



COLOUR ON THE COAST



The maple leaves weren't the only colorful Canadian sights at the Maritime Paint Horse Club's Labor Day show.

Article and photography by CECI FLANAGAN-SNOW

When people think of the Maritime Provinces on Canada's east coast, horses typically aren't the first thoughts that come to mind. Instead, they think of lobster, scallops, rugged shorelines and stiff breezes blowing in from the Atlantic Ocean. However, horses are plentiful in the region, including a growing population of Paints.

American Paint Horse Association (APHA) exhibitors from the region currently have one show available to them locally. On Labor Day weekend the Maritime Paint Horse Club (MPHC) hosts a two-day event at the Princess Louise Park Show Centre in Sussex, New Brunswick. Exhibitors from the three Maritime Provinces—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island—converge to compete in the area's only APHA-approved show.

In the early 1990s the MPHC was founded with approximately 20 members. Today there are about 40 members, including 20 Paint breeders. To make the show financially viable for a small club, the schedule includes several Open classes available to horses of any breed—these classes were sponsored by the Moncton Equestrian Club.

Judge James Richard Simpson of Ontario, Canada, says he tried to foster a positive show experience for first-time exhibitors.

"With smaller shows like this my approach with exhibitors can be a little more casual," he said. "I want to help them be more comfortable and confident in their showing—something there wouldn't be time for in a larger show. Without a Novice division, you really notice the 'first timers' that have to compete with the more experienced showmen. But they're happy and willing to show their horses and gain experience by learning from more seasoned competitors."

Although the show was small, many of the Paints that competed there were of high quality, says Simpson.

"I've judged big Zone shows in Texas, New Jersey and Michigan and have seen some pretty nice horses," the



Sonnys Miz Sensation and Meredith Smith



Ashley Breau focuses on the task at hand.



Paychecks A Breeze and Calie Breau



*Gallant Straw
and Gerry Gunning*



*C Bennies Wish For Me
and Meredith Smith*



*Ima Deluxe Edition
and Jodi Smith*

judge said. "I have to say that the top horses here would certainly be competitive at regional shows elsewhere."

Simpson went on to praise the efforts of the small-but-dedicated show committee.

"Whether it's a huge show or a small one like this, a lot of work still has to be done," said Simpson. "Prizes have to be found. Paperwork needs doing. And from what I've seen, these folks do it all and still find time to show themselves and have fun."

MPHC President Sarah Weeks agrees.

"I'd like to thank everyone, especially the Board [of Directors]," said Weeks. "We could not have had the year we did without everyone working together."

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—Judge James Richard Simpson

We're hoping to increase both our membership and the number of shows available in the region next year. We'd like to encourage all Paint owners to promote the breed and come to our shows. Paint owners in the Maritimes shouldn't be intimidated by the fact that these are APHA-approved breed shows—we're all in this to have fun and cheer each other on!"

The fun continued outside the arena. On Saturday evening, exhibitors enjoyed a laid-back social event. Because camping is available on-site, get-togethers often continue until the wee hours. Year after year, this small-but-mighty show proves to be a great way to celebrate the end of summer in the Maritimes! **PHJ**

High-Point and Special Award Winners at the Maritime Paint Horse Club's 2009 Labor Day show

High-Point Versatility

(Awarded to the Regular Registry or Solid Paint-Bred horse accumulating the most points in Open hunter under saddle, Western pleasure, reining and barrel racing classes during the show)

Champion: Brandys Firstpaycheck exhibited and owned by Sarah Weeks of Summerville, NB

Reserve: Docs Lucky Straw, exhibited by Heather Gunning, owned by Heather and Gerry Gunning of Newport, NS

High-Point Amateur

Champion: Brandys Firstpaycheck, exhibited and owned by Sarah Weeks of Summerville, NB

Reserve: DC Charming Crockett, exhibited and shown by Donna Blacklock of Berry Mills, NB

High-Point Open Horse

Champion: Brandys Firstpaycheck, exhibited and owned by Sarah Weeks of Summerville, NB

Reserve: Docs Lucky Straw, exhibited by Heather Gunning, owned by Heather and Gerry Gunning of Newport, NS

High-Point Solid Paint-Bred

Champion: Ima Deluxe Edition, exhibited and owned by Jodi Smith of Upper Coverdale, NB

Reserve: Ima Deluxe Edition, exhibited by Marguerite Smith, owned by Jodi Smith of Upper Coverdale, NB

High-Point Youth

Champion: (tie): Smartiesacoolcat, exhibited by Mollie McGuire, owned by Michele McGuire of Rothesay, New Brunswick (NB)

Champion: (tie): Sonnys Lucky Dee Jay, exhibited by Ireland Snelgrove, owned by Heather and Gerry Gunning of Newport, Nova Scotia (NS)

Reserve: Miss Scenic Cowgirl, exhibited and owned by Lelia Fekete of Houlton, Maine

2-Year-Old Longe Line Futurity

Champion: Obviously The Boss, exhibited and owned by Mary Anne Gauthier of Havelock, NB

Yearling Futurity

Champion: C Bennies Wish For Me, exhibited and owned by Meredith Smith of Upper Sackville, NB

Hunter Under Saddle Futurity

Champion: Ima Deluxe Edition, exhibited and owned by Jodi Smith of Upper Coverdale, NB

Reserve: Smartiesacoolcat, exhibited by Mollie McGuire, owned by Michele McGuire of Rothesay, NB

Weanling Futurity

Champion: Unnamed colt, exhibited by Josette Breau, owned by Donny and Josette Breau of St. Gregoire, NB

Reserve: C Ellies Blur (pending), exhibited and owned by Jill Pierce of Sackville, NB

Trail Futurity

Champion: Brandys Firstpaycheck, exhibited and owned by Sarah Weeks of Summerville, NB

Reserve: DC Charming Crockett, exhibited and owned by Donna Blacklock of Berry Mills, NB

Western Pleasure Futurity

Champion: Obviously The Boss, exhibited and owned by Mary Anne Gauthier of Havelock, NB

Reserve: Brandys Firstpaycheck, exhibited and owned by Sarah Weeks of Summerville, NB



Brandys Firstpaycheck and Sarah Weeks



Obviously The Boss shows Cheryl Hodgin that he is obviously the boss.

