

HORSE & COUNTRY

IN THE HILLS OF ERIN

A woman wearing a grey cap, a pink long-sleeved shirt under a dark vest, and dark pants stands in a grassy field. She is smiling and has her hand on the neck of a dark horse. A black dog is standing next to her. The background shows a sunset with orange and yellow clouds over a white fence.

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Welcome to the Town of Erin

Erin's equine community is rich in history and diversity. Like Canada, Erin was settled more than one hundred and fifty years ago and our rural heritage developed under the reins of the powerful workhorse. The opening up of Erin Township was made possible by the toil of new Canadians and their equine partners. Back in the late 1800's, horses were key for the transportation of goods, operating local farms, entertainment and moving from place to place.

Today, Erin is a thriving, beautiful Town with a vibrant horse community. When you drive through Erin, you will see many beautiful horse stables, working farms and spirited yearlings decorating our landscape. Many families continue to participate in a variety of equine activities and integrate horses into their lives. Horses in Erin are used for racing, competition, recreation and therapy. The equine sector in Erin represents a large portion of our local economy and horses continue to take an active role in our community.

The Erin Fall Fair, Ontario's preview to the Royal Winter Fair hosted annually on Thanksgiving Weekend is home to the Erin Equine Tent where horse breeds such as Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds, Quarter-horses, and many other unique breeds are showcased. The Erin Fall Fair also offers you a closer look at our authentic, restored 'Erin to Guelph' stage coach. This piece of history is a reminder of how the horse era connected our community to the outside world.

This publication, Horse & Country in the hills of Erin is a nod to our equine partners, and an acknowledgement of the value they bring to life in Erin.

Happy Trails,



Photo: Bridget Ryan

Allan Alls
Mayor, Town of Erin

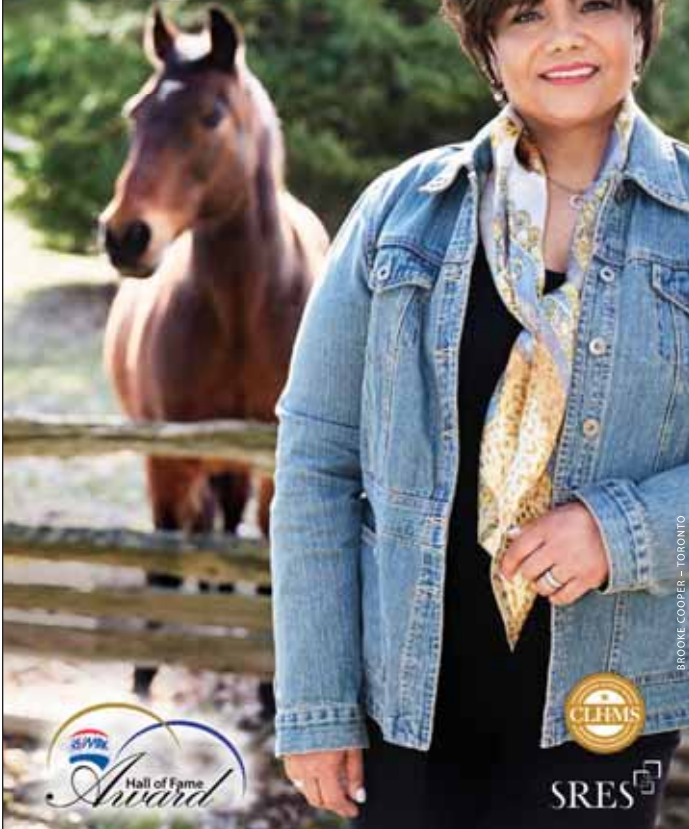
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Erin's local farm & feed store

By Bridget Ryan

Budson's is conveniently located in the heart of Erin Village. It is the 'go-to' local store, *that* place that has a whole lot of everything. Budson's offers a wide range of animal feed products with specialized equine nutrition advice to back it up.



Alf and dog Maple.

You can pick up everything from day-old chicks to pet care items, a trendy gift item to rubber boots, a hand-made bird-feeder or lawn and garden supplies... In short, you can find everything you need for your horse or hobby farm. If they don't have it, just ask and they will do their best to order it in for you.

In 2006 Alf and Dave Budweth opened Budson's. Already successful owners/operators of Nobleton Feed Mill, they brought with them to Erin a solid understanding of rural and farm life. Alf and Dave are farmers themselves, and consider their 1000-acre hay and straw operation to be a significant part of their businesses. The Budweth brothers grew up on the farm, and Alf studied at the University of Guelph, graduating with a BScn. in animal science and a minor in animal nutrition.

The staff, hand-picked from the local community, is exceptional. Carol Wetering, manager at Budson's, is often the first person to get behind new equine events and initiatives. Budson's vision includes holding on to old-fashioned values, providing a service to the community and genuinely caring about their customers. This translates into slowing down and taking the time to talk. For locals, this is business as usual. For newcomers to Erin, Budson's offers a warm welcome and a great place to get what you need for everyday life in the country.

Carol and Alf are passionate supporters of the Erin Agricultural Society (EAS) and Budson's is the title sponsor of the Erin Fair Equine Tent. The Equine Tent at the Fair, provides educational awareness and a hands-on horse experience to approximately 14,000 visitors each year. In 2010 and again in 2016, the EAS/Equine Tent has been the recipient of the Headwaters Tourism Award for *Best Horse and Country Experience*.

In 2017, Headwaters Horse Excellence Leadership Group presented Alf and Dave Budweth with the *Leadership in Equine Business Award*. This is in recognition of their commitment to and impact on the growth and development of the equine industry in Headwaters tourism region. The award also honoured the Budson's staff for their outstanding personal service to their community. Alf and Dave are both captains with the Nobleton Fire Department and often get involved in local projects.

The Budson store at 93 Main Street Erin, sits in front of an historically significant Erin landmark, the Erin Grist Mill. This structure was built in 1849 by Daniel McMillan, one of Erin's Founders. The grist mill was powered by water via a millrace on the Credit River. It's interesting to note that what goes around, comes around... The former grist mill is said to have been a local gathering spot, and now the store in front is also a hub with the Erin farm community. Budson's vision for their Erin store is to provide outstanding customer service and the things needed for everyday rural life. Their new tagline captures it nicely. Budson's, provisions for country living.

Carol Wetering, Alf Budweth, Linda Pabst and Dave Budweth at the 2017 Headwaters Horse Excellence Leadership Group Awards.



Photo: Headwaters Tourism

An Inspired Horse Business

By Bridget Ryan

Holly Jacks and More Inspiration: 2015 FEI Nations Cup in Aachen, Germany.



Photo supplied by Holly Jacks

Life is full of learning, working hard, and taking chances. Horse people know that it also helps to have a little luck. Holly Jacks' luck involved meeting like-minded people, being introduced to some wonderful horses, and believing in a big, strong Thoroughbred gelding named More Inspiration.

Born in British Columbia, at seventeen, Jacks hit the trail for Ontario and has never looked back. While looking for work in the horse industry, Holly connected with Dr. Penny Rowland, a local veterinarian and breeder and an experienced Pan-Am and Olympic competitor. Holly went to visit the Rowland Stable and never left. At Roland's Jacks groomed, exercised, fed and cared for up to twenty horses daily. Rowlands mentored Jacks and taught her valuable skills related to understanding horses, elite-level competition and for operating her own equine business.

Holly met her husband and business partner, Bruce Smither, galloping thoroughbreds while working at Firestone in Florida. Bruce, an experienced race-horse trainer, lives and breathes

horses. Smither and Jacks are a natural team and they complement each others' skills and equine expertise. Their methodology includes lots of ground work and cross-training for both the horse and rider.

Holly Jacks Equestrian and Bruce Smither Racing operate out of the former Aubrey Minshall (Minshall Farms) Thoroughbred breeding facility in Erin. Bruce starts the young horses and trains new racing prospects. Holly manages the staff and stable, coaches, and trains their competition horses. Their clients include elite-level competitors in a variety of sport disciplines; dressage, show jumping and eventing. Their staff includes local help and young people from across Canada, participants in an

equine mentorship and apprentice program. These teenagers sign on to a work/live program that lasts from six months to two years. Students are expected to get involved in every aspect of running a horse operation. Apprentices are reimbursed for their time and work, with coaching, 24/7 horse time and a wealth of hands-on learning.

Holly, in conjunction with her training and coaching programs maintains a rigorous, competition schedule, travelling between Canada and the United States from May until September. Jacks, along with at least two horses, and one staff member will leave Erin on a Friday, compete for two to three days, then return home Sunday night to a full work schedule.

For at least eight months of the year, you can find Holly and Bruce in Ontario, up at dawn, on the track, in the ring or the arena until sunset. During the winter, the Jacks-Smithers team relocates (horses and people) to their Ocala Florida ranch, where they continue training and showing. While in Florida, Holly works more intensely with her own horses, specifically More Inspiration, a.k.a., Morris, under the instruction of coach Buck Davidson, an accomplished rider and coach, complete with his own list of accolades which include being an alternate on the 2012 USA Olympic Team, and ranking as #2 USA Rider 2011. Holly has known Buck from years of horse showing, and took several clinics with him before signing on as his full-time student. Says Jacks: Buck is one hundred percent in my corner, and I couldn't ask for a better coach. He is a true horse-man, he gets the best out of horses. He is tough, finds my weak points and works with me to improve on them.

Jack's journey with Morris began in 2010 with the purchase of the four year old after he was retired from the track. After a couple of very successful years on the competition circuit, Holly was offered a significant amount of money to sell Morris. Bruce's response was: You can sell him if you like, however if your dream is to ride in the Olympics, this is the horse who can take you there.

Since that day, Holly and Morris have successfully competed on the Canadian Team in the Nation's Cup in 2015 (Germany), qualified for the 2015 Pan Am Games in Caledon, and in 2017 had a fantastic run at their first ever Kentucky Rolex CCI Four-Star Event. They completed this prestigious and demanding three-day competition and placed 26th place out of nearly sixty starters. Morriss' trademark jumping style got them around the course in fabulous form. Holly and Morris continue to strive for their personal best, setting new challenges for themselves and pushing boundaries. Holly and Bruce's other competition horses, Candy King—a British Sport Horse, Finely Brewed—a Thoroughbred, and Flavonious Nite—a Dutch Warmblood, are all headed for FEI events in the Fall of 2018.

What's next?

Jack and Smithers plan to grow their equine operation in Erin and train in Florida during the winter. They understand the importance of diversifying their equine assets and running an efficient business, while maintaining a keen focus on Holly's dream of competing in the 2020 Olympics. For Holly and Bruce, this translates into getting up early, going to bed exhausted, and spending every day doing what you love. Add a little More Inspiration, and you have a nice recipe for success!

Holly Jacks and More Inspiration at 2017 Rolex Kentucky CCI★★★★Event



Photo supplied by Holly Jacks



Photo: Karen Dalimore

Holly and Morris.



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Wellington County Livestock Emergency Response

By Wendy McIsaac-Swackhamer

Stop and take a breath and think of the most logical thing to do... Wellington County Livestock Emergency Response (WCLAER) should be a call you consider to make when you have livestock in distress.

Education, resources and keeping a clear head are three of the factors that come into play when dealing with large animal emergencies. WCLAER is a local business that focuses on educating large animal owners, first responders and whom ever might be interested in best practices for livestock emergencies.

While every situation is different, the best thing you can do is to take a breath and think of the most logical thing to do. If you cant come up with a logical way, feed the animal, keep it calm and call for help. Most fire departments in the County have at least one firefighter that has large animal rescue training, and all of the Departments know to call WCLAER to assist them with specialized equipment etc. When you call for assistance we giving you suggestions and things to do to help your animal before we arrive. In most cases these are things like getting a tractor, keeping other horses close by, providing food, or calling a vet. All of the little things brought together better the chances for a successful rescue.

What are some of the situations you ask? Here are just a few of the more common issues: A cast horse (stuck up against a fence or a wall and you need man power to pull them back over), animal into a partially frozen water source – you may possible need trained water rescue teams to help free the animal, an animal that has become stuck in a muddy area and needs specialized tools and equipment to free them, a trailer accident where the animal is unable to walk out of the trailer on its own and again needing special tools and equipment. All of these scenarios are ones that WCLAER trains for on a regular basis and is available to you 24 hours a day & 7 days a week.

Please visit facebook and search for W.C. Livestock Emergency Response for more information or call (519)830-2484 24/7.



The Ideal Training Centre

By Karen Dalimore (2014), updated in 2018

From the road it looks like just another horse place. Nice neat barns, dark stained, oak fenced paddocks with a few shelters, quiet most of the time with the occasional horse kicking up his heels as you drive by.

On the inside, behind the black iron gates, Ideal Training Centre is an entire community, where the people and horses of the Standardbred industry come together in a world of their own.

It was 2008 when Carol and Mac Nichol bought the 50-acre Standardbred training centre just north of Acton. Two barns soon became three, expanding the facility to 127 horse stalls that are rented out to trainers, sharing the use of the five-eighths mile track, 32 paddocks, two mechanical hot walkers, a blacksmith shop, lunch rooms, and laundry facilities.

Ideal Training Centre sold to brothers Sodi and Sonny Singh Kang in May 2017. The brothers, who own a trucking company, decided to purchase the business after becoming impressed with the property and the industry while delivering screenings for the 5/8-mile racetrack. Although there are some new trainers, horses and blacksmiths, everything else remains the same under the care of farm manager George Peters.

Trainer Benoit Baillargeon along with his wife Guylaine operate a stable of thirty-five horses at Ideal Training Centre. Three of those charges were nominated for a prestigious 2017 O'Brien award, the horseracing equivalent of an Oscar. They won in the 2-year-old trotting category with Alarm Detector, a colt by the sire Chapter Seven, who was purchased as a yearling for \$110,000. The colt was almost perfect in his debut season, winning six of seven races, earning an impressive \$276,000 and setting a stakes, track and Canadian record for 2-year-old trotters with a 1:52.4 mile.

Anthony Montini, Jeff Gillis, Marty Fine, Martin Lachance, Desiree Jones, David Frey, Jim Ritchie, Barry Drury, and Colin Johnson make up the balance of trainers at Ideal.

Montini, "got the bug" hanging around the backstretch as a kid of 14 and now, 29 years later, his wife knows where he is, seven days a week. "It's not a job, it's a lifestyle," said Montini as he watched one of his horses jogging through a morning workout from a grassy knoll beside the track. Days start early and finish late in

Alarm Detector winning the \$400,000 William Wellwood Memorial Final at Mohawk.





Photos: Karen Dallimore

racing – it is typical to not get home until 1 a.m. on a race night, only to have to start early the next morning as usual.

The morning is the busiest time on the track with horses in various states of training working out. Those ‘training’ – going a faster pace – go counter-clockwise around the center of the track, while those just jogging stay to the outside, clockwise. A steady, strong west wind blows, welcome in the summer to keep the flies away and barns cool but tough in the winter when the temperature goes wickedly cold.

In the fall, by late morning it’s time to bring out the horses that are really in training – the yearlings, the racehorses of the future. These young prospects will move in after the yearling sales in September and October. They will be introduced to the harness and cart and become familiar with the track by jogging a little over a mile a day but it won’t be long before they’re up to five miles. By late December or early January the youngsters start to do timed miles, eventually ‘turning the other way’ – travelling

counter-clockwise around the track - to rate their speed. If all goes to plan, a three-minute mile of a trotter will train down to a 1:51 mile, the phenomenal time that it now takes to be competitive.

While it appears quiet from the road, Ideal Training Centre drives a lot of local economic activity: jobs for about twenty grooms and ten to twelve trainers, tractors and maintenance equipment, tools of the trade; roughly 20,000 small square bales of hay every year, specialized feed, a truckload of wood shavings for bedding every week, trucks and horse trailers constantly coming and going.

But behind those black iron gates, to the people and the horses, it’s more than that – it’s their world.

In February 2017, Standardbred Canada announced the winners of the 29th annual O’Brien Awards. This event honours Canada’s best in harness racing over the past season and the awards are named in honour of the late Joe O’Brien, an outstanding horseman and member of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

The winner in the two-year-old trotting colt division, the winner was Alarm Detector who stables at Ideal Training Center, and is driven by Benoit Baillargeon. The Chapter Seven colt was almost perfect in his debut season, winning six of seven races and \$276,000.

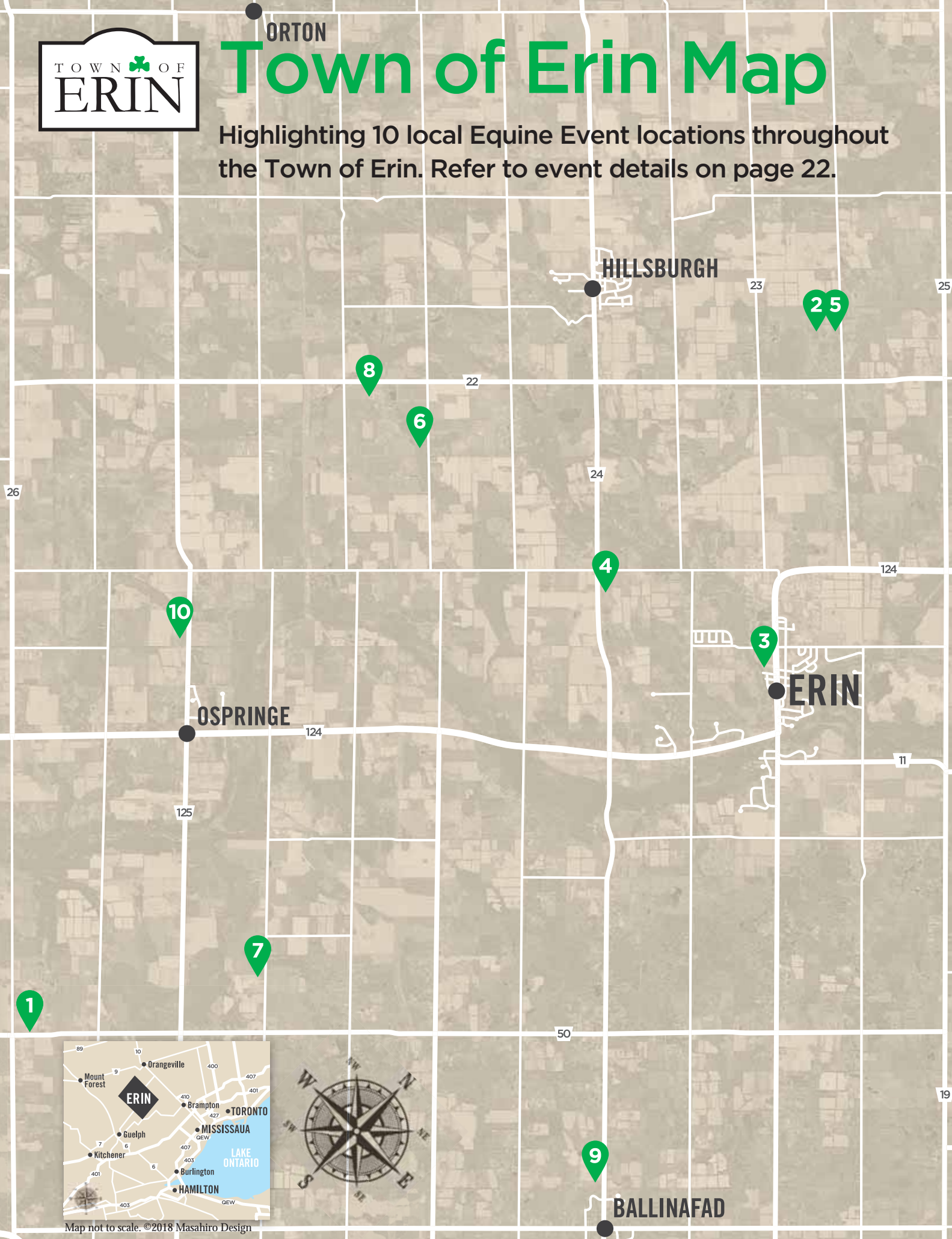


Standardbreds jogging at the Ideal Training Centre.



Town of Erin Map

Highlighting 10 local Equine Event locations throughout the Town of Erin. Refer to event details on page 22.



Map not to scale. ©2018 Masahiro Design

Equine Directory

Can't find what you're looking for? Check out our online Business Directory for further business listings in Erin at www.erin.ca

ACCOMMODATION

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Erin, ON N0B 1T0
519-833-2187
www.devonshireguesthouse.ca

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519-855-9487
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Lenches Farm
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226-228-3555

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Erin, ON N0B 2K0
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519-855-4770

Minshall Farms
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Organizations & Clubs

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Hamilton, ON L8W 1E6
www.ontario.cadora.ca

Canadian Horse Association
RR#1
Orton, ON L0N 1N0
519-855-6498
www.canadianhorses.com

Canadian Pony Club
www.centralontario.ponyclub.ca

Canadian Recreational Horse & Rider Association
7143 Ashburn Rd.
Whitby, ON L1M 1L6
905-655-4666
www.crhra.ca

Canadian Sport Horse Association
7904 Franktown Rd., P.O. Box 970
Richmond Hill, ON K0A 2Z0
613-686-6161
www.c-s-h-a.org

Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society
P.O. Box 172
Rexdale, ON M9W 5L1
416-675-3602
www.cthsont.com

Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association
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Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7
519-928-2779
www.canadianwarmbloods.com

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519-830-7220
www.eglintoncaledonhounds.com

Equestrian Association of the Disabled
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Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0
905-679-8323
www.tead.on.ca

Equestrian Canada
308 Legget Dr., Suite 100
Ottawa, ON K2K 1Y6
613-287-1515
www.equestrian.ca

Equine Guelph
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Guelph, ON N1G 2W1
519-824-4120
www.equineguelph.ca

Headwaters Horse Country
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Mono, ON L9W 6K4
519-942-9744
www.headwatershorsecountry.ca

Icelandic Pony Association of Ontario
Erin, ON N0B 1Z0
416-708-1898

Ontario Carriage Driving Association
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www.carriagedriving.ca

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Ontario Equestrian
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Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3K3
905-709-6545
www.horse.on.ca

Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association
www.ontra.ca

Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association
P.O. Box 371
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0
519-833-2861
www.standardbredbreeders.com

Standardbred Canada
2150 Meadowvale Blvd.
Mississauga, ON L5N 6R6
905-858-3060
www.standardbredcanada.ca

Trillium Hunter Jumper Association
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5046 Trafalgar Rd., RR #1
Georgetown, ON L7G 4S4
905-877-6698
www.myddin.info

Equine Emergency Services

**Wellington County Livestock
Emergency Response**
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Equine Law

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Erin, ON N0B 1T0
519-833-0040
www.staplesdlaw.ca

Equine Writer

Karen Dallimore, Sweet Grass Farm
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519-855-1127
www.horsebackwriter.net

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519-855-6580

Friday Hill Stables
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Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0
519-831-4310

Hill Haven Stable
9580 27th Sideroad
Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0
519-855-4067
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and Smither Racing**
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519-938-2232
www.hollyjacksequestrian.com

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www.idealtrainingcentre.com

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Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0
519-856-0332
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www.parklanehorses.com

Rustic Meadows
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www.rusticmeadows.com

Someday Farm Equestrian Centre
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519-927-9444
www.somedayfarm.ca

Xenora Horse Empowerment
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Acton, ON N0B 1T0
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www.xenora.ca

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www.thehorselimo.net

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Melissa Auchincloss-Smith**
519-829-9398
www.auchinclossimagery.com

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519-833-1013
www.horsespiritconnections.com

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519-943-2405

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Barbour Equine Veterinary Services
9452 Wellington Rd. 22, RR #2
Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0
519-855-6488
www.ruthbarbour.com

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Orton, ON L0N 1N0
519-855-9983
www.manningequinevet.com

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~ Winston Churchill




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The Beaverwood Brunners

By Karen Dalimore



Photos courtesy of: Kirsten Brunner

It was 1981 when Erica Brunner moved with her husband, Simon, and her two children, from Hudson, near Montreal, to the rolling hills of Erin. It was the start of three generations of the Brunner family in the area and marked the foundation of six generations of Beaverwood ponies - so far.

Kirsten Brunner was 18 at the time of the move to a small hobby farm on the 6th line of Erin south of 22nd Sideroad. She remembers having a few horses back on a few acres in Quebec as a kid, carrying water from the laundry room to bathe the horses for shows. She was four years old when she started riding, becoming involved in pony club, eventing and Prince Phillip games, foxhunting, and catch riding for others at shows.

Her mother rode and drove in Montreal, competing at the Royal Winter Fair after the move; her father wasn't into horses much but he was into music, so he was called to duty on several occasions as the horn sounder for Tralee Farm's magnificent private road coach at shows. He didn't seem to mind – it gave him more time with 'his girls'.

Kirsten's brother Kevin was always involved with horses at the farm and played an important role as a navigator with her pair of horses that competed in Germany in 1996 and 1997. I couldn't have done it without him, said Kirsten. He has also shared duty as a horn sounder with his father.

The Beaverwood Farm breeding program began in 1981 with the purchase of 3 Welsh ponies from Black's Welsh Pony farm near Erin. An Arab Welsh cross mare named Freckles, with whom Kirsten would also begin her career in driving, came with them from Montreal; Gibside Countess, one of Erica's ponies, was purchased in 1990 as a yearling to join the herd. The rare Fell pony mare, imported from Great Britain, is related to royalty: her dam used to be part of Prince Philip's four-in-hand team.

In the mid-80's Kirsten went to Seneca College, bringing home an education but also bringing home another mare named Glencoe Bonnie. The Standardbred mare had 11 foals for Kirsten, three of whom would take her to the World Driving Championships in Germany, France and New Jersey as part of the Canadian Equestrian Team.

Meanwhile Beaverwood Farm moved to its current 98 acres on the 3rd line just north of 124. The huge new arena and stables were designed and constructed under Kirsten's direction. From there she has run a successful breeding, boarding, training and coaching business for both riding and driving, bringing miles of smiles to all ages of horse lovers and riders since 1987.

In 2004, the next generation of pony-loving Brunners joined the family. Kilby Brunner Deforest accompanied her mother, Kirsten, to a horse show at only four days of age and attended her first Royal at seven months old. It wasn't hard to see that the young horsewoman loved the ponies. I didn't hand the reins over, she grabbed them from me, said Kirsten.

At 18 months old Kilby was competing in lead line classes, naturally showing good balance and quiet hands at an early age. At four years old she was the third generation of the Brunner family to compete at the prestigious Walnut Hill Farm Carriage Driving Show in Pittsford, New York, the largest pleasure driving show in the world. Kilby was granted special permission to compete as the youngest competitor ever at the event with her pony gelding, Beaverwoods Lonestar, showing turnout, costume and cones.

Kilby's lengthy resume already includes several trips to the Royal Winter Fair, the highlight of the Ontario fair circuit. By 2015, she qualified for three separate events – Welsh pleasure driving, pony hunter/jumper and Welsh showmanship - on three different ponies – unheard of for any competitor let alone one of such a young age. In 2016 and 2017, Kilby went Reserve Champion in pony jumpers with Beaverwoods Cinnamon and Beaverwoods Kauri, respectively.

All of Kilby's ponies have been second, third or fourth generation Beaverwood Farm stock, descendants of the horses and ponies that her mother used in competition.

Kilby has been supportive, helpful, and committed to the ponies, said Kirsten. Every day the grade 8 student gets off the bus and asks, what needs to be done? Their idea of a family holiday is taking the ponies to Florida to compete, with a side-trip to Disneyland.

Now retired, Erica and Simon Brunner live in Cedar Valley, still close to Beaverwood Farm. Kirsten finds her time goes mostly to supporting Kilby's showing career as well as running the farm. Will young Kilby be the third generation Brunner take over one day? She certainly has the skills and confidence to do just that, says her mother, if she wants.

Photo: Shawn Hamilton



Erika Brunner drives her Welsh pony 'Mouse' at the 1991 Carriage Classic.

Photo: Karen Dallimore



At four years old, Kilby Brunner Deforest was the youngest driver ever to compete at the prestigious Walnut Hill Farm Carriage Driving Show, the largest pleasure driving show in the world.



Beaverwoods Birchley and Kirsten Brunner. 2001 Grand Champion at Walnuthill and Runabout Champion a record 6 times.

Photo supplied by Kirsten Brunner

“In riding a horse, we borrow freedom.”

~ Helen Thompson

Angelstone Tournaments

Angelstone Tournaments is one of the country's most prominent equestrian parks, located in Erin, Ontario. The park hosts multiple weeks of Grand Prix Show Jumping between the months June to September, including The Erin Welcome, Headwaters Cup, The Champions, The National and The International with regular events scheduled on Thursday and Saturday nights.

“The essential joy of being with horses is that it brings us in contact with the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and freedom.”

~ Sharon Ralls Lemon

Since its' 2010 opening in Erin, Angelstone has been the competition ring for world-class show jumping competitors (riders and horses) from countries all over the world, including our very own Canadian Equestrian and Olympic Champion, Captain Canada, Ian Millar.

Angelstone's facility sprawling 100 acre venue in the southwest corner of Erin, Ontario showcases five competition rings, including the Angelstone Stadium – a tournament ring modeled after one of the world's greatest show jumping venues in Lexington, Kentucky. The venue is widely regarded as one of North America's most progressive show jumping venues, hosting world-calibre competitions that attract many of world's top riders.

Angelstone is an equestrian competition venue with a unique and welcoming spectator experience. Visitors are welcome all season long, to enjoy world-class horse show jumping or to and take part in the roster of family entertainment. Visitors are free to explore the park at their leisure and get up close and personal with the horses competing on the grounds. There is a café and lounge on site, serving up local fare, craft beer, wine and cider for both spectators and competitors. Main events take place on Saturdays during

competition weeks; however, Angelstone's show grounds are open to the public each day. Angelstone is always free, and always fun.

Kean White, Canadian show-jumping team member and Angelstone Tournaments founder believes in sport and youth development. Kean's vision and challenge to the equine world began with an invitation to 'bring the sport to a new height in Canada' and by all accounts, it appears that Angelstone is well on its' way to doing this.

In 2017, Angelstone Tournaments was recognized by Headwaters Equestrian Leadership Group with the award: Leadership in Promoting the Equine Sport. This award was given out in recognition of Angelstone's dedication to the ongoing growth and development of the equine sport and industry in the Headwaters (Tourism) region. The award was presented by Town of Erin Councillor, John Brennan, who spoke about, the impact Angelstone Tournaments has made in the Town of Erin and indeed the entire Headwaters region. Angelstone Tournaments is bringing out new competitors and new audiences to equestrian sport, which is a great thing for our entire industry.



Quick Quarter Horse Comes Out of the Woods

By Jennifer Morrison, reprinted with permission, courtesy of the author and Toronto Star
First published: Sunday, September 3, 2017 Toronto Star



Photo: New Image Media



Country Boy 123 has also earned 2017 Best Quarter horse of the Year title, and has been listed in Horse Canada magazine as one of the top 150 Canadian Horses, of all time.



Bryn Robertson, Trainer, Hillerin Farm.

Country Boy 123 does his work in the fields and forced to trails of owners property.

In a heavily wooded area of Hillsburgh, Ontario where deer and turkey vultures run wild, Ruth Barbour rides her horse through trails she has cut on a 20 acre property. This may not sound unusual for rural Ontario except that the giant, chocolate-coloured gelding she rides is one of the country's fastest racehorses. Country Boy 123, the Quarter Horse of the year at Ajax Downs in 2016 is undefeated this season and a win in Sunday's \$60,000 Bank of America Challenge will earn the horse a berth birth the North American final, worth \$330,000. (US) in Iowa on October 14.

The unique story of the 62-year-old Barbour, who has a veterinarian practice and owns a few Thoroughbreds with sister Gail Wood had captured the attention of the American Quarter Horse industry. The noted Raceview Network show, based in Oklahoma, sending a crew to Ajax Downs for the first time to produce live coverage of Sunday's race.

Ruth is simply an excellent horseman and she manages horse well said Chris O'Dell a champion Quarter Horse trainer in California and winner of more than 400 races. He's a really big horse and it seems that riding him through trails and fields on her farm is what he needs.

Barbour took an interest in Quarter Horse Racing in 2011 through neighbours Bryn and Carol Robertson who have been successful in the sport. I wanted to be more hands-on with my horses Barber said. With the Thoroughbreds, you can breed them and raise them but then they go to the track and that's it. You visit them as a spectator to watch them race.

The American Quarter Horse, the world's oldest horse breed can go from a standstill in the gate to 50 mph in seconds. They typically run at distances from 250 to 440 yards (one-quarter of a mile).



Country Boy 123 and owner, Dr. Ruth Barbour.

Since Ajax Downs does not have enough stabling for all of the province's Quarter Horses, runners are shipped in on race day only, meaning owners and trainers must exercise their horses on tracks at farms. Barbara does not have a track, other than a makeshift path her husband Doug Jackson cut out of their front field and the forested trails.

I ride CB everywhere, Barber said. It's so good for a horse's mind; he's happy and loves it. The trails go up and down, it's scary-- there's always turkeys running out in front of us, so you can teach them a lot more.

Incredibly, Barbour plucked Country Boy out of a horse sale with more than 800 yearlings, in Oklahoma in the fall of 2014. He just came into the ring and it was like he said, 'Look at me! He was really big but he was so cool and confident. Barbour said.

It took a while for a Country Boy 123 to put his large frame into perfect racing action but by his fifth race, which came in May 2016, the gelding became virtually unbeatable. He has won nine of the last 10 at Ajax and, on June 18, obliterated a long-standing track record for 300 yards at Ajax.

He is a highly intelligent horse, said Country Boy's regular rider, Cory Spataro. When I get up on him, he knows it's show-time. He gets cocky and he loves the attention.

Barbara only owns one other Quarter Horse—Country Boy's good buddy Furr Shear, who is also a winner this season—and understands that a bit of luck in addition to her horsemanship, has been in play. In a way, it's so weird that he is so fast. He could be a big fancy dressage horse, but he is a monster on the track.

The Bank of America challenge will be the seventh race Sunday at Ajax down, with an expected post time at 3:37 pm.

2018 Equine Events

Check map on page 12 for event locations.

1. Angelstone Show Jumping Tournaments

World-class show jumping facilities and family entertainment. Open to the public.
June 6-10: The Erin Welcome (National)
June 13-17: The Headwaters Cup CSI2
Aug. 15-19: The Champion CSI2
Aug. 22-26: The National CSI2
Aug. 29-Sept. 2: The International CSI2
8720 Wellington County Rd 50, Erin
519-279-6788 | www.angelstone.ca

2. Equine Erin

Equine Workshops, Equine Marketing and Events, Horseplay!
May 26 & 27: Stable tour stop, horse connection, equine art displays and Yoga & horses
10th Line, Erin
519-216-4562 | www.equineerin.com

3. Erin Fall Fair

A Thanksgiving Tradition and preview to the Royal Winter Fair.
Oct. 4-8: Erin Fair
Equine Tent: Open 9 am-5pm.
Displays, exhibits, live horse demos.
Oct. 6: Hunter Jumper Show
Oct. 7: Heavy horse Show and Pulls, Ontario Barrel Racing, Gaited Pony Show
Oct. 8: Open Horse Show
190 Main St. Erin
519-833-2808 | www.erinfair.ca

4. Greyden Equestrian

Year round riding lessons, summer camps, clinics and shows.
July & Aug.: Kids' Pony Camps
5565 Wellington Rd. 24 (Trafalgar Rd), Erin
519-833-2274 | www.greydenequestrian.com

5. Headwaters 2018 Stable Tour

Headwaters Horse Country will be hosting a variety of stable tours, open to the public throughout the 2018 season. Check website for details.
May-Sept.: Private stable tours
www.headwatershorsecountry.ca/events

6. Longrun Thoroughbred Adoption

June 9: Open Doors Erin (Stable-Open House)
5674 5th Line, Erin (by appointment)
416-675-3993 x3440
www.longrunretirement.com

7. Meadowlarke (North) Stables

Riding Lessons, Horse Boarding and Training, Horse Shows and Sales.
July & Aug.: Summer Camps (Ages 7-14yrs)
Meadowlarke North Stables Summer Competition Series
Apr. 2: Jumpers only, Indoors
Apr. 30: Hunters only, Indoors
Sept. 4: Finale
5154 3rd Line, Erin
1-800-295-0419 | www.meadlowlarke.com

8. Minshall Horse Farms

Thoroughbred Foaling/Yearling facility and Quarter Horse Cutting Horse ranch.
April 28 & 29: Cutting Clinic
May 19 & 20: Cutting Clinic
Sept. 22 & 23: Cutting Clinic
9133 Wellington Rd. 22, Hillsburgh
519-855-6602
www.ontariocuttinghorseassociation.com

9. Myrddin Equestrian

Equestrian Coaching, Training and Boarding Stable.
Mar. 13: Stable Management Day at the Barn
Mar. 15 & 16: 'Introduction to Showing' working clinic at Myrddin
Apr. 14-15: Dressage clinic with Grand Prix rider and Judge, Marie Josee Delisle
5046 Trafalgar Rd. Ballinafad
905-703-6698 | www.myrddin.info

10. Xenora Horse Empowerment

Horse training, horse empowerment, dressage coaching, horse coaching and horse health.
May 28: Dressage Workshop (riders and auditors)
5511 2nd Line, Erin
519-841-2891 | www.xenora.ca

Barn Fire Prevention

By Wendy McIsaac-Swackhamer

If you own a farm with Livestock, there are many things you can do to minimize losses.

It is critical to have a plan and know how to respond appropriately in any situation that can affect you and your animals.

Data released in 2012 by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management in Ontario indicated \$57.6 million in losses in buildings classified under the National Farm Building Code in 2007. This represents a 67.4% increase over the previous year's loss of \$34.4 million due to fire. With the evolution toward large-scale

farming and associated farm buildings increasing in value, the financial losses continue to climb. Emergency personnel often define their response strategies on the way to the scene based solely on the information relayed to them by the 911 dispatcher. The dispatcher does not necessarily know every detail of your operation, and even if you've had responders tour your facilities in past, there is no guarantee that those who have seen your operation will be the ones responding to any given emergency. **YOU ARE THE EXPERT, ON YOUR OWN FARM.** If the situation allows, conduct a site safety briefing with the senior fire officer upon his arrival. Inform him of hazards such as fuel, pesticides, or other

flammables stored in the building or adjacent structures. Also be sure to let him know about the nearest natural or artificial water source. Is there a hydrant or outdoor hose nearby? Is there a pond behind that hill that will save them from having to truck water in? Is there an aerial map of the property available that details structures, roads, water sources and other landmarks? These details allow emergency responders to make a positive difference in protecting lives, property and the environment. Different kinds of fires require different fire-fighting tactics. The more information you are able to provide, the better equipped the responders will be to respond quickly and effectively to the emergency.



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Photos by: Martin Lamprecht



Where Urban Style meets Country Charm
erin.ca/visit