

The Mountain View Sheepdog Trial was held just North of Calgary in picturesque Carstairs, Alberta, Canada on the Victoria Day long weekend in May (20-22), 2017. The trial was hosted by Linda Comeau and Alistair Simpson and it was their first time hosting a sheepdog trial. The weather was fantastic, (it usually rains and/or snows on the May long weekend in Alberta), providing the handlers with abundant sunshine each day. The sheep were a commercial flock which were shipped from the Hutterite Sunshine Colony near Hussar, Alberta and arrived the afternoon before the trial. Over 200 sheep were brought in for the trial providing each Open handler with fresh sheep the first day.

John Griffith from Caernarfon, North Wales sorted out the runs each day as he judged from the upper deck of the house overlooking the trial field. As judging assignments go, this one was most likely one of the most comfortable!

The sheep were set on horseback by Chris Schmaltz from Mankota, Saskatchewan who did a fantastic job setting each day. Day one started with the Open class with a 410 yard outrun and 4 sheep consisting of 3 ewes and 1 lamb. 45 handlers stepped up to the post with Norm Close from Idaho placing first with his dog Craig, Dennis Gellings from Dawson Creek, British Columbia was second and Lee Lumb from Coldstream, British Columbia was third. Following the Open class, 14 Nursery dogs took to the field to test their skills on the very challenging Hutterite sheep. It was a tough go the first day as the young dogs had a 365 yard outrun with some dogs seeing a horse for the first time. Lee Lumb topped the class with her young dog Nico.

The second day, Open handlers ran on 3 sheep and the top performers were all from Alberta. Corey Perry from Drayton Valley placed first with his dog Ruby, Randy Dye from Bowden came in second and Wayne Roberts from Valleyview came in third. Wayne was also the Open Overall Champion with his dog Drift winning a beautiful belt buckle. The Nursery dogs were given a shorter outrun on Sunday and had their sheep set by handlers versus a horse resulting in more dogs completing the course. Lee Lumb again won the class with another young dog named Colt. Sunday evening the handlers were treated to a complimentary BBQ hosted by the Alberta Stock Dog Association. Corey Perry and his team flipped burgers for many hours ensuring everyone had a great meal!

On Monday the Pro Novice and Novice Novice dogs hit the field. Over 30 Pro Novice dogs ran once in the morning and again in the afternoon. In between, 6 Novice Novice handlers competed with Eryn Hanak from Drayton Valley and her dog Vimes placing first. Lee Lumb again took home more prizes winning the first Pro Novice class with Andrew Harms and Wayne Roberts coming in 2nd and 3rd. Louanne Twa from High River, Alberta placed first in the second go around with her dog Glen followed closely by Corey Perry and Jill Brodie.

Following the trial John and his wife Bet enjoyed some sights in and around Alberta. They took a tour to Banff National Park to see the spectacular Rocky Mountains and also visited the famous Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller to view its many dinosaur specimens.

Overall the trial ran smoothly thanks to great help from Randy Dye and Chris Jobe and the tireless set out crew of Naomi Berry and her young daughter Tatum who worked the pens on Saturday and Sunday. Rae Anne Stimsons' sons ran the pen on Monday and also did a great job. Randy's wife Val worked the kitchen for 3 days ensuring the judge and crew had plenty to

eat and were fed well. Thanks to all the scribes who worked closely with John all weekend, Alanna Leach, Leanne Huber, Ann MacRae and Geoff Matticks.

Thanks to all who helped make the trial a success and to John Griffith for his great judging. We hope to do it all again next year! Linda Comeau and Alistair Simpson