NOTE: In order to demonstrate what the member has learned in a full year some of these patterns are quite complicated... but, as is advised in “The Hitch Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy”, DON’T PANIC. 😊 The point of the Achievement Day is to show the examiner the skills you have learned... not to test your pattern memorization skills. You will NOT be marked lower for going off pattern and it is perfectly acceptable to ask for guidance from the examiner should you forget part of the pattern. If you are particularly worried about forgetting you pattern you can even have someone call it out to you as you drive it.

NOTE: For patterns we will use the standard small dressage arena letter system (A, K, E, H, C, M, B, F & X). Do not worry if your arena is not proper dressage size; simply adjust the letters to best fit your riding space.

NOTE: The patterns are not drawn to scale. For example the 20m circles are drawn smaller help reduce overlapping of lines.

NOTE: The patterns in this book are NOT the patterns you will be using at exhibitions; those can be found on the PEI 4-H webpage (www.pei4h.pe.ca - under Exhibitions) in June of each year. Driving patterns used in 4-H Horse & Pony classes will be MUCH simpler than the patterns used for PEI 4-H Achievement Days.

Note: The only mandatory attire for the driver is a closed-toe boot, a helmet & long pants, jeans or skirt/dress. Please avoid wearing sweat/track pants, ripped jeans, etc. Try to at least find a shirt with a collar (i.e. a polo, blouse, dress shirt, etc.... and no tank tops!). Safety vests are not mandatory, but are strongly encouraged.
Each driving level has specific equestrian information that must be covered. Be prepared to answer the following questions after riding your pattern:

**DRIVING LEVEL 1**

- Name 2 mandatory pieces and 1 optional piece safety attire for the driver.
- What to do if another horse becomes loose in the arena while you are driving?
- What are the rules of the driving arena (i.e. etiquette when riding with other people)?
- Demonstrate how to properly hold your reins and whip.

**DRIVING LEVEL 2**

- What are 3 aides used to cue your driving horse/pony?
- Identify between your outside and inside aides.
- What does it mean to be “on the track/rail”, “on the right rein” and “on the left rein”?
- Define the following terms: centre line; quarter line.
- Explain why it is important too “warm-up” your horse.

**DRIVING LEVEL 3**

- Explain what to look for when performing a tack check.
- Demonstrate how to safely enter and exit your cart or buggy (can use a helper to hold your horse if necessary).
- Know all of the parts of your harness and cart/buggy/carriage

**DRIVING LEVEL 4**

- Demonstrate how to properly harness and hitch your horse.
- Describe how to tell if your harness fits your horse/pony properly.
- Describe how to properly care for your harness.

**DRIVING LEVEL 5**

- What does mean when we say a horse/pony is on the bit? Above the bit? Behind the bit?
- Explain the difference between a snaffle bit and a curb bit.
- Identify the following driving bits: Liverpool, Butterfly (or Post), Military (or Elbow), Wilson & Half Cheek.
- Explain how to know if your bit fits your horse/pony properly.

**DRIVING LEVEL 6**

- Define the following terms: Relative Straightness, Engagement & Impulsion.
- Describe the following three types of harness: Fine, Carriage and Race.
- Define the following driving terms: the communication system, the support & steering system, the draught system and the braking system.

(See: http://www.carriagedriving.net/index.php?m=a&a=22)
Movements

HALT: The horses/ponies must stand motionless, attentive and straight, with weight evenly distributed over all four legs.

WALK: A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension. The horses/ponies must walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined steps.

FREE WALK: A pace of relaxation in which the horse/pony is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out its head and neck. Both the horse’s/pony’s strides and its frame are lengthened.

COLLECTED TROT: The pace is slower than the working trot. The neck is raised enabling the shoulders to move with more ease; the hocks being well engaged. Impulsion is maintained notwithstanding the slower movement. The steps are shorter and lighter and more mobile.

WORKING TROT (a.k.a. regular trot): The pace is between the collected and extended trot. The horses/ponies must go forward freely, unconstrained and balanced, engaging the hind legs with good hock action and maintaining impulsion on a light rein. The steps should be even with the hind feet touching the ground in the footprints of the fore feet.

EXTENDED TROT: The horses/ponies should lengthen their stride, covering more ground with each step, without their action becoming higher while remaining on the bit with light contact. The neck is extended and, with greater impulsion from the quarters, the shoulders are used more actively.

REIN BACK: The horses/ponies should walk backwards, the legs being raised and set down simultaneously by diagonal pairs.

TRANSITIONS: Changes of pace and speed must always be made quickly and smoothly but not abruptly and the horses/ponies remaining calm, light in hand and in the correct position. The cadence of the pace should be maintained up to the point of the required transition.

Other Definitions

On The Bit: Supple and quiet acceptance of the contact.

Above The Bit: A head position in which the horse/pony avoids acceptance of the contact by putting the muzzle forward and upward, also usually retracting the poll.

Behind The Bit: An evasion in which the horse/pony retracts or shrinks back from the bit/contact, avoiding stepping forward into the contact.

Relative Straightness: In driving terms this means a horse/pony is going straight when the inside hind leg follows the track of the inside foreleg.

Engagement: Increased flexion of the joints of the hind legs during the weight-bearing phase, and of the sacro-lumbar joint, thus lowering the croup relative to the forehand. A prerequisite for thrust/impulsion.

Impulsion: Thrust. Releasing of the energy stored by engagement.
**Types of Harness**

**Fine Harness**
This harness is lightweight with the strapping quite narrow. Fine harness is intended for the show ring (flat, level surface) with a lightweight vehicle. There is often no breeching; thimbles are common. Overchecks and martingales are often included. This harness will be breastcollar style.

**Carriage harness**
This harness will be heavier in weight than the fine harness. Breeching is usually included and the breastcollar is wider than the fine harness, making the carriage harness more suitable for heavier carts and carriages. Many inexpensive carriage harnesses come with overchecks, which cannot be easily removed, while some come with sidechecks, which can be removed. Leather carriage harnesses can come in both breast and neck collar styles. Buckle-in traces can be included, (as opposed to sewn-in traces) which generally raises the price.

**Race harness**
This harness is designed specifically for use with a racing sulky. There will be no breeching included. Modern race harnesses have a "quick hitch" system that eliminates breast collars and traditional shaft holders. A "quick hitch" harness can only be used on the cart it is designed for, a "quick hitch" racing bike. Older harnesses can be found used and they may have thimbles and a lightweight breast collar. This could be used on a lightweight jog cart in a ring or fairly level road situation.

**AN EXCELLENT SOURCE FOR DRIVING INFORMATION**
**IS THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE**
www.carriagedriving.net
1. Start at ‘C’ in walk on right rein
2. Weave through 3 cones in walk
3. At ‘F’ transition to working trot
4. ‘K-X-M’ working trot
5. ‘H-X-F’ working trot
6. ‘K’ transition to walk
7. Walk between poles & halt for 10 seconds
8. Proceed to examiner to answer questions
1. Start at ‘C’ in walk up centre line
2. Weave through 6 cones
3. At ‘A’ turn left
4. ‘B’ turn left
5. ‘X’ circle left 20m
6. ‘X’ circle right 15m
7. ‘X’ working trot
8. ‘E’ turn left
9. ‘B’ turn left
10. ‘E’ turn right
11. ‘B’ halt & rein back 4 strides
12. Proceed to examiner to answer questions

**LEGEND**

Walk:

Working Trot:

Halt:

Rein Back:
1. Start at ‘C’ in walk on right rein
2. ‘M’ left wheel(s) between poles
3. ‘F’ right wheel(s) between poles
4. ‘A’ halt for 5 seconds
5. ‘A’ halt to working trot transition
6. ‘E’ working trot circle right 20m
7. ‘E’ working trot circle right 15m
8. Proceed in trot to ‘H’
9. ‘H’ working trot between poles
10. ‘C-X-A’ working trot
11. ‘A’ turn right
12. ‘K’ transition to walk
13. ‘H’ walk between poles & halt
14. Rein back until clear of poles
15. Proceed to examiner to answer questions

**LEGEND**

- Walk: 
- Working Trot: 
- Halt:    
- Rein Back:  

**Driving Level 3 - Test**
1. Start at ‘C’ in walk on right rein
2. ‘B’ circle right 10m
3. ‘F’ transition to working trot
4. Between ‘A’ & ‘C’ perform a 3 loop serpentine using the entire length of the arena in working trot
5. ‘C’ turn right & proceed up centerline
6. ‘X’ weave through poles in working trot
7. ‘A’ turn left
8. ‘B’ transition to walk
9. ‘M’ halt between rail & pylon
10. Rein Back around pylon until facing opposite direction (1/2 circle)
11. Proceed to examiner to answer questions
1. Start at ‘C’ in working trot on right rein
2. ‘E’ turn left
3. ‘X’ 20m circle right while showing a lengthening in trot stride
4. ‘X’ 15m circle left in working trot
5. ‘X’ transition to walk
6. ‘B’ turn left
7. ‘M-C-H’ free walk
8. ‘H’ transition back to regular walk
9. ‘E’ transition to working trot
10. ‘A’ turn left
11. Weave through 6 pylons up the centre line in working trot.
12. ‘C’ turn right
13. ‘B’ halt & pivot 180 degrees to the right
14. Proceed to examiner to answer questions

NOTE: Members using miniature horses can choose to leave the pivot maneuver out of their pattern.

**LEGEND**

Walk:  
Free Walk:  
Working Trot:  
Lengthened Trot:  
Halt:  
Pivot:  

Driving Level 5 - Test
1. Start at ‘C’ in working trot on right rein
2. After ‘H’ right wheel between poles
3. ‘E’ small circle left in collected trot
4. Before ‘K’ left wheel between poles
5. ‘F-X-H’ extended trot
6. ‘H’ transition back to working trot
7. ‘M-X-K’ extended trot
8. ‘K’ transition back to working trot
9. ‘A’ transition to walk
10. After ‘A’ turn left down quarter line
11. Halt when in line with ‘F’ & perform 360 degree pivot left
12. Proceed in walk
13. Halt at cone #1
14. Rein back around cones
15. At cone #3 halt
16. Proceed to examiner to answer questions

**LEGEND**

- Walk: 
- Collected Trot: 
- Working Trot: 
- Extended Trot: 
- Halt: 
- Pivot: 
- Back-up:

**NOTE:** Members using miniature horses can choose to leave the pivot maneuver out of their pattern.