

News Flash

June 2026



Canadian Horse Heritage
& Preservation Society

Caledon Fair, Ontario, Sunday June 21

Carol Mackay (Board Member and News Flash editor) attended. As an avid supporter though non-rider, it was exciting for me to see so many Canadiens up close and in action. Accolades to Rhonda Turley (CCHAO president) and her team for marshalling so much enthusiasm. As there were no under-2 mares registered, CHHAPS sponsored ten '5+ years and older geldings'. First place went to #164, owner/handler Rene Ottier from Blackstock, Ontario. His Canadian, Providence Duc X'Royal is a black gelding, born in 2010. My overall impression: it was a real treat to see so many smooth gaits!

Introducing the Board

Mary Ann Eckart became a member in 2017 and has been on your Board for the past 6-7 years, serving in many volunteer roles: newsletter, website, vice chair and secretary. She has helped out at the Red Mountain Horse Trials, the farthest north Eventing in North America. Never resting on her laurels, Mary Ann also competes in a couple of local hunter/jumper shows per year. A very busy Board Member indeed!

Fun Fact!

In her spare time, Mary Ann is actively involved with the local Pony Club and helps organize 4H. (Attracting youngsters to learn more about Canada's heritage horse is an area of interest your Board is currently exploring.)

Featured Canadian Horse

Mary Ann currently owns five Canadiens; her favourite is the mare who started it all for her, EZ Fonzie Nicolette! In her words:

"I have done literally everything with this mare: she won the 2' jumpers, has packed and trail ridden on month-long wilderness adventures, drives, has competed in just about every local horse show and puts up with beginners in my lesson program. To top that off, she has given us two beautiful foals who have stayed on with us!"



Great memory: Mary Ann's two-year daughter riding Nicolette, 2016.

I love how she can always read the rider and the situation: I could take her in a jumping class and have her be sassy, spicy, and forward. Then at home, a three-year-old kid could ride her in the round pen and she'd walk slowly and carefully and stop whenever she felt the rider slipping! Nicolette is a successful eventer and all-around solid family horse."



Mary Ann competing with Nicolette in 2019.

Upcoming Events

Backcountry Horsemen's Annual Rendezvous near 100 Mile House, BC.

- Terry Spring (CHHAPS president) interviewed Roxanne Salinas about her upcoming book, "Canada's National Horse: A History".
- The full interview will be posted to YouTube in early July. (Check Facebook and Instagram for notification.)

CHHAPS 1st Annual Iron Horse Photo/Video Contest

- April 18-July 1, 2026
- See CHHAPS [FB page](#) for more info

Canada Day at Fort Langley, BC

- Wednesday July 1, 2026
- Awaiting permission for Terry Spring (CHHAPS president) to drive his mare, Jewel, so visitors can see the versatility of Canadiens.

Where Next?

Know of any events? Want your horse featured here? Don't hesitate to get in touch with Carol at media@chhaps.ca.

Correction:

In our previous issue, we mentioned the St. Anne de Becancour line is extinct, however, Kelbec's progeny is living proof that it lives on. Many thanks to Roxanne Salinas, our historian, for pointing this out. Apologies.

Preserving a Legend

The Canadian Horse Heritage and Preservation Society (CHHAPS) is an international non-profit dedicated to expanding awareness of this historic breed, le Cheval Canadien, through education and active participation in national, local and county-wide horse fairs. Currently listed as a rare breed, help us bring it back from the brink of extinction so that riders, owners and enthusiasts alike can enjoy the versatility of these magnificent animals for many generations to come.

[Join/Renew](#)

