



# Ontario Border Collie Club

***In This Issue:*** Winter Arena Trials; 2016 CBCA Nationals; A Long Shot; 2015 Champions and Reserve; 2016 Events; Memories of Summer Past



*On Frogmorton Farm*

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**WINTER**

**2016**

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## 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: Teresa Castonguay, 716 Mitchell Rd, RR #2, Warkworth, ON K0K 3K0

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Newsletter contribution deadlines (3 weeks before issue dates):  
Jan 15, Apr 21, July 21, Oct 21

Opinions expressed are the opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the OBCC.



## From the Editors

Happy Winter to all  
OBCC club members!

I've been looking at the season so far from the perspective of a retired person who's decided to stay in Ontario and brave the elements this

year. So far so good. Throughout January there wasn't a lot of opportunity to work dogs outside, but the temperatures were mostly tolerable and walking in the woods has been doable. I worked my dogs in a barn a number of times when there was ice in the fields or the snow was deep, but the end of January and early February has brought warmer temperatures and the other day I worked sheep outside. What a thrill!

The arena trials featured in this issue were well attended and lots of fun. There will be one more arena trial on March 20th and I plan to attend.

This year Lynn Johnston, Michelle Lawrence and I will work together to produce the club newsletters. Michelle will aptly fill the role of Art Director, Layout and Design. Lynn and I will be the co-editors and responsible for content. As always, if you have any ideas for articles, photos or other suggestions please e-mail one of us.

Spring is a couple months away and if I find that too long I can always change my mind and go to Florida right!

Anne



Cover, above photos and 2016 CBCA Championships Poster  
by Michelle Lawrence

## *President's Message*



Welcome to another new year, full of promise and possibilities. So far this year the weather has been relatively good so that we can continue to train over the winter, with the dreaded Polar Vortex only dipping down every once in a while into Southern Ontario. I'm hoping for an early spring and good trial and training as well as a smooth lambing!

Welcome to the new board. I look forward to working with everyone on the board, committees and members during the year. There is one new face on the board: we welcome Werner Reitboeck to both the board and the trials committee. His experience and dedication to the club and sport of trialing will be a great addition to the group

We have been discussing how to promote opportunities for all handlers to improve their skills, prepare for trials, and develop as handlers. The board will work closely with the learning and outreach committee and support their continued outstanding work from 2015. Several of the OBCC members are going to host one-day novice trials throughout the year, allowing open handlers to put some mileage on their young dogs on the trial field, and Novice handlers a chance to work on their handling.

Many OBCC members are on the planning committee for the 2016 CBCA Championships. It will be hosted by Kevan and Kim Gretton at their Shepherd's Crook Farm. It is a very large undertaking and all volunteers will be welcomed! Please see the fantastic overview later in this newsletter.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the field!

*Cynthia*



*Photos by Michelle Lawrence*

## Winter Arena Trials

*By Anne Wheatley*

If we took a poll of the general population I'm pretty sure it would confirm that most people prefer to sleep in a bit on Sunday mornings. Likely the pollsters wouldn't interview many sheepdog handlers - there aren't that many of us out there. But on December 20th and January 17th about 15 got up pretty early to get to a place where we could work dogs, sans snow and ice. If they were like me they got up in the dark, stoked the fire and pushed 'play' on the coffee maker. While the coffee was brewing the dogs went out for their morning constitution and the snow squeaked hard under their paws. With bran bar, leashes, and \$15 a run in hand I loaded the dogs in dark cold crates in a cold car and headed down the lane to the road. Along the way I listened to Mary Ito on CBC radio talk about what was going on in Ontario, outside the GTA. It got light and an hour and a half later we were at the 7 Pines Stables Arena. The drive gave me a good opportunity to relax and ponder.



*Watching the action. Photo by Anne Wheatley*



*The Set-out Crew. Photo by Anne Wheatley*

It used to be that I got quite nervous at the prospect of working my dogs in front of other handlers. Now, trialing doesn't worry me as much, and the often very exciting arena trials actually give me a kind of buzz. People laugh with and cheer for each other. We eat warm yummy food and drink hot cider.

That's why I get up early on a Sunday, in the cold and the darkness.

Thanks to Kevan and Kim Gretton and Viki Kidd for arranging the arena trial series and making it happen. I'm looking forward to the last one in this series on March 20th.



*Louise Hadley and Rook. Photo by Anne Wheatley*

December 20th		
Novice Round 1	Lene Band and Gypsy	1:18
Novice Round 2	Louise Hadley and Rook	1:46
Open Round 1	Kevan Gretton and Syd	1:27
Open Round 2	Cynthia Palmer and Duke	2:09
Combined top scores for the day		
Novice	Tracy Hinton and Lad	4:08
Open	Cynthia Palmer and Duke	4:28

January 17th		
Novice Round 1	Victoria Lamont and Pepper	1:51
Novice Round 2	Louise Hadley and Rook	1:15
Open Round 1	John Palmer and Preacher	1:25
Open Round 2	John Palmer and Preacher	1:25
Combined top scores for the day		
Novice	Victoria Lamont and Pepper	4:13
Open	John Palmer and Preacher	2:50



*Victoria Lamont & Viki Kidd. Photo by Anne Wheatley*



*John Palmer & Viki Kidd. Photo by Anne Wheatley*



Ontario Border Collie Club

The Ontario Border Collie Club  
welcomes  
The Canadian Border Collie Association  
**2016 CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**AUGUST 10 TO 14, 2016**  
**SHEPHERD'S CROOK FARM, WOODVILLE ONTARIO**

Kevan & Kim Gretton's Shepherd's Crook Farm on Lorneville Road near Woodville, Ontario (west of Lindsay) will welcome North America's top sheepdog handlers. With side attractions including demonstrations, crafts and vendors, this is an event OBCC members, as well as their whole family, will enjoy.

The organizing committee is made up entirely of OBCC members. They are splitting responsibilities as follows:

- Co-chairs - Dave Young and Tracy Hinton
- Trial Hosts - Kim and Kevan Gretton
- Trial Director - Dave Young
- Trial Secretary - Tracy Hinton and Cynthia Palmer
- Treasurer - Cynthia Palmer
- Communications - Teresa Castonguay
- Site and Livestock Management - Kevan Gretton and John Palmer
- Vendor & Demo Management - Kim Gretton

Information can be found at:

[www.canadianbordercollies.org/about-the-cbca/cbca-championships/](http://www.canadianbordercollies.org/about-the-cbca/cbca-championships/)

[www.ontariobordercollieclub.com/CBCA2016Championships](http://www.ontariobordercollieclub.com/CBCA2016Championships)

[www.facebook.com/2016-CBCA-Sheepdog-Championships-921496374571979/](https://www.facebook.com/2016-CBCA-Sheepdog-Championships-921496374571979/)

Current Team Leaders:

- Anne Wheatley - Volunteer Coordinator: [wheats@sympatico.ca](mailto:wheats@sympatico.ca)
- Carol Guy - Handler bags and prizes
- Tara Dier - Dog/handler sponsorship
- Rebecca Lawrence - Webmaster
- Michelle Lawrence - Graphic Designer and Photographer

There will be lots of interesting volunteer positions before, during and after the trial. Anne has a complete detailed list of volunteer jobs and would welcome all the help she can get.

Committee members or Team Leaders can be contacted directly or email Tracy at:

[tracyahinton@gmail.com](mailto:tracyahinton@gmail.com)

Do you know a business that can donate prizes or advertise in the event program? Could you distribute posters, flyers, etc. Or do you have other fundraising or sponsorship ideas? Then please contact Teresa directly at:

[tcast4dogs@gmail.com](mailto:tcast4dogs@gmail.com)

Entry forms are being finalized and will be posted soon at both the CBCA and OBCC website. To qualify for the Doublelift and Nursery Championships, all handlers must be CBCA members in good standing and all entered dogs must be registered with the CBCA by June 1st. Eligibility details can be found at:

<http://canadianbordercollies.org/about-the-cbca/cbca-championships/>

## Judges for the 2016 Championships are Patrick Shannahan, Idaho and Tom Wilson, Virginia.



*Photo courtesy Patrick Shannahan*

### PATRICK SHANNAHAN

Patrick lives on a small sheep farm in Caldwell, ID. He has raised sheep for almost 50 years, and is currently working with Katahdin, Wiltipoll, Karakul and Kerry Hill sheep breeds. He started working Border Collies in 1990. Currently he trials, and gives sheepdog seminars all over the US. His two most famous dogs were Hannah, 1994 National Champion and Riggs, the 2010 National Champion.



*Photo courtesy Tom Wilson*

### TOM WILSON

Tom has been USBCHA Reserve National Champion 4 times, has won the Nursery Final 4 times and his wins include premiere trials such as Soldier's Hollow, Meeker, and the Blue Grass. Tom Wilson was inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame in 2010. His judging assignments have been many and varied and yet he is still described as one of the nicest men in the sheepdog world.



## CANADIAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

# 2016 Sheep Dog Championships

Handlers, please contribute to the success of the 2016 CBCA Championships by finding sponsors for your dogs. You'll enjoy hearing their names called out in support as you walk to the post and the funds raised will help to ensure a first-class event.

Cost is \$100(\$80 USD) for an Open dog, \$75(\$60 USD) for Nursery dogs. Maximum two sponsors per dog per class. All proceeds are directed to the expenses of running the trial. Sponsors are rewarded for their support with:

- Mention in the program
- Copy of the program
- Mention by the announcer as the dog and handler walk to the post
- Listing on the website
- A CBCA 2016 Championship cap
- Special parking location at the trial
- Seating in the Handler's tent (like everyone else, they will still have to bring a chair!) and an opportunity to meet handlers
- Sponsor's lapel ribbon

If the sponsored dog wins the Championship or Reserve, the sponsor is offered a place in the photo of the winners. Sponsors can choose their dog/handler team to a maximum of two per dog per event. Extra sponsorships will be assigned to other dogs.

A sponsorship form can be found on the website: <http://canadianbordercollies.org/about-the-cbca/cbca-championships/>

Thank you!

# A Long Shot

*By Carol Guy*

My life has been much different than what I imagined it to be when I came to Toronto in the mid -1980's before I had border collies. I now have my sixth pup Jac who exhibited signs that he was ready to start work late last Fall. Winters in Eastern Ontario for the past few years have precluded any dog work so I made the decision to send him off for training at twelve months of age, knowing that if he really wasn't ready -that I could always go and retrieve him. Arrangements were made with a friend to transport him to Bob Washer in Kentucky. It was a long shot but off he went.



*Jac. Photo by Peter Mohr*

Bob and I chatted every few days. My pup settled in at the kennel and Bob brought him to sheep a couple times a day. By the third week, Jac was going around the sheep on both sides but when Bob put any pressure on him to do anything more he would run the sheep into the fence and bark at them. Clearly, Jac needed to do some more growing up. This was not unexpected given his age and sex.

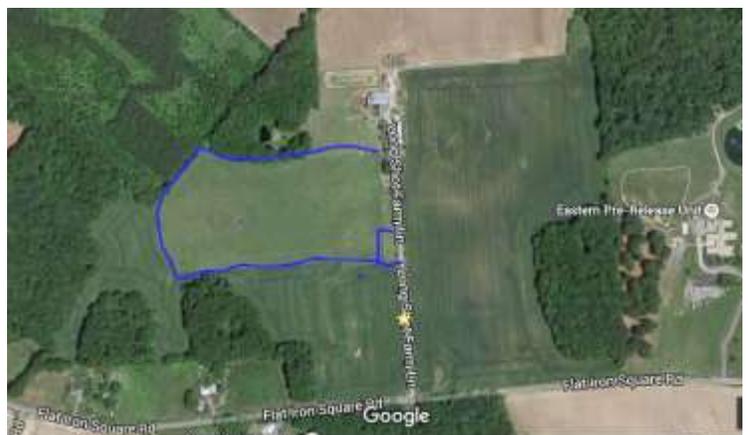
Bob contacted me on a Tuesday evening to discuss getting Jac home. We made arrangements to meet at Sherry and Dave Smith's in Maryland on that coming Friday night where Bob was judging their trial. With no time to plan stops to visit friends and work dogs I made arrangements to travel to Maryland. The weather forecast looked amazing and I set out on Friday morning preparing to make the 9 hour drive in time to meet Bob between 5 and 6 pm. My drive was so uneventful that I wasn't really paying attention until my map app started yelling at me to get in the left lane as I was getting off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Consequently, I ended up in the

EZ Pass lane and missed the toll booth which meant sorting that bit of bureaucracy out when I got home. Other than that I arrived at Long Shot Farm on time after doing a little shopping and checking in at the motel.

Sherry and Dave welcomed me to wait there until Bob arrived and to have refreshments and a bite to eat. Sherry put on a large pot of fresh shrimp and they were absolutely the best I ever had. This alone would get me back to visit anytime.

One of the great reasons I love sheepdoggin' to quote a term from Anne Wheatley's vocabulary.... You meet so many terrific folks! Sherry and Dave Smith – the hosts, Julie Poudrier, Debbie Crowder, Angie Greenway, Sandy Hornung –Long Shot trial's major support team plus folks I am fb friends with that I hadn't met in person yet like Sandy Payne, Nancy Starkey. Plus, friends I haven't seen in ages like Sharon Nunan. It's a surprise if you don't read the run order before you go!!.... Friends and acquaintances- old and new - Dave and Nancy Sharp, Tom Hoerber, Sam Furman and her gang of merry gal pals + Steve Avery (patient fella that), Pam Gardner, Nancy Simmons, Walt Zieser and many others.

Bob and I chatted a bit about Jac once he had relaxed from his drive. I hung out with the gang at Long Shot for a couple hours before Bob and I retrieved Jac. It was clear he was just as happy to stay with Bob. However, I drove off with him stowed in a crate to meet up with my roommate for the night.



*Long Shot Trial Field: Provided by Carol Guy.*

The next morning, we woke to a very heavy fog...zero ceiling and less than an eighth of a mile visibility. The land in this area is very flat with large tracts of woodlands. Driving to the trial field was nerve wracking and not being able to see landmarks- I came close to missing the turns to the farm.

When I arrived the people were gathering for the handlers meeting in Sherry's back yard--The trial field runs directly west of the house and although this region is very flat...the field has a couple of undulations that make it challenging for some dogs outrunning. From the judge's position - the set out pen is to right of the open set out. Sherry had allowed for a possible fog delay but still the pressure was on to get through the 50+ runs. The fog delayed running for an hour but the wait was worth it. The sun came out and the temperatures rose throughout the day. It was hard to believe that this was December 12 and it was 70 degrees!

The sheep at Long Shot Farm are well conditioned hair mixes in a variety of colours, primarily black and white. Sherry reminded everyone that the ewes were pregnant. She had arranged a double gather for Saturday's Open Class. Once the double gather was completed the sheep were worked around the course and then four sheep were to be shed off and penned. The majority of runs did not complete the course. The sheep worked fairly consistently around the course. However, it became very clear that they were nearly impossible to shed and folded around the handler when the dog moved toward them to make the gap. Most of those that did complete the shed found themselves hurried and often ran out of time before they got penned. It was fun watching Tara Dier run Vergil's Scott...their partnership has come together in a short time and they make a good team. Scott is an experienced hand at lookbacks and gave Tara the 'I got it!' look when she gave him his whistle and they did a fine job around the course.



Tara Dier and Scott. Photo by Carol Guy

We broke for lunch after Open and it was clear that Sherry had gone all out for the participants: cooked ham, homemade mac and cheese, salads, desserts...and other scrumptious homemade offerings from the handlers. During lunch break I noticed Sherry & Dave's east neighbors trying to spectate- the ones in white jumpsuits from the minimum security facility who were out doing some site cleanup and would have preferred the trial field be located on the east of the house!!

I clerked for Bob after lunch during the Ranch class. The



Bob Washer judging trial. Photo by Carol Guy

course was straight forward with some draw to the right of the field where there are paddocks but more to the exhaust at the lower left section of the field. The obvious challenge during this class was penning. This wasn't apparent during Open because so few handlers made the shed that only a few got to the pen and many of those timed out. Those that penned successfully closed the pen part way and had their dog keep the sheep moving steadily into the smaller opening with no chance of turning back to escape. I met some new folks in the Ranch class and saw some very nice young dogs on the field - Nancy Starkey's Peg and Cheryl Hinton's Brew come to mind.

Saturday evening several of us went into the historic town of Chestertown to the Lemon Leaf Café for dinner and had a wonderful meal and spent time laughing and chatting. Perfect end to the day! I said my farewells and prepared to leave early on Sunday morning. I kept to my plan and made it to Stirling before dark. It was a lot of driving in a short period but I so enjoyed the time spent there.

I guess you could say that Jac's short adventure was a Long Shot.... 😊



Jac. Photo by Carol Guy



*Photo courtesy Kristin Bryant*

I've had an interest in trying herding ever since I was a kid, but never knew anyone who had herding dogs in my area. A few years ago, my husband and I went to a trial just to watch and we decided to get some sheep for our border collie. Due to an unfortunate accident, we ended up with sheep but no dog. A few months went by and I started looking for another dog. There was a sheep demo near me, so I decided to go and get some info on where to look for a good dog. There were pups at the demo and I just couldn't resist looking. Bea was there and was so engaging and alert I instantly fell in love. I tried to talk myself out of getting her, but it was already too late.

Since this was my first dog, I didn't even know where to begin training her. I found out the Jeanie Weaver was only an hour and a half away, so I started taking lessons there. After a while, Jeanie started pushing me to enter a trial. Bea was certainly ready and getting better every day, but I felt like I was too far behind her to run her. I finally got up the courage and entered the Summer Novice trial in July. I was so nervous, but everyone there was so kind and supportive and it really helped. Every time we've gone to trial, the sheepdog community has been so great and, thanks to everyone's helpful tips and comments, we surprisingly became Novice/Novice champions for 2015.

Thank you all.



*Photo courtesy Stacey Rember*

When Shep was born, I carefully wrote 'Pup#3 Tri Male'. A big, handsome healthy pup but I was planning on keeping a female.... or so I thought! By the time the pups were 4 weeks old, it was clear to me which one would be staying! Growing up around the farm Shep learned about sheep in general, didn't cause any trouble and showed a keenness to work. An easy pup. He has a 'bring it on, no quit' attitude when working/training and is a pleasure to live with. Thank you to the OBCC, trial hosts, judges and members for a great year.



*Photo courtesy Amanda Milliken*

At one time I ribbed Joni Tietjen and Haley Hunewill for thrashing around at their training sessions with a stick, flag attached. Haha. She who laughs first, laughs last. Puppa is from Roz, and Haley's Ross. Ross was a breed of Joni's, by her Spot, like Lew, Tommy Wilson's Sly, Kate Broadbent's Salt. Haley's won the US Nursery Championship at Klamuth in compelling style, nearly ten years ago. I wanted one. Puppa was a single pup, treated like a little Saudi prince. I do not know whether to blame that or not, on his eccentricities. I have spent more time training him than any dog I have owned. If I had used one of those flags, it might have been quicker. He has been hard to handle. This year, I am relaxing his regimen, hoping that some of his impetuous stuff could be youth. I like his company and character. His enthusiasm for all things sheep is exasperating. My last one from Roz, has made me very patient with him. A week before the US Nursery Finals, I considered withdrawing him and then he came fifth.



*Photos by Michelle Lawrence*



*Photo courtesy Victoria Lamont*

Elly is originally from Conquest kennels in the Netherlands, but ended up in Canada via Ireland, where she was trained by Aidan Gallagher. Her sire is Aidan's Jimmy, and her mother goes back to Bobby Dalziel's Wisp and Dryden Joe. Elly was just two years old when I got her in April 2015. I feel very lucky to have her—apparently Aiden was willing to part with Elly because, as talented as she is, he is "just not a bitch man."

Although she is tiny (barely 18 inches at the shoulder), Elly is courageous and powerful. She can move pretty much anything, isn't afraid to take on a bully, and keeps her head under pressure. She is a fantastic outrunner with great feel. She's also very biddable and genuinely wants to please. When she's not working, she is happy to snooze on the couch or climb on my lap for a tummy rub.

I would like to thank Viki Kidd and Michael Gallagher for bringing me and Elly together, and my fellow competitors for another great season of sheepdog trialing. See you in open!



*Photo courtesy Carly Thomson*

My year with the dogs has been marked by bitter losses, occasionally offset with sparkling moments of sheep dog beauty. Howell, a dog I had always considered selling, until the Roz died of cancer in May, is a remarkable story of meeting the bar when required. He was a very good young dog, as a nursery dog, but afterwards, he emerged from the winter, empowered to a fault. He developed a potent habit of infuriating the sheep by the time a drive was concluded. Their resentment in the shedding ring was palpable on numerous occasions. I bust my ass training him in the summer. Boot camp. Sometime in August, he responded to an epiphany and started to run like a serious partnering dog. At the same time, his father, Monty developed the retrobulber eye infection. Monty lost his eye to it, but the problem persisted through the fall and during the long road trip out west. I worked very hard on Howell's international shedding in August, while home, not knowing where Monty's eye thing was headed. That was lucky. Events made demands of Howell's running, at levels to which he had never been tested. He met every test favourably.

His outrunning has been outstanding, his way with his sheep, very sure. All the wrestling over direction and pace ended. Nothing rattles him. No temper. He is fluid and on his feet with every difficult penning sheep. He sheds with joy. Barbara Ray is his breeder—her Stella, my Monty.



*Photos by Michelle Lawrence*



*Photo courtesy Mary Minor*

Before the eye problem, which cost him his eye, I would have said Monty was one of my top two dogs and running at the top of his game. He is a wonderful sheep persuader. They never say no to him. His easy style takes away the combat. A kindly, deadpan "You have to go". He will do dirty work if required but work hardly ever gets dirty with him. He has run with moderate success with the eye handicapping his general health and impairing his work to some extent—the shed particularly. As he gets more accustomed to it, maybe it will make no difference

Eight, this January, Monty is my last dog sired by Stuart Davidson's great Star. His has been a successful breed for me. Roz was same way bred, from my Ethel.



CANADIAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

# 2016 Sheep Dog Championships



**August 11 - 14, 2016**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Shepherd's Crook Farm, Woodville, ON**

[www.ontariobordercollielclub.com/CBCA2016Championships](http://www.ontariobordercollielclub.com/CBCA2016Championships)



## 2016 OBCC EVENTS

*You'll want to mark the following dates on your calendar so that you don't miss these confirmed events:*

March 20 (9:30am to 4:00pm)	Arena Trial, 7 Pines Stables, Oakwood
August 3 to August 6	Kingston Sheepdog Trial at Grass Creek Park
August 10 to August 14	Canadian National Sheepdog Championships, Woodville

*Tentatively scheduled events include:*

July 30 to August 1	80 Acres, Kingston
September 24 to October 2	Fall Trial Series (Various)

*The following series of one-day Novice events are also tentatively scheduled:*

April 30	Swaledale Farm, Blackstock
June 4	Indian River, Village of Indian River
July 9	Cloudberry Farm, Roseneath
July 17	Handy Dog Farm, St. Agatha
August 27	Good Companions Farm, Warkworth
TBD	Tara Dier's Farm, Stirling

***Watch the website and the Spring newsletter for more details!***



*Piperdown Ewes. Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

# Memories of Summer Past

Photos by Michelle Lawrence

## Fetch Gate Farm Sheep Dog Trial, Cortland, New York



Judge: Werner Reitboeck



## Leatherstocking Sheep Dog Trials, Cooperstown, New York



Judge: Ron McGettigan





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