

October 2018

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## Welcome!

The Board of Directors is pleased to use this newsletter as a way to keep you up to date on what the Board and the organization in general has been doing. As well, we'll be including information that is relevant to our members: educational opportunities, medical updates, upcoming events and government programs. If you have anything you'd like included, please get in touch with Lynda Finbow at [splitrockfarmsbb@aol.com](mailto:splitrockfarmsbb@aol.com)

# ALPACA ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

## New in the Office....

Doug Lilleyman, our current Office Administrator and Treasurer, has offered his resignation from both positions effective October 31, 2018. Our current Board Member, George Wilson, of G&B Alpacas, Smithville, will assume the duties and responsibilities of Alpaca Ontario Treasurer and Office Administrator. This transition will take place between September 30 and October 31, 2018.

On behalf of the past and present Board of Directors, Past President Henry Mengers and all current members of Alpaca Ontario, a heartfelt thank you to Doug for his time, dedication and service over the past five years. It is the intention of the Lilleymans to remain active as A.O. members and to continue to pursue their passion for alpacas and alpaca fibre. We wish you all the best guys and we'll be seeing you around!



*We'd appreciate getting your photos so we can include them in our newsletter and in our branding...*

## GOT EVENTS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO INCLUDE HERE?

Send your event  
information to  
[info@alpacaontario.ca](mailto:info@alpacaontario.ca)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### October

- 2 BOD Monthly Meeting
- 2-8 Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show, Simcoe, Ontario
- 5-6 Snow Diamond Select Invitational Auction, Bend, Oregon
- 7 Rockton World's Fair Alpaca Show, Rockton, Ontario
- 13 Woodstock Fleece Festival, Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, Ontario
- 19-21 Lloydminster Alpaca Showcase, Lloydminster, SK
- 20-21 New York Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, New York
- 27-28 Fiber Expo, Ann Arbor, Michigan

### November

- 2-11 The 96th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, Ontario
- 3-4 Ottawa Valley Weavers & Spinners Guild Exhibition & Sale, Glebe Community Center, Ottawa, Ontario
- 4 BOD Monthly Meeting
- 4 Huron Tract Spinners & Weavers Showcase, Goderich, Ontario
- 9-10 NEOBA Alpaca Fall Spectacular, Syracuse, New York
- 10-11 Empire Alpaca Association Extravaganza, Syracuse, New York
- 13 Alpaca Ontario Strategic Planning Retreat, Lindsay, Ontario
- 17-18 Buckeye Alpaca Fall Fest, Tallmadge, Ohio
- 19-20 The Premiere Alpaca Event, Canada's Western Agribition, Regina, SK

### December

- 4 BOD Monthly Meeting

In an effort to encourage partnership with other fibre industries, we are interested in posting events that include ALL fibre producers. The Board of Director has begun fostering relationships with the Upper Canada Fibreshed and the Sheep Farmers of Ontario as we explore our shared concerns.

Do you have any tried and true tips for taking care of alpaca products? We'd love to hear them!

## UPCOMING EVENTS for early 2019:

### January

- 7-12 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Seven Day Agricultural Conference, Elmwood
- 8 BOD Monthly Meeting
- 23-24 Chatham-Kent Farm Show, John D. Bradley Convention Center, Chatham-Kent
- 24-27 38th Annual Guelph Organic Conference & Trade Show 2019, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario



### A Primer on How to Care for Your Alpaca Apparel and Products

When washing natural fibre items, DO NOT agitate them, as it causes felting and shrinking. Wash in cool water, preferably by hand (unless too large -- then dry clean) and dry flat. Never place any natural fibre, including alpaca, into a clothes dryer. If you choose to dry clean your items, you must always dry clean the same items -- don't fluctuate between washing by hand and dry cleaning because it is injurious to natural fibres. Remember that dry cleaning involves chemicals and that by using that method, you are negating the naturalness of your fibre.

Handwashing is recommended whenever possible as follows:

- fill basin or sink with cool water & use mild detergent;
- swish item(s) around in water;
- rinse with cool water; and lightly wring. Place flat to dry.

**Note:**

Alpaca dries quickly and doesn't require the constant washing or cleaning as in synthetics or wool because it contains no lanolin -- therefore, less dirt is attracted and moisture wicks away. Socks, for instance, do not need the frequent washing required by other fibres and can be worn many more times before cleaning is necessary.

If you find you must wash by machine, do so as follows:

- fill machine with cool water and mild detergent;
- agitate water only to dissolve soap;
- stop machine and add item to be washed;
- plunge up and down gently by hand a few times;
- let soak 15 - 20 minutes;
- gently rinse and spin dry at slow speed;
- remove item and lay flat to dry -- DO NOT use clothes dryer.

**Take good care of your alpaca item and it will take good care of you!!!!**



**The Meat Issue - as it relates to the Show**

At the 2018 Alpaca Ontario Spring Show, it was brought to the attention of the B.O.D. and the Show Steering Committee that certain vendors were promoting and selling alpaca meat at their respective booths. There were many who took exception.

Concerning this matter, please find the Alpaca Ontario, Inc. response to this issue as of December 2013:

*In an effort to be open and upfront about this issue, members are encouraged to breach this topic with potential clients to make them aware of the reality in our Canadian market. To further encourage and reinforce this focus, Alpaca Ontario wishes to prevent conflict between these two camps by adopting a policy for use at our A.O. events.*

*The Motion passed at the December 2013 meeting reads: "Whereas the focus of Alpaca Ontario is the promotion of quality fibre and its uses, be it resolved that the display of alpaca hides or promotion of alpaca meat will not be permitted at Alpaca Ontario events/shows. The Board of directors respects each Alpaca Ontario member in his/her farm's decision to participate in any or all of these practices but will not condemn nor condone the use of hides or meat in a farm business plan."*

/s/ Henry Mengers, President, Alpaca Ontario

## 2019 Membership Renewal Information & Procedures

Membership information will be sent out shortly...

Your Board of Directors has committed to a new strategy for the renewal of your Alpaca Ontario membership. The savings period for pre-renewal will commence on January 1st of each year and run through the last day in February. If your pre-renewal takes place during that 2-month time period, your cost will be \$125.00 per year, including taxes, for a savings of \$75.00.

The actual membership period will be from March 1 through the end of February the following year. If you choose not to pre-renew from January through February, the full fee of \$200.00 per year, including taxes, will be charged.

Associate Membership is \$75.00, taxes included, and Junior Membership is \$25.00, taxes included, for the same time period explained above.

Visit-a-Farm listing is included in both Individual and Farm memberships only.

It's really easy to get your clients a free initial membership when they buy animals from you... just email their name and contact information to

[info@alpacaontario.ca](mailto:info@alpacaontario.ca)

And we'll let them know that they will receive a FREE membership until Jan 1.

**Members who sell animals to new farms should notify the Board of their names so that a free membership until January 1st of the following year can be offered to them.**

We cannot begin to stress enough how important it is to be a member of your local association to learn about issues and general information pertaining just to us. Of course, individual provinces differ in their guidelines and rules. Stay on top of the alpaca industry with your membership to A.O.

There are a myriad of really exciting webinars being planned for the upcoming months that affect our animals and our businesses. These are great because you don't have to travel anywhere to be included and the knowledge gained is indeed priceless. Too, the A.O. Spring Show brings with it some wonderful events and positive changes with the Walking Fleece and Halter Ring shows that are destined to become even bigger and more welcoming.

Your membership dues also place you in the know concerning any upcoming legislation for alpacas and owners/breeders, as well as alpaca health info and tips on running a healthy farm benefitting you and your animals alike. Not to be excluded are all that you will be learning about fibre production and the marketing of your product. Since quarterly Newsletters are only sent to A.O. members, you'll not want to miss out on those either. BE AN A.O. MEMBER -- STAY IN THE KNOW!



Cathy Merkley at the 2018 Spring Show

Be sure to enter in time for the 2019 AO Spring Show, being held April 27 and 28 at the West Niagara Agricultural Center.

## Mary Ann English Spin Off - a history

Please be sure to save a 50g amount of fibre from each alpaca whose fibre you're curious about. Our expert 2019 show spinners will spin and judge your fleece -- you never know -- that unsuspecting alpaca fleece may surprise you.

**Who was Mary Ann English anyway?** Mary Ann English and her family owned Sandy Ridge Alpacas, one of the first few alpaca farms in Ontario. Very early on, Mary Ann realized the value of alpaca fiber and together with Caecilia Goetze (formerly Scorry Breck Alpacas) was one of the first graduates of the Certified Sorter Program. Mary Ann was eager to learn everything about fiber and was always ready to share her newly acquired knowledge. She was also one of the first organizers of the Navan Fair Alpaca Show in Eastern Ontario. During a trip to Louisville, Kentucky with Caecilia to attend the Annual Big Alpaca Show of the former AOBA organization, the idea of bringing a spin-off competition to Canada was born. Mary Ann was interested in promoting and fostering the fiber aspect of the Canadian Alpaca scene and was eager and willing to organize a spin-off show based on the concept of the AOBA Spin Off Show with adjustments for Canadian Alpaca fiber valuations. In the midst of preparing the guidelines for the Spin Off Show, she became very ill and was unable to continue with her vision. The task of bringing the show to its fruition was assumed by Caecilia. Sadly, Mary Ann did not experience the success of the First Canadian Spin Off Competition held in conjunction with the Ontario Show in Orangeville in 2008.

Caecilia campaigned to have the Spin Off Competition named the "Mary Ann English Spin-Off" to honor her friend's alpaca fiber pioneering spirit and her love and thorough knowledge of alpaca fiber. It has remained that ever since and can be considered just a small token of the love the alpaca industry continues to carry for everything Mary Ann was. A sincere thanks to Caecilia for carrying this through to completion.

Even though the alpaca industry is young (just a few decades, really) compared with other types of livestock (the sheep industry is hundreds of years old), each owner/breeder leaves a legacy pertaining to their individual alpaca journey. This in small part is that legacy of Mary Ann English.

For further information on the 2019 Spin-Off Competition, please contact Barb Yarema at [alpacaryder@gmail.com](mailto:alpacaryder@gmail.com) or visit the Alpaca Ontario website.

**Note:** A "big thanks" to Caecilia Goetze for her part in providing background for the Mary Ann English story, as well as to Barb Yarema.



Peter Poot shears at the 2018 Spring Show

## ARI-Registered Alpacas in Competition

In an effort to remain current and actively promote the highest quality alpaca husbandry and breeding practices, thus supporting the fibre industry, it has been suggested to allow a one-year trial to accept a one-time participation of ARI-registered alpacas recorded with CLAA at 0% at various shows throughout Ontario. It is hoped such participation will boost show participation.

Alpacas that DO NOT MEET the CLAA requirements for full registration (having 8 great grandparents) will be allowed to show with the proof of the Letter of Record from CLAA.

Alpacas from foreign registries that do qualify for CLAA registration will still be required to have that registration.

This allowance will be a trial for the entire 2019 Show Year and will be readdressed at the AGM held at the Spring Show in April of 2020.

## Contact Us

Alpaca Ontario

Email

[info@alpacaontario.ca](mailto:info@alpacaontario.ca)

Website

[www.alpacaontario.ca](http://www.alpacaontario.ca)

There is the expectation that those animals with ARI designations will be CLAA-registered for any and all future shows.

Animals that DO NOT meet the CLAA requirements for full registration (having 8 great grandparents) will be allowed to show with the proof of the Letter of Record from CLAA. Without the Letter of Record, participation will be denied.

Thanks to Dee Graham and Suelaine Poot for doing background on this subject.

## Your Section

It has been proposed that we promote the use of this section in the Newsletter to hear from you. Please write to us at [splitrockfarmsbb@aol.com](mailto:splitrockfarmsbb@aol.com) to share your thoughts. You may write about almost anything alpaca-related that you like: news items on alpacas; suggestions for shows, seminars, presentations; fleece issues or hints; almost anything is acceptable. This section will also play host to pros and cons on subjects of interest, as well. So, don't be shy - - let us hear from you.

With best wishes to all for a Fabulous Fall Season. Many thanks to all our dedicated members who contribute so selflessly to our organization. Anyone who wishes to join us is heartily welcomed -- there's always a place for you.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Your Alpaca Ontario Board of Directors,  
Committee Members & Volunteers