



THE OAK LEAF



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Important Dates

Oct 07

Sunday Smackdown @
Oakhurst

Oct 12

Oakhurst Movie Night

Oct 14

Coach Evaluations @
Oakhurst

WWCRD? (What Would Coach Ruth Do?)

The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler and the horses are getting fuzzier (some more than others). With the final Horse shows well under our belts we are starting to prep for winter. The exciting part about that is now we can concentrate on some fun stuff! This Sunday October 7th we are holding the first SMACK DOWN of the year. If you haven't been to one before, you should definitely expect to have some laughs, jump some cool things in the indoor, win exciting prizes and of course enjoy yourself, not to mention the winner has extreme bragging rights until the next Smack Down. Spectators and cheering are definitely a must! The games begin at 10:00am.

On Friday October 12th in the evening we will be holding our second ever Oakhurst movie night in the indoor arena. We will be making popcorn and hot chocolate to share with everyone so bundle up and join us for a relaxing evening and of course a horse movie. I am still open to requests for the movie selection so send me a message!

Sunday October 14th we are hosting a Coaching Evaluation so be sure to check the calendar and the white board for times when the arena will be closed to accommodate the evaluation.

A heads up that at the end of the month I will be on tour in Nova Scotia again to teach 4 days of clinics so there will be some shuffling of lessons in the schedule around that time.

We said goodbye this week to Michelle and her horses as she heads back to PEI. Thanks to social media she isn't far away by Instagram or Facebook so be sure to check in and see what Black horse and Spot are up to. As well, you may see a familiar face around the barn in the mornings starting next week as Blair Nicol is rejoining our mucking team.

I am busy working on a winter schedule of fun activities to help head off any winter blues and to keep everyone on target for an awesome 2019 show season (yup already planning 😊). As dates come together be sure to check the bulletin board in the barn and the online calendar. If you have requests for

Important Links

[Horse-Sport Review of Oakhurst3DE 2017](#)

[Equestrian Canada Memberships](#)

[Ontario Equestrian Memberships](#)

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winter activities please let me know (Rider Levels/Drill Team/Fun Shows/Video Clinics/Rabbit jumping/Games Club etc.)

Stay warm and let the fun begin!

Ruth

Stuff You Should Know

If you haven't found the Oakhurst Student page yet, check it out! You'll find a link to it from the top right menu on the Oakhurst Farm page. You'll need the password to get in, so email helen@oakhurstfarm.com if you need it! You'll find showteam info, our downloadable app and the lesson schedule in there.

Helen's Top 10...

Memorable Moments of Show Season 2018

The 2018 show season for TeamO was a brilliant one - and so many wonderful memories were made. This is my list of ten that stand out in my memory – but narrowing down to just 10 is a very difficult task given the fabulousness of the crew!

10. That time the team at Tandalee HT took a 'duckface' pic with the Knowlton Duck.



OK. They tried. Mostly. Lol.

9. That time Coach Ruth spent 47 hours coaching at a competition. The actual coaching part of a competition is spread out over many phases, many students and lots of standing, walking and occasionally running to be where we need to be to support each of our athletes. Occasionally – not very often – every now and then, Coach Ruth actually comes to a complete stop for a minute. Of course when that happens, I have to take a pic!



She has literally coached her socks off this summer – between the usual routine in eastern Ontario and Quebec, coach Ruth also embarked on a “cross country Cross Country tour” this summer, visiting several provinces to support eventing far and wide. Inspiring eventers everywhere!

8. The Oakhurst Show Team grew again. TeamO is always evolving – new members join and experienced members spread their wings and go off to new adventures. Welcoming new team members and watching them learn from each other and build new relationships and memories as part of TeamO is always exciting for us. Those members who have moved on to new challenges will always be TeamO members – our family just keeps growing!

Anna & Zoe & Keelin - winning ribbons together at Quantum Derby!



7. Oakhurst held 3 events! Seriously – Oakhurst HT July 29, Oakhurst 3 Day Aug 23-26 and Oakhurst HT2 Sept 23. That’s a LOT of eventing! Over 250 XC rounds in competition. In one summer. Plus a derby and a dressage show. And XC Schooling days. This summer was full at home!

6. The great goldfish roundup. The water troughs in the turnout fields had some little algae-loving dwellers this summer. Ruth added some wildly expensive feeder goldfish (roughly worth a quarter each) to each water tub. Some grew significantly more than others - Sox and Mario's were quite large. The goldfish were (hopefully) all rounded up today and will be housed indoors for the winter. For the students who discovered their existence this summer it has been quite entertaining looking for them on treks out to the paddocks!



5. That time we stayed in a sketchy hotel with missing lights and the weird lemon flavored shampoo. Knowlton Quebec is a lovely town east of Lac Brome. Little cafes and restaurants are scattered through the town. I'm sure there are even some



6 lightbulbs must be reserved for the big spenders. Although too much light may highlight the bacterial growth.

very nice little hotels. We haven't found them yet. We stayed in an establishment that tried REALLY hard to be adequate. And maybe it was better than it could have been? But I'm not sure.

The shampoo came in little squeeze packets – like fast food ketchup. Which necessitated you opening it with your teeth when wet. But tasted very lemony when you managed to get it open. With your teeth. We felt VERY clean.

4. That time we showed up at Harmony HT with 15 competitors. It's amazing how many of us love taking the trip to Beaulieu Farm in Ste. Justine de Newton, QC (don't try to find it on a map, its not big enough to be a dot yet). With only 1 trip to an emergency room (allergies – totally not riding related), and a lot of VERY SWEATY fun spent enjoying our horses in the sun, Harmony was another successful weekend in our summer!



3. Hanging out with the stars of Canadian Eventing. It has been an exciting summer for eventing, with the World Equestrian Games running in North Carolina in September. A few of the athletes competing for Team Canada Eventing also event locally. As the first rider on course at WEG for Team Canada, Colleen Loach and her equine partner Qorry Blue D'Argouges were the very first to go out on the XC course at the WEG. As the pathfinder for the team – and arguably the other competitors too – Colleen had the daunting task of finding the best way around the course – the best lines, approaches, distances and options. Colleen rode the course like it was built just for her. She owned it. And she made jumping up a waterfall look like a ridiculously easy thing that she practiced every day. No one had any idea how hard the course was until people started taking swimming lessons a few horses later.

I like to think that we played a small part in some of the Canadian team athletes preparation for the International competitions. As they compete against TeamO competitors on their younger horses at local competitions, we give them a real workout trying to stay in the ribbons. Although we also totally fangirl, and ask for pictures – to show how tight we all are!



Colleen Loach, Emma & Alexa - Prelim at Tandalee HT

2. **Foshay.** The newest CIC1* in Canada (NB) – also running the new division EV1.05m (pre-preliminary, FEI Intro, whatever you want to call it). The trip to this competition was a real goal for some of the team and was a wildly fun week for those who went! For a first competition on the International stage, Team O put on an impressive show of skill, ability, grace under pressure and team spirit – and had wonderful results. And if you want to know more, ask Elyse, who tells me she is DEFINITELY going back.



1. **The jogs during the Oakhurst 3 day.** OK, lets be honest. There was one jog outfit in particular that we all remember. One jog outfit that stood out for it's epic greatness. The wearer's complete commitment to her theme and her team. The jog outfit that made us question why we hadn't thought of doing something similar. From the team "The Brit, The Bloke and the Blonde":



Meg Quinn. Epic Jog Outfit Greatness

I can hardly wait for next summer to make more memories. Although a little sleep might be nice.

Helen