

Sheep Dog Trials Held at Hamilton's Farm

By Linda Harrington

Sheep Dog Trials were held at Hamilton's farm (Milfords Holsteins and Hamilton Sleigh and Wagon Rides) in Lower Onslow on Saturday, Oct. 21st and Sunday, Oct. 22nd.

Fred Hamilton was very pleased with the turn out both days, with the trials enjoying two gorgeous sunny days weather-wise. "There was a great crowd of people here watching yesterday afternoon," said Fred, when interviewed at the Trial on Sunday morning. "And it looks like we will have a good crowd again today."

There were several classes held each day ranging from Novice Novice and Pro Novice to Ranch and Open.

The team consists of a handler and herding dog (at this trial they were all border collies), who must work together to move a group of three or four sheep through a course and into a pen, with points deducted for any errors along the way.

Each team has its own technique, some using whistles, some commands and some a combination of both but it is all very entertaining to watch.

The sheep are released far across the field and the handler must stand at a post quite close to the final pen.

"The first thing the dog must do is go and get the sheep and this is worth 20 points," says Fred. "The out run the dog takes should be pear shaped, with the dog coming in gently to the sheep."

The black and white border collie was only a blur as it raced off across the field to start herding. Back behind the fence, many dogs could be seen watching the field intensely as they waited for their turn.

Fred Hamilton has been holding trials at his farm for the past seven years and says this year there were about 16



Fred Hamilton takes a break after competing with his border collie Georgie. The two-day Sheep Dog Trial was held at Hamilton's Farm in Lower Onslow on Oct. 21st and 22nd.



Floss is listening well to Hilary Flower's commands and has the sheep heading into the pen in no time.

competitors with a total of 28 dogs entered in the two-day event.

"We were pleased to have

competitors from New Hampshire, Maine, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia," says Fred.

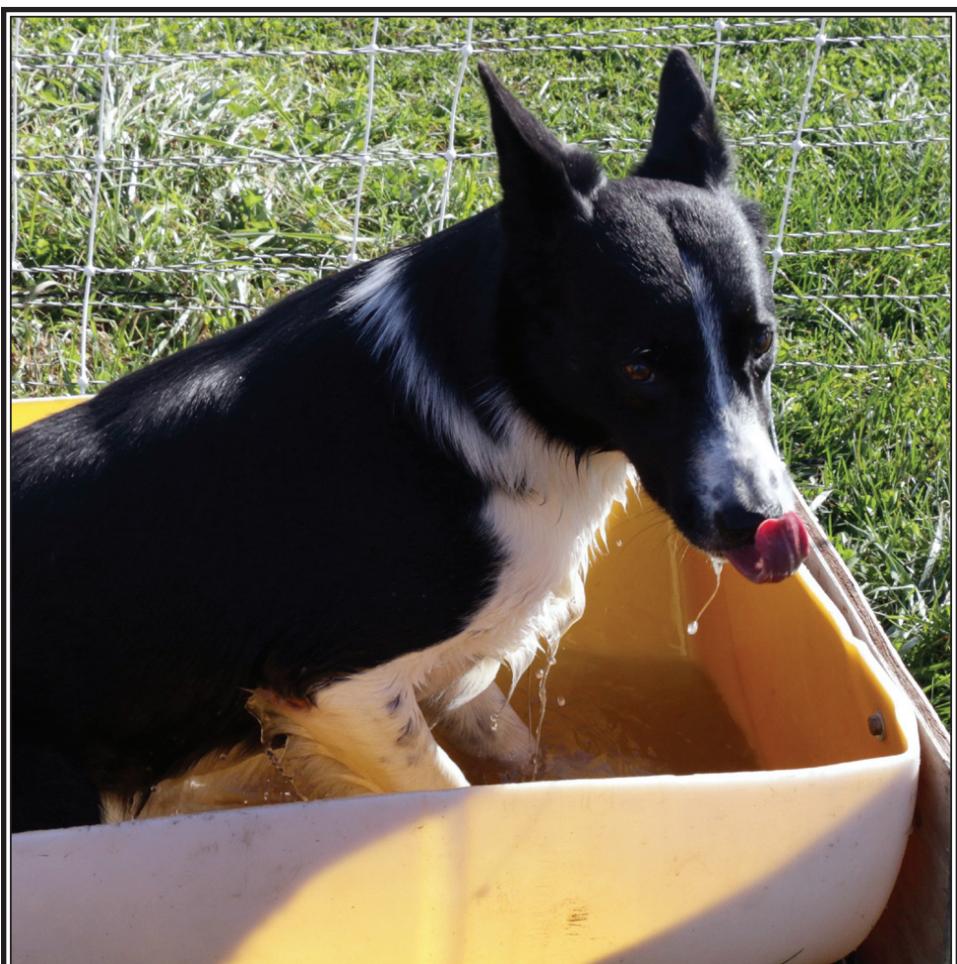
"We were pleased to have



Tim Moline's dog Finn is on the run to try and herd the four sheep into the pen.



Georgie responds immediately when Fred Hamilton tells her "Lie Down".



Kevin Fitch's dog Trent knows where to cool down after a tiring run herding sheep. Kevin and Trent pulled off a first place for their efforts.

New Reporter for Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club

By Abby Thompson

Hello! My name is Abby Thompson and I will be your new club reporter. I belong to the Onslow-Belmont 4-H club and will be writing a piece for The Shoreline every month.

The 4-H Provincial Show was held in Lawrencetown from September 29th to October 1st. The "Pro Show" is where 4-H members who have won at the county level go on and compete at the provincial level. Winners from our club at the 4-H Provincial Show are: William Cooper, Annika Masters, Ian Kittilsen, Megan Wynn, Alex Smith, Sage Yuill, Timothy Porter, Taylor Masters, Ella Porter and Marion Porter.

Alex Smith earned a spot on the Nova Scotia Royal Beef Team. Nine to ten 4-H beef members are chosen to represent Nova Scotia at the Royal Winter Fair. The Royal Winter Fair is one of the most prestigious agricultural shows in North America. Alex will be going with her Charolais heifer "Drama Queen". Alex lives in Great Village, has been part of the Onslow Belmont 4-H club for 5 years and shows cattle at Balamore Farm. We congratulate Alex and wish her luck.

Onslow-Belmont holds its general meetings the second Tuesday of every month; you

can register and join our club until December 1st! The projects we offer at our club include: Dairy, Beef, Rabbit, Sheep, Poultry, Light Horse, Draft Horse, Foods, Sewing, Photography, The Great Outdoors, Crafts and Garden.

4-H awards night will be held on October 28th at Central Colchester Junior High School (CCJHS). Awards night is when 4-H members who have won an award at their club go on to the county level.

I look forward to continuing to write articles as club reporter.

Abby Thompson is the new reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club

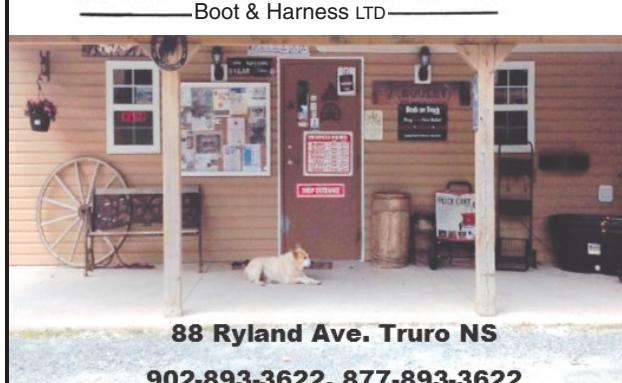
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