



**Jerrica Coady-Farrell was the indefatigable photographer who shot all but one of these wonderful photographs throughout the day -and night- ! Thank you, thank you for your efforts and generosity.**



*Waiting for the Jury. ..and waiting....and waiting.  
(photo: Ken Mellish)*

## 2009 KEURING REPORTS - SECOND TOUR.

### Gingerwood Stables – Queens, PEI

Hosts: Ken Mellish, Martie Murphy

Jury: Bart Henstra, Dr. Deborah P. Harrison, Faith Fessenden.

It was a blur. It was a day of unreality. It was traveling in some parallel universe. It was Canada. Keuring Report readers who've tracked us over the years know that we have somehow, somewhere, offended an Inuit (or others) deity and he/she/they remind us of that offense at every border crossing. Is there anyone out there who can help us propitiate said offenders???

Prince Edward Island. For those who have never visited, it conjures up visions of regality and beauty, and as an island - remoteness. For those of us from 'below the border' we circle our extended hand indicating it is "up and out there" somewhere. It is one of the "Maritimes" provinces and one time zone beyond 'eastern' (I didn't know that, did you?). For pictures go to: [www.bing.com/images](http://www.bing.com/images), and type Prince Edward Island. For other info go to: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritimes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritimes)

Check google or bing maps. Type in 'Boston to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island'. It looks straightforward, right?

It is one of those places that 'you can't get there from here'. In order to make the keuring schedule work for all second tour hosts and their requested dates, we had to fly northwest from Boston to Toronto, over-night, and fly east to PEI the next morning (day of the keuring). Customs coming into Canada was its usual sticky routine for us, but since not one of us was taken off to the little room with guards we breathed a sigh of relief. As usual, it turned out to be a premature sigh.

We boarded the 'puddle-jumper' aircraft scheduled to land in Charlottetown for a 1:00 p.m. start at Gingerwood. Snoozing and reading intermittently, we checked our watches, stretched and gathered carry-on during the descent. Upon landing, the captain announced that this was NOT Charlottetown, PEI, but Halifax, Nova Scotia, and that there was a 'mechanical' issue. We were to disembark and wait inside the terminal until fixed.

We glanced continuously at the clocks and paced. We put in a call to Ken and his team just to apprise them of the delay. Tick, Tick, Tick. The captain announced that the 'mechanical' is 'unfixable' and another plane was being sent out from Montreal. Panic began to grip as one o'clock passed. Another call to Ken. About 4:30 p.m. it was announced that no other plane was available and they'd be sending a bus in an hour or two to make the drive to Charlottetown (which takes about 2 hours) and to please collect our luggage. Picture Munch's "The Scream" (google it under images, you'll get it!) Wild eyed, racing for the baggage claim we calculated options. Sliding to a stop at the rental car counter, we grabbed keys to a vehicle and peeled out of the airport on two-wheels towards PEI. We saw the countryside - but in a blur.



*It was too dark for photos of Zenda NSN in action, but a happy Martha Haley receives one of many ribbons for her horses from KWPN-NA Jury member Bart Henstra*



*Martie Murphy, owner of Gingerwood Stables, looks on while the Jury linear-scores Bolero NSN to a first premium, ster, and Best Adult Dressage Horse*



*Esprentina NPF calmly accepts her accolades, 1st premium and Best Young Horse.*

And just how and what were the keuring participants doing all this time??? Better than we, that's for sure. Host Ken Mellish and the Gingerwood Stables team were busy making lemonade from the lemons - having their photo shoots, greeting one another, sharing horse-stories throughout the beautiful afternoon, and at 5 p.m. - as scheduled - sitting down to the awards banquet that was planned for us. The pictures we saw later showed a lavish buffet in the private home (with the Grand Prix field outside of the terrace windows). The host and helper-gifts were graciously presented, accepted, and congratulations were given to one another on jobs well done. They had a great time ...and all before we arrived.

Talk about being 'late to the party'! We finally arrived, flinging our paperwork, measuring stick and branding iron out of the car and ran to the arena to begin the under-saddle work. Talk about stressed!!! By the way, has anyone told you about PEI's twilight mosquitoes? They were surely part of Paul Bunyan's menagerie. Anyway, enough of the 'Travelogue From Hell' and on to the horses and their unflappable owners.

### **IBOP - Jumper Iron Spring Farm Cup - 5 Yr. Olds**

We were rewarded by a well- scored IBOP and ISF Cup for the 5-Yr-Old **Zenda NSN** prok (Ferro out of Never Say Never keur pref. by Wanroij x Milkie xx) bred and owned by Martha Haley, of Never Say Never Farm [Never Say Never - the dam - has been a superb producer for Martha, as you will see] This mare began by needing more forwardness and better neck use, but once warmed up, became better and better showing power and good ground cover. Her jumping was eager and quick with much scope but her foreleg technique could have been more consistent. Nevertheless, her rideability, scope and attitude were rewarded with 8.0's and with solid marks for her gaits she earned the number two spot in the Top Fives for both IBOP-Jumper, and the Iron Spring Farm Cup.

From the outdoor (now in darkness) we moved to the lighted indoor arena to continue the classes.

### **Linear Scoring -Dressage Geldings**

The lone entry from this class was **Bolero NSN** (Sir Donnerhall out of Rhumba ster by Idocus x Wanroij) [Granddam was Never Say Never] bred and owned by Martha Haley. The dark chestnut gelding is what horsemen call "A good-looking horse". A narrow frame with long-lines, he is modern and uphill. There were a few remarks on hind leg conformation, but pretty is as pretty does...and when he 'did' he DID. Another horsemen's term - 'fancy'! Light-footed and maintaining his 'uphillness' in his transitions he earned an 8.5 for his trot and 8.0 for self-carriage. He easily received a first premium, will receive his ster when he completes his other requirements, and was the Best Adult Horse-Dressage.

### **Linear Scoring - Dressage Mares**

Four mares were presented here with one earning a first premium, ster and a keur-eligibility. **Bosanova NSN** (Ferro out of Never Say Never keur, pref - see above) bred and owned by Martha Haley is another feather in the cap of her famous dam. This leggy black mare (sun-faded following summer turnout) lacked some maturity in the development of her top-line but was uphill in her build. A few notes brought down her conformation score, but it was satisfactory in combination with her movement for the keur eligible requirements. Her movement showed good articulation with solid scores and an 8.0 for her trot. [Note: Bosanova was the number one in Top Fives in her foal year.]



*Euro's Praxi alertly looks on as his first premium qualities are announced.*



*Long-lined Demarko NPF waiting to show his 7.8-scored movement to earn 1st place in the Top Fives.*



*Calypso NPF shows his trot mechanics for a first premium and 2nd in the Top Fives.*



*Chiesa adjusting her stance as the jury makes their notes late into the night. 1st premium and 4th in the Top Fives was the result*

### Foals/Weanlings - Dressage

Four dressage foals were next with two receiving the orange ribbons. First was **Esprentina NPF** (sir Oldenburg out of Florentina DE by Florestan x Phonix) bred and owned by New Perth Farms. A 'wow' foal, modern long-lined, leggy with a good shoulder length and slope earned a 7.8 on conformation. A 7.6 was given for movement since there was suppleness and good technique, but she could have had more power behind. The Best Young Horse -Dressage award was easily given to this black filly.

In second place, and first premium, was **Enkeur NPF** (Lord Sinclair out of Zinosa by Tango x Purioso) also bred by New Perth Farms. This bay colt was a nice type but remarks were that he was quite light-legged. In movement he showed good balance but lacked full power and length of stride.

### Foals/weanlings-Jumper

Three entries here saw only one first premium awarded. The bay colt bred and owned by Euro Equestrian Sale, **Euro's Praxi** (Lupicor out of Woodlawn's Paris by Judgement ISF x Voltaire) was a youngster that had good bone and joints but some notes were made on feet. His movement was upward and in good balance, and he used his neck well in his canter. A first premium and Best Young Jumper award was given.

### Yearlings - Dressage

First place and first premium were given to the single entry **Demarko NPF** (Johnson out of Florentina DE -see above) bred and owned by New Perth Farms. This long lined, but slightly small-footed, chestnut colt showed good technique and good use of his back in his movement. The higher movement score (7.8) moved him solidly into first place in the Top Fives.

### Two-Year Olds - Dressage

Three youngsters were entered in this class. Two earned first premiums with solid scores. First was **Calypso NPF** (Sandreo out of Veganieta ster by Jazz x Zeoliet) bred and owned by New Perth Farms. An elegant, leggy, 'blood-type' (as the Dutch would say - meaning thoroughbred), this dark bay colt show a big walk and beautiful technique in the trot. Remarks on the forelegs' back at the knee brought the conformation score below that of the 7.5 given for movement.

The second place and also a first premium was given to the black Register A filly, **Chiesa** (Freestyle out of Zett by Iglesias x Gribaldi) bred by Marsha Voica-Fraser of Horses Unlimited and owned by Lydia Early of Wolfridge Farm, Ltd. Was noted to be very elegant with a good shoulder and wither. Her movement scores were solid for the orange ribbon.

Supported by the hardy souls who stayed with us until 10:30 p.m. we staggered to Martie Murphy's kitchen where we were graciously served left-over banquet food and wine.

Departing about midnight, we stepped into the most beautiful, quiet, darkness imaginable. The night sky above filled in every direction with a net of stars. Seeking a 'zen' explanation of the day's travel hassles; if it meant seeing lovely horses, upbeat supportive owners & breeders and such a midnight cathedral - then it was all worth it.

*(Note: Many of these lovely horses are for sale. See page 22 in the keuring program, or go to page 22 in: <http://www.kwpm-na.org/display/files/program09.pdf> )*