

## **2002 Most Successful Eventing Season Ever on PEI**

What a season it was! We started with a very productive cross country jump building clinic in May, and ended with record entries for the autumn Horse Trial at Strathgartney. All this would not be possible without the support of Island riders and volunteers. However, we must recognise the importance of NS and NB riders who supported our jumping clinic and both Horse Trials. We simply cannot exist in isolation from the rest of the Maritime eventing circuit. With the small population base we have to draw from, we must all work together to see the sport flourish in the Maritime region, and the NS and NB riders have certainly embraced Strathgartney as a key player on the regional eventing scene. Thank you to everyone for your support.

The Prince Edward Island Horse Council has also played a significant role in the development of the facility at Strathgartney Equestrian Park during 2002, which has allowed us to draw ever increasing numbers of competitors for our Horse Trials. The IHC Strathgartney committee led by Christin Campbell has worked wonders at the Equestrian Park this year. Thanks to their efforts we now have two rings which are superb in wet conditions. I think it is quite reasonable to say that without the ring improvements our autumn Horse Trial would not have been held. Hurricane Gustav dumped huge volumes of water on PEI in the days preceding our Horse Trial, but the footing in the rings was excellent on the Saturday of the competition. Combined with the routinely excellent footing on the cross country course we had conditions which absolutely amazed a NS rider who had come with huge corks for the day, but realized once she arrived that they were unnecessary.

The electricity allowed for computerized scoring, so Ian and Laura were able to have results posted very quickly with individual fence information for the cross country phase. You only have to ask Linda about the canteen facilities to know that this volunteer job is also much easier with the new building, water and electricity.

All this aside, successful seasons are built around programs which meet the needs of our horses and riders, so come out to our Annual General Meeting Friday Nov. 8 at the AVC faculty lounge to tell us what worked for you and help us plan for another great season in 2003.

## **HTPEI Annual General Meeting Nov.8**

Our AGM is Nov.8 at 7:30 in the AVC faculty lounge. Parents, please come!!! Adults bring a dessert, juniors bring munchies, and we will supply beverages. We will have a cross country jump construction video after the meeting. Please be there to tell us what you want to see HTPEI offer in 2003...clinics, clinicians, Combined Test..... we need to know what you want. We will also elect directors for 2003. Laura Dear is in charge of nominations. You can contact her at 566-4699 to nominate someone or volunteer yourself.

## **No Change in Membership Fees for 2003**

Membership for 2003 will remain \$14 for juniors and \$19 for seniors in 2002. Memberships may be available at the AGM, depending on whether we can determine the fee for IHC insurance by that date. We will definitely send out membership forms with the spring 2003 newsletter.

## **IHC Awards Night Nov. 16**

The IHC awards night is mid November again this year. We will be presenting Champion and Reserve Champion awards for all divisions, as well as High Point Junior and Senior and the Dr. Thomas Lees Memorial volunteer award. Please come and help us celebrate our members achievements over the last season. Laura (566-4699) will have tickets, the cost is \$7 for the evening. Reception at 6:30, awards presentation 7:30 at West Royalty Community Centre.

## **Membership News**

As most of you know by now, Chris, Pat and Maddie Campbell have moved to West Virginia. Chris was active in HTPEI as a director, rider, volunteer and coach, and Pat was always there to build jumps or help at the Horse Trial as needed. They are down in eventing country now, and I am hoping Chris will send an article for the newsletter in the spring telling us what it is like. Judy Simms and John Degrace will both be in BC by mid November. Judy has been secretary of HTPEI and secretary for 4 of our Horse Trials, while John found his niche timing for us and helping with jump construction at Strathgartney. My how they will all be missed.

We do have some new faces on the eventing scene however. Heidi MacLeod is back on the Island with her partner Brian Vicars. They are renovating Horse Shoe Hill on MacWilliam Dr. Heidi rode in her first Horse Trial at Strathgartney in September. It was great to see her there. Brian has spent 4 1/2 years as a working student/barn manager for Peter Gray, the former coach of the Canadian Eventing Team, as well as being a member of Canada's eventing talent squad for 6 years. He has also spent 2 years as assistant trainer for Jonathon Asselin, who represented Canada in show jumping at the Sydney Olympics. Heidi and Brian offer coaching both on and off site, as well as training board at their stable. Welcome (back) to PEI. We'll look forward to seeing you both at Strathgartney next season.

Emily Coffin is on her new horse, Ben, a 7 year old thorobred cross gelding. We hope to see them at Strathgartney in 2003. Carolyn Dohoo is back in the saddle after the tragic loss of her horse in July. She is riding Odette William's 5 year old Dutch Warmblood gelding Elijah. Brian Vicars has a 3 yr old thorobred off the track who we expect will be at Strathgartney with him next season. And Nicole Anstey is riding Jackie Waddell's 8 yr old mare Magenta. They rode in the dressage phase in September, and have their sights set for the summer Horse Trial next June.

Congratulations and best wishes to Laura Dear and Wayne Goodwin as well as Tracy Murphy

and Lorne Singleton who were married this autumn. Carolyn and Nicole will tell you that Laura's wedding was a wonderful time! Laura is a familiar face at Strathgartney with her horse Night Vision, and she will be taking over as president of HTPEI after the AGM. Tracy has been a director of HTPEI, and competes with her horse Irish Dreamtime in our Horse Trials.