from each region to encourage new members. Elsie Priddy has agreed to chair this committee and Jen Brittain from Central has agreed to represent that region. A volunteer is needed from Pacific region.. Suggested course of action:

Check the CLRC web site and send reminders to all members who have not renewed as CLRC only sends out renewals to current members.

Put together a membership package for new members to include brochure, breeders list, wrist band, newsletter and membership card.

Try to encourage regional meetings.

Look into regional fund raising.

Send note to new owners of ponies with package etc.

Maintain an up-to-date list of members from the CLRC web-site.

Nominating Committee – Penny Huggons

Penny Huggons was not present. She suggested that there be more information in both the newsletter and on the web page as to the procedure for nominating board members. Penny also suggested that a bio of each nominee be included when ballots are sent out for voting.

Regional Reports

Susan MacDougall reported that it had been a quiet year for the Pacific region.

Penny Huggons reported an active year in the Prairie region which a booth at Spruce Meadows and many members out competing and having fun with their ponies.

Rick Doner reported that some younger members were out eventing and competing in dressage, and that his stallion had been to driven and in hand classes.

Some discussion took place on the possibility of putting on Pony Shows in each region to include other breeds and under 148 cm height ponies.

Historian

Jenny Smythe gave some statistics on the Connemara breed in Canada.

Inspections committee – Heather Sherratt

As chairman of the inspection committee, Heather reported that in

2009, 27 ponies had been inspected across the country. Heather had made alterations to both the inspectors report form – now including a numerical assessment system, and to a fuller report to be given to the owners.

Any overrun on inspection site costs would be shared 50/50 between the region and the society.

Awards Committee – Doris Jacobi

Doris reported that many ponies were competing successfully in dressage and horse trials.

It was agreed that members competing a pony under its passport name different from its registered pony name, may include these results for awards.

Currently awards are given for discovery, bronze, silver and gold levels. It was agreed that Doris look into a platinum level with a higher points requirements, and hardware for such an award.

It was agreed that the deadline for submission of 2010 achievements be November 30th.

Web Page – Susan MacDougall

It was generally agreed that the web site is now easy to navigate. What is needed is more reports of activities from members to keep the site fresh. Penny had suggested show-casing winners of awards. It was also suggested that the blank "youth page" be changed to a photo gallery.

Promotions – Susan MacDougall

Susan reported that the first stud fee auction was a success, and can be improved next year with an earlier start. It was agreed that Susan be asked to check the prices of:

- Saddle pads with our logo.
- Baseball caps with our logo.

Stickers with our logo.

The fees for the Breeders List and Stallion Directory of \$10 and \$45 respectively would remain unchanged.

Newsletter – Rick Doner

Rick reported that there had been 55 hard copies of the fall 2009 newsletter produced, and 50 of the 2010 spring edition.

It was agreed that the next newsletter be sent out in February 2011 with a deadline for copy of January 15th. A fall edition should come out in September and might be smaller and in black and white.

Canadian Livestock Records Corp.

A report was received from Ron Black. 19 ponies had been registered or transferred from January to October 6th in 2010 (36 Jan-Dec 2009).

Brood Mare Award

The new brood mare award, presented by Doris Jacobi and Tom MacLochlainn, was awarded to Doris Jacobi for Lovely Lormount. "Keepers" of a plaque with a painted picture of the mare were given for both Doris and Tom.

Board Nominations

Terms for Heather Sherratt, Margot Watson and Bridget Wingate had expired. All three had been nominated and seconded to stand for another 2-year term.

By-Law changes

It was suggested by Bridget and Doris that the past president be on the board for the 2 year term following their presidency in the interests of continuity. It was also recommended that as there is likely to be only 3 regions in the foreseeable future, that an additional board member from each region be elected. After some discussion, it was agreed that this process be started.

2011 Annual General Meeting

It is the turn of the Pacific region to host the next AGM. Margot suggested that this meeting be held in conjunction with the Mane Event is being held in October in Chilliwack, B.C.

Other Business

It was agreed that there be an article in both the newsletter and on the web page encouraging members to submit applications for the Battle of the Breeds team, which can include registered half-breds.

Adjournment

There being no other business, it was proposed by Doris and seconded by Margot that the meeting close at 4:12 p.m.

Membership Information-

Annual Renewals are due Jan 1, 2011!

For Current members of the CCPS : Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC), will be sending all current members a reminder form. Please use the form CLRC sends with an addressed return envelope, it will have your membership number to help CLRC's processing and reduce our processing costs. This is the preferred way to register.

For those who are not currently members: Membership dues are to be forwarded DIRECTLY TO CLRC. Please go onto www.clrc.ca then click on associations then list of associations, click on horses then select Connemara Pony, then under printable PDF files click on membership application, print the form, fill in the form and mail the fees as already outlined to CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1V 0M7

Memberships fees are as follows: Adult membership - \$40

Non resident - \$20

Associate (non-voting) - \$20

Junior (under 18 yrs) - \$15

***Notice* This newsletter will only continue to be sent to paid up members of the CCPS.**

Advertising & Newsletter Information

All ads and articles forwarded to Rick Doner for the newsletter will also be placed on the CCPS website for no additional charge. Please send to rpdoner@sympatico.ca

I need the text in word format 2003 if at all possible (I do have word perfect and can open most other documents as well). The jpeg images can be sent to accompany ads or articles (I need good written descriptions of what picture belongs where). The picture files can each be as large as 1000kB (1mB).. I will shrink them if necessary. The prices for ads are as follows...

	Member	Non- Mem-ber
Text only ad (1 pony)	free	\$10
Text only (2 ponies)	free	\$17
Text only (3 ponies or more)	free	\$7 per pony
Photo ad (1 pony)	\$20	\$30
Photo update	\$10 per change	

For Classified ads, please make cheques out to "Canadian Connemara Pony Society" in Canadian funds and mail to ...

**CCPS c/o Margot Watson
25966 26th Ave.
Aldergrove, BC V4W 2V9**

Fee Schedule

REGISTRATIONS

Temporary Registrations	Member	Non-Member
Fillies and Colts(includes DNA) <u>up to 6 months after date of birth</u>	\$80.00	\$160.00

Fillies and Colts (includes DNA) <u>over 6 months after date of birth</u>	\$100.00	\$200.00
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Permanent Registrations

Geldings and Halfbreds

<u>Up to</u> June 30 of the year following year of birth	\$30.00	\$60.00
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<u>After</u> June 30 th of the year following year of birth	\$40.00	\$80.00
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<u>Stallion Registration</u>	\$250.00	\$500.00
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<u>Fillies over two years of age</u>	\$25.00	\$50.00
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Transfers

<u>Within</u> 6months of date of sale	\$20.00	\$50.00
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<u>Over</u> 6 months from date of sale	\$40.00	\$80.00
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Duplicate Certificates	\$25.00	
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Other

Herd/Farm Prefix	\$25.00	
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Important Reminder— Awards!!



Doris says... "Please send in your Achievement Awards Forms to me NOW!"

(she's a very nice lady— who works hard to see that you get your awards!) Here's her address...

***Doris Jacobi,
#340, 5020-52 Ave,
Beaumont, Ab.
T4X 1P3.***

Doris Jacobi —the chair of the awards program for the society-reminds you that the deadline this year to get your Achievement award forms in is **November 30, 2010!!** She has even included a form in this mailing for you if you haven't seen them before. You can download more from the CCPS website under "forms" or type this address into your internet browser **www.canadianconnemara.org/forms.html** While there you should review the Awards program.

You need one form per competition so please quickly send them in now as Doris needs time to tabulate the results before the next newsletter where the Award winners will be posted. You are still eligible to submit your form even if your passport name is not the ponies full registered name. Doris would like you to give her your ponies full registered name and the names of the sire and dam as well.

You have worked hard to show your Connemara— now we want to give you the recognition you deserve!

Ballencrieff Connemara Pony Farm News - Aldergrove, BC

We have been doing a few interesting things this year. ... Our winter 'project', **Devon Ridge Harris Hawk** (Fairhill Hawk x DR Dreams Come True (Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan) has been sold. My friend (and boarder), Lezah Williamson, helped a lot with his training and by the time I was ready to sell him in June – Lezah decided to buy him for her daughter, Eve, to use for Pony Club. This summer Harris has been to clinics, Pony Club lessons, Pony Club camp, several schooling shows, introduced to cross country jumping and participated in a Prince Phillips games demos at Thunderbird Show grounds etc. He has taken it all in stride, with the attitude of a much older pony. We have been very impressed with him and Eve loves him to bits! The best part for me is.... he has a great new owner and we still get to keep him around our farm.



Honey – 23 yrs old

I am left with just the two ponies of my own – one older and one youngster. ***Aille Ivory - aka Honey** (by Grange Finn Sparrow) is now 23 yrs old but still going strong. I have been mostly just trail riding although lately we have taken a few lessons from a Western instructor so have been learning a few new things. In the summer Honey and I went to the Vintage Riders' Old Ladies Camp which was great fun. This year's theme was riding to music so Honey & I and Caleb O'Sullivan & Rita Rawstron did a Connemara Pas de Deux to the 'NSync song 'Bye,

Bye, Bye'. It was a lot of laughs albeit not very polished as we only had one day to make it up and practice! Honey is such a Dear – she puts up with so much from me and always has such a great attitude. In Honey's spare time she helps Pony Clubbers get through their D-2 testing and patiently 'ponys' a rambunctious youngster through the park!



Ballencrieff's Winter Lace – 3 yrs old

Our youngster is **Ballencrieff's Winter Lace** (Ballywhim's An Luan x Aladdin's Winter Promise) now 3 yrs old. Lacey is the love of my life (in the equine world-along with Honey, of course!). I have just started to ride her very lightly this Fall and all is going well so far. She is the one full of mischief – opening gates and stall doors whenever she has a chance. I swear sometimes her top lip is as dexterous as any fingers could be! Many times we have opened the barn door in the morning found Lacey in the middle of the aisle -way –which takes two stall doors to open from the paddock - looking very pleased with herself – with everything that was hanging in the aisle spread all over the ground. Honey standing in the paddock, a safe distance away, looking like she is saying..... 'It wasn't anything to do with me.... It was all Lacey!' We bred Lacey this summer to the Eventing stallion, **Ard Celtic Art** so we are looking forward to a great foal in the Spring.

Margot Watson

Caraway Merle— by Jeanne Poirier

My name is Jeanne Poirier. You have to understand I love my pony (Kasimir, half-breed Connemara)!!! But one day my mom (Violaine Fortin), started to tell me I grew too much, I should start thinking of finding a bigger horse.... noooooo... She gave me all summer to get used to the idea. During that time she was training Caraway Merle (3 years old) one of Christine Carey's horses in order to show him and eventually sell him. She was totally crazy about him telling me all his qualities (he won all his dressage classes this summer). One day we left on a trail, she was riding Merle and I was riding a big mare. The mare got crazy and we had to switch horses. Then my mom really got in trouble with the mare and told me to go to the barn to get a longe. I thought she needed a whip too so I came back on Merle with the longe banging on Merle and the whip above his head flopping!!!

He never got scared, never told me I don't want to go... WOW, I was impressed!

I started to look at Merle with different eyes.

I'm very lucky because My dad and grand-parents helped me buy

Merle, and at the same time Kasimir got sold but to one of my friends that rides at my place!

When you love a pony your heart is full but when you love two your heart is blessed.

I know I can reach the sky with Merle.

I loooove Connemaras!

*Jeanne Poirier
Racine, QC*



Pony Show – Red Deer August 13&14 -by Bridget Wingate



*Shirley on Rill's Fire N' Ice -above
and showing Kimbles Sierra Wind- below*



The Provincial Welsh and All Breed Pony Show was held in Red Deer, AB, on Aug 13-15, 2010. It was a two judge show (Welsh Judges). I took my 4 year old purebred roan mare, Rills Fire 'N Ice and was Champion in the Purebred Connemara class. There were to have been other ponies in the purebred class, but unfortunately Jocelyn Davies husband had a nasty accident with table saw, and she was unable to be there that day. Shirley Suave had her two 2-year old half-breds in the part-bred class, and both judges put Kimbles May Bloom (Avenns Kimble Wind x Q.H.) Champion and Kimbles Sierra

Wind (Avenns Kimble Wind x T.B.) Reserve Champion. "Bloom" went on to place 3rd and 4th in the sport pony classes.

Shirley was kind enough to ride Rills Fire 'N Ice for me in a maiden pony class. Shirley had spent the previous week getting to know "Feisty" and did an excellent job with them placing 3rd in the Maiden English Pleasure class. Kimbles Sierra Wind was 5th and 6th.

Bridget Wingate

Shirley would like to thank Bridget for handling Bloom in the halter class for her... "We had a lot of fun, and it was nice to get our Connemaras out and expose them to promote our breed."



Bridget showing Kimbles May Bloom

Centuryhill Farm News– Rick & Dale Doner centuryhillfarm.com

This has been a great year at Century Hill. We had 2 fantastic fillies born that we feel are the best we have produced so far! Both are by our stallion Kippure Cara— one from our premium mare Eastlands Glendearg (fillies name Century Hill's Hazy Maire— named after Maire MacLoughlin who visited last year with her husband Tom) and one from Eastie's daughter CH Maidin Realta (fillies name CH Hazy Kate). They are very true type foals with great substance, intelligence and movement. We hope they find special performance and/or breeding homes as we feel they have much to contribute to the breed. Both mares are bred back to Cara for next year.

Cara has been busy learning a new discipline of combined driving, with MaryLee driving and Rick as navigator. Our farm provided good variation in terrain and numerous trips were made into town, where Cara reveled in the attention from numerous enthusiastic townfolk. With a few lessons from Jeff Kohler (Relhok Farm) and 2 clinics under our belt, we entered Cara in his first competition on a very hot August day. This event was cones and marathon and Cara came in second place in his division! Our goal was to have a steady safe competition that would be a positive learning experience for us all and it was all of that! We also showed Cara in the Qualifiers for the North American Sport Pony Star Search In Hand Class again and he won his class and was the

Supreme Champion of the day ! Rick also drove him that day in their (Rick's & Cara's that is) first pleasure driving competition and did very well as he was the only entry in the gentleman's class. MaryLee brought home red and blue ribbons as she drove him in several other pleasure classes and made it look easy as she is the seasoned driver. Cara is now off to be trained in the eventing discipline with Amanda Beard—he has really taken to being ridden and has gained a number of new admirers. Cara was also inspected for the registry of the North American Sport Pony and was approved & awarded a First Premium score. He absolutely loved the jumping chute and earned top marks for his free jumping!

Quinn and Bobbie were sold to excellent homes. Quinn will be trained in dressage and Bobbie under saddle and driven.

Annie has found a very special home with a 10 year old young rider named Ali Mark. The 2 of them have really bonded and we are thrilled that Annie is living about 2 miles away and such a loving home. Ali and her sister and mom are avid barrel racers— so Annie may just be flying around barrels by spring! I've included a very special story by Ali (one of our newest members) for you to enjoy... *continued on the last page*

Dale and I wish you a Blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year to enjoy your ponies! Have fun and play safe...

Battle of the Breeds 2010 – *Bridget Wingate*



The team members this year were l to r: Chris Knox (K.F. Hobby), Phil Knox (K.F. Felicity), Morganne Shearer (BM Rory O'Sullivan), Ailsa Antialla (Celtic Fyre) aka Dances with Doris.

This year there were 12 breeds competing. The first event is always compulsory skills. Chris rode a nice test, and we all thought she was marked very harshly. Phil drove a superb test with "Flicka" and had the highest score of the whole event. When the scores were combined, we placed 2nd in the class.

The jumping in the afternoon was "interesting". There were many upsets with one mule refusing to go anywhere near even the first jump, and a very small girl on a Shetland taking a tumble. Ailsa had an excellent round on Fyre and opted for the jeopardy fence. Unfortunately she had a refusal which knocked 100 points from her score. 13 year old Morganne also had a very good round on Rory. There was a misunderstanding about the time allowed for taking the jeopardy fence, and she failed to take this jump. We ended up with 5th ribbon.

The obstacle driving on Friday morning is always a crowd pleaser as they think up such difficult things. Phil and Chris were at a disadvantage with a 4-wheel cart when a nasty back-up was added to the course. Both had good solid rounds, and we placed 5th in this event.

Barrel racing is always late on Friday in the sand ring, with a big crowd sitting in the stands and on the grass bank. Morganne had an excellent run on Rory, and Ailsa and Fyre were fantastic! The top 6 teams go into a run-off and we had our best ever finish with a 2nd. Well done Morganne and Ailsa – your practice paid off!

The trail class on Saturday is always a matter of luck, and is completely unpredictable. At this point the three contending breeds were Morgan, Quarter Horse and us. Unfortunately the normally very quiet and obedient Flicka was having an "off" day and they also missed completing the jeopardy obstacle by one second. Morganne and Rory made up for it with an excellent round which put our team in 6th place when the scores were combined.

The final result was Morgans 1st, Q.H's 2nd and we were 3rd. Not a bad result at all and we were very close to being 2nd.

The amount of time and effort (not to mention cost) put in by our team members cannot be under-estimated, and they are surely deserving of our thanks. The exposure we receive at this event is fantastic and benefits all our breeders.

The Booth

This is the second year we have had a booth in the Breeds for the World. This time we actually had some idea of what we were doing! The booth looked very good with our banner, lots of photos of our ponies and a big display with photos of all the stallions involved in the 2010 stud fee auction.

We handed out hundreds of dark green wrist bands with "I love Connemaras". Lots of our colour brochures and the 2010 Breeders List were picked up, and we hope will result in some contacts.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who spent hours on the booth answering questions and handed out information. In particular; there was a wonderful contingent from B.C. including Melonie, Leslie, Andrea, Kim and Jinny; and from Alberta, Penny, Linda, Jen, Cathy-Ann, Rebecca, Georgia and her mother, and Jocelyn. Over the 5 days we had several different ponies on display – all of whom seemed to enjoy the attention.

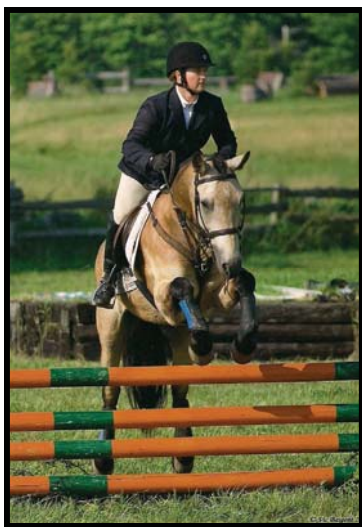


Demonstrations

Along with having a booth, we are also able to participate in 4 minute demonstrations in a large arena. During the week we used our Battle team ponies, and at the weekend had Rebecca David with Rills Carrick Fergus (*Scotsway Bali-Hi x Rills Ocean Pearl), and Georgia Tooke with Coolmore (Elphin Cronin). Both these young ladies have been very successful eventing with their ponies this year.



Cedar's Padraig by Lee Taylor



Everyone loves a Cinderella story. Mine began quite unexpectedly on an average February day in southern Ontario in 2006. I work full time as a farrier, and I was driving slowly along a snow covered road when my cell phone rang. It was David Brierley, a client with four horses he and his wife Carolyn boarded at a stable with whom I had a long standing relationship. Unexpectedly, he offered me his then 7 year old Connemara gelding, Paddy. He and his wife Carolyn had imported Paddy from the United States as a 3 year old, and had found him too difficult to ride. After

David suffered an injury riding him, Paddy was relegated to the paddock, where he spent the better part of this next 4 years.

I had trimmed Paddy's feet for a number of years, and had always admired him. I was slightly familiar with the breed, having worked for Doug and Lorie Craine at Irish Park Connemaras. I was also between horses at the time, having sold my dressage horse to help facilitate the purchase of our farm. Although he had a reputation as a bit of a rogue, I jumped at the chance. So, Paddy arrived at our farm, where he got a new name (from Cedar's Apollo aka Paddy to Cedar's Padraig aka Padraig) and a new start.

I had a lot of experience with difficult horses, and it stood me in good stead, as Padraig proved a bit of a challenge. He was an unusually sensitive horse, and was (and still is) very spooky. However, he showed three excellent gaits and a willingness to give things a try. We went to our first show in July of 2006, totally for the experience, as we did not have a dependable canter on either lead. I was so pleased with how he handled the environment, and really seemed to enjoy himself, that I dared to hope I might have a good little horse on my hands.

I am originally and event rider, so of course by the next summer we gave eventing a whirl, winning our first entry level horse trial, and placing at a few others. In between, we kept at the dressage, winning Reserve Champion First Level Amateur at the Spring Into Dressage Gold show. At this point, considering his age and his exceptional aptitude for dressage, I decided to push on, and showed the remainder of the season at Second Level.

Keeping things interesting for Padraig with a few Pre-Training horse trials, the spring of 2008 saw us competing at Third Level, previously uncharted territory for me! By now I had my sights firmly set on trying the FEI levels, something which I had never really considered a possibility given the kind of horse I could afford.

So, with a true sense of the surreal, I rode into the main ring at the Palgrave Summer Dressage Classic in August of 2009 in my top hat and tails aboard my marvelous pony to compete in our first Prix St Georges. It was a bit unpolished, but we survived

with a 60% and a sixth place finish. Before the weekend was out, we had improved our score to 62.6%, and were Reserve Champion for the Amateur Division.

After a really tough winter of work, we boldly embarked on show season 2010. No more amateur divisions for us-I wanted everyone to see what my pony can do against the best out there. And he did me and his breed extremely proud. We had a good spring show, winning the Prix St Georges Open Championship (I have to qualify this because a lot of the better horses were in the CDI competition that weekend) but it still sounds good! We got our feet wet with Intermediare 1, and rode a couple of I1 freestyles to music. What fun!

The best part of it all is having such a willing and enjoyable partner. Padraig positively basks in the attention of his fans after a test, standing still with his head raised proudly while everyone pats him. He is always ready with a greeting, and delighted to receive a snack of any sort-although I drew the line at the roast beef sandwich! His accomplishments are really remarkable, considering that less than 5 years ago he was basically unbroken standing in a field. No fancy training barn for us- he has to do all this with me, a hack amateur rider trying to figure it out in weekly lessons. A lot of the credit for both our successes belongs with our team of coaches. I have been so fortunate to have Jill Stedman, EC Level 2 Dressage who has

been unbelievably supportive, and through her connections occasional access to Olympian and current WEG Team member Belinda Trussell. On the jumping side, which really helped develop Padraig's confidence, we had the benefits of Anne Zanders's patient and logical approach.

I know one of the breed slogans is that "They do it all". Well, I am a believer. Aside from his dressage accomplishments, Padraig is always ready for a jump school, or to go for a hack with or without some friends. He helps our foals through weaning, and babysits our sale yearlings. He is a pleasure to be around and joy to take anywhere. I have recently purchased a 2 year old TreAwain Dobh McDuff son, who has already started to fill the really big shoes of his Uncle Padraig. I think that Padraig has done a lot to raise the profile of the breed, as people are always asking about him. As supporters of this most unique breed, we need to make sure the mainstream public know they are out there and where to find them! They must not be kept secret as they are too amazing.

For bloodline enthusiasts, Padraig is one of only a few foals of the Aladdins Denver son Ridgetop O'rian, who is now gelded. His dam, Ballywhim Tenley, is a daughter of Grange Finn Sparrow, but I do not know any more about her offspring. Padraig himself is large, a

full 15:2 hands, and is a beautiful dun with dark dapples and full black legs. He does NOT blend at the dressage shows!

So, what does 2011 hold for us? Lots more fun and hard work for sure, and you might just want to check the declared list for the 2011 Pan Am Games. Because my Connemara does it all and then some!



Rill Farm News by Penny Huggons



This year several of our ponies found new homes, it's terrific to welcome new breeders & enthusiasts. It's also been a great year for seeing Rill ponies out competing, showing, taking part in clinics & generally being enjoyed.

Our own Rills Shea Mor continued with her training this year & she is proving to be a great all around pony. She will be a super little eventer but we do plan on breeding her next year.

Although life has been fairly quiet on the farm with no new foals this year, Branni did have a lovely filly by Rills Mariette (owned by Cheryl Miller and pictured above and right).

We are expecting 2 foals for next year by Branni & we are certainly thrilled with his offspring. He certainly passes on beautiful movement & temperament (& some stunning color!)

Spruce Meadows was a success again this year! It is so much fun to get together with other Connemara owners, supporters & their families who come to participate & help with the Battle & the Booth. There were several enquiries at the booth into breeding to Connemara stallions!

There was also another wonderful event that took place in Alberta this year. A new generation of (potential) pony riders was born, as 4 of us had granddaughters.... congratulations ladies!

Another exciting thing for us this summer was our son accepting a position as Head Surgeon at Edmonton Equine Veterinary Centre. Nice to have him closer to home after 4 years in California, although I hope not to have to use his services!

Hope everyone has a good winter season & enjoys their ponies.

Penny Huggons



Wilderness experience!

The trip was in August and we went into Wilmore Wilderness Area, north of Jasper, Alberta. This year we only went for a week but it was brilliant anyway. There is nothing like spending 24 hours a day with your horse! The trails were in good shape and we found some lovely camp spots with abundant water, trees for shelter, and grass. It was my horse Meg's first trip into the mountains and she handled herself very well- proving that she was sure-footed and sensible handling obstacles including over 30 river crossings. She learned to hobble quickly and was patient tied in camp all night. Her big brothers Mick and Dandy are seasoned on the trail and gave her an excellent lead to follow through all the new experiences, even a grizzly along the way!

The ponies came from Pat and Terry Francis in Athabasca, Alberta. Terry bred them and originally trained them for carriage driving, which we continue to do for pleasure.



In the photo from the right are the Connemaras: Traa Dy Liooar Dandy (ridden by April Lambertus, owned by Robyn Currie), Traa Dy Liooar Mick (owned by April Lambertus), and Traa Dy Liooar Meg (owned by myself), I am also holding our trail partner's mare Juno and borrowed pack horse Baldy, both wonderful draft crosses who help make our trips possible. Photo by Geri Demyen.

Gale Dodd Hayday

Box 557, Fort Vermilion, AB



I entered **Starlight's Zara** (by Avenns Cairbre MacCarthy out of Elphin Sweet Rosaleen) in a BC Competitive Trail Ride that took place in the mountains around Duncan, here on Vancouver Island. The terrain was pretty rough in spots with some steep hills and a few creek beds, evidence of bears, and several miles of hard ground for a total of over 18 miles to be covered at about 5 mph. with a break of 45 mins. We came 2nd out of 22 in the Lightweight Division, finishing exactly on time, with no penalties in the pulse and respiration section. Not bad for our first attempt! Cheers,

Jennifer Brownlow

Val's News— Sidesaddle trainer!



OSA members Debbie Smith and Kirstin Nagy traveled to Rockland, Ontario near Ottawa to prepare an actress, who is to star in an international film directed by

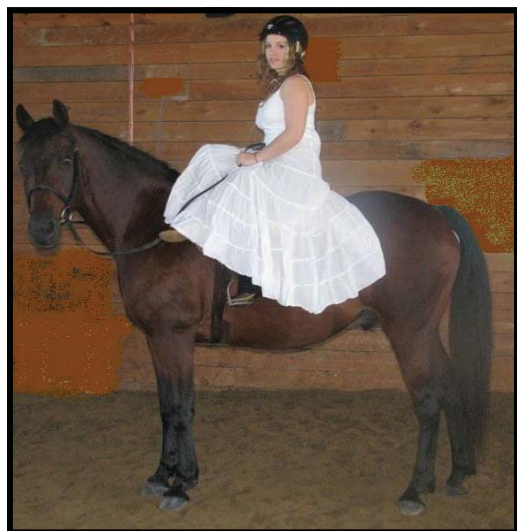
Ramona Macdonald of Doomsday Studios Limited in Ottawa, for her side-saddle riding scenes.

Ella has had very little riding experience and the horse, graciously loaned for the weekend by Rocking Horse Stable in Rockland, Ontario, had never carried a side-saddle before. Upon arriving, Debbie spent over an hour finding the perfect saddle fit for Mac out of the four side-saddles she had brought with them. Fortunately one fit him and Ella well and they were on their way!

After a quick demonstration of leg and seat position, and basic seat and hand aids by Debbie, Ella was legged up on Mac and the fun began. Mac, an aged Trakehner/Connemara cross gelding took instantly to the side-saddle despite a beginner rider on board. The first day was ridden at a walk developing Ella's balance and control in the saddle. She proved to be a very quick learner and took to the side-saddle with an amazing amount of grace and elegance.

Day two saw Ella come back with a renewed sense of confidence and enthusiasm, ready to move on to trot work on the lunge line. Val Everson, owner of Rocking Horse Stable, managed Mac on the lunge line while Debbie instructed. The second day went quickly with Ella effortlessly riding the trot by mid afternoon. Kirstin, who specializes in costuming, was able to give Ella a general idea of what her riding outfits will consist of for the time period of the film. The title and cast of the film are as yet unannounced, but Debbie will let everyone know when it will be aired.

Submitted by Val Everson www.RIDERhs.ca



K.S. Priceless and Shannon Thompson



Keep an eye on this partnership as they continue to WOW the world of eventing!! K.S. Priceless is a 9yr old 15.1hh Purebred Connemara gelding by Elphin Cronan (Maplehurst Michael MacDaire), and out of Avenns Diamond Dee (Lynfield's Cormac MacCarthy). He is owned by Shannon Thompson of Pitt Meadows, B.C. and the Priceless Syndicate. Shannon and Priceless have spent the last 3 years climbing the levels of eventing with great success, including finishing 2nd at the CCI* at Aspen Farms in Yelm, Washington on Sept 3-5, 2010. They also won the Intermediate Division at NWECC in Rainier, Washington on Sept 17-19, 2010. This fall they are heading to the Galway Downs International Three Day Event in Temecula, California. There Shannon and Priceless will be competing in the CCI** Division. This pair will continue to work hard towards their goal of representing Canada in the 2012 Olympics!!!!

Vicki Davies
British Columbia, Canada

Thoughts from your Editor...

Wow! We've had a great response this fall for articles about what our ponies are doing. As I sit here and read and re-read each one I am hearing a recurrent theme. "I love my Connemara!" It doesn't matter what age or how far each one has progressed in their training— the sheer joy of forming such a significant friendship with our ponies is what I think makes all the difference. There is something about the personality of this breed that takes people by surprise. I've witnessed it in the responses to our ponies that have been sold or are out in the public eye for shows— the magnetic pull to touch, then hug while the pony leans in to say— "you're safe here, spend some time with me ... let's have some fun together". Dale & I have been breeding Connemaras for 13 years and have dedicated a lot of time, resources and physical effort to promote our breed. Sometimes I stand back and say— "Why do we do this?" It's a lot of work, and we sure don't turn a profit, but the answer is in the moments in the field when your ponies surround you and you smile at their antics or at night when you do final barn check and they all want a good night hug. They become our family and our lives are made so much richer by having them. I believe we can all say, for many different reasons, "I love my Connemara!!!"

Rick Doner & Kippure Cara



Canadian Connemara Pony Society

www.canadianconnemara.org

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Directors are elected by all members for a term of two years and may be elected for a maximum of three consecutive terms. Regional Chairs are elected by the members of their region for a two-year term and automatically sit on the Board of Directors

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Webpage – Susan MacDougall

Promotions – Susan MacDougall

Newsletter – Rick Doner

Nominating – Rick Doner

Arbitration – Bridget Wingate

Central Region meeting Announcement

The Central region of the CCPS will meet on Saturday March 19, 2011-details in the next newsletter...Please reserve the date!!

Stallion Owners Attention!!

Next Edition is the Stallion Edition coming out the end of February, 2011.

Please submit your Stallion info to me by **January 31, 2011** for your Ads. At \$40 per half page, it is a great price and a great opportunity to let mare owners see your guy and select a stallion! Other newsletter articles and Ads can also be sent to Rick Doner by this date as well.

rpdoner@sympatico.ca

Centuryhill Farm continued

Annie

I tried Annie out for a Month, and I rode her and my sister Kate rode her too. I do Barrel Racing and I want to use her as a barrel pony. Kate has taken her around the barrels a couple of times, she said Annie can really move it! I haven't taken her around the Barrels yet, but, I am going to.



When I was riding her, I cantered with her and then I wanted to stop I said WHOA she stopped, and walked and perfect! So, that's how good she is!! She loves to jump over ditches and logs. She loves trail riding in the bush. She has met alpacas and a little pygmy goat. Her new best friend besides me is Amber, my mom's Palamino.

This is the first time I have owned a Connemara, and I am sooo happy that I own one now. I like them because they are nice and small. When Annie first came to my house I told all of my friends, And now I can't wait to show them. I have played with Annie and given treats to her after our rides. And I am pretty sure Annie loves me a lot, because when I come out to see her all I have to do is call "Annie" and she comes running across the field. I think that she is a lot of fun, and I will keep her forever! And I will take Great care of her!!

I am so glad I got her, in the future I will put her in the Barrel Racing horse shows. I have learned that she LOVES MUD and LOVES to EAT!!!! It is very hard to keep her out of the mud. I will always love her!!!! I hope she will last me forever.

By
Ali Mark



Rick driving Cara in Pleasure Class



Marylee, Rick & Cara in CDE Cones

Maire, Eastie, Kate and Rea enjoying the summer grass

