

THE CANADIAN CONNEMARA

The official publication of the Canadian Connemara Pony Society

www.canadianconnemara.org

WINNERS OF THE 2014 PERPETUAL AWARDS



Kippure Cara
owned by Rick & Dale Doner



Devon Ridge Harris Hawk
owned by Lezah Williamson



Solaz
owned by Cynthia Crook

Our New President's Message

The Connemara Pony has transformed me. My ponies have packed me safely and in a loving manner, lending their hooves to anything I have asked them to do. They have brought me lifelong friends and given me cause to travel the world. They are truly special. I would like to take 2015 as a year to celebrate them. To understand the breed, I believe it is important to know a bit about their history. There are several books written on the Connemara Pony. Seek them out, it makes for interesting reading.

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2014 CCPS Award Results

Perpetual Awards

Featured on the front page, there is a tie this year for the PUREBRED PERPETUAL AWARD between:

Kippure Cara – Owned by Rick and Dale Doner
Devon Ridge Harris Hawk – Owned by Lezah Williamson

PARTBRED PERPETUAL AWARD goes to
Solaz – Owned by Cynthia Crook

Solaz, Cyndie and Byron had another very amazing season!

“He really is an amazing horse and we three make a great team. We couldn’t do this without each other. Starting in Vermilion Driving Trails, Solaz has been a star all season remembering every thing from last year.

We did Wild Rose then 70 Mile House BC, next Eagle Ridge, then Beaumont and then all the way to Shady Oaks California! What an incredible adventure! I was so very proud of Solaz to tie for 6th place in Dressage then move up to 4th in the marathon the next day. The following day in the cones we held it together with just one ball down. Our time was great and we stayed in 4th place.

Solaz finished the year with High Point Championship for Alberta and in 2015 we hope to do all Intermediate CDE. It should be another great fun time for TEAM CROOK!”



Photo by Garcia Schellhorn

Bronze Medal In-Hand

-Century Hills Aedan Zodiac – Owned by Elsie and Don Priddy, ridden by Elsie Priddy



Christie's Photography.com

Certificate in Intermediate Combined Driving

Solaz – Owned by Cynthia Crook – Driven by Cynthia Crook

2014 CCPS Award Results

There were only 8 submissions for the awards program for the 2014 year, 6 of them receiving medals or Certificates of Merit. The recipients are as follows:



**Certificate of Merit
and Bronze Medal in Pre-Entry Horse Trials**
-Ballencrieff's Winter Lace – Owned and ridden by
Margot Watson



Bronze Medal Pony Club
-Featherstone Laurilaith – Owned by Scott
Longmire, Ridden by Lauren Longmire



Photo by Divine Equine

**Gold Medal In Hunter, Certificate of Merit in Starter
Division Horse Trials and Silver in Pony Club**
-Devon Ridge Harris Hawk – Owned by Lezah Williamson and
ridden by Eve Dedrick



**Certificate of Merit in Open Entry
Horse Trials**
-Kippure Cara – Owned by Rick and Dale
Doner, ridden by Amanda Beard

The continuing story of Cedar's Padraig

Back in our November edition of 2010 his owner, Lee Taylor told the story of acquiring this 7 year old "difficult" gelding who had spent 4 years relegated to a back paddock. Then started his career as a dressage prospect. By our newsletter in the summer of 2012, Padraig and Lee scored over 65% in the Prix St. George at the Four Seasons Springfest Gold Dressage show!

"Our journey through the world of FEI dressage continued, with Padraig continuing to add new fans. My coach and friend, Jill Stedman, insisted that she had done all she could for us and that it was time for us to try a more experienced FEI level coach. After a couple of tries, we were fortunate enough to find Canadian team veteran Tom Dvorak. He took us back to basics to fix a few of the fundamentals we had missed along the way, and after a season and half we really began to see the improvements in our scores, culminating in a 68.3% at the Prix St. George level under three FEI judges!.

Tom strongly suggested that I take our show on the road and enter the prestigious Dressage at Devon. To the surprise of many, I did, and with my ever supportive friend Jill Stedman, tam Padraig descended on Pennsylvania this past September. Despite some nerves on both our parts, we did ourselves proud with scores of 65% in both the Prix St. George and the Intermediare I. Not good enough to win, but definitely good enough to belong! It was a

tremendous experience, and I am so grateful to Jill and Tom, and to my husband for staying home and keeping the farm running.

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 a joy to take anywhere. 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 of public know they are out there and where to find them! They must not be kept secret as they are too amazing.

Padraig is one of only a few foals of Aladdins Denver's son Ridegtop Orian. His dam, Ballywhim Tenley is a daughter of Grange Finn Sparrow. Padraig himself is large, a full 15.2 hh and is a beautiful dun with dark dapples and full black legs. He does NOT blend at the dressage shows! So, what does 2015 hold for us? Lots of hard work and fun, and just maybe a shot at the elusive Grand Prix level."

by Lee Taylor.



2015 Eve Dedrick Report

2015 was a 'bucket list' year for Devon Ridge Harris Hawk and Eve Dedrick.

The duo started off the show year early, attending the Thunderbird Show Park Gateway series shows that ran from January through March. They placed well and consistently, and ended up third overall in the final awards tally.

Then the emphasis switched to some bigger shows, where they continued competing in the hunter division, coming home with many firsts and other high placings at the bronze shows at Maple Ridge, placing well at Southlands, and winning a division championship at Delta Riding Club. They also successfully competed in some jumper classes.

It was at the Delta show that Eve was approached to be on another branch's Pony Club Rally team (her own club was not sending a team, so we hadn't really planned to go). Here in the BC Lower Mainland region, riders need to qualify for Rally, so off to cross country schooling we went. Eve and Harris went to their first event in Southlands, and after a decent dressage test where they placed second, had one stop in a difficult cross country course. But since many others also had trouble on course, the pair were still in the ribbons in sixth place, and a clear stadium saw them move up to fifth overall.

Rally was a fun time, and again the duo ended up second after dressage. This time they jumped a double clear but time penalties saw them move back to third place overall. I think the bear that came out on course may have had something to do with that!

Another interesting thing that happened this year was that Dominion Vet Labs, based in Winnipeg, posted two videos of Harris on their Facebook page, one from a

Windsor Stables show in the spring and the other of the stadium round at Rally out on the Grand Prix field at Maple Ridge.

Unfortunately Eve's mom was on strike for five months of 2014, so that meant not as many horse shows as usual. But there's always a silver lining to every cloud and this gave the pair the chance to focus on their Pony Club testing. The good news is, they passed their C riding in the fall! Eve also completed the C1 Stable Management, and they are now focussing on completing the C1 riding in 2015.

The pair ended the show season at the Pony Club Dressage and Jumping Championships, where they placed in all their classes, winning a number of them.

2015 will be Eve's last year as a junior, so we are looking forward to hitting more shows this year.



Aedan and 3 of his get at the September clinic; left to right, Elsie Priddy and Century Hills Aedan Zodiac, Norah Ridley and Elodon Torin, Brynne Carter and Elodon Maeve, Kristina Gunningham and Enya. (Photo by Garcia Schellborn)

Lea Farm

News from Nova Scotia.

Well everything is quiet here on the east coast with winter full on and the ponies busying themselves with large round bales and playing in the snow. We had a great year in 2014 and celebrated two lovely foals,. Ellie had another strong bay colt Owain, by Prince and he promises to be a big lad with tones of bone and great movement. Ting welcomed her first foal in many years Cait, a lovely little lass who is an absolute doll :) Ellie is back in foal and here's hoping she remembers how to have a filly. Our girls had a busy year riding and Lauren did very well with Liath in Pony Club completing her D2 easily and attending many pony club clinics, camps and lessons. In her spare time Liath is quite happy to be starting our youngest daughter Ally - it continues to amaze me how these ponies can be galloping and jumping 3' one hour and toting around an 8 year old safely the next.



The mares and foals



Lauren and Liath - Pony Club



Prince loves to work

Have a great 2015 !!!

News from Ballencrieff Connemara Pony Farm



Honey and Taylor sporting their ribbons



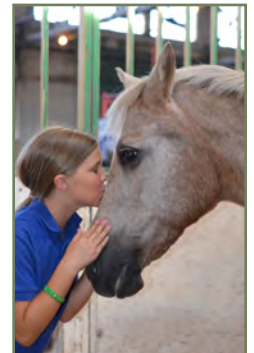
Margot and Lacey at MREC through the water

We had an active year in 2014 and are looking forward to another one in 2015! Our Honey (*Aille Ivory) at 27 yrs old is still going strong and loving her young rider, Taylor Shak – 11 yrs old. Last fall they competed in the BC Lower Mainland Pony Club Championships. They received a very fancy embroidered cooler for winning the PC Dressage Championships – top score of 80% for their Free Style. After doing very well in the Pony Club Jumping Championships, a couple of weekends later they ended up winning the Pony Club Combined Overall Jumping/Dressage award for the BC Lower Mainland. This award was presented to Taylor at the Mane Event by George Morris! (I thought Honey should have been there too! Honey also took Taylor through her D1 testing as well as filling in for a C level Pony Clubber testing when Eve Hansen's horse went lame at the last minute.

What an amazing pony and a great team Taylor and Honey make! Joshua 1:9 was sold last spring to Karen Halverson of Duvall, WA. Karen is doing a great job with him taking him out on the trail every week exposing him to all sorts of things as well as doing lessons etc. She says he is taking it all in stride and being very brave. Karen plans to Event him in the future.

Lacey and I did some more Eventing last season. We moved up a division to Pre-Entry (about 2'7"). We had lots of fun - Lacey is getting very brave even with the water obstacles now. Mostly we were very successful although we did have one elimination because of 'pilot error'. There were two jumps side by side on cross country and I guess I thought the higher jump looked more inviting so we jumped that one instead of my division's. I thought we should get extra points for jumping the bigger jump but no.... apparently that is elimination! At the BC Championship 3-day Event in September we placed 4th and for the BC Total Year End points for our division we placed 3rd overall. Hoping to move up to the next division this year! All the best to you and your ponies for 2015!

Margot Watson



Classified Ad

-For Sale- "Rills Richochet"

Rising 2 year old gelding. Lovely correct pony who will mature large & possibly up to 14.2
Eye catching chestnut roan & full brother to Rills Hot Sauce .

Kind, athletic & with ground covering movement. He is a super prospect & offered very reasonably before training. Easy to handle, good for farrier, up to date on shots etc.

He is by *Hohnhorst Branni & Devon Ridge Golden Treasure, proven sire & dam of great ponies!
Contact Penny at 403-638-9152 or cphuggons@gmail.com



Manitoba Report, Spring, 2015

Diversity Horsemanship, Stonewall

Connemara gelding, Drogheda Owen Grey, is boarded at Chelsea Kopachena's very busy new stables located just west of Stonewall. This facility is unique around Stonewall, as Coaching is available in a very wide variety of disciplines; from reining to jumping. It would certainly be nice to see some Connemaras get used and shown in western also! Chelsea coaches both my sister Eddie Cassidy, who is Owen's owner and Nykola Lumsden Dudeck, who began part-boarding Owen during the past year. Nykola is interested in dressage and jumping. Eddie plans to start taking jumping lessons soon and once Owen has a little jumping experience, Nykola could begin her jumping lessons on Owen also.

At the Spooky Halloween Event in October, Nykola and Owen entered the green rider barrels and won first place! She and Owen had taken some lessons from Chelsea first in barrel racing. It just proves once again that Connemaras have the athletic ability to do well in anything. The placings that Connemaras achieved in barrel racing at Spruce Meadows Battle of the Breeds, against experienced western horses, certainly indicates so.

For anyone out there with Connemaras, wanting to compete in barrel racing, your Connemara can do it, but take some lessons from a good barrel racing Coach first and attend every barrel racing clinic you can, as there are strategies involved! ...and then go out and beat the pants off the q-horses!! Make a name for your Connie in Open barrels and then tap into that huge western market. Remember, in the speed events there can't be any western breed bias - the clock decides the class placings! So ... get some training for yourself and your Connies and then get out there and go for it! Or have someone (your Coach?) who can run barrels well, compete on your Connemara and get the points on. Oh to be 40 years younger!!

Hopefully Owen will make his show debut in 2015, perhaps beginning with the Stonewall Fair. There are english classes offered, both on the flat and jumping. Barrel Racing is also offered on a different day at the Fair, Nykola!

Expectations were that Owen "might" reach 14.1hh. He measured 14.3hh when I sent him for training near Brandon at age three. He seemed to like growing and didn't see any reason to stop. I must confess that I mistakenly thought that Connemaras weren't supposed to go over pony height of 14.2hh, and if they did, they were "over height" for Connemaras. However, someone more knowledgeable than I took the time recently to educate me that this isn't so. 13.2hh - 15.1hh is within normal range for a Connemara and if they are over 14.2hh, they just can't compete in Pony classes. (Thank you Lisa Martin-Gerdes for taking the time to help me understand that! ha) I often refer to our breed simply as "Connemara" as I sometimes find that adding the word pony causes some people to put the brakes on and revisit prior negative experiences with little rotter ponies. I tout them as being like small horses, with a sensible mind

and the benefit that they range in height from large pony to horse size. Something for everyone!

Owen shows some Iberian characteristics and has been compared by some to the appearance of a Lipizzaner, especially when he tucks his head and moves briskly forward for his rider. Owen is doing a good job of demonstrating the kind, steady nature of the breed and their versatility. He is a very sensible boy out on the trail rides. Everyone in Chelsea's barn knows who Owen is!

When a long time quarter horse lover and friend of mine first saw Owen, she looked him up and down with admiration and said: "Jeannie Pie - I can't imagine there being anything that horse couldn't do! I'll bet he'd make a rope horse for Chris too." That last part won't ever happen, as my sister and I don't see eye-to-eye on rodeo! ha Pretty high praise from my open-minded, "a good horse is a good horse" friend!

Chelsea allowed me to post our Connemara Pamphlet and Breeders List on her barn notice board, so hopefully that generates some interest. (I also posted our Pamphlet and Breeders List at a local Vet Clinic recently and someone has taken them both. I will be replacing those immediately!) My son Chris and I went to Canada West Boots recently looking for a pair of plain, round-toed cowboy boots for his stable hand job at Quarry Ridge Farms. The store is western only in nature, but I asked to post our Pamphlet/Breeders List on their notice board anyway. While Connemaras may remain unknown to a lot of the western folks, that can be changed, I believe, with exposure to the breed. Heather Sherratt's excellent article in Horse Country magazine with focus too on Connemara conformation, Manitoba Connemara Reports; also in Horse Country magazine, can only help.



A beaming Nykola gives Owen a hug at the end of the Halloween Horse Show, Diversity Horsemanship. Photo courtesy of Colby Spence.



"When words just aren't necessary." Nikola and Owen Grey. Diversity Horsemanship.

The best advertising, of course, will be getting the Connies out there participating in things western.

I think Chelsea is likely aware of it, as she is petty smart - I scheme in my head about ways to try and get Connemaras into her facility. heheh

I scheme constantly about ways to get more Connemaras into Manitoba! Some unfortunate things happened in the not too distant past, that devastated my finances and caused me to lose my lovely property that I had hoped to raise Connemaras on. But - I'm not down for the count yet! I haven't heard the clattering of horses hooves with the rumblings of the death coach approaching, nor have I heard the Banshee wailing outside my bedroom window - so I can still scheme and hope! (I do keep a look-out though, for Sarah Elizabeth Read doing a drive-by of some kind -. surely she must be sick of my suggestions that a Connemara for her granddaughter and her Pony Club would be the very best thing for her!)

Quarry Ridge Farms, Stonewall

Mae Pinniger was hit with a severe case of the horse show bug in 2014. Her dad, Dr. Greg Pinniger of Stonewall recognized the symptoms. He wasn't able to prescribe any treatment anyway - so he willingly attended as many shows as possible. Mae and May Girl competed very successfully last season. They quickly developed to the point of putting a good scare into the competition in 2016



Kestrel Fair's May Girl where she belongs - in front of the bright lights! Quarry Ridge Christmas Quadrille.



Mae Pinniger and May Girl having fun at Quarry Ridge Christmas Quadrille.

Jumping. Catherine McCullagh, Mae's Coach, said about May Girl: "May Girl is starting to become a real pro in the show ring and another year will see her become a lot more polished." Mae has been taking Pony Club lessons on May Girl over the fall and winter.

River Ranch, Beausejour

Lucero Desrochers reports that Connemaras are starting to get noticed in the Oak Bank/Beausejour area. Two years ago when Lucero spoke with Brian Donegan of Drogheda Farms about bringing some more Connemaras to Manitoba, an unorthodox new way of marketing ponies was agreed upon - one that required trust and stepping out of the box for both parties! I'm delighted to report that as a result two Connemaras joined the ranks of the existing numbers in Manitoba! Lucero and her daughter Anna put time and training into the ponies, Lucero then uses them in lessons according to a riders' level, arranges for suitable Leases and Sales. In Captain Cricket's case, he has been sold to Lucero's student, 8 yr old Kirstin Seeley and they are hoping for a few nice years of partnership together. Kirstin's mom has asked me how Kirstin can become a Junior Member of CCPS - Yes Bridget - I mentioned the Awards Program!



***Kirstin Seeley and her new mount Drogheda
Captain Cricket.***



***Mrs. Santa and a cute Elf
(l) Lucero Desrochers, Coach
(r) Kirstin Seeley, Cricket's new owner. Campbell
Deck the Stalls Show, Brandon***

Kestrel Fair (Dani) remains the favourite for the kids in Stable Management, to bath, brush and learn to bandage. She loves the fussing by the kids- some things never change! Lucero tells me that Dani is and always will be, daughter Anna's baby. Dani is a good-natured, sweet mare (and a superb mother) who deserves the great home she has been given.

Avery Schneider and Cloon Lara Cassey Gille (Cassey) have forged a bond and they progressed steadily together in 2014. Cassey is leased by Avery for 2015 from Brian Donegan of Drogheda Farms, Strathmore, Alberta.

Wyldewich Don Juan is in full training now with Lucero and Cricket is in partial training with her. 2014 was a great show season and I am hopeful that we will see the Connemara numbers increasing in Manitoba, as people see how well they do in competition.

*****"Manitoba Riders Set to Make Connemara History!"*****

They may not be the first Connemaras to compete at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair at Brandon, held during the last week of March - but this year will be the first time we have TWO purebred Connemaras competing with Manitoba riders aboard! Out-of-the-Blue, a 13.2hh Connemara gelding from Quarry Ridge Farms has been to the Fair before. He was piloted by our very talented Manitoba rider, Marlo Glass and they won the Pony Championship! Lucero DesRochers of River Ranch will be jumping on Wyldewich Don Juan (D.J.) and Mae Pinniger of Quarry Ridge Farms, has plans to also compete on Kestrel Fair's May Girl. The riders will be competing out of two different show barns. It is something I have dreamed of witnessing, since I first brought Connemaras to Manitoba in 2005. Hopefully, we will see some of our other new young rider/Connemara combinations participating at the Royal also, in the not too distant future!



***Anna Davila's Connemara mare Dani.
Jumper gone western!***

A 13.2hh bay Connemara gelding that was sold near Winnipeg, somehow managed to keep himself under my radar and apparently he went to a home near Brandon. If I can track that one down, I'd like to make them aware of CCPS, and issue an invitation to join us. With a bit of luck, the new owner may be planning to show.

Some people might view Winnipeg as a blip on the map between Ontario and Saskatchewan - but don't discount Winnipeg for things equine! With the development of our new inland port, Winnipeg is no doubt destined to grow. Plans are in the works now, that will see Red River Exhibition Show Grounds located just west of Winnipeg really expand. Additional stalls will be built this summer and eventually an indoor arena for hosting equine and other age related events. All of this is very good news for the equine community.

I wish all of our Connemara Breeders good foaling and many Connemara sales in 2015. **By Jeannie Walsh**

The Story of Avery and her Pony Love - Cloon Lara Cassey Gille!

Avery Schneider of Selkirk, Manitoba has been in Pony Club since she was six years of age. She had several different Coaches, before she started taking riding lessons at Lucero's in October, 2012.

One freezing-cold, blustery day out at beautiful River Ranch, Beausejour, Avery arrived for her weekly riding lesson. Her Coach said: "Hey Avery, I have another pony that you can ride tonight. Go out to the pasture and grab the bay pony!" Avery went to get the adorable bay pony in the pasture. She rode him in her lesson that night and well ... lets just say it might not have been love at first sight! He was a tough ride for her at first as he was very different from the older Welsh pony that she had before. Cassey is super sensitive, so Avery just needed to learn to be a better rider in order to ride Cassey. Avery had a lot to learn from such a fabulous pony! Avery came home to her mom that first night and said: "Hey mom, I rode this really spunky pony at Lucero's tonight, but I think I really like him!"

A few weeks went by with Avery having lessons on the bay pony. So mom talked to Avery's Coach (who, by the way, is fantastic at matching kids with ponies) and said: "Avery says she would like to lease the spunky, furry bay pony that she keeps talking about." A partnership was born! They worked for a couple of months on their skills and then went to Working Pony Club Rally in May. They jumped every cross-country fence the Coach put them at and had a fantastic time. Next they attended Manitoba Hunter Jumper Association Summer Smiles Horse Show in June and placed really well in the Pony Hunter Classes. They also won the Equitation Division!

At Manitoba Pony Club Camp in July at Selkirk, Manitoba, he was a "Superstar" at everything they did; stadium jumping, dressage, cross-country. He was even pretty good at the Prince Phillip Games - although he did think that a pylon with a flag was a jump and may have jumped it! Connemaras jump everything of course! They had really formed a close relationship by that point and Avery was so very in love with him! I, (Avery's mom Crystal) have also fallen absolutely in love with the pony as well. - he has fabulous ground manners, he is awesome at jumping and is really the most lovable pony you could find!

They headed out to Pony Club Rally - at Willville Horse Trials, south of Brandon, Manitoba in August. Avery had an awesome weekend, placing top rider in her division. She and Cassey were clear in cross-country, clear in stadium jumping and they had a fantastic dressage score!

The next thing Avery wants to try with this fabulous Connemara is Barrel Racing - we may have convinced her Coach that we need to have a gymkhana day!

That is about it for now, but I'm sure we will have many more pony adventures to come and of course, there's always another Horse Show!

By Crystal Sawatzky (Avery's mom)

Avery and Cassey won the Bronze Medal in the Special Equitation Medal Class in D Division at Manitoba Pony Club Championships, held at Red River Exhibition Show Grounds. This class is judged both on the flat and jumping. Avery also tested her Level C with Cassey and passed with flying colours. I'll definitely be watching to see what this talented pair will throw at the competition in 2015! Jeannie Walsh.



This is how it's done - Up and Over! Avery and Drogheda Cassey



***Now that looks better!
Avery grooming Cassey.
River Ranch, Beausejour.***



***Ain't we the cat's pyjamas!
Avery and Drogheda Cassey at
Pony Club Rally.***

Caitlin Miller and CM's Ricochet

2014 was an exciting year for Caitlin Miller and her pony CM's Ricochet (Ricky). When we met Ricky as a 5 year old, he was unstarted but there was something about this little buckskin pony that caught our eye. We purchased him and in no time at all, he was going nicely under saddle. It really is true that this breed is almost born broke! Caitlin took a liking to Ricky immediately and got to have her first ride on him that winter. As his training progressed, Caitlin began to ride him more and more and it was obvious they made a great team. And on her 10th birthday, her parent gave her the best surprise any little girl could want! The gorgeous buckskin pony she'd been pining for.

This lovely, brave pony with a heart of gold, took Caitlin from being a bit timid after a bad fall, to being absolutely fearless! This pony truly is a great ambassador of the Connemara breed. They attended a variety of events this summer and really showed what a great pair they had become. From competing at the Cochrane Hunter Pace & Chase series (of which they were division champion!), to many ribbons at the hunter shows we attended, this pair was formidable competition! They participated in a sidesaddle clinic held at the Bar U Ranch and went on to gallop fearlessly cross country with the Calgary Hunt Club (out-jumping many of the adults I might add!). Around the barn you'll usually find Caitlin doting on Ricky, braiding his tail or doubling on him with a friend as they giggle their way around the arena.



Truly a quiet, unflappable and fun pony to have around the barn.

I'm proud to be Caitlin & Ricky's coach and look forward to the fun this pair will have in 2015 and the many years they'll have together after that!

Michelle Chauncey



Elodon Connemaras Winter 2014-15 by Elsie Priddy

So far, this winter has been less brutal than the last in Saskatchewan and so much more pleasant to work with the ponies.

Rills Topsail, a pony we couldn't resist buying from Penny Huggons of Rill Connemaras in Alberta, is turning 7 years old. Topper is by the Huggons' wonderful stallion *Hohnhorst Branni and out of a very special mare Balius Siobhan. This winter he has been in steady training, going once a week for a lesson over fences with a professional rider. Our trainer has commented that it is so easy to work with such an uncomplicated pony – a reflection of the Connemara breed. Topper is also our "go to" pony for ponying youngsters, moving cattle and visiting riders. My daughter Elan and I have been doing ground work on our two 3 year olds, Elodon Riona and Elodon Callahan, and have started riding them very lightly in the new year. We have to be careful not to do too much as they are such quick learners! By March, these two will be left again to continue growing while Elan and I return to riding our show horses. Topper, Riona and Callahan are for sale. Spring can't come soon enough as we are expecting two purebred foals, one from Elodon Maeve (Century Hills Aedan Zodiac x Rills Romany Lace) by JEF Sir Lancelot and one by our Aedan out of the lovely Rills Kelpie leased from the Huggons. Both foals will be HWSD N/N as all four parents have tested negative.

Along with owner Gina Feist and her two daughters Samantha and Jessica, we look forward to welcoming Devon Ridge Wren's first foal by Aedan in June.

An exciting crossbred foal is expected from Gayle Smith's Premium Canadian Warmblood mare, Ebon's Finally Friday (sire MJ Fusion), bred to Aedan.



Are we facing forward or backwards??

Eden Connemaras by Bridget Wingate

In 2014 my little roan mare Rills Fire N Ice (aka Feisty) had another roan filly by Avenns Kimble Wind. This time it was Shirley Sauve's foal so Feisty spent the summer away from home being a mom. This summer it was time her 2 year old daughter Eden's Sugar N Spice (by Kimble) started some training. "Spice" quickly learned lunging and then ground driving, and really likes to work. She also learned about the pecking order when you are away from home.

In the fall my dear old Winston went to the local stable (his second home) so that I can ride indoors throughout the winter. We work 'little and often' which keeps both of us fit and active. In spring Winston will come home and Feisty will go to the stable to get back in shape.

I just enjoy my ponies so much, and hope to be able to keep on riding, despite the advance of years.

Bridget Wingate



Eden Sugar N Spice

The Healing Power of Ponies by Kaetlon Tanner

GratITUDE.

That is where I must begin. Right in the core of me is a place where I kneel down and bow on the ground before the generous, kind, and healing spirits of three special Connemara ponies: Pearl, Ceilidh, and Sean.

I have been riding for a bout 35 years. I have taught and trained, ridden and owned some pretty tough horses. I have come off enough times that I know when to stick and when to bail. But I also know the emotional connection I have with horses. That visceral unspoken way of communicating with breath, with softness, and sometimes because of fear. Over the years I have learned how to regulate my own emotional state in order to gain horses' trust. I also learned how to push through my own warning system - overriding it perhaps - to get on and get the job done.

In 2009, I began training to work with horses in a different context. Equine Facilitated Wellness (EFW), works with horses as co-facilitators in a counseling or learning environment. EFW utilizes equine's innate ability to reflect human emotional and physiological states to assist people in developing skills such as boundaries, assertiveness, and mindfulness. I felt like I'd finally found my calling - that Special Thing That I Was Put on Earth To Do. I had a plan. I had found a place where my understanding of and sensitivity to the nuances of equine communication could be developed safely and respectfully. Little did I know that my 'training' would include a personal immersion in trauma and healing of which equines were the core.

In October 2009, I took the horse I'd been riding for nearly a year to a five day clinic. At the end of the first day, I took her out for a bit of grass. I was standing about 8 or 10 feet away from her, watching her eagerly rip out the fall grass and thinking about how much fun the day had been. Suddenly there was the loud 'snap!' of an overcharged electric fence. She turned and ran - right over me. I remember thinking as her shoulder slammed into me, 'Now I'll just get knocked to the side.' But I didn't. She mowed me right down. I ended up with a badly broken shoulder, which to this day has a plate and 13 screws holding it together. Even with my helmet on, I had a concussion; and I had hoof prints up and down my body. I could tell by the bruises which foot landed where - she was shod on the front, barefoot on the back. I also had a hoof print on my jacket... right over my heart.

The bones and bruises healed, but my heart - that place that holds the very essence of my relationship with horses - needed far more than physiotherapy. It needed ponies.



Kaetlon & Sean

Susan MacDougall's Pearl, was the first pony I rode two years after my accident. Last February I started going to Susan's on a regular basis to ride Pearl. I was also toying with the idea of purchasing her two year old, Thistledown's Seoul en Muir (Sean). But really, I was going to the barn to heal; to step into my fear with ponies who were careful, kind, engaged, and humorous. When I first started getting to know Sean, all I felt safe doing was tying him in the paddock and grooming him for a few minutes. I felt fine hopping on Pearl bareback and wandering around the paddock, but standing next to a horse, let alone grazing him, was just too scary. Gradually I felt okay leading Sean around the paddock. Eventually I took him into the barn, away from his mom and Auntie Pearl. Then one day, March 26, 2014, (quoted from my journal), "I DID IT! I did the scary thing!! I walked Sean into the ring all by myself". Another day, I had been leading Sean around in the paddock. I got to the point where I knew I'd pushed myself far enough out of my comfort zone. I took Sean over to where his mom was grazing and took off his halter, figuring that he would just hang out with her. But as I walked back towards the gate, I heard him following about 10 feet behind me. My inner alerts went off and everything in me braced. Sean stopped. I got to the gate, and the

second I was on the other side of it, he cantered over for another pat. He knew. And he took care.

As much as I was having these breakthroughs and making progress, most of those early days I would be shaking as I drove away from the barn. My body was still experiencing the fear response, my physiology kept replaying the trauma of the accident. One summer day as I was getting in my car to head home, I took a minute to pause and watch Ceilidh grazing just on the other side of the fence. Then, like a gentle wave of summer breeze, I felt, "It's over". The trauma had stopped. In that moment, I finally felt safe. Then there was Pearl, exquisite and expressive. She gave me back my childhood silliness and joy for riding. She loved to gallop up hills, then stop dead for a cookie. She preferred to walk down the middle of the road, sometimes grunting in rhythm with her step like she was humming a tune. She modeled Good Pony Behaviour for her nephew - especially treat mooching! Many times Sean would stand by the ring or in the shed watching me ride Pearl. I swear he was taking it all in, and I would say to him, "This will be you soon". I trusted Pearl, and when I looked into her marble blue eyes, I could see a wise universe of peace and beauty.

On November 6, Susan texted me. Pearl had colicked and it was serious. I went out to the barn that afternoon. Susan and her Dad had stayed with Pearl all day while she got IV fluids and pain medication. The vet came out again, and the decision no one ever wants to make, was made. I brought Ceilidh and Sean down to stand by as Pearl peacefully and gracefully let go.

All of them, Pearl, Ceilidh, and Sean gave me a safe herd to linger with. By the end of summer I could walk into the field knowing that if Ceilidh marched towards me, she was coming to lift a hind leg for a belly scratch. If, while leading Pearl to the barn, the other two cantered past, there were no feet flying in my direction and Pearl would just walk quietly beside me.



The journey of developing a youngster and the road of healing are similar in many ways. They are non-linear; as much as we think we have something figured out, that lesson will be tested. There will be setbacks, but they can provide ground for building resiliency and a deeper understanding of where the holes are. I know from my journey this past year with three wonderful ponies that the biggest accomplishments are sometimes the least visible. Similarly, as I learned during my studies for my degree in Psychology, the most profound wounds associated with trauma can be invisible: depression, anxiety, chronic pain, substance misuse, relationship problems... Add to those the stigma of being diagnosed with a 'mental illness', and it is no surprise that many people with Post Traumatic Stress suffer in silence. It is with this knowledge and personal experience that I will return to complete my EFW certification this year. Furthermore, I will develop a program to work with Veterans, First Responders, and others living with PTSD.

There are no plates, screws, or stitches for the psyche. There is no bit strong enough to check the racing heartbeat of panic; no blanket warm enough to still the shivering of a flashback. But place your hand under the mane of a warm pony; hear his breath as he sniffs your pocket for treats. Feel the breeze on your cheek and the ground beneath your feet. In this moment there is calm. For this moment you are safe.

This is the healing power of ponies.



Riding with friends Susan MacDougall and Margot Watson

Foundation Broodmare of the Year

Aladdin's Winter Promise

1988 – 2008

Breeding: Aladdin x Annandale's Glenlo

In 1997 Catherine Mack sold me one of her favourite mares, Aladdin's Winter Promise (aka Winifred or Winnie), as a ten year old. Winnie had already had one foal and was in foal again to Hayselden's Perseus. We bought her as our first Connemara Pony and 'Foundation' mare. She was such a lovely mare – one of those very sweet personalities. She was kind, sensitive, willingjust an all round wonderful pony! My daughter, Kenzie, who was also 10 yrs old, started riding on her and in later years received her C-1 level in Pony Club with Winnie, winning many ribbons at Pony Club Eventing rallies and shows in the area. She was a great jumper – she loved it and gave Kenzie the



confidence to take her through the levels! Earlier in her life, Winnie also hunted in hunt field and was trained to drive when Catherine owned her competing in Obstacle Driving competitions with Sam Davis as driver. Winnie did all these things in-between having her six foals and also gave many kids riding lessons, always being kind to the young riders. Later in life she went back to being a Pony Club mount and was on the winning Prince Phillips Games team a month before she died. She has passed on

her lovely personality and willingness to all her offspring as well as great athletic abilities. She was a great producer of fillies, having only one colt out of her six foals. I couldn't have asked for a better Foundation mare. Unfortunately she died young at 20 yrs. old from internal melanoma. So sad – she was greatly loved by all and very much missed! Winnie was 14.1 1/2 hh and grey, born black. She has a rare ancestor in her pedigree – the stallion Strongbow.



Pat Lyne wrote a little bit about Strongbow in Shrouded in the Mist (p161). Strongbow had limited offspring in Ireland because his job was being a teaser stallion then he was exported to Germany but in another article it says he produced 10 registered stallion sons in his short career. He is not found in many of the Connemaras in North America which makes Winnie's pedigree quite an interesting one.

List of Offspring:

- 1996 - Kent's Seven Oaks (filly)
- 1997 - Ballencrieff's Cameo (filly)
- 2002 - Ballencrieff's Brogan (ACPS Stallion)
- 2005 - Ballencrieff's Sea Breeze (filly)
- 2007 - Ballencrieff's Winter Lace (filly)
- 2008 - Ballencrieff's Blue Pearl (filly – deceased)

By Margot Watson

Breeders List and Stallion Directory

A list of breeders standing stallions in 2015, or who have youngstock for sale is available on our web site: www.canadianconnemara.org Further details and photographs of stallions are also listed under the Stallion Directory. Both of these lists will shortly include their test results for Hoof Wall Separation Disease. Please note that the use of stallions who are carriers (N/HWSD) is encouraged, to prevent narrowing of the gene pool, but should not be bred to mares who are also carriers. The test for HWSD is only \$40 US with details and forms from U.C. Davies Laboratory are available on our web site.

Any members who wish to be included on these lists should contact Bridget Wingate e-mail: wingate@connect.ab.ca

Clifden Connemara Pony Festival, August 2014

Following the loss of the CCPS archive collection and my own collection of Connemara books, ephemera and photographs in the High River flood of June 2013, I flew to Ireland in August 2014 in time for the annual Clifden Connemara Pony Festival. My mission: To replace as much of the lost reference material as possible during the visit. Fortunately Connemara Pony historian and author Pat Lyne returned to the Station House Museum for the annual pony show, and I was able to get each replacement book personally signed before mailing them back to Canada.

Former CPBS President Tom MacLochlainn also obliged by signing a copy of his 2010 book, "The Moycullen Ponymen", when we met again at the CPBS office before the show. Tom had headed up the inspection team and attended the Canadian Connemara Pony Society AGM in Alberta in 2009, with his lovely wife Maire, generously co-founding the CCPS Sean MacLochlainn Foundation Broodmare Award together with pioneer Canadian Connemara breeder Doris Jacobi.

For the enlightenment of those who have not yet attended the annual Clifden Connemara Show, Pony Festival activities begin several days before the main Thursday show, and I was pre-booked on the CPBS bus tour on the Monday. The tour meandered around the more remote pony breeding areas of Rosmuc, Carraroe, Inveran and the causeway-linked islands of Lettermore and Lettermullan, and was a great chance to hobnob with breeders from around the world between stud visits, with English, Welsh, Irish and European breeders on board. An interesting addition to the stud tour was a brief stop at O'Malley's general store, where a stone plaque has been added to the side of the adjoining home: "Michael J O'Malley (1884-1967) Founder Member of the Connemara Pony Breeders Society, founded in Oughterard in 1923"

We were honored to meet with Michael O'Malley's son for a photo op at the store, before re-boarding the bus to visit numerous small breeding operations with one or two mares and their offspring. It was a wonderful opportunity to visit isolated crofts far off the beaten track of the average tourist, and enjoy some classic Connemara landscapes.

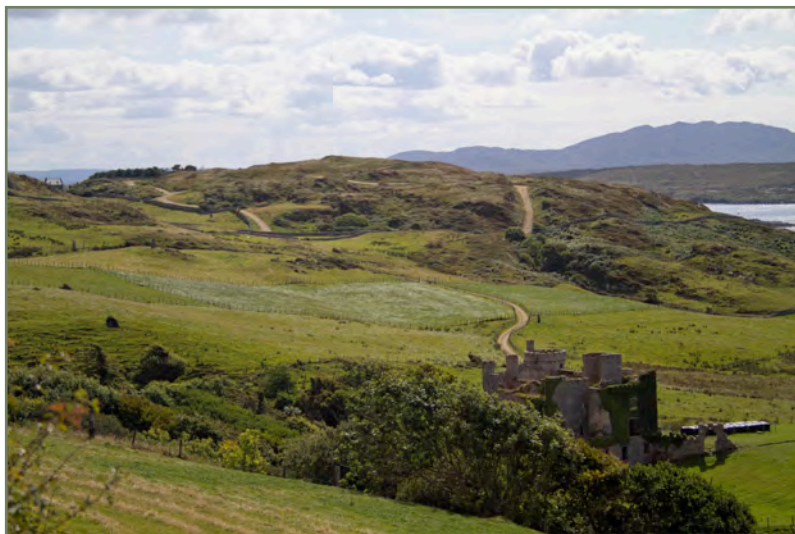
Although the famous Sky Road outside Clifden is a well-known tourist route, the public footpath leading off it through the stone archway of the Castle Connemara Stud is perhaps better known by the locals, who were out in force gathering wild berries as I roved out on the Wednesday. The rough trackway is bordered on both sides with fields containing Connemara mares and their foals, and with a backdrop of the ruined Clifden Castle, sea vistas, and an abundance of scarlet fuschia in bloom along the hedgerows, it is a photographer's delight. I

made good use of my time photographing treasured scenes to replace those of earlier years lost to the flood. It was difficult to tear myself away and return to Clifden to watch the Connemara working hunter pony classes in the main ring of the show grounds.

This was the first time I was unable to find bed and breakfast accommodation in Clifden town itself during festival week, but having attended the field trip in 2008 to view the ponies at the Connemara National Park, I knew that the nearby village of Letterfrack at the entrance to the park was an appealing option, with daily bus service to Clifden and back. So it proved to be, and if anyone is interested in attending the festival in 2015, it is possible to fly into Dublin, catch a Galway City Express coach directly from the airport, and have time to sightsee and dine in Galway before catching the afternoon bus on the scenic route to Letterfrack. There are hostels with private or group accommodation right in the village, a campsite, a good grocery store, a library, pubs serving delicious evening meals, all just a gentle stroll from the Connemara National Park Centre with its walking trails, café, Connemara ponies and donkeys. There are two morning buses to take you into Clifden, as well as an option to stop off at the nearby fishing village of Cleggan, which offers pony trekking and beach rides right from the village, as well as a daily ferry to the nearby island of Inishbofin for a day-trip adventure.

It is not only possible to attend the Pony Festival Week without having to hire a car, but, after returning to Dublin on the Galway-Dublin Express coach, there is frequent bus service from downtown Dublin to Kildare, where a visit to the Irish National Stud, Museum of the Horse and famed Japanese Gardens makes for a wonderful day out. Plan ahead for Clifden 2015!

Jenny Smyth
Historical Archives Committee



CCPS Transfers 2014

Ballencrieff's Joshua 1:9 sold by Margot Watson, Aldergrove BC to Karen Halverson, Duvall, WA, USA

Caraway Bella sold by Caraway Connemaras, QC. to Christine Schaller, Coeur d'Alene, ID, USA

Caraway Kiwi sold by Christine Carey, Elgin QC to Donna Miller, Alpharetta GA, USA

Century Hill's Hazy Maelle sold by Mrs. M. Dale Doner to Gerard Fontaine, Montreal QC

Century Hill's Hazy Maire sold by Mrs. M. Dale Doner to Gerard Fontaine, Montreal QC

Century Hill's Hazy Pearl sold by Mrs. M. Dale Doner, Beaverton ON to Ayn Grant, Barrhead AB

CM's Ricochet sold by Michelle Chauncey, Didsbury AB to Caitlin Miller, Water Valley AB

Crooked Creek Avery sold by Laura Bullock & Leanna Miyashiro, Magrath AB to Tamara Taylor, Caroline AB

Devon Ridge Rumpelstiltskin sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce Grove AB to Valerie Viens, Calgary AB

Devon Ridge Sundance Kid sold by Jocelyn Davies, spruce Grove AB to Anne Taylor, Okotoks AB

Elphin Sandpiper sold by Heather Sherratt, McDonalds Corners ON to Bev Wannamaker, Ayr ON

Erin's Delight sold by Emily Cena, Westlock AB to Chelsey Sieger, Coronation AB

H.K.'s Kestrel Fair sold by Jean Walsh, Stonewall MB to Anna Davila, Beausejour MB

Kali's Irish Fire sold by Karen Anderson, Rumsey AB to Linda Pipe, Mission BC

Kimbles MacCool sold by Steven Pretty & Shirley Sauve, Spruce Grove AB to Sandra Donnelly, Calgary AB

Kimbles Kira sold by Steven Pretty & Shirley Sauve, Spruce Grove AB to Sandra Donnelly, Calgary AB

Kimbles Sierra Wind sold by Cynthis E. Crook, Stoney Plain AB to Morris Helmig, Botha AB

Kimbles Woodland Faerie sold by Steven Pretty & Shirley Sauve, Spruce Grove AB to Keitrina Pettican, Carvel AB

Lilou De Brio sold by Ferme Brio, Racine QC to Aurelie Bages, Marieville QC

Lissadell Dun Eoin sold by Mary Flynn, Renfrew ON to Carol Lloyd, Washago ON

Rills Caprice sold by Colin & Penny Huggons, Sundre AB to Michelle Chauncey, Didsbury AB

Tollgate Tullymor Magnolia sold by Helen Ann Scott, Mount Forest ON to Christine Baker, Ashton ON

Wrath of Khan sold by Joyce Enders, Calgary AB to Kayden Jorgensen-Bell, Calgary AB

Herd Name Registrations 2014

Altastar - Melissa Williams AB

Ravenwood Connemaras – Tamara Taylor AB

DKH – Linda Pipe BC

Report from Century Hill Farm

The new year surprise for us came as a phone call from a friend - "I just saw your stallion on the cover of Horse Illustrated January edition!" We did not know that they would pick Cara for their cover (as well as Eastie and Wes on the inside article) from a photoshoot last fall of all of our ponies by a professional equine photographer -Shawn Hamilton. That call came as a surprise as well, as Shawn was needing to expand her repertoire of Connemara pony images for her stock photo website clixphoto.com and she happened upon our website. At any rate, it was a huge honour and a lot of fun to see how the image they selected really captures the lighthearted, mischievous free spirit and strength of Cara as he represents our beloved breed!



Classic Cara!

Having sold 3 of Cara's fillies last year we look forward to this years foal crop - Eastie x Mic and Rea x Cara. We plan to start Wes under saddle and in harness this spring and are making plans for Cara's next adventures as well.

Dale & I wish you all a successful and healthy 2015!

Rick Doner

centuryhillfarm.com



Congratulations to Amanda Beard as she and Cara concluded the 2014 show season in style. This pair have really bonded over the years and we so appreciate all the hard work Amanda has done. She has really gone that extra mile for us!



This is "Kimble's Yer Man" or Keji, a five year-old Connemara x TB by Avenns Kimble Wind, bred by Shirley Sauve in Alberta. He is shown in his first dressage walk/trot test in Duncan, BC ridden and owned by Jennifer Brownlow. It wasn't a competition but he scored over 70%. We'll see what this year brings. I'm hoping to show Starlight's Zara (Lynfield's Cairbre MacCarthy (Peso) out of Elphin Sweet Rosaleen) at Second Level at our Vancouver Island dressage shows.

CCPS Board & Committee Chairs

Directors:

Susan MacDougall (Pacific) President
(2014-2016) susanmac@uniserve.com

Scott Longmire (Central) Vice-President
(2013-2015) longwyn1@gmail.com

Elsie Priddy (Prairies) Secretary/Treasurer
(2014-2016) de.priddy@sasktel.net

Jennifer Brownlow (Pacific) (2013-2015)

Lezah Williamson (Pacific) (2013-2015)

Janet Rowe (Central) (2013-2015)

Jeannie Walsh (Prairies) (2014-2016)

Chris Carey (Central) (2013-2015)

Gayle Smith (Prairies) (2014-2016)

Committee Chairs:

Arbitration – Bridget Wingate

Archives – Jenny Smyth

Broodmare Award – Chris Carey

Finance – Margot Watson

HWSD – Jocelyn Davies

Inspections – Margot Watson

Membership – Jennifer Brownlow

Newsletter – Rick Doner

Nominating – Scott Longmire

Performance Awards – Shirley Sauve

Promotions – Susan MacDougall

Registrations – Jocelyn Davies

Website – Penny Huggons

The origins of the Connemara Pony are lost to recorded history. In Ireland, in 1891, the Congested Districts Boards sought ways to improve the lives of its people. One of the measures they took was an attempt to improve the Connemara Pony. It was not entirely successful. In 1923, the Connemara Pony Breeders Society was formed to preserve and improve the Connemara Pony. What they started has resulted in the beautiful animal we all know and love today. They carefully selected foundation stock and implemented inspections for breeding stock, which date back to 1924. A brief history is available at www.cpbs.ie. The measures they took have ripple effects to this day. We live in the information age and have vast resources at our fingertips. As a result of careful selection process, the Connemara Pony book is closed. Because of human nature and the desire to improve and excel, breeding choices have been made that result in a somewhat narrow gene base. We have tremendous advances in science, and as a result are able to identify

issues that occur in a small breeding population. One such issue is HWDS, a genetic hoof issue that varies in severity, and has resulted in animals being humanely destroyed. We have a test. It is available from UC Davis at <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/HoofWallDisease.php>. We have an opportunity to affect the future of the Connemara Pony and make a positive impact by testing breeding stock. HWSD can be consigned to history by the choices we make today. Lets make this very positive change.

The numbers of Connemara Ponies in Canada is very low. Please get out there and let people know how wonderful your ponies are. It needn't be in the competitive venues, although that is critical. Just mentioning to horse people what you have in your barn continues to raise awareness. Lets make the Canadian Connemara Pony Society a place to gather and celebrate the Irish Pony, the multi-talented Connemara.

Susan MacDougall

AGM 2014

The annual general meeting was held on October 25th in Aldergrove, B.C.

6 members were present, with another 4 joining via Skype.

Minutes of the meeting are available on our web site:

www.canadianconnemara.org.

In addition to watching clinics at the Mane Event in Chilliwack, visits were greatly enjoyed at Margot Watson's and Susan MacDougall's farms.

The 2015 AGM will be held in the Prairie region.



Frost-dappled Rills Kelpie
"Will it be spring soon?"

Don't forget to regularly check our Societies website for information on how to join, printable forms, awards program, registrations, classified ads and many more pertinent topics!

www.canadianconnemara.org

