



Ottawa Valley Hunt

Newsletter June 2010

The 2010 OVH Hunt Ball

Well what a weekend! What an exhausting weekend! We hope we speak for all who were part of the fun in saying it was well worth it. The weather cooperated for the morning hunt when it was overcast and the hounds hunted enthusiastically for Adrian. The afternoon was sunny and breezy and the evening just right for a spring ball at the Almonte Agricultural Hall.

Much time and effort went into the preparation of such a weekend. Many of you were part of this and we want to thank everyone but are concerned that a name or two may be missed. Should that be the case, our apologies.

Catriona Martyn was the leading light, chief organizer and general dogs body rolled into one. It was Catriona's foresight that saw the potential of the Agricultural Hall when many had their doubts. From the feedback at the Ball, everyone loved the venue, the feel of the place being so right for our Hunt Ball. Catriona was supported by a group of tireless members – Betty oversaw financial matters and with Nadine worked on the billing for the Silent Auction; Mike Chartrand assembled 2 great bands, Union Jack and Sticks and Stones, which kept us dancing into the night. Jennifer Richens and Doug Menzies took on the task of producing the Promotional Booklet. Kimm, who was in on the planning from the beginning, Susan Allan and Gillian Phillips all provided support. Kay and Gurtie, from past experience, tried to guide the enthusiasm, and Mary kept the Board informed.

Using Janet Strome's comprehensive 'How to run a Silent Auction' book, the Silent Auction and raffles were equally well organized by Jan Traversy, Janet Major and Norma White, and ably assisted by Carolyn Rees-Potter and Marjolaine Botsford. Acquiring a variety of items suitable for riders and non-riders alike is an enormous job. Between them and a myriad of 'gleaners' they gathered approximately 120 items which, when beautifully presented by the 'fluffers' Grits and Avis, raised nearly \$10,000 for the hunt coffers. Kevin Loiselle and Kathy Bryden generously donated a 'Day at the Polo for Cedars' fundraising event at the Club Polo Nacional which raised \$2000 when ably auctioned by David Rees-Potter. Mike Davis was the lucky winner. Overall, after early accounting of expenses, the net income from the Hunt Ball is estimated at \$20,000. A great success!

The Hunt, through Catriona and Mike, was helped in many ways by non-members. Brenda of the North Lanark Agriculture Society, Jeff of JR's in Almonte, Chez Lilli for the staging, Prior Engagements and Group 4 Security. All these people provided services at mostly reduced rates and at the last minute. Almonte Country Depot and Brantim Farms loaned us plants for decoration. The other Jeff Craig, friend and neighbour, came to help with the lighting on Friday and stayed all day. Ronnie Heller, landowner also helped out.

On Friday a team of about 20 set up the hall for the ball, dinner and Silent Auction. Basia, Peter Traversy, Doug Menzies, Christine Feigel were among those who helped. Lights were strung by Peter Leach, Dennis Beaudoin, and Jeff Craig. Tables were moved and set for dinner and the Silent Auction items were laid out. When all this was accomplished, Ron Young and Audreen Ellis arrived to work wonders decorating the hall with flowers and hound, fox and horse 'masks' made by Ron's Grade 10 students! Bob Dent lent flags and other articles for decoration. The finished product was a transformation.

Saturday dawned cool and overcast. By 9:30am 47 riders had assembled with numerous followers for the Stirrup Cup hosted by Gurtie Kenny and Gill Levy. Divided into three fields and with 12 guests capping as part of the Hunt Ball package, the hunt moved off promptly for the first line at Longley's where the pack hunted with good voice, which even the Hilltoppers could hear. From there we crossed Craig's and made our way to Peter Glynn's and Sulpher's. In all we were out for 2 ½ hours, by which time the sun had come out and it was time for the Greenbox. Gurtie and Gill, with much forethought, provided lunch for an estimated 90, although the initial plan was for 75!

By magic we all turned out in our finery at 7pm for the Ball which 'kicked off' with a Champagne reception generously provided by Gill Levy and a table of cheese provided by the Kennys to stave off the hunger pangs. Proper atmosphere for the wine and cheese was provided by Safe Sax Quartet, four students at the Nepean High School. With President Pierre's instructions for the evening and Adrian's call on the hunting horn for people to be seated, a sumptuous dinner was served to over 230 guests.

After dinner, with a welcome from the Mayor of Mississippi Mills from Councillor Marilyn Anderson, 'Kids Come 1st' representative Jamie Dunlop provided a short presentation about the organization which supports families with autistic children and is keenly supported by Mike Chartrand and the bands. At the end, on behalf of the OVH and the bands, Pierre handed a cheque for \$1000 to the organization. Proceeds for this unregistered charity was also boosted by their own Silent Auction items and by people buying the table decorations.

With Anne and Kay offering thanks to all the organizers and sponsors, with a recognition to the members who received their colours last season and a heartfelt thanks to our generous landowners, the dancing began.

Believe it or not, about 20 stalwarts including many of the above and Nancy, Anne and Dennis and Sheila and Fraser, who stayed in their camper on the Fairgrounds, were back at the hall at 8am Sunday morning to clear up the hall for the Almonte Truck and Tractor Pull. Only in Almonte!

Was it all worth it? From all reports....yes!

The OVH Workday

Previously, at the May Work Day, a lot was accomplished. Catriona, Jill and Kimm cleared the lethal wire out of Heslops Bush and Springhill ditches, and built a log jump. Janine, Mary, Sue and Nancy worked from Longley's drive clearing wire and prickly ash, checked and rebuilt fences in a line to Susan Allan's. At Susan's, Peter and Jan Traversy, Dennis Beaudoin, Pete and Kay, Peter Chartrand, Susan Allan, Shay Clancey, Pierre, Norm and Janet and Norm's tractor, later joined by Nancy and Mary set to work to carve a new trail. Peter and Jan, using their skills learnt at the March Jump Building Clinic, built 2 new jumps and the existing jumps around the bush were rebuilt or checked and cleaned out. Norm bush hogged the area later. Bob and Betty worked at home on their property.

OVH Facilities

The kennels are starting to show their age. The strange drainage system is defying the concerted efforts of several plumbers to de-clog it – even high pressure water jet failed to clear it. Norm and Bob are discussing alternative ideas. The Freezer has become a “warmer”. Dennis, Norm and Bob took on the task of having it repaired. A new cooling unit was installed, and insulation installed. All appears to be functioning well. Adrian will not have to keep the hound food cool in vats of water, complete with the associated “perfume”.

Other news

We have drafted in 2 hounds from Montreal Hunt. Grappler & Grouper are by Montreal Lanark, brother of OVH Luc, Lalime & Lilac.

The MFH met with Adrian and Ted to discuss the animal veterinary care. It has been agreed with the Board that Ted should be the primary care vet for the kennels. If Ted is not available, Adrian has the authority to call Valley Vet in CP.

Our search for a huntsman horse is continuing. Anne and Pierre returned the two horses that were on trial with us to Toronto. Thanks to Gurtie and Pierre for the use of their truck. This week, we looked at 3 horses at Pinto Valley. 1 or 2 may be coming for a few days trial. Mary took Adrian to look at 2 horses, but they were deemed not suitable.

Currently looking at another local horse and have begun the search in the Peterborough area. One horse that Kay says looks just like Max has potential. Her name is Portia. She has led the field but never hunted hounds; Anne has hunted with her.

In the meantime, Anne is schooling Allie, who is sharp and ready to work.

Upcoming events:

Tuesday June 1 st 6:00pm	Youth Program members meet for a BBQ, kennel tour and information evening.
June 12 th 10:00am	Hound Show/Hunt As the OVH is not showing at the Hound Show, weather permitting there will be a hunt. Anne will be attending the Masters Meeting.
July 4 th 9:00am	Hunter Pace
July 25 th	Foxhunters Day

CONTACTS

Board Members

President:	Pierre Poitras	241-3732
Vice-president:	Sigrid Kenny	761-1733
Treasurer:	Betty Sulpher	256-1395
Secretary:	Basia Anders	257-1914
Directors	Jill Bryant	451-3672
	Norm Major	257-5404
	Mary Raphael	831-1895

Joint Masters:

Kay Leach	257-1331
Anne McKibbin	283-6029

Huntsman:

Adrian Quick	253-0179 (Hunt Kennels)
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Happy hunting,

Kay Leach - Senior MFH

Pierre Poitras - President