



# Ontario Border Collie Club

***In This Issue:*** Training Days; Winter Arena Trials Series; Develop the Conversation; Trialing Winter; Spring on the Farm; In Memoriam



*Away to the races – Spring has sprung!*

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**SPRING**

**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

### 2016 Club Officers

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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

Ahhh spring...it has taken its time showing its welcome face this year. Perhaps a reminder of the winter we didn't have. But it is finally here bringing the opportunity to get out more with the dogs and enjoy the sunshine.

Spring also brings lambs - see the wonderful lamb photo spread in this edition that Michelle has created. This novice handler had two opportunities to assist with lambing on different farms this year, which was a valued experience. There is no better way to gain an understanding of how sheep think and move and it develops a deeper appreciation of what the dogs are capable of. There is nothing more exhilarating than watching an experienced border collie gently nudge a ewe and lamb into a jug. The subtleties of the differences between a farm dog and a trial dog become evident.

Looking forward to a great summer as we host a series of novice trials and the Canadian Nationals as well as the regular trails including Grass Creek and the Triple Crown, all in our own back yard!

*Lynn Johnston*



*Ladies in Waiting at Swaledale Farm.  
Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

**Note From Webmaster**

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Member Password will change to: 2016OBCC

*Cover Photo at Hélène Lawler's Earthdance Farm  
By Michelle Lawrence*

## President's Message



While spring is taking its sweet time to arrive, the championship committee is focused and moving forward!

If you haven't visited the website please check it out regularly – as more details are confirmed, the site is updated constantly – you can set up a feed to let you know when changes are made – just follow the simple instructions at the bottom of the Handler Information page.

If you haven't entered yet entry forms are at both the OBCC and CBCA websites. Please check the CBCA website for championship eligibility details. Thursday, Friday and Saturday are sanctioned by OBCC, USBCHA and NEBCA while only CBCA members in good standing and CBCA registered dogs qualify for the Nursery and Doublelift Championships.

Entries are already coming in and now is the time to select the dog or handler you would like to sponsor. Sponsorship forms can be found at both the OBCC and the CBCA web sites. A current list of entries is on the site and refreshed periodically - giving you the chance to see whom you can select.

Anne Wheatley has a comprehensive list of volunteer jobs needed before, during and after the trial. If you have any time this summer, please let her know your interest and availability.

Contact her at [wheats@sympatico.ca](mailto:wheats@sympatico.ca)

The list of vendors, demos, and activities for kids continues to grow. A partnership with the Brock Big Bite is already generating excitement. This is an extraordinary food festival in downtown Beaverton on Saturday Aug 13. We have confirmed that a shuttle bus will run every half hour between the festival and the trial – so spectators and handlers can hop on the bus for the 15 minute ride to taste some yummy treats and still be back to see lots of good runs.

*Cynthia*

If you have any trial questions, contact Tracy Hinton [tracyahinton@gmail.com](mailto:tracyahinton@gmail.com)

The Ontario Border Collie Club welcomes  
The Canadian Border Collie Association

2016 CANADIAN SHEEPDOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

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



*Kevan Gretton at Shepherd's Crook Farm, Woodville*



*All Photos and Poster by Michelle Lawrence*

# Training Days – Fun and Useful!

By Anne Wheatley

I'm a bit of a social creature I guess. I enjoy getting together and talking with friends and eating good food and drinking coffee or tea or wine depending on the time of the day and the mood. Some of the topics I most like to discuss are dogs, sheep, and training dogs on sheep. I often talk to handler friends about what's going on with our dogs. Sometimes someone will say, "well I wish you could see him do what I'm trying to describe" or "if only I could work your sheep or your field, it might help my dog". All of that is what makes training together so much fun and so useful.

Late last Fall a few of us got together at the home of Victoria Lamont and her partner John Straube near Waterloo. This is where Viki Kidd keeps her sheep and trains her dogs and her students and their dogs. The farm is about 130 acres in size. It's still a wonderful work in progress but currently has an almost brand new, Mennonite built, classic style barn designed especially for sheep. It also has a novice plus sized fenced field for grazing sheep and working dogs and a training pen for working with the uninitiated or the youngsters. One of the farm's best features is a huge Open level field that is wide and long and rolling. Around this field is beautiful bush. That is where we worked when we got together at Handy Dog Farm for a training afternoon / overnight / morning.

Who would want to spend hours outside training dogs on a typical Ontario December day? On December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> last Fall, we all did! The weather this spring has been awful compared to the 15 degree sunshine we enjoyed on those days.

In attendance was Carol Guy who brought marinated, flattened chickens for the BBQ along with her dogs Hank and Will and Jac. I brought a frittata for breakfast and my dogs Dusk and Jesse. Of course Victoria was there with good coffee and wine, the use of her gorgeous kitchen and family room and her dogs Diz and Elle. Viki rounded out the group and brought salad and veg and a youngster she was training.



Training Day Barn. Photo by Anne Wheatley

We worked on gathers and outrunning. Someone held for those who wanted that. A set out person is another advantage of working with friends. "Hold them tight" someone requested, "Can we set that scenario up again"? Recreating a scenario is sometimes tough but even more difficult on your own.

We worked on shedding. Lessons and tips from clinics we had attended together were recalled to help out. The sheds got better.

We worked on driving. "Remember not to dog watch" "Keep your eyes on the sheep" "Do you think my timing is off? "Am I late"?"

Several hours passed. Dinner was wonderful. The laughs even better. The lessons learned on Saturday afternoon were revisited on Sunday morning after a fine breakfast and plenty of good coffee.

I recommend training times with friends. We all lead busy lives but the effort is worth it. Whether it's an hour or an afternoon or a weekend. It's all fun and can be so very helpful!

# Training Days

*Photos By Carol Guy*



## 2015 / 2016 Arena Trial Series – Final Results

*By Anne Wheatley*

Arena Trials 5 and 6 were held March 20th at Seven Pines Stables. Trial 5 took place in the morning and trial 6 in the afternoon. Between the two trials we ate wonderful pot luck food. During the trials we laughed and cheered and teased those we knew would think it was amusing, and encouraged everyone. What fun !



*Photo by Anne Wheatley*

The Pro Novice Arena Trial series Championship was won by Tracy Hinton and Lad. Good job Tracy. Not to take anything away from the winner but, if Louise Hadley had been able to attend it may have turned out differently. Louise and Kate were running neck in neck with Tracy and Lad after trials 1 and 2 and 3 and 4, each with 63 points but times of 8 minutes

and 50 seconds and 8 minutes and 56 seconds respectively. Chris Knowlton and Spot were reserve champs and again, if Victoria Lamont and Elle had attended, they could have defended their score and time after 4 trials of 63 points in 9 minutes and 13 seconds,

against Chris and Spot's 61 points in 9 minutes and 24 seconds. I'm only trying to illustrate how edge of your seat this series can be - nail biting even !!!

Congratulations Tracy and Chris.

The Open Arena Trial series Championship was won by Tara Dier and Scott. Viki Kidd came second with her dog Reed in a fairly close race. Each

Handler Dog team finished with 99 points but Scott won the series with an overall time of 14 minutes and 42 seconds vs Reed's 15 minutes and 33 seconds. Now this competition was a father and son reunion as Scott is Reed's sire. They are both quite lovely to watch at work.

Congratulations Tara and Viki.

If you haven't taken part, or at least come to watch the Arena Trial Series, think about it for next year



*Photo by Anne Wheatley*



*Arena Trial Winners. Photo by Anne Wheatley*

## Develop the Conversation

*By Amanda Milliken*

We all aspire to the same refined sheep dog work that is the hall mark of brilliant runs. Runs where lines are maintained by mere lists of the dog. Runs where the dog answers no, to a whistle left or right, and the dog is correct. Runs where the dog participates in the decision making which brings the spectacular outcome. Runs where the sheep are thankful for the wise direction of the dog. Getting there is the thing.

I have enjoyed a student on some weekends lately who wants very much to begin at a novice running level. We were working at maintaining lines, under good control, as much because her dog had to get the hang of holding lines as she did. She was successful eventually. In retrospect, I believe she was disappointed in its apparent irrelevance to running in a trial. It was anything but irrelevant. All building blocks of running sheepdogs are formed at the line level. Until you and your dog are good at it, there is no real point in stretching things out. And what's more, occasionally even well-schooled dogs can benefit from reverting to line work at hand, as a reminder of pace discipline and handler/dog expectations.

The lines can be in any particular direction as long as they are committed—no lollygagging around changing your mind about the direction of them. No winding back and forth. Sheep straight. If you have started a line, stay with it. Don't change it because the dog decided to. Give the line all your focus and attention. The dog will get the hang of it. You will find they will begin helping you hold a line. Sometimes mine will drive away sheep in a perfect line, without my saying a thing.

The line holding is fertile territory for the refinements of language that will help in more sophisticated running. My student, for instance was making every command a big "Come Bye" or "Away". When a small flank is the right answer, the handler has to differentiate linguistically, reducing the small flank to "come", or "Way", delivered with less emphasis. The clever collie will note the wisdom of the small flank, growing in admiration for the whims of his handler. The language will come to affirm his line holding ideas, almost more than it is commands. Have a correction for straying too far in a flank, unsolicited. Keep the dog in behind honouring the line, until you make a distinct turn, where the bigger flank can be used, in contrast to your small flank, for the line holding. Your young dog learns to expect a big flank at the onset of the serious turn in the line. Suddenly you create a dog that makes good turns at trials and a handler that hugs him/herself when they walk off. The verbal commands,

being shortened and lengthened, is a precursor to the same with your whistles, with whistles being more concise. The half flank whistle gives you a small step to the left with the bigger whistle indicating a deep big flank. The difference in the two will bring finesse to your running. We are all looking for it.



*"Because she's mine, Dorey walks the line."*

*Photo by Amanda Milliken*

The exercise is enhanced by good reactive sheep, that demand a flank be finished off to make a turn. For instance, many of the katahdin types we see in trials would be unhelpful, as they turn before the dog has done anything constructive insofar as taking the extra few feet to cover the line is concerned. Good sheep are all part of the making of your dog. I was scanning my dozen doggers yesterday and thought I detected a message "We'll make dogs out of those mutts yet." The dog learning to take good charge of the sheep is the goal, and for the handler and the dog, to learn one another's speak about it.

I hear comments of surprise that my dogs are so willing to take small flanks early on. A few things explain it. They are intelligent. I cash in on every bend in the sheep to give a corresponding flank, big or small. Each turn the sheep take is a training opportunity. The dogs come to like the order of the lines. Controlling sheep in this way gratifies them. They are proud of what they do. Happy dogs are easy to train.

# Trialing Winter 2016

By Tara Dier

So I went to Florida this winter. I'm not a Florida sort of gal, but two grinding winters left me with little choice. I packed my six dogs, threw what I thought was a good variety of all weather clothing into my tiny trailer, entered three trials in Georgia and Florida, and headed south.

First trial was Brian Cash's excellent Three Post trial in Gay, GA, not far from Atlanta. It was cold—cold enough that my down jacket came in handy, water bowls froze at night, and a furnace was necessary. But the fields and the running were excellent.

Other Canadians were there—Tracy Hinton and Kevan and Kim Gretton. I had of course heard the talk about dangers of southern lands—fire ants, crocodiles (or is it alligators?) and some kind of snake to watch out for. In Georgia there were anthills everywhere but I encountered no ants. One native told me it was too cold for them to come out.

Eventually I decided that these stories were like the tales of bears we Ontarians tell visitors to our cottages: there is a basis in truth, but you aren't likely to actually see one and you can relax.

The Open run on day one was unusual. The sheep were set in another field, requiring the dog to run in and then flank back out. Many failed to do that. A very strong draw to the set out caused many dogs to lose their sheep. Of 64 dogs, more than half crossed their course and only 16 had scores—among them Tracy with Soot and Kevan with Clint. My dog encountered an ornery ewe and was too polite to grip, and we retired.

The next day the course was set in a more straightforward way, although still with a tricky swale between the lift and the post. A trailer was used instead of a pen with sometime interesting results. More than one handler's run ended when a single ewe didn't go into the trailer and then became a terrified single, heading off the field.

Tracy placed 5th with Dax and 7th with Soot, and my new hero-dog Scott placed 6th. The following day Tracy and her young dog Lad won Nursery and Pro-Novice overall.



John Palmer & Spec. Photo by Tara Dier



Sandstorm in Florida. Photo by Tara Dier



Tracy's Lad "Blowin' in the Wind". Photo by Tara Dier

Then it was on to Florida, where Tracy, Kevan and Kim and I were guests of Cheryl and Dick Williams near the fabled Suwanee River. I saw my first sandstorm—sand everywhere, in drifts by the road and in the air. We were joined by John Palmer and his dogs.

The first Florida trial was C-54 on the east coast (the “Space Coast”) of Florida. (C-54, I now know, refers to Canal # 54, not a Bill in the House of Commons.) Two very nice, very large fields were used. On day one the wind was strong into the handler’s face and dogs were on their own at the top. Tracy placed with Soot, I lost my sheep due to bad handling on my part. The following day John Palmer and Preacher had one of the smoothest runs I’ve seen to win the trial with a 93. Tracy as 6th, my hero Scott was 7th and Kevan 9th.

The final trial was Mark Ireland’s, close by on his That’ll Do Farm. His field is small and has many trees that make for interesting markers along the lines. The sheep are set using corn and I had a thrilling time when mine left, in two directions, and my hero Scott did an amazing job putting

them back together—before they got to the fetch panels. We didn’t win but he sure did some good work and we both had some serious fun.



*Soot right on the line at C-54. Photo by Tara Dier*

And then the long drive home, broken with a stop of two days in Kentucky to visit and watch the bad weather clear out. A good trip, with good hospitality and good dog running.



*Sunset at C-54. Photo by Tara Dier*



I had the opportunity to visit several farms and enjoy meeting some new additions to the flocks there; I couldn't help but smile as I watched the antics of the little ones. It gave me the opportunity to grab a few photos to share with you here. Thank you to Carol Guy and Peter Mohr of Piperdown Farm, Cynthia and John Palmer of Indian River, Sheri Purcell and Hugh Grant of Swaledale Farm with Cathie Vodden as my guide, Eleanor and Tom Peavy of Our Ewenique Farm and H el ene Lawler of Earthdance Farm. The title block is my home-away-from home, Frogmorton Farm.









# In Memoriam



Photo by Werner Reitboeck

## Members Remember Peg Milliken 1925 – 2016

*A generous and long-time supporter of our club*

Peg's house has felt a bit like home to me for as long as I have been up visiting Amanda. I love the feeling of the house where one can freely come and go doing the little errands and chores inherent to a stay at Amanda's. Over the years the Millikens have included me in countless family gatherings, dinners, and movie nights. Celebration and largess are core family values. Unless she was at the cottage, Peg was always at home, available for a brief chat about some small happening or another. I don't think she knew my name, but that did not matter. I always felt I was familiar to her, and with each meeting we would introduce ourselves anew. I would refresh our relationship by sharing my salient details: dog friend of Amanda's, from Cape Cod, mother of two teenage girls (oh brother!), grew up in New York. She would respond with reminiscences that connected us: A tidbit about Amanda as a child, an anecdote from her life in New York, a tune about Old Cape Cod. We always had a lot to talk about, and I truly enjoyed her company. At her best, she was observant, brutally honest and loved dogs, music and celebrations. Amanda moved heaven and earth to keep Ma in the house that she loved, filled with Milliken history, people coming and going. She provided Peg with everything she could to keep her happy and comfortable - even taking Sammy to lay on Peg's hospital bed. I will miss Peg deeply.

*Sue Schoen*

Peggy Milliken was a woman of many traits. She had a passion for gardening, and a love of architecture, which was apparent if you were ever in her home, and always enjoyed a shopping trip to Homesense. She enjoyed the little things in life. A fine wine, nice meal (even though she wasn't one for cooking), and had a true love of jazz. She opened her home to many travelers, and always made everyone feel welcome. She loved to entertain, to have lavish parties, or just to sit down amongst friends and tell stories. She was poised with dignity and grace. But she also had a bit of spunk. It wouldn't be odd to see her spend

hours in her garden, and then jump right into the "swimming pond" on her property (and possibly only in her birthday suit). She loved animals, the farm, and everything that came with it. She had a large family - as she raised 7 children, had quite a few grandchildren, and even a few great grandchildren. Her home and her heart, was certainly full of love.

*Karen Curtis*

Peggy Milliken was one of the best people I ever knew. She was kind, witty, generous, engaging - equally eager to hear about your day or to relay some interesting event from her garden adventures that very day. She was happy in her place in life. She was intensely, justly proud of the seven children she raised with her husband Jack. (Even if her children said she was the worst cook ever and thank the lord the microwave had been invented...) Having her family around gave her great joy and pleasure. I remember once having dinner at the big table in her home with many of the family around talking, laughing, joking, and seeing her beam with love for them all.

I consider myself very lucky to have known Peggy prior to the full onset of Alzheimer's. She could be very funny and came up with a few doozey one-liners over the years. Amanda loves to tell more than a few of them, as she is the inspiration behind many. One of them is my favourite memory of Peg. I had come over to the big house from the Grass Creek trail for some errand or another. As I entered the house Peg was up on the 2nd floor landing leaning over the railing to greet me (she still could back then) and then proceeded to ask me "so who has my lovely daughter gotten into a tangle with today?" We burst out laughing together - that was Peggy, you just had to love her. God Speed - a life well lived.

*Viki Kidd*



## 2016 OBCC EVENTS

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

July 30 to August 1	80 Acres, Kingston
August 3 to 7	Kingston Sheepdog Trial at Grass Creek Park
August 10 to 14	Canadian National Sheepdog Championships, Woodville
September 24 –26	Fall Trial Series: Indian River, Village of Indian River
September 27 –29	Fall Trial Series: Swaledale, Blackstock
September 30, October 1 - 2	Fall Trial Series: Shepherd's Crook Farm, Woodville

*The following series of one-day Novice Trials and Events are also scheduled:*

June 4	Indian River Novice Trial, Village of Indian River
June 5	Indian River Fun Day, Village of Indian River
July 9	Cloudberry Farm, Roseneath
August 27	Good Companions Farm, Warkworth

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

### **MOST PROMISING NOVICE HANDLER AWARD**

The Board of the Ontario Border Collie Club is very happy to announce the 2016 Award for Most Promising Novice Handler.

This award recognizes novice handlers who demonstrate:

- Good sportsmanship
- A willingness to learn and improve
- Concern for the welfare of stock
- A willingness to volunteer
- Awareness of and respect for the tradition and history of our sport

All members of OBCC are welcome to nominate a Novice/Novice or Pro Novice OBCC member. Nominations can be sent via email to: [secretaryobcc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryobcc@gmail.com) by the end of August 2016. Nominators are asked to briefly describe the reasons why they believe the identified member meets the above criteria. If you wish to nominate and would like assistance, please contact Helen Dunning at [helensdunning@gmail.com](mailto:helensdunning@gmail.com)

The list of nominations will be shared with all members in the fall. Votes on these nominations will be accepted at [secretaryobcc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryobcc@gmail.com) until the end of October.

The presentation of the award will be held at the 2016 AGM