



CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – May 14, 2011

We are happy to report that 2010 was a year of higher registrations and transfers of CRTWH Tennessee Walking Horses. Both are up from 2009, and interest continues high.

The CLRC access to pedigrees on-line has proven popular and useful to members. The CLRC toll free telephone number, and availability by email, is also being well used.

CRTWH sponsored two 'Gait from the Ground Up' clinics with Clinicians Bill Roy and Dianne Little last year, and there were two innovations as well. Bill Roy and Ralph Livingston organized an 'All Walker' Ride last spring near Salmon Arm, BC, and Bill Roy and Dianne Little put on a Trail Clinic in the fall near Vernon, BC. Both were very well received. There seems to be a great hunger among Walker owners for sensible, practical, down to earth training that they can do with their own horses, and these clinics are definitely meeting a need.

Once again the 2010 CRTWH booth and demos at the Mane Event in Red Deer were a great success. Thank you to all who made it possible – organizers, riders and those who volunteered in the booth. This year, 2011, the Mane Event organizers decreed that there could be only one group of Walking Horses in the demonstrations so our CRTWH riders & the TWHAWC group demo'd together. We had our own booth, and again, it was an excellent showcase for our breed and very popular. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. A project like this can only be done when many people help. Special thanks go to Leslie Hunchuk who co-ordinated, and Dianne Little who planned the booth and made it look so good.

The Canadian Triple Challenge program is unique in the world of Walking & gaited horses and CRTWH has now evaluated horses in the US, Switzerland and Germany as well as in Canada. We are very pleased this year to see more Canadian members taking part. The Canadian Triple Challenge is comprised of the Program For Excellence - to evaluate conformation, gait and breed character; the Training Levels - to show trainability and versatility, and The Ride/Drive Your Walker program -for the sheer enjoyment of your horse! Dianne will be presenting the awards for the PFE and Training Levels and Fran will award the Ride / Drive top rider. The Ride / Drive Program was revised this year so the hours ridden accumulate over time to Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels, plus Platinum for over 1000 hours. Why not join in?

Back in late January, CRTWH had the opportunity to help in some breed research, thanks to Dianne Little's contacts in the U.S. Dr. Gus Cothran of the Animal Genetics Lab at Texas A&M University was looking to get a good representation of TWH to include in several aspects of his work. Breed relationships and origins was a main area, so older bloodlines found in Canada were perfect. This opportunity came up suddenly, and there was no time to contact every CRTWH member, so we called people we knew who owned different families of Walkers. Within less than a week a dozen people had sent off hair DNA samples from 48 Walking Horses. We will keep you posted as we hear the results of Dr. Cothran's research. It should be most interesting.

We have also launched a new project - the Century Partners - to recognize CRTWH members who have continued to ride their Walkers well up into the years of wisdom. We are creating a section on the website to honour our Long Riders and their horses. Already Jack Chapman & Walkaway Moondancer, Charis Cooper & Dee Jay's Peppi Two, Jack Gurnett & Sundancer, Bill Salt and 'Austin' and Bev Skowronski & Black Beauty's Beau Dee have been nominated. And we *know* there are more Century Partners out there! If you know someone whose age combined with that of his or her horse adds up to 100 or more, please nominate the pair!

When our secretary, Jean Rempel, died suddenly last June, the Canadian Registry lost not only a good friend but also a dedicated member and tremendous worker. I don't think any of us appreciated just how much work Jean did for this organization until she was no longer here. She is deeply missed.

Fortunately for the Registry, Leslie Hunchuk agreed to take on the duties of corresponding secretary while Maureen Hummel stepped forward to take over as recording secretary. Ralph Livingston has become the 'emailer', who sends out the messages and news to all members for whom we have electronic addresses. Since the constitutional amendments allowing us to communicate 'by electronic means' were passed last April and accepted by Agriculture Canada in September, that job has become more and more important in getting the word out.

In November, Sue Gamble was elected as our Ontario Director. She immediately got to work and set CRTWH up on Facebook! So we are now more 'connected' than we've ever been, thanks to Sue's initiative.

My thanks to all the Board members who make the work of the Canadian Registry possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lacy