

# Ontario Border Collie Club

***In This Issue* : Butternut Creek: Campaign for Wool:  
New Year's Day Trial : 2014 Champions and Reserve**



*Annie and her sheep at Piperdown Farm*

### WANT TO JOIN US?

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: Sheri Purcell, 4471 Devitts Rd, Blackstock, On L0B 1B0

### 2015 Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT                      VICE PRESIDENT

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Newsletter contribution deadline: 3 weeks before issue date: Jan 15, Apr 21, July 21, Oct 21.

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Opinions expressed are the opinions of the author; not necessarily of OBCC.

## From the Editors



Ahhh winter...The change of venue for the New Year's Day trial at Shepherd's Crook saw little snow on the fields but rather arctic temperatures. But as we all dashed out of our warm cars to the handler's post we counted our blessings... even as Kevan's sheep

made their mad dash to the barn. How else would we want to spend the first day of a new year? Good food, good company, lots of goodwill...let's hope the entire year is full of these. See Viki's report in this issue.

See the President's Message for board and committee updates. The club could not survive without the many volunteers who take on these varied roles. Consider volunteering. Thank you!

And if you haven't renewed your membership, please get it in! See details in sidebar on this page.

Anne and Lynn.

Anne Wheatley & Lynn Johnston  
[wheats@sympatico.ca](mailto:wheats@sympatico.ca) or  
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*Official OBCC photographer: Michelle Lawrence. Cover Michelle Lawrence*

*Photos in this issue provided by Michelle Lawrence, Werner Reitboeck, Nicky Snook, Helen Knibb, Stacey Rember*

*Our thanks to Adrian Raeside for permission to reprint his cartoon.*

### *A Note From The Board*

**OBCC Funding:** As you sit inside in front of the fire and dream of warmer weather, I am sure that many of you are planning events, trials and clinics. Please remember that your OBCC can help you and can offer financial support to these activities on a case by case basis. For more detailed information please refer to the funding guidelines on our website or ask us! Requests should be submitted by May 30<sup>th</sup>. Requests submitted later in the year will be considered but funds may be limited.



## *Message from the President*

Despite the cold temperatures this winter feels almost tropical compared to last year.

The November AGM was snow free, well attended and very productive. A huge thanks to everyone who attended.

At the AGM, new people took on new roles and some committees were formed. The Communications committee is now chaired by Anne Wheatley (wheats@sympatico.ca). You will notice changes to the website over the next while. Our sincere thanks to Rebecca Lawrence who has taken on the role of webmaster. The goal is to make it more interactive and to set up a members' only section. Stayed tuned!

I would like to take a moment to thank Ellen Donnelly who has served as the webmaster for the club for a number of years. Ellen has agreed to continue on as a backup webmaster so we are well covered off!

Please note changes to the board as a result of the elections at the AGM. Carol Guy retired from the board as the Secretary/Treasurer, Andrea deKenedy took on the role of Secretary and Sheri Purcell took on the Treasurer's duties.

The board is hoping to continue with the various initiatives begun in 2014. Our newly formed Education and Outreach committee, chaired by Helen Dunning (helensdunning@gmail.com), has already been busy dreaming up activities – watch the Facebook page and newsletters for details.

The Board as a whole has developed the following goals for 2015:

1. Continue to provide support and learning opportunities to novices;
2. Provide opportunities for Open handlers to polish advanced skills e.g. double lifts;
3. Learn more about what the membership wants;
4. Investigate and implement changes to reduce the creation and delivery costs of our newsletter i.e. online delivery;
5. Investigate opportunities to work with local sheep groups to promote border collie use;
6. Implement a central repository of club key files that has appropriate backup and recovery.

As you can see the Board is eager to find out more about who our members are and what they are looking for in this club. A "Survey Monkey" will be coming your way soon giving us a chance to gather your opinions & priorities.

After telling a city friend about losing some sheep to predators this year I received a framed photo of the following sign on a farm gate:

**Eat More Lamb  
50,000 Coyotes Can't Be Wrong!!**

Regards,  
Teresa Castonguay  
President, OBCC

# Sheep Herding at the 2014 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair with Viki Kidd

Photo Feature by Michelle Lawrence



## FALL CLINICS WITH SCOTT GLEN

*Report by Helen Dunning*

The Fall of 2014 brought a very exciting time. Scott Glen came to Ontario to do a sheep camp at Swaledale and a shedding clinic at Tara Dier's farm. Scott's years of training experience along with his meticulous eye for detail and quiet training methods made this a much anticipated event.

The sheep camp at Swaledale was attended by a mixture of "Kelpie people " and "Border Collie people". Scott appreciates the differences between the two breeds and adjusts his training to get the best out of both breeds.



*Melo at the ready*

The format of Scott's sheep camps begins with an initial assessment of the dog. Handlers may go into the camp believing that their dog has one particular issue only to discover, through Scott's keen eye, it is something completely different!! Subsequent sessions see Scott concentrating on working with the dog and handler to correct training mistakes or to encourage the dog to push onwards with a skill. The final session is always exciting as Scott leaves the handler with a clear set of exercises to ensure further progress of the dog. He also focusses on handling techniques to ensure that the handler can get the best from their dogs. The handler leaves with a clear plan of how to proceed with their dog.

The hosts at Swaledale, Sheri Purcell and Hugh Grant, put on a fabulous "gourmet" experience for every meal and the camaraderie between handlers made for some enjoyable "down" time together. Ever the prankster, everyone had to be careful around Scott! Check what is in your coffee and don't turn your back on him if he has a full bottle of water....an early shower is always a possibility!

Scott has lots of stories and is always willing to share his extensive knowledge of dog training.

The shedding clinic at Tara Dier's farm saw its participants equally well looked after. Again, Scott's eye for detail with each dog meant that we were not doing "cookie cutter" exercises. In every session Scott identified each dog and handler's individual difficulties and gave exercises to help with these. It was rewarding to see how all the dogs and handlers progressed in each session. Some teams reached the stage of doing a simple international shed. There were many light bulb moments! Tara's sheep were extremely cooperative for this type of clinic where it was important for some groups to separate easily and yet present a challenge for other dogs.

Scott's quiet approach with the dogs, as well as keeping commands to a minimum, pays huge dividends. Some of his many expressions like "don't be a monkey with a machine gun" or "you don't **have** to lie your dog down but you have to be **able** to lie it down" are well worth remembering!

Many thanks are due to Sheri, Hugh and Tara for hosting these clinics. It's a big commitment to give up your home and sheep for days at a time. But the experience of these clinics renews enthusiasm, teaches new skills and allows a fresh pair of eyes to evaluate your dog. Scott's wide experience of training many different dogs, his keen eye for detail and his many years of personal successes, ensures his clinics are always a success for all dogs and all handlers.



Thanks so much Scott!

# BUTTERNUT CREEK SHEEP DOG TRIAL 2014

Photo Feature by Michelle Lawrence





## Congratulations to all the 2014 OBCC Champions!

### Amanda Milliken & Dorey

#### OPEN CHAMPION

Dorey is convergence of my breed on both sides—back to Craig and Hazel on both. Her sire was Leslie Gamble's white dog, Bob, now dead. Her mother was Purdy, from Roz and Kate Broadbent's Salt, a mismatch, also no longer among the land of the living.

She is no stranger to success. Her training would have put her in the gifted class, if such a one existed for Border Collies. She asked for each step and begged for more. In the first of two years that she was qualified for the US National program she won the US National Nursery.

Since then she has excelled in trial work with confident free outrunning; precise, responsive work

around the course: and sheds that appear impossible, that she will do right now. Her pen work, under the most difficult circumstances, is breathtaking—patient, forceful, taking her side with glee.



At Soldier Hollow, Dorey penned on an otherwise penless day. She sent the pen hungry crowd wild with enthusiasm and they chanted "Dorey! Dorey! Dorey!" Dorey took a victory lap bow, with her eyes triumphantly surveying her fans, before she hurled herself into the water. She is a wild one.

### Amanda Milliken & Monty

#### RESERVE CHAMPION

Monty is her subdued great uncle, sired by Stuart Davidson's Star (my Star) and from my very dependable Ethel. This is a breed that I plainly like—Roz is the same way bred, a little older. He shares Dorey's skill on an outrun but tends to take all his jobs with a softer edge than Dorey does.

He is a little lighter touch all the way around a course. Sometimes that works in your favour. He too exhibits enviable penning skills. While powerful, he is remarkably patient, occasionally asking "Just say the word and I'll take a piece of this." He can usually do it without.

People see these dogs doing well in trials, but it is their work at lambing that most distinguished their gifts. Both will handle any recalcitrant ewe. No job is too dirty for either of them.





## Cathie Vodden & Roo

PRO NOVICE CHAMPION

Roo is from Grant Boudreault's EyeSpy kennel up in Valentia. He was the first border collie person I met after moving back from B.C. where I'd started with my first dog many moons ago. Roo and I knocked heads for a long time cause I'm a pretty slow learner – it's only been the last couple of

years that we've synched and it feels wonderful. (You know that feeling when a headache finally goes away?!) Winning the P/N Championship has been a nice result for our perseverance, and I credit the many handlers in this area who have been generous with their insights, help and sheep. It takes a village to produce a stockdog and handler. I feel very fortunate to be part of this village.



## Cynthia Palmer & Duke

PRO NOVICE RESERVE

We got Duke from Vergil and Ann Marie Holland. He had always been an easy dog, sensitive and well bonded to me. He was John's puppy but turns out a little more suited to work with me so just after he was about 18 months old I took over his training. He has been a pleasure to train, easy to live with and makes

me smile! We had a fun year in Pronovice teaching some trial skills and working on my timing. Time to step up and play in the big league



## Helen Knibb & Sue

NOVICE CHAMPION

First there was crazy Maisie, the excitable cattle dog, whose interest in sheep was questionable, but who got me into this. One day she'd enough - sat stubbornly in the truck at practice and refused to budge. That was the end of her herding career. Then there was Jack the Gripper, (aka Jack the Ripper), whose over enthusiasm for sheep resulted in some most unhappy outcomes.

So after months of leaping over long lines and untangling my 'knitting', sprinting after Jack; an expanding vocabulary; weeping with frustration;

harbouring dark thoughts towards, and secret envy of, those with biddable dogs - the general misery was complete. Even through the lens of a novice handler I knew things weren't exactly text book. My conclusion, as I seem to recall expressing it to Cynthia Palmer, was that I needed a dog where I could begin to work on 'me'; where I could experience 'normal' herding behaviours; engage in slightly more predictable activity on the trial field – even have 'fun'. Was there a dog, I begged, that I could 'borrow'? Enter Sue (aka Surprise – the outcome of a clandestine Preacher- Dixie union). At first Sue lived at the Palmers and I had visiting rights – but when she started to recognize the sound of my truck and the barking began - it was time to take her home. I had a dog – named Sue. She was looking for a person, and I was looking for a project. Sue was started, but it was a 'green horse-green rider' combination and I was along for the ride.

So it began – the first winter when Sue showed me balance and I could read the patterns in the snow (a good start); the sprints up the centre field - to extend, improve, finesse the outrun, ("Get closer to your sheep!!!"); the unattainable lie down ("Don't let her have the sheep!!!"); the two-minute madness of arena trials ("Take time!!!"); the terror of the first field trials and the splendor of Sue's star burst effect at the lift, ("Go, help your dog!!!!"); the endless winding and unwinding at the post, and of dances at the pen (more knitting issues). It was all rather humbling.

Later, there was the sense of wonder as Sue began to listen, (to *me*, not just Cynthia), the first time I could actually see her read and hold pressure (I

think I grabbed Helen Dunning's arm and squeaked in delight), learned off-balance flanks and a solid "look-back". Astonishment as Sue became more adept at working my own flighty, feisty, semi-feral sheep; her capacity to work blind and work singles; her willingness to move a big flock; her courage and usefulness in the pens. Short on style on the trial field perhaps, but great on tenacity – an economical dog; a saucy dog; a great farm dog - a dog with a big heart.



We're on a journey, Sue and I, one that has been supported along the way by many wonderful people, who have been so generous of their time and kind with their words; who have empathized, advised and challenged me. My sometime project dog is now my partner, a relationship that is tested and renewed every time we go to work sheep. As they say with young horses – first you go with them, then they go with you - then you go together. I know we'll be working on the 'together' for quite a while ...  
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## Stacey Rember & Teg

### NOVICE RESERVE

The moment I saw the picture of a not so cute 2 day old white-faced pup I knew that she belonged with me. Teg's dam, Nat Labelle's Kate and sire Rob Drummond's Casey are both fairly intense dogs and the apple did not fall far from the tree.

Luckily for me and my complete lack of sheepdog knowledge Teg was and is a quick learner with a strong desire to please me. Although most of the time at warp speed! I was determined to learn and Teg was keen to start fairly young. So with a training

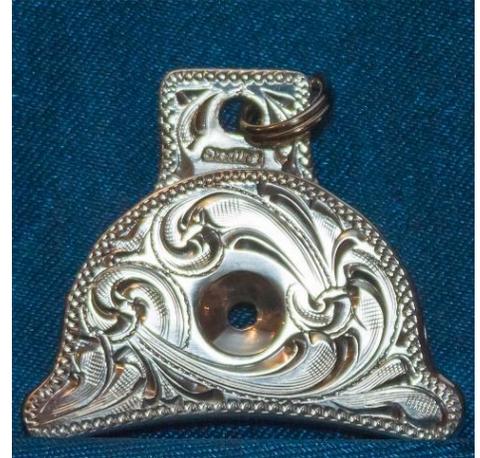
book in hand off we went to practice again and again and again.

Slowly the hours of trial and error, a few tears and walking in from the field feeling discouraged began to pay off. We began to put our practice to work around the farm and tasks which I had needed help with became doable with just myself and Teg. And so our partnership began. I wouldn't be without her.



## Most Promising Novice Award

Helen Knibb was awarded the 2014 Most Promising Novice Handler Award. Helen has been recognized with this beautiful silver shepherd's whistle for: good sportsmanship, a willingness to learn and improve, concern for the welfare of stock, a willingness to volunteer and awareness of and respect for the tradition and history of our sport. Congratulations Helen!



## NEW YEAR'S DAY TRIAL

*By Viki Kidd*

The New Year's Day trial is always a precarious event, for both handlers and hosts, due to the unpredictability of the weather. Over the past 10 years or so, the trial has only been able to be held a handful of times – regardless if the intrepid host was in the east or west.

Everyone holds their collective breath to see if Mother Nature will permit us to have a frosty hit of our dog triallin' habit.

The wait and see was no different this year, although as it looked promising from early December on, Kevan & I discussed the logistics. Holding a trial on January 1st has its own unique set of problems. The holding pen(s) set-up has to be quick and easy as ground is frozen and it's only for one day – our solution was to use horse trailers directly on the field. Which field to use: the draw to the barn always problematic in east field, but requires no exhaust pen; the west field is more interesting and the draw is less, but the wind comes a-howling even

on the best of days. So we deferred the decision (like all good managers of anything ●) to the day before and let the weather tell us what to do.

Well, the weather report for -4° C and winds of 35 km (-17° C with wind chill) in the end made the decision easy – east field. While the sun failed to come out from behind the grey skies, cheerful handlers bundled against the fierce wind did - extreme dog trialling Canadian style. The dogs didn't care - not about the wind, not about the trailers, not about handler's botched whistles due to frozen lips. Their infectious joy going to post - the bounding, circling handlers, focused attention to top of field etc. made it all worthwhile.

Thanks to Carol Guy and Andrea deKenedy for judging duties, the handlers who staunchly stood at the top to hold sheep and of course Kim & Kevan for letting us all warm our toes in the house at lunch time.

Yay!!! The start of 2015 season was under way!

## CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

By Helen Knibb

There's good news for those in the herding community with an interest in all things wool, especially for those with small, fibre flocks who have struggled with the limited market for fleece. First, there's the growing success and reach of the international *Campaign for Wool*. The second is the locally-oriented concept known as *fibreshed*, a regional approach to using wool in order to help regenerate rural economies. This, the first of two articles, explores the contribution of *Campaign for Wool* and associated initiatives to a renaissance of the wool industry.

Founded in 2010, the not-for-profit *Campaign for Wool* 'aims to educate as many people as possible about the incredible benefits and versatility of wool in fashion, furnishings and everyday life.' Described as a 'global community of sheep farmers, retailers, designers, manufacturers and consumers' the organization has been enthusiastically championed by its patron Charles, Prince of Wales. In its short history it has done much to build towards its mission of 're-educating consumers and media on the benefits of wool, encouraging consumers to buy wool and ensuring that wool is on the news agenda.' The campaign has been supported by lead designers from the fashion and interior design industries, wool carpet manufacturers and the construction and building insulation industries.

Using social media creatively, and engaging and supporting new and emergent designers in all craft and design fields, the Campaign's flagship activity is 'Wool Week' held annually each fall. You can see a full list of planned 2015 activities at [www.campaignforwool.org/events](http://www.campaignforwool.org/events). The *Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers* (CCWG) is the campaign's Canadian delivery partner and its founding retail partners are Holt Renfrew, Joe Fresh and Pink Tartan. Now operating in 12 countries the campaign has been so successful it's claimed that the market price for wool has increased three fold.

By promoting the neglected properties and qualities of wool, the Campaign supports new and revived applications of wool fibre across all industries. For those who brave the trial fields in all weathers, most are aware of wool's benefits for all-weather protection, but taken together the fibre's attributes are impressive. Wool is 100% natural; is a renewable resource and biodegrades quickly in the soil. It's a natural and safe insulator, one that's

hygroscopic and able to absorb, hold and release moisture in response to fluctuations in the immediate environment. It's breathable (able to absorb 30% of its own weight in moisture next to the skin). It's resilient (resists tearing and breaking); naturally elastic and hydrophilic (so highly absorbent that it takes up and retains dyes without the use of chemicals). Adapting to changes in body temperature, wool is multi-seasonal and trans-seasonal; durable and hard wearing, easy care, stain and odour resistant and a natural UV buffer. Moreover wool is a 'safe solution' – it may be itchy to some, but true wool allergies are rare and it does not promote the growth of bacteria. When used in household furnishings it does not off-gas, holds dust particles until vacuumed away, is not only naturally flame retardant, but should it ignite produces less smoke and noxious gases than synthetics.

The Campaign has also been eager to promote wool's 'environmental credentials' and the associated sustainable farming practices that benefit rural communities. That means a renewed interest in the different sheep producing regions and the specific properties of fibre from the various heritage wool breeds that thrive in these often harsh



*Beautiful Jacobs*

conditions. The Campaign has supported ambitious projects such as the Mid-Wales *Gwlân Mynyddoedd Cambrian Mountains Wool Group*, the members of which, 'united by their passion for wool', seek to 'rekindle the historic links between local sheep farmers, wool processors, designers, makers and retailers'. Its goal is to stimulate the production of contemporary wool products from fleece farmed in the region, under the new 'Cambrian Mountains Wool' label. The Campaign has also helped promote

small artisanal initiatives such as the *Knitted Bear Company* which uses only hand spun, undyed fibre from at risk British breeds such as North Ronalds, Portland, Swaledale, Hebridean, Wensleydale and Manx Loaghtan. In another example, one of the fastest growing green building products in the UK, *Thermafleece* building insulation, uses what was once considered wool waste bi-product turning the coarse dark wool of British hill sheep farming into 'a valuable, locally grown, locally sourced and durable building product' with a low carbon footprint.

As increasingly aware consumers question the origins, sustainability and carbon footprint of products, the Campaign is also helping to promote retailers that are an alternative to 'fast fashion.' For example, *Zady* the online American fashion retailer, acknowledges the contributions of ranchers, washers, dyers, millers, knitters and sewers; has established a new sustainable production standard; traces the provenance of a sweater on Google maps, and celebrates all stages of the wool growing and production process (see.01 *The Sweater* (<http://vimeo.com/112192408>)).

In response to consumer concerns, the Campaign, in association with the *International World Textile Organisation*, has recently released a code of

*Material for this article was adapted from various websites including:*

Campaign for Wool on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/thecampaignforwool>  
Campaign for Wool website:  
<http://www.campaignforwool.org/>  
Why wool?  
<http://www.campaignforwool.org/about-wool/>  
Cambrian Mountain Wool Group  
<http://challenge.cambrianmountainwool.org/>  
IWTO Guidelines for Wool Sheep Welfare  
[http://www.iwto.org/uploaded/publications/WEB\\_IWTO\\_Sheep\\_Welfare\\_Guidelines\\_Web.pdf](http://www.iwto.org/uploaded/publications/WEB_IWTO_Sheep_Welfare_Guidelines_Web.pdf)

practice to promote excellence in the husbandry and welfare of wool sheep. While acknowledging that each jurisdiction has different standards and regulations, it has attempted to bring together universally accepted best practices. *Guidelines for Wool Sheep Welfare* emphasizes the 'five freedoms' and the need for knowledgeable and skilled handlers. Perhaps it is not surprising that in response to this increased exposure of the wool industry, *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)* have launched a counter campaign – *Say NO to Wool*. It's highlighted practices such as mulesing and poor handling practices on the shearing floor and is said to have hit the Australian merino wool industry hard.

So what does all this mean for the herding and trialing community? One can hope that some of these new models and ideas will thrive in Canada; that there will be new and more stable wool markets resulting in a more vibrant wool industry with new products and regional initiatives; more sheep, which means more working border collies; more flocks, perhaps more specialized fibre flocks, a wider range of sheep breeds ... and more trialing activity over different terrains. It will also undoubtedly result in greater public awareness, scrutiny of handling practices and a focus on sheep welfare.

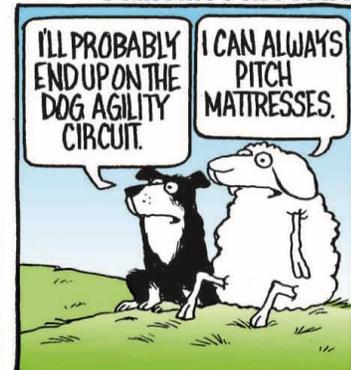
Thermafleece  
<http://www.campaignforwool.org/news-item/thermafleece-natural-insulation-at-ecobuild-2015/#sthash.iP1HhYu5.dpuf>

*Onewool* online gallery showcasing new, interior, wool products:  
<http://www.onewool.com>  
The *Zady* Sweater story:  
<https://zady.com/newstandard>

## The Other Coast



## Adrian Raeside



# Arena Challenge at Shepherd's Crook Farm

November 16, 2014

Photo Feature by Michelle Lawrence



The setup:

20 sheep,  
marked in groups of 5.  
Two handlers & dogs.  
5 minutes on the clock



The goal:

At top of arena, try  
to shed 5 sheep,  
marked the same.  
At the 2 min warning,  
grab any 5 sheep.



Bring them down  
through the gates  
and pen them.

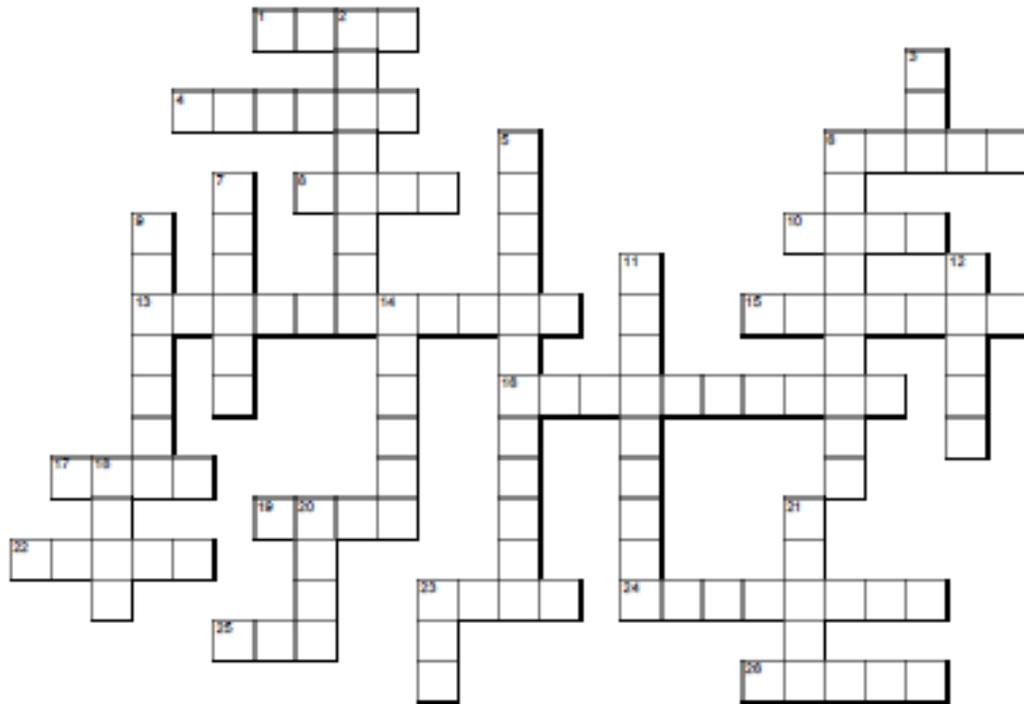


The result:

Good exercise,  
good company  
and  
good fun!



Crossword Puzzle Fun! *Developed by Tracy Hinton*  
*Watch the website for the solution*



ACROSS

- 1 A young sheep
- 4 Taking one sheep from the group and holding
- 6 A domesticated mammal having a thick coat, raised in many breeds for its wool, edible flesh, or hide.
- 8 Trial Manager of Trial #3 2014 Triple Crown
- 10 OBCC 1980's Hall of Fame Dog
- 13 Trial #2 of 2014 Triple Crown
- 15 Host of Shepherd's Crook SDTs
- 16 Current OBCC President
- 17 OBCC 2011 Pro Novice Champion Dog
- 19 Sheep bred for meat that do not have wool
- 22 Perfect outwork score
- 23 OBCC 2013 Pro Novice Champion Dog
- 24 OBCC 2010 Pro Novice Reserve Champion Handler
- 25 Forage that has been mowed (cut) and cured (dried) for use as livestock fodder
- 26 OBCC 1900's Hall of Fame Dog

DOWN

- 2 Kingston SDT Trial Manager
- 3 OBCC 2014 Novice Novice Champion Dog
- 5 Dog breed that was developed to gather and control sheep in the hilly border country between Scotland and England
- 6 Trial #1 of 2014 Triple Crown
- 7 OBCC 2014 Pro Novice Champion Handler
- 9 A tool, other than voice, used to transmit commands to a sheepdog
- 11 A Squash and Amanda's fall trial
- 12 OBCC 2014 Open Champion Dog
- 14 OBCC 2013 Novice Novice Champion Handler
- 18 Element of work after outrun and before fetch
- 20 right hand flank
- 21 OBCC 2000's Hall of Fame Dog
- 23 OBCC 2013 Open Champion Dog



**ONTARIO BORDER COLLIE CLUB NEWSLETTER**  
**38 Runnymede Road**  
**TORONTO, ON M6S 2Y2**