

# The Canadian Connemara

SPRING 2016

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY  
[WWW.CANADIANCONNEMARA.ORG](http://WWW.CANADIANCONNEMARA.ORG)

ISSUE ONE

## 2015 High Point Winners



### Devon Ridge Harris Hawk

Owner: Lezah Williamson Rider: Eve Dedrick  
 Certificate of Achievement in Jumper, Gold in Pony Club  
 2015 CCPS High Point Award



### Century Hills Aedan Zodiac

Owner: Elsie and Don Priddy Rider: Elsie Priddy  
 2015 CCPS Reserve High Point Award  
 2015 CCPS Purebred Perpetual Award

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### Presidential Address

2016 is here already and passing quickly. People will be making breeding decisions, competition plans, and thinking about fitting up their ponies after a long winter. Foals that are born this year will need to be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease or HWSD and there is information on this for those not in the know at <http://canadianconnemara.org/hwsd.html>. If you are sitting on the fence about breeding, please go ahead, breed your mare. We need more of these wonderful ponies out there for people to appreciate.

The bylaws for our society were approved January 25, 2007. No changes have been made to date. They were well written, but now because of the passage of time and new developments in the Connemara breed we are preparing to make some changes. Primarily we need to recognize the

existence of HWSD, a genetic hoof disorder in the Connemara Pony so we can make informed breeding decisions. Buyers and sellers need to be aware that HWSD is real, and a serious

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the CCPS AGM hosted by Central Region this year. The date will be between July 18th and 20th in either Ontario or Quebec- Final details will be emailed this spring!

management problem for affected ponies. I applaud the breeders and sellers that have tested their ponies and made it a part of public record. This takes courage. HWSD is devastating to some ponies resulting in euthanasia, becoming a **continued on back page**





# 2015 Canadian Connemara Pony Society Award Results



**Featherstone Lauriliath**

Owner: Scott Longmire  
Rider: Emma Longmire  
Silver Medal in Pony Club



**Ballencrieff's Winter Lace**

Owner/Rider: Margot Watson  
Silver Medal in Pre-Entry Horse Trials



**Starlight's Zara**

Owner/Rider: Jennifer Brownlow  
Certificate of Achievement in Second Level Dressage  
Bronze Medal in Second Level Dressage



**Elodon Earl Grey**

Owner/Rider: Gayle Smith  
Certificate of Achievement in Hunter

**Rills Gaelic Wafer**  
Owner: Grace O'Driscoll  
Rider: Cassidy Banks  
Certificate of Achievement in  
English Flat Classes



Congratulations to all the  
award winners this past year!  
Don't forget to submit your  
results for 2016 !

[http://canadianconnemara.org/  
awards.html](http://canadianconnemara.org/awards.html)



## **Kyra Rothwell & Fergus Excel!**

Kyra and Rills Carrick Fergus have had quite the partnership these last few years. 11 year old Kyra Rothwell has been riding Fergus for 4 years now. This past season the duo were really clicking! They started off the season in Jumpers winning top placings at Spruce Meadows in very large classes winning 1st, 2nd and 4th place finishes. Next up were the Bow Valley Classics where Kyra and Fergus took home the 1.0m Jumper Champion and placed 4th in 2 of the 3Ft Hunter Derbies with 33 competitors in each. Back to Calgary and RMSJ's June Classic, coached

under the expertise of Shannon Haney, the duo competed in the 1.00m Jr/Am Jumper winning another 2 classes. Next on the calendar, Thunderbird Show Park where the temperatures were hitting the high 30's. Kyra and Fergus continued their successful run with some more top place finishes in the Jumpers. In August they headed back



to RMSJ's Rocky Mountain Classics picking up their first Hunter Derby win and qualifying for the Royal West's 3ft Hunter National Derby Championship. Last stop on the show schedule for 2015 was the Royal West in Calgary. Kyra and Fergus

started the week winning a 1.00M Jr/Am Jumper class before their big class of the week the 3'0" National Final Hunter Derby. Kyra and Fergus were 2nd last to go in a class of 24 riders. Kyra and Fergus laid it down earning a winning score of 105 taking all the Handy turns and large jump options.

Kyra is hoping she has one more season to enjoy with Fergus and they've formed quite a partnership she will never forget the Pony with the huge heart.



## **Moira Remmen & Enya**

Enya is a (rising) seven year old Connemara/ TB mare by Century Hills Aedan Zodiac. She is 15 hh, just the right size for us as we are scaling down the size of horses we ride. Kristina Gunningham is her primary pilot and she trains Enya for the jumping part of her career. I also ride Enya on days when Kristina cannot take time away from her work and family.

Enya is broke to drive and although she does not get driving lessons very often she is a very willing participant, and, we think, very sharp looking in her harness. We have taken a couple of driving clinics from a woman who comes from Ireland and who has Connemaras. Kristin thinks that Enya could have a career in Combined Driving, but we need her for the hunter/jumper arena. She is a very versatile mare, and we think that Aedan is responsible for her good temperament.

Moira Remmen  
Saskatoon, SK



photo by Garcia Schellhorn.

# Canadian Inspections

Dear Members,

We have a wonderful opportunity to have an Irish Inspector (Tom MacLochlainn) join us in our Canadian Inspections this year. Tom is a long time owner and breeder of Connemara Ponies and he is the current President of the CPBS. He will be in the (Canadian) neighbourhood July 14th - July 20th so that is when we would be planning to hold the inspection tour starting in Edmonton. Right now we need to know who would like their ponies inspected and how many so that we can plan our tour and inspection sites. Please email me as soon as possible so that we can make definite plans.

We will be inspecting purebred Connemara ponies, usually 3 yrs old and older (unless very mature at 2 years old). Mares, Stallions and Geldings can all be inspected as well as Mares may be presented for Premium status. Ponies must have either permanent registration papers or a Foal Identity Document. Please visit our website for further information on inspections.

<http://www.canadianconnemara.org/inspection.html>

All owners and breeders are encouraged to participate in the inspection program as these inspections are very educational on correct type and confirmation of the Connemara Pony.

Thank you,  
Margot Watson  
[margotwatson@shaw.ca](mailto:margotwatson@shaw.ca)

## Brood Mare Award 2016



\*Scottsway Lullaby with her 2005 filly Elphin Kookaburra, 2004 gelding Elphin Skylark in background.

The 2016 Foundation Broodmare Award has been awarded to \*Scottsway Lullaby (aka Abby). Many congratulations to her and her owner Heather Sherratt of Elphin Mountain Connemaras.

Abby is a 1995 13.1 seal brown premium Connemara mare. She is by Kirtling Tam O'Shanter and out of Hobbans Lark. [www.allbreedpedigree.com/scottsway+lullaby](http://www.allbreedpedigree.com/scottsway+lullaby). Bred by Carol Prentice at her Scottsway Stud in England, she was imported to Canada by Heather as a 2 year old filly.

She has produced 13 foals to date, all by Heather's elite stallion, Maplehurst Michael MacDaire. These two ponies have nicked well and many of the offspring appear

very similar, little bay 'peas in a pod'. All have inherited Abby's unflappable temperament, correct conformation and well balanced movement.

Many of these foals are performance ponies, some are teaching children to ride and some are producing foals of their own, continuing this great bloodline. All are doing a stellar job at promoting the breed with their sound minds and bodies, and athletic ability.

Abby is the epitome of the Connemara pony and has played an important role in the North American breeding program. We in Canada are very proud of her and her top quality offspring.

**Do you plan to breed your mare this year or are you looking to purchase a Connemara?**

**Visit our website for the Breeder's list and**

**Stallion Directory-**

**[www.canadianconnemara.org](http://www.canadianconnemara.org)**



## Update from Lee Taylor on Cedars Padraig

On December 10 my husband Mike called me at work to tell me that there was something very wrong with Padraig. I was an hour away, so I contacted my veterinarian, who as luck would have it, was much closer. He and Mike attended Padraig while I hurried home. Dr MacLeod was very concerned with the severity of Padraigs apparent colic symptoms, and as soon as I arrived home the decision was made to transport him to



Milton Equine Hospital. Once there, Padraig underwent emergency surgery to remove a large lipoma (benign fatty tumour) which

had looped around his small intestine and was strangling it. The surgeon, Dr Orlaith Cleary, felt the best option at the time was to leave his damaged but still living intestine intact and hope it could recover. Unfortunately,

it did not, and Padraig underwent a second major surgery on Dec 14, this time removing 9 feet of his small intestine and requiring the surgeon to create a new entry point into his cecum.

Padraig appears to be adapting well to his surgical repair, but his recovery has been slow and difficult. He is currently dealing with an incisional infection and a recurrent high fever of unknown origin. He does approve of his six feedings of mash each day, and is slowly increasing his hay consumption.

Although 17 years old, he was really at the top of his game when this happened. We had just attended two outstanding clinics, and finally confirmed our piaffe. The elusive Grand Prix was only a few months away...

Assuming we can get control of both the infection and fever, it is expected that Padraig will make a full recovery. Whether we opt to return to competition, only time will tell. I

myself will be quite happy just to have my wonder pony restored to health.

Below, a photo of the evil lipoma, and Padraig finally coming for Christmas, two weeks after he left.



*Editors note: We are all rooting for Padraig and wish him a speedy and complete recovery!*

## Devon Ridge Harris Hawk 2015

Harris started off the year doing the hunters, and ended up trying a little bit of everything. After starting off the season with a 3rd place at the



Photo by Divine Equine

***Eve & Harris at MREC Mother's Day Classic H/J Show***

series end at Thunderbird Gateway, he did some jumpers in a couple of shows at Southlands, and also placed well at the Southlands Event, being the only horse in his division to have two clears and a no time penalties. In the summer Eve and Harris went to their first big dressage show and logged some impressive results. It also prepared them well for the Indoor Eventing at the Pacific Spirit Horse Show at the PNE, where they were in first after dressage and held the lead throughout, ending the competition as the only competitors to have no jump or

time faults.

Harris also did his part to promote the Connemara by representing the breed at both the QH Bazaar and at the PNE in August. Harris was asked to audition for a movie in May but didn't get the part because he was too short, but it was still fun trying out.



Photo by Torem Photographics

***Southlands Riding Club H/J Show***

## **Eddie and Drogheda's Owen Grey - Our Journey Together**

My story is, sadly, an all too familiar tale. Big hopes and dreams founded upon an ill-suited, poorly trained horse. What a recipe. It was extremely painful to give away that horse. I loved him, so my conscience wouldn't allow me to take any money for him whatsoever. I only wanted someone willing to take him on and fix what I couldn't. He was a buckner and I had been planted one too many times to know that I had a big problem on my hands. I found that person, and I never looked back. It was too painful. I was sad for my loss, angry with myself for allowing the so-called training to occur, and defeated, because I now had a problem within myself. FEAR! Although no bones were broken during my short ownership of said horse, I acquired a big dose of fear.

Looking for a new horse was the last thing on my mind so when my sister Jeannie Walsh, a connie enthusiast (putting it lightly), gave me a big, dapple grey pony, with a black mane, tail and legs, aptly named Drogheda's Owen Grey, I was so grateful and I liked him immediately. Little did I know that Mr. Owen was going to change my life in ways I never thought possible. Owen had about two months of training with Grant Metcalfe in Brandon, at the time I became his owner. So we had our, what I thought, riding fundamentals down pat. I was a trail rider type then. Fancy footwork (hoof work) and flying lead changes, were out of my league. I don't think I knew what a flying lead change was come to think of it. I just loved getting on his wide, comfy back and riding around my little acreage, safe and sound.

I was struck by his gentleness with my other creatures, both great and small. That would be six dogs, including a little shitzu, five cats, a miniature Donkey

named Eddie and two goats, Ronnie O'Sullivan, a scoundrel and Billy, an older female who was no trouble at all. I remember panicking one day as the scene unfolded in slow motion. My old Shepherd Bono and Owen were on a collision course that neither knew was about to occur. At the last second, Owen luckily glanced to the left and noticed Bono careening through his front legs. I swear, a look of "oh gosh, I'd better leg it!" flashed across Owen's face. He practically did a hand-stand, if you can picture it, lifting his ample rear off the ground in a split second, allowing Bono safe passage, rather than the trampling I had anticipated. It could have been a flying lead change for all I knew, but whatever he did with his body that day, it was impressive. It was lovely things like this that made me trust this pony more than I thought I could. So, I started to play around a bit, seeing as though he was so sensible and calm.

One day, bored on my 12 acres, with my critters all around, I put the radio on outside and gave Owen a carrot over the fence. His



***Eddie and Drogheda's Owen  
Grey at their first show.***

eyes were like dark, peaceful pools I could fall in to. Before I could think better of the idea, I got up on his back with my running shoes and began to dance up and down, back

and forth, turning, squatting, any dance move I could bust to a Lady Gaga tune I found particularly catchy that day. I'm sure it looked ridiculous, a good dancer I am not. From his head to his tail I flopped and flipped, thankful I had no close neighbors. Owen stood stock still, swishing the odd fly away with his tail, and moving his ears around to try and hear what on earth this crazy lady was doing up there. After about ten minutes, I was exhausted and laughed all the way back to the house that day. What a guy, after my ungraceful dismount, then and only then did he turn and look at me with those eyes. I knew for sure he would never intentionally hurt another living creature, including me.

Although I retained some of my fear, Owen and I entered our first show together last year. A terrifying prospect that I wanted to accomplish before I hit the age of fifty! I entered a green walk/trot class. It might as well have been the Grand Prix for all the fuss and worry I was experiencing. I was first in the arena and my trusted mount took it all in stride, as the rest of my fellow competitors finally entered the class and we all listened for the Judges instructions. Of course it was minutes, but to me, it was at least half an hour! I struggled to give the best instructions to Owen in a whirlwind of split second thoughts that flew around my mind, some encouraging and some self-doubt. We placed second to my utter astonishment. It was when our names were being called to enter the arena for the Open class, that I really went into panic mode. What? No, my name shouldn't be on there! Reluctantly, prompted by the Judges, we went back in. Now, for a girl who was half scared to canter her own pony, the "now riders...hand gallop" instruction depleted all the oxygen I was holding in my lungs. Well, here we go Owen, let's just do it, no one would expect us to place so why feel any pressure? Off we went hand galloping around and around. I was flying then,



## Eddie and Owen continued...

adrenaline and joy! Nothing else mattered in the whole world, we were one spirit, and I was carefree at last. We both knew it. I was on top of the finest creature ever created and we loved and trusted each other. Maybe that's why, after competing in an Open class with seasoned riders/horses, we won a red ribbon that wonderful day. Owen gave me my confidence back, as only a connie can. To the young, to the uncertain, the frightened, Owen is the tonic.

Fast forward, Owen and I are now at a wonderful facility called Sage Hill Stables just outside of Winnipeg. It takes me an hour to get there but I wouldn't bring Owen home now for my own convenience in a million years. My Coach, friend and mentor, Linda Ridley, also fell into those deep black calm pools and is personally training Owen in Dressage, which he learns willingly and honestly. Linda is also giving lessons on Owen to a few women who, like me, were scarred by past experiences. He'll teach them to be calm and open to the idea that a horse can actually look after his rider. In addition, this big pony with a huge heart, is being part-boarded by an up and coming jumping student of another fine Coach, Bennett Murphy. Bennett approached me on behalf of her student to see if I would be willing to have her part-board him for jumping lessons. As any connie owner knows, they are easy keepers so a young rider was a great addition to Team Owen. I know now why Owen is here with us. He's going to bless many people with his kind, honest way, for years to come. The 'connie confidence' factor. Sums it up nicely, I think.....

By Edwina (Eddie) Cassidy

Added notes from Linda (Owen's dressage coach)...

Eddie's article sums up perfectly what an outstanding horse Owen is. I have ridden and worked with many many horses throughout my life and Owen is



*Linda Ridley and Owen*

in the top few that has captured my heart and respect for all he gives.

He is a joy to ride, willing and talented. His big dark eyes melt me!

As a representative of his breed, he is truly an outstanding equine partner and will continue to teach us all to listen more intently to the "language of the horse".

Linda Ridley  
The Level Headed Horse  
Silver certified Chris Irwin coach and trainer



### **Century Hill Farm News**

2015 saw 2 more foals born here, a filly out of Eastie by Mick (Siobhan) and a colt out of Rea by Cara (Carrick). Both are looking great, and our 4 year old gelding Wes pictured here (Eastie x Cara) is coming along well in his dressage training and will be sold to some lucky person! Cara had a number of breedings again this year (including our mares) and we are looking forward to the foals coming in 2016. Rick & Dale Doner  
[centuryhillfarm.com](http://centuryhillfarm.com)





## **Welcome Alexis, Pyper & Caprice!**

Hello Everyone! In August of 2015 our family made the decision to purchase a Connemara. We are a family of 4; our daughters, aged 11 and 12, attend Medicine River Pony Club. I am proudly a past Red Deer Pony Club member. During this time I first became acquainted with the Connemara. I recall the Jacobi family from the Edmonton area rode Connemaras, and they were consistently formidable competitors at Regional Pony Club competitions. Robert and Joan Coates, Red Deer Pony Club founders and hosts, always spoke highly of the breed and from this time period forward I believed a Connemara was in my future. Last August, after considerable thought and research, we purchased two horses from Rill Connemaras at Sundre, Alberta. One horse was the initial intention; however, it was obvious that both Richochet and Tia were exceptional horses. I would like to return to Three Day Eventing and our girls, Pyper and Caprice, are continuing to ride with Pony Club while furthering their equestrian skills. Our family is excited to become a part of the Connemara community in Canada, and we look forward to riding our special horses. It has been a long wait for a Connemara (or two).

by Alexis Soltice



***Rills Tia Maria & Pyper***



***Rills Richochet  
(Devon Golden Treasure x Holnhorst Branni)***



***Rills Tia Maria  
(Rills Kelpie x Holnhorst Branni)***



***Rills Richochet & Caprice enjoying a romp in the snow!***



## **News from Caraway Connemaras** by *Chris Carey*

I am pleased to announce that Caraway Nell (Irish Park Caraway Finn x \*Hearnesbrook Shooting Star) has been awarded the Clifen Trophy for 2015. This is an ACPS trophy awarded to the pony with the most points in the USEF hunter pony divisions. Last year Caraway Charlotte (Maplehurst Michael MacDaire x \*Wensum Plum) won this same award so the Caraway ponies are making a name for themselves.



***Caraway Poppy and Caraway Romantic  
Fling out for a trail ride  
with Emily Southwood and Hilary Lecluse***



***Caraway Nell ridden by Annemarie  
Jones from Tennessee.***

## **Gina Fiest Reports**

This past summer was very exciting with the birth of our first foal.

In 2013 we purchased our first Connemara, Devon Ridge Wren, from Elsie Priddy in Saskatoon. From time to time we talked about letting Wren have a foal and eventually we decided to breed Wren to Elsie's stallion, Century Hills Aedan Zodiac.

As the date for foaling came closer I began to check on Wren during the night. Somehow between my frequent checks the filly was born, standing up and already nursing when I came out. I guess she didn't need my help after all.

We called the filly Arya and the first day the whole family stayed home to spend time with the new baby. There is something special about having your own foal and we instantly fell in love with her. Despite having no experience with foals her training has gone well and I attribute this success to the willing and gentle nature of the Connemara.

We had originally planned to sell Arya but as of now no one is talking of finding her a new home anytime soon!!



***Arya  
(Century Hills Aedan Zodiac x Devon Ridge Wren)***



## **Report from Sunny Plain Ranch by Gayle Smith**

Sunny Plain Ranch, a picturesque boarding and training facility 40 kilometers SE of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is owned and operated by Alf Epp and Gayle Smith. We are excited about our new 70' x 140' indoor riding arena that is a fantastic addition to our small insulated 40 x 60 indoor arena, large outdoor arena, and outdoor round pen. The yard and pastures are protected by 25 year old shelter belts, natural bluffs, rolling hills and a shallow lake that create a safe and expansive setting. Riding lessons are taught in english and western on quiet horses and ponies.

Elodon Earl Grey (2009) is Gayle's Connemara hunter mount as well as a reliable trail riding partner. Earl has navigated the mountains of the Ya Ha Tinda and the forested and occasionally flooded trails in Prince Albert National Park. He has watched bison and elk as well as negotiated bridges and rivers. Once a grizzly bear crossed his path and on another occasion he navigated a rib-deep flooded section of trail, sipping water as he went. Gayle had to hold her feet up out of the water. Earl loves water, especially drinking it. Scratches and treats also keep him entertained. He has confidently cleared every cross-country jump on the Priddy Farm Hunter Pace and been shown in several Saskatchewan Hunter shows.

Gayle was given the opportunity to purchase Elodon Callahan (2012) a superb Connemara children's pony. Callahan is sweet and brave, curious and calm - a perfect ride for her six-year old grandson in riding lessons and on group trail rides. Her grandson enjoys inventing tricks to do on Callahan — such as standing on his back and jumping off to tuck and roll. Callahan is big enough at 13+ HH that Gayle



***Pack trip in Prince Albert National Park 2015***

is able to school him several times a week to reinforce his willing nature and sound basic training established by Elsie Priddy. He has many years ahead of him and five grandchildren to charm.

The ponies have impressed Gayle and Alf so much that they have bred their fancy Warmblood mare twice to Century Hills Aedan Zodiac. A lovely grey filly was born in late April and a full sibling is expected this summer. Who knows what opportunities await these Connemara crosses? Will they be talented and beloved family horses or go on to careers in the show ring or cross country course? Sunny Plain Aedeen is already expressing her sensibility and lovely movement. Alf enjoys bringing her up for extra feed and grooming. She also trailers and stands tied and has been shown at the Warmblood Showcase.



***Jumping 3' log fence at the Priddy Hunter Pace***

Many adventures await as Alf and Gayle plan trail rides and pack trips into wilderness areas. The grandchildren are growing like green oats and the lesson program at Sunny Plain is expanding under Gayle, an Equine Canada coach. Earl and Gayle are jumping in weekly lessons to develop their confidence and skill on the hunter course. Please feel free to follow Sunny Plain Ranch on Facebook or get basic information at [www.sunnyplainranch.com](http://www.sunnyplainranch.com).



## **News from Elodon Connemaras by Elsie Priddy**

2015 was a very busy and enjoyable year with our ponies. Two lovely foals were added to the herd, a flashy colt out of our Elodon Maeve by JEF Sir Lancelot from Kansas



***Mirren and Dara trying to get a tan!***

USA and a sweet natured filly by our Aedan out of Penny Huggons good mare Rills Kelpie, both bringing us new genetics. Spring of 2016 will be a bit disappointing as we have no foals of our own due but it gives us more time to dream of future crosses!

Rills Topsail found himself his special person with Bridget Aikens. Bridget is a marvellous artist and we are waiting to see when Topper is immortalized on canvas!

Elodon Callahan also found himself a perfect match. He was born loving children and now has a home at Sunny Plain Ranch with Gayle Smith who has several pony loving grandchildren.

Our stallion, Century Hills Aedan Zodiac, worked very hard and consistently in 2015. He competed in 5 hunter shows and ended the season winning the Champions Tournament Low Hunter Champion, a culmination of points from a 3 show series at Ebon Stables, Saskatoon SK.

As usual in late fall and winter we work with our youngsters. Thanks to trainer Elan Priddy, Elodon Dara now has a light start under saddle and Elodon Riona has added cattle sorting to her skills!

## **Eden Connemara Ponies**

Last summer I had my purebred mare Rills Fire N Ice at a stable close by. She soon got back into shape after her last foal, and we really worked up a good relationship. She also acted as a school pony on occasion, and proved herself to be very honest and reliable whatever the age or ability of the student. I think she enjoyed jumping best of all, and I hope a young rider will take her to some shows next year.

My purebred filly Eden Sugar N Spice was three in 2015, and it was time to get her started under saddle. I had done a fair bit of ground driving and lunging with her as a 2 year old. She went to trainer Sienna Hart for 2 months and progressed rapidly with no set-backs or problems. She ended up with a solid walk, trot and particularly good canter. She was ridden by a couple of Sienna's students who thought she was great! Spice then went to Shirley Sauve for 6 weeks for some quiet riding around the farm. After that, I thought she needed the winter at home and she will be ready to start work again in the spring and hopefully find a home with a young rider.

Bridget Wingate



***Eden Sugar N Spice & trainer Sienna Hart***

## **Manitoba Bids Farewell To A Very Special Pony!**

*By Jeannie Walsh*



Photo courtesy of Margie Forbes

***Mae Pinniger on Kestrel Fair's May Girl. Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, 2015.***

It was with very mixed emotions that May Girl's owners and friends saw her depart Manitoba last fall. We didn't want to see her leave - yet we felt happy and excited whenever we discussed her future with her new owners! At the time, I was reminded of a picture I had once seen of a boat disappearing over the horizon. People were watching sadly from the shore. They murmured "there she goes." As we reluctantly said goodbye to May Girl, her new owners in B.C., Karena

Harvey and daughter Bryn, were eagerly anticipating her appearance on their horizon - ready to cheer:

"Here she comes!"

Five years ago, May Girl stepped off a trailer at Quarry Ridge Farms near Stonewall. Catherine McCullagh, Coach and farm owner,

had taken her on a two week trial. Catherine sent the unbacked pony at age four to Trainer Tiffany Gibbons to be started. Tiffany had only put a mere few rides on her, before indicating that she was safe for Catherine's son Kieran to take over riding. Kieran was only twelve years of age at the time! It really is hard to beat that "born broke" Connemara disposition! Kieran and May Girl soon entered the show ring and they were very successful. Other Pony Club riders soon followed suit, collecting their own ribbons to cherish and remember May Girl by. Kieran had introduced May Girl to the timed jumping event and that definitely remained her favourite class - the faster the better! She gave speed VERY willingly but came down quickly. Catherine could confidently put many different levels of

lesson riders on her, including adults. She was a sane, safe pony. Several Coaches who have had occasion to work with May Girl, have commented on her quick mind. "She is definitely the smartest horse I have ever worked with!" says Catherine.

Mae Pinniger and May Girl forged a special bond with each other and were known affectionately as "The Maygirls". Their achievements in the show ring together were only slightly short of amazing at times. Some of their most impressive placings occurred while Mae was still a novice and May Girl was still a green pony! I'd imagine a lot of ponies and horses breathed a huge sigh of relief, as May Girl crossed the Manitoba / Saskatchewan border on her way to B.C.! Mae did a great job of getting our wonderful breed noticed





***May Girl and her peeps at Quarry Ridge Farms Outside Jumping Ring***

***(l) Jeannie Walsh***

***(r) Mae Pinniger***

and I know that we in Manitoba will remember The Maygirls. A special evening was held at the barn in the late fall, to honour the Maygirls last ride. The weather was unseasonably mild, so picture-taking in the outside jumping ring was included. There were two horses taking part in the lesson portion - Elizabeth Abraham on 17h+ Pilot and Mae on 14.1-1/2hh May Girl. The expression "Mutt and Jeff" crossed my mind! Catherine kept raising the poles throughout the evening and I watched with delight, as May Girl matched her big buddy jump for jump. When Catherine announced: "Ok ladies, this will be the final round" a wave of sadness washed over me. Back in the barn, Catherine and Elizabeth discreetly disappeared, so that Mae and I could say goodbye to May Girl.

In bed that night, I thought back in time to the very beginning; the way she chose to arrive on HER time schedule. I smiled, as I pictured the cheeky, bold baby who loved to gallop in from the field in front of all the

other horses - how she bore down on the creek with determination and cleared it with such obvious satisfaction. She usually threw in a buck after she landed, for good measure - and for the benefit of anyone who might be watching with their hearts in their throat! Wow, it's been quite a journey and I'm so glad Catherine allowed me to come along for the ride! Based on her experience with Connemara gelding Out-of-the-Blue and then May Girl, Catherine says "I really wish I had known about this breed, when my oldest son (Brennan) first started riding!" I'd say you did your job well May Girl and we know you will continue to make Connemara fans out in B.C.!

**My Time With May Girl -  
In The Words of Mae Pinniger**

"Maygirl is an amazing pony and she will always have a special place in my heart. We both taught each other many things. Throughout the two years I rode her I never had a "bad"

experience. I started showing on her and she was so brave and would try her best at anything. We went to Brandon Winter Fair together and it was an incredible and memorable experience. I never had a fall when I rode her which adds to how wonderful she really was. I'll always remember how sweet and special she was and I am glad she can go on and share her qualities and talent with another. I will love that pony always and I am so lucky to have been able to bond and love her, she truly was a one of a kind and I will always remember the "Maygirls".

*"I've had experience with two  
Connemara ponies in my life so far  
and they were both amazing. I am  
definitely a fan of the breed!"*

*Mae Pinniger*

## **Update on Rill's Gaelic Wafer** **aka "Abby"**

Rill's Gaelic Wafer was ridden by a 12 yr old girl called Cassidy this past summer (see awards page). They competed in a local schooling series where she came home with Champion in the hack division. She also attended a 1 day show bringing home all the red ribbons. "Abby" is loved by all who meet her and everyone requests to ride her in their lessons.

by Grace O'Driscoll

***pictured here is Tara O'Driscoll who won championship of the pony hack division while Cassidy was the champion of the beginner rider series.***



## **Attention CCPS Members**

The Prairie Region has saddlepads for sale with a logo suitable for all Canadian Connemaras;

All Purpose 1. All white no cording (a bit smaller size) photo attached

2. White with Dark Navy/White Cording (standard horse size) (similar to white dressage pad)

3. Black with Black/Gold/White Cording (standard horse size) (same as dressage photo)

Dressage 1. White with Black/Silver/White Cording (standard horse size) photo attached

2. Black with Black/Gold/White Cording (standard horse size) photo attached

\$45 each plus postage.

When you place your order we will take it to find out the best rate for postage and let you know. Then you can pay by e transfer (quickest method) or by cheque made out to Elan Priddy.

Elsie Priddy de.priddy@sasktel.net  
Prairie Region  
Canadian Connemara Pony Society





## **Membership Information- Annual Renewals are due Jan 1, 2016!**

**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](http://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](mailto:rpdoner@sympatico.ca)

I need the text in word format ( 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-
Member		
Text only ad ( 1 pony)	free	\$10
Text only (2 ponies)	free	\$17
Text only (3 ponies +)	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  
8512 Ballenas Place  
Sidney, BC  
V8L 4Y9**

## **Fee Schedule**

<b>Temporary Registrations</b>	Member	Non-Member
Fillies and Colts ( includes DNA) <b>up to 6 months after date of birth</b>	\$80	\$160
Fillies and Colts (includes DNA) <b>over 6 months after date of birth</b>	\$100	\$200

### **Permanent Registrations**

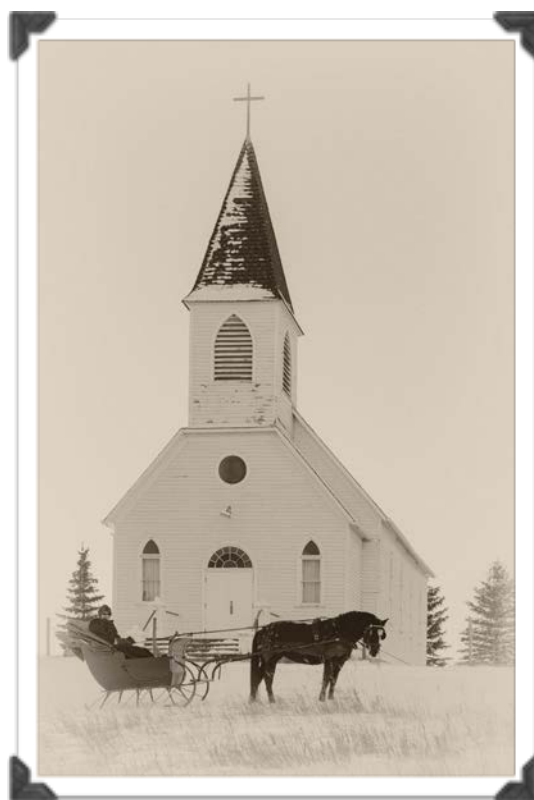
<u>Geldings and Halfbreds</u>	\$30	\$60
Up to June 30 of the year following year of birth		
After June 30th of the year following year of birth	\$40	\$80
Stallion Registration	\$250	\$500
Fillies over two years of age	\$25	\$50

### **Transfers**

Within 6months of date of sale	\$25	\$50
Over 6 months from date of sale	\$40	\$80
Duplicate Certificates	\$25	

### **Other**

Herd/Farm Prefix	\$25	
go to	<a href="http://www.clrc.ca/34fees.pdf">http://www.clrc.ca/34fees.pdf</a>	



**Cyndie Adams-Crook out for an old time cutter ride with "Desaronna"**

## **Presidents address** *continued from page 1*

welfare issue. Ponies that carry one copy of this gene remain valuable members of their breed, and show no signs of the disorder. Stallions and mares that are carriers are incredibly valuable to the worldwide herd. They carry irreplaceable bloodlines that the Connemara can ill afford to lose. The Connemara gene pool has a narrow base and we need to protect what we have to continue to produce ponies for future generations of riders.

There has been a demand for part breds, to get the best of both worlds, larger animals with athletic ability and good sound pony minds and bodies. We are looking forward to expanding the registry in the future to a Connemara Sport division with 25% Connemara blood and registration of

half bred stallions. This won't affect the purebred registry, as such, the Sport division will be a separate entity. Hopefully we will in the subsequent years see more Connemara blood in the elite sporting ranks.

Please join us in these initiatives and if you have ideas and concerns, contact any of the board members, myself included. They are all "lifers" with the Connemara, and dedicated to the breed and its future welfare. The interest and involvement of the membership is the measure of the vitality of the organization. We need you. The Connemara Pony needs you too! Visit our website and learn more about Connemaras in Canada...  
[www.canadianconnemara.org](http://www.canadianconnemara.org)

Susan MacDougall



Caraway Dairing Romance and Caraway Quimbeau (yearling part breds from Caraway Farm) and Badger the dog remind us that spring is just around the corner!

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](http://www.canadianconnemara.org)

### **CCPS Board & Committee Chairs**

#### **Directors:**

Susan MacDougall (Pacific) President  
(2014-2016) [susanmac@uniserve.com](mailto:susanmac@uniserve.com)

Scott Longmire (Central) Vice-President (2013-2015)  
[longwyn1@gmail.com](mailto:longwyn1@gmail.com)

Elsie Priddy (Prairies) Secretary/  
Treasurer (2014-2016)  
[de.priddy@sasktel.net](mailto: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 – Vacant

Performance Awards – Shirley Sauve

Promotions – Susan MacDougall

Registrations – Jocelyn Davies

Website – Penny Huggons

