CANADIAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



2019 is here and well under way. Connemara babies are being born, breeding decisions are being made and it is an active time for our "keepers of the Connemara". The Connemara has an important birthright, a lineage that has been recorded since 1923. At that time, breeding stock was carefully selected to reflect the heritage and needs of the native pony and their guardians. They did a superb job, and because of their foresight we have the wonderful pony that exists today. We are the custodians for what happens in the next generations. We need to support those early initiatives to preserve the breed by registering all our herd stock. Full registration allows future generations to study and evaluate pedigree choices. It allows a timeline in the world herd to be viewed, and with the ease of getting photographs can provide valuable insight into how the choices breeders have made affect the future health and safekeeping of the breed. Full recorded pedigrees can help trace future genetic issues. Without the complete knowledge of bloodlines, HWSD may still be seriously affecting the herd book. Recordation of pedigrees and the updating of the subsequent paperwork can help people keep a geographical awareness of where their breeding stock ends up. This could save lives of valuable ponies. Please, if you are breeding ponies, buying ponies, ensure that all registration documents are available and up to date. This way, there will be no doubt about proof of ownership, as the pony has its identity recorded. Do it for your love of the Connemara Pony!



Lus na bPog/Sean MacLochlainn Broodmare Award

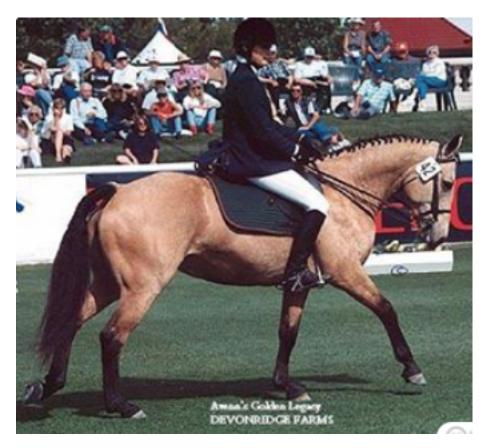
This award was donated by Tom and Maire MacLochlainn of the Ashbrook Stud, Co. Galway, and Doris Jacobi of Avilion Gleann Farm, Alberta.

This is a lifetime award to honour a broodmare that has contributed to the Connemara breed in Canada through her purebred offspring.

Tom's father, Sean MacLochlainn, a well known connemara breeder in Ireland, owned the broodmare Lus na bPog. One of her daughters, Ciotog, was exported to Montana in 1966, and it was her daughter by Ruta Raitna, Avenns Golden Ruby, who was imported to Canada by Doris Jacobi as one of her foundation mares.

This award is to be given to honour broodmares who carry on the tradition of these original imports to Canada who not only had many generations of offspring but competed and promoted the breed as well.

Winner of the award for 2018



It is fitting that this lovely mare is the 2018 winner of the broodmare award. She is a direct descendant of Avenns Golden Ruby.

2018 CCPS Foundation Broodmare Award. The worthy recipient is AVENNS GOLDEN LEGACY, the foundation brood mare for Jocelyn Davies' farm, Devon Ridge Connemaras in Alberta.

Legacy is a 14.3 buckskin mare, bred by Doris Jacobi in 1990. She is by Lynfields Cormac MacCarthy and out of a Doris' Brood mare award recipient, Avenns Golden Ruby. https://www.allbreedpedigree.com/avenns+golden+legacy

She has produced 10 outstanding fillies, 3 of which are still at Devon Ridge. 2 have been awarded Premium status and 6 are inspected and approved.

She has had a positive influence on the breed and her legacy will live on in her many offspring.

Devon Ridge Magnolia f 1995 by Bally's Friar Tuck
DR Reagan by Bien Mallin's Little Ben
DR. Rapunzel by Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan
DR Rumplestiltskin by *Fairyhill Hawk
DR Doodle Daddy by Bantry Bays Dillon

Devon Ridge Goldana 1998 halfbred by Wodan 2001 part bred by Dillon D'Artagnon 2007 g by Snowy River Born to Shine VDH 2006 f by Oxford

Devon Ridge Benita 1999 DR Da Vinci 2002 by Dillon DR Nuala 2003 by Dillon

Devon Ridge Rhiannon. 2001

DR Snow Goose g by *Fairyhill Hawk Devon Ridge Rolls Royce g by *Fairyhill Hawk

Devon Ridge Rhapsody 2002

Devon Ridge Golden Treasure 2003 by Dillon
Rill's Hot Sauce g by *Hohnhorst Branni
Rill's Prospector g by Century Hills Aedan
Rill's Richochet 2013 g by *Hohnhorst Branni
Devon Ridge 2015 f by *Hohnhorst Branni
Devon's 2018 halfbred ISH

Devon Ridge Fantasia. 2004 by Dillon Advent Hill Orla f by Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan

Devon's My Fair Lady. 2005

Devon Ridge Mercedes 2006

DR Irish Dublin g by Dillon
2015 colt by Elphin Malachite
Devon Ridge Chloe Thunderbird 2016 f by Elphin Malachite
2018 colt by Dillon

Devon Ridge Mini Mouse. 2012 filly by Devon Ridge Dundee



Here's a photo of Keji or Kimbles Yer Man (2009), bred by Shirley Sauve by Avenns Kimble Wind out of TB Miss Tiki Regent. We are at a fun day Working Equitation clinic practising some typical obstacles having gone through the gate, over a bridge, through some slalom poles and now I'm about to pick up a jug on the barrel. Keji was Reserve Champion for the Island-wide Equinety dressage series in 2018, Training Level, Senior division.

Cheers, Jennifer Brownlow



2018 Transfers

Devon Ridge Cinnamon Twist sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce Grove AB to Marilee Moss, Stonewall MB Devon Ridge Dalwhinnie sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce Grove AB to Gwyneth Jones, Herndon VA USA Faerietale Valentine sold by Hope MacIntyre & Joy Rea, Westlock AB to Rachel Davies, Elie MB Devon Ridge Oliver Twist sold by Becky Labossiere, Dunrea MB to Jocelyn Davies, Spruce Grove AB Rising Sun Fidel sold by Hope MacIntyre & Joy Rea, Westlock AB to Misty Underwood, Edmonton AB Elphin Michaelmas Daisy sold by Heather Sherratt, Sherbrooke QC to Laura Galbraith & Mark Sharpe, Ariss ON MLC Banriona Victoria sold by Glenda Goddard, Gravenhurst ON to Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON MLC Invictus sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Shannon Sullivan, MD USA MLC Belfast Benediction sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Carolyne Blanchet, Quesnel BC MLC Gold Standard sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Sandra Zylstra, Bracebridge ON MLC Don Ruiari sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Kim Denton, Plattsburgh NY USA MLC As You Wish sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Theresa Shelley, Lompoc CA USA MLC Irish Solstice sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Theresa Shelley Lompoc CA USA MLC Van Helsing sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Karlin Eckberg WA USA MLC The Duke of Sussex sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Karlin Eckberg WA USA MLC Northern Sprite sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Sandra Zylstra Bracebridge ON Tollgate Balius Conquest sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON to Sandra Zylstra Bracebridge ON

2018 CCPS AWARD RESULTS

PERPETUAL PERFORMANCE AND IN-HAND AWARDS

PUREBRED – GET SMART

Sire: Wyldwych Eclipse Dam: Fairy Hill Queen

OWNER: TONYA CUMMINS-AMATO

HALFBRED – KIMBLES YER MAN

Sire: Avenns Kimble Wind Dam: Miss Tiki Regent (TB)

OWNER: JENNIFER BROWNLOW

LYNDFIELDS CORMAC MACCARTHY WESTERN PERFORMANCE AWARD

KIMBLES MAY BLOOM – OWNER: SHIRLEY SAUVE

Sire: Avenns Kimble Wind Dam: Crickett Arrow (QH)

HIGH POINT AWARD

GET SMART – OWNER: TONYA CUMMINS

Sire: Wyldwych Eclipse Dam: Fairy Hill Queen

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

GET SMART – OWNER: TONYA CUMMINS SILVER MEDAL IN THIRD LEVEL DRESSAGE

KIMBLES YER MAN – OWNER: JENNIFER BROWNLOW CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN TRAINING LEVEL DRESSAGE BRONZE MEDAL IN TRAINING LEVEL DRESSAGE

FIONTAR MACTYRE – OWNER: JANET ROWE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN TRAINING LEVEL DRESSAGE BRONZE MEDAL IN TRAINING LEVEL DRESSAGE SILVER MEDAL IN TRAINING LEVEL DRESSAGE

CARAWAY POPPY – OWNER: CHRISTINE CAREY SILVER MEDAL IN HORSE TRIALS ENTRY LEVEL

MLC BELFAST ELYSIUM – OWNER: JANET ROWE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN WALK TROT DRESSAGE

DEVON RIDGE HARRIS HAWK - OWNER LEZAH WILLIAMSON SILVER MEDAL IN JUMPER

KIMBLES MAY BLOOM – OWNER: SHIRLEY SAUVE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN WESTERN



ACPS Region 1 Connemara Breed Show

By Tracy Dopko Photographs by Spectrum Photography

I was asked to judge the 52nd Annual ACPS Region 1 Connemara Breed Show over the weekend of July 21-22, 2018 in South Woodstock, Vermont. The show was held at the wonderful Green Mountain Horse Association show grounds. A spectacular view of the mountainside, fabulous weather and an organized show committee helped make this show a success.

Approximately 40 ponies took part in the show which included 27 purebred and halfbred Connemaras. Exhibitors were able to compete in halter, hunters, jumpers, dressage, trail, english pleasure, kids classes, showmanship and in hand trail classes. The show also offered fabulous prizes and trophies for Connemara competitors. Many of the classes had a large turnout, with 12 entries in the junior showmanship and 15 or more entries in the hunter and jumper classes. The Connemara in hand classes also had a great turnout, with 11 purebred Connemara mares being shown in the 5 & over mares class.



The Connemara Youngstock Championship went to a lovely yearling filly, Trout Ranch Muse. Muse is by Trout Ranch Malarkey, a Prix St. Georges dressage Connemara stallion and out of the Premium ACPS mare New Song's Autumn by Exmoor Irish Jack and was bred by Linda Haines of Trout Ranch Connemaras, in Northfield, New Hampshire. This filly had a lovely topline, correct movement and a wonderful temperament.

The winner of the 3-year-old purebred mare class went to Trout Ranch Polly Claire, also bred by Linda Haines and owned by Christine Kelton of New York. Polly Claire is by the Premium ACPS stallion *Smaragaid Cliff and out of New Song's Autumn by Exmoor Irish Jack and is a half-sister to my Youngstock Champion, Trout Ranch Muse. It was impossible to find something I did not like about this young mare. She had a gorgeous topline, good bone, and correct, powerful



movement. This lovely mare also went on to win the Champion Connemara Mare In Hand and the overall Champion Connemara In Hand award. I was later told that Trout Ranch Polly Claire was the Youngstock Champion at this show last year.

The Reserve Champion Connemara Mare and Overall Reserve Champion Connemara went to the 10- year-old Wintervale Mayblossom by Morning Glory's Ilyushin and out of Wintervale Calliope by *Chiltern Colm. Mayblossom was bred by Caroline Nesbitt of Wintervale Farm in North Sandwich, New Hampshire. This lovely bay was a very well-built, sturdy mare with correct gaits and good bone.



The Champion Connemara Gelding award had a Canadian connection. The Championship went to Windy Hollow Tamarack, a 3-year-old by Aluinn Durango and out of Caraway Gilly by Irish Park Caraway Finn. Tamarack was a lovely, typey gelding with good movement and was well turned out for the show ring. Reserve Champion Gelding went to Cybatina Cian O'Cham, a 14-year-old by Annilaun Oscar out of Concord River Chamois by *Chiltern Colm and owned by Cynthia

Richard. O'Cham also performed well in the performance divisions over the weekend.

The Halfbred Connemara In Hand Championship was awarded to Durango's Irish Rose, a young mare bred by Jordan Laplaca and owned by Elizabeth Oellers. Irish Rose is by Aluinn Durango and out of a Thoroughbred mare named Say-So. She was also the In Hand Champion at this same show last year. The Reserve Championship Partbred Connemara award went to Tricreek Benen Angus, bred and owned by Triple Creek Farm.



The Overall Halfbred High Point Award (in hand & performance) went to Caledonia's Lucky Clover bred by Caledonia Farm. Lucky Clover is by the Thoroughbred stallion Nojoshing and out of the Connemara mare Hideaway Sithereen's Girl by Hideaway's Erin Smithereen. I was once again informed after the show that Caledonia's Lucky Clover had won this award last year as well.

The Get of Sire class was won by the offspring of Morning Glory's Ilyushin. Wintervale Mayblossom and Wintervale Hollywood (out of Wintervale Phoebe by Aladdin's Denver) represented their sire well, placing 1st and 2nd respectively in their large 5 & over Purebred Connemara mare class. The Produce of Dam class was won by Trout Ranch Polly Claire and Trout Ranch Muse who represented their dam, New Song's Autumn.



The Grand Champion Connemara (in hand & performance) and Sue Dexter Memorial Versatility Award were won by Trout Ranch Whimsey, who also has a Canadian connection. Whimsey is owned and shown by Julia Latham and was bred by Linda Haines of Trout Ranch and is by Trout Ranch Malarkey and out of ACPS Premium mare Elphin Kookaburra by Maplehurst Michael MacDaire.

The versatility award is open to both purebred and partbred Connemaras. Points are awarded for competing in trail, english pleasure, hunter, jumper and dressage. Whimsey was a lovely, athletic mare who placed third in her 5 & over mare class and went on to win several of her hunter, jumper and under saddle classes. Her wonderful temperament and training shone through in every class. Julia and Whimsey were also winners of the ACPS Region I Junior Championship, which is awarded to the junior accumulating the most points in three performance classes and junior showmanship. Additionally, this pair also won the Brenda Martin Award for top Junior Handler and the Junior High Point Award for Dressage. Whimsey and Julia are no stranger to the winner's circle, having won several of these awards in past show years. I wish I had brought a suitcase big enough to take this mare home in!

Devon Ridge Harris Hawk, 2018



2018 has been another busy year for Devon Ridge Harris Hawk (Fairyhill Hawk x Devon Ridge Dreams Come True, by Rory O'Sullivan). The show season started off a little slow due to Eve's school and work commitments, which meant a few so-so shows early in the year, but soon things were galloping along smoothly.

The highlight of Eve and Harris's year together was when they were once again awarded the Indoor Eventing Championship at the PNE in August. They also started doing a little more dressage together, and had some good percentages at the Southlands Dressage Show in the new pony division.

Once again, Eve generously 'loaned' Harris out to others, a few times to Devon, who is 9 – she first used Harris for a medals clinic in May, then later rode Harris in a dressage demo at the PNE in August, and in September, she rode Harris in the Pony Club Dressage Championships at Training level, where they ended up Reserve Champions in the division, with Devon being the only rider in the D levels who competed in this higher level section. Also that same month, Harris was one of the pool ponies for the 2019 IMGE Team Canada selection trials. He really gave some of the riders a run for their money!

I also ended up riding Harris in a few shows since Eve was so tied up at work – we had a big weekend in early August with a dressage show on the Saturday, then a jumper show on the Sunday. The dressage show had sold out, and unfortunately, a student of mine ended up on the waitlist. Later he was granted a last minute spot, but had no trailering arranged, so I agreed to help out. His times didn't match up well with mine, so I arranged for my husband to haul Harris to the show a little later in the day. Everything went sideways when my husband slept in, which meant a lot of last minute racing around. I didn't think I'd make my time, but ended up setting a world record for tacking up, while Harris's warm up consisted of him trotting from the parking lot to the competition ring. We made it with two minutes to spare, went straight in, and he did a great test, ultimately winning that class as well as the next against all the horses. We came home with Reserve Champion. The next day we were off to the big Southlands Hunter Jumper Show; it was my first time in the jumper ring in over a decade, and again Harris did not disappoint. We won our jump off class, and were third in the match the clock class (I thought we were going so FAST! Apparently the clock disagreed). And finally, at the end of the season, on a whim I threw him in the trailer,

mud and all, and we placed first in both our in hunter classes at the November Thunderbird Gateway Show.

But probably the best thing that happened last year was that we had the opportunity to get some body work done on him, which we hadn't ever done before. His initial assessment showed fantastic results, with 100% (or very close to) range of motion in all his major leg joints, and practically no muscle issues anywhere in his body. The assessor attributed his superior results in part to our training/conditioning program, but also to his great conformation. So, continued rideability and longevity are looking good for the long-term!

Elodon Connemaras - Saskatchewan

In 2018 we welcomed our first foal by Elodon Merlin out of Castlebar Gaelic. Elodon Sir Doolin surprised us and I think his mother, by being the largest foal we have had so far. He is now well on his way to being a large pony, perhaps oversize. I'm sure that someone looking for this size will be thrilled with this handsome grey gelding. Though we didn't show in 2018 the ponies kept us busy trail riding and in our new sport of polocrosse. It has been extremely fun, enabled us to compete as a family, make many new friends and more fans for the Connemaras. I hope and believe polocrosse will continue to spread as it is now introduced in many pony clubs across the world. The Connemaras take to it very well and as a bonus the sport is extremely enjoyed by boys and men which is a lovely way to keep them engaged in riding. This past winter was brutal but our passionate polocrosse people braved the arctic deep freeze in February to put on a demonstration two nights at the Saskatchewan Equine Expo. Three Connemaras, Elodon Earl Grey, Elodon Callahan and Elodon Dara, and their riders, did an excellent job, promoting both the sport and their breed! Have a great 2019 everyone! Elsie Priddy



Caraway Connemaras

We presently have 5 purebred connemaras on the farm and 2 part breds. There are the 3 retired 'oldies', Finn, Plum and Ting who live together in harmony and contentment, munching and wandering the days away! One slightly less aged mare, Cricket, who is my main riding pony, and Pommie, the delightful 2017 filly out of Ting and by Branni. The two part breds are Fling, by Finn and out of Romantic Fanfare (tb x han aka Flea) and Jamberry, by Branni and also out of Flea.

Hilary has been riding Fling as much as possible through the winter and they hope to enter a few events this summer. Fling is a lovely mare with lots of potential and they have been progressing well under the tutelage of Claudia Iannuccilli. Claudia bought Caraway Quimbeau from us last fall (Beaulieu's Quissini x Stonybrook Irish Creme) and has high hopes for his future. We are very happy to see him in such capable hands and to have him close to home. Claudia also events Major Chase, a part bred connemara by Finn and out of a tb mare. They completed their first preliminary level events in 2018 and plan to go Intermediate this year.

The tragedy of the year was losing our beautiful and talented Caraway Poppy (Finn x Stonybrook Irish Creme).. she had been leased out to a new young rider and was to eventually come home to be a broodmare, but fate had other plans for her. She will always be greatly missed and mourned by many people . There will never been another pony quite like her.

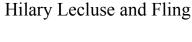


On a brighter note we bought back Jamberry. She had been sold as a foal with her dam, Flea and subsequently bought by Tonya Cummins who did a great job with getting her started. When she came up for sale we decided to bring her home. She is a typical Branni baby... super easy going! And quite lovely too..

Finn - Irish Park Caraway Finn (Hideaways Sebastian x Avenns Cayley Windsong)
Plum - *Wensum Plum (Hearnesbrook Fastnet x Wensum Honeydew)
Ting - * Hearnesbrook Shooting Star (Hearnesbrook Halley x Pilgims Mistral)
Cricket - Wildwych Cricket (Glenormiston Flurry Knox x Tower Hills Fiona)
Pommie - Caraway Pomegranate (*Hohnhorst Branni x Hearnesbrook Shooting Star Fling. - Caraway Romantic Fling (Irish Park Caraway Finn x Romantic Fanfare)
Jamberry - Caraway Jamberry (*Hohnhorst Branni x Romantic Fanfare)

We also have a tb mare, Wendy and the boys' mini, Pickles.

Finn, Plum and Ting, the beautiful old timers.





This is Ravenwood Bay Ruari out of a Welsh/TB mare Zara by Bantry Bay Dillon. I backed him as a late 2yr old November 2017. This past year he has been getting used to traffic, leading around the block (2 miles).

Then riding him with my dog and kids on bikes in tow.

Lots of trail riding, up and down hills and bushwacking.

Went to a camp in October and we had our first lesson!

Also rode bareback a bit too.



He took everything in stride!

This Winter he has been turned out in a big field with a couple of other horses, galloping around and being "a kid".

Thank you,

Ruth Moore.





Canadian Connemara Pony Society

Jump for Joy Training Centre

Dear connemara family

Hope all is well. I have had the most amazing year with my Get Smart stallion. The season started off with welcoming into the world two beautiful Get Smart babies from my Oldenburg and Dutch warmblood mares. The first one being a handsome palomino

colt and the second being a very flashy buckskin pinto filly! Then we received news that Teddy O'Connor half sister and Get Smart produced a beautiful bouncing palomino colt in Kentucky!!! We started our show season competing at training level eventing but quickly moved up to preliminary with a little encouragement from my husband (ok maybe a lot of encouragement, lol). We also showed in recognized 3rd level dressage! (First time for me but Smartie let's me believe we can do anything!) Mid summer I was offered a partnership by Antares Saddlery to ride in an monoflap juming saddle to help promote Antares in the world of eventing.









Canadian Connemara Pony Society



Antares is well known in the hunter/jumper and dressage world but not so much in eventing. Both my husband Andy Amato and I currently ride in Antares dressage saddles and Andy also jumps in an Antares monoflap so it was such an honor and good fit because we love the design and comfort of this brand of saddle. Smartie and I were custom fit and received this beautiful saddle at the Royal Winter Fair last November!! I cant wait to compete in it and show it off this year. Thanks Antares.

Also mid summer I recieved a phone call from author Tracy Hanes asking if she could include Get Smart and myself in a article she was putting together for Horse Sport magazine about adult amateur's riding smaller horses! It was a super exciting interview and when the article was published in October not only was a picture of Smartie jumping a huge preliminary corner jump in it but we also made the front cover!!! We ended the year on a high note winning National Dressage Pony Cup for 3rd level dressage with an average score of 71.24%!!!!!!! Get Smart was Reserve Champion in our local recognized dressage branch for 3rd level as well. He was 4th overall at Training level eventing and 7th at Preliminary level (my husband came 1st with his half connemara named "Superman") all in 2018! I have won more with this beautiful golden unicorn than I have ever won in my 40 plus years of riding all because of LOVE! Not only does he excite me for what the future brings in competition but I cant wait to start his babies in the show world. I have two 2 year olds that I will be lightly started this summer and two for next year. And two in utero due this summer. All my broodmares have super show records, are sound beautiful movers with no health issues or vices. Only the best for the best!

I also take great joy watching other Smartie babies grow up from client mares or people who have purchased a Smartie baby. The oldest are 3 this year. Our clients kindly keep us posted with pictures and videos as they grow and learn.

The 2018 breeding season had us shipping semen across Ontario and into the USA. We also collect and do A.I. on the farm so some mares come right to us. Smartie covered a large selection of mares ranging in size and breed from 12 hh Welsh to 17.2 warmblood with many beautiful TB's in between.

We are looking forward to 2019 and hope to read all your stories in the Canadian Connemara Pony Society Newsletter. Cheers from Jump 4 Joy Training Centre-Tonya, Andy and Addison

Happy Spring from Ballencrieff Connemara Pony Farm

Hopefully Spring IS coming soon! We actually had some winter here in Victoria over the last few weeks -2 feet of snow! We are not used to this white stuff that must be shovelled but the ponies seem to take it all in stride.

Lacey (Ballencrieff's Winter Lace) left for Devon Ridge Farm last spring and is now in foal to the lovely bay stallion *Patty's Etoile de Paris (known as Casper). Bruce and I went for a visit to Jocelyn's farm the previous summer and met Casper. I was very impressed with his wonderful, calm temperament as well as his handsome good looks! Lacey's foal is expected around the middle of June. We hope to take a road trip out that way to see the foal in the summer.

We moved Honey (*Aille Ivory) to a private farm last year where there are only 3 other horses, great care, huge paddocks and lots of pasture time. The farm is only 5 minutes away from my daughter, Kenzie, and 15 min from me so everyone is very happy. Honey is still doing really well - coming 32 yrs this Spring. We still take her out for a trail ride occasionally and she runs around the field with the others horses like she's 5 yrs old. Her winter hair seems to get a little longer each year and her back drops a little lower but she's happy and healthy and we love her to bits.

Don't forget to check out the March issue of Horse Illustrated. Apparently the Connemara Pony is the featured breed!

KEEP CALM AND CANTER ON!

All the best to you and your ponies for 2019!

Margot Watson Ballencrieff Connemaras



*Patty's Etoile de Paris

Ballencrieff's Winter Lace



Honey last Spring at almost 31 yrs. After a body clip! (Note the beard and leg warmers!)

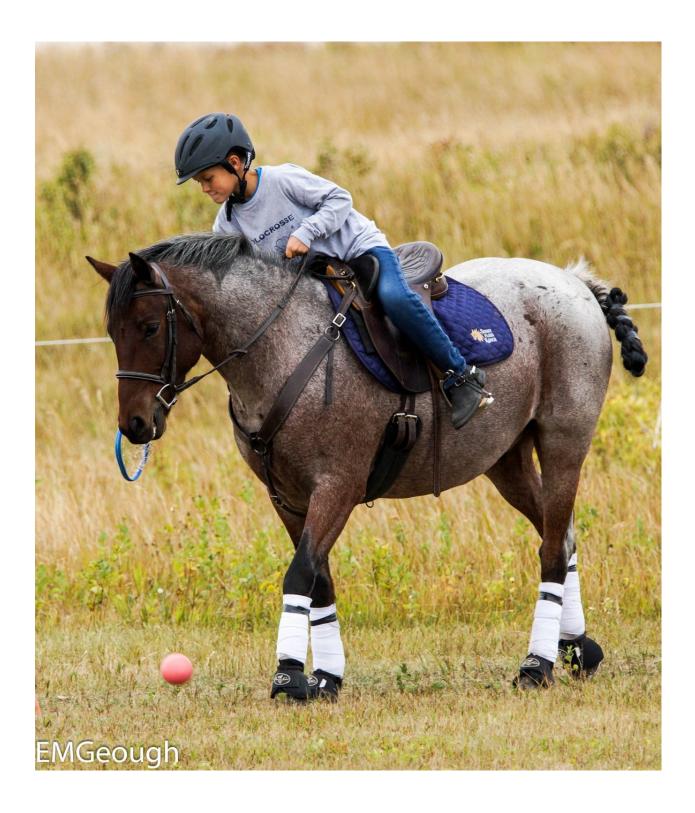
Here's some professional photos of my lovely pony Elodon Callahan. He is fun in Polocrosse. For myself Gayle Smith and my 9 yo grandson Davin Lalonde.







Canadian Connemara Pony Society



Catherine McCullagh - My Tribute To A Very Special Lady



Submitted by Jeannie Walsh.

When Susan mentioned plans for a Spring Newsletter, Catherine McCullagh immediately came to mind, as someone who deserves to be recognized in our breed paper. Much of the growth and increased knowledge of Connemaras in Manitoba can be attributed to Catherine. She used two Connemaras in her lesson program; a 13.2hh gelding named Out-Of-The-Blue and Kestrel Fair's May

Girl, a 14-1-1/2hh mare. Catherine promoted her Connemaras strongly, ensuring that they were shown by students in Pony Club classes and Manitoba Hunter Jumper Association Shows.



Catherine was enthusiastic about Connemaras and told others about the breed. I once had someone say to me: "Every time I see Catherine, she starts raving about a Pony that she has named May Girl - and then she tells me about what classes she has just been and what she won. If Catherine says that these Connemaras are wonderful, I'm going to have to check them out! I have a daughter who will be ready to ride in a few years."

Because of Catherine's stellar reputation as a Coach and honest horsewoman, possessing integrity, I couldn't have sought a more desirable ally.

We lost this beautiful person on December 12, 2018, when Catherine conceded to a long and very hard-fought battle with stage four ovarian cancer. Many hearts broke on that day and mine was one of them.

Catherine had an amazing ability to receive a lot of joy from making other people happy. I remember standing on the rails at Birds Hill Park and sitting on the edge of my seat, at the Royal Winter Fair in Brandon, eagerly waiting for a Connemara to enter the ring. When a Connemara did appear in the show ring, Catherine would glance over at me and smile - and then chuckle at my excitement. When the pony cleared a more difficult jump, or was scooting around the ring in a timed event, with Catherine's youngest son, Kieran aboard, Catherine would again look over at me, smile and release a happy laugh. I could see how much pleasure it gave her, just to see the delight on my face.

I first met Catherine McCullagh, when she took Kestrel Fair's May Girl from me, on a two week trial. Happily, Catherine was agreeable to the idea that I "came with" the filly. Being in my sixties sporting a bar of metal in my back, and two damaged legs that are a legacy from a boating accident at age thirteen ... I wasn't a prime candidate for English riding!! Catherine overlooked these things and was willing to give me a chance to ride. I couldn't climb the mounting block, so my method was to go on my knees and pull myself up each level, then wiggle across the top level and slide onto Floki. Catherine's smile was unwavering. She held Floki's reins and waited patiently for me to get aboard. Following wtc on the lunge line, Catherine said: "Pfft! You will be fine." I thought to myself: "Yeah. Pfft! I'll be fine!" And I was fine. Catherine soon had my riding partner Fran and I regularly jumping grids at 2.3" and I even mustered a 2.6" jump, when Catherine added it into the mix. I was later to learn that others with mental and physical challenges like myself, had also been accepted as students by Catherine in the past. I wasn't surprised to learn this!

A favourite picture of mine was taken at the Spring Classic at Birds Hill Park one year. Kieran is seated on May Girl and William Wainwright is mounted on Drogheda Captain Cricket. Two boys on two Connemara ponies. What could be better? Both ponies were sporting coolers, as Kieran and Will had taken First and Reserve Pony Club Champion for the weekend. The Spring Classic show itself, came about, as a result of an idea that Catherine had, of twinning Pony Club with Manitoba Hunter/ Jumper Association, for a show in early May. This was a great success and each year this continues to be a popular and fun show. Pony Club is able to benefit, by operating a fund-raising canteen at this busy show. The Pony Clubbers are also able to get their feet wet, by entering some of the MHJA classes. Brilliant!

At one point the largest Pony Club in Manitoba was run out of Quarry Ridge Farm. With Catherine as Head Coach, this Pony Club had a peak of 41 riders at one point. Catherine squeezed in as many youngsters as possible, as she believed that all children should have the benefit of horses in their lives. A string of lesson ponies and horses was maintained by Catherine for this purpose. Her lesson fees didn't match the quality of her top-notch Jumping Program. Boarders and haul-ins also benefited from

Catherine's excellent Coaching skills. Each year saw a list of at least twenty Pony Club hopefuls and there was a similar list of Boarders, who were hoping to get into Quarry Ridge Farm.

Mae Pinniger was matched with May Girl. Under Catherine's expert guidance, this pair known as The May Girls went on to further demonstrate what Connemaras have to offer. Amazing, that in their first year of showing, as a green rider on a green pony, they placed sixth against 26 experienced, mostly horses, in an Evergreen class. This was at Heart of the Continent; MHJA's largest show of the year, which draws a lot of competition from out-of-Province. A perfect show for drawing attention to our breed. This one class alone had folks in the stands sitting up and taking notice of a young lady on a grey pony. I overheard someone say "I really like that little grey. I wonder what breed it is?" I was very pleased and proud, to be able to turn around and tell (as many as I hoped might hear) that the pony is a Connemara. In many thoughtful ways, Catherine allowed me a part of May Girl's journey to becoming a very good, seasoned show pony.

When my son Chris moved home, Catherine suggested that I should bring him to the barn. This resulted in Chris being offered a job. And so we both became a part of the special Quarry Ridge barn family. Nearly six years later, cleaning stalls has been expanded to include a wide variety of jobs around the farm. Catherine received enjoyment from developing her multi-tasking Stable Hand. This resulted in a devoted, fiercely loyal employee. While on a family holiday to Arizona, Catherine bought a knife for Chris to use, when cutting binder twine. Catherine had the knife engraved with Chris's name. A lovely riding helmet was also produced from a box and given to Chris. Catherine wanted to get Chris back into-the-saddle and was very excited at the prospect. I have no doubt that talking him into going into the show ring with other Quarry Ridge riders was a part of Catherine's "plan." Much as she really hoped to, her energy level was compromised and this idea just couldn't be realized. This helmet is wrapped in tissues and is lovingly tucked away in a corner of Chris's closet. Perhaps one day, but not yet.

** Chris likes to have details organized and very much in advance. So much so, that this earned him the name of "Mr. Planner" by Catherine, not all that long ago. This name will likely come to mind for me many times going forward - and I will remember with great fondness, the person who dubbed him as "Mr. Planner."

Catherine enjoyed developing her students and seeing them become better riders and horse people. Two years ago, after an eighteen year absence from the show ring, Catherine and Bart went into some MHJA classes - and ribboned! Catherine quipped: "I've still got it!"

Both sons are accomplished riders because of Catherine's training. Her eldest son Brennan qualified for and competed at The Royal in Toronto this past fall. Brennan went double-clear, to win the Under 25 Class, under the supervision of his Ontario Coach, Mac McQuaker. Catherine was able to watch this on live feed from the Toronto Royal, with family gathered around her. I'm so glad that she got to see Brennan's achievement.

Manitoba Hunter/Jumper Association acknowledged Catherine's strong support over the years as a competitor, Coach and Sponsor. For the past two years, Catherine sat as Chair on the Board for Manitoba Hunter/Jumper Association. This lady was always giving of her time and her talents and she genuinely cared about others.

Catherine McCullagh did much to put our breed on the map. Surely the name "Connemara" would not have been spread as well as it as been, were it not for Catherine getting them shown and out into the lime light. As Connemaras are an obsession of mine, I will carry gratitude in my heart for Catherine. I won't forget her thoughtfulness and many kindnesses to my son and I. All of these things will be remembered and kept in another place in my heart.

Catherine was an upbeat, positive and happy lady possessing a great sense of humour. Her beautiful smile lit up any setting. Chris and I always knew at horse shows when Catherine was in the area, because of her unmistakable, cheerful voice. Not surprisingly, Kurt addressed a standing room only crowd in a large venue, for Catherine's Evening of Celebration. Catherine told Kurt that we were all to have a good time and that we weren't all to be moping around. As an assurance, Catherine gave Kurt strict instructions that the famous Tequila Bar was to be set up.

"We' are here for a good time, not a long time."

Muskoka Lake Connemaras

2018 was another fun year for us here at Muskoka Lakes! Lots of riding and having fun with the ponies was the overall theme. I have taken over the ride on my wonderful stallion Finn (Fiontar Mac Tire) and we hit up some Gold dressage shows with great results! He is simply a one in a million boy and 2019 will see us dipping our toes in several disciplines. Look for us out eventing, fox hunting and playing more in the dressage sand box!

Foals all arrived safely in 2018 and were sold to fabulous homes. We kept the filly out of Premium Mare Brambleridge March Mayhem by Morning Glorys Ilyushin for a future broodmare. Two were sold as potential stallion prospects, one to WA and one to California.

On the stallion front we bought a bay colt in Denmark from Brigitte Gotske (Skaersgaarden Flash Night) that will be imported summer of 2019.



Yellow and Adonis at the Wellington Waterloo Wine Ride

He's a lovely well bred fellow with the Wirtesmuhle Delaneys bloodline and the incredible movement to boot. Lots of excitement about this guy!

Our imported Jr stallion MLC Tormod the Rebel by Crosskeys Rebel out of Pontoon Blondie (Maghera Fadda Lad) is maturing beautifully and is 3 this year. He will be off to collect and assess shortly so he can stand to a limited number of mares this season. It's been awesome to receive feedback from many breeders that he is a very welcome addition to the North American Connemara herd with such proven breeding for upper level mounts. Can't wait to see how he produces on!

The first foal of the 2019 season arrived March 29 and is a lovely TALL buckskin filly by Finn out of our wonderful MF Wake Up Little Susie. She is a keeper filly and this will be "Mamas" last foal for us. I've decided to retire her as she was a career broodmare till now (22) and will be living her days babysitting foals and being a happy hacker. Mamas family is EXTREMELY long lived and I hope to have her around for a long time yet being spoiled and earning her retirement time by eating and relaxing.

Looking forward to all things pony in 2019! All the best from Janet, Ted, Liam and Declan (and assorted corgis)



MLC Belfast Boundless by Fiontar MacTire out of MLC Belfast Elysium



Elphin Mayflower



MLC As You Wish by Morning Glorys Ilyushin out of Elphin Sandpiper



A big welcome to Frances Clark on becoming the new owner of Rills Manderlay. This lovely mare has recently moved from Jocelyn Davies of Devonridge Farms in Alberta to British Columbia.