



O.I.H.A. Newsletter



INSIDE:

OIHA Picnic
Member Profiles
Genesee Creek Farm
Pink Ribbon Ride

OIHA Directors:

Tina Martin
President
592 River Rd., RR #1
Astorville P0H 1B0
timarti@hotmail.com

Jay Whittington
Vice-President
373508 6 th Line
RR7
Amaranth Ontario
L9W2Z3
bonaventurefarms@hotmail.com

Peter McLachlan
Secretary
5321 Concession Rd7
R.R. # 1 New Lowell
L0M 1N0
Phone 705795-8916
jo.peter@mclachlans.ca

John Carlaw
Treasurer
7, Auckland Lane
King City, ON, L7B 1C1
Phone 905-833-0719
brana7@scigur@sympatico.ca

Brian Horas
Director at Large
16218 Albion Trail
Caledon, ON L7E 3P7
Phone 905-880-4002
bhoras@xplornet.ca

Ontario Icelandic Horse Association President's Message

Greetings to all OIHA members! What a strange summer it has been weather wise. I thought the grass was dead for sure by the end of July and was wondering what to do, as I am sure you all were that have horses at home. Then, hurray! It started to rain, and now the grass is back. Horses are much happier. I hear there might be a 2nd cut down "south" which should help the hay prices which have been scary high.

Another successful OIHA summer picnic was held and you will find a report here in the newsletter.

By now you should have received info about the Erin Fall Fair Gaited Horse Show which will have special classes for Icelandics. We are hoping to have a good turnout! More info here in the newsletter, in case you missed the e-mail.

The next annual OIHA AGM will be held on Saturday, October 27th at 1:00 pm at the OEF Offices. [See newsletter info](#). Hope to see you all there!

Keep smilin' and ridin'!

Tina Martin
OIHA President

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the following articles are solely those of the individuals providing them and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the OIHA or its directors.

Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is November 25th 2012.

Please send submissions to Robynne and Susan at david.trueman@sympatico.ca
OR
mail it to us at
121 Hanselman Line
Powassan ON
P0H 1Z0

**OIHA
ANNUAL
PICNIC**

Here's the OIHA picnic group who enjoyed a good time at the beautiful setting of Hestar Farm in Mallorytown. Jane and Ian Spear were the hosts this year. An annual OIHA social time of getting together with old and new friends was enjoyed by all. Ian took John C. out for a trip around the property and adjoining forest. Jane too took Joanne and Brian out for a spin. Horseshoes were enjoyed by Peter, Hans and John as well. Of course the best part was the delicious food brought by all and the BBQ hot dogs and hamburgers cooked by chef, Ian. The desserts were pretty good as well.

OIHA welcomes Ann Kendall who enjoyed the picnic and will be visiting various Icelandic farms to find the right Icelandic horse for her. Thank you Jane and Ian Spear for a wonderful day!

-John & Carole Carlaw

Photos Courtesy of John Carlaw (Including front page picnic photo)



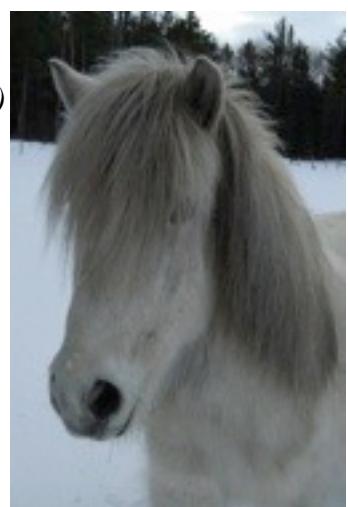
Member Profile: Tabea Blundon

My Frigg!

How I became the owner of an icelandic horse... Growing up in Germany I saw Icelandic horses in pastures and always thought what beautiful strong and spirited horses they are...but never got to ride one. 4 years ago when I moved here to South River and just around the corner a 5 minute walk from my house there was a little farm with Icelandic horses

called Bonaventure Farm. A few weeks after moving here Kathy and Jay came over to introduce themselves and welcomed us to the neighbourhood. Kathy asked me if I ride horses and invited me over to go riding...its been more than 20 years since I rode a horse and I'd forgotten lots but was very excited to go...but I had some health issues and between a few stomach surgeries and then a fractured ankle healing time seem to take forever..finally 2 years ago my body felt good enough to go and have my first ride on a Icelandic horse and her name is Dottla who was very patient with me over the next year of learning to ride all over again I so enjoyed riding her..but still there was another icy out there in the pasture that was always on my mind. A beautiful grey mare with an awesome mane and I was just itching to give Frigg a try but I was not ready for her yet...winter came and went and then in June of last year I finally got to ride Frigg. I was nervous and excited at the same time but I wanted to challenge myself...it took a few days in the round pen and the track to get to know each other better before taking her on the trails and on the roads...I always have so much fun joy with her...together we have lots of good days and sometimes not so good days...every day I fell in love with Frigg more and more and she is an awesome mare...I knew Frigg was for sale and that a few people where interested in her, so I said to myself if I don't jump now I will loose her and I really wanted her in my life and so I bought her and on my 48th birthday I become the happy and proud owner of an amazing Icelandic horse..and I would like again to say thank you to Kathy and Jay for giving me the chance to do this and for having the patience to teach me. I know Frigg and I will have many years to build a strong bond and learn from each other and I'm looking so forward to that because I love my Frigg.

-Tabea Blundon
(Photos Courtesy of Tabea Blundon)



Member Profile: Robynne Trueman

When I was two years old, I was terrified of horses. The ones in the paddock across the road from our house scared me so much that I used to cry if I had to go near them, which is really weird when you fast forward fourteen years and to me living on a farm, riding almost every day and ...picking up after them.

I didn't have much interest in horses until the fourth grade when my teacher assigned us a non-fiction book report and it had to be about something we had never read before. My friend, who lived on a farm herself, told me I should read this "Crazy about Horses" book that basically described the different breeds and enticed you with beautiful pictures.

It worked.

After I finished that book I started taking riding lessons once a week at an English barn near our house. It didn't take as much convincing for me as it would for some kids who would want riding lessons; my mom has always been a horse fanatic and I think the fact that I was no longer running away crying from them made her very happy.

At Willowby Farms I rode Little Red, while my mom instructed the instructor from the side lines so that I wouldn't fall off while I was jumping. Jumping was never my favourite thing, and it appeared Little Red didn't like it much either because he was constantly dodging the jump. Seven years later, I look back and realize it wasn't so much that Red didn't want to go over the jump: that was all me.

Two years after I had started riding and my family bought a cottage near Magnetawan, my mom found an article in the paper for Clear Lake Farm advertising their trail rides and suggested that we go on one together, just as something fun to do for the summer. I was all for it and a few weeks later I was standing in the tack up area at Clear Lake next to Haganina.

I'll admit that the speech Otmar gave us before the ride freaked me out a little. Horses are unpredictable animals. Always pay attention (not good when you have a major tendency to daydream...). Deepest point of the saddle. A little bit behind the vertical. Use your....gas pedal?

It seemed like an awful lot to remember but once we started riding I found the Icelandic's much more interesting than any other horse I had ever been on and the tölt was so much fun that we couldn't stay away for very long.

My mom began looking at many of the horses for sale at Clear Lake Farm and after months of searching, found Thule from Maple Leaf Icelandic Horse Farm. At first we couldn't buy him because he didn't tölt, but after some work with Wiebke, it became apparent he was capable of the fourth gait and my mom was there in a heartbeat.

After we got Thule I went with my mom almost every weekend to see him and watch her ride. Sometimes I got on for a few minutes but he was pretty jumpy back then so I couldn't exactly handle him by myself. However I very much enjoyed brushing and feeding him and just spending time in the barn.

Next my mom bought Ösp fra Clear Lake Farm who was only a tiny little thing at the time, a big contrast to the massive horse she is now...as Icelandic's go anyways. Thule was christened "Uncle Thule" which became a little indecent as he attempted to mount her.

Shortly after Ösp became a part of the "family", we started looking for a horse that would be mine. Apparently once you start buying horses, its really hard to stop.

The list of requirements for my horse was quite specific because she had to be a mare so we could breed her in the future and she needed to be calm and gentle because my personality is not particularly disciplinary. After looking at a number of mares from various Icelandic farms, Shirley Dörig introduced me to Gemsa from Happy View Acres, Leppa's foal. It was apparent from the first moment that while she is definitely a matriarch, she is a total sweetheart with people. So, despite the fact that she was only four and we would have to train her ourselves, we bought her.



Robynne and Gemsa

Member Profile Continued...

Robynne and Gemsa on the day they met in 2008



In 2009 my family moved from Gilford to our farm in Powassan where the three horses joined us a month later. I think the move bonded them in a really special way and while there were some scuffles originally between Thule and Gemsa, he has finally accepted that fact that he just can't win. Once the realization hit, our herd settled a good pecking order which left Ösp at the bottom and Gemsa on top. It was really interesting to watch the establishment happen because it was always the littlest things that showed dominance or a challenge.

Training Gemsa was a little bit more difficult than my mom and I had anticipated. Being five gaited she has a tendency to be pacey, a quality I have long since come to realize is laziness because it would just be way to much work to tölt. But after three summers of riding her almost everyday, just working on the basic gaits to get her balance, Gemsa has finally started to exhibit her tölt abilities on the road and I am sure that with some more practice she will be a little tölting machine.

Last year, we welcomed two new additions to our herd; Fausta and Drift from Bonaventure farms. Fausta's arrival (which was described in more detail in an article my dad wrote) was anything but smooth, although with time she has gradually been accepted along with the fact that she can't be in charge here. Unless she wants to get beat up.

Drift is the exact opposite; she is totally submissive and was easily immersed in our herd, especially latching onto Ösp, the only one who was more than just tolerant of her. While I spent a few weeks feeling bitter towards her after my mom's concussion, she is still the cutest little horse I have ever seen and her sweet personality wins everybody over.

Now all five of our horses graze together and everybody knows their place, although the mares get a little "moody" on occasion and I sometimes pity Thule who is the only male living in, what I like to call, a sea of estrogen.

I never would have thought when I was two years old that I would someday actually like horses let alone be living on a farm with them. I'm really glad I read that book back in the fourth grade because I don't know if things would have happened like they did without it.

-Robynne Trueman

(Photos Courtesy of Susan Trueman)



Trail Ride for Breast Cancer –Colour it Pink

On Saturday, July 14th, 2012 Joanne and I joined almost one hundred other riders in participating in the 3rd Annual Trail Ride for Breast Cancer. The ride took place in the Dufferin Forest on Airport Rd., North of Mansfield. The ride organizers raised over \$10,000 for Breast cancer research and did an excellent job of arranging a day of fun, friends, food, and horses.

Given that our region was in the grip of unrelenting heat and drought in mid-July, Joanne and I arrived at the trail site early so that we could go out with the 9:15 AM group. The Dufferin forest site, just north of Mansfield, is great in that the large meadow has ample room for many horse trailer rigs and a multitude of large trees where man and beast can get some shade.

Since there was a prize for best dressed in Pink there was a great selection of pink costumes and pink horse decorations on display on both the riders and horses. As you will see in the photograph we confined our decorations to pink ribbons in mane and tail. I did experiment with pink water based child paint, but found it sticky and abandoned plans to give Tobi a pink tail.

Our 9:15 group was largely composed of quarter horses, all well behaved, and we had an excellent walk, trot, and tölt through the forest which offers sandy and leaf covered trails through deciduous bush and some pine plantations. A few small hills and meadows provided variety for the approximately eight kilometer ride. Our Icelandics appeared to enjoy the outing and had no trouble keeping up with the group leader who set a brisk pace as she had a son's wedding to attend in the afternoon. (Clearly a horsewoman with her priorities well in place).

Debra Moore, the founder of the Annual Trail Ride for Breast Cancer, and the many volunteers who work with her, are to be congratulated on this event. They organized an excellent event for a great cause in a wonderful venue. This was the second time Joanne and I have participated, and we hope to ride again next year (July 20.2013). We would love to see other OIHA riders there as well with their Icelandics.

-Peter McLachlan (Photo courtesy of Peter McLachlan)



Above: Joanne and Jora, Peter and Tobi
at start of ride

Below: Joanne on Jora waiting for the
start beside the registration trailer.



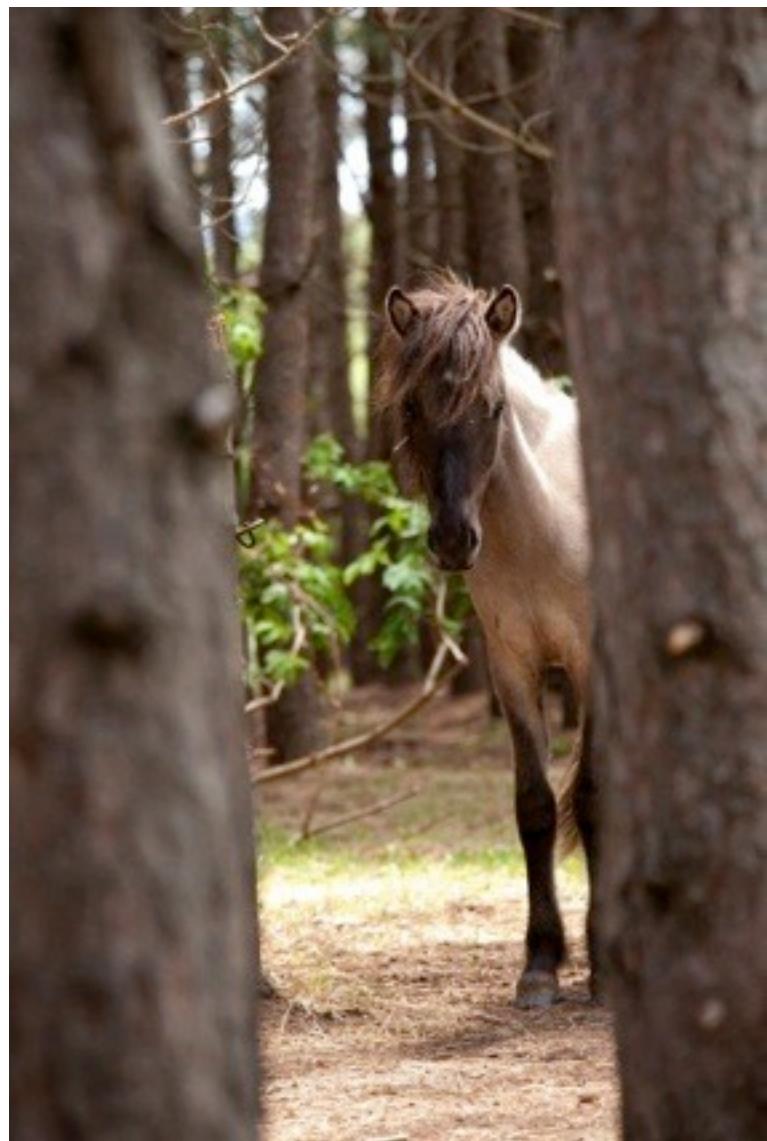
Photos Courtesy of Peter McLachlan

Kathy & Jay Whittington's

Skjanni fra Bonaventure
at the Duijsens'



Photos Courtesy of Claudia Duijsens



Photos Courtesy of Claudia Duijsens



Claudia Duijsens
PHOTOGRAPHY



specialized in equine photography
passionate for Icelandic horses
feel invited to visit my website

www.claudiaduijsens.com

Book Shelf

Books of interest:

- *Groundwork Training For Your Horse* By Lesley Bayley

OVERVIEW: “Develop a deeper bond with your horse through a range of exercises and games.”

- *The Ultimate Horse Behaviour and Training Book* By Linda Tellington-Jones

OVERVIEW: An “A-Z Problem Solver” and “Innovative and practical body work, over 20 years of unique ground lessons, specialized riding exercises and trailer-loading How-To section.”

- *Getting in TTouch with Your Horse* By Linda Tellington-Jones

OVERVIEW: “How to assess and influence personality, potential and performance.”

These books are available through amazon.ca (Suggested by Susan Trueman)

Genesee Creek Farm

Here's another, some may say distorted, view from Dave's world of horses and farm life. 2011 was another interesting year on the farm. One of my favorite achievements and memories of 2011 was building a Barn with our son, Jack.

In the spring of 2011, we decided that it was necessary to have a safe and secure place to stable our new foal "Drift", a place where all the horses could be put if need be and place to tack-up or shoe the horses, out of the sun, wind, rain etc.

Based on the boss' requirements...I mean, Susan's needs..I designed a 26'x34' dual purpose Pole Shed/Barn that is comprised of 2 large birthing stalls 24x13 each. Each one of those would be further divided in half via a metal swing gate to give us 4 12'x13' stalls, each with a separate "dutch door" for access. The new facility would also have a 26'x10' covered tack up area at the front. I say "dual purpose" because it would also be used for other storage when not needed for the horses.

Other requirements from "the Boss" were:

- has to accommodate all the horses
- has to look good
- has to look rustic
- has to look like it "fits" in at the farm
- has to have that post and beam structure
- has to have a tack room
- has to be well ventilated

My guiding principles were:

- build it once, build it to last, over engineer it.
- be safe while doing it
- don't cut any corners
- try not to make any mistakes
- Stay within budget



as "Red Green" used to say on TV, if she can't find you handsome she better find you handy. I've always been pretty handy, I've done lots of renovations and will try pretty much anything once. This was by far the largest major construction project I'd ever attempted.

in June, with a building permit in hand, we decided to have the 23 post holes drilled (24" dia by 4' 10" deep) and posts set (6x6x PT) by a local Amish fellow, since he had the necessary auger and skid steer to do the job properly and quickly. After that it was all up to Jack (14 yrs old) and I (age not important).

The first and scariest job was putting up the main ridge beam, 12' up in the air and 34' long built from triple laminated 2x8's it had to be constructed "in place" as it would have been too big and heavy to lift.

Genesee Creek Farm Continued...

We used ladders and a set of rolling steel stairs (from a neighbor) to reach the necessary height and made use of a safety harness in case either of us had a misstep.

After the Main beam and side beams were all in and we were satisfied the entire structure was tied together properly, July saw little progress as we dedicated our time to Haying. I don't like to buy any lumber these days unless I can use it within 2 or 3 days, it just seems to warp and twist too much if it lays around.

After the haying was done for the year, we set about the long and somewhat boring task of doing the roof. I say long and boring, because I like variety, cutting and installing 70 or so 2x10 rafters (no trusses here) was not the part of the job I enjoyed. Once all the rafters were up, we topped them with 1x3 purlins and brown metal roofing. Doing the roof was a real workout up and down the ladder, balancing on the roof (even with a safety harness) it had me using muscles I didn't know I had. Remember when I said my age wasn't important? I was right, its physical conditioning that's important, and I don't have much of that.

Next, the sides of the building were clad in 12" pine boards and 2" pine battons for that "rustic" look. All the boards and battons came from a local Amish saw mill, excellent quality and price.

At this point I have to say thanks to Jack, he was working with me, side by side every day, without fail, never a complaint, he really enjoyed himself I think. I could not have done this job without him. He not only gave me the much needed manual labour type help, but he's a smart lad, understands building and construction concepts well, and knows when to question some of the decisions I was making, thanks for saving me from making several mistakes Jack!

Next came another labour intensive task. back filling and leveling inside the building, yes inside, and yes, unfortunately after most of the construction was done. We built on an area that had a "slight" slope (2' drop over 26'). We also knew that with another project (excavation of our 100 year old + bank barn) we'd have the 20 tonne of fill we'd need to level inside the barn, unfortunately that Old Barn excavation didn't happen soon enough so we had to fill/level the new barn the hard way...Dave on the tractor working the loader and Susan using the "arm strong" moving equipment...otherwise known as a wheelbarrow and shovel. Im not kidding, she may look petite but she can take me in an arm wrestle any day (don't worry, I did my share of shoveling too).

Final touches like building the split Dutch style doors and installing the dividing gates all completed just in time for the arrival of our new foal "Drift" from Bonaventure Farm in October. The barn's saw daily use over the winter while Drift was so small, we're not sure what we would have done without it. The last "to do" was scheduled and completed for this past spring, which was to build the "Tack room". Now Susan and Robynne do not have to lug all of the saddles and Tack from the Basement every day.

All in all the new building is exactly what Susan and I both set out to build.

2012 has been another year of medical concerns on the farm, this time with Susan. We've all seen/heard the "Caution, Horses are unpredictable animals" words. Well in July 2012, those words were ringing in our ears after Susan received a hoof to the head and face when our yearling "Drift" reared up and struck

Genesee Creek Farm Continued...

Susan with a front hoof.

6 stitches in the forehead, a tear to the bridge of her nose, 2 black eyes and a concussion. Those were the injuries sustained. The visible wounds healed quickly, however the concussion will see Susan in recovery for weeks/months, as of this writing, its been 4 weeks and It will be a few more before she is capable of getting back in the saddle.

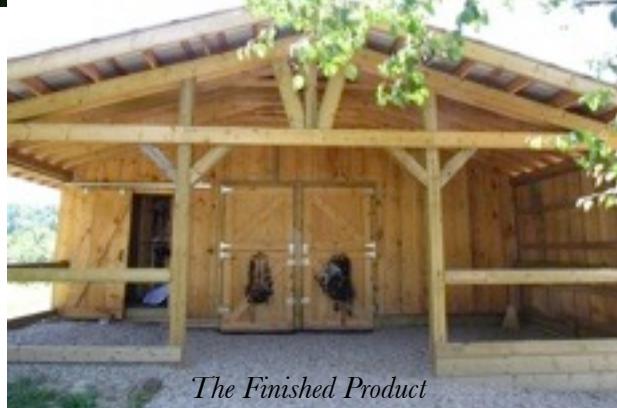
Remember, they are animals, they are unpredictable, be safe !

-Dave Trueman

Dave In the early stages of barn building

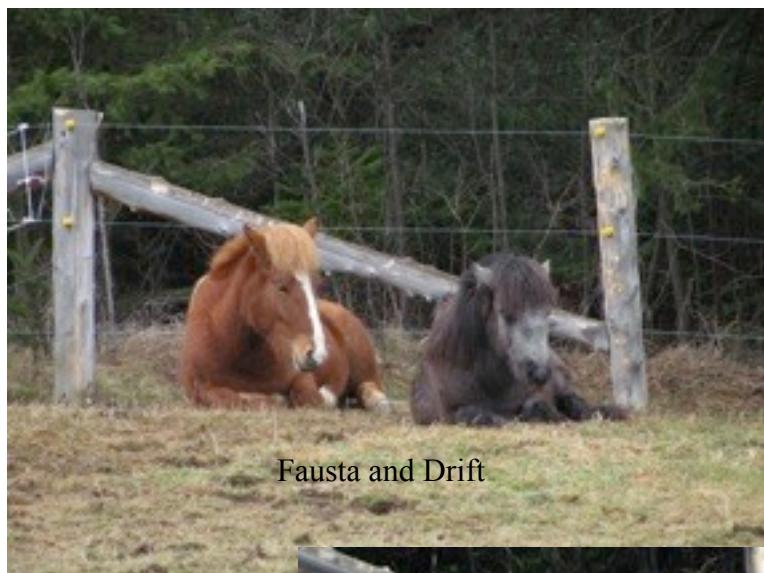


Last cut of the season



The Finished Product

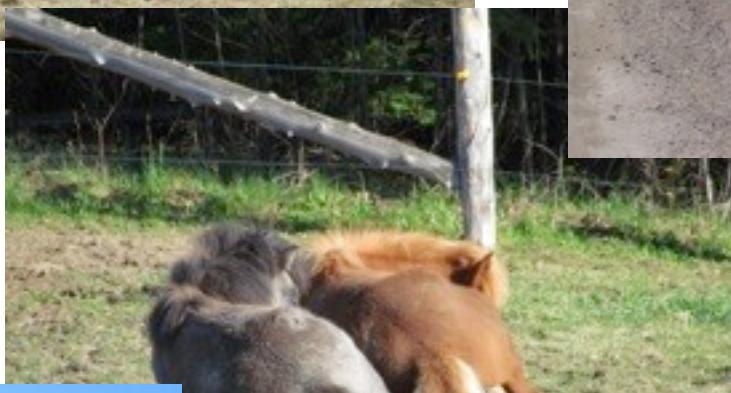
Photos courtesy of Susan Trueman

Genesee Creek Farm Continued...

Fausta and Drift



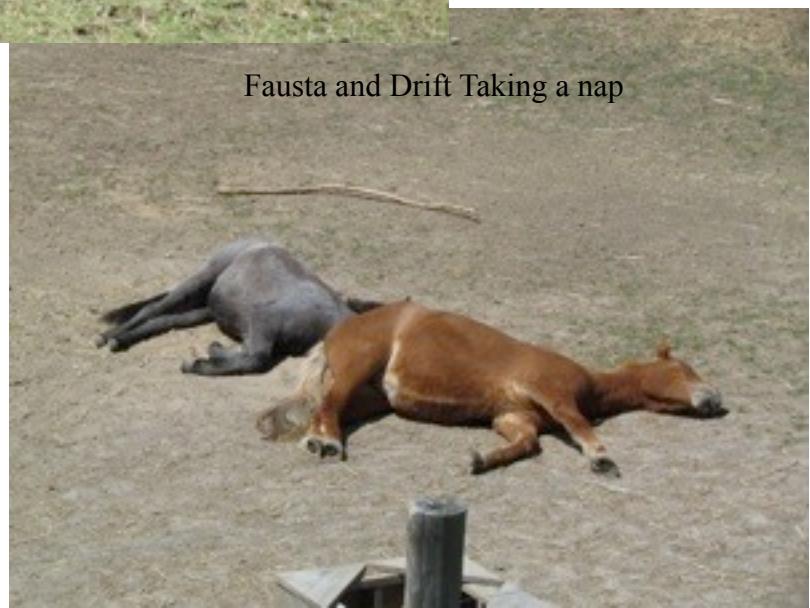
Susan and Ösp



Best Buddies



Robynne and Thule



Fausta and Drift Taking a nap

Photos courtesy of Dave and Susan Trueman

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<i>Members</i>	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$50.00
<i>Non-Members</i>	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$75.00

For One Year (Four issues of the newsletter)



Information on OIHA activities

As members may recall at the November 2011 AGM meeting it was agreed that the minutes of the OIHA Board of Directors meetings would be posted to the OIHA website in the members only section. This process was implemented at the start of 2012 and all approved Board meeting Minutes are available on the website. Members can access these minutes by going to the Ontario Icelandic Horse Association website and clicking on the members tab.

The password for the members section is the word “members”, all letters in lower case.

Information available in this section consists of the approved minutes of OIHA Board meetings and the most recent issue of the OIHA Newsletter. The next OHA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

-Peter McLachlan



OIHA

Important Notices:**Annual Meeting**

Hello all,

The OIHA annual general meeting will be held this year on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at 1 p.m.

The meeting is at the Ontario Equestrian Federation meeting room in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

ADDRESS:

1 West Pearce St. Suite 201
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 3K3

Refreshments will be served! Hope to see everyone there.

Best,
Tina Martin
OIHA President

Erin Fall Fair

Hello everyone!

Below you will find links to info on the Erin Fall Fair Gaited Horse Show in which there will be special classes for Icelandics, as well as other open gaited classes. There will be an Icelandic judge, Alexandra Pregitzer from Michigan. While you do not have to register ahead of time, you are encouraged to do so if you know you will be attending, as it speeds things up a lot! The cost for the show is just the \$9.00 Fair entry fee for adults (\$3.00 for children). There are no class fees and there is prize money!

Erin Fair does not provide stabling, but the OIHA board is trying to track down some stabling in the area on local Icelandic farms. Contact Brian Horas for further info if you are coming from afar.

The event is a lot of fun, we are hoping for a good turnout and support from members!

<http://www.erinfair.ca/attachments/article/181/ENTRY%20FORM%202012.pdf>

<http://www.erinfair.ca/attachments/article/177/2012%20Gaited.pdf>

Just a reminder to member that minutes of Board Meetings are posted online in the Members area of the website.

The next Board Meeting will be September 19th.

Happy trails!

Tina Martin



Hi Everyone,
We are the new
editors of the
newsletter and really
appreciate the help of
anyone who sent us
articles this month!
We hope you enjoy
reading it all and if
you have anything
you would like
published in the next
issue the cut off date
is November 25th.
We look forward to
hearing from you!

Robynne &
Susan Trueman

Deadline for
submissions for the
next newsletter is
November 25th 2012.

Please send
submissions to
Robynne and Susan at
david.trueman@sympatico.ca

OR

mail it to us at
121 Hanselman Line
Powassan ON
P0H 1Z0