



ZONE ONE ARABIAN HORSE CLUB

November 2016

Volume 2, Number 11

Dates to Remember:

Royal Winter Fair -

Nov 4 - 13, 2016

Awards Banquet-

Sunday, November 20th @
Ironwoods Golf Course -
Exeter



THE HISTORY OF THE HORSE IN WW1

When war began in 1914 the British army possessed a mere 25,000 horses. The War Office was given the urgent task of sourcing half a million more to go into battle. They were essential to pull heavy guns, to transport weapons and supplies, to carry the wounded and dying to hospital and to mount cavalry charges. In the first year of war the countryside was emptied of shire horses and riding ponies, a heartbreaking prospect for farming families who saw their finest and most beloved horses requisitioned by the government.

The families who lost them, and the grooms, infantrymen and cavalrymen who took charge of them and helped train them up, all tell their stories. It was a traumatic change. Transported to the ports, they were hoisted onto ships crossing the Channel before being initiated into the horrors of the front line either as beasts of burden or as cavalry horses. Some men formed close relationships with the horses, but they could do little to prevent the appallingly high death rate due to exhaustion, shelling and front-line charges. Some were harsher in their attitudes; under constant threat of death themselves and having lost close comrades, they became hardened to the loss of their horses.

The supply of horses needed to be constantly replenished and the main source was the United States, with the British government arranging for half a million horses to be transported across the Atlantic in horse convoys. Between 1914 and 1917 around 1,000 horses were sent from the United States by ship every day. They were a constant target for German naval attack, with some lost en route. The horses were so vital to the continuation of the war effort that German saboteurs also attempted to poison them before they embarked on the journey.

The tragic fate that befell most of the horses was not lost on the British public, who petitioned the government to improve animal welfare during the war. The RSPCA and the Royal Army Veterinary Corps were both active in treating injured horses and trying to prevent unnecessary suffering. But the horses were so vulnerable to artillery and machine gun fire, and to harsh winter conditions in the front line, that the losses remained appallingly high. Indeed, the loss of horses greatly exceeds the loss of

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<http://zoneonearabianhorseclub.weebly.com/>

human life in the terrible battles of the Somme and Passchendaele.

However, through all the suffering and heartbreak, the close relationship between the men and their horses shone through. They did their best to care for them in the most testing and tragic conditions. Some men became as close to their horses as to their fellow soldiers and their loss was felt as deeply. All had their own names, personalities and histories, never to be forgotten.

At the end of the war some of the surviving horses were sold as meat to Belgian butchers, being regarded as unfit for any other purpose. But for the few that returned home there was a joyous welcome and reunion. It would be the last time the horse would be used on a mass scale in modern warfare.

****<http://www.history.co.uk/shows/the-real-war-horse/articles/history-of-horses-during-wwi>****



Awards Banquet - Sunday November 20th

Sunday, Nov 20th from 11am - 3pm

Ironwood Golf Club

70969 Morrison Line Exeter

\$25 - age 14 and up

\$15 - 13 and under

RSVP with payment by Nov 15th

Payments: Zone One Arabian Horse Club

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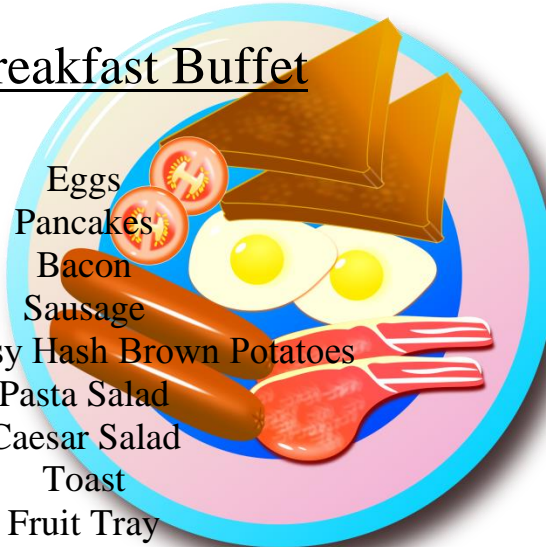
Zone One Arabian Horse Club - Awards Brunch 2016



Ironwood Golf Club

*Sunday, November 20th - 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
70969 Morrison Line, Exeter NoM 1S1 (519-235-1621)*

Hot Breakfast Buffet



Eggs
Pancakes
Bacon
Sausage
Lisa's Cheesy Hash Brown Potatoes
Pasta Salad
Caesar Salad
Toast
Fruit Tray
Sweets and Muffins
Apple Juice & Orange Juice
Coffee & Tea

**Adults - 14 & up \$ 25.00
Children - 13 & under \$ 15.00**