

OHJA Young Rider Report Dec/09

I would like to start off with a thank you to my fellow committee members for 2009: Co-Chair Di Langmuir who took on most of the work through the summer months, Sue Schnurr, Frankie Chesler, Kim Farlinger, Erynn Ballard, and Sandi Patterson.

The 2009 Young Rider Program began with a very successful Spring Clinic in April with Olympic Bronze medallist Norman Dello Joio. 19 young riders rode over two days, plus there were a number of auditors. The first day focused on an interesting and challenging set of flat and gymnastic exercises. The second day had course work. There was also an official jog exercise courtesy of Sally Sainsbury. Plus, our thanks to Carly Campbell-Cooper for joining us at lunch when she talked about her times at the Championships which culminated in a Team Gold medal and a number of individual medals.

Moving on to May, a few participated in our first Water Clinic and we thank EMG for use of their Palgrave facility. Hopefully more will take advantage of this opportunity if it is offered in the future. We also had an open meeting to review the NAJYRC, selection, and other related items for interested participants, parents and trainers.

In July, 2009 the North American Junior/Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) was held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. For those planning ahead, take note this will also be the site for the 2010 Championships July 28th – August 1st. For 2009 a Selection Committee headed up by Kim supported by Di, Erynn, Frankie, and Chef D'Equipe Chris Delia, chose teams for the Junior and Young Rider Levels. Our congratulations to Rachel Schnurr, Miranda Travers-Cavill, Bronte Gray Rochon, and Jessica Whitton for being selected to the Junior Team, and to Sarah Johnstone, Alex Loiselle, Bhaskar Das Gupta, and Kim Denroche for the Young Rider Team. The NAJYRC are very challenging competitions with Juniors jumping 1.40m or 4'7", and Young Riders 1.50m or 4'11" which is a solid Grand Prix level. The objective is to see the very best young riders in North America end up on the podium, and Ontario riders have had many successes over the years. A special congratulation to the Junior Team for their Bronze medals, and to Miranda and The Air Up There for finishing in 7th as the top rider from Ontario. While the Young Rider Team finished 7th they came away with an eye opening experience on just how tough and challenging a competition this is, and will take this learning experience forward to future competitions. A giant thanks to Chef Chris Delia for his many, many hours of work on behalf of the team, and commitment to the job.

New this year we initiated a Talent ID class in September, and our congratulations to winner Melissa Hughes. We hope to see more riders enter this in the future. We welcomed to the Program more aspiring young riders as a result. In total 38 riders registered for the 2009 Young Riders Program.

Our final activity for the year was the Silent Auction at the December OHJA Annual Banquet. On behalf of the Program and future team members we appreciate and thank you for the generous donations and purchases helping raise over \$6000. A final thanks to Christine Reupke and her team for organizing

the auction this year. This provided a major contribution to cover the 2009 Program's \$32,000 budget. The balance was funded by the OHJA (approximately 50%), and revenues from Program and clinic registrations.

Rob Robertson, Co-Chair OHJA Young Riders Committee