



**Canadian Connemara Pony Society**

# Newsletter

*spring 2022*



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**Hennka**

registered as Caragh Gaoithe

*Submitted by* **Ingrid Hafke Bill,**  
Maxville, Ontario



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I AM HONORED to be your new president as of our AGM zoom meeting held this past November. Our meeting was well represented with members from all over Canada being able to check into the zoom meeting quite easily.

Technology seems to be the way of the future and although I miss us all getting together for our meeting, I have to say it is amazing that we can do this, and for that I am thankful.

Winter 2021/Spring 2022 still has us under the grips of this pandemic and one of the worst winters we've had in a few years. BC had it's floods, mudslides, avalanches which isolated western BC from the rest of Canada. It stopped transport for anything other than essential goods up til January. We had some colts waiting to go to BC and they were stranded here in Alberta for almost two additional months.

Alberta is definitely looking forward to spring after several weeks of extreme weather as is the rest of the country I am sure. We all need to look forward to the coming year, and the hope of new foals and hopefully

everyone can get out to some shows too!

Congrats to all the award recipients of 2021! Hopefully in 2022 we may be able to organize some inspections. I believe this is in the works and may be doable depending on numbers and of course covid restrictions.

As president, I look forward to helping our breeders, owners, and riders of our wonderful Connemaras succeed in the coming year in any way I can. I will also still be helping with the Connemara halfbred and purebred registration/administration assistance to the CLRC Registrar.

In the meantime, I wish all of you a great 2022.. happy riding, healthy foals, fertile mares and stallions and good weather to each and every one of you! Enjoy your ponies!

Best regards,

**Jocelyn Davies**

President – Canadian Connemara Pony Society

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welcome

## Welcome to our new members

**Ainsley MacLean**, Rocky Mountain House, AB

**Alison Exner**, Nelson, BC

**John Lowe** and **Mejken Lowe Greenwood**, Utah

**Ruth Almond**, Oro-Medonte, ON

**Colleen Lindsay-Druyff**, Port Dover, ON

**Darin & Kimberlee Labrenz**, Garibaldi Highlands, BC

**Carolyne Blanchet**, Quesnel, BC





# FOUNDATION BROODMARE *award*

Skyviews Triton x  
Starlight's Desert Rose

2006 Purebred  
Connemara Mare  
13.3 hh  
Perlino  
Hoof Wall Separation  
Disease (HWSD):  
HWSD/HWSD  
Squamous cell  
carcinoma (SCC): N/N



## Castlebar Gaelic

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELODON CONNEMARAS for being the recipient of the 2021 Foundation Broodmare Award for Castlebar Gaelic.

Bred in Ellenburg, Washington, Castlebar Gaelic joined Elodon Connemaras in July 2010. Cassie, as she is called at Elodon, is an exceptionally sweet and gentle mare – even for a Connemara. Cassie greets people at the gate with a nicker. She shares this trait with her foals, who all have her people-loving temperament. Other excellent qualities she passes along to her foals are her correct limbs, clean throatlatch, smooth neck to shoulder connection and well defined withers. Two of her daughters by Century Hills Aedan Zodiac, Elodon Riona and Elodon Dara, were inspected and approved by the CCPS in 2016. Elodon Riona scored particularly high and would have received CCPS premium status if she had met the CCPS requirement of having produced a registered purebred foal.

Cassie's legacy isn't limited to her offspring. Castlebar Gaelic was one of many ponies whose genetic and pedigree data was used by UC Davis during the development of the commercial test for HWSD.

### A closer look at Cassie's Pedigree

Cassie is by Skyview's Triton, an ACPS inspected and approved 14.3 hh palomino stallion. He currently stands at Dayton Ridge Farm in Wisconsin. Skyview's Triton is by Custusha's Cashel Rock, one of the west coast's most famous Connemara stallions. "Rocky," as he was affectionately known, won both the ACPS Hall of Fame Performance "An Tostal" and "Camlin" trophies as well as receiving ACPS gold medallions in hunter, jumper, dressage and combined training disciplines. Not just an athlete, Rocky was a prepotent sire as well – siring two ACPS premium stallions, Skyview's Orion (full brother to Skyview's Triton) and Cashel's Rock of Ages. He is also the grandsire of ACPS premium stallion, MGRM Brigadoon. As of September 2016, Custusha's Castle Rock is the first and only stallion to have two sons achieve ACPS premium stallion status. In 1990, Custusha's Castle Rock was commemorated as a Breyer Model horse, "Rocky, Champion Connemara Stallion."

Skyview's Triton's dam is Skyview's Lady Rigel. She is sired by Gilnocky Drumcliffe. Two of his offspring, Balius Kerry Blue and Ferdinand's Roxana, won the ACPS Hall of Fame Performance



"Camlin" Award. Interestingly Gilnocky Drumcliffe is mentioned in the book, Conservation Genetics of Endangered Horse Breeds, (EAAP Scientific Series, Volume 116, Editors: Imre Bodó, Lawrence Alderson and Bertrand Langlois, 2005) as the Connemara stallion with the lowest relationship to Irish dams (1.09%). Meaning that at the time of publishing, compared to every other registered Connemara stallion in the world, he offered the most genetic diversity to the CPBS. Despite this research, no action was ever taken to capitalise on this and to date no descendants of Gilnocky Drumcliffe have ever entered the CPBS studbook.

RBR Georgia Lady, the dam of Skyview's Lady Rigel, was sired by the ACPS Hall of Fame \*Tooreen Laddie Award winner, \*Montully Man. She is also the dam of RBR Patrice, another ACPS Hall of Fame Performance "Camlin" Award winner and dam of ACPS premiumstallion, MGRM Brigadoon.

Cassie's dam is the Alberta bred Starlight's Desert Rose. She is currently in the United States where she has been a wonderful children's pony.

Cassie's dam sire is Bien Mallin's Rory O'Sullivan. An ACPS Inspected and approved stallion, he proved himself an able competitor, winning many jumper championships throughout Western Canada. As a pony stallion, "Rory" was only eligible to compete in open jumper competitions. However his 13.3 hand height did not prevent his winning against much larger horses. At the Thunderbird Show Park during the 2006 BCHJA Fall Finals, he won the Level 1 jumper class out of 50 entries and before going on to win the 1.10 m \$1000 jumper classic, beating the closest time by almost 4 seconds. He then went on to earn the BCHJA year end high point championship for the 3'6" Jumper division. Rory also competed as a Connemara ambassador several times at the Spruce Meadows Masters Battle of the Breeds and was a member of the 2006 Connemara team who won the overall Championship title.

Winner of both the ACPS Hall of Fame Broodmare award and the CCPS Lus na bPog/Sean MacLochlainn Foundation Broodmare Award, \*Bar S Heather, (dam of Bien Mallins Rory O'Sullivan) was an exceptional mare. Bred in Ireland by Padraig Curran, she was imported to Alberta by the Chatterway family (Bar S Ranch) and later sold to Diane Bruce (Bien Mallin). Many of her foals proved to be quality breeding stock. Bar S Arrin Grey by Roundstone Oscar, became the dam of many good foals for the Knox family in Idaho and her two stallion sons, Bar S Tex and Bien Mallins Rory O'Sullivan who have sired many successful purebred and part-bred Connemaras competing in Canada and the United States.

## CASSIE'S OFFSPRING



### Elodon Riona

Century Hills Aedan Zodiac x Castlebar Gaelic  
2012 Purebred Connemara Mare  
13.3 hh Smokey black  
CCPS Inspected and approved  
Great moving pony with loads of breed type. Owned by Muskoka Lakes Connemaras in Ontario where she is bred for a 2022 foal.



### Elodon Dara

Century Hills Aedan Zodiac x Castlebar Gaelic  
2013 Purebred Connemara Mare  
14.1 hh Buckskin  
CCPS Inspected and approved  
Eye catching colour with movement to match. Has been retained at Elodon Connemaras as a riding pony and potential broodmare. Started over fences and plays "C" grade polocrosse.



## CASSIE'S OFFSPRING



### Elodon Connor

Century Hills Aedan Zodiac x Castlebar Gaelic  
2014 Purebred Connemara Gelding  
14.3 hh Heterozygous grey from buckskin  
Easy to work and used as a family pony  
in Saskatchewan.



### Elodon Zodiac

Century Hills Aedan Zodiac x Castlebar Gaelic  
2017 Purebred Connemara Stallion  
Estimated Mature height 14.0 hh Buckskin  
Standing as a stallion at Cool Springs Farm in Ohio. Just  
starting his performance career where his great temper-  
ament and expressive movement are evident. Elodon  
Zodiac has one purebred 2021 colt and expects two  
purebred foals in 2022.



### Elodon Sir Doolin

Elodon Merlin x Castlebar Gaelic  
2017 Purebred Connemara Gelding  
14.3 hh Heterozygous grey from buckskin  
Retained by Elodon Connemaras. Recently started  
under saddle. Very quick learner with loads of potential.

### Cool Springs Zander

Elodon Zodiac x Blue Ridge Cora  
2021 Purebred Connemara Colt  
Bay  
HWSD: N/N



## CASSIE'S OFFSPRING



### Elodon Lady Lia

Elodon Merlin x Castlebar Gaelic  
2019 Purebred Connemara Filly  
Estimated mature height 13.2hh  
Heterozygous grey from smokey black  
Currently located in B.C. where she has been purchased  
as a potential broodmare.



### Elodon Lady Orla

Elodon Merlin x Castlebar Gaelic  
Estimated mature height 14.1hh  
2021 Purebred Connemara Filly  
Buckskin  
Exceptionally put together pony. Being retained at  
Elodon Connemaras as a potential broodmare.

## 2022 CCPS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

DEAR CCPS MEMBERS AND COMPETITORS;

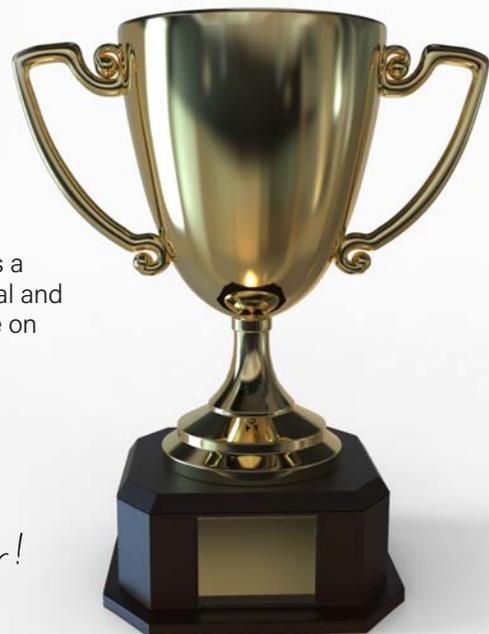
Hopefully we will be able to get back in the show ring this year! This is a friendly reminder to send in your show/competition results for the annual and perpetual year end awards. The eligibility criteria and forms are available on the CCPS website under the Society Tab, The Awards Program tab.

You can either mail them in:

Shirley Sauve, Box 2,  
53504 Range Road  
280, Spruce Grove, AB, T7X 3V6  
or email: [spequine@hotmail.com](mailto:spequine@hotmail.com).

*Thank you and have an enjoyable show year!*

Submitted by Shirley Save, CCPS Awards Chairperson





# ICCCPS

## THE O'MALLEY AWARD

THE INTERNATIONAL CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY comprises delegates from all countries with approved Connemara Societies. The board meets every year in Clifden (*The last 2 years it has been held on Zoom*).

One of their duties is to consider nominations for the O'Malley award. Michael J. O'Malley displayed initiative and passion for the breed back in 1911, before there was an official society. The award is given to someone (outside Ireland) who has selflessly promoted the Connemara pony during their lifetime. An approved daughter society may put forward a nomination each year.

Two years running the Canadian Society nominated un-sung heroes Jocelyn Davies and Penny Huggons for their work on Hoof Wall Separation Disease, but were

not selected at that time.

Subsequently we nominated Doris Jacobi for her 40 years as a breeder and tireless promotor of our ponies. At their Executive meeting in October 2021, the ICCPS voted that the O'Malley award for 2021 should be shared between DORIS JACOBI and JOCELYN DAVIES who were considered to be "most deserving recipients, and have made Canada proud".

This was indeed wonderful news!

*Submitted by* **Bridget Wingate**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held virtually on November 1, 2021. Thank you to those who were able to attend. Minutes of the AGM can be found on the CCPS website.

### 2022 Board of Directors

Jocelyn Davies, President  
Elsie Priddy, Secretary  
Margot Watson, Treasurer

### Pacific Region

Chair - Irene Dunic  
Nikko Konyk  
Margot Watson

### Central Region

Chair - Lee Taylor  
Laura Galbraith  
Myscha Stafford

### Prairie Region

Chair - Jocelyn Davies  
Bridget Wingate  
Elsie Priddy





# NEWS FROM BALLENCRIEFF CONNEMARA PONY FARM



Lacey and her filly Sprite, 8 days old

LACEY (BALLENCRIEFF'S WINTER LACE) gave birth to a lovely little filly by Bantry Bay Dillon for Jocelyn Davies last summer. Lacey will be coming back to me this Spring. I can't wait – I have really missed her!

Our Honey (\*Aille Ivory) is still with us and looks great. She will be 35 yrs. old this Spring. As expected at this age she is startin to have some trouble with eating and laying down to sleep. It will be a very sad day when we lose her. Such a special pony!



Honey, 34 years old

But we do have her cells 'on ice' so if the price of cloning ever comes down... you never know, there may be another Honey one day! Maybe I'll start a 'GoFundMe' for her cloning! Lol!

Hope you and your ponies are all doing well. All the best for 2022!

Happy riding!

*Submitted by Margot Watson*

## 2022 Events

### ALL PONY SHOW, Duncan, BC

June 26th

Cowichan Exhibition grounds, sponsored by the Cowichan District Riding Club. There will be flat classes, leadline, trail, in-hand, English and Western, agility, games, driving etc. but no jumping, only hunter hack. Lots of opportunities for folks of all ages with ponies but not enough time or room to fit in any jumping,

Open to all. Learn more at <http://cowichanhorses.ca/>

### IT'S TIME TO RENEW

Renew by mail to CLRC or e-transfers can be sent to:  
Laura LeeMills, [lauralee.mills@clrc.ca](mailto:lauralee.mills@clrc.ca).

### CANADIAN CONNEMARA VIRTUAL CEILIDH

Date TBD

Returning for its second year, the Canadian Connemara Virtual Ceilidh will be taking place this summer (final dates TBD).

Entries will be judged based on photo and video submissions.

Open to all purebred and half-bred Connemara ponies.

### Have an event to share?

Submit via email to [mkburton92@gmail.com](mailto:mkburton92@gmail.com)



# ELODON CONNEMARAS



Elodon Connemaras is thrilled to welcome Elodon Lady Orla, a sooty buckskin, to our herd in 2021. A full sibling is due in 2022!



Elodon Dara, ridden by Elan Priddy, playing polocrosse with her father Don Priddy riding his QH Rudy.



## Merchandise Now Available

To purchase these items and many more, visit [mystable.ca/canadian-connemara-pony-society](https://mystable.ca/canadian-connemara-pony-society)



# CONNEMARA PONY VIRTUAL CEILIDH

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who participated in the Canadian Connemara Pony Virtual Ceilidh. With 27 entries ranging from yearlings to 10+ years old, it was a wonderful display of the Connemara breed. While we would have loved to have held the show in person, we are grateful for the opportunity to include ponies from outside of Ontario from as far as Alberta. Ponies were judged based on submitted photos for each respective class. Judge's placings were shared via Facebook on July 3 and comments were shared with each entry upon request.

Thank you to our judges **Tracy Dopko** (Line/Conformation Classes) and **Roy Fish** (Performance Classes); our sponsors **Jeannie** and **Chris Walsh** (Best in Show), and **Bridget Wingate**; our supporters **SHOOTgraphics** and **SE Ribbons**, and of course, everyone who entered their brilliant ponies; **Janet Rowe, Laura Galbraith, Kaylah Galbraith, Delena Jennings, Laurie Forbes, Bridget Wingate, Amanda Beard** and **Myscha Stafford**.

We look forward to being able to continue to develop this show and will see you in 2022!



EVENT MANAGEMENT

## PUREBRED 2 YEAR OLD AND UNDER - FILLY, STALLION OR GELDING



Winning entry **MLC Gal Gadot** owned by Janet Rowe

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, MLC Gal Gadot**. This filly is described by our judge as having lovely turnout and good weight for her age. She has a good neck and a typey head. She demonstrates a nice topline with a good hind end, good shoulder and deep heart girth. Nice bone and flat joints. Owned by Janet Rowe, MLC Gal Gadot is a two year old

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dark buckskin filly who is a lovely mover, incredibly smart and people oriented is by Fiontar MacTire out of MF Wake Up Little Susie.

**2nd MLC Desiderata** (Devon's Got Lotsa Bling x Patty's Etoile de Paris) owned by Janet Rowe

**3rd Devon Ridge Rohan** (Devon Ridge Mercedes x Patty's Etoile de Paris) owned by Laura Galbraith

**4th EAA Gryffindor** (DFR Daireanna x Skyview's Triton)  
Owned by Kaylah Galbraith

## PUREBRED 3 YEAR OLD AND OVER MARE



Winning entry **Elodon Riona** owned by Janet Rowe

CONGRATULATIONS to the winner of this class, **Elodon Riona** owned by Janet Rowe. Described by our judge as 'wow!' Full of Connemara type, bone and substance.

This mare is beautifully turned out and presented and demonstrates a lovely topline, good length of neck and a strong hind-quarter. A nice shoulder and deep heart girth. Short cannons, good feet and nice, flat joints. Overall, a nice, compact mare with lots of pony type.

**2nd Lissadell Flynn** (Lissadell Zepp-Lynn x Tintagels Tibyl) owned by Janet Rowe

**3rd Elphin Sandpiper** (Scottsway Lullabye x Maplehurst Michael MacDaire) owned by Janet Rowe

**4th Rills Fire N Ice** (Rills Romany Star x FairyHill Hawk) owned by Bridget Wingate

**5th MLC Banriona Victoria** (TBF Eavan Tressa x Morning Glory's Ilyushin) owned by Janet Rowe

**6th Carrownular Hope** (Carroughmore Daisy x Lissroe Charlie) owned by Laura Galbraith

## PUREBRED 3 YEAR OLD AND OVER GELDING



Winning entry **MLC Edgar Allen Pony** owned by Delena Jennings

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, MLC Edgar Allen Pony** owned by Delena Jennings. A lovely gelding with excellent Connemara type. He has a lovely topline with a good length of neck, back and strong hind quarters. Nice shoulder angle and a deep heart girth. He has good bone and nice, short cannons. This gelding is by Fiontar MacTire out of Wintervale Callope and is described as a solid, friendly and smart fellow who is happy to partake in whatever you want to try out!

**2nd Century Hill's Gold Not Silver** (Century Hill's Maid In Realta x Kippure Cara) owned by Amanda Beard

**3rd Century Hill's Hazy Carrick** (Century Hill's Maid In Realta x Kippure Cara) owned by Amanda Beard

## PUREBRED STALLION

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, MLC Tormod the Rebel** owned by Janet Rowe. Our judge loved the bone and substance on this boy. He has a nice shoulder angle and deep heart girth.

Overall, a nice solid, compact stallion with good Connemara type. By Crosskeys Rebel out of Pontoon Blondie, this stallion was bred specifically for producing performance mounts.

**2nd Rathcline Park Boy** (Ussherpark Beauty x Melvin's park Boy) owned by Laura Galbraith

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Winning purebred stallion entry **MLC Gal Gadot** owned by Janet Rowe

## HALFBRED 3 YEAR OLD AND OVER MARE



Winning entry **Rhoswyn** owned by Myscha Stafford



**Rathcline Park Boy** owned by Laura Galbraith

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, Rhoswyn** owned by Myscha Stafford. Judge's comments included lovely turnout and presentation on this mare. A very feminine and typey mare with a good length of neck and a lovely topline. A good shoulder and strong through the hip. This pony demonstrates good bone and nice, short cannons with good feet. Overall, a nice mare with substance. Rhoswyn is a halfbred Connemara by Maplehurst Michael MacDaire out of a quarter horse mare.

**2nd MLC Strange Mercy** (TBF Eavan Tressa x Mynach Mystical) owned by Leslie Ordal

**3rd Starbuck** (Elphin Scarlet Tanager x Milky Way) owned by Laurie Forbes

## JUDGE'S CHOICE FOR BEST IN SHOW

*Generously Sponsored by Jeannie & Chris Walsh, Manitoba, CA*

CONGRATULATIONS to our Best in Show entry, Elodon Riona, owned by Janet Rowe. Within the Canadian Connemara Pony Society (CCPS), ponies are inspected against the breed standard of the CCPS, which is based on the International breed standard. The CCPS breed standard describes a pony that is compact, with good bone, and large, flat joints. A head of moderate size with a straight profile, large, welldefined jaw, and small ears. The eyes are set wide apart with a broad forehead. A deep girth, wide chest, a medium head and neck set, and a good length of

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Winning entry **Elodon Riona** owned by Janet Rowe

rein. The tail is set on medium height and is thick and luxuriant. The main distinguishing characteristics are the amount of bone, the width of the chest, and depth of girth.

The overall impression is of a four-square pony standing over a good amount of ground. In my opinion, the above CCPS breed standard describes this lovely mare.

She ticks all of the boxes – balanced, compact, sturdy, a leg in every corner, good bone, and possesses both substance and pony character. This mare was also beautifully presented and turned out.

### PLEASURE HACK/ HUNTER SUITABILITY

*Ponies will be judged on their suitability for hunter-type disciplines.*



Winning entry **Starbuck** owned by Laurie Forbes

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, Starbuck** owned by Laurie Forbes. Starbuck is described as having good reach from the shoulder and a long effortless stride. Starbuck is a Halfbred Connemara by Milky Way out of Elphin Scarlet Tanager. At 3 years old she has been lightly started under saddle and is looking forward to a career in the dressage ring.

**2nd Elphin Scarlet Tanager** (Scottsway Lullaby x Maplehurst Michael MacDaire) owned by Laura Galbraith

**3rd DRF Daireanna** (Summerstreet Mountain Heather x HK's Danny Boy) owned by Janet Johnson, leased to Laura Galbraith

### SHOW HACK/DRESSAGE SUITABILITY

*Ponies will be judged on their suitability for dressage.*



Winning entry **Glenn Erinn Echo** owned by Janet Rowe

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, Glenn Erinn Echo** owned by Janet Rowe. Glenn Erinn Echo is described by our judge as having a nice extension with good impulsion and is overall a high quality pony. This purebred Connemara stallion by Canal Clancy out of Tower Hills Clara is correct, kind, and a super athlete.

**2nd MLC Banriona Victoria** (TBF Eavan Tressa x Morning Glory's Ilyushin) owned by Janet Rowe

**3rd Fiontar MacTire** (Rossaveal Lady x Maumturk Oliver) owned by Janet Rowe

**4th MLC Tormod the Rebel** (Pontoon Blondie x Crosskeys Rebel) owned by Janet Rowe

**5th Starbuck** (Elphin Scarlet Tanager x Milky Way) owned by Laurie Forbes

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## EQUITATION FLAT

*Equitation is judged on rider ability and position.*

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, Laura Galbraith**. This entry is described as having a good body and leg position and presenting a confident ride.

**2nd Laura Galbraith**  
**3rd Kaylah Galbraith**

## EQUITATION OVER FENCES

*Equitation is judged on rider ability and correctness over fences.*



Winning entry **Glenn Erinn Echo** owned by Janet Rowe

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, Laura Moro**. This rider is described as having a good, keen eye and good body position with a winning score of 75.

**2nd Kaylah Galbraith**

## WORKING PONY OVER FENCES

*To be judged on performance, and style of jumping. Judges are looking for the athletic ability of the animal over fences.*

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, Glenn Erinn Echo** owned by Janet Rowe. Glenn Erinn Echo demonstrates a great expression with knees up and a nice, round jump. An over-

all beautiful style with a score of 80. This purebred Connemara stallion by Canal Clancy out of Tower Hills Clara.

**2nd TBF Eavan Tressa** (Crib Glas Penny Whistle x Skyviews Triton) owned by Janet Rowe

**3rd Fiontar MacTire** (Rossaveal Lady x Maumturk Oliver) owned by Janet Rowe

## GREEN PONY OVER FENCES

*To be judged on performance, and style of jumping. Judges are looking for the athletic ability of the animal over fences.*

CONGRATULATIONS to the **winner of this class, DRF Daireanna** (Summerstreet Mountain Heather x Hk's Danny Boy) owned by Janet Johnson, leased to Laura Galbraith. A green pony at five years old, this mare has a wonderful personality that her 10-year old pilot has taken over her training and will be showing her this year. A bright future is ahead for this duo!

## Stallion Auction

THE FIRST Canadian Connemara Pony Society Stallion Auction took place in early 2021. Up for auction were breeding opportunities to well known Canadian stallions Bantry' Bay's Dillon, Belfast Banner, Elodon Merlin, Fiontar MacTire, Glenn Erinn Echo, MLC Tormod the Rebel, Rathcline Park Boy.

Thank you to Janet Rowe for organizing this online event, we look forward to offering this again.



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# PONY PROFILE



## Eastlands Glendearg

'Eastie' 1995-2021

*Submitted by Dr. Rick Doner*

DID YOU KNOW that every hill in Scotland has a name? It was 1995 when Dale and I headed to the UK for the first time, on an The quest for a less common breed of pony — one that was just emerging in Canada and the US—was the reason for our journey that day.

The Staveleys beamed with pride as they introduced us to their herd of Connemaras and told us about the string of very promising offspring from one of their favourite mares, bred on Bardsey Island. Bardsey Trinket's yearling filly stood close by, listening and shyly keeping her distance while we approached.

"This filly was born on this hill--the hill called Glendearg," Dianna smiled, "and we would consider letting her come to Canada with you." There was something about the way the filly looked at us with her kind inquisitive eyes that drew us to her. The next morning, John convinced her to come down to the barn. It was the first time she'd been off her hill since the day she was

born. unforgettable trek into the rugged beauty of Eskdalemuir to Eastlands stud, home of John and Dianna Stavelly. We walked together up a special hill to meet a family of ponies that would change our lives forever. It was November of 1997 when Eastie and Annie arrived at Century Hill Farm. Both fillies were very tired but happy to be on solid ground. They brought us much joy as we got to know them through training, backing and showing. During breed inspections a year later, the Irish inspector said she would be proud to see them both on her own farm.

Eastie went on to produce many quality foals that became wonderful ambassadors of the breed, finding homes across North America. Reports and pictures flowed back with similar comments: "such a willing, trainable, gentle pony with great conformation and movement!"

As we saw her progeny excelling in North America, reports of her family continuing to win shows in the UK came in from John



and Dianna. One memorable year, Dale and I were invited to Clifden show to "help" the Staveleys introduce Eastie's full sister, Eastlands Burnibrae. We were proud to see her place 2nd in the mature mare class at such a prestigious show, especially a mare bred in Scotland and brought to the mother country to compete. We will never forget that day! I was even asked for an interview and appeared that night on Irish National TV (RTE) extolling the virtues of the Connemara pony and why we had traveled all the way from Canada to be part of that day!

We really knew very little of breed conformation and were just trusting our instincts (plus the encouragement of a very knowledgeable couple--the Staveleys--who we would grow to consider as good friends for years to come).

Eastlands Glendearg traveled like a pro from her quiet home to the roar of the M1 Highway down to Heathrow airport, where she met another Connemara filly that we found in England to accompany her. (Annie's story will be told another day.)

Eastie was awarded the ACPS Connemara of the Year Award in 2001 for her dressage accomplishments. It was gratifying to watch her rider, Lori Bell, bond with her and form an incredible team. So often Lori would laugh as she overheard some of our top dressage riders complain when they saw "that pony" show up to the open shows and win!

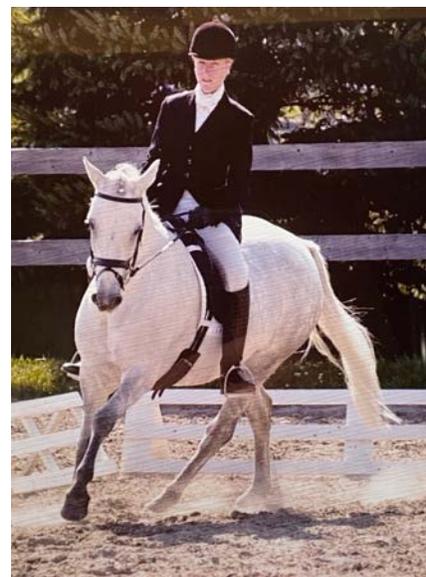


She represented Canada in Blainville, Quebec, placing second in FEI junior dressage. Tom MacLochlainn took us aside that day and said, "This is such a beautiful mare, she should never be open!" There are too many awards and stories to share right here as it would take a book to hold all of the memories.

Later on Eastie was approved as a premium mare by the CCPS inspections team. Our Connemaras drew us into many lasting friendships on both sides of the ocean and opened our eyes to the strength of the bond between us and the breed. Eastie was the mare that taught us so much about that connection.

From the way she burst out of the barn with that extended stride and little nicker to "present" her new foals to the world, to the quiet hours spent just grooming and talking our woes away — she came to occupy a huge part of our hearts.

Eastie was the mare that taught us so much about that connection. From the way she burst out of the barn with that extend-





ed stride and little nicker to “present” her new foals to the world, to the quiet hours spent just grooming and talking our woes away — she came to occupy a huge part of our hearts.

As she aged beautifully, we hoped she would live forever, but it was not to be. In July of 2021 she suddenly stopped eating and after a trip to the Ontario Vet College where she was diagnosed with an inoperable gastric torsion, we had to say goodbye to our dear friend. We were blessed to have her for 26 years and her memories and offspring will continue to remind us of the privilege that was ours to have shared our lives with that little filly born on Glendearg. Eastie, you will live forever in our hearts forever.



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## Starlight's Zara

JENNIFER BROWNLOW, on **Starlight's Zara** shown here in a Third Level dressage test at a CADORA schooling show in Victoria, BC this past summer. Zara is a 2003 mare out of Elphin Sweet Rosaleen by Avenns Cairbre MacCarthy.





# A Connemara or two for me and you!

Submitted by **Carolyn Blanchet**

THIS IS THE STORY of how one lady went horse shopping for one Connemara and ended with two! But also, how much personal growth that same lady has undergone since these two have moved into my heart. My name is Carolyn Blanchet, I am in my late forties and a part-time teacher. My husband and I own a small hobby farm in a mountainous area of the Fraser plateau, in Central BC.

My adventure with Connemaras started when I evented around the province. I got curious about these smaller and amazingly handy ponies who always seem to perform well at the horse trials I attended.

Being of a petite stature, I was naturally attracted to smaller horses with smart, sound and level-headed minds who still possessed athletic abilities to be competitive. I would always end up striking a conversation with the owners of such ponies. It became clear to me that a Connemara was the perfect breed for me: they had beauty, brains, a solid conformation, compact and gracefully built with natural jumping abilities. The quest for one began!

This quest got me contacting and developing relationships with many wonderful Canadian Connemara breeders from West to East. The search started in my own province, but took me all the way back to Ontario where I finally found a two year old who ticked all the boxes - or almost, but by then it was already game-over: as soon as I met him and he laid his gentle eyes on me, I knew I was his. It was a bitterly cold April weekend of 2018 when I visited Janet Rowe in Bracebridge and committed to buy the yet ungelded dark bay colt registered as MLC Belfast Benediction. He arrived at our farm in July 2018, shortly after my birthday. "Bene" as he is now renamed, is and will forever be the best birthday gift I ever gave myself. Every day spent in his presence is a spiritual experience, one that I always longed for with my animals.



"Two Rascals" was published in the most recent edition of the UK based *Barefoot Magazine*, photo by C.Blanchet

Before I started horse-shopping, I had promised my very supportive and 100 % committed husband that this one would be my last one. Being almost middle-aged and knowing the longevity of the breed, I thought my Connemara was going to be very suitable for me in my old days. But my husband surprised me after

I had bought my Muskoka Lake pony, by suggesting that we get another one! His excuse was that Bene would still have a buddy his own age once our 3 older horses would pass away. Lucky for us, it was now late Spring and

Devon Ridge Farm had a couple of new babies on the ground. I had kept in touch with Jocelyn since the start of my search and had visited her farm a couple of times while browsing.

I became very obsessed with the breed, and as part of my search for more knowledge, I made two trips to Ireland between 2017-2019. By 2019, I had acquired two youngsters, one from Muskoka Lake Connemaras and the other one from Devon Ridge Farm. When I started looking for my dream pony, it was impossible to find a youngster ready to start (that also met other criteria I wanted, namely a non-grey Connie). I soon discovered that most Connemara owners do not easily part from their pony once they own one! I needed to look for even younger stock, despite my original plan to get a 4-5 years old.

That summer of 2018, Jocelyn only had two purebred Connemara stud colts. Still trying to avoid a grey, I had only one other choice. However, after visiting the herd of broodmares and their babies later in the summer and again in late Fall, I realized that my next Connemara had already chosen me, and he was going to be a gray! To sweeten the deal, he was a Bantry Bay Dillon baby! I had always been impressed by Dillon and the quality of his offspring.

Getting a colt that might look like him was very exciting to me.



Working Equitation with **Bene**,  
photo by C. Vogt

My dear husband ended up buying us Devon Ridge Alfa Romeo (out of Devon Ridge Mercedes) who is now 4 years old.

Both of my Connemaras are on the leggier, larger size standing both at 14.3 at the moment. Romeo's physique is quite different from Bene. To my surprise (considering his parents' build), he has a finer look, reminiscent of a young Tb, and his very "front end light".

He will be an amazing jumper, as proven by his prowess to "escape" the arena by jumping over a 4 ft wall.

So here we are, 4 years into our journey with our Connemaras. We have a very content herd of five horses, 4 geldings and one



Romeo Spring 2021,  
photo by C. Blanchet

mare. They can roam free over our 10 acres land and have access to hay night and day. I have shifted my focus from competition to fully invest myself in becoming the best horsewoman I can be. My idol Emma Massingale inspires me to continue dreaming up new adventures with my Connemaras. I am thankful for the way the pandemic has accelerated online education opportunities.

I have managed to find new mentors and joined many online learning programs during the winter months.

I also spend most of my spare time developing my relationship with my horses and it is paying a big dividend! Bene and I have a very close bond and we do everything together: skijoring in harness, sleigh & cart driving, trail riding & camping, trick & liberty training, Classical in Hand & Dressage, cross country jumping, Working equitation, etc.

What I have accomplished with Bene since I started with him in 2018 is now happening all over again with Romeo. He is just as awesome and closely bonded to me and that my friend, is the easy gift most Connemaras will give you easily if you spend enough time with them: their heart and soul, on a plate of gold. I will keep you posted on our progress: I am hoping that by this time next year, I should be doing Roman riding with my team!



Driving in the snow  
with **Bene**,  
photo by A. Eddy



# 2021 CCPS TRANSFERS

**Elodon Riona** sold by Sandra Zylstra, Bracebridge ON  
to Janet Rowe, Bracebridge ON

**SV Arya** sold by Constance Dyck, Boissevain MB  
to Joan Williams Grafton ON

**Centreview Iron and Ashes** sold by Alexis Soltice, Bentley  
AB to Heather Dickson, Powell River BC

**Elodon Mirren** sold by Elsie & Don Priddy, Saskatoon SK  
to Lauren Calliope Lochrie, Kelowna BC

**Rills Tia Maria** sold by Alexis Soltice, Bentley AB  
to Allison Exner, Nelson BC

**Rising Sun Owen** sold by Hope MacIntyre & Joy Rea, West-  
lock AB to Alexis Soltice, Bentley AB

**MLC Northern Sprite**, PB, sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge  
ON to Sandra Zylstra, Bracebridge ON

**Elodon Rosheen** sold by Elsie & Don Priddy, Saskatoon SK  
to Margaret Dunn, VT USA

**EAA-A Touch of Chaos**, PB, sold by Laura Galbraith  
& Mark Sharpe, Ariss ON to Whitney Benoit, Ariss ON

**EAA-To Infinity and Beyond**, PB, sold by Laura Galbraith  
& Mark Sharp, Ariss ON to Jenny Woods, GA USA

**EAA-Gryffindor** sold by Janet M Johnson, WI USA  
to Kaylah Galbraith, Ariss ON

**MLC Northern Sprite**, PB, sold by Janet Rowe, Bracebridge  
ON to Jelle Zylstra, Bracebridge ON

**Innisfail Surprising Destiny**, PB, sold by Innisfail Stables,  
St-Polycarpe QC to Lesley McGill, Aldergroave BC

**Rathcline Park Boy** sold by Mrs Maureen Kearns, Ireland  
to Laura Galbraith & Mark Sharpe, Ariss ON

**Devon Ridge Rock Star** sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Karen Halverson WA USA

**Devon's Hey There Delilah**, PB, sold by Jocelyn Davies,  
Spruce Grove AB to Lesley McGill, Aldergrove BC

**Devon Ridge Indira**, PB, sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Denise Jost CO USA

**Devon Ridge Moulin Rouge** sold by Jocelyn Davies,  
Spruce Grove AB to Catherine Kelly, Freerton ON

**Devon Ridge Donnegaulle** sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Elizabeth Ann Steele SC USA

**Devon Ridge Oliver** Art sold by Jocelyn Dabvies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Donna Miller GA USA

**Devon Ridge Irish Crystal** sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Alicia Williams, Grafton ON

**Devon Ridge Versailles** sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Kate Tooke, Vernon BC

**Devon Ridge Rivendell** sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce  
Grove AB to Laura Galbraith & Mark Sharpe, Ariss ON

**Devon Ridge Rohan** sold by Jocelyn Davies, Spruce Grove  
AB to Laura Galbraith & Mark Sharpe, Ariss ON

**Bradanne** sold by Melanie White, Langley BC to Jocelyn Da-  
vies Spruce Grove AB

**Elphin Whiskeyjack** sold by Constance Dyck, Boissevain  
MB to Alicia Williams, Grafton ON



**Canadian Connemara Pony Society**

# Newsletter

*spring* 2022