

Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr



It's all over for another year and once more I vow "never again".

Three years ago old Keenbean (me) suggested our riding club (Rockwood Trail Riders) put on a gymkhana for its members. Since then, guess who's been organizing it?

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm an incorrigible organizer - not very efficient but certainly bossy. The event is not large, catering to the club's 70-odd under-sixteens; available help is excellent; club support couldn't be better.

What brings me to my knees is my own contribution to the competition - Erica 9 and Patrick 10 (sorry, he's just 11). This gymkhana, or fun day, is the highlight of their year and we eat, sleep, breathe it all summer.

In and around the necessary organizational paraphernalia, I have to make costumes, enlarge or reduce breeches, purchase boots that never fit, clip, trim and generally re-polster horses, remake costumes, and settle fights.

During this period, Mac builds a lot of barns or garages and rarely comes home. He lets me know in low tones that he's up to his eyes and must work all the time. As THE Sunday news has frayed at the seams, he's always there to do - trailing, saddling, setting up jumps and dusting off kites.

Knights and clowns
This year Patrick was a Knight with a capital K in

the costume class. Six hours worth of polyester lurex made him a chain mail suit of armour. When it was finished, he looked so beautiful I decided to commandeer the suit for Christmas parties.

Erica thought she'd wear her pyjamas and go as a clown. Great planning went into the costume, including detailed drawings and makeup diagrams. However, ten minutes before the class, she threw a theatrical fit - refused to wear half her outfit, carry her carrot-on-a-stick, or ride backwards.

I wasn't surprised. I'd spent most of the morning convincing her the breeches were meant to be puffy and the seams would stop itching soon, darling.

However, we managed to get our very reticent girl-child into a couple of games. She walked the entire obstacle race, sitting the pony like a professional while it painstakingly climbed leg by leg over the jump.

Patrick was much more enthusiastic - entered everything - even managed a little canter and a couple of wee jumps (he's usually a walk and trot man) and was delighted with himself.

We arrived home with two confused horses (they'd gone to a show and hadn't even breathed hard), a truck full of styrofoam cups, bits of carrot, gummy bridles, peach pits, and two grubby kids clutching fists full of grimy ribbons.

No, I will not do it again next year. I will remain firm. I have made up my mind. I will not.



GHENGIS KHAN, a prize Appaloosa stallion owned and ridden by Rockwoodite, Kaz Lewandowski, was named top trail horse of Ontario when he won the Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association's Hi Point trophy and top Appaloosa Trail trophy recently.

Sunshine holiday relived by Rockwood's poet

The Rockwood Sunshine club would like to say a big thank you to the Lionettes for the wonderful day they provided in Muskoka Friday. The trip was enjoyed by all, as the scenery was beautiful, the weather was very kind and the sun shone all day. They stopped for lunch at Minden.

Laughter and song on the trip was provided by Victor Smith, Bert Davidson and Dave Robertson who kept everyone in a jolly mood. After a happy day the bus got back to the village around six p.m.

Members and friends of the Rockwood Sunshine club are asked to meet at the town hall on October 14 at 6 p.m. for the bus to the Mohawk raceway.

The air was cool and frosty. It was early in the day. When most of us, climbed on the bus, For a sunshine holiday.

Our charming host, the sponsors, The "Rockwood Lionettes" Gave us their best, we were so blessed, They chaperoned our frolics.

The Muskoka District has a charm, Surpassed by very few, It was beauty rare, and cool fresh air, All decked in autumn hue.

We toured the beauty sideroads, Where nature showed her best, Behind huge stones, our chaperones Found places we could rest.

We stopped and sprawled, where nature called,

To munch on sandwich cakes, On nature's breast we were at rest, In this land of beauty lakes.

There someone told a story, So I picked up my ears, While my thoughts slid back, down memory track To the young and tender years.

I overheard a conversation, While we were parked out there, She had struck a snag, but in her bag, She had another pair.

The sun was slowly sinking, As we made the Rockwood way, To our kindly host, who did their most, THANKS! for a glorious day

Victor Smith
R. R. 2 Rockwood

Agr. Museum open in spring

Ontario Agricultural Museum, although not officially ready for public tours, is open during office hours Monday to Friday for anyone who would like to see the building.

According to public relations director Valerie Grimshaw, the public is welcome as long as they don't expect to see finished displays. Following the official opening of the administration building last month the staff is busy preparing artifacts for showing late next spring.

No Tours Yet
"We won't turn anyone away who would like to visit us," Mrs. Grimshaw said.

Push for flashing light at corner

Wellington MPP Jack Johnston is going to push for a flashing red and amber light on Highway 24 at the Stratton-Dupuis corner, it was revealed at Monday evening's Eramosa township council meeting.

The council had written a letter to the new member of the legislature asking that this corner be inspected and considered for such a move. They did this the day an American visitor was killed at the corner.

Mr. Johnston pointed out in his letter that he had inspected the corner and would like to see a light erected.

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Grant application in final stages of viewing

The application for the Local Initiative Program grant for the restoring of the Everton Mill has reached the Ottawa stage.

Eramosa township councillor John Hewitt told other council members during Monday evening's meeting that the application was taken to LIP organizers who wanted to hear more about the project. Mr. Hewitt and his committee obtained the necessary information and presented it to LIP people. They then wanted in writing the majority of councillors' approval for such a grant, which Mr. Hewitt obtained.

Twenty-five applications were made recently for such grants. This number was cut in half to 12 and halved again to six. The Everton Mill application is second from the top of the list of six which have been forwarded to Ottawa.

Bad fog

Fog was dangerously thick Saturday night.

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Kits to candles hobbies, crafts

Crafts and hobbies classes delighted hundreds of spectators who passed through the hall all three days of Acton Fair.

This is the last list of winners from this year's fair.

Christmas decoration Mrs. Bray, Henrie Van Dam; Christmas courage Mrs. B. Hammond; Christmas candle Mrs. R. MacNaughton; novelty candle Mrs. Hammond, Mrs. S. Witherly.

Table arrangement dried flowers Mrs. R. Bray, Laurie Cook, Mrs. H. Collerton; wall plaques Laurie Cook, Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Joan Morris.

Articles from plastic bottles Mrs. Agnes McGinnis; mounted petit point Mr. Blair Beemer, Evelyn Pierce, Mrs. Sheila Foster; needlepoint article Evelyn Pierce, Mrs. H. Collerton, Mrs. K. Alger; stuffed animals Mrs. Agnes McGinnis, Mrs. C. Cobham; costume jewellery Mrs. S. J. Holmes, Mrs. B. Hammond; paper flowers Kim Lawrence, Judy Johnston; liquid embroidery wall hanging, Mrs. S. Witherly, Judy Johnston, Mrs. Joan Morris; wall hanging or picture Madith Featherstone, Greenock W. I., Laurie W. I.

Car hits cow Sept. 20

Tinny Vanderheid of R.R. 5, Rockwood received minor injuries and property damage was estimated at \$3,000 following an accident on Tuesday, September 20 on Highway 25, north of Erin twp Rds. 5 & 6.

A vehicle operated by Doug Thiessen of R.R. 5, Rockwood, struck and killed a cattle beast valued at \$250, which ran onto the roadway in front of his vehicle.

As a result the cattle beast was thrown into the path of a north bound vehicle operated by John Drew, 24 years old, of R.R. 2, Orangeville.

Special prize for most points in hobbies and photography Mrs. S. Witherly.

Photographs taken at 1974 fair Mrs. S. Witherly; outdoor sports Mrs. Joan Morris; local scenes, Mrs. S. Witherly.

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