



Ontario Border Collie Club

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Fall Triple Crown: Indian River, Swaledale, Shepherd's Crook
Butternut Creek Trial; Mentoring at Indian River**



Sunset at Swaledale Sheepdog Trial

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

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Palmer
presidentobcc@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Werner Reitboeck
vicepresidentobcc.com

TREASURER

Teresa Castonguay
treasurerobcc@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Tracy Hinton
secretaryobcc@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

Sheri Purcell
directorobcc@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Rebecca Lawrence
obccwebsite@gmail.com

Newsletter

Co-Editors:

Anne Wheatley
wheats@sympatico.ca

Lynn Johnston
lynn.johnston1979@gmail.com

Art Director/Design:

Michelle Lawrence
obccphotographer@gmail.co

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



From the Editors

Let's celebrate that we are back to a triple crown from a double crown and with the Butternut trial, Ontario is a great place to be in the Fall for herding. Thanks to all the trial hosts and to those who worked at these trials judging and setting

and in the pens and in the kitchen and.....

Speaking of people who helped, we'd like to thank Petra Munro for her help at the Canadian Championships this summer. Sorry we missed acknowledging you in the summer newsletter.

Fall weather has been pretty good so far and we hope it's allowed members to get out and work their dogs. Winter is long so we need to take advantage of snow free fields, even if it's a bit cold and wet some days. The sheep and the dogs like it better that way.

Maybe you'll enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter while sitting by your fire or curled up under a blanket.



Finn Johnston



Jesse Wheatley

Cover Photo by Janet Fahey

Above photos by Michelle Lawrence

President's Message



What a year! It seemed to go so quickly after the neverending spring that didn't really ever get warm, but threatened to every once in a while. OBCC members were busy with trials, travelling, clinics and demos all year.

I want to thank the rest of the executive for a great team and a super year: Werner, Tracy, Teresa and Sheri (our wayward sailor who kept up with correspondence and conference calls while sailing the oceans), thanks so much for your work and dedication to keeping things running smoothly. The committee and newsletter members: Thanks for your dedication and work to seamlessly keep everything pointing in the right direction. There really wasn't a glitch in any of the teams this year.

I've enjoyed countless trials this year with fantastic hosts and excellent volunteers. The Canadians were a highlight with fantastic participation as well as a very good showing of OBCC members. Congratulations to Amanda for her wins at the Canadians. I had wished I had made the trek out west with John to see the Finals, Meeker and Soldier Hollow; Perhaps another year. Again, congratulations to Amanda, John, Tracy and Mary for representing the OBCC in the west. We had several new trials this year that catered to the novices and they were very well attended and very well run. The fall triple crown was oversubscribed but managed to include almost everyone that could come. The year finished up with Butternut on a wet weekend, reminding us that fall has descended and winter won't be far behind.

I look forward to next year; hoping for good lie downs, smooth flanks and a time whistle that works. We should remember the dogs and handlers that have been such an important part of our history that will no longer trial with us. Oh....not to be forgotten, congratulations to the winners and reserve winners of each class! You have put in lots of time training and have shown well at trials. Great job!

Please join us at the Annual General Meeting and we shall see you on the trial field in the spring!

Cynthia



Cynthia and Duke; Indian River



Cynthia and Duke; Shepherd's Crook

All Photos by Michelle Lawrence

Soldier Hollow 2016

By John Palmer

Are we there yet?

A statement often repeated as Tracy Hinton and myself headed across the continent to Midway, Utah to run in an invitational sheepdog trial that the two of us were more than a little intimidated to compete in.



Soldier Hollow

Photo by John Palmer

A little history to begin with. Marc Pedersen, after getting the idea from visiting the International Sheep dog Trial in the UK has done a phenomenal job of creating a trial in

North America that involves 64 top competitors from around the globe. It is set in one of the venues that hosted the Olympics in 2002. It involves an outrun that is about 600 yards up a hill and the panels are set in and around trees that create issues often blocking the view of your lines and what your dog is doing. The sheep are a little different then what we are used to running on here in our area. They are much larger and come down about 2000 feet from their summer graze. Fit and quite willing to challenge the dog and find out what they are made of. Part of the challenge facing our dogs is we had to travel up about 6000ft to compete. This created a further disadvantage for our dogs to contend with.

As mentioned earlier, Tracy and I went out there concerned that we might be in a little above our heads. Our mantra, "I just want to not suck". Did we succeed? I think so. Each time we went to the post there was an improvement. Did we make it to the finals? No but the competition and challenges gave us a new perspective on our abilities and gave us ideas to continue to improve in our chosen hobby.

Will we accept the invitation again? Absolutely. Just need to continue to perform well in the trials to secure another invitation.

Post script:



Spec

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

This is not going to be a big surprise to many of you but the stoic determination of the border collie was displayed to me once again on this trip.

In Spec's first run she stumbled a bit on her outrun trying to clear a small ditch. It was determined that this caused her to pull a muscle in her rear leg. After some rehab work by an on site vet and careful warmup she put in a much better run the 2nd time around. Got around the course fairly well and put in a great effort at the pen where we timed out.

Good job little doggie!

WWSDA Labor Day Trial

By Tara Dier

One thing needs to be dealt with right off the top: the WWSDA Sheepdog Trial is in western Wisconsin, and that is a very, very long way from Ontario. I went to that trial this past Labour Day weekend, and I put 3300 kms on my vehicle. It was worth the drive.



Wisconsin Trial Field

Photo by Tara Dier

The field is spectacular, the most amazing I have seen. Long and wide and hilly, with many places sheep could be set. The trial for the most part took place in a valley between hills, so spectators had a view from above. The trial ran a full list of classes, including novice classes. Two open runs preceded a double lift final on Monday for the top 10 combined scores. It was judged by Irishman Gordon Watt, now of Wisconsin.

Sheep were tricky but even. Few dogs got scores in both open trials and for a while it looked like a couple of dogs were going to make it into the double lift with only one open score. The sheep put up with no nonsense and stood down a number of dogs. The big field with challenging sheep was an enormous thrill for me. Among the challenges were two places near the drive line that looked like sand traps in a golf course. We were warned that putting sheep in there and not promptly getting them out would result in a DQ as off course.



Viki and Macy Shedding Photo by Tara Dier

Ontario handlers who made the trek included Viki Kidd with Macy and Reed, Mary Thompson with Mia and Paris, Kevan Gretton with Clint and Sid, and me with

Scott. Mary and Mia placed third in the first open round, but then didn't get a score in the second. Viki had a good score in the first round (fifth place) with Reed, and had a superb run going in the second round, when her sheep left the course during her attempt to shed and she was disqualified. My first round was decent, but on my second a sheep turned to face Scott and he responded by tipping her upside down in one of the sand traps.



Mary and Mia

Photo by Tara Dier

Kevan and Sid saved the day for Ontario by making it into the double lift. The first set was far to the right, a relatively short outrun but tricky. Kevan's dog had been sent right in his qualifying runs and he happily set off to where the sheep had been before. He crossed, then found the sheep and continued. The second set of sheep was, near as I could tell, in Michigan. Huge distance, but dogs found them.



Kevan and Sid

Photo by Tara Dier

In the result, Kevan was fourth overall. My friend Jennifer Boznos of Chicago, running her big goofy Daley (son of my big goofy Scott) was third in their first double lift. It was won by local girl Rose Anderson.

It was a smoothly run trial, well attended by spectators who were well informed by excellent announcers (Viki being one of them). And it was a break from the never-ending heat of the Ontario summer of 2016. I drove out there via Chicago, city of my birth and city of ridiculous traffic, and came back via Sault Ste Marie. Much better views on the way home.

Indian River Fall Sheepdog Trial

By Anne Wheatley



Anne and Dusk at the Post

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

On September 24, 25 and 26th, Cynthia and John Palmer hosted the opening trial of the annual Fall trial series on their farm in Indian River Ontario. The whole series was oversubscribed - good news for the popularity of sheepherding and Ontario's trials. Saturday and Sunday were open days and on Monday Novice, Ranch and Nursery ran twice, but the trial manager could run Pro Novice only once given that over 30 dogs wanted to compete in that class. Warren Mick judged the Open Trails and Roger Millen, Jim Valley and Paul Tucker generously shared the work of putting the runs in order on Monday. It was a busy three days and most enjoyable.



Roger judging. Heather scribing.

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

On Saturday and Sunday, the mornings were chilly but the days warmed and the sun shone. The open course was a good size with the cross drive stretching the full width of the field. The sheep were level, aided by the fact that the exhaust was moved from the bottom of the trial field to a field next to the barn. This arrangement worked really well. Beverly Lambert and Nan won Open 1 on Saturday with a 95. On Sunday Robin French and Spot, and Amanda Milliken and Dorey tied with 96's. It was decided that a silent gather would break the tie. Spot had

a lovely outrun and brought the sheep to within several yards of Robin's feet but Dorey did even better and Amanda won the day.

The weather was less kind on Monday but the rain didn't dampen the spirits of the large 10 dog Novice Novice field. Many Open handlers said how great it was to see so many new handlers on the field, and I think the NN handlers felt well supported by the cheers from the handlers' tent. Sue Moore and Jack took top honours in NN1 and Rebecca Lawrence and Key won NN2. Ranch, Nursery and Pro Novice classes were completed and the sheep stayed level until the end of this very long day.



Very wet Rebecca and Key

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

On Sunday evening, everyone was able to sit outside to eat a wonderful handlers' dinner prepared by talented members of Cynthia's family. Many thanks to John and Cynthia for hosting and to all those who helped to make this trial such a success.



Bev and Lee

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

Nursery 1

Amanda Milliken	Quark	83
Lori Cunningham	Lefty	81
Beverly Lambert	Lee	80
Michelle Brothers	Mac	65
Lori Cunningham	Buck	63
Maria Amodei	Poe	57
Dave Young	Tagh	47

Nursery 2

Amanda Milliken	Quark	80
Lori Cunningham	Lefty	80
Maria Amodei	Poe	78
Dave Young	Tagh	65
Michelle Brothers	Mac	57
Beverly Lambert	Lee	42

Novice/Novice 1

Susan Moore	Jack	65
Michelle Taliana	Blake	62
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	50
Catherine Rae	Pepper	49
Kelly Morrow	Dara	48
Stacey Rember	Nell	40
Rebecca Lawrence	Key	35
Liz Burden	Meg	30

Novice/Novice 2

Rebecca Lawrence	Key	61
Michelle Taliana	Blake	59
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	53
Kelly Morrow	Dara	49
Catherine Rae	Pepper	43
Susan Moore	Jack	42
Tania Costa	Jake	41

Pro/Novice 1

Beverly Lambert	Lee	87
John Palmer	Mara	83
Amanda Milliken	Zola	82
Amanda Milliken	Quark	82
Lorna Savage	Ivy	76
Viki Kidd	Lynn	75
Lori Cunningham	Buck	74
Dave Young	Tagh	70
Robin French	Zebo	70
Marie Sawford	Jill	69

Ranch 1

Jim Valley	Charlotte	82
Mary Thompson	Teagan	69
Michelle Brothers	Flo	66
Kathy Farkos	Halle	43

Ranch 2

Michelle Brothers	Flo	76
Jim Valley	Charlotte	72
Mary Thompson	Teagan	68
Nathalie Labelle	Mia	61

*Warren Mick judging a run**Photo by Michelle Lawrence***Open 1**

Beverly Lambert	Nan	95
John Palmer	Dutch	94
Amanda Milliken	Dorey	91
Paul Tucker	Reb	91
Chuck Dimit	Joel	88
Beverly Lambert	River	88
Roger Millen	Jessie	88
Viki Kidd	Reed	88
Lorna Savage	Kaylee	87
Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	86

Open 2

Amanda Milliken	Dorey	96
Robin French	Spot2	96
Amanda Milliken	Howell	94
Mary Thompson	Mia	91
Maria Amodei	Marcus	91
Sherry Farster	Gin	90
Chuck Dimit	Joel	89
Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	88
Beverly Lambert	River	88
Viki Kidd	Macy	86

Swaledale Sheepdog Trial – The Return of the Triple Crown

By Carol Guy

The Ontario Fall Trial Series continues to be popular not only with local Ontario folks but it attracts new handlers from far and wide every year. It was fun to have friends from Pennsylvania who we see at other trials in the north east travelling farther afield to spend some time with friends, and trial with our great variety of sheep.

Captain Hugh Grant and his trusty mate Sheri Purcell returned home from their year-long adventures on the high seas in late August in time to prepare for Swaledale...making the fall trials in Ontario – the Triple Crown once again.

The droughty summer weather certainly affected grazing on their farm but Cathie Vodden managed the farm and flock well and we all benefitted from her care and dedication in their absence. The warm summer weather continued for the Swaledale trial and also delayed the gorgeous fall colours we have been accustomed to at the trial.

Hugh, as always, the welcoming smiling host – happily greeted us all and checked in on each of us as we arrived ensuring we were ok and settling in and spent some time catching up with each of us. Hugh and Sheri are both such welcoming hosts. Andrea de Kenedy and Sheri also teamed up to manage various aspects and details ensuring a well-organized event.

The sheep were managed at the top by the now notoriously famous pen boss Gordon Dunning. He sports a set of waterproof gear that is now artistically decorated with a variety of browns and greens. Gordon volunteers to support his sweetie Helen in doing what she loves and we all love him too!



Helen and Sis Photo by Anne Wheatley

The home sheep were the most uniform they had ever been and the runs were judged by Dave and Mary Ellen Young. Dave sorted out the novice classes and Mary Ellen the Open classes. The draw in the field was to the right of the handler where the barn is situated. This draw created some interesting situations on the drive away but assisted for a draw on the shed. The pen was set up a considerable walk from the ring creating a sense of

urgency for the handlers after the shed in the first round of Open.



Photo by Anne Wheatley

The Swaledale trial is definitely a family affair...even one of Sheri's lovely daughters contributed to the success of the delicious catered handlers' dinner! The meal was served outside on the deck of their beautiful house and all sat around a lovely fire chatting and enjoying the lovely evening, the tasty meal and the good company. Thank you!

Nursery 1

Michelle Brothers	Mac	81
Amanda Milliken	Quark	79
Bev Lambert	Lee	76
Lori Cunningham	Buck	75
Lori Cunningham	Lefty	67
Dave Young	Tagh	49
Viki Kidd	Lynn	41

Nursery 2

Bev Lambert	Lee	80
Michelle Brothers	Mac	78
Lori Cunningham	Lefty	77
Amanda Milliken	Quark	75
Viki Kidd	Lynn	74
Lori Cunningham	Buck	64
Maria Amodei	Poe	63
Dave Young	Tagh	62



Dave Young and Bess

Photo by Anne Wheatley

Ranch

Chris Chambers	Pearl	81
Mary Thompson	Teagan	73
Jim Valley	Charlotte	69
Kathy Farkos	Halle	64
Nathalie Labelle	Mia	33



Viki and Reed

Photo by Anne Wheatley

Novice/Novice 1

Patrick Gosselin	Max	64
Rebecca Lawrence	Key	63
Liz Burden	Meg	59
Michelle Taliana	Blake	52
Stacey Rember	Nell	49
Susan Moore	Jack	45
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	34
Kelly Morrow	Dara	26

Novice/Novice 2

Patrick Gosselin	Max	65
Susan Moore	Jack	63
Catherine Rae	Pepper	59
Kelly Morrow	Dara	54
Rebecca Lawrence	Key	52
Michelle Taliana	Blake	51
Stacey Rember	Nell	48
Liz Burden	Meg	47
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	30

Pro/Novice

Bev Lambert	Lee	87
Tracy Hinton	Lad	84
John Palmer	Mara	80
Louise Hadley	Tug	78
Dave Young	Tagh	76
Stacey Rember	Shep	71
Amanda Milliken	Zola	71
Lorna Savage	Ivy	68
Lynn Johnston	Finn	62
Amanda Milliken	Quark	62

Open 1

Amanda Milliken	Howell	97
Tracy Hinton	Dax	97
Amanda Milliken	Dorey	95
Lori Cunningham	Matt	92
Bev Lambert	Nan	86
Maria Amodei	Levi	86
Paul Tucker	Reb	85
Jim Murphy	Jim	84
Kevan Gretton	Sid	84
Maggie Chambers	Mose	83
Andrea de Kenedy	Moss	83

Open 2

Amanda Milliken	Dorey	94
Paul Tucker	Trump	94
Jim Valley	Twix	93
Bev Lambert	Nan	92
Lori Cunningham	Lefty	90
Lori Cunningham	Gideon	89
Lorna Savage	Kaylee	88
Dave Young	Bess	83
Amanda Milliken	Howell	83
Bev Lambert	River	80

Shepherd's Crook Sheepdog Trial

By Werner Reitboeck



Werner and Sigi

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

"Great sheep", "Really liked the sheep", "Good looking judge", "Ah well, that was where I turned the post wrong - DQ but great trial", "Great food and they even decorated the garage!", "Nice even sheep!", "Really well organized", "Nice field", "Great hospitality".... just some of the comments from handlers participating at the Shepherd's Crook trial hosted by Kim and Kevan Gretton on their farm in Woodville, ON. Kim and Kevan also provided the sheep for this very enjoyable event which was the last of the Ontario Triple Crown. The trial was very expertly managed by Viki Kidd who did, as usual, an excellent job. Viki was also very instrumental in getting the Ontario Triple Crown going in the first place and together with Cynthia and John Palmer, and Sheri Purcell and Hugh Grant have made this series a must participate event.

Like the other trials in this series Shepherd's Crook was held over three days: one Novice day on Friday, followed by two Open classes on Saturday and Sunday.

Trialling at Shepherd's Crook is always a great pleasure as Kim and Kevan are very gracious and accommodating hosts making sure that all handlers and their dogs have a great experience. Kevan especially wants to make sure that we all have a great time and does so often at considerable expense to his farm: opening fields to us that might otherwise have been harvested for haylage and of course providing sheep for the trial with all the expense that this involves, plus all the work involved to get the farm and stock ready for the event and finally clean up after all of us have left.

Their sons, Scott and Christopher and Kevan's brother Paul manned the pen. It was great pleasure to set out and see how well they handled the sheep to keep the stress on them to an absolute minimum. It is always gratifying to

see well versed stock people handle our competition sheep as these sheep come onto the field in a relaxed manner leaving it up to the competitor to set the tone of the run.

Unfortunately, I arrived late for the Novice day so saw very little of it. Due to the large number of entries only one ProNovice class was held with Amanda Milliken's Quark winning top honors, followed by Mara expertly handled by John Palmer. Quark was also able to qualify in both Nursery classes coming in second after Bev's Lee and Lori's Lefty.

Chris Chamber's Pearl and Mary Thompson's Teagan each respectively managed to win one of the Ranch classes. The red ribbons in the two Novice runs were awarded to Susan Moore's Jack and Michelle Taliana's Blake.

Poor Tracy Hinton: after the first Open trial her carefully manicured fingernails certainly must have been bitten to the quick. Viki allowed to enter her young dog, Lad, in his first Open run and added him to run first on Saturday morning, just as the last whiffs of fog lifted off the ground. And that young dog was able to handle these sheep admirably, ending with a score of 91. Then run after run top dogs tried to equal or surpass this score: 90s, 89s 88s, Tracy's fingernails becoming shorter and shorter... but none seemed to be able to equal that score until the very last team went to the post: Chuck Dimit and Joel who managed to retain one more point with a 92. Second day's honours went to Bev with Nan with a 95.

All in all, a great trial and I am sure all handlers join me in looking forward to a return in 2017.



Chuck and Joel

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

Nursery 1

Lori Cunningham	Lefty	81
Amanda Milliken	Quark	79
Dave Young	Tagh	74
Bev Lambert	Lee	72
Lori Cunningham	Buck	49

Nursery 2

Bev Lambert	Lee	81
Amanda Milliken	Quark	77
Lori Cunningham	Lefty	77
Dave Young	Tagh	73
Lori Cunningham	Buck	73
Victoria Lamont	Dram	49

Novice/Novice 1

Susan Moore	Jack	68
Michelle Taliana	Blake	68
Rebecca Lawrence	Key	63
Kelly Morrow	Dara	54
Liz Burden	Meg	49

Novice/Novice 2

Michelle Taliana	Blake	63
Susan Moore	Jack	61
Liz Burden	Meg	52
Catherine Rae	Pepper	49
Rebecca Lawrence	Key	40
Kelly Morrow	Dara	33

Pro/Novice

Amanda Milliken	Quark	82
John Palmer	Mara	81
Tracy Hinton	Lad	80
Lori Cunningham	Buck	80
Amanda Milliken	Zola	74
Dave Young	Tagh	73
Nancy Phillips	Dewy	72
Robin French	Zebo	70
Victoria Lamont	Dram	67
Bev Lambert	Lee	66

Ranch 1

Chris Chambers	Pearl	78
Mary Thompson	Teagan	66
Kelly Knowlton	Pepper	58
James Valley	Charlotte	56
Michelle Brothers	Flo	50
Kelly Knowlton	Brynn	48
Kathy Farkos	Halle	42
Priscilla Walker	Faith	41

Ranch 2

Mary Thompson	Teagan	80
Michelle Brothers	Flo	77
Chris Chambers	Pearl	74
James Valley	Charlotte	72
Kathy Farkos	Halle	68
Kelly Knowlton	Pepper	62
Kelly Knowlton	Brynn	53
Priscilla Walker	Faith	41
Mary Whitmore	Bronson	36

Open 1

Chuck Dimit	Joel	92
Tracy Hinton	Lad	91
Lori Cunningham	Matt	90
Mary Thompson	Teagan	90
Bev Lambert	Nan	89
James Valley	Twix	88
Bev Lambert	Joe	88
Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	87
Jim Murphy	Jim	85
Mary Thompson	Mia	85

Open 2

Bev Lambert	Nan	95
Paul Tucker	Reb	94
Mary Thompson	Teagan	93
Amanda Milliken	Dorey	93
Amanda Milliken	Howell	88
Robin French	Cain	87
Chuck Dimit	Joel	86
Kevan Gretton	Clint	86
Chris Chambers	Mollie	86
Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	86

Butternut Creek Sheepdog Trial

By Mary Thompson

The glorious fall splendor of Butternut Creek was accompanied by furious wind and heavy rain on Friday. I must admit to not being sorry that I missed that day, given the novice handler reports of being soaked and chilled to the bone. I suspect that the dogs were not fazed.



Amanda and Hazel in the rain

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

Saturday's weather was slightly better but still kept all the handlers bundled up tightly, and spectating was mainly done from the comfort of the front seat of the lucky vehicles parked in the front row. We were keenly focused on the running order because it was difficult to recognize the handler waddling to the post with the many layers of clothing donned for protection from the cold wind. What was chilly weather for us was enjoyed by the sheep and the dogs, no need for tubs of water on either day.

Frank Cashen (Ireland) did an amazing job of not only managing to stay warm in the stock trailer, but sorting out the placings. In the first run the cross drive panel proved to be the most difficult



Frank Cashen Photo by Michelle Lawrence

challenge for most handlers. It looked easy enough, but many of us missed high with strolling happy sheep. I overheard many handlers saying "I was sure I was on" but their scores showed otherwise. Saturday night's dinner at the "big house" was splendid; roasted pork and yummy seasoned potatoes, kale (I love it with butter), and butter tarts for dessert. An unexpected surprise was the small 50ml bottles of Sortilege (Canadian Whisky and Maple Syrup Liqueur), compliments of Susan Dell and her son Chris Nelson. What could be more Canadian than that?

Sunday morning was cold and bright, and thankfully the rain had passed on through, although the wind kept up its relentless assault. Turtlenecks, heavy coats, toques and gloves were in great need. Frank changed things up a bit by adding a slight dog leg on the fetch, and a single to follow the pen. It was interesting that the first day the four split relatively easily. The three however did not want to give up one of their own, and made all the handlers work hard for it.

Thanks to Amanda, Bev, Sue, pen man Mike, and all the volunteers who make this a super fun trial every fall. I tip my tiny bottle of Sortilege in honour of the organizers!



Mary and Teagan

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

Nursery

Amanda Milliken	Hazel	81
Amanda Milliken	Quark	73
Louise Hadley	Tug	61
Victoria Lamont	Dram	50
Beverly Lambert	Lee	48

Novice/Novice 1

Michelle Taliana	Blake	59
Mike Crellian	Charm	57
Liz Burden	Meg	28

Novice/Novice 2

Michelle Taliana	Blake	70
Mike Crellian	Charm	68
Liz Burden	Meg	47

Pro/Novice 1

Amanda Milliken	Quark	85
Beverly Lambert	Lee	79
Amanda Milliken	Hazel	74
Leslie Gamble	Switch	71
John Palmer	Mara	57
Kristen Bryant	Bea	49
Victoria Lamont	Dram	46
John Milloy	Anne	41



Amanda and Howell

Photo by Michelle Lawrence



John and Mara

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

Open 1

Amanda Milliken	Howell	96
Beverly Lambert	Joe	93
Tracy Hinton	Lad	91
Maryann Duffy	Stan	90
Beverly Lambert	Nan	90
Sally Molloy	Gyp	90
Lorna Savage	Kaylee	89
Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	87
Mary Thompson	Jake	84
Mary Thompson	Mia	84

Pro/Novice 2

John Palmer	Mara	86
Amanda Milliken	Hazel	85
Amanda Milliken	Quark	84
Victoria Lamont	Dram	74
Leslie Gamble	Tess	72
Stacey Rember	Shep	57
Louise Hadley	Tug	51
Lorna Savage	Ivy	37



Mike and Charm

Photo by Michelle Lawrence



Michelle and Blake

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

Open 2

Amanda Milliken	Howell	94
Mary Thompson	Teagan	92
Beverly Lambert	Joe	91
Mich Ferraro	Mawde	87
Barbara Leverett	Bess	82
Lorna Savage	Tyler	80
Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	80
Sue Schoen	Spy	78
Mary Thompson	Jake	78
Victoria Lamont	Elly	76

Mentoring at Indian River SDT

By Lynn Johnston and Cathie Vodden

The Education and Outreach Committee (Cathie, Lynn and Helen Knibb) proposed to the OBCC board to pilot a mentoring program at the Triple Crown. The Board agreed, and Cynthia Palmer took up the challenge to try out the program at Indian River SDT.

First, we consulted with Rose Reddick who has successfully run mentoring programs for NEBCA and we sincerely thank her for her advice. With that conversation and our own research, we determined that we should not try to match mentors and mentees but rather provide the mechanism for handlers and novices to find each other. Another guiding principle involved one on one feedback from the mentor about the mentee's run and was not intended to be a training session but rather a critique on how the run went.

We posted eligibility rules – a mentee must not have competed at the open level – and promotion pieces to attract both mentors and mentees. We had 10 mentees come forward and 5 open handlers agreed to be mentors. At the trial itself, we approached 2 other open handlers who agreed to participate.

Lessons Learned

The mentees were all very enthusiastic about the program and recommend that we run it again. Some were a bit hesitant to approach an open handler on their own, so we facilitated that at the trial. We would consider other options to match up mentors and mentees in advance of the trial as that leads to a more in depth dialogue prior to the trial.

The mentors were also enthusiastic about the program. There was strong support for the one on one approach as opposed to one mentor critiquing a run to a group of novice handlers. The novices were also enthusiastic about Jim Murphy's tips and protocols on running a dog at a trial.

Perhaps the most successful outcome for the novices was that they had the opportunity to meet and interact with open handlers opening the door to future dialogue. There is such a wealth of expertise in the OBCC – it's a delight to tap into that.

And for the E&O Committee, we were delighted that the program went relatively smoothly without interfering with the flow of the trial. Our sincere thanks to the folks at Indian River who supported the pilot and made it happen. With the novice trials and the novice mentoring program, it's been a good year for novices!

One novice handler sent in his thoughts on his first year as a handler and his response to the value and importance of mentoring – see Patrick's article below. We truly thank all of the open handlers who see value in nurturing the novices and are willing to share their expertise.



Patrick and Drew at Indian River Photo by Michelle Lawrence

If the owner of a Yorkshire at the dog park can barely remember where he bought his dog, the handler/owner of a trialing Border Collie on the other hand, can recite his dog's entire pedigree for hours and hours... Walk to a trial with a new dog and it's only a matter of time before someone will ask you what line your pet is from. After a year of trialing, I now understand the emphasis people have with regards to the working capacity of the parents as this is a good indicator of the pup's potential on the field. With this in mind, if genetics is crucial for the animal, what about the human part of the dog/handler team? Although one might be naturally gifted, most will agree that handling a dog in an open field with sheep around is something you learn from scratch. In fact, I suspect that learning in this sport is a never-ending process.

So how do you learn to become a good handler? The opportunity to take part in clinics and trials is certainly a good start but to me, the mentoring of experienced handlers, whether formal or informal, is the most important factor. In my first year of trialing as an N/N handler, countless are the mentors that have taken the time to help me out. A special thanks to Dave Young and François Leblanc for introducing me to the fundamentals of the sport. A great deal of gratitude to handlers like Cynthia & John Palmer, Andrea deKenedy, Tracy Hinton, Kevin Gretton and so many more with tips and encouragements during the N/N and P/N trials. Finally, to Jim Murphy and his generosity during the mentoring program at Indian River and Swaledale.

In addition to family, training, trialing and spending time with Max & Drew are determining factors to my happiness on this earth. To all the people involved with the OBCC, never lose sight of the difference you make in each handler and dog.



2016 - 2017 OBCC EVENTS

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

November 19	Annual General Meeting
December 18	Fun Trial; 7 Pines Arena, Oakwood
January 22	Fun Trial; 7 Pines Arena, Oakwood
March 19	Fun Trial; 7 Pines Arena, Oakwood

Watch the website for further events.



Indian River Feathered Spectators Whooping It Up!

Photo by Michelle Lawrence