



Ontario Border Collie Club



AUGUST 2021

The Herding Spotlight

Shepherding In Saskatchewan

What Is Nursery After All?

Volunteering, The Backbone of the OBCC

Handy Dog Trial Results

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 K0M 2T0

2021 Club Officers

PRESIDENT: Mary Thompson
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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

Hello everyone, we hope you are all well as this pandemic has continued to restrict our activities. So far it seems that the summer of 2021 is worse than that of 2020. Ontario is ramping up vaccinations and hopefully in the late summer and fall we will be even closer to resuming our favourite pastimes.

As you all know, many of our Club activities have been either cancelled, delayed, or severely restricted. This makes it challenging to bring you a newsletter, but we have tried to bring you a variety of content.

This issue features articles by Helen Dunning. She writes about her wonderful dogs who are "Gone but not Forgotten". Credit for this issue's cover photo goes to Elizabeth Holly Photography (Helen's daughter). The photo is of Swaledale Farm, where Helen managed many trials and Gordon aptly named the pens. This is significant, because by the time you read this, our friends Helen and Gordon will have started a long trek to a new chapter in their lives in British Columbia. They will be sorely missed and we send them off with our very best wishes, hoping our paths cross again.

Also featured in this issue is an account of the Nursery trials at Millikan Farm in early June, and an article about the Handy Dog Novice trial on July 17 and 18. The "Herding Spotlight" is a new feature this year and I think you will enjoy reading Werner Reitboeck's article remembering his early days of herding. Werner highlights both his adventures and misadventures on the road to becoming an accomplished handler. He has included some great photos of his dogs.



I'm not sure that everyone knows that Florentine Maathuis and Darwin have been in Saskatchewan all summer tending a flock of goats and sheep. She has provided us with photos and the story of her adventure.

Since volunteering is such an important part of a successful club, you'll find in this issue an article outlining the duties of some of our committees.

Oakley has been setting a good example by diligently wearing his mask, sanitizing his paws, and only gathering sheep in small groups.

We want to wish all of you success in the rest of the herding season. Many thanks to all of you who so graciously agreed to write articles.

Cheers!
Cath and Oakley,
Content Editors

Covid 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: Lynn Johnston, Kelly Morrow, Anne Wheatley

Cover: Helen Dunning's Jack moving the Swaledale sheep.
Photo credit: Elizabeth Holly Photography

From the OBCC Learning & Development Committee

Covid postponement/update. 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 Pulbrough, England and has a vast knowledge of everything sheep –hands on work and discussion period. **Cancelled**

■ **“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. maximum of 8 participants 2 time slots each. There are additional events planned for later in the year. **Aug. 7 with clinicians Tracy Hinton and John Palmer**

■ A **“Driving Clinic”** with Amanda Milliken -June 2021... stay tuned for more details. **Cancelled due to clinician injury**

Message from the President

Well, so much for a covid free spring! Sadly a lot of planning was completed for the L&D events as well as a May trial, but to no avail. However, our motto “is never give up”, and the committee members and trial organizers have dug deep and have rescheduled and/or are replanning the events....kudos to all involved for your tenacity during these difficult times.

Thankfully the Nursery Classes at Butternut Creek hosted by Amanda Milliken were able to happen. The Handy Dog Novice Trial organized by Victoria Lamont, and trial manager Viki Kidd were able to be held, and The Shepherd’s Crook Open trial, hosted by Kevan and Kim Gretton, with Tracy Hinton holding the reins, at the time of this message, was in a good position to happen already being in Phase II of the reopening of Ontario. Thanks to all their volunteers and the behind the scenes workers, Trialing is again alive and well in Ontario!

A project that the board has endorsed has to do with archive preservation. Some of the material dates back to the late 80’s and a couple of members have offered to catalogue and scan this material and save it to a hard drive. At some point in time it is our hope to make the archives available on the new OBCC website which is being worked on by our current webmaster Rebecca Lawrence.

My hopes are that as we move into summer and our vaccination rates go up, while covid cases decline, we will see a return to more normal times.

– Mary Thompson, President

Hello everyone from the Fun Fundraising Committee;

The monthly 50/50 draws have turned out to be an entertaining and novel way to raise spirits and funds for the Club. Journey and Fen have been a great help in drawing names, and we hope they have given you a smile with their videos.

Our May winner was Beth Devereaux: \$75.00 and the June winner was Joanne Murphy: \$67.50. WooHoo let’s try to get July even higher.

\$5.00 minimum gets you one ticket. Etransfer to Pamela Hall at; pmhall22@gmail.com

The silent auction is posted on Facebook under: OBCC 2021 silent auction. We have two creative barn quilts posted and both have bids on them. I will post items as I acquire them, donations are always welcome, send me a photo of your donation via email or FB messenger, and I will, add it to the auction page.

If anyone wants t-shirts, ball caps, stock sticks or whatever, let me know, my supplier can do small orders as well as large ones. I also have the oiled ball caps back in stock; green, black and brown. Good in foul weather.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again and trying our luck out on the trial field.

-The Hall Girls



With Werner Reitboeck and Piper

One day I arrived home with 22 ewe lambs. As I lowered the ramp of the trailer they jumped out with great joy and raced into the pasture, where, after a few minutes of exploration, they settled down. They ate lustily of the delicate spring growth of grasses and legumes.

A few days later I was horrified to see one of the little lambs limping. I walked up to it carefully, talking soothingly. As I came closer the lamb just quietly walked away. Time for a new method: I approached the lamb at a crooked angle, like a plane flying in crosswinds, never looking directly at the lamb, gently humming some idiotic tune. Then, at the last minute, I tried to grab her unawares, jumping for her like some soccer super-goalie. Alas the lamb and her friends managed to evade me easily with a few hops. I was

however able to check out their droppings from extremely close range: nothing wrong with their digestive tract that could not be attributed to fresh, water laden spring grass.

There seemed little chance I could check that lamb on pasture so she and all her friends would need to be brought into barn. There I should be able to corner the limping lamb and check her feet.

I prepared myself for my new role as shepherd and house husband by reading up on sheep management and all the books that I had read seemed to attribute any lameness to foot rot, a really nasty bacterial infection that could quickly spread to the whole flock and make my life a living hell.

So out came a bucket of feed and I enticed them by shaking the bucket ... they gave me a look or two but that was about it. I guess after a winter of dry hay and grain the luscious fresh pasture seemed a better dinner. I tried to talk to them by calling baaaaa, baaaa or maaaa, maaaaa changing my pitch from an enticing, deep sexy ram call to an "I'm in trouble" high lamb-call, an impatient ewe call "my udder is bursting" and everything in between. That resulted in a few more looks or rather stares, some of which seemed to be full of concern and worry but no mad rush to the barn. (However since that day, it seems that my



Werner and Jan. Photo by Amanda Milliken

neighbors look at me quite oddly at times and they go out of their way to explain the simplest things in kind of a baby language). If anything, the lambs seemed to be inching gently away from me. Then I remembered that in some authoritative book I read, it said that sheep have Latin education and would come rushing if called with the magical word "ovine." "Ovine, ... oviiiiiiiine, oviiiiiiiine." My throat started to hurt and I was near despair.

Back I went to the house for reinforcements. Kate, my wife, quite willingly put on her rubber boots, our two month old son Anthony went into a sling around her front and out we went. Once more we tried to entice our lambs into the barn. As this did not succeed we then tried to herd them in. We kept racing after them, dashing in here or there; we tried to sneak up on them to herd them quietly and kind of push them towards the barn and, we did get close, once or twice I lunged for one of the back legs of the "sick" lamb, alas in the last moment it always, with a few hops, got out of reach. Eventually Anthony woke up and let us know of his displeasure ... that at least seemed to get the lambs' attentions. I suggested to Kate she might want to drive the sheep now with the help of Anthony. The look I received for that idea told me I should plan a different offensive. Eventually, with the help of neighbors, we did get the lambs into the barn.

It only took six of us to herd 22 lambs.

I caught the lame lamb but I could find nothing that in any way looked like the descriptions of foot rot in my book on sheep health. Back at the house, still huffing and puffing, I collapsed onto the sofa; surely there must be an easier way to handle sheep! I needed a dog!

Kate and I had lived in Nova Scotia for a few years and one of our friends, a fisherman, had some sheep on an island. We visited the island with him and his wife to help with the roundup of lambs. The main characters were two border collies. As soon as the boat got close to the dock they jumped out and disappeared. We had just enough time to get the corral ready when ewes and lambs advertised their approach with "baahs" and the rustle of vegetation as they ran towards us. In no time the dogs had moved them into the corral, where we sorted the animals; most of the lambs went into the boat to be shipped to market. Wow...I was utterly amazed as there would have been no way to bring these sheep without the dogs, we would not even have found most of the sheep as many were hidden in the woods, some were on the beaches munching on kelp, some on more or less bushy clearings.

Remembering this I decided that herding dogs might just be the solution. Next day, as

luck would have it, I came across a notice advertising border collies for sale. After discussing it with Kate I phoned the number advertised and arranged to look at the pups that very afternoon.

I was shown into a barn and there in a horse stall were seven black and white bundles of energy. I was assured that the parents of the pups were both from excellent working stock.

There are many ways to choose a pup. In the end it comes down to personal preference. After a cursory glance at me the pups went back to their preoccupation in trying to catch some of the hens that were also housed in the barn, the only one that I could catch was a little tri-coloured male. He had decided that grabbing my shoelaces was as much fun as trying to catch one of these elusive hens.

Kate was delighted when she saw him. Like any true blooded Border Collie he was full of energy and mischief. He would be a working dog on our farm. Much of the time during the year our footing is mostly mud so we decided it would be a lot simpler if the pup would live outside in a horse stall year round. As soon as we turned out our lights that first night he started to remind us that he was still around. His whining got louder and louder. We

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At that time there were no clinics, no lessons, at least not anywhere near here. In one sheep magazine I had seen an advertisement for a book to train herding dogs. I rummaged through stacks of papers in my "office" until at last I found that publication: "Working Sheepdogs" by John Templeton and Matt

Mundell, it became my reading companion for the next few months, followed later by Rural Route Videos (Martin Penfold) which was a real help as at that time there were no lessons or clinics around, Martin was also the breeder of my second dog, Meg.

Over the next few months Piper followed me around wherever I went, he quickly and without effort seemed to learn his "down," and "come." I believe I did everything right: vaccinations, worming, proper feed and water. The book stressed that a working dog should not be allowed to roam the countryside at will so Piper would be locked into a horse stall whenever I was not with him. Over the next few months I also managed to make the horse stall pretty much escape proof. When he was about seven months old I bought a few more ewes. To prevent any spread of possible disease I kept them apart from the rest of the flock, for a month or so they were in a separate pasture.

After they had settled in for a few days I brought them a little grain that I placed into a tub in the middle of the pasture. Then I fetched Piper. I laid him down about thirty yards from

Werner's Jan. Photo: Amanda Miliken



the ewes who did not even notice us thanks to the grain in front of them. I started the first training session with Piper. Day after day we went back with those ewes and worked them. I diligently read up on how to train but basically Piper's instinct needed just a touch of correction here and there. He had to learn what I wanted of him; he had to learn my commands. He quickly mastered the fetch which meant that from then on he would help me with the main flock. I now could bring the flock into the barn within minutes. I stood by the barn door and Piper fetched the sheep and their lambs to me. I had to stand aside to let then pass by me into the barn.

Pretty soon Piper helped me at all phases of my work with the sheep. He had an uncanny sense that made him realize what I wanted of him. All he really knew was to fetch the sheep but that was enough to make it possible for me to look after my livestock efficiently. Piper was with me all day, first thing in the morning I would fetch him from his stall and we'd check the sheep and have a little walk to check the farm, judge the hay field, back to the kitchen for some breakfast. At first I even let him be loose when I was on the tractor but he gave me a fright or two so then he stayed in his horse stall or in a 10 x10 kennel in the yard

“ As I stood by the post and released Piper he rushed up towards the sheep but, ignoring them, he first went up to the dog that was lying not too far from them. A very anti-social dog it was, he completely ignored Piper. So Piper first tried to find out if that dog had any homosexual tendencies, when he still was ignored – Piper lifted his leg. ”

whenever I was on machinery. But most of the time he would be loose to follow me around, give me advice on any number of things from carpentry to baling hay.

That August somebody told me that not too far from our farm there was a sheepdog trial. So our whole family, Piper included, jammed into the car and went to have a look. There were a few dogs in the Novice class and looking at it I thought that Piper could do this too. I asked if we could enter the following day and so that Sunday morning I proudly went to the post with Piper. But just before the trial a red van drove up and a murmur went through the crowd: Amanda had arrived.

As I stood by the post and released Piper he rushed up towards the sheep but, ignoring them, he first went up to the dog that was lying not too far from them. A very anti-social dog it was, he completely ignored Piper. So Piper first tried to find out if that dog had any homosexual tendencies, when he still was ignored – Piper lifted his leg. This at least got a reaction, not so much from the dog but from his handler who started rushing at Piper, brandishing her crook, blond hair flying – an angry Viking warrior princess if I ever saw one! Still to this day I see Amanda with her crook raised high, her blonde hair flying as she rushes down the hill. Piper on the other hand decided that Bart, which was the setout dog, was not worth his attention and shifted his attention to the sheep, thereby thankfully escaping the wrath of Amanda.

We did finish the course in some manner, I think there were only 6 or 7 dogs in that class and we even got a yellow ribbon. Both of us were now efficiently hooked! Suddenly weekends during summer and fall found me and Piper in our truck travelling to sheepdog trials all over Ontario, Quebec and Northeastern States. Soon there was a second dog, Meg and thanks to helpful advice from handlers all over she was trained a little better than Piper. Other dogs followed, our flock grew to 180 sheep but settled around 150. I changed the tent for a tent trailer, then a camper.

Pretty soon we invited handlers to come to our own place, and for 18 years we hosted Navall Farm SDT, with around 80-90 open and 60 or so Novice dogs. Generally we used all our sheep (we pulled about 20 or so that were unsuitable, some aggressive, some not in the best of shape) and an equal number of lambs for the trial and ran in Open; 2 ewes and 2 lambs, in Novice classes we just used the ewes. Navall became part of the Triple Crown series, and handlers left here to dash off down the 401 to JP Lalonde's Renaissance Farm SDT, and from there to Kingston's Grasscreek Park trial. It was a great time to be sheep dog trialing!

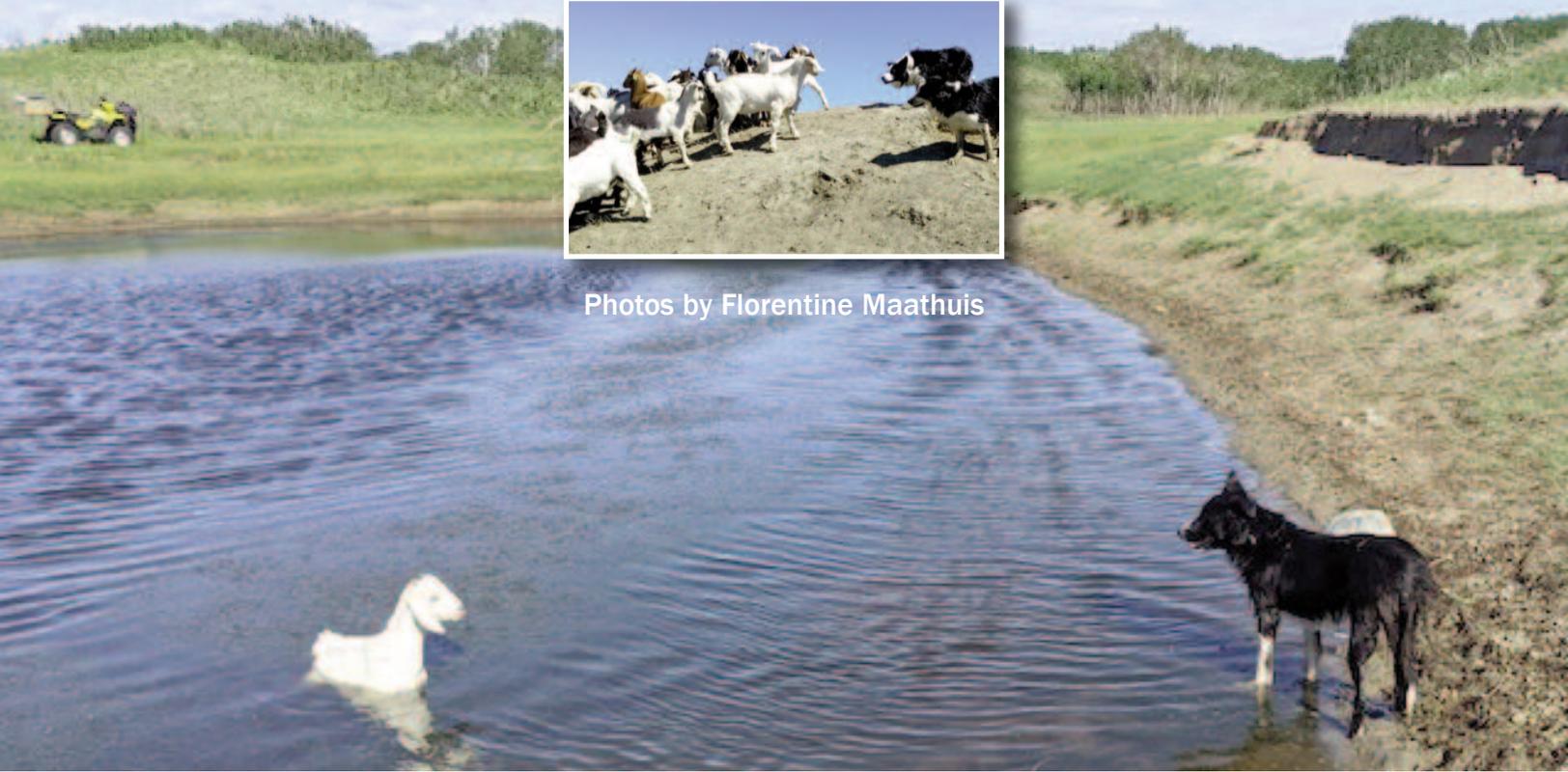
— By Werner Reitboeck



Shepherding in Saskatchewan



Photos by Florentine Maathuis



In the Netherlands there's a saying that if you want to learn how to swear you should keep goats.

With goats, I learned you should keep a close eye on the little ones. Goat kids like to sleep, anywhere and anytime. While asleep, they can be completely unaware of their surroundings and won't notice if their flock starts to move. As a shepherd, it is important to always be aware of those sleeping kids in the bushes or behind the hills. One little white kid was still sleeping while the flock was hungry, smelled the spurge and took off running! I sent my dog to wake the kid up. The kid woke up, panicked, and started to run in the opposite direction of where the flock was heading. My dog and I followed her with the quad, trying to get her moving in the right direction. Turns out, she was a stubborn one and only ran further away. She wanted to get away so desperately she jumped into the dugout full of water!

This shepherding adventure started about in early May. After a beautiful road trip, I arrived with my two dogs Darwin and Gibbs in Elbow, Saskatchewan, where we would start our herding summer job. Though I had sheep herding experience back home, it wasn't of the same scale this job would be. Now we would not only herd sheep, but also goats. Now it would not just be a 'small' flock of 300 heads,



but three flocks in total: one sheep flock of 850 animals and two goat flocks of 1200 and 1500 animals.

The first two weeks were rough. Not only was it a huge adjustment for me and my dogs, we had travelled a long way and needed to get used to a new house, a new bed, extreme weather changes and loooong days. But the livestock needs to adjust to their new surroundings as well. Most of them come from a safe and warm barn and are suddenly out and about on pasture, most with kids and lambs on them. It was somewhere in the second week when I was watching over the goats and realized that this was the first day that the herd, my dogs and myself were relaxed and actually enjoying the moment.

This pasture project is a bit different from more common weed management projects. The project aims to restore the native prairie by targeting and eliminating leafy spurge,

which is a very common but invasive plant all over Canada. Cattle don't eat the spurge (although I just read that you can teach them to) and spraying isn't very effective. Sheep can be used to target the leafy spurge and have been used effectively. For a couple of years, goats have been used for this grazing project too. It turns out goats are doing an even better job at eliminating the spurge than sheep do.

Much to my surprise, goats are a pleasure to herd. They like to walk, always on the move, but they move in one direction and as one flock. Herding 850 sheep, however, is like herding 850 mini flocks; they all wander off in a different directions. You push one group back, turn around and another group has disappeared behind a hill. When they are hungry and grumpy it takes a whole lot of dog power to move them back.

Fortunately, the day when the little goat kid jumped into the water my dog and I were able to push it out (bonus: I was able to keep my feet dry!). The kid was exhausted after the whole ordeal, so once we had her out, she was easy to catch and bring her back to the flock.

Sheep or goats, they all find a way to make you swear (and sweat!) But most importantly they're just silly and enjoyable animals to work with.

— Florentine, Darwin & Gibbs

July 2021, Elbow, Saskatchewan

What Is Nursery After All?

By Patrick Gosselin



As you may or may not know, the Nursery category is for dogs that are under the age of three on the first of July of the present trial season. The run itself is very similar to what you would see in the Ranch category; Open distance run without shedding. Although Nursery is not an “official” category in the sense that there is no annual Ontario Border Collie Club standing like NN, PN or Open, most associations and clubs will host this type of trial to enable handlers to qualify their dogs for the United States Border Collie Handlers Association, Nursery Finals. Although you don’t have to qualify, Canadian registered Border Collies that meet the age requirement can also compete for the annual Canadian Border Collie

Association Nursery Championship. Still, I couldn’t help but wonder why this category exists in the first place. After all, if the dog can compete in NN, PN or Open, why have an age related category? Some quick research into sports where animals are involved led me to the 3 following conclusions. See sidebar.

Although I believe there is some truth to all three ideologies, I tend to agree most with the latter. That it’s simply another opportunity to grow with your young dog now while having its long term interest at heart. To find ways to reach the next level this year without compromising the ones to come. That is the feeling I had from the participants at the Nursery trial held at Amanda Milliken’s Farm on the 04, 05 & 06 June 2021. Handlers and

dogs came well prepared but aware that this is a form of initiation for the team and that things might not go as planned and that it’s totally normal. Altogether, 6 runs were put on a somewhat difficult setting (lower mid-field creating a blind outrun, ditch with long grass after the drive panels, cross drive on sideway slope and pen with a big draw). Challenges were many and everyone had something to take back home to improve. Three handlers were able to accumulate enough points to qualify for the fall finals in Virginia; Amanda Milliken with Tui, Tracy Hinton with Tye and Patrick Gosselin with Kina. A special thanks to Tara Dier, Karen Curtis and Werner Reitboeck for judging and Mike Crelian for managing the flock.

1 To Determine The Best Breeding

Some say this category enables one to determine who has the best breeding, as the performing pup most surely has something really special within it to do so great at such a young age. These people believe that although a dog can mature into something great later in life, if they can’t perform in Nursery, they most likely won’t as they get older. Sometimes, a dog is kept or sold based mainly on its performance in this category.

2 To Determine The Best Trainer/Handler

Others say that this category enables one to determine who is the best trainer / handler as the pup surely doesn’t have the experience and maturity to manage a run properly on its own. These people believe that the way the pup is trained at home and handled on the field is what makes the difference on the score board. They believe that all top dogs start with relatively the same capacity so the human part of the equation is the most influential.

3 To Determine The Best Team

Yet others say that this category is just like any other. That in order to perform, you need a good handler, a good dog, a good group of sheep and a little bit of luck. These people believe that a trainer can’t develop something that isn’t there but can definitely fail a dog with great potential.

Volunteering, The Backbone of the OBCC

By Lynn Johnston, Kelly Morrow and Anne Wheatley

Have you heard the one about how many sheepdog handlers it takes to change a light bulb? Did you know that it can take a village to raise an experienced Open level dog? Okay, maybe not. But have you thought about how many people it takes to run the Ontario Border Collie Club each year?

The answer is somewhere around 18. There are 5 on the board, a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and a director at large. There are 3 on the Trials Committee, 3 on the Learning and Development Committee, and 3 on the Nominating Committee. There is always at least one person doing fund raising and at least 2 people needed to produce the newsletter. Oh yes, we also have a webmaster. That's the bare bones and that's in a year when there are only the regular standing committees. When there are special projects, like the 25th Anniversary of the club, the board may strike additional committees.

In a year when COVID has again made it harder to do what we love to do, we thought it might be interesting to document in this edition of the newsletter, just some of the roles our volunteers fill for the club.

Learning and Development

The Learning and Development Committee - known at different times as the Education and Outreach committee, and the Learning and Outreach Committee - is a 3-person board appointed committee that currently focuses on developing the skills and abilities of handlers and young dogs. Programming to support this goal has included training days with clinicians, both local and from afar. Our experienced open handlers have been exceptionally generous, imparting their knowledge to those coming into the field. We have seen penning clinics, lessons, and get togethers like the Herding House league and fun days. These events have provided valued skill development for members.

As well, off-season judging clinics and a mentoring program matching experienced handlers and new entrants in the field have gone a long way in developing our herding community. On the Outreach side, volunteers have promoted the Border Collie through herding demonstrations at local fairs and

conversations with the public at the OBCC booth at some of the larger trials. Even during the exceptional Covid year of 2020, the then titled Learning and Outreach Committee created the wonderful and well-received film, Amanda Milliken In Conversation.

It's the many volunteers who make all of these amazing events and activities happen, and the club is stronger for their efforts. Currently, the newly named Learning and Development Committee is Anne Wheatley, Louise Hadley and Mary Thompson. It truly does take a village.

Trials Committee

Trials, trials, trials!!! I think most would agree that trials are an important reason to belong to the OBCC. Dogs, handled by members in good standing, who place at OBCC sanctioned dog trials, earn points toward the year-end standings. Champions and Reserve Champions in Open, Pro Novice and Novice Novice are awarded a silver trophy to keep for the year and a plaque or other memento to keep forever. I hope you've had a chance to take a look at the trophies. The winners names are engraved on them and go back to 1986. That's pretty cool!

The Trials Committee helps make all of this happen. They discuss sanctioning requests from member trial managers. This includes approving the proposed judge and having confidence in the trial manager to run the trial in accordance with OBCC trial guidelines. A Trials Committee rep is usually at every trial to answer questions and address disputes. Disputes are rare. The Trials Committee also discusses and makes recommendations to the Board regarding requests for funding for trials, clinics and any other club projects that provide a tangible benefit to members. Representatives on this committee are experienced and seasoned Open handlers. The work they do is high end and critical. The time commitment is easier.



This year our Trials Committee is Carol Guy, Andrea de Kenedy and Lorna Savage (Chair).

Fundraising Committee

The fund-raising committee has for the past 3 years been led by Pamela Hall. Pamela's drive and determination has raised over \$6600, a very significant contribution to the club. Thank you Pamela! It has been driven by selling merchandise, holding a silent auction and a 50/50 draw which due to Covid has moved on line - thanks to her ingenuity. Pamela has had help from Tania Costa and numerous club members, friends and family who have signed up to volunteer at the booth at the Kingston Sheepdog Trial. Ball caps and t- shirts are the most popular items but there are also hoodies, winter toques, golf shirts and stock sticks for sale.

If this has peaked your interest in helping out, whether as a first timer, or its just been a while, reach out to a committee or board member. Or chat with our long standing members who have experiences to share from serving in numerous positions over the years. We are looking at ways to mentor new members into roles they would like to take on. So don't let inexperience deter you. Also, there are roles that are important but take only a few hours a year, and there are roles that take a little more time. Whatever your skills and talents, we can put them to good use. The old adage is right on - you gotta give to get - those who work for the club learn a lot about herding, become solid members of the community, make longstanding friendships and have some laughs!

Photo by Kim McClure
Trophies Photo Tara Dier



Pro Novice 1

#	Handler	Dog	Outrun	Lift	Fetch	Drive	Pen	Total
1	Tracy Hinton	Tye	19	10	19	24	9	81
4	Victoria Lamont	Willow	19	9	18	23	9	78
10	Jana Vleuten	Bet	18	10	18	22	5	73
9	Ann Wheatley	Oak	20	10	16	18	6	70
5	Susan Moore	Skye	19	9	2	1	6	37
8	Lene Band	Penny						0
2	Rebecca Lawrence	Méabh	1	10	16	RT		RT
3	Kelly Morrow	Tate	RT					RT
6	Pamela Hall	Journey	15	8	4	DQ		DQ
7	Joanne Murphy	Abby	DQ					DQ



Pro Novice 2

#	Handler	Dog	Outrun	Lift	Fetch	Drive	Pen	Total
10	Tracy Hinton	Tye	20	9	20	29	8	86
8	Victoria Lamont	Willow	20	10	20	23	10	83
6	Pamela Hall	Journey	20	10	19	14	T	63
5	Susan Moore	Skye	18	8	12	17	T	55
2	Jana Vleuten	Bet	19	10	9	11	T	49
9	Joanne Murphy	Abby	19	9	4	9	6	47
11	Jane Kessler	Joe						0
1	Kelly Morrow	Tate	RT					RT
3	Lene Band	Penny	1	9	7	RT		RT
7	Anne Wheatley	Oak	14	10	20	RT		RT
4	Rebecca Lawrence	Méabh	15	10	19	FFCOURSE		DQ



Ranch 1								
#	Handler	Dog	Outrun	Lift	Fetch	Drive	Pen	Total
9	Viki Kidd	Cass	20	10	16	22	10	78
10	Mary Thompson	Daisy	20	10	19	17	10	76
	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	20	10	18	24	T	72
3	Mary Thompson	Creed	19	9	14	20	10	72
4	Lynn Johnston	Eve	14	10	18	18	10	70
7	Tracy Hinton	Mead	19	9	10	21	9	68
8	Kelly Morrow	Spot	19	10	18	20	T	67
6	Rebecca Lawrence	Key	17	9	17	11	T	54
5	Susan Moore	Gibb	19	8	14	12	T	53
2	Joanne Murphy	Spice	20	10	16	RT		RT
1	Carol Guy	Bud (NC)	20	9	19	26	10	84
11	Carol Guy	Bas (NC)	18	8	13	21	10	70

Ranch 2								
#	Handler	Dog	Outrun	Lift	Fetch	Drive	Pen	Total
2	Mary Thompson	Creed	20	9	18	28	10	85
3	Mary Thompson	Daisy	20	10	18	24	9	81
4	Kelly Morrow	Spot	20	10	18	25	7	80
5	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	19	10	15	26	6	76
6	Susan Moore	Gibb	19	10	17	24	4	74
7	Tracy Hinton	Mead	18	8	16	24	8	74
8	Rebecca Lawrence	Key	15	9	15	20	8	67
9	Viki Kidd	Cass	13	10	15	16	9	63
10	Lynn Johnston	Eve	20	10	9	21	T	60
1	Joanne Murphy	Spice	19	10	4	RT		RT
11	Carol Guy	Bud (NC)	20	10	20	25	8	83
12	Carol Guy	Bas (NC)	19	9	18	21	2	69





2021 Upcoming OBCC Events

You might want to mark
down these dates in your
Calendar

August 28
Holstein Agro Expo Points
and Time Arena Trial

August 29
St. Agatha Field Trial

September 18 - 19
Jimmies Farm SDT

September 21 - 26
Kingston SDT and CBCA
National Championships

September 28 - 30
Shepherds Crook Fall SDT

**See the website for
more details.**





GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Jack & Jess... The “J’s”

By Helen Dunning

Mary asked me to write about Jack or Jess or both. How could I separate the “J’s”? They were the dogs that started me on this wild herding ride. They took me from Novice to Open, following each other through the classes and both placed in Open. They were born 8 months apart and died 8 months apart at the age of 14 ½ years. The three of us muddled along together with many highs and lows but in spite of all my mistakes they kept going and stuck with me, giving me more than I could possibly hope for. They were very different dogs which made my journey very interesting. Learning to run and train two very different dogs was a challenge but in hindsight I think I learned more and came to appreciate that no two dogs are alike.

I got Jess, a very pretty Tri, aged 2. She had some basic training on her, and a beautiful natural pear shaped outrun. It took me several years of standing at the post with her to learn to keep my mouth shut as she started her outrun quite tightly but flared out and positioned herself around the sheep in just the right place. It was a challenge to teach her to drive but she eventually mastered the skill, although she would always drive by flipping back and forth behind the sheep. If I had known more, I would have worked on preventing that. She got the job done and it became her style.

I got Jack as a puppy, a striking black and white, blue eyed boy. I often got stopped on city streets and asked about my “Husky cross”. I gave up trying to explain that some border collies have blue eyes!

Jack was a naturally tight, slicy, fast dog

which came as a shock after Jess’s naturally wider flanks and slower pace. He also began his career by being a little intimidated when sheep faced him. The trainers I worked with took it slowly, never putting him into situations he couldn’t handle, and his confidence grew. He eventually became a dog who could push and face down any sheep and was not intimidated by even the most ornery ram.

I struggled with Jack who was probably the more talented of the two dogs. I felt I was fighting with him. But when my husband noted that he thought Jack was not being difficult but was just trying to rescue me from my own inexperience, I changed my attitude towards him and we were both happier and I did better. I never felt like I tapped into Jack’s true potential because of my inexperience. But he taught me a lot.

The highs and lows were learning experiences, some humbling and some very positive.

In 2008 Jack was Novice/Novice champion and Jess was Pro/Novice champion in the NEBCA Novice finals in Massachusetts. A definite “high” but when Jack drove the sheep into a pond at the Palmers first trial I wanted to crawl under a rock. Trialing is certainly humbling.

Jess had a very quiet way about her but also took no nonsense. Her best qualities were often not apparent on the trial field, and much of her best work happened when the two of us were alone doing farm work or setting sheep. She could load chutes and sort sheep better than any dog I have had. She just always seemed to know exactly where to be. On one

of my farm sitting adventures the resident flock of sheep got in with the horses. I was very novice at the time but I sent Jess into the field to gather the sheep. The horses were kicking and bucking at her but she brought the sheep and went back, without a command, to collect a lamb that had got separated from the flock. I have many such stories about Jess. She always had my back and would do anything for me. She was the best farm and set out dog I have ever had. She was never too keen on trailing and more or less retired herself at age 9. She continued to help me with other jobs until she was 12. She loved the challenge of real work and was my right-hand dog in many situations.

Early on, when Jack and Jess were both starting out a clinician asked me if I knew how lucky I was to be starting out with two good dogs. I didn’t know it then, but I often reflect on what he said. I began to realize just how lucky I was. I would take one or both of them again in a heartbeat! I never truly tapped into Jack’s talent, and I really miss the close bond I had with Jess where we could almost read each others’ minds.

I am grateful to the many trainers and clinicians who guided Jack, Jess and I on this journey. My journey continues with other dogs but although J and J are gone, they will never be forgotten. I miss them every day.

*Left: Helen & Jess
Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

*Right: Helen Dunning’s Jack
Photo by Elizabeth Holly Photography*