



## A Retrospective: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ottawa Valley Pointing Dog Club Specialty

*by Anne Perkins*

This past February, the Ottawa Valley Pointing Dog Club (OVPDC) was 11 years old. It grew out of the German Shorthair Pointer Club of Eastern Ontario when it

became clear that there were many more pointing dog owners in the larger Ottawa area who wished to become involved in field training and competition and had no convenient vehicle for it.

The new club was the brainchild of several individuals who met during the GSP club AGM on Wolfe Island in July 2003, including included GSP people Kevin MacWilliams, Guylaine Charette, Linda Cooney, Frank Vena, and Gail Docherty, German Wired Haired Pointer and Weimaraner breeders Bill and Wendy McKay and Irish Setter breeder Connie O'Brien. In February 2004, the CKC officially accepted the new name and revised charter.

A number of local pointing dog breeders and owners quickly became members. By the end of the first year, we had 50+ individual and family members with several additional breeds represented, including all four Setters, Vizslas, Griffons, Brittany Spaniels, and English Pointers. We also merged with the local chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA). The two clubs went their separate ways six years later because of different priorities, but some early OVPDC members continue to be active in both clubs.

**The first annual specialty.** Conformation events were not a priority for many of the Club's original and early members. But, after much discussion, it was decided in late 2004 that having a specialty would raise funds to support the Club's very important *but costly* field activities. Our first annual specialty was held at the end of August in conjunction with the SD&G show near Cornwall.

We had a good entry and, with careful planning and a significant number of corporate and private donations, we were able to raise in excess of \$3,000. In recognition of the Club's main interest in field work, a Field test was and continues to be scheduled as part of the Specialty extended weekend on the following Tuesday. We also served lunch to exhibitors on the day of the Specialty.

With the exception of the inaugural steak BBQ in advance of the first specialty only, a pattern was set for all those to come. Six perpetual trophies were instituted (Field, Obedience, Rally, Agility and Versatility). A Versatility perpetual trophy for GSPs and, a few years later, one for qualifying dogs without field were also added.

Being a member of one of the most active CKC clubs in Canada has been a great deal of FUN. Over the years, there have been 4 show chairs: Anne Perkins (2006 & 2007); Debbie Colbourn (2008 & 2009); and Gail Docherty and Deborah Cook (2010 through 2015). Debbie Cook organized the lunch for many of these years, and Sheila Davidson with Bev Kelsey's help has done so for the past three years. Specialty field tests have been piloted by Rene Jones, Anne Perkins, Bill McKay, Linda Cooney, and Kevin MacWilliams (with great help from Kade MacWilliams).

The Club has been under the guidance of a strong executive, with Kevin MacWilliams as President, for a good number of recent years. Other executive members have included Linda Cooney, Gail Docherty, Deborah Cook, Rachel Delaney, Noreena Seery. A special salute to Yves and Pearl Prévost who have undertaken the daunting task of producing the newsletter for the past few years.

