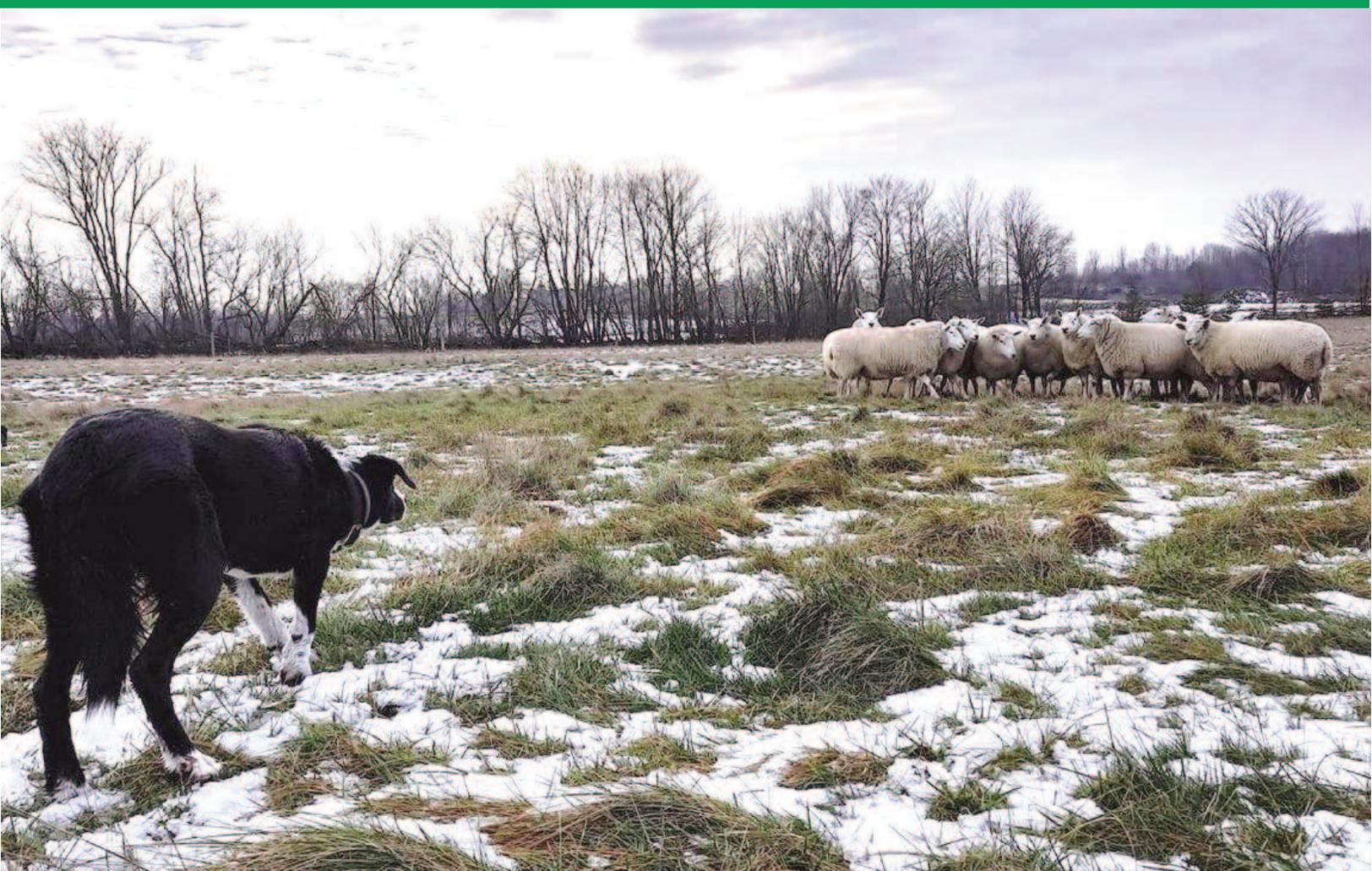




Ontario Border Collie Club



SPRING 2021

OBCC New Club Officers

Learning and Development Events

New Story Series; The Herding Spotlight

2020 Championship Stories

Gone But Not Forgotten

WANT TO JOIN US?

Website: <https://ontariobordercolliclub.com/obcc-home>

On September 22, 1984, the Ontario Border Collie Club was formed near King City, Ontario. An enthusiastic group had gathered for a trial near Winchmore farm, and they sat down after supper on Saturday night to draw up the aims and objectives of the new club. The primary objective of the club is to promote the traditional herding ability of the Border Collie by holding trials and training clinics. The club also encourages obedience and other non-traditional uses of the dog. It was decided to publish a newsletter a few times each year to keep members up to date on upcoming activities. The club members are mainly farm people with a high regard for and a common interest in the Border Collie. We want to maintain the dog's natural working instinct and hope to prevent it turning into nothing more than another show dog. If you have an interest in working dogs on stock, or are interested in being an informed spectator at sheep dog trials, please fill out the online membership form and send it along with your cheque to: Kim Gretton, 309 Lorneville Road, Woodville, ON KOM 2T0

2021 Club Officers

PRESIDENT: Mary Thompson
presidentobcc@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Kevan Gretton
vicepresidentobcc@gmail.com

TREASURER: Kim Gretton
treasurerobcc@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Rebecca Lawrence
secretaryobcc@gmail.com

DIRECTOR: Marie Sawford
directorobcc@gmail.com

WEBMASTER: Rebecca Lawrence
obccwebsite@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: (open position)

CONTENT EDITOR: Catherine Rae

The 2021 Newsletters will be totally digital 3 Issues are planned: Spring, Summer, Fall

Opinions expressed are the opinions of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of the OBCC

From the Editor

Hi I'm Oakley Rae and I'm going to be helping Cath as co-content editor of the newsletter this year. My charm and good looks will help when I nudge writers for articles. This will be the first edition of the now solely digital, but printable Newsletter.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the enormous effort and talents of Michelle Lawrence, who served as the Editor-in-Chief and Art Director/Designer as well as Kris Kiviahoo our former Content Editor. We sincerely appreciate the excellent work and effort you both put into the Newsletter for the last number of years. Cath and I have very big shoes to fill!

As we're all too aware, we're just coming out of a difficult COVID winter. We are anxious for the arrival of spring, anticipating working our dogs and cautiously interacting and competing with our friends. Some of us have had to endure the entire Canadian winter for the first time in many years (poor us). That's because there's been no travelling south! So we persevered and dream of the first blades of green grass and turning the sheep out to pasture.

This year's Newsletter will feature some fresh ideas and new articles. "The Herding Spotlight" will provide insights and comments from experienced Open handlers. These handlers will share stories of their personal herding journey and in doing so likely offer tips to guide less experienced handlers.

In each of these years (3) editions of the Newsletter will be an article entitled "Gone but Not Forgotten". We all have had the sad experience of losing a beloved Border collie and maybe not known how to pay tribute. I hope it will be heartwarming to read about the accomplishments of



these special dogs and their relationship with their handlers. In this edition we are recognizing the accomplishments of the 2020 Champion teams. Congratulations to all for a job well done! This year's renamed "Learning and Development Committee" are planning some interesting educational events to be highlighted in this issue. To all those we will approach this year to write reports about trials and events and to tell their stories.

Thank you in advance for saying yes. Cath and I look forward to seeing you all again soon! ■

– Oakley Rae

Cath's Oakley

2021 Committees

Trials Committee: Lorna Savage, Chair, Carol Guy, Andrea deKenedy

Learning & Outreach: Anne Wheatley, Louise Hadley, Mary Thompson

Fundraising: Pamela Hall

Nominating Committee: TBD

Cover: Bud Stalking Sheep. Photo credit: Carol Guy

From the OBCC Learning & Development Committee

The L&D team is working on some fun learning endeavours:

■ **“Sheep Husbandry”** with Kevan Gretton at Shepherd’s Crook, Woodville, Ontario Sat. May 1, 2021. Kevan attained a college degree in Animal Husbandry at Pulborough, England and has a vast knowledge of everything sheep –hands on work and discussion period.

■ **“Learn How to Pen”** which is going to be hosted at Tracy Hinton’s lovely farm; Applewood Ridge Farm, 18230 Ridge Rd., Sunderland, Ontario, Canada. Clinicians will be Mary Thompson, and Tracy Hinton. Date is Saturday May 29th with rain date of Sunday, May 30th –maximum of 8 participants 2 time slots each. There are additional events planned for later in the year.

■ A **“Driving Clinic”** with Amanda Milliken -June 2021... stay tuned for more details

Message from the President

Well for most of us winter has come and gone, and sadly Covid is still here hampering our normal lives, and making things difficult. And yet, we survive and grow stronger and learn how to adapt. I personally enjoyed Ontario’s 2020 trial season that brought all of us together under less than perfect conditions, and we still managed to have an exciting, challenging season. Congratulations again to all the champions, and a heartfelt thank you to the trial hosts and organizers who manoeuvred through the covid restrictions.

I’d like to thank the three outgoing board members Tara Dier, Victoria Lamont, and Janet Fahey for their contributions, and Michelle Lawrence, Editor, and Kris Kiviaho, content collector, for all their hard work to produce the OBCC Newsletter (it’s quite a challenge to be sure). I also want to thank Kim Getton, Treasurer, and Rebecca Lawrence, Secretary/Webmaster for staying on and helping the three new members, Marie Sawford, Kevan Gretton and I, sort through what needs to be done. Please know you are very much appreciated. And finally the Trials and L&O committees for their contributions.

We are praying that restrictions will ease as we move forward into the 2021 season and I’m hoping that trial hosts and their support teams will continue to plan some Ontario trials with the hopes of continuing on with our love of herding. The Learning & Development committee has some learning events planned and are hoping to bring those to fruition in the upcoming months.

Until then, we all need to stay safe and follow our local guidelines and try to carve out another herding season for 2021. ■

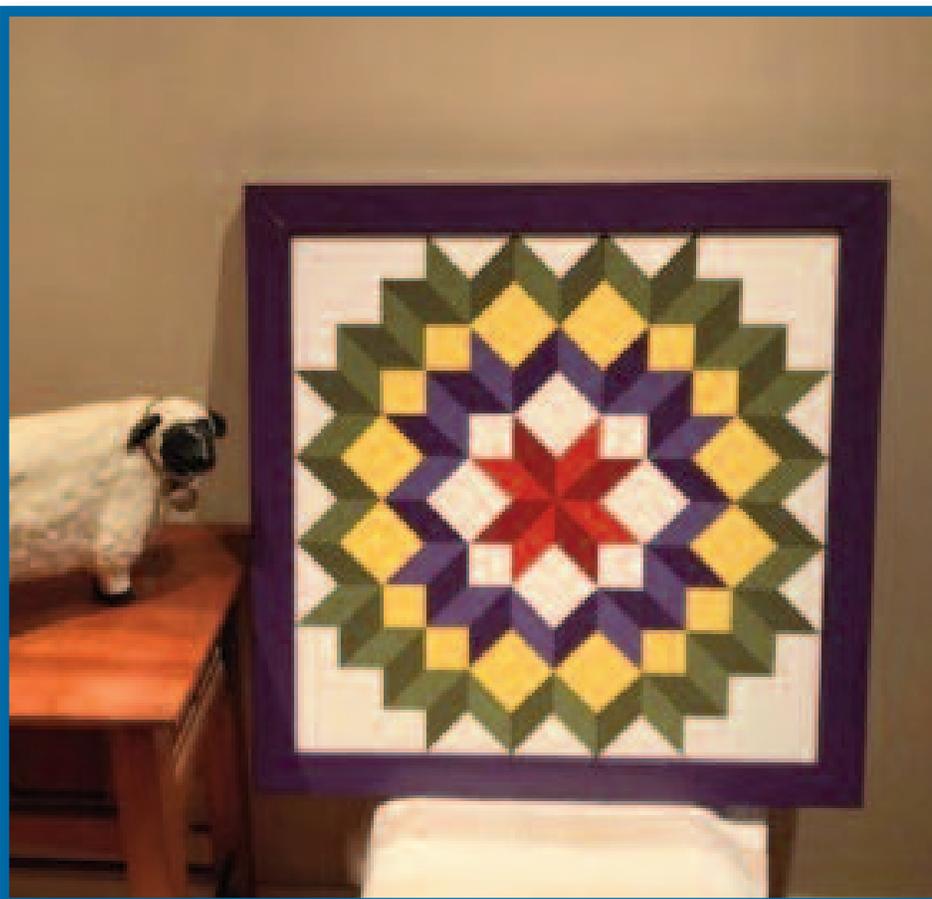
– Mary Thompson

From Pamela Hall of the Fundraising Committee
Thanks for all your support in 2020; I’m looking forward to seeing all of you in 2021!

The fundraising committee has graciously been given donations from our incredibly talented artistic members to auction off. The bidding for these pieces of art will be online and at trials ongoing throughout the trialing the year with final bids at Fall Trials. As new items come in, I will post photos and you can PM me, Pamela Hall, with your bid. I will follow up with current bid numbers on the OBCC Face Book page, that way we won’t inundate the page with multiple small bits.

This special barn quilt was lovingly made by Catherine Rae. It measures 28” x 28”. Starting Bid: \$80.00. PM Message, call or text Pamela Hall with your new bid. 647-669-6063

Don’t think for a minute you are off the hook for our Grass Creek Silent Auction!! Donations will be happily accepted anytime. Let’s be positive it will be a GO this year. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support. ■



Featuring Lorna Savage

I did not start out in border collies, not even sheep, it was horses and showing. My life was horses. My horse was boarded in Elginburg with a good friend Carolyn Turner. One day she said "I am going to bring some sheep home; I think I'd like them and a friend is dispersing her flock". So a small flock of very mixed breed sheep came to stay. Carolyn got into breeding and decided she wanted some help. I had by then moved into my current house on the same property as Carolyn and her husband, easy access to my horse and at that time I had stopped going to horse shows and was just enjoying him with miles and miles of trail riding. So what happened?...a ewe lamb appeared as a birthday present, and so it started. One turned into more and more and soon we had quite a lucrative freezer lamb trade going.

Among our best friends were Betty and Bob Holland who raised Suffolk sheep and had a pair of imported border collies they were breeding and a Border Collie/Sheep store. Some may remember them from years ago as they always had a stall at Grass Creek each year. So one day Betty phones Carolyn and asks her to pick up a young female border collie that was being returned. She was tied out day after day to a garage door, and the man claimed he had been cheated..."she is not a purebred, she has brown on her" I know...yup. Well this dog came home and within an hour I told Carolyn if she did not keep her I would. The next day Carolyn phoned Betty and told her she could not have her back and that her new home was with Carolyn. My first contact with a border collie! A few months later another friend Lois bought a pup from Betty, a real pretty tri female. My second contact!

Ok then it got interesting. I would say the dogs were both under a year when we visited Lois, and both dogs were off leash. Well, within minutes the two took off like a shot out into the lane way after the sheep with both Carolyn and Lois running and calling. I watched those dogs chase the whole flock of sheep, smashing them through the laneway gate and taking it off its hinges, out into a field



“I watched those dogs chase the whole flock of sheep, smashing them through the laneway gate and taking it off its hinges, out into a field with sheep scattered everywhere, what a mess!”

with sheep scattered everywhere, what a mess. They finally caught up the dogs and returned. I had stayed back and just watched and the first thing I said was "No way will I have one of those dam dogs!" Ok that was a very very long time ago, almost 30 years.

The next year at Sheep Focus in Markham, Ontario, and I was taking a break from doing a lamb cooking demo and wandered out into the grounds. Hey...what's that? A group of people with their border collies watching another collie drive sheep around. So fascinating, so much so, that I did not return to help with the

food, but sat in the sun the whole afternoon getting severely burnt and just watching the dogs. Later I heard about the Pittsburg SDT at Grass Creek and convinced Carolyn to come and watch with me. So we sat and watched and watched and then a gentleman came to the post with a smooth coat prick eared bitch named Jan. They announced him as Ivan Weir! Hey wait a minute, is that the same Ivan Weir who used to live next door and raised Morgans and was a CEF judge? Yes it was. So after we went over to see him and his wife Jan, and I think I was hooked by what the border collies could do. I guess now-a-days the remark about never having one would translate into "fantastic... both dogs are certainly turned on to sheep".

So I asked Ivan if he had any more like Jan? The answer was "no", but he did have a couple of pups tied under the camper. That is when I first saw her; a sad looking, floppy eared, smooth coat, black and white pup. I said ok thanks and we went back to watching, and then returned to the trial the next day. About five times that day I asked Carolyn if she wanted a drink and would go to Ivan's camper, get the drink, back to the camper, then back to our spot. On the fifth visit, I came back with that sorry looking pup, floppy hound-ears and all, and Carolyn just said, "Well I knew you would".

Forward to the next spring, my pup who was Spin, had just come up to a year when JP Lalonde seeing Carolyn had a Border collie asked if she was interested in training her on sheep (we knew JP already from sheep and being in the same Sheep District and going to meetings and he lived just 10 min away). Carolyn was not into it and suggested I may be interested, and so it began. I went over to JP's and he had some sheep in a wire pen in the field and we let Spin go and she trotted around the sheep both ways, no crazy flying around, and JP says "maybe she will do it".

Later on I received a call from JP; Alf Kyme is at his place as he is judging their SDT and a few handlers were going out in a field just to put a few young dogs on sheep. Was I interested? My response, I'LL BE THERE IN

A FLASH! Well a few dogs worked the sheep and then they said do you want to try Spin, "sure thing" I said. LOL we turned her on them and Alf was trying to tell me what to do and finally grabbing my arm and yanked me around and I finally said "do you want me out of the way?" He said YES, and then worked my young dog for about 10 min. Later after we were all done, JP approached me and said Alf would like to know if you would like to bring Spin over tomorrow? I told him I have to work, but then JP said Alf would like you to just drop her off....WOW I thought!...So I had Spin there before 6 am the next day. It pissed rain all day and after supper when I went to pick her up I no sooner got in the driveway when Alf came running out and said "do not get out of the car". He then proceeded

in the downpour to take Spin out into the near field and showed me outruns, flanking, fetching and a bit of driving. Holy smokes I thought! He had taken her out 3 times that day and put training on her. Wow... was all I could think!

After that, going over to JP's for training lessons was all I had on my mind during work. A month later I went with the Lalonde family to Naven SDT to watch. In the afternoon JP approached me and said they need someone to set out for open (mind you open then was about 15 to 20 dogs) Would I do it?...What are you kidding? I have never been on a trial field, was a learning novice and you want me to do WHAT? It should not be a problem he says, you have started holding sheep for me at home and you can wear, so just wear them out and

keep them there. OK... GULP! So our first introduction; setting out for an open class and we did it. I was relieved when it was over.

I then began training in earnest. At one point in time we had Derek Scrimgeour over to judge, and when I was introduced to him he told me he had heard about my Spin dog from Alf Kyme, and so had a few other people over there. It was another 'WOW' moment for me.

So that was it for getting into stock dog trialing. Spin took me through Novice, and a few Pro Novice classes. One was a very large class which I won in a runoff between myself, Virgil Holland and Mike Canaday, even with the local barn cat crossing under Spins nose on the way to the pen. All I heard was Virgil saying "I think the girl just beat us". I ran one Ranch class and then moved into open. I think we did okay for newbies; we were a team, won our very first open trial and came fourth our first trip on the Grass Creek field. Many handlers will remember Spin and then her half-sister Dot, both great dogs. Now since that comment "I would never have one of those dogs" about 30 years has gone by, and about 16 border collies have touched my life, not to mention the odd litter of pups and a few dogs in for training. The end of 2018 was my last competition, being forced to stop by losing the physical ability to blow my whistle. Still I try my best to stay in, attending trials and offering assistance when I can. Tyler set out all of Janet's trial last October at 12 years of age and he may be able to do one more year. Kaylee now 13 years ever willing to do it, but no longer fast enough to catch an errant sheep. She is still a great help with holding for people training. Still the other two Ivy....well Ivy is Ivy, and Ace a bit hot but back working to hold out. Ok.. The End. I am sure I have bored you all but was asked to do this and believe there may be a bit of a series of stories entitled "The Herding Spotlight".

PS: In the early beginning, I also remember someone telling me when running in NN under Julie (nee Simpson) that she remarked about Spin "Wow great dog... too bad about the handler" I think I turned out okay in the end. ■



Top: Spin, Dot and sire Harford Logans Jim
Bottom: Savage dog family.

OBCC 2020 CHAMPIONS

Teagan at the BC



Daisy at Handy Dog



OBCC High Point Champion 2020 Mary Thompson's Teagan

I'm honoured to have won the OBCC High Point Championship award for the 2020 season. It was a tight race. Ontario has some of the top handler/dog teams in North America.

Teagan is a 6 yr old home bred and trained female from my Paris (Beauty/Monty, by Holly/Hawk) and Michael Polites very talented Taff. She is a pup from the first litter that he sired. I'm always looking for talented young stud dogs to enhance my breeding program, and this choice proved to be a very good one.

She was an easy bitch to train, always wanting to please, and required very little correction. I do remember at a very young age, that I'd get these beautiful wide outruns with me standing partially up the center line. Then when I sent her from my feet, she'd go straight up the middle at the sheep.....yikes! Two steps forward, one step back. Her natural wide outrun showed up about two months later while hiking in the snow with the other dogs. That was a happy moment for me. A few of the many highlights in her career; Overall Ontario Triple Crown Champion 2018, Overall Handy Dog Champion 2019, NEBCA Reserve Points Champion 2019, and now OBCC Open Champion 2020. I'm hoping there will be many more accolades to come her way.

Winning an Overall Points Championship takes a consistent trial dog that has a natural out run, the ability to "steady up" a variety of sheep breeds, is a good listener, and stays calm and deliberate in their movement. Teagan is an easy bitch to run, takes all her whistles, doesn't fight with my commands, and therefore any mistakes that are made can easily be attributed to me. She often makes me look good!

Thanks to the OBCC for providing this points venue and for recognizing consistent placing trial dogs. And a huge "THANK YOU" to the trial hosts for fighting through the ever changing guidelines to stay compliant with the covid 19 restrictions in their respective counties. I stay hopeful that we can return to a more normal season in 2021. ■
-By: Mary Thompson

OBCC PN Reserve Champion 2020 Mary Thompson's Daisy

Daisy is a home bred, raised and trained daughter by my Mia and Lyle East's Mo. I first noticed Mo (short for Missouri); in early May 2018 white attending a trial hosted by Larry Miller in Sedalia, Mo. Wow, I was so impressed with how this dog outran and managed the difficult sheep that I introduced myself to Lyle and asked



Top: Daisy driving
Bottom: Daisey Butt

him some more questions regarding his dog, only to find out that in fact he was a cattle dog trainer/trial hand and only dabbled in sheep dog trialing. Knowing that my Mia was going to be in standing heat during the Bluegrass and looking for a stud dog, I was pleased to find out that Lyle was indeed making that trip as well. We agreed that it would be a good mating. Five lovely pups were born on July 22nd 2018, and as they began to grow I did notice that the female who was marked very much like the sire, was a tad sensitive to strangers and I decided that she would be the one to remain with

me. I would normally have chosen the female with less white, but fate

has a way of making these decisions for you. Lyle selected the largest well marked b/w male, and advised this past fall that he would like to repeat the mating as he is very impressed with his youngster Clint. Lyle lives in Clinton, Missouri, hence the play on the sire's and pup's names.

Daisy has inherited the best of both dam and sire; fast, sensitive,

OBCC 2020 CHAMPIONS

biddable, with scope and style. Because of covid 19 restrictions I was unable to get her started on the trial field within my normal schedule for a young bitch. Typically I would attend some early May trials, particularly the Bluegrass in Kentucky, which provides two large entry PN classes and four Nurseries which allows my youngsters to get their paws wet with a continuation of attempts on the same field.

As you all know, that was not possible this past season. So as a result, I found myself taking Daisy to the post on August 1st at 80 Acres not really knowing how she would react or even if she would be brave enough to leave my feet. Thankfully, she sailed on out there and with only a short halt, and one redirect, managed to locate the sheep and brought them to me quite nicely. And so began the season, with her gaining confidence at each trial, and slowly climbing up the placement

ladder until she managed to be 1st several times, and ended up tied for the overall points race (decided by 2nd place wins, with the championship going to Amanda and Carl).

There were not many opportunities to run her in Nursery, but we did manage to achieve one leg and I have hopes that there will be some opportunities to obtain a second leg in 2021. Will it matter? Will the border re-open? Will the 2021 Virginia finals be a go? In the end, what really matters is that she is good enough, that's what really counts.

Thanks to the OBCC and all the trial managers for a lovely, competitive season in Ontario in 2020. I truly enjoyed the return to the good ole days with all the classes running on the same day, as it gave us all a chance to meet and enjoy the company of the Ontario novice group. ■

- Mary Thompson, Hawk's Landing Border Collies

OBCC Reserve Open Champion 2020 Amanda Milliken & Howell

Howell has a long successful career. He is an extreme competitor, the better a runner when the going gets tough. His outrunning is outstanding. In the fall of 2019, he scored the best out work at the Carbondale US National Finals, where he was woefully on his own, handler with a fresh fracture to the knee cap, and not properly in the game. I don't know if Howell will be good to go in 2021, even if our trial season gets off the ground. He is definitely a senior now. He has been a real good dog, even if he never runs again. ■

-By Amanda Milliken

*Amanda and Howell
Photo by Christine Kovall*

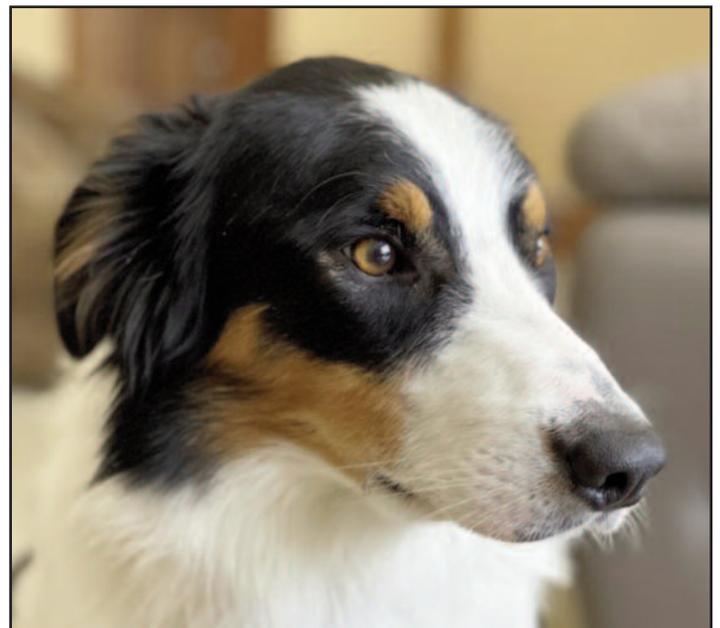


OBCC ProNovice Champion 2020 Amanda Milliken & Carl

Imported Carl, as a pup, from Alf Kyme. When in the UK, I liked his bitch Annie, feeling that she was one I might be happy running. If bred to Aled Owen's Cap, I asked for pup. Alf obliged. Normally I start my year olds in the fall, but Carl was held back by my broken knee cap which took several months to fix. I started him in the spring, as a result. He learned fast. And begged for more. He is a natural clever outrunner. I can send him from my garden, out to the left, through two gates, five hundred yards to bring in the flock. He is calm in the face of psychotic sheep behaviour. His concentration is fluid--he sees the logic of refinements. He sees his role in a partnership and likes it. He is comfortable with authority. Part way through our abbreviated trial season, I moved him up to open. That is where he belongs. I hope we have a 2021 Nursery season, as he is a Nursery dog this year. ■

-By Amanda Milliken

*Amanda's Carl
Photo by Amanda Milliken*



OBCC 2020 CHAMPIONS

*Darwin in Deventer schaapskudde
Photo Credit Simcha Verweij*



OBCC Novice Champion 2020 Forentine Maathuis

The adventures of Darwin: a city dog at the farm -or a farm dog in the city. When obedience and agility training did not impress my first border collie or me, I figured I'd give sheep herding a try. Little did I know it would be the start of a new adventure and it would change my whole life. I got hooked quickly and intrigued by the unique relationship between the handler, sheep, and the border collies.

Getting soaked in pouring rain, chasing after (and sometimes run over by) sheep, running after my dog, tripping over flexi nets, great conversations with my trainer Ouisal Belghetti, I loved it all. Unfortunately, my border collie not as much. After a few months of herding classes I started looking for a puppy with more of a workline running through his veins. With the arrival of our new border collie, Darwin, a new adventure awaited.

I took a shepherd course and started volunteering at several sheep operations during shearing and lambing. Darwin and I became permanent crew members of 'The Deventer Sheep Flock', where we were part of a team that would move the 250 ewes through the streets of Deventer city, so they could graze and maintain parks, conservation areas and the dykes.

With our move to Toronto, our Canadian adventure began. We took up herding classes with Sue Jewell and tipped our pinky toe in a couple of *sorry* AHBA trials. After a while, a Kijiji ad asked for a full-time sheep farm manager, within reasonable driving distance from Toronto. I got the job and could bring Darwin to help me on the farm. What a treat to be able to work with sheep all the time! While they were building a new barn, the sheep were held under (*ahem*) less than perfect



*Florentine's Darwin
Photo by Kim McClure*

conditions, most were skinny and hungry and often break out of their pens. Darwin helped me every single time to get them back. When new-born lambs got lost, he would help me find them. Over

the course of a year the flock's health really improved and Darwin and I learned so much that year, our bond grew. We started to work as a team, and I knew I could rely on him.

I don't remember the exact day or the exact moment, but I took up training again, with Helen at Swaledale and with Tracy at Applewood Ridge, and suddenly we found ourselves in the adventure of prepping for our first OBCC trial.

For many of you this trial year was short, odd, and far from what it usually looks like. For me it was an ideal first year: it was a great chance to get to know the community, see all the handlers and their dogs working at all levels, learn about trialing rules and etiquettes by scribing and got plenty of 'reality-checks' on what we had to work on. Because of all the great tips and wonderful training sessions, we improved our 'game' and Darwin and I managed to pull it off as a team and won! That feeling of closing the gate after our first successful pen at 80 Acres it's quite addictive and I don't think this will be our last herding adventure together. ■

—By Forentine Maathuis

2020 OBCC Reserve Novice Champion Susan Shipton and Gin

In the often serendipitous way that a dog comes into one's life, it was the chance meeting of an acquaintance in a gardening centre that led me to Gin. Tara Dier and I had known one another from dog walking days in Toronto, so I recognized her when I saw her standing in the perennial section of Farmgate Gardens near Stirling, where both of us now own rural properties. We got to chatting about Border collies, of course.

I was researching breeders for my next agility dog and I wanted a pup from working lines so I could also try herding. I had done a little with my Aussies and I had enjoyed it.

Some months before I had turned down a Border collie pup from a good breeding because I was travelling for work. By the time I ran into Tara, I had decided the timing would never be perfect and I would just



have to find a way to make it work. Tara directed me to The Handlers Post Classifieds - "there's a litter from a very good breeding there", she said. - Dave Young's Bess by Werner Reitboeck's Sigi. I called the Youngs and in the Spring of 2015 I brought home my first Border collie.

I had Gin written into my professional contracts; if I travelled it was with dog. At five months old she accompanied me to Calgary, then to Copenhagen and Vancouver. She took the travel in stride, but thankfully has not been on a plane for several years now.

Gin and I have had lots of help, for which I am very grateful. Thank you to Tracy Hinton, my coach and teacher and to Helen Dunning, John and Cynthia Palmer, Robin French, Mary Thompson, and my friend on this journey, Jane Kessler. Thank you Tara for your ongoing support and access to your sheep!

And thank you Dave and Mary Ellen Young for my Gin. To Dave for getting her started, for coaching, and for always being at the other end of a text with words of wisdom and encouragement!

Thank you to all the NN competitors in 2020, it was a fun and fierce competition; you raised the bar for Gin and I.

Like many newbies I live in a state of self doubt - how would this dog have been with someone who knew what they were doing? How much have I screwed her up? I am such a burden to Gin, but it seems she doesn't think of it that way; take her to sheep and she just keeps on trying.

Gawd love a working dog. ■

- By Susan Shipton



Susan Shipton's Gin



Scott 2007 - 2020

Scott came to me at the age of eight. He had been Vergil Holland's dog and after Vergil's sad death in 2015 Annemarie offered him to me. I had not seen him work and had no idea what I had agreed to.

Scott was a big, rawboned fellow with the largest feet I have seen on a dog, and a propensity for clowning.

I have had trained dogs. Scott wasn't just trained—he was a finished dog. He could do anything a sheepdog could do, cheerfully. When I first brought him home he made it clear he thought my whistles were ridiculous—Vergil had told me the same thing—but once we got that sorted out there was no looking back. He showed me what an effortless, fluid run was like. He ran out with commitment. He drove in a straight line. He fetched flawlessly. He shed like a hot knife through butter. He penned when others couldn't.

He was as happy doing small chores in the barn as he was at the Bluegrass or the Finals. When he finished and I called him off the sheep he would face me, rock back on his hind legs and show me the bottoms of his front paws, grinning from ear to ear. I miss him. ■

-By Tara Dier

“ Scott was a big, rawboned fellow with the largest feet I have seen on a dog, and a propensity for clowning. ”

Photo by Maureen Scott Robinson

Hello, from the Merchandise and Fundraising Committee

Welcome back to OBCC for 2021.

Some new ideas are being bounced around this year for fundraising and new merchandise. As some of us are still in lockdown and other districts have restricted interaction, we are going to try doing some virtual and online work. Distribution and receipt of goods is going to take some communication and willingness of members to shuttle goods, if and where possible. There is still stock in ball caps, beanies, hoodies, t-shirts, whistles and stock sticks.

This year we are offering an option to pre-order clothing.
The two items to choose from are listed below. **Please contact me directly with your order.**



\$80.00

The waterproof and breathable fabric is critically seam-sealed and it has a snap-off hood to give you the protection you need in just about any weather. The lightweight, three-layer construction gives you all of the performance without the extra weight and breathable back vents keep you from overheating. Graphic camo pattern interior for extra style points and zippered pocket with an attached key hook. The zipper even doubles as a whistle to help you stay safe! Colours: Red, Royal, Dark Grey, Black.



\$50.00

Unisex sizing, women may want to order a size down. Colours: Black, blackberry, graphite heather (flecked grey), royal, sport grey (light grey), tweed (dark grey).

To place an order email: Pamela Hall pmhall22@bell.net. Payment due prior to order is submitted.