

# HORSE & COUNTRY

IN THE HILLS OF ERIN



## RIDING BY HEART

Had to  
be Ivory  
Hillerin Farm

History and  
New Beginnings  
Minshall Farms

Erin Horse  
Heritage  
Erin Agricultural Society



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Alternate formats available upon request



# Welcome to our 2019 edition of Horse & Country!

We are pleased to profile our local horse people and the different equine events happening in and around Erin.

Our cover photo features local rider and champion, Kilby Brunner Deforest. Kilby won the *2018 Royal Winter Fair Pony Jumping Championship*. Kilby grew up in Erin and like so many others in Erin, comes from a local, multi-generational horse family.

Erin is a thriving, beautiful Town with a vibrant horse community. When you drive through Erin, you will see many beautiful stables, working farms, and spirited yearlings decorating our landscape. Horses in Erin are used for racing, show competition, recreation, trail riding and therapy.

The Erin Fall Fair, established in 1850, continues to host an annual event every Thanksgiving Weekend. For many in Erin and surrounding communities, the Erin Fair is a homecoming and a place to reconnect with friends and families. One of the highlights of the Fair is the Equine Tent showcasing many horse breeds, equine education and offers visitors a 'hands-on' horse experience.

Erin's equine heritage is important to our community. Each year at the Fair, the fully restored Erin to Guelph authentic stage coach is on display, and the *EAS Horse Heritage Hall of Fame award is presented*.

The equine industry plays a vital and important role in the Town of Erin's economy and we are pleased to profile stories about the people, horses and organizations, who makeup our local equine community.

We hope you enjoy reading about our outstanding equine community, and we look forward to your visit.

Sincerely,

Allan Alls

*Mayor, Town of Erin*

# Table of Contents

- 3 Mayor's Welcome Message
- 5 Focus On A Local
- 6 Riding By Heart
- 8 Creating Horse History and New Beginnings
- 9 Race Horse Definitions
- 10 Joyful Partnership
- 11 Equine Directory
- 12 Town of Erin Map
- 13 2019 Equine Events
- 16 Fork's Recovery From Fire
- 18 Three Times Is A Charm!  
- Had To Be Ivory
- 20 Horse Heritage
- 22 Creating A Better Connection

## Horse & Country Magazine

Cover photo credit: Ben Radvanyi/  
Kilby Brunner, Deforest and Beaverwoods Halo at the 2018 Royal Winter Fair.  
Publisher: Town of Erin Economic Development Department

Published annually.

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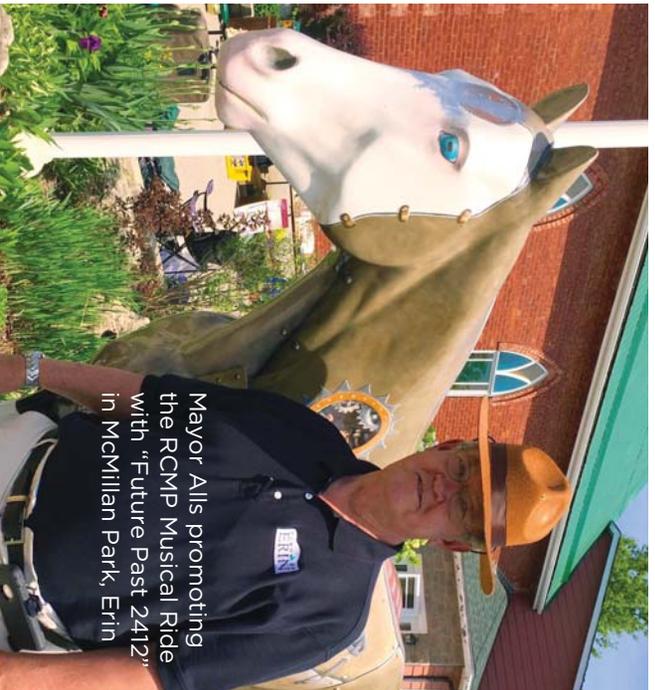
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Photo: Bridget Ryan



Mayor Alls promoting the RCMP Musical Ride with "Future Past 2412" in McMillan Park, Erin

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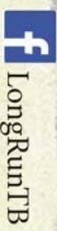
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dignified retirement when  
their racing days are over.



First Out Jada Creemore with adopter Andrea McGowan

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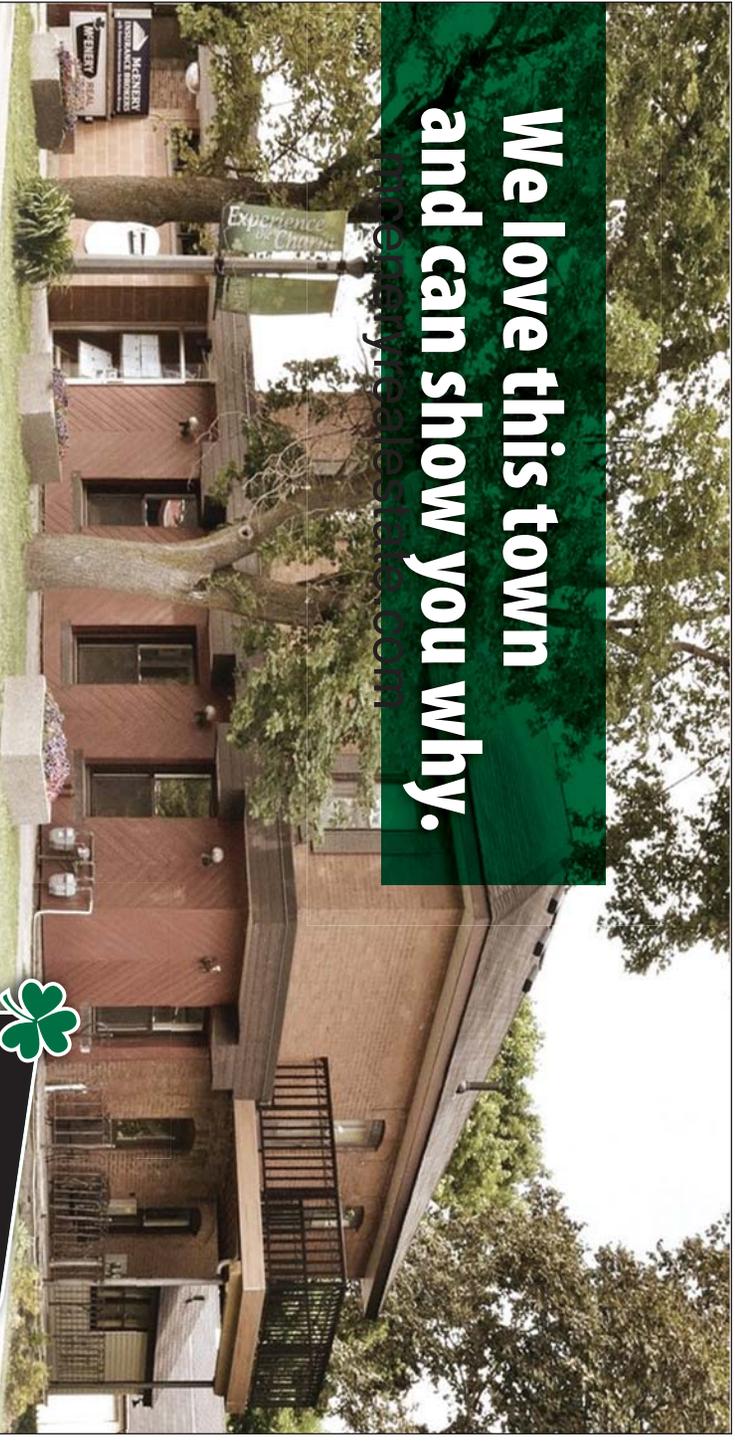
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[info@longrunretirement.com](mailto:info@longrunretirement.com)



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# Focus On A Local

Marissa is an equine coach, 4-H Horseless Horse Club leader, works at 4-H Ontario, is a mom of 8 year old Grace, and has been horse crazy all her life. Recently, Marissa was awarded Teen Ranch's 2018 Coach of the Year for coaching young riders at their shows during the summer months.



Photo: submitted by M. Mallais

Here's how Marissa got to where she is today...

## Tell us about your first pony:

My first pony was an Appendix Quarter Horse from Oklahoma who used to barrel race. Josie was purchased at an auction and loved to do everything, fast. Together we won the Mimosa Cup; a cross-country event that took place north of Orton.

## What was the most important horse memory for you? Why?

The most important horse memory for myself was when I failed the first attempt at my Ontario Equestrian Federation, OEF Rider Level 2. (Now called, Ontario Equestrian). Back then, OEF Rider Level 2 was much more and on the first attempt I didn't practice much because I hadn't taken it seriously. However, when I failed and my sister passed, it only made me

more determined to keep trying and never give up. When I returned to take my OEF Rider Level 2, the second time, the instructor, MH Lessard said that she could tell I had worked very hard because the change in my riding was so noticeable.

That taught me that hard work really does pay off.

## Do you have a favourite equine author?

Bonnie Bryant who wrote the series The Saddle Club. As a kid I read them all and I still have the books on my bookshelf.

## How other than riding, how do you keep fit?

I have recently started yoga and I love to play sports and have dance parties with my daughter Grace and the WII.

## Do you watch horse shows, if so, what?

In my house every Sunday it is tradition for Grace and I to watch CBC's Heartland! We love Caleb and the trouble he is always getting into. We are big fans and we have been to three Amber Marshall events. My daughter Grace even got a picture with her! As a kid I loved watching The Saddle Club too.

## Who is the most interesting horse-person you've ever met?

This was a hard question as there are many people who influenced me and taught me so much....

Rhonda (Boyce) Rathburn; she was local to Hillsburgh and her main discipline was western. Rhonda was special because she

took time to teach me about stable

management and riding. Also Glenn Miller from the gas station, old riding coaches, a dear friend from the racetrack, and Guy McLean, the Australian Horse Whisperer. I met Guy at Can-Am three years ago—he even signed my boot! I was inspired by the hard work he puts into his horses, and I instantly started following him on social media.. I loved the way horses are his family.

## Horse Focus/Discipline, Sport, Interest:

Teaching hunter/jumper while focusing on completing my OE rider level 7. I also enjoy trail riding with my Thoroughbred mare Stella, in my western saddle, sometimes we run barrels but she is not a fast OTTB.

*Note: OTTB stands for "off-the-track Thoroughbred", a Jockey Club-registered Thoroughbred horse that was previously racing or in training to race, and has since been retired due to injuries, lack of talent, or old age.*

## Is there another equestrian discipline or horse sport you would like to do?

I would love to learn reining!

## Equine Associations, Horse-related organizations you are involved in:

- Director Erin Agricultural Society, Chair of Open Horse Show Committee
- 4H Leader, Erin and Hillsburgh Pony Club (coming 2019)
- Ontario Equestrian member
- Equine Canada Coaching Certification program



Photo: B. Ryan

Marissa Mallain and her 2018 Coach of the Year ribbon.

# Kilby Brunner Deforest

# Riding by Heart

Story & Photo credits: B. Ryan

There is an expression that goes like this—when you know something and really understand it, you memorize it and then you know it by heart.



Kilby Brunner Deforest is a 14-year-old pony-jumping, horse-loving Erin teenager who works with horses, competes and rides all year long. In doing so, Kilby has learned to ride by heart.

Kilby is also a champion, claiming a victory in the \$5,000 Royal Pony Jumper Final at the 96th (2018) Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario. The top spots were decided in a two-horse jump-off between Kilby and Tatum Horan of Oakville, with Brunner Deforest taking the lead and finishing with a time of 27.88 seconds. More than 1,000 horses and ponies from around the world, compete for nearly one million dollars in prize money during the 10-day show.

“This is my fifth time at The Royal, (in the Pony Jumper Division) and it’s exciting to be here!” she said after accepting the championship title. Kilby was reserve champion in both 2016 and 2017. At the 2018 Royal, she competed on Beaverwoods Halo, a 14-year-old mare, owned by her mother Kirsten Brunner. While Kilby and Halo put all the pieces together for a win at the Royal, their connection took some effort.

“This is a new pony for me, I got her one year ago, and have been competing on her all summer,” she said. “She’s very fast and really good on the turns - Halo is very confident and handled the noise at the Exhibition Coliseum very well. She is a complicated pony, and in the beginning of the season, we were trying other bits and a lot of different things,” she said. “But then, we realized that I just needed to learn to ride her - we went to a simple snaffle, and I got to know her and other than me telling her to “whoa,” Halo does it all.”

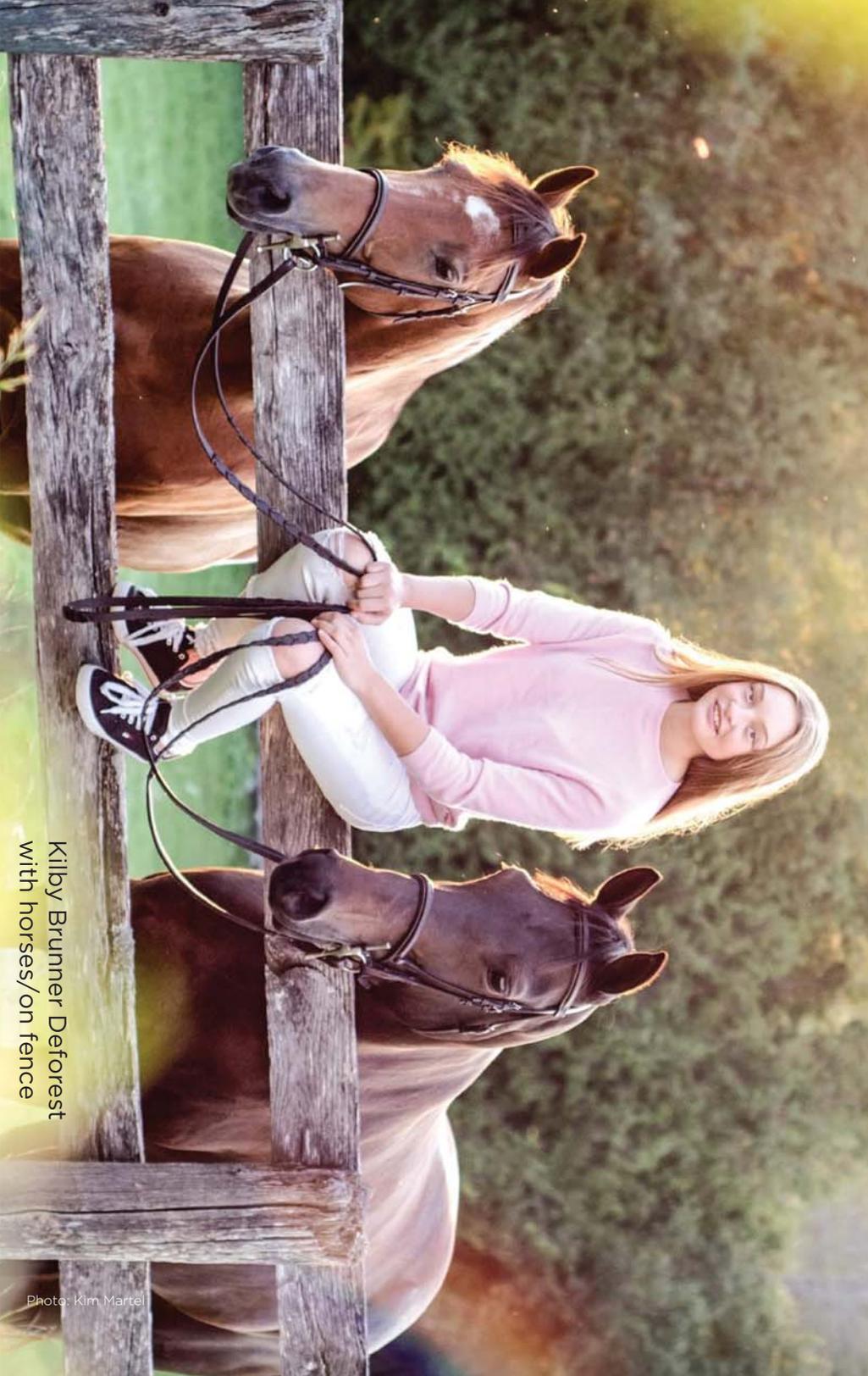
Kilby first visited the Royal when she was six months old, and started competing at age four in the Welsh Pony Walk Trot. She won the class that year. Kilby’s main coach is her mother, Kirsten Brunner, who owns and operates Beaverwood Farm in Hillburgh Ontario. However, during big competitions, Kirsten hand the reins to another professional, Shara Pava of Avhanwith Stable. Kirsten said it was a real gift that her 87-year old mother and the entire Brunner family were able to attend the Royal Show and watch as Kilby won the 2018 championship title. Kilby was also the 2018 circuit champion and won four out of five shows at the Angelstone Tournaments Jumper Classic. During a typical summer, Kilby competes in both Hunter and Pony Jumper divisions, throughout Ontario and in Carriage Driving in both

Canada and the United States. Kilby competes at Caledon Equestrian Park (A circuit), at Wesley Clover Park in Ottawa and at local shows with young ponies in training, including the Erin Fair, Brampton Fair and at Teen Ranch in Caledon.

When asked what she likes best about her horses, Kilby answered, “I just like to see them, and all of them are special for different reasons.” Her favourite horse movie when she was little was Spirit; the beautiful story of a wild, smart, determined and heart-strong young horse. Sounds like a match for Kilby.

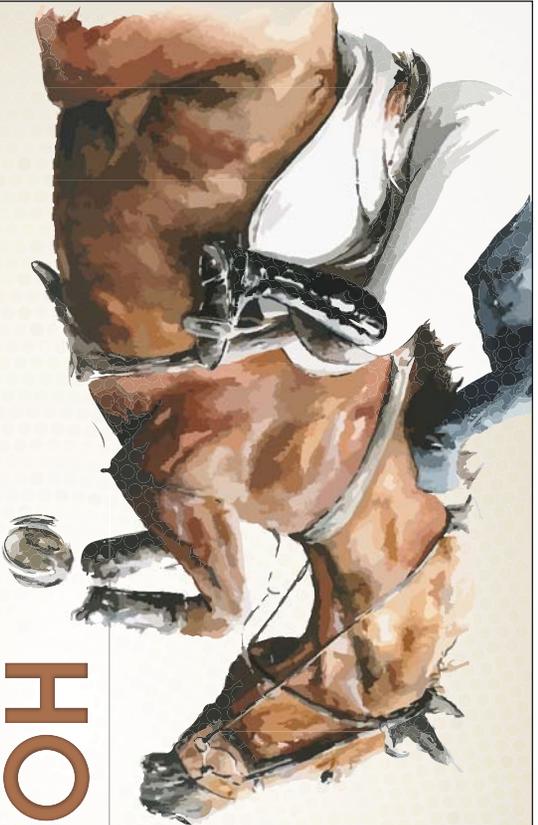


Kilby Brunner Deforest with her 2018 Royal Winter Fair Championship ribbon



Kilby Brunner Deforest  
with horses/on fence

Photo: Kim Martel



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Story & Photo credits: B. Ryan

Photo: B. Ryan

# Minshall Farms: Creating Horse History and New Beginnings

Surely the very best part of being in the horse business is the arrival of a healthy new foal. New beginnings are what Minshall Farms does really well, and has done for a long time.

The Minshalls are a third generation Erin family who spread their love of horses across several equine disciplines: Thoroughbred horse breeding, foaling, training, and racing. They also do Standardbred horse foaling and Quarter Horse cutting competitions and events.

Minshall Farms is a family business, owned and operated by Shaun and Lisa Minshall. Aubrey Minshall, Shaun's father, was the founder, a businessman and breeder of champion Thoroughbreds. Aubrey Minshall was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2012.

One of the many champions foaled at Minshall Farms was Mt. Sasatras. This horse was bred, raced and trained by members of the Minshall family and his accomplishments were many. Mt. Sasatras was voted 1996 Champion, Older Male Horse and Canada's Horse of the Year. Other notable Minshall horses are Bold Ruriana, two time Champion Turf Mare, and Sprint Champions, King Corrie and Field Commission. Stephanotis was a major stakes winner for Minshall Farms and went on to be a leading sire in British Columbia.

Shaun followed in his father's footsteps, in business and in horses. He took up roping and became an avid cutting horse competitor. This kind of competition originated in the United States in the

1800s, when American cowboys used their best horses to separate or 'cut' individual cows from the herd. The sport was brought to Ontario in the late 1950s and the Ontario Cutting Horse Association (OCHA) was incorporated in 1973.

Lisa Minshall is an Erin girl who first started riding in the English discipline and competed in the pony races at the Erin Fair. Lisa caught the cutting horse 'bug' and has never looked back. Lisa says that what holds her interest is that you can have a good horse, you can have your name selected for the best run position, you can have co-operative cattle, but they all have to line up—and that is just the luck of the day. That is also what keeps it interesting; that mental component of thinking like a horse, and continually trying to figure out what the cattle might do.

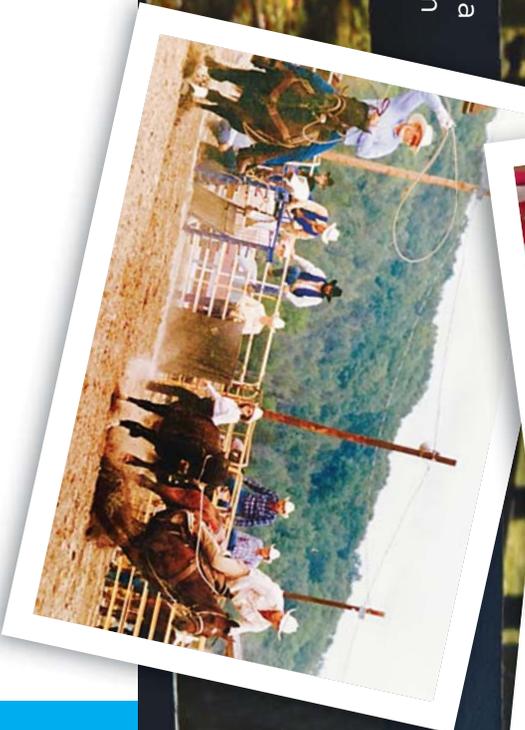
Lisa and Shaun met through the sport, and both were active in the EBHO (Erin, Ballinacád, Hillsburgh, Ospringe), a local horse club that hosted shows out of the Erin Fairgrounds. The Minshalls continue to host cutting competitions and welcome the public to these events at their farm.

Lisa and Shaun have three children. Lauren, their 28-year-old daughter is an accomplished rider and a championship winner as well. Lauren won the NCHA (National Cutting Horse Association) Brooks and Dunn Futurity competition when she

Minshall Farms  
heritage photos  
ribbons



Aubrey Minshall at a  
Roping competition  
in Hillsburgh.



Lisa Minshall at a  
cutting competition

Photo: Courtesy of The Rider

was just 15 years old. More recently, Lauren was reserve champion in the Limited Non-Pro Derby at the Summer Spectacular, in the in the 2018 NCHA Super Stakes, on CR Sister Tuff, owned by Lisa and Shaun. Lauren and her partner Gabe Reynolds operate a Cutting Horse training facility in Kentucky, specializing in amateur and non-professional riders, and training young horses.

After the excitement of the shows are over, there is the reality of running a working farm and horse business. This includes horses to care for, staff to manage, and all the logistics that go with it. Lisa has high praise for their staff, especially their manager, Jo-Marie Martin who specializes in birthing the babies and looking after a stable of horses. Rachelle Harrington is another long-time employee who keeps the farm running smoothly. DJ Lawrence is a local student who helps out with

First Drink: Thoroughbred  
mare and foal



## Race Horse Definitions For the non-horse person:

### The Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf

A weight for age Thoroughbred horse race on turf for fillies and mares, three years old and up. It is held annually at a different racetrack in the United States as part of the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

### The Canadian Champion Sprint Horse

A Canadian Thoroughbred horse racing honour that was part of the Sovereign Awards program awarded annually to the top Thoroughbred of either sex competing in sprint races in Canada.

### The Canadian Stakes

A Grade II Thoroughbred horse race, run annually at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is an event open to fillies and mares, three years of age and older. It is raced on turf over a distance of "about" 1 1/8 miles.

# Joyful Partnership

Story: B. Ryan | Photo Credit: Nikki Cook

Myrddin's business model is to provide experienced certified coaches, well-trained horses, and top-notch facilities. For more than 40 years, Myrddin Equestrian Centre has been teaching riders of all levels and interests, offering individually tailored coaching instruction, boarding and energy healing therapies.

Margaret Godson, owner and head coach at Myrddin sees 'horse connection' and 'riding with awareness,' as the opportunity to experience the joy of being one with the horse. Myrddin's coaching program is centered on the Equine Canada (EC) Rider Level system. Margaret Godson is a High Performance 1, EC certified coach.

Myrddin was established in 1978 and is located on Trafalgar Road, just outside the Village of Ballinadfad. Back then, it catered to pony club members and A-circuit and schooling show clients. Margaret Godson was a serious competitor, training her own horses and those of local breeders and facility clients. During this time, Myrddin stabled up to seventy horses, created the YMCA youth riding programme and offered residential student

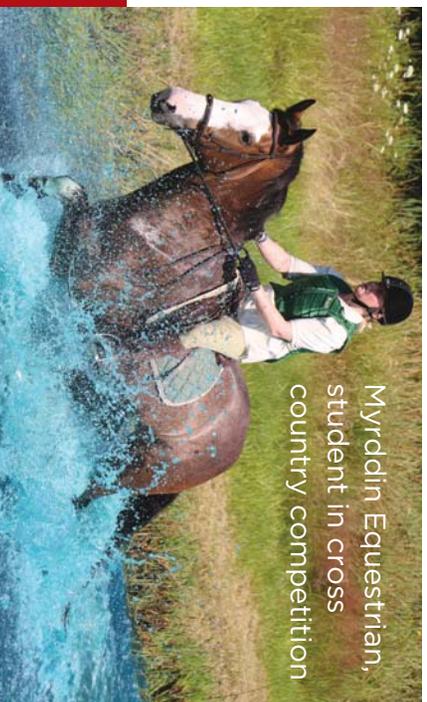


Margaret Godson and student



apprenticeships. In 1999, with a young family, Myrddin downsized somewhat and now includes more adult recreational riders. Coaches incorporate natural horsemanship and energy medicine such as Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), also known as 'tapping' into their lessons. Myrddin Equestrian continues to offer leading-edge equine training and horsemanship for the horse and rider.

The name Myrddin is a Welsh word (a version of Merlin), for the god of foresight, who had premonitions and visions of the future. Strong, equine partnerships are a win/win for horses and people and hopefully a glimpse of our future horse community.



Myrddin Equestrian, student in cross country competition

Submitted photos

# 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](http://www.erin.ca)

## ACCOMMODATION & INNS

### Bed & Breakfast

**Devonshire Guest House**  
3 Union St.  
Erin, ON N0B 1T0  
519-833-2187  
[www.devonshireguthouse.ca](http://www.devonshireguthouse.ca)

**Hillsburgh House by the Pond B&B**  
3 Station St.  
Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0  
519-855-9487  
[www.tbcanada.com/hillsburghhousebythepond](http://www.tbcanada.com/hillsburghhousebythepond)

**Tailwinds B&B**  
17 Station St.  
Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0  
519-855-3242  
[www.tailwindsbb.ca](http://www.tailwindsbb.ca)

## ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, FAIRS

**Angelstone Show Jumping  
Tournaments**  
8720 Wellington Rd. #50  
Erin, ON N0B 2K0  
519-279-6788  
[www.angelstone.ca](http://www.angelstone.ca)

**Erin Agricultural Society**  
Erin Fair Equine Tent  
184-190 Main St.  
Erin, ON N0B 1T0  
519-833-2808  
[www.erinfair.com](http://www.erinfair.com)

## AGRICULTURAL & EQUINE FEED PRODUCTS

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Erin, ON N0B 1T0  
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519-833-9616  
[www.stewartsequip.com](http://www.stewartsequip.com)

## BREEDERS

**Beaverwood Farm**  
Welsh Ponies  
Kristen Brunner  
5513 3rd Line  
Erin, ON N0B 1Z0  
519-833-7169  
[www.beaverwoodfarm.on.ca](http://www.beaverwoodfarm.on.ca)

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**Southern Steele Quarterhorse Farm**  
Quarter Horses  
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Erin, ON N0B 1T0  
519-833-4697

**TLC Quarter Horses**  
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5677 Third Line, Erin, ON  
519-855-4584

**Woodlands Farm Thoroughbreds**  
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519-855-4915  
[www.woodlandsfarm.com](http://www.woodlandsfarm.com)

## COACHING & LESSONS

**Greyden Equestrian Facility**  
Denyse Greyden/Marissa Mallais  
5565 Trafalgar Rd., RR #2  
Erin, ON  
519-833-2274  
[www.greydenquestrian.com](http://www.greydenquestrian.com)

**Meadowlark North Stables**  
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5154 3rd Line RR #2  
Erin, ON N0B 1T0  
519-833-2230  
[www.meadowlarkstables.com](http://www.meadowlarkstables.com)

**Myrdin Equestrian Centre**  
Margaret Godson  
5046 Trafalgar Rd., RR #1  
Georgetown, ON L7G 4S4  
905-877-6698  
[www.myrdin.info](http://www.myrdin.info)

### Rustic Meadows

Joanne Milton  
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Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0  
519-855-6865  
[www.rusticmeadows.com](http://www.rusticmeadows.com)

## EDUCATION & RESOURCES

### Organizations & Clubs

**4H Ontario**  
Erin Horse & Pony Club  
Rockwood, Ontario  
[www.4Hontario.ca](http://www.4Hontario.ca)

**Canadian Dressage Riders  
& Owners Association**  
13-1575 Upper Gage Ave.  
Hamilton, ON L8W 1E6  
[www.ontario.cadhora.ca](http://www.ontario.cadhora.ca)

**Canadian Horse Association**  
RR#1  
Orton, ON L0N 1N0  
519-855-6498  
[www.canadianhorses.com](http://www.canadianhorses.com)

**Canadian Pony Club**  
[www.centralontario.ponyclub.ca](http://www.centralontario.ponyclub.ca)

**Canadian Recreational Horse  
& Rider Association**  
7143 Ashburn Rd.  
Whitby, ON L1M 1L6  
905-655-4666  
[www.crhra.ca](http://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](http://www.c-s-h-a.org)

**Canadian Thoroughbred Horse  
Society**  
P.O. Box 172  
Rexdale, ON M9W 5L1  
416-675-3602  
[www.cthsont.com](http://www.cthsont.com)

**Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders  
Association**  
2417 Holly Lane  
Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7  
519-928-2779  
[www.canadianwarmbloods.com](http://www.canadianwarmbloods.com)

**Eginton & Caledon Hunt Club**  
Caledon, ON N0B 1Z0  
519-830-7220  
[www.egintoncaledonhounds.com](http://www.egintoncaledonhounds.com)

**Equestrian Canada**  
308 Legget Dr., Suite 100  
Ottawa, ON K2K 1Y6  
613-287-1515  
[www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca)

**Equine Guelph**  
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Guelph, ON N1G 2W1  
519-824-4120  
[www.equineguelph.ca](http://www.equineguelph.ca)

**Headwaters (Tourism) Horse Country**  
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Mono, ON L9W 6K4  
519-942-9744  
[www.headwatershorsecountry.ca](http://www.headwatershorsecountry.ca)

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

**Ontario Carriage Driving Association**  
647-238-8380  
[www.carriagedriving.ca](http://www.carriagedriving.ca)

**Ontario Barrel Racing Association**  
Amy Fotheringham (membership  
secretary)  
Tel: (519) 441-1130  
[www.obra.ca](http://www.obra.ca)

**Ontario Chuckwagon Racing  
Association**  
Les Sowden  
758 Chifletwood Rd., Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0  
226-387-4931  
[www.ontariochuckwagon.com](http://www.ontariochuckwagon.com)

**Ontario Competitive Trail Riding  
Association**  
2011 67 Sideroad, RR #1  
New Lowell, ON L0M 1N0  
405-479-8173  
[www.octra.on.ca](http://www.octra.on.ca)

**Ontario Cutting Horse Association**  
Directors, Lisa and Shaun Minshall  
519-855-6602  
[minshall\\_farms@icloud.com](mailto:minshall_farms@icloud.com)

**Ontario Equestrian**  
1 West Pearce St., Suite 201  
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3K3  
905-709-6545  
[www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)

**Ontario High School Rodeo  
Association**  
National Director, Joanne MacEachern  
[joannemceachern@gmail.com](mailto:joannemceachern@gmail.com)  
[www.ohsra.ca](http://www.ohsra.ca)

**Ontario Hunter Jumper Association**  
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ORTON

Erin Garafraxa Townline

# Town of Erin Map

Highlighting 9 local Equine Event locations throughout the Town of Erin. Refer to event details below.

Sideroad 27

Sideroad 27

26

24

25

Centre Wellington  
Elora Cataract Trailway

HILLSBURGH

5

3

First Line

Second Line

Third Line

Fourth Line

Fifth Line

Six Line

Eighth Line

Ninth Line

Tenth Line

Winston Churchill Blvd

22

8

6

5

23

Sideroad 17

124

Sideroad 15

Sideroad 15

4

2

3

ERIN

124

OSPRINGE

11

125



## Organizations & Clubs (continued)

**Standardbred Canada**  
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Erin, ON N0B 1T0  
905-407-7227  
heavenlyhillsranch@gmail.com

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Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0  
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519-831-4310

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dj@murtaghorse.com

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Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0  
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519-927-9444  
www.somebodyfarm.ca

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519-833-0040  
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**Kelsie Beck Photography**  
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www.kelsiebeck.com

**Rebecca Parkinson**  
Equine Photography  
9th Line, Erin  
519-215-7228  
daisybacka@gmail.com

## EQUINE HEALTH

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519-855-6488  
www.ruthbarbour.com

**Manning Equine Veterinary Services**  
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Orton, ON L0N 1N0  
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www.shilandequine.com

**Wingrove Veterinary Hospital**  
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# Fork's Recovery From Fire

By Equine Guelph

“You never think it would happen to you, and one of your horses, until one day you wake up to a phone call in the middle of the night,” recounts Sarah Scott, member of the horse racing community for over 20 years, and owner of Fork.

## Sarah's Story

We celebrated our staff Christmas party at Mohawk raceway December 20th, having a great time filling the night with Christmas cheer. I arrived home, around 12:30am and settled into bed shortly after 1am. I was awoken by my husband to the words “the barn is on fire and there is nothing we can do.” I was instantly numb.

When I arrived no one knew where my own horse was, but we knew he was out. It was dark, raining and the most unsettling of sights, with red and blue flashing lights intermingling with the mist.

## Emergency response

Sarah quickly joined the growing team of fire fighters, owners and veterinarians triaging the scene. They were fortunate to have a number of containment areas with other barns close by, a pool area that held three horses, and paddocks to hold the horses after they were removed from barn seven.

Horses were evacuated to Mohawk (for temporary stabling) where they were all bathed and once again looked over for burns or distress. Black soot was imbedded in the horses' hair, leading to the conclusion the lungs must also be compromised. Fears of smoke inhalation damage were confirmed with the first scope. The owners were worried if their horses would be ok, racked with questions if they were suffering and if they would ever race again. It was a quick paced day with lots of decisions.

The team worked diligently with the vets following up on the temperatures, discharge, vitals and overall observation. Sarah is very grateful to everyone involved with the rescue and rehabilitation, including her employers at System Equine and Nortev for supplying the nebulizers aiding in the recovery of many of the horses.

Sarah is also very grateful to her husband Mark who was so supportive, working tirelessly caring for both of them. “He truly is the reason Fork has returned to health and the racetrack,” says Sarah.

And of course, there is much gratitude for the community who rallied together.

Thanks, and huge acknowledgments must be given to the first responders, the community who all sprung from their beds in the dead of the night and for everyone who came together to support the rescue.

Sarah will forever be a fire prevention crusader and advocate of having a plan, from the simple things like having emergency numbers in your phone to having the fire department out to do a pre-plan.

Having halters, leads, pens and paper quickly accessible, clear barn aisles, feed tubs positioned so they are not in the way of exiting a stall are some of the little details that can make a big difference in an emergency.

Sarah hopes sharing her story will move people to take preventative measures.

Full story at  
<http://www.equineguelph.ca/news/>



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# Three times is a charm! Had to be Ivory

## AQHA Canadian Champion

Photo: New Image Media

Had to be Ivory, a beautiful 4-year-old (in 2019) Quarter Horse racer was recently awarded 2018 Canadian Champion by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), presented at Heritage Place, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Ivory was bred, born and trained at Hillerin Farm in Erin.

The Robertson family home at Hillerin Farm is rich in memories. Photos and trophies all attest to the success of special horses foaled, owned, and trained over Carol and Bryn's 50-plus years in the business. These souvenirs represent so much... many early mornings, many road trips over to the track, lots of faith and a bit of luck.

Had to be Ivory, owned by Jaime and Carol Robertson is the 2018 AQHA champion and the third Hillerin horse to be a 'Stakes' winner, joining Fandango and One Famous Glass, on the Robertson's wall of fame.

The Back Story...

*(Article written by Karen Dallimore, 2017 and updated for this publication.)*

Carol and Bryn Robertson were into horses before they got married 53 years ago. They can't imagine life any other way.

It was 1966 when the newlyweds moved into her dad's farm on the 9th line of Hillisburgh. They were showing Quarter Horses at the time, mostly barrel racing, but when riding got a bit tough after a few injuries it was Quarter Horse racing that captured their attention. It should have come as no surprise – racing was in their blood: going through the paperwork when Carol's dad passed, she found his Thoroughbred-racing license, dated 1972.

Now that Bryn and Carol are both retired from their jobs outside the farm Bryn still holds his Quarter Horse trainer's license. At

one time they had up to 18 horses racing; last year they were down to six. "We're getting older," admitted Carol. "It's a lot of work but it's still fun."

Fortunately for them, their children don't know any other way of life either and they have been able to count on family for support. Carol admits that the entire Robertson family is "totally immersed" in the equine industry.

Their son, Michael, is a blacksmith as well as a pony rider at the racetrack where he will pony the horses from the paddock to the post. At home he will invest a lot of time doing his homework with the young racehorses, getting them used to the starting gate, being ridden and ponied and ready to run. Michael and his wife Jannie now live on the next farm north where they have paddocks and run in shelters for the broodmares; both are heavily involved in training.

Carol and Bryn's two daughters, Jodi Pendry and Kim Sabila, are also involved with horses. Jodi is a massage therapist and osteopath for both people and horses. Along with her husband, Pete Overdevest, they now live near Bright where they milk 290 cows. Kim, who now lives in Fergus, has taken a shine recently to driving. Jodi's daughter Lexi, now 21, has had some luck on the barrel racing circuit and their grandson Cody, 12, now spends his summers working with his Uncle Michael, showing a passion and talent for farrier work even at such a young age.

It's not all about racing though. They have boarders as well, and a vital part of their equine operation has been their breeding stock although changes in the industry have often dictated the size of the broodmare herd and their ability to make a decent living from it. They only have two broodmares left now with plans to retain the foals to become part of the racehorse stable. "You're not sure where the industry will take you. We've had good years. There are ups and downs in everything," said Carol. "You make the most of what you've got."

What they had in 2017 was a bit of good luck. They were blessed to have a horse by the name of 'One Famous Glass', Horse of the Year in 2013, continue to perform well, and an exceptionally fast two-year-old gelding by the name of 'Had To Be Ivory' who has been nominated for Canadian Bred Horse of the Year against all ages, undefeated in five races. Bryn also trained four-year-old Country Boy 123 to five wins in seven starts for his owner Ruth Barbour, their neighbour in Hillsburgh, with earnings of \$99K in 2017.

The racing industry has changed to a point where it's harder to make a living now, said Carol. There was a time when there was money to be made but cutbacks saw a lot of the racing industry migrate to the US. As she wisely says, if you don't overextend yourself and stay within your means, you'll find a way. For the Robertsons, keeping it in the family – keeping expenses under

control - has been the key to their steady success. Last year their earnings bought Bryn a tractor with a cab so he could enjoy the air conditioning during haying season. He'd earned it.

"You have to go with your heart," said Carol. If they asked, she wouldn't discourage her grandchildren from making horses their career. "Just make sure you know what you're doing, that's all. You have to be good; you have to do your homework, same as for any career. The passion helps to carry you through."

Photo: B. Ryan



Bryn Robertson  
accepting 2018  
AQHA Champion  
Title for Had to Be  
Ivory

Photo: Courtesy of Speechhorse Magazine



Saturday June 8, 2019

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## ERIN FAIR

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Pony race competitor,  
Erin Fair, circa 1950

Photo: EAS Archives

# Horse Heritage is alive and well in Erin

In October this past year (2018) at the Erin Fall Fair, The Erin Agricultural Society (EAS) established the Horse Heritage Hall of Fame.

## The Hall of Fame event is aimed at celebrating Erin's rich equine history and recognizing leaders within Erin's horse community.

An Equine Archive was also created to capture equine heritage, memories, photos and horse event memorabilia. Since the early 1800s, horses have played a vital role in Erin, and they continue to contribute in a meaningful way to the local equine economic sector, recreation and country lifestyle. The Hall of Fame awards will now be an annual event, with winners being announced at the Erin Fair, which has taken place every Thanksgiving weekend since 1850.

The 2018 EAS Horse Heritage Hall of Fame Awards were presented as follows:

### Heavy Horses and Equine Community Contribution

Awarded to Fred Cox, a ninety-year old farmer and former volunteer Fire Chief for Erin and Hillsburgh. Fred worked with horses all his life, beginning with heavy horses on the farm, used horses for transportation and then later for recreation. Fred was instrumental in mentoring and showing other people how to handle the gentle giants, and held the roles of Show Judge and committee member for the Heavy Horse Pulls at the Erin Fair. Fred's nomination was marked by many wonderful stories about his life with horses including horse races in Stanley Park and using horses to haul ice out of the river. Fred is a lifetime member of the Erin Agricultural Society.

*Note: Duwayne Gregson, 2018 Erin Fair President presented Fred's award. The family of Fred Cox gathered stories and information on behalf of Fred's great grandson Callen Abram Frederick Cox, who was one year old at the time. They thought it was important for Callen to understand his great grandfather's contribution and importance to the Erin community. Fred attended the award ceremony.*



Photo Courtesy of Dave Landry

### Percheron Breed Development and Youth Mentorship

Awarded (posthumously) to David Leitch, for his lifetime work to develop the Percheron breed (driving, showing, breeding) and for his commitment to youth mentorship. David was a committed 4-H leader, past director of the Ontario Percheron Horse Association, joined the Erin Agricultural Society at age 16, was on the Heavy Horse and Horse Pull committees, and Past President of the Erin Fair (1984-85). David's life work and many successes included breeding his own horses, showing his six-horse hitch at the CNE and the The Royal Winter Fair, and finishing 7th in the World Percheron Congress (2008). David is remembered fondly with love and respect for his extensive knowledge and understanding of the Percheron breed and sharing this with anyone who wanted to learn.

*David's award was presented by life-long friend and owner of one of his teams Rob Fletcher (past president of Erin Fair). David's award plaque was accepted by his wife Helen Leitch.*

### Industry Leadership & Thoroughbred Breed Development

Awarded to Gail Wood for her determined leadership within the Thoroughbred (TB) industry. Gail's commitment to post race and horse welfare is the culmination of more than 40 years of breeding, raising foals and racing horses. Woodland Farms is nationally and internationally recognized for its contribution to TB breed development and for being one of the leading sale consignors in Canada. Gail has been key player in elevating the quality of entries at the Ontario Sales and attracting buyers from the famous Kentucky Sales.

*Gail's award was presented by Alf Budweth, owner of Budson's -Provisions for Country Living & Nobleton Feeds. Alf has known Gail since he was a young man.*

### Lifetime Achievement

Awarded to Edenwold, 2006 Queen's Plate Champion. Edenwold was bred and foaled in Erin, by Gail Wood and William Diamant at Woodlands Farms. Edenwold was purchased in 2004 for \$100,000. by Jim and Alice Sapara from Edmonton Alberta. He went on to become Canada's champion Two-year old in 2005, and won the Queen's Plate in 2006. Edenwold was the first horse to accomplish this feat since Sound Reason in 1977. Bill Diamant is the husband of Vickie Pappas, the founder of Longrun Thoroughbred Adoption Society, located in Erin.

*Gail Wood accepted the award on behalf of Edenwold.*

Photos: Auchincloss Imagery



Hall of Fame Winners

Photos: Auchincloss Imagery



Fred Cox, Grand daughter, and Great Grandson

# Creating a Better Connection

Emotional Freedom Technique for horses



Margaret Godson,  
in a competition  
with her horse  
Venture



Story: B. Ryan | Photo: Myrddin Equestrian

Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) can be a valuable tool for riders and is applied by tapping on the energy points of the body, similar to acupuncture. When a horse (or person) experiences a stressful event, energy is stored in the body creating a blockage. By tapping on the energy points, blockages can be released and eventually cleared.

**EFT for Riders:** Students are taught the tapping procedure and, after a few sessions riders can use EFT on their own. Riders are taught how to use EFT for themselves to help them reduce competition anxiety, to stop self-sabotaging thoughts, and to create a better connection with their horses.

**EFT for Horses:** Margaret Godson, at Myrddin Equestrian uses a combination of surrogate tapping and actual tapping on the physical meridian points on the horse's body. Horses respond to the EFT treatment by lowering their heads, releasing stress, licking and chewing. They also often show a more positive attitude towards training and human interaction.

EFT is gentle, effective and long lasting and has no adverse side effects. Neither drugs nor equipment are used. EFT is not meant to replace your coach or veterinarian's instructions or medical advice and it is not a substitute for traditional medicines or psychological care. Instead, EFT is intended to support overall horse and human well-being and health.

## Does it work?

Garry Roque, 35-year veteran horse trainer and former Canadian Olympic Team and Eventing competitor has this to say:

*"Last summer I had a well-bred show pony....the horse had suffered a fright in his training, and was brought to me to try to repair; he was continually having setbacks due to his attitude. I asked Margaret (Godson) at Myrddin if she could help. With only two sessions, the horse completely turned around, and went from a scared grumpy pony to one that would be ridden by a 12-year old girl. I think that Ms. Godson has a real gift. I recommend Margaret to anyone who is having issues with their horses."*



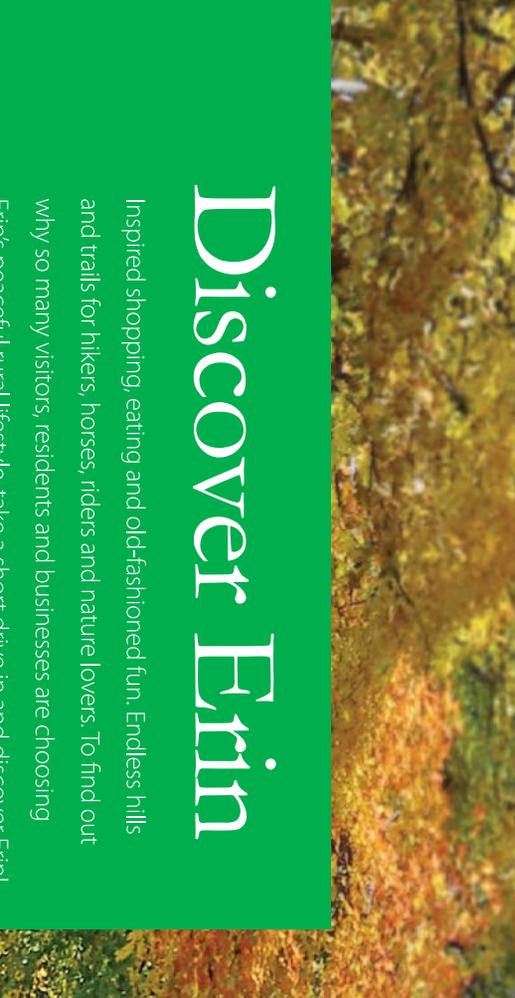
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Photos by: Martin Lampeeth



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