

alpaca

O N T A R I O

Volume II Issue I

Alpaca Ontario
March 2003

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Dates to Remember in 2003

- April 11 - nominations for AO Board of Directors
- April 15 - notify R. Quigley of Silent Auction item submission
- April 26 & 27 - AO Alpaca Show & Alpaca Fibre Seminar
- August 31 - submission deadline for the Fall newsletter (send us your articles and pictures)
- June 6, 7 & 8, Ontario-Hand Spinners' Seminar

Mission Statement

Alpaca Ontario represents the collective interests of Alpaca Owners and Breeders in Ontario to actively promote the awareness of the Alpaca and related fibre industry, encourage through education the highest quality Alpaca husbandry and breeding practices, and foster interaction among its members.

Letter from the President

It would have been difficult to predict the success of a new organization established to promote co-operation and mutual success for those who chose to be in the alpaca business, but here it is already. This totally volunteer run organization has already created more tangible output in the first year of its inception than most small businesses with full time committed employees.

Not only did we have a very successful 1st Annual Alpaca Show in Carp, we had over 40 alpacas registered. Special thanks to Caecelia Goetze, Nancy Carr and Judy Loukras.

Our first year as a group at the Royal Winter Fair saw double the volume of serious leads for interested people, but more significantly the booth was managed on a daily basis by 17 Alpaca Ontario farm representatives. Special thanks to Judy Loukras for co-ordinating these efforts.

Our new website is operational thanks to Nicole Okun, and special thanks to Susan Garret for taking over the ongoing management. Susan has evolved the site to become a sophisticated representation of the quality that our association aspires for.

We have created a very professional Alpaca Ontario flyer for



Greg Precop (foreground) and Henry Mengers (back) Manage the booth at The Royal Winter Fair

fairs and farm hand-outs with thanks to Nancy Stewart. Our first Alpaca Ontario newsletter was successfully managed by Hanne & Robert Quigley, and this edition represents the further enhancements of their efforts toward continuous improvement.

Already Alpaca Ontario has become involved as a representative for our farm members specifically in the new provincial pending legislation known as Bill 81. Rainer Goetze has taken on this task and is receiving a very co-operative response from our government.

Our by-laws continue to evolve to the point where our leadership and role in Eastern Canada is becoming increasingly defined. Special thanks to David Stewart and his role in orches-

trating this document.

Our objective is simply to enroll as members all those engaged in the business of raising Alpacas. Provide this membership with a forum to share their ideas and co-operate in the continuous growth of this industry. Promote excellence in Alpaca husbandry and ensure that all members practice high standards of animal care as a pre-requisite to their affiliation with Alpaca Ontario. In our course of conducting business we will gain strength and wisdom from other organizations by establishing strong affiliations with CABA, CLAA, AOBA, and ICI. Our collective message is simple....**Quality!**

Pat Harrison

President, Alpaca Ontario

Livestock Medicines Education Program

Impending government legislation, expected for April 2003, will require a certificate showing successful completion of the Livestock Medicines Education Program. The course will be necessary in order to buy certain over-the-counter livestock medicines from stores such as feed or farm supply stores - this would include injectable dewormers and antibiotics. Full information on the course is available on the website www.ontariolivestockmed.com or by phoning 1-877-480-9992 (Ridgetown College, University of Guelph).

The course pamphlet states that

the objective of the course is to enhance food safety and consumer confidence, to minimize risks to animals and humans, to improve animal health and performance, to learn that diagnosis is the basis for all livestock medicine use, and to decrease costs through correct dosing and reduced wastage.

The course is offered at different locations throughout the province, and those locations can be found on the website. There are courses for different livestock commodities, such as beef cattle or dairy cattle or sheep and goats; even if you

raise more than one type of animal, you only need to take one course. There is no course on alpacas or llamas and it is suggested that if your commodity is not available, the beef course is the most generic. The course runs usually from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and presently costs \$50. Once funding from the Agricultural Adaptation Council runs out, the cost will be \$100.

To get the certificate, you must attend the course and pass the open book exam. A phone call ascertained that the topics covered in the course are injection sites (obviously

the injection sites in beef cattle, not alpacas), disposal of sharps (needles), reading of labels, calculation of doses, withdrawal times (this means how long you have to wait after a medication is given before the animal can be slaughtered for consumption), record-keeping, and farm safety (the woman on the phone said she thought this was to do with pesticides). The phone call also ascertained that you will NOT need the certificate in order to buy livestock medicines from your veterinarian.

Nancy Carr

Education - Alpaca Ontario

A Royal Success



Our organization, Alpaca Ontario, was very well represented at this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

Our prime location, attractive booth,

enthusiastic volunteers and extremely cute Alpaca ambassadors made this a very successful show.

We doubled the number of leads that the same Qolmesa booth

received last year at the Royal. Many of the leads were of better quality than in the past.

Many people had heard of alpacas and have been actively researching the business.

We handed out approximately 3000 flyers which gave a brief description of alpacas, a few pictures and the website address to find a farm to visit. As a member your farm is listed on

the website, so you may receive calls from some of the interested Royal attendees.

Thank-you and congratulations to the entire Ontario Alpaca community for a very successful event.

Judy Loukras

Chair, Event Committee

Alpaca Ontario

Second Annual Alpaca Ontario Show and Alpaca Fibre Seminar April 26th & 27th 2003

"Dinner on Saturday evening is an opportunity for all participants to meet and socialize."

We are busy preparing for the Alpaca Show at the Carp Fairgrounds in Carp (just west of Ottawa).

Last year's successful show taught us what the judge is looking for, and how things actually work in the show ring. This year we are expecting an even bigger turn out.

The judge will be Cathy Merkley.

Cathy has been accredited as a judge by the International Judging School in Peru, and is in the process of certifying as an AOBA judge. Together with Trudy McCall, Cathy operates T'n'C Farms in Saskatchewan - they have a herd of over 20 alpacas. Cathy is very active in the alpaca industry. She has served on the CLAA Fibre Committee, chaired Alpaca Fest

2002, and in October presented seminars on alpaca fibre at the CLAA convention in Lethbridge.

The committee is excited to offer a seminar by Cathy Merkley and Trudy McCall

(continued on page 3)



Second Annual Alpaca Ontario Show and Alpaca Fibre Seminar April 26th & 27th 2003

(Continued from page 2)

on alpaca shearing, and sorting and grading of fibre, on the day after the show - Sunday April 27, also at Carp Fairgrounds. Trudy McCall is an alpaca shearer and is on the board of the Canadian Camelid Fibre Co-op (CanCam). She is a hand spinner, feltmaker, crocheter, and rugmaker, and has a true appreciation for alpaca fibre. She will demonstrate how to shear alpacas - both for producing a fleece to enter in a fleece show and for sending fleece to be processed. She will shear 8 alpacas. There will be 2 shearing tables avail-

able and you may shear your own alpaca, under Trudy's guidance. Cathy Merkley will be speaking on fibre from the breeding aspect, and for processing by the mills. Bring your own fleeces and learn hands-on how to sort and grade under Cathy's supervision.

Dinner on Saturday evening is an opportunity for all participants to meet and socialize (and talk about alpacas of course). Also, this year we're inviting you to take part in a Silent Auction in support of ICI (see details on page 5).

We are seeking volunteers for the social part of the upcoming show - looking after the coffee breaks and setting up the dining hall for lunch and dinner. Also, if you are a good photographer, we are looking for someone to take pictures of the Alpaca Show winners.

Volunteers can contact one of the board of directors. (see page 9)

We look forward to seeing you and your animals at the show.

*Alpaca Ontario Show Committee,
Nancy Carr, Caecilia Goetze
(Chair), Judy Loukras*

Seeking: Energetic Person with a Common Vision & Interested in Becoming an Alpaca Ontario Board Member

The demands are not overly onerous, as we have been very realistic in our undertakings. On the other hand, we have accomplished a lot in just one year.

In addition to attending the 3 Saturday board meetings per year, (N. of Kingston) you may choose to sit on a committee that is responsible for a special aspect of the organization that interests you. Currently all committees are being managed. Therefore, you might start by joining a committee.

Most interactions take place via e-mail.

The communication thus far has been very smooth. That is why we need to keep adding people that will compliment our energy and common vision. We welcome nominations to the Board on or before April 11, 2003 by 5:00 p.m. For details, please get in touch with one of the directors, found on page 9 of this newsletter issue.

Training Your Alpaca For The Show Ring

Halter Classes are judged 50% on conformation and 50% on fibre.

As the handler of your alpaca, you can have a significant influence on the placing that you earn in a halter class. It is your task to show the judge that your animal has straight legs and good balance - proper training and handling of your alpaca are essential. If you are constantly tugging on the lead rope, and towing your alpaca around the show ring, the judge will be unable to accurately evaluate your animal. The animal that moves freely and briskly forward, looks alert, and carries itself proudly, will appear to be a better animal than the one that has all four legs braced, refusing to advance around the show ring.

Here are some training tips that you can use, which will

lead to success in the show ring.

Practise putting a halter on your alpaca, until you can do it calmly.

Practise leading your alpaca, until you can do it calmly.

Practise standing still with your alpaca, until you and your alpaca can stand together calmly - position the alpaca so he stands with all four legs squarely under him.

Practise touching your alpaca in the blanket area, until he accepts it calmly.

Practise touching your alpaca all over its body, until he accepts your touch calmly - on the legs, on the head, and on the belly.

Practise showing your alpaca's bite to the judge, and handling his mouth, until you can do it calmly.

Desensitize newborns - no cuddling allowed!

Start halter lessons as soon as the animal is weaned (about 6 months old).

Brief daily lessons are more effective than intermittent sessions.

Take two 'trainees' at a time - alpacas are herd animals, and 'misery loves company'.

Try taking a 'trainee' for a walk with a well-trained animal - this calms the youngster.

Use 'tug-and-release' messages to teach you animal to lead on a loose rein.

*Jane Tellier, AOBA,
ALSA, and IAJS*



Jane Tellier Judging at the First Alpaca Ontario show in Carp, Ontario.

Update of Activities for Canada Alpaca Breeders Association - CABA National Advertising Campaign 2002 and New Website



CABA- In 2002 CABA placed 1/3 page ads in Harrowsmith Magazine (4 issues), Westjet Airline Magazine (1 issue) and Canadian Gardening (1 issue).

The ad highlights raising alpacas as a lifestyle choice for the whole family directing visitors to the CABA website has been updated and redesigned to offer exposure and marketing tools for members.

Requests for information packages in 2002 totaled 242, compared to 95 in 2001; this is an increase of 250%.

Advertising will continue in 2003 in Harrowsmith Magazine and

Rural Delivery, a maritime publication.

Visitors recorded on the CABA website www.caba-alpaca.org are growing steadily and recorded 2222 cyber visitors in January 2003 with 106,689 hits.

An article entitled *All About Alpacas* in the Harrowsmith Magazine Jan/Feb issue contributed to raising the profile of the animal even more; CABA and the Canadian Camelid Fibre Co-op (Can Cam) benefited by having website addresses listed at the end of the article.

The website's monthly lead list which is accessible to members totaled 46 in January. The ability to monitor inquiries via website records indicated the majority came from Ontario. Alberta had the second highest number of inquiries.

Through our national advertising campaigns the promotion of the alpaca has gained tremendous momentum. We need the support of all alpaca breeders for continued growth.

Caecilia Goetze

CABA President

Website/Advertising

Update of Activities for Canadian Llama and Alpaca Association- CLAA Alpaca Marketing Campaign 2003

CLAA- The Marketing Committee was fortunate to book air time for our 30 second commercial with:

CBC Newsworld

Good living Sponsorship airs Monday-Friday between 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We booked this time slot from Jan.-April for 13 weeks and again from Aug.-Dec. for 21 weeks.

CBC News Sunday 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. is featuring the commercial every Sunday from Jan-March and Aug-Sept.

Antiques Roadshow Saturday 2:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. til April 7

Total audience reach is 12,765,000

CBC Network Primetime

'Witness' every other Thursday Jan-May

Country Canada every other Sunday 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan-May

Nature of Things every other Thursday Sept-Nov 2003

Total reach of audience: 10,085,000

The printed advertising with Canadian Geographic will continue until July 2003.

Total Readership is 4, 599,000

As you can see the commercial is

aired in high frequency and covers a large audience.

The marketing campaign is working. The website www.alpacainfo.ca recorded over 2000 visitors for the month of January. Our log files show that visitors from Ontario make up the highest number followed by Alberta.

Caecilia Goetze

CLAA Alpaca Marketing

Committee



"...the marketing campaign is working"



Dr. Anderson's Lecture at the CLAA Conference October 2002

Dr. Anderson, noted alpaca and llama vet from Ohio State University, spoke at the CLAA conference in Lethbridge in October, 2002. Here are some of the notes I took during his lecture.

On Breeding

17 - 22 days is the length of time for one individual follicle in the ovary to go through a 'wave' of development. Approximately every 11 days there is a follicle capable of being ovulated (i.e. at the right level of maturity that an egg would be released with the stimulation of breeding). There is a 95% chance of the female getting pregnant with breeding on the upswing of follicular development - when the follicle is going from 8 to 12 mm in size. On the downswing (when the follicle is starting to regress in size), there is a 55% chance of getting pregnant. It is best to breed only once at peak receptivity. Copulation causes a surge of LH (luteinizing hormone) from the brain and it is the LH that causes ovulation; the surge of LH depletes the LH and there is none left 24 hours later, meaning there is no point breeding 24 hours later - it only traumatizes the lining of the uterus. After 2 -3 days there may be enough LH again to induce ovulation if the first breeding was not successful, but the best scenario is one breeding only at peak receptivity. Over-breeding is the single most common cause of uterine infections and failure to conceive.

With 'hand breeding', males tend to be aggressive breeders and may get even a pregnant female down. With 'pasture breeding', the males tend to know which females are at peak receptivity, and there is not usually indiscriminate breeding.

Breeding behaviour of the female is partly hormonal and partly learned. It is associated with follicle size and influenced by levels of estradiol and progesterone. Ovulation only occurs when the follicle size is greater than 8 mm. (maximum size is 12 mm.) Ovulation may occur even without copulation - such as the female observing a breeding from the other side of a fence. Semen in the uterus can stimulate ovulation. There is therefore a combination of things causing ovulation: psychological, stimulation of the cervix, and semen in the uterus. When the female has a dominant follicle (at the right size for ovulation) she will either approach the male or not run away; she will kush for the male usually within 1 minute (occasionally it may be 2 -3 minutes).

There are a lot of males with small testicles - an undesirable thing. Testicles in males at different ages should be at least as big as follows:

12 months old: 2.3 in. long and 1.5 in. wide

18 months old: 2.8 in. long and 1.8 in. wide

24 months old: 3.3 in. long and 2.2 in. wide

adult : > 3.5 in. long and >2.5 in. wide

Semen volume is usually 1.5 - 2 ml.

Duration of breeding ranges from 10 to 60 minutes, with an average of 20 minutes. Dr. Anderson said he didn't agree with removing the male after he had bred a certain length of time, although he did admit he probably would after an hour.

Frequency of breeding by the male (that is, breeding several females) affects fertility and the duration of the breeding. Increased frequency of breeding leads to decreased duration. He had figures showing breeding 2 times a day resulted in 15 minute breedings, 4 times a day resulted in 12 minute breedings and 6 times a day resulted in 10 minute breedings. If the male is used 2 times a day there is a 76% conception rate, 4 times a day is 77% conception rate (as long as that isn't every day) and 6 times a day is

59% conception rate. He advised to keep track of a male's typical breeding time; if his breeding time starts to decrease significantly, then cut down his breedings to give him a 'rest'.

Post partum fertility: Follicle cycles begin by day 7. Breeding at 10 days postpartum resulted in 66% ovulation rate with 55% conception rate, and of those, 76% maintained the pregnancy. Breeding at 20 days post partum resulted in 80% ovulation rate with 78% conception rate, and 88% maintenance of pregnancy. Breeding at 30 days post partum resulted in 85% ovulation rate with 85% conception rate, and 95 % maintenance of pregnancy. He favours 20 days post partum for breeding.

Fetal Mortality: Total fetal loss is 25%

Days of Gestation	Fetal loss
30 - 40	5%
40 - 60	3%
60 - 80	4%
80 - 100	2%
100 - 120	2%

The 4th to the 7th month of gestation is the safest time to do things to a pregnant alpaca, such as shipping. If a female is going a long distance to be bred, she should probably stay to 60 - 90 days of pregnancy.

Birth weights of autumn born cria tend to be higher than birth weights of spring born cria. Most of the fetal weight is put on in the last few months of pregnancy as there is more nutrition from the green grass of spring and summer than from hay in the winter. Average birth weight of cria in Ohio is 17 pounds.

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Dr. Anderson's Lecture at the CLAA Conference October 2002

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Study of Morbidity (Illness) and Mortality (Death) of Cria in Ohio:

For this study (involving 2 llama and 2 alpaca farms) they looked at the season of birth, whether it was a difficult birth, whether it was an assisted birth, gender of the cria, birth weight, IgG levels, whether supplement was given, and daily weight gain.

Mortality was 2.1%; incidence of neonatal disease was 16.4%; of those the biggest problem (22.9%) was diarrhea. 16.2% had umbilical hernias.

Cria who had a difficult birth were 4 times more likely to have morbidity than cria with a normal birth.

Cria born in the fall were more likely to have morbidity than cria born in the other seasons.

Lowest rate of morbidity was for those born in the spring.

Farm management had a significant effect on morbidity - He did not elaborate on farm management other than to say that the bigger farms had more problems with hygiene. One assumes management has to do with things such as manure clean-up and whether there is over-crowding.

Interestingly, IgG level was not found to be significantly associated with outcome by any morbidity, and morbidity was not associated with whether supplement was given, or average daily weight gain.

Biosecurity

This is to do with the risk of your alpacas contracting disease or parasites from other alpacas - such as from females brought to your farm for breeding or from contact with other animals at shows. The biggest risk is parasites; the alpacas could also get salmonella, clostridium, or Johne's disease. The second biggest problem is fungal skin infections and mange and lice. There are some viruses that could be transmitted as well. When new alpacas are brought to the farm, they should be put in isolation pens or pastures with no fence line contact, or other contact, with the present alpacas. The isolation period should be 14 - 30 days during which de-worming and immunizations could be done if warranted and there could be a vet inspection. The animals should be inspected for lice, mange, and ear ticks. Even more ideal would be to keep visiting alpacas separate from your own herd for the entire time they are at your farm. If your alpacas have been away and are returning to your farm, they also should go through the isolation procedure. He suggested high pressure washing for trailers. Worms (parasites) and their larvae usually die off in 2 - 3 weeks if the environment is dry and sunny (and the poop piles have been cleared up) - i.e. when the animals leave the isolation area, manure should be removed, and if the weather is dry and sunny it should be safe to put animals in after 3 weeks - longer if the weather has been wet.

De-Worming

If more than 7 alpacas per 2 acres (grazing full-time), should de-worm 3 - 4 times a year. If stocking density is low, can de-worm 1 - 2 times a year. The strategic times for de-worming are the end of spring (at the start of

hot dry weather) and the end of fall. He ends not to de-worm females during the first 2 and last 2 months of pregnancy. He starts de-worming cria about 4 months of age. If whipworms or nematodirus are identified, he suggests a fenbendazole 'flush' - using fenbendazole at a dose of 20 mg./ kg. body weight (1 cc per 9 - 10 pounds body weight) daily for 5 days in a row. He recommends Stohl's technique for parasite identification - the usual fecal flotation technique is not as sensitive.

Pastures

Some grasses with concerns are ryegrass, fescue grass, and alfalfa and clover (the legumes). A fungus in ryegrass roots can cause ryegrass staggers (from a neurotoxin). If ryegrass is already there and there are no problems, then don't bother replacing it; but don't plant it if you are seeding pasture. There is a familial tendency to get the neurological symptoms from the neurotoxin from the fungus - i.e. not all animals are susceptible to the neurotoxin that causes ryegrass staggers. Fescue grass can be infected with an endophyte that can cause poor milking or prolonged gestation - this may not really be a problem in alpacas. If an animal is not used to legumes, they may cause bloat or colic.

Excess legumes will cause increased levels of calcium and potassium, and obesity. In very dry weather the other grasses in pasture may go dormant, leaving only the legumes - therefore should feed hay as well at those times. In Ohio they use a mixture of cool weather and hot weather grasses - one of his students is working on a report about different pasture grasses for camelids. Palatability of the grasses is very important; also there should be a variety of grasses, not just one type. What is suitable for sheep pasture in your area is probably OK. The nutritional value of mature grass is about 30% lower than of growing grass.

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Dr. Anderson's Lecture at the CLAA Conference October 2002

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Miscellaneous Tidbits

If a cria has diarrhea at one day old, the likely cause is E.Coli; at 10 days old, it's likely cryptosporidium; at 3 - 4 weeks old, it's likely coccidia.

Nasolacrimal duct obstruction is not uncommon and would present as recurrent eye infections (Occasionally a tooth abscess or sinus infection can also present with eye and nose discharge.)

Cria in their first winter should receive supplemental vitamin D (he gives this S.C., not IM) and a dose of 1,000 to 2,000 i.u. per kg. of body weight lasts 60 - 90 days.

There may be a normal WBC (white blood

cell count) on lab test even with a fulminant infection. An increased fibrinogen level is helpful in indicating infection.

In diet, the ratio of calcium to phosphorous is better at 1.2:1 to 1.4:1, rather than 2:1.

Usually you do not want more than 20 - 30% of the diet in concentrates ('pellets' and grain) - he breaks this rule in heavily lactating females.

A male with vague signs (uncomfortable, lying around) may have a stone blocking his bladder - do an ultrasound to visualize the bladder. If the vet puts a catheter in the bladder (this will relieve the obstruction, and therefore decreases the pain and swelling) about 70% of the stones will pass on their own.

The amount of copper and its ratio to mo-

lybdenum is important. The copper to molybdenum ratio should be 4 - 8 : 1. Total copper in diet should probably be 25 - 30 ppm. In Ohio, the grass and hay has about 7 ppm copper. In a group of llamas that died of copper toxicity, it was because there was no molybdenum in their diet. It is very important that minerals be balanced.

In premature births, the 3 main problems for the cria are lungs, gut, and infection. For the lungs, he suggests low dose aminophylline: 2 mg./kg. body weight every 4 hours for 2 - 3 days. To avoid gut problems, only give the cria 1 oz. at a time - this means feeding about hourly. Usually give a plasma transfusion and put on prophylactic antibiotics.

Nancy Carr

Education - Alpaca Ontario

Alpaca Fleece to be Highlighted at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar 2003

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar is an annual weekend event for spinners to improve their skills, learn new techniques, or about new fibres, buy from spinning suppliers, and socialize with other spinners. (This event is for people who already have at least basic spinning skills.)

This year's seminar is being held on June 6, 7, and 8 at the University of Guelph and the theme is Camelid Carnival - featuring alpaca, llama and camel.

Hanne Quigley of Silent Valley Alpaca will be speaking on the alpaca itself and its care from the farmer's point of view. Nancy Carr of Silver Cloud Alpacas will be presenting a full day workshop on spinning alpaca - an expanded version of the workshop she gave at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar in Kingston in 2002. More exposure for alpacas!

For more information on the Ontario Handspinning Seminar, contact the registrar Hazel Alexander, (519) 822-9390 or ghalexander@rogers.com



Big Changes to the Alpaca Ontario Website

If you have not recently visited the Alpaca Ontario Website, you'll be pleasantly surprised to see what our new site manager, Susan Garrett has created.

Susan's hard work has developed the site into a high-level illustration of Alpaca Ontario's requirements.

Up to date information includes an outstanding selection of the handsome males donated for stud service for the Gold Sponsorship Level at our April 26th show in Carp

Susan's hours of dedication and skill are evident throughout the new site. You can visit the site at www.alpacaontario.org

Hanne Quigley
Editor, Alpaca Ontario



Thank You to Our Past Directors

All organizations draw on the expertise and abilities of their Directors and Members. As you read through this issue of your newsletter, you will see the contributions of some of the many dedicated volunteers that make your organization possible.

Even as this issue goes to print, new important articles are in the works. Behind the scenes other volunteers are working on documents and putting

the last minute touches on AO's Alpaca Show.

AO is extremely fortunate to have people with such diverse talents that give selflessly of their time and their gifts.

As AO's first year draws to a close, the Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the participation of three past directors of AO, Teresa Hilborn, Nancy Lavigne and Nicole

Okun. Thank you for your part in our first year of operation.

Without you, Alpaca Ontario would not be where it is today.

Best wishes for your future in the industry.

From the Board of Directors,
Alpaca Ontario

Membership Report for Alpaca Ontario as of Jan. 2003

There are now 35 members of Alpaca Ontario counting in 9 new members who have joined for the 2003 year already. Membership renewals have gone out with the mailing about the Alpaca Ontario Show and Fleece and Shearing Workshop - it's on the registration form. There are 20 founding members, and we are very grateful for their financial support. Founding members will be listed as such on the list of Alpaca Ontario members.

Founding members will be listed as such in perpetuity on the list of Alpaca Ontario members. A list of all members and of founding members is on the AO web-site www.alpacaontario.org.

Only paid up members will be able to vote at the Alpaca Ontario AGM to be held during lunch on the day of the Alpaca Show (April 26, at Carp) and there is only one vote per farm

membership. Please encourage all your alpaca contacts to join Alpaca Ontario - a membership form is included with the newsletter.

Nancy Carr
Membership, Alpaca Ontario



A Year in the life of an Alpaca Rancher

If we had known our lives would change this much, would we do all this again?

We began preparations in the Fall of 2001 for the arrival of our seven alpacas to our new ranch.

We purchased the property in mid October. In November, we had power to the barn to heat water bowls and we had lights. After considerable thought, we tapped into an existing water supply and went underground to pumps in the barn.

It was December when we started fencing. We knew we were pushing our luck. In January 2002, we began a major

barn renovation. We had our small tin barn changed into a timber frame alpaca barn.

Our good fortune had run out and as a result, our fencing was not completed before the snow came.

Other unforeseen problems hindered our progress as well. Septic problems in our home meant that we needed an entirely new system put in. We had to have a bull dozer come and change some dangerous areas where the alpacas might hurt themselves and to allow for our fencing and haying.

In some respects, the snow was a welcome sight. It hid the

vicious scars left by all the digging that had gone on to put in the water, electricity, septic, and the changes in the lay of the land.

We thought we would be ready by early spring, if only we could get the remaining fencing up. Then the floods came. More water than we had ever seen. The banks of our "little" pond were so high that our alpaca pasture was a muddy sea.

We wondered if we would ever be ready.

I suppose for us, having alpacas was like having children. There is always something that still needs doing; and then they leave

home. It's the journey, not the destination (Scott Peck I think).

Anyway, this first year has been quite the adventure. Our alpacas did arrive in the Spring, and to answer the question would we do all this again? If you're an Alpaca Rancher you already know the answer.

About the Editor:

Hanne Quigley is the proud co-owner of Silent Valley Alpaca along with her husband Robert. The Ranch is situated in the beautiful countryside near Perth Ontario. Hanne welcomes your comments, pictures and articles for future issues. Please email to:

hannesturn@mazinaw.on.ca

Alpaca Ontario

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(905) 880-3757 nstewart@kpmg.ca

Silent Auction at the Alpaca Ontario Show

A new event this year at the Alpaca Ontario Show will help to raise funds for the International Camelid Institute (ICI).

Our first Silent Auction will feature new, high end gift items and services of all kinds.

We welcome your generous donations to the Auction. Items so far, include a 100% Canadian Alpaca hand knitted baby blanket, a turned Canadian hardwood bowl and a hand made wooden triangular coffee table box.

Farms and individuals providing items for the Silent Auction will be recognized in the Auction Item Directory. As well, items will be on display during the Alpaca show with a place card identifying the person or farm that donated the item.

Participate in the excitement of the evening and contribute your donation to help raise money for ICI.

The Auction will take place at the dinner on Saturday April 26th at the Carp Fair Grounds.

Please complete the Auction Submission form on page 11 of this newsletter and return on or before April 15th using email or the fax number provided on the form.

Again, thank you for contributing to this very worthwhile cause.

Robert & Hanne Quigley

Auction Committee,

Alpaca Ontario

Alpaca Ontario Inc.
www.alpacaontario.org

Working Together For Mutual Success

Alpaca Ontario Inc.
Box 2204
Ompah, ON K0H 2J0

Phone: 613-479-0307
Fax: 613-479-0308
Email: rquigley@mazinaw.on.ca



Mission Statement

Alpaca Ontario represents the collective interests of alpaca owners and breeders in Ontario to actively promote awareness of the alpaca and its related fibre industry, to encourage through education the highest quality alpaca husbandry and breeding practices, and to foster interaction among its members.

Membership Form

Name: _____
Farm Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Website address: _____

I would like to be included on the member list on the Alpaca Ontario website (no charge) Yes No
I would like to receive the newsletter by e mail Yes No

Annual farm membership fee:	\$100.00	_____
Annual link from AO website to your website	\$25.00	_____
Total		_____

All members are expected to comply with the bylaws in so far as they relate to the membership, including animal health care standards adopted from time to time by the board.

Please make cheque payable to Alpaca Ontario Inc., and mail to:

Nancy Carr
2719 Sumac Rd.,
RR# 1 Elginburg, Ontario,
KOH 1M0
613-376-3389



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Auction Item Submission Form

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Website address: _____

Item Title

Brief Description of
Item

Maker of Item (if
Applicable)

The Retail Value \$ _____

I Suggest an Initial
Bid Amount of \$ _____



Return on
or before
April 15th

Please fax or copy and paste this form to an email and send to:

Robert Quigley
Phone Number: (613) 479-0307
Fax Number: (613) 479-0308
Email: rquigley@mazinaw.on.ca