



# Ontario Border Collie Club

## *In This Issue!*

**2017 Annual General Meeting; Butternut SD Trial;  
Gathering Summer Memories; 2017 OBCC Champions;  
Interview with Anthony (Boggy) Warmington;  
Remembering Petra Munro**



*"How ewe doin'?"*

## 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: Kim Gretton, 309 Lorneville Road, Woodville, ON K0M 2T0.

### 2018 CLUB OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

Cynthia Palmer  
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#### VICE PRESIDENT

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[vicepresidentobcc.com](mailto:vicepresidentobcc.com)

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### NEWSLETTER

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**ART DIRECTOR/DESIGN:** Michelle Lawrence

**CONTENT EDITOR:** Kris Kiviaho

[obcceditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:obcceditor@sympatico.ca)

2018 Newsletter contribution deadlines  
Feb 10, July 15, August 31, November 1

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

*Cover Photo by Kris Kiviaho  
("Atlanta", aka "Baby", one of her Shetland Sheep)*



## From the Editor

It's been quite the winter so far, with colder-than-cold days and icy footing preventing so many of us from getting out and about as much as we would like.

For those with livestock to tend and dogs to exercise, the promise of spring taunts. However, before we know it, spring will return with greening fields bringing new lambs in the fold and trial season training. Life is about change.

There is change here too. I have been fortunate to work with some great editors during the past four years. I really enjoyed the collaboration with Anne Wheatley and Lynn Johnston and wondered if I could have as much fun with their successor, whoever it was to be. I didn't have to worry when Helen Dunning came on board last year. She said that she had "big boots to fill" but she filled them amply with a lot of great ideas and sheer hard work. We both had a lot of other things on our plate last year, so really had to work creatively to get the newsletters out. Thank you, Helen, for making a difficult year easier. I cannot thank Helen without thanking her husband, Gordon Dunning too. As always, he was there with a helpful hand...from guiding Helen through the technology to writing articles himself. He is a hero!

I decided to stay on and assume the role of Editor-in-Chief; I will still be doing the Design/Layout and Distribution but now am in front of the scenes too. Helping me out as our new Content Editor is my friend Kris Kiviaho. I am looking forward to teaching her the ropes; she is enthusiastic and raring to go.

Kris and I go back quite a few years; we met while spectating at the Kingston Sheepdog Trials 7 or 8 years ago and happily formed a "same time, next year" friendship. Kris lives in Northern Ontario and can't make it south for many trials but Kingston is her long-time annual vacation treat to herself. She is a talented amateur photographer who shares her great photographs on the OBCC Facebook page. Kris has a farm and among her animals there (including several border collies), she keeps a small flock of Shetland and BFL/Shetland crosses. Kris enjoys working them with her BC, Flint, and looks forward to the day when she becomes "at leisure" and she can indulge her trialing addiction by standing at the post herself.

Stay warm and safe. See you in the spring!

*Michelle*

## Message from the Board of Directors



Welcome to a snowy 2018. With the trial year behind us there is always reflection on how to prepare your dogs better, what was good, what was bad (I don't remember those) and always remembering the fun times with friends and competitors. There are many puppies growing up just waiting for the snow and ice to melt so they can start their training! A blank slate with their sights set on running in Kingston, the Bluegrass and National Finals...if only I can get a stop first!

The board has a couple new members and so we welcome Rebecca Lawrence and Kim Gretton. And new to the trials committee are Janet Fahey, Carol Guy and John Palmer with Tracy leading the group. The board is investigating trying to get the learning and outreach committee up and active again. Any functions or outreach activities you can think of, or if you want to volunteer to run an activity, there are OBCC members available to assist! The OBCC wants to support the members so let us know what your wishes are!

One of our non-trialing members lost her battle to cancer in January. Petra Munroe was an enthusiastic and positive person and she will be missed by those that knew her.

Kris Kiviaho and Michelle Lawrence have agreed to head up the newsletter. This is a thankless task and if someone asks you to contribute an article, a trial report or photos, please try and assist us. It'll make their job so much easier, and I know everyone has enjoyed the newsletters! *(Editorial note: Thank you, Cynthia, for all your contributions to this issue.)*

Please remember to submit your memberships. Although we don't have any trials scheduled yet, you must be a member before you step to the post to earn OBCC points. Plus, you get a newsletter!!!

Note that we have a very small portion of the bylaws language we want to fix. It is noted below. Let me know if you have any questions.

Everyone have a good winter and we shall see you on the fields.

Cynthia

49. By-Laws of the corporation may be enacted, repealed, amended, added to or re-enacted by the directors in accordance with the provisions of the Corporations Act, but must be confirmed by the membership following discussion at the next Annual General Meeting, by mail-in vote.

The group believes there is a typo and that the comma should be an "OR". That is the way we have interpreted the bylaw; however, it should be changed

but must be confirmed by the membership following discussion at the next Annual General Meeting, **OR** by mail-in vote.

### TRIALS COMMITTEE

Tracy Hinton, Chair  
Janet Fahey  
Carol Guy  
John Palmer

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tara Dier  
Tracy Hinton

### FUNDRAISING

Pamela Hall  
Janet Fahey

### LEARNING AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Tracy Hinton  
Werner Reitboeck

## 2018 OBCC FUNDING GUIDELINES

### *An Important Message from the Board*

The Ontario Border Collie Club offers financial support to clinics or other learning/outreach activity related to OBCC goals, as well as International style sheepdog trials on a case by case basis. Funds are intended to encourage high-quality events.

Clinics or trials must be managed or organized by an OBCC member in good standing to qualify. Any trials and events must be OBCC hosted. Sanctioning and funding requests should be made to the OBCC Trials Committee who will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

The trial manager must make a request in writing (email is accepted) and should include:

- A clear and concise description of the event and how it meets OBCC objectives
- Date(s) & place
- Name(s) of judge(s), clinician(s), speaker(s), etc. under consideration
- Amount & purpose of funding
- Description of anticipated involvement of and/or benefit to OBCC members

Priority will be given to

- Events with a focus on learning
- Events with a tangible benefit to OBCC members
- Events meeting OBCC objectives
- Financial need

The following will be considered when funding has been requested:

- The number of events seeking funding and the available funds for each year, as informed by the Secretary.
- That the events demonstrate a balance of the OBCC objectives – clinics, trials, etc.
- Partial funding may be given if budget does not allow for full support. Members should remember that the club will attempt to support as many events as possible, however does have a set budget to adhere to for the year.

Requests should be submitted by **April 30** of each year. Requests submitted later in the year will be considered, but funds may be limited.

The Board of Directors will provide a report to the Annual General Meeting of applications considered and decisions made.

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## 2018 MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

It's that time again! If you haven't sent in your renewal yet, please don't forget to do so! The annual costs are:

**\$25.00 for single OR \$30.00 for family**

Membership is required for eligibility for championship points. Points for a dog may be accumulated toward the year-end awards only by OBCC members in good standing at the time of the trial. Points will not be awarded retroactively.

Membership also entitles you to receive our quarterly newsletters. The contents of these include trial reports, informative articles, member profiles and photo features.

Please download the form from [www.ontariobordercollieclub.com](http://www.ontariobordercollieclub.com), complete and mail the form along with your cheque to the OBCC Treasurer:

Kim Gretton, 309 Lorneville Road, Woodville, ON K0M 2T0

***New members are always welcome!***

## 2017 Annual General Meeting

*By Cynthia Palmer*

The 2017 AGM was held at the new farm of Tim and Tracy Hinton. Yet another of our friends purchasing a farm property to pursue the dream of country living! Their property has several apple orchards along with cleared fields for hay and corn production. Tim has his eye on a couple of places for some short par 3's to practice a little hobby of his own!

The AGM was well attended in person and we had several people on conference call also listening in. We appreciate the feedback from everyone and look for ways to make this more assessable for those that are further afield from the host AGM location.

Two motions were on the table from the 2016 AGM. One was remote voting via phone or internet at the AGM, which passed without much discussion. Technology changes from 30 years ago necessitated the change to the bylaws.

The other item that was voted on was the inclusion of a ranch class. This discussion comes up every few years and I expect to address the same thing in several years. The motion was voted down by the membership. Very valid points for having the class and not having the class were presented. At this time, I believe that the consensus was that there wouldn't be any additional opportunities to trial at a ranch level than there are already. This developed into a larger discussion that it was more of an issue of being ready to compete at the higher level, be it from NN to PN or PN to Open. The OBCC board is discussing how to have more learning and practice days with our fellow handlers to promote the "big steps" between classes. Handlers at all levels participated with excellent points and suggestions. The Novice trials in the past couple of years were seen as very good stepping-stones, but we also heard that it would be great to get more feedback and assistance from open handlers to improve trial skills.

We have some new active participants coming onto the board and committees: Pamela Hall to do the merchandise and fundraising, Kris Kiviaho to help with the newsletter, Janet Fahey is on the trials committee and had some great ideas for supporting new handlers, and Kim Gretton and Rebecca Lawrence move onto the board.

The group attending had loads of energy for a very dreary and rainy November day. It makes the board's job much easier when there is lots of enthusiasm for what is happening. I would encourage everyone to try and join us next November for the 2018 AGM at the house of Andrea deKenedy in Roseneath, ON.

*To view the complete minutes of the meeting, please go to the Members Only section of the OBCC website:*

[www.ontariobordercolleclub.com](http://www.ontariobordercolleclub.com)

*If you are a member in good standing and need the current password, please send an email to the webmaster at:*

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



Winter on Frogmorton Farm

Photo by Michelle Lawrence

# Butternut SDT Report

By Cynthia Palmer

I was going to write, it was wet...the end. However, I thought you might want more details.

Amanda advised us that camping in the field was not an option this year as it was a bit wet in the field. A couple of us ended up camping in the subdivision. I wonder what the neighbours thought of us pulling in with many border collies and a trailer in front of their property? If it worried them, they didn't say a thing.

Amanda's flock of fit North Country Crosses were up to the challenge of a novice day and two open trials. The novice day was a beautiful November day. A few brave souls showed up and the running was fair with the dogs showing their training over the full season. A couple of NN folks moved up to PN on a big course with wily sheep and a long outrun. Lots of fun (a little too much by Pippy in round 1) and winning Amanda's honey is always a treat! The handmade mugs were also a hit!

Saturday started with the first dogs in Open trying their hand when the winds were lighter and the rain hadn't started with earnest. Amanda's long flat field is challenging and the sheep, although generally cooperative, would assess a dog not covering and make an offline fetch a dash for the woods. None stayed in the



It was wet!



Photos by Tara Dier

woods! Lori Cunningham Judged a long day after we decided to continue into the second round as the weather was to take a significant turn in the morning, with inches of rain scheduled and a strong

wind into your face. The first run was won by Kevan Gretton and Sid with a beautifully controlled run and strong finish. Open 2 finished in a run off between Lorna and Tyler and Amanda and Dorey with Amanda and Dorey completing the required elements with a few more points than Lorna and Tyler. They all had picture perfect runs.

Dinner was catered (and lunches too) by Glocca Morra. All of the food Rhonda Evans makes is spectacular and so plentiful! She catered to vegetarian, celiac, and meat eaters with fantastic stroganoff, a hot veg dish and lamb stew. There was lots left over and we all warmed up at the big house. Peg was certainly missed as this was the first fall trial she didn't host at her home, but she was there in spirit.

Thanks to Amanda, Beverly, Sue and Mich for all your hard work for the trial. Many hands sure makes things run smoothly!

## Novice-Novice 1 & 2

| Handler       | Dog   | Scores  |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| Mike Crellian | Charm | 54 & 56 |

## Pro-Novice #1

| Handler           | Dog   | Score |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Amanda Milliken   | Hazel | 83    |
| Bruce Smart       | Spice | 78    |
| Lorna Savage      | Ivy   | 78    |
| Francois LeBlanc  | Joy   | 76    |
| Lorna Savage      | Ace   | 71    |
| Leslie Gamble     | Tessa | 68    |
| Patrick Gosselin  | Max   | 67    |
| Patrick Gosselin  | Drew  | 67    |
| Rebecca Lawrence* | Key   | 46    |

## Pro-Novice #2

| Handler          | Dog   | Score |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Amanda Milliken  | Hazel | 85    |
| Werner Reitboeck | Jess  | 77    |
| Lorna Savage     | Ace   | 74    |
| Mich Ferraro     | Bella | 73    |
| Cynthia Palmer   | Pippy | 70    |
| Francois LeBlanc | Joy   | 67    |
| Bruce Smart      | Spice | 65    |
| Lorna Savage     | Ivy   | 62    |
| Patrick Gosselin | Drew  | 60    |
| Patrick Gosselin | Max   | 56    |
| Rebecca Lawrence | Key   | 52    |

\* missed in printed version

## Open #1

| Handler         | Dog      | Score |
|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Kevan Gretton   | Sid      | 95    |
| Amanda Milliken | Dorey    | 94    |
| Amanda Milliken | Howell   | 94    |
| Barbara Ray     | Maverick | 93    |
| Beverly Lambert | Nan      | 93    |
| Kevan Gretton   | Kai      | 92    |
| Tracy Hinton    | Lad      | 90    |
| Amanda Milliken | Quark    | 90    |
| Mich Ferraro    | Puppa    | 89    |
| Barbara Ray     | Grantham | 89    |
| Roger Millen    | Jessie   | 88    |
| Sue Schoen      | Spy      | 88    |

## Open #2

| Handler         | Dog      | Score |
|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Amanda Milliken | Dorey    | 94    |
| Lorna Savage    | Tyler    | 94    |
| Barbara Ray     | Maverick | 93    |
| Amanda Milliken | Howell   | 92    |
| John Palmer     | Mara     | 91    |
| Mich Ferraro    | Dahlia   | 90    |
| Sue Schoen      | Cora     | 90    |
| Sally Molloy    | Gyp      | 89    |
| Amanda Milliken | Quark    | 87    |
| Kevan Gretton   | Sid      | 86    |
| Tracy Hinton    | Lad      | 85    |

# GATHERING SUMMER MEMORIES

*A Photo Feature by Kris Kiviaho*



Flint watches his flock in the winter snows at Whispering Rune Farm.

This winter has been a long one! Let's take a moment to look back to the joys of a warmer season: green grass and the hazy, crazy days of summer on the trial field. A swim or loll on the grass after a good run is enticing right now!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 OBCC CHAMPIONS!

Tracy Hinton and Lad  
Open Champions



*Lad at Swaledale*

*Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

Lad is my nursery dog from last year. He turned 4 in July. He is out of Vergil Holland's Brooke dog, sired by Patricia MacRae's Cap. Lad is a handsome, friendly dog. A bit goofy most of the time. I was pretty sure he would never have enough seriousness in him to make a good trial dog!

When Soot became too deaf to run during 2016 Ontario Triple Crown, I was devastated. I remember Amanda Milliken encouraged me to put Lad in open. I was thinking he wasn't ready..... but as she accurately pointed out "I had nothing to lose and he was going good". She was right, he placed at his first trial.

I spent 2017 trying to give him the experience he needed to become a good open trial dog. We struggled with outruns and shedding but he is always up for a challenge and never quit no matter how hard. A thoughtful dog that tries so very hard to please. The Ontario Triple Crown this year showed that he and I had learnt to be a good team with good consistent work that allowed us to win the overall. It was a great year. We both still have much to learn and look forward to what 2018 will bring!

Thank you to my mentors and the OBCC community for all your support. Trials, clinics, club events, handler's dinners and chats in the handler's tent. It truly is a great family!

Kevan Gretton and Kai  
Open Reserve



*Kai at Shepherd's Crook Labour Day*

*Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

With one open dog approaching old age, I asked Michael Gallagher to scout out a dog for me. After watching videos of dogs he sent, I settled on Kai; he is out of Kevin Evans' Jimmy and Kinlochs' Penny.

After just a few trials, we set out for 80 Acres and Grass Creek. I was skeptical on Kai handling the island sheep, but he handled the challenge well. We're still learning from each other and looking forward to the 2018 season.

Thanks to all handlers for their support and encouragement.



*Dram*

*Photo by Rachel Ritland, JaderBug Photography*

Dram was bred by Viki Kidd out of Viki's accomplished trial bitch Macy and by Jack Knox's Jim, 2012 USBCHA National Finals reserve champion. I picked her as a pup because she was very middle of the road: Friendly but not sucky, confident but not dominant, active but not over the top. She showed interest in sheep very early and was banished from the barn by about 12 weeks to save her from herself. I started her on sheep at about 8 months and she came along very quickly. I had planned to send her out for training but she seemed to be doing pretty well with just me, and I was having a lot of fun with her, so I trained her myself with coaching from Viki.

Last year was her first year of serious trialing, and it was a blast. Our season started at the Bluegrass in pro-novice and nursery, where I learned the meaning of "overflanking," "range-ewe," and getting "in their eye." Poor Dram tried her best but was handicapped by her pilot, although we did manage to put together a pro-novice run that was good enough for second place.

Probably the highlight of the year was our first nursery run at the Canadian nursery championships in Kingston. Although Dram needed a redirect on the outrun, she took it beautifully and nailed all the gates and the notorious turn at heartbreak hill. We didn't make the pen, but we still ended up fourth in the first round. The second round was not

so great, but it was still good enough for a top ten finish. It was a proud moment for me because this is the first time I have trained a dog from the start to the nursery level

The Bluegrass was followed quickly by the USBCHA Nursery Finals. It was a character-building experience. My memory of our run is a blur. Poor Dram followed my instructions as best she could, but again I fear her pilot let her down. I found it very difficult to find a balance point, and I also overcompensated for my nerves by whistling like a bad flautist playing Mozart. The sheep took off for the top after the first drive gate and it was all we could do to keep them on the field, although Dram really tried her best. Still, it was a great opportunity to see many great young dogs and handlers, so I have no regrets.

Our season wrapped up with the Triple Crown in Ontario, where we really started to click in pro novice. I have never felt more in sync with my dog. We completed two stellar runs at Shepherd's Crook, and went on to complete every run for the whole week, winning the overall championship. The very next day, Dram promptly broke her toe on a walk in the field, and spent the next six weeks in a splint. At least she picked a good time.

Dram and I are now preparing for Open, which I am really looking forward to. I am particularly loving the shed, which used to make me cry and have temper tantrums. Despite my bad timing and clumsiness, Dram seems to have intuited the job and dives in with gusto and authority.

Dram is a dream to train and run and a lovely companion too. Indeed, I think she might be one of those once-in-a-lifetime dogs, so I am trying to savor every moment I have with her. I am also thankful for the supportive sheepdog community in Ontario, so I will conclude with a big thank you to all the trial organizers, volunteers, judges, and competitors who made the 2017 trial season an awesome one. Best of luck to everyone in 2018.

## 2017 OBCC CHAMPIONS *(cont'd)*



*Ace at Butternut*

*Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

A few years ago, I saw Paul Tucker running a dog named Rebel, Reb for short and liked what I saw. I was interested and in need of a young dog so asked if he had any upcoming litters. Turned out he had one out of his own bitch, Trump. I ordered a pup, a male, and this is Ace. I met Paul and Leigh Anne at Jim Valley's to pick him up at eight weeks of age in November.

All the dogs at home accepted him readily into the pack. Ivy being only one year old took him on as a play mate. At about three to four months of age, he was turned loose with the sheep to see what kind of interest he had. There was no question as to interest and after a merry chase he was finally caught up. I then left him to grow up.

Ace's serious training started at eight months the following April. My own sheep would as soon run you over as miss you when introducing a young dog, so I sent him for a week to Mary Thompson to just get him going around the sheep, enough that mine would be more settled. His training continued into the winter till we could work no more. In the spring as a yearling, we continued and went to our first pro novice trial at Sheri Purcell's and did well. The rest of the summer we continued to trial and train at home.



*Key at Handy Dog*

*Photo by Michelle Lawrence*

It's all Amanda's fault! My brothers and I had to be the only kids in creation who forbid their parents from getting a dog. We didn't like them, and we certainly didn't want one. The only dog we liked was Niki, my aunt Carolyn's border collie. My aunt encouraged my parents to bring the family to a trial that was happening at Amanda's farm, to watch in the hopes that we would become more amenable to the idea of a dog. We went, we watched, and we wanted! But not just any dog, no Shelties like my mom wanted, but only a border collie would do! Our first border collie came home. Amanda's trial moved to Grass Creek, and we've been going to watch every year since.

Key is my parents' dog; she's out of Lorna Savage's Kaylee and Michael Gallagher's Cap. My parents bought her in August 2015 from Lorna, and for the rest of that year, Key was quite adamant in insisting "there are no sheep" at all the trials we went to watch. I have to admit, I wrote her off as a herding prospect as I knew I wanted my next dog to be a trial dog. After nearly 30 years of watching the sport, I wanted to participate! My mom wasn't quite so ready to count Key out...

Carol Guy suggested bringing Key out to her farm the following April to see if, during the time away from sheep, Key had changed her

mind. I didn't go in to the attempt very optimistic about it and was still thinking that I would probably be soon looking for my own dog with which to herd. Half way down the field to the round pen, Key spotted the sheep, clapped down to stalk up and that was it, she wanted to be there working them. She did so well in the round pen that Carol quickly graduated her to the small working field. At first Key wasn't too sure what to make of me and was quite happy to ditch me to go with a pro (i.e. Carol)!

With a lot of patience and time from Carol helping me to learn, to understand and put in to practice what I had spent years watching, Key and I started herding training in earnest. I quickly learned it's much easier 'running' a dog from the sidelines

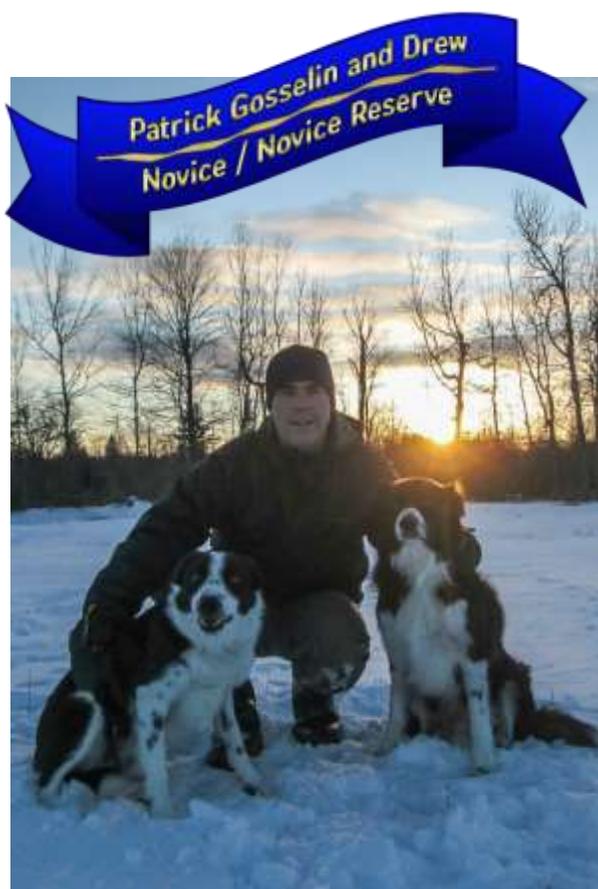
versus the hander's post! Over the summer, we started to gel as a team, and Key switched her allegiances as I started to understand her and the sheep better. In August, we went to our first trial, and didn't do so well at our first attempt. Off the sheep went past the spectators! Our next run was much better, and we earned a second-place ribbon! I was hooked!

In 2017, I wanted to introduce Key to different sheep and locations to try to increase our knowledge and experience quickly as the goal is always to move up! (See Cynthia, I listen!) It's been such a fun year going to different farms and learning not only how Key affects the sheep but how I keep bungling things up for her by my movements. We're fortunate in that Sheri and Hugh Purcell are only an hour away from us, and we were able to go to Swaledale on weekdays, allowing us to put in to practice all the great lessons and advice that we've been given. A big thank you to them, for allowing Key and me the space to practice everything we've learned. I don't think we could have improved so much this year if it wasn't for their generosity in opening their farm to herding house league and practice time.

Key did so well this past season that I moved her up to Pro-Novice at Butternut. It wasn't a great attempt, but we did manage to finish with numbers! More importantly, I learned where our gaps are and what we must work on for this year. I cannot wait to see how we'll both grow this year as we attempt to increase our knowledge and ability in the aim of getting to Open.

The OBCC Members have been incredibly gracious with sharing herding knowledge, tips and tricks, and I have appreciated it very much. I've been very fortunate to have received lessons and advice from Carol Guy, Lorna Savage, Tracy Hinton, Kevan Gretton, Helen Dunning, Cynthia and John Palmer, Tara Dier, Louise Hadley, Anne Wheatley, Dave Young, Helen Knibb, Viki Kidd, Mary Thompson and many more!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Michelle and Bruce, my parents, for the opportunity to run Key. You can't have her back yet, she's having too much fun!



*Drew, Patrick & Max  
Photo submitted by Patrick Gosselin*

In 2012, our daughters asked for a pup and for some unknown reason, I believed them when they assured me they would take care of it...

Max, our first BC spent most of his time sleeping but when awake, he had a weird habit of running around things; kids, lawn mower, school bus... It took me a while to figure out that he was herding so he was introduced to sheep for the first time in 2014. I took a couple of lessons and started to rent sheep once a week to spend time with him doing something we both enjoyed.

By 2015, I had bought a small flock and started to practice more frequently. While on vacation with my family, I saw the final at the Kingston Sheepdog trial and considered trialing myself. Our beginnings in 2016 were very humbling; driving 10 hours from QC and sleeping in my car for 2 short runs often left me wondering why I was doing this.

One day at Cloudberry, the Palmers suggested that I buy a second dog to maximize every trip and that is when I adopted Drew. He was originally purchased for agility and returned to Indian River at the age of 3 when the owner passed away. He got along with Max immediately and they both started to show potential at the Triple Crown that year.

In March 2017, I was offered a position in Brockville, Ontario and the family agreed to move to a beautiful 17 acre hobby farm south of Ottawa. We started the season late and missed several trials but when once settled in, we practiced daily and improved greatly.

It's been a wonderful journey. I'm looking forward to P/N, to spending time with my dogs and meeting great people on the fields.

## Interview with Anthony (Boggy) Warmington Course Director 2017 ISDS Supreme

*By Carol Guy*

*Hi Boggy, thank you for taking time to speak to us. Our members are very appreciative especially since they are spending a considerable amount of time inside due to the record setting cold temperatures.*

*Our club has members that trial and some who do not, so I am going to be asking questions with all of them in mind, not just the trialing members.*

*Would you please tell us a little about yourself and how you came to be involved in trialing?*

**Boggy:** I grew up in a rural area and was a great rugby fan. One evening when I was about 12 or 13 years old - I was waiting for a rugby match to come on the telly when I saw this remarkable show – One Man and His Dog. Those were the days of John Thomas, Jim Cropper and so on. I was fascinated. I had always thought I would be a chef, but I was discouraged because I was told that chefs are underpaid and unsociable. *(laughter)* Figured I might as well be poorly paid and work from home. I attended a youth training college where I did a shepherd's apprenticeship and at aged 18 I did a placement at a dairy farm. The shepherd was Barry Woods and he had a dog out Dick Roper's Tom. He worked 7 dogs at a time in a big park- Raglan - where he was moving 1000 ewes and lambs. I was hooked – I had never seen anything like that in my life.



*Richard Smith and Boggy*

I got to know a gal with a father who had dogs and started trialing *(Boggy is referring to his lovely wife, Jane)*. My first dog was a half white face named Zack that I paid 200 pounds for. My first nursery trial I was a nervous wreck. John Thomas, Dick Roper and Matt Watson were there. I remember very clearly Dick Montgomery saying 'listen, you will not make a mistake that any of us has not done before'. They were all very supportive and it instilled in me a need to pass this on and so I kept on having a go!



*Pano of Ricky Hutchinson's run*

*How did you come to be part of the 2017 ISDS Supreme team of volunteers?*

**Boggy:** Well the decision for me to be Course Director (CD) for the 2017 Supreme was made 4 years ago at Stoneleigh when I was the local Chairman for the 2013 Supreme. Richard Smith was the vice Chairman at the time and it has been usual for the vice Chairman to be the Chairman at the next English Supreme. I didn't think I would be running a dog in it so I was roped into it by Richard. *(laughter)* I was the CD for four English Nationals – 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2017 as well.

*You certainly have had the experience running large trials!*

**Boggy:** You could say that... *(more laughter)*

*Would you say that there was a lot of expectation with this past Supreme – for England that is?*

**Boggy:** I would say so. England hadn't won the Supreme since Sidney Price's Davy in 1987 – that's 30 years! It certainly wasn't for lack of trying in the past. England had come so close.

*Can you tell us exactly what the role of Course Director at a Supreme involves?*

**Boggy:** In a nutshell, the CD is the person that every handler checks in with on the day of the trial. Handlers check in about 4 runs before they go to the post. The CD never runs a dog at the Supreme – it would be considered a conflict, although there is no written rule. A CD, however, has run a dog at the Nationals. The CD also manages the area where the handlers stand waiting for their runs which is the cordoned off area where the judges and clerks, the Chairman; and the ISDS President are during the trial.

The CD is the go between the top let out crew and the Judges. The CD radios the let out crew to let out the next batch of sheep which means he also watches the exhaust crew to ensure the sheep from the previous run are off the field before requesting the next lot of sheep from the letout. The CD monitors activity on the entire course.

The CD ensures the packets of sheep include the correct number of sheep and that those sheep are uniform – no odd coloured or lame sheep. Ensure that the letout crew isn't using a dog or that the exhaust crew dog isn't harassing the sheep. The let out crew walk the sheep calmly out to a painted spot on the ground and the sheep are set within 20 feet of that mark. Dogs are never used at Supreme or National trials – the sheep do not know the field so there is rarely a draw to a barn or other area on the course so there is not the need. Also, the set out dog could be confused with the trial dog so that eliminates that potential for that problem.

The Judges will also give the CD instructions for the handlers. For example, the judges do not call the shed/split but will radio the CD if they want the handler to regather and shed again. The CD then passes this instruction directly to the handler. Handlers and Judges do not speak directly to each other– in fact it is frowned upon for anyone to speak directly to the judges - including the ISDS- President during the trial.



*Can you then explain how handlers get answers to questions about their runs?*

**Boggy:** They must lodge a complaint to the Trials Committee, but handlers rarely do that- everyone bitches and complains behind the rope.

*That sounds like handlers are the same everywhere. What do you think the key quality for being a CD is?*

**Boggy:** Without a doubt it is diplomacy... especially since the CD is the go between the handlers, judges and let out crews.

*Who decided the design of the course for the 2017 International?*

**Boggy:** The four National Presidents agree on the course -mind you - the design obviously had to be built around the let out and exhaust pens as well. The National Presidents' all had to agree. The local Chairman does have the final decision however should there be any issues. We received some very positive feedback about -including from Peter Wood of Darbyshire who said it was the most intensive course he had ever seen.

*What other duties did you have as CD?*

**Boggy:** Setting up the course for both the qualifying and final rounds. This included installing the left perimeter fence – which generated quite a bit of discussion – but in the end, it was felt that there was a lot of room for a dog to get lost in, so it was decided it was best to proceed with its installation. Also helping put up the pens at both ends of field. Staking in and tying up the drive panels - anything that involves the course or any issues that arise on the course - lots of pressure watching for anything to put right.

So now Bogy – you must have been pointing runs as you watched over the course – did any run in particular strike you as being remarkable before the handler left the course?

**Bogy:** As a matter of fact, the local Chairman, the four National Presidents and I were standing in the Handlers zone watching what we thought was a 400 point run in the qualifier. This was Sergio Perello. Everyone was excited – he had just finished his shed and was still in the ring ....and then my radio went off with a message from the judges for Sergio to redo his shed. It was a brilliant run... unfortunate he had to re-shed.

*Sergio had a great go – one of my favourite runs of the weekend. A bit of a letdown after all that excitement.*

*Bogy, I know that at most of these large events there are always glitches and stories that go with these. I know there was a mishap on the course during the final day – please tell us what happened.*

**Bogy:** Oh yes on the final day which was quite blustery and rainy a typical English day really – Ricky Hutchinson was at the post. He had sent Jock on the first outrun. I watched the left fetch panel keel over. I realized we had forgotten to go back and tie them up after we did the drive panels. There was no time to get someone else to sort it out, so I started up the field myself to fix it. It was a good distance away. I trotted up the field and as I past the post Ricky says “You wanna be quick – I’m on a good line and I’m coming!” *(Bogy laughs)* It was a bit of a feat getting out there before the sheep got there first – I could see them coming across the bridge – a bit tense that was. However, I did manage to get there in time to fix it but had to head to the ditch off to the side of the course. That meant I missed his run unfortunately.



*Bogy trotting up the field during Ricky's run*

*We were a bit tense watching you it to the panels before the sheep and dog. We all wanted to cheer for you after it turned out so well. I confess to rooting for Ricky from the start of the trial. The entire event was wonderful. The setting was beautiful and challenging. Thank you again, Bogy for your time and for all your work helping make the visit to the International so special for us.*



*Ricky Hutchinson*

**A very special thank you to Sarah Walker and Nick Onslow – The Gather Photography**

**For generously giving permission to use their photos in this article.**

# In Memoriam

## Remembering Petra Munro

*By Helen Knibb*



*Petra & Skye Photo from her family*

Sometimes you see people on a weekly basis. They come to herding practice, you exchange the usual pleasantries; you talk about the awesomeness of your dogs (of course); you form a little community, based on habit. That's how we got to know Petra. Then something changes, and you can get to know them whole lot better, but not always under the circumstances you would wish for.

Petra, for as long as we knew her, was seriously ill, yet managed her illness as if it was an inconsequential footnote to the day. She watched, as her husband Glenn, another regular at the Palmer's practices in Indian River, succumbed to cancer, and then continued her own 'long and determined' struggle, living with the disease with incredible grace, humour and fortitude. She was supported by her two sons Pete and Tim, and from afar by her sisters and family in the Netherlands, as well as by an extraordinary and far reaching network of friends and animals. Illness was her normal for many years.

Skye, Petra's curly-haired, BC calendar pin-up, was affable; showed competence at obedience and agility, but lacked aptitude, (though not enthusiasm), for working sheep. He was a bit of a one-way dog, perfected a mean slice; took the occasional cheap shot - but how he loved his time on the field, and how Petra loved to watch him. The simple pleasures of being at the Palmer farm were a great joy to her. She was first in the barn at lambing time, the one to take a puppy home for socialisation, or spend time watching the antics and persistence of Julie, the bottle-fed goat who thought she was a dog. Petra liked sheep and they liked her. She scooped up manure for the spring garden, and absconded with some young laying hens to begin her own backyard chicken project. Being outdoors, sitting and watching our practices at the Palmers, dissecting a run; identifying birds, and bird song over head – this was a source of much happiness. She ran Skye in one novice trial only, and despite her un-co-operative body, they did get around the course. As Petra grew frail, her time on the field grew less, and Cynthia took over practices with Skye. Last summer, Petra began to have more bad days than good and her absences grew more frequent.

Petra was one of the unsung heroes of the OBCC. She paid her membership dues, came to AGMs, scribed at trials, worked the OBCC tent, and actively supported her club in order that others could be out there on the trial field. She was a hand spinner and made wool crafts as fundraisers – the hot-selling dryer balls and knitted sheep (though she was not a fast knitter - she laboured at those). You felt lucky if she was on your shift at Kingston because she was so present, so affable, and so enjoyed working the crowd. In 2016 when, the near-tornado ripped through Shepherds Crook, Petra was hanging onto the tent poles, awnings and merchandise that were on their way to the next county. Sodden, seeking refuge in the car, heat full-on, steaming the windows up and shaking with cold - she had just finished a treatment – how she laughed. She was the person who took the dripping garments home to launder and dry them for sale, another day. She was like that. A year later, I asked if she would like to come to the Kingston trials, and she said no, it was just too far. Her world had become a little bit smaller.

Petra kept a toy stuffed border collie with her through the final months of her illness – sometimes a real dog was just a bit too much, though Skye made frequent visits with Beth, his caregiver. Petra always wanted updates on all the OBCC dogs and handlers – it was one sport she could not follow on television. She would have loved that they were in the chapel for her celebration of life, and that Skye was with her.

Petra never stopped living and inspiring those around her to live, even right to the end through her gift of organ donation. If she had regrets, it was that her life of 63 years had been just too short – and probably that there weren't enough dogs in it.



*OBCC Honour Guard in Chapel  
From left: Skye, Glenn, Nikki, Scottie, Will, Sue, (Ross)*

*Photo by Helen Knibb*