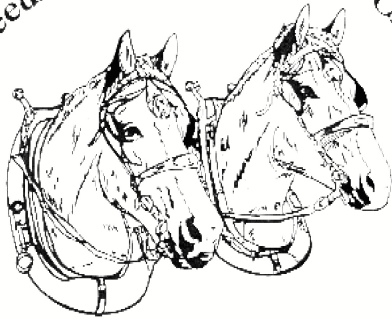


Leeds County Draft Horse Club



Since 1986

Sharing A Wealth of Experience

History

The Leeds County Draft Horse Club was formed in 1986, with an initial membership of about one dozen. The first meeting was held at Bill Gibbons', near Brockville.

Purpose

The purpose of the Club is to promote the proper care and use of draft horses; whether it be for agricultural or recreational endeavours.

Membership

Membership is \$20.00 per household per year. This includes the cost of a monthly newsletter, as well as the opportunity to participate in meetings and other Club activities. The current membership stands at approximately 60. This includes teamsters with many decades of experience through to people just starting out with their first teams, and those who do not have horses, but appreciate the beauty and utility of these animals and who want to contribute to the continuance of the draft horse tradition. We welcome a diversity of horse-related interests, from photography and art, through harness making or carriage building, to antique horse-drawn equipment.

Meetings

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month (except December), in the Toledo United Church Hall during the school year. These meetings include a pot luck lunch and social gathering. In July and August, the meetings are held in conjunction with a host farm visit and pot luck supper at members' farms. Meetings often feature guest speakers addressing topics such as horse health care and breeding, land stewardship, insurance, and breed profiles.

Scope

Members of the Club have an interest in many draft breeds, whether they be of the traditional varieties such as Belgians, Clydesdales and Percherons, the Heritage breeds such as Canadians, Shires and Suffolk Punches, or the more recent arrivals to North America, such as Fjords, and Halflingers. Horses need not be purebred or registered in order to take part in Club events. In fact, mules and oxen have participated in Club events over the years, too!

Events

Every year, the Club hosts spring and fall field days, with teams performing such tasks as plowing, discing, log-skidding, and giving wagon rides. There is always good food and good music at the field

days! We have a display at the Farmersville Fair in Athens in July, and a Club wagon ride in the autumn. The Club also holds an annual Christmas Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction in November. Another favourite winter activity is the annual sleigh ride and pot luck lunch.

The Club is often invited to participate in special community events, such as IPM 2007, Tapping Out in sugar bushes, Prescott Gunboat Days and other Heritage events, and Agricultural Fair Parades, to name but a few.

Educational Outreach

Members also participate in educational outreach programs, and have been invited to give harnessing and field work demonstrations at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, and at the Old Log Farm in Nepean. Recently, the Club has been asked to provide farming demonstrations at local fairs. Some members have participated as instructors in the Eastern Ontario Workhorse Workshop, which which attracted participants from across North America.

Volunteer Activities

There are often opportunities to become involved in volunteer farm activities such as grain binding and thrashing, wood-cutting bees, sleigh and wagon rides, plowing,

spreading fertilizer, etc. All will help to expand the participants' knowledge of the draft animal experience.

Community Involvement

Members often attend meetings and special events hosted by horse clubs in the surrounding counties. The Leeds County Draft Horse Club always has a good representation at local plowing matches and at the International Plowing Match.

Invitation

The members of the Leeds County Draft Horse Club collectively represent a wealth of experience in dealing with horses, antique and modern horse-drawn equipment, horse logging, and farm management, and they are most willing to share this expertise with all who are interested. Come join us!

Contacts

President: Brian Henderson
(613) 926-1389

Vice President: Valerie Kirkwood
(613) 258-3851

Membership: Jean Shane
(613) 342-6454

Web Page:

www.igs.net/~vkirkwoodhp/lcdhc.htm

Leeds County Draft Horse Club Membership Form

Please mail completed membership form and a cheque for \$20.00 (cheque payable to Leeds County Draft Horse Club) for one family membership to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Jean Shane, Memberships
Leeds County Draft Horse Club
3164 Cty. Rd. 27, R.R. 1
Lyn, Ont.
K0E 1M0

Note: Membership runs from Nov. 1 of the current year to Oct. 31 of the following year