

# The Rockwood Trail Riders started many children in competitive riding

by Anne Redfern  
If three Rockwood area families had owned horse trailers, competitive trail riding might never have come to Ontario when it did.  
Or at least, that's how it sounds. The three families were among the core members of Rockwood Trail Riders Inc., a group which was instrumental in bringing competitive trail riding to Southern Ontario where it has taken hold as a well-known equestrian sport.  
"The group was started up because none of those people had horse transport, and they wanted to belong to a club," Anne Dales, current president of the riders, explained. "So they formed a club which would be within riding distance of their homes."  
That was 20 years ago, when Anne was just a kid learning to ride. Now the club is celebrating its 20th Anniversary, and Anne is celebrating 20 years with the club, two generations of riders and three generations of horses after its inception.  
Those 20 years have been eventful. Activities have grown from family trail rides and campouts and Gymkhanas to fully-accredited English and Western horse shows, competitive trail rides and endurance trials. Membership grew from 18 at the end of the first year to 250 in the early 1970s. Although there aren't as many members at the moment, the numbers are still high.  
And the Dales family is still involved, but

now, instead of Anne and her brothers competing against each other, they compete through their children.  
There's nothing like reminiscing about the good old days. Anne and Jennifer Barr, another long-time member of the Trail Riders, fondly recall the small-club atmosphere in the beginning—teaching westerners how to ride English-style five minutes before a show, or the days when people always brought an extra horse to a "fun day" so that everyone, kids, amateurs, and hangers-on, would have a chance to ride.  
"I guess it's a bit more sophisticated now," Jennifer said.  
Club headquarters was an arena on the Dales family's 10-acre property in the Rockwood area. That's where the shows, fun days, Wahoos, and other events took place for years. Now, trail rides begin on the Halton Presbytery Church grounds in Nassagaweya. There's room to ride there.  
Anne also recalls the first-ever horse show the trail riders put on. President Di Lindblad (formerly Duncan) had bought a boxful of ribbon pieces at an auction, and had hand-painted the strips of ribbon to give away as prizes.  
Competitive trail riding in Ontario, Anne added, began with Rockwood Trail Riders. "I think that's our biggest single ac-

complishment in those 20 years."  
Rockwood Trail Riders is probably one of the longest running clubs in Southern Ontario, and perhaps even more important than its accomplishment in trail riding. Jennifer added, is the number of children who were given a good start with their first ponies through the club's clinics and shows.  
"Some kids would come into the club with a pony knowing nothing about them. Their parents had never had a horse. We'd teach them how to care for their ponies, how to treat them, how to behave with them," she recalled. "Now we see these people grown up, showing their children how to look after their ponies and horses. It's a good feeling."  
The club has changed considerably in 20 years, but the family atmosphere still prevails. "We may be a lot more polished than we were when we first held shows, but a beginner can still go there and learn. And everyone in the family can participate somehow," Anne said. "The motto of the club is still horsemanship, sportsmanship and fellowship."  
"We aren't holding any special events for our 20th Anniversary" Anne said. "We're just adding a little something to each event as it comes up."  
During the season there will be English CHSA Horse Shows and Western WIAA shows, endurance rides and competitive trail rides.



Anne Dales, president of Rockwood Trail Riders Inc., shows photographs and mementos of the club's 20-year history.

## Little Sara struggles with C.F. ...

(Continued from page 1)  
and Sara takes about 20 a day. But she takes her medicine and her twice-daily respiratory therapy with stoicism. "Even when she is sick, as she has been all this winter, she's a lot easier to get along with than other children," Pam said as she watched her daughter drag a huge teddy bear into the living room.  
The optimistic viewpoint is to look at Sara's future in the terms of the CF children who in the past decade have managed to reach their 30s before being overcome by the problems caused by the disease. Digestive difficulties lead to malnutrition, cirrhosis of the liver, and other difficulties. Poor respiratory function can lead to acute pneumonia or other infections.  
"Then you hear about a seven-year-old dying, or a teenager," Pam said. "It's really hard to tell. Even in the early '70s children were only surviving up to 10 years."

It's also hard on the rest of the family. Eleven-year-old son Norm researched Cystic Fibrosis for a school project. "He found it very hard to deal with when he found out more about it."  
May has been designated Cystic Fibrosis month. About 1,000 mothers in Acton will be receiving a Mother's Day package to help raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis research as part of the annual Mother's Day Tea campaign. "We are running the campaign through the Peel chapter because they have a bulk mailing rate of 13 cents," Mrs. Murray explained. "I know a lot of people will be wondering why we are doing the campaign through Peel." Actually, there isn't a Halton CF group in existence which she has heard of... the closest group is in Guelph.  
And Kevin Denbok, Sara's idol, will also be visiting Acton to give a benefit

concert for the Cystic Fibrosis campaign in May.  
"We hope we'll be getting a good response with the campaign. Every cent we can raise here is more for research into the treatment of the disease."  
Five-year-old Sara, in the meantime, takes skating lessons, attends Kindergarten, works on Canada Fitness exercise routines to help keep her strength up, and takes antibiotics to ward off colds and other respiratory problems which may affect her lungs... until their effectiveness finally wears off and she must switch drugs. But she has her difficulties.  
In a few weeks, she will be in surgery to have her sinuses cleared. They've been blocked for some time and severely restrict her breathing.  
"We found this out rather quickly by taking her to a specialist in Toronto, on the recommendation of another

mother in the CF Foundation whose child had gone through the same trouble," Mrs. Murray explained. "Just knowing the other parents of CF children can be a tremendous help."  
**Draft plan approval extended**  
Draft Plan approval for the Greystone Investments 16 single family home Ransom St. development has been extended again by Halton Hills council. This is the second extension this year and will run for one month, from May 5 to June 5. The last extension was for two months and the draft plan approval had been extended prior to March several times. Some small technical problems for this development remain to be ironed out.



Play it again Sam!

This is an award a mayor doesn't expect. Randy Humenicki of H & H Video presents him with the Humphrey Bogart look alike award.

### Passenger injured in two car crash

A passenger in a vehicle involved in a two-car accident late Sunday afternoon suffered major injuries, and the two drivers escaped with minimal injuries.  
Sandra Best, of Mississauga, was riding in a car driven by

Seebert Best, also of Mississauga, when the accident occurred on the Fifth Line, .6 kilometres south of Highway 7 about 4:30 Sunday.  
Police say Best's car was stopped in a private driveway, facing west on the Fifth Line. A

car driven by Susanne Dew-snap, 22 Sideroad, Limehouse was northbound on the Fifth Line. Police say the Best car pulled out onto the roadway forcing Dewsnap to brake and veer left, hitting an embankment and sliding 180 degrees.

### Boy hit by car Sun.

A 12-year-old Bower Ave. boy is recuperating in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton, following surgery after he was struck by a car Sunday evening.  
Julian Ashworth was taken to Georgetown Hospital at 9 a.m. with head and leg injuries and later transferred to Brampton for surgery on his leg, according to his mother, Mrs. Neville Ashworth.  
Milton OPP say Julian was riding his bicycle along Highway 7, two kilometres each of Acton when he was struck by a car driven by Leonard Thibeault, of Poplar Ave.  
Mrs. Ashworth told this news-

paper her son had gone to Limehouse and was returning home when the incident occurred. She said the accident was her son's fault as he had no light on his bicycle and according to Julian's companion, he swerved onto the road in front of the Thibeault vehicle, giving the driver no opportunity to avoid the collision.  
Mrs. Ashworth said her son is greatly improving, and has stitches in his head. He suffered shock and a concussion. His leg, however, is pretty banged up, she said. A couple of bones in the leg are broken and he has a dislocated ankle and knee.

### Legion happenings

by Harry Norton  
The Branch / Ladies Auxiliary Cribbage challenge match was quite a success Thursday. The Branch 'B' team made up of J.C. McIntyre, D. Mason, D. Ford and R. Allonby however won, and the Ladies Auxiliary 'C' team were runners-up.  
Regular Bingo on Wednesday and Euchre on Friday are the only regular activities during the week, but then on Saturday we have the regular entertainment in the lounge and a banquet in the auditorium. The Dart and Cribbage leagues are holding their annual banquet starting at 7 p.m. and it will likely be followed by a dance.  
Branch 58, East Hamilton are hosting the District 'B' Euchre tournament on Saturday and we have two teams that have qualified to compete. If you have the time and would like to give our teams some support, why not drive on down to Hamilton this coming Saturday.

### UCW Quilts displayed

by Elsie Reed  
The regular meeting of United Church Women of Trinity Church was held in the Church Parlor on April 12 with 18 members present.  
Two beautiful Easter Lilies on the Executive table emphasized the Easter season program. Mrs. Force, president, opened the meeting with the Purpose and the Lord's Prayer repeated in unison. Helen Little took charge of the devotions and gave some readings on the renewal of growth and sharing of hope and faith.  
Helen Waterhouse read the parable of the sowing seeds and Truus Veldhuis gave a Prayer. Hymn 574 was sung with Ethel Denny at the piano. The concluding prayer was given by Charlotte Ironsides.  
The secretary's and treasurer's report also petty cash reports were good.  
Dorothy Simmons handed in money from the Quilting Group and displayed two quilts recently completed. Thanks were expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Hart, for showing the pictures taken by them on their recent trip to the Holy Land.  
Mrs. Force gave a report on our foster child and read a letter she had received from him. She announced there was to be a discussion on April 24 on the New Foster Parents' Plan when the emphasis will be on the attempt to raise the living conditions, improving the general health and methods of work and cultivating the land, and working toward a better future for these children.  
After an explanation of the Mizpah Benediction by Mrs. Force, the meeting closed by the repeating of it in Unison.  
A pleasant social period with tea, fruit breads and cheese concluded an inspiring and happy meeting. The next meeting will be held on May 12 at 1.45 p.m.

### Public meeting May 17 on elderly

A public meeting dealing with the region's "provision of health and social services to the elderly in Halton" study will be held May 17 at the Acton Baptist Church meeting room at 2 p.m. The study and public input is designed to "determine the region's role and responsibilities" for health and social services for the elderly.

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