



THE JOYRIDERS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
 Prince Edward Island, Canada



“THE WHINNY”

Issue #5
 JUNE 2010

OUR MISSION

is the enhancement of the physical, emotional and social well-being of children and adults with disabilities through various forms of therapeutic riding.



**OUR NEW
 BACK-SAVER!**

Elwood and Nancy Lawton (at left) stand on the new ramp platform, Hannah MacLellan holds up the sponsor recognition sign, Kathy Barrett holds Barbara Pineau’s wheelchair in place, and Barb schemes to race everyone to the bottom.



**FROM THE EDITOR’S
 DESK**
Daphne Davey

The spring issue of *The Whinny* covers the supposedly quiet part of the Joyriders year—from late in the fall riding program to early in the spring program. Photos of our riders are hard to come by in this period, but despite that our club was definitely not quiet!

Two major milestones were the construction and installation of a new metal mounting ramp, courtesy of Elwood Lawton, and our successful application

for CanTRA Bronze Accreditation. The ramp already spares the backs of instructors and volunteers, and makes mounting more comfortable for our riders. The accreditation recognizes our efforts to provide a safe and quality program (see page 5 for more on this).

As we start our fourth decade serving challenged children and adults through the cutting-edge medium of the horse for therapy, recreation and sport, we are building on a solid foundation. The future is ours to shape to the highest standard for our riders.

So let’s enjoy the upcoming activities, celebrating the efforts and achievements of our riders, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andy Robb



Our core mandate is only sustainable with the cooperation of our instructors, volunteers, board members and donors. The contribution of all four was outstanding over the past year. Three prospective assistant instructors began their training program. The dedication of our present instructors and the promise of having more qualified people in the future is a tremendous asset.

Our large group of outstanding volunteers is the engine that drives the riding program. The people who tack up and groom horses, work in the ring during lessons, look after equipment, and staff the viewing room are simply invaluable. Our board members' work is equally essential. This year two members retired: Karan Corish and Virginia Reddin. We thank them for their contribution. New board members Shelley MacEwen and Mary Morrison have kindly agreed to join us, and we look forward to working with them. As the organization grows the board will have no shortage of challenges.

Funding is a constant concern. Fortunately, sponsors Danny and Martie Murphy of Gingerwood Farm and DPM Inc., the Rotary Club of Charlottetown, Easter Seals, Lions Clubs, Metro Credit Union, and corporate sponsors Sherwood Drug Mart, Sherwood ScotiaBank, Dunne Consulting, A.M. Burgoyne Insurance and Scotiamcleod provided essential and generous assistance. Individual donors, notably Rosemary Henderson and Tim and Lois O'Neill, were also extremely generous.



Several pieces of artwork were donated to the silent auction at Gingerwood. Mel Gallant's beautiful photo "The Golden Horse" (at right) was presented to Danny and Martie Murphy as a gift of deep appreciation from the Joyriders.

The board decided that our Gingerwood evening would be held every second year in order to keep our clients, sponsors and volunteers from being overburdened. The Labour Day weekend of 2011 will be the next event. The \$24,000-plus evening in 2009 was a new benchmark for us, thanks to Danny and Martie, auction bidders, and David Myles, Max Keenlyside, Alan Buchanan and Brian Craswell, who added their own gifts to the sell-out event. Mel Gallant led a committee of Debbie Vickerson-Doucette, Stephanie Drake, Virginia Reddin, Philip Cutcliffe, Deena Robb, Karan Corish, Charlie Goodwin and myself. Mel's enormous organizing talent kept us properly focussed. It is impossible to overstate how important this fund-raiser has become for us.

Later in the fall we hosted a combined CanTRA workshop, exam and accreditation inspection. The weekend had three outcomes: Gilles Richard passed his CTRAI exam with flying colours, we were cleared for Bronze Accreditation [*see page 5*], and participants from around the region had a productive clinic. This was a significant expense but a good investment. The Christmas party and volunteer recognition at the Malcolm Darrach Community Centre in East Royalty worked very well for a capacity turnout.

Our equipment needs have changed as the program grows. A new treeless saddle was added to the inventory. For years, a portable mounting ramp has been on our wish list. Over the winter Elwood Lawton built and designed a portable steel ramp to our specifications, as a gift to the Joyriders. What a wonderful contribution!



The complete ramp, with wood strip to protect horses' legs, can be towed behind a vehicle.

Our visibility in the community has been a priority. The website, our DVD and the newsletter have contributed to raising our profile. We continue to value the support of the media, especially the *Guardian* and CBC Radio One, for getting our message out.

A significant step in relating to the rest of the therapeutic riding world in Canada will be our hosting of the 2011 CanTRA Conference in June 2011 at the Stanhope Beach Resort and Gingerwood Farm. We hope (and believe) we can set a new benchmark in excellence by this national event.

Two thousand and nine saw the Winsloe Equestrian Centre change owners, with Kim and Kurt Kershaw taking over from John and Kathy Barrett. Kim and Kurt were quick to offer cooperation and hospitality to the Joyriders. The Winsloe Equestrian Centre will continue as the home of the Joyriders.

For reasons of space, this and the following annual reports have been edited. The complete reports can be obtained from Mel Gallant: melgallant@pei.sympatico.ca.

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT

Kathryn Barrett, CTRI



Our fall 2009 volunteer orientation was held on September 12, our earliest yet. The Abegweit Paralympic Group of about 12 riders rode the next day. Our fall program with eight riders on Saturdays and eight more on Tuesdays and Thursdays ran for 10 weeks, finishing earlier than ever on November 21. It was good for the riders who do not respond well to cold weather.

An instructor preparation workshop and technical/exam weekend was held in November, conducted by CanTRA examiners Nanci Picken and Evelyn Plaxton. Our Gilles Richard passed his Assistant Instructor (CTRAI) exam. Three new AI candidates, Helen Kristmanson, Stephanie MacDonald and Lauren MacIsaac, were assessed to begin official training and practice teaching in the spring 2010 program. As always, my appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who make this program possible!



Under the competent but probably bewildered eye of St. John Ambulance instructor Chris Landry, a group of spirited Joyriders instructors and volunteers successfully renewed their first-aid certificates this spring. From left: Chris, Kathy Barrett, Marg Gray, Trish Helm-Neima, Gilles Richard, Douglas Roper, Debbie Gormley. Kim Kershaw, seated, bravely joined the group, shortly before the happy arrival of her second son, Liam.

We are delighted to learn that former CTRAI Rhonda Boulter has graduated as a DVM from the Atlantic Veterinary College. She has landed a position in a small-animal clinic in Guelph that also deals with exotic animals, and will soon include horses. Congratulations from us all!



PR: ALWAYS AN INVESTMENT

Without PR---public awareness and education---support will not materialize. Last year, we launched a website, a DVD and a newsletter, but we did not neglect the media.

In November, an article and photo in the *Guardian* covered the presentation of the "Golden Horse" photograph by Mel Gallant to Danny and Martie Murphy. Andy Robb stated that "Danny and Martie have a passion for helping kids and continue to make enormous contributions, many of them quite invisible to the public. They are models of what it means to give back to their community."

Andy was also responsible for a two-page article and photos, " 'I Can' Replaces 'I Can't', " published in *Atlantic Horse and Pony*, a popular regional magazine, and linked from our website. Great messages. Great PR!

***VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR'S
REPORT
Deena Robb***



We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers, many of whom have served with our program for a number of years. They are dedicated, always friendly and cheerful, and are much appreciated by riders and coaches. Here they are—all 49 of them (not including instructors and board members):

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Cassie Anderson | Carolyn MacKenzie |
| Sarah Beauregard | Flo MacKinnon |
| Heather Burrage | Heather MacLeod |
| Sue Chaisson | Janet Midgley |
| Claire Currie | Ellen McCloskey |
| Sylvia Dauphinee | Frank McCloskey |
| Anand Desai | Butch McGee |
| Angie Driscoll | Mary Morrison |
| Janet Fraser | Gloria Jean Murphy |
| Merv Froehlich | Catherine Nicolaou |
| Lily Gillespie | David Park |
| Charlie Goodwin | Winkie Park |
| Ann Hall | Allen Perry |
| Madeleine Heckbert | Virginia Reddin |
| Courtney Hogan | Gilles Richard |
| Helen Kristmanson | Mike Rowledge |
| Jennifer Lawton | Sheila Rowledge |
| Rose Leger | Cyril Roy |
| Joan Leslie | Julie Scales |
| Janell MacDonald | Ashley Scholten |
| Sandra MacDonald | Catherine Thomas |
| Stephanie MacDonald | Veda Waller |
| Rebecca MacIntyre | Pat Wallus |
| Lauren MacIsaac | Kim Wenn |
| Alanna Manning | |

Special thanks to equipment manager Joan Leslie, who put her excellent organizational skills to good use, and to Julie Scales, our new and very capable Rider Liaison. Thanks also to those who put in extra hours by assisting with the Gingerwood fund-raiser, and those who “helped give back” by volunteering at the Gingerwood horse shows.

We are pleased to welcome seven new volunteers to our team: Cat Radtke Back, Dan Bevan-Baker, Alyssa Campbell, Elaine Estey, Rose-Ellen Ghiz, Katy MacDonald

and Taylor MacKenzie. Our student volunteers continue to participate in the Community Service Bursary Program (grades 11 and 12). We are grateful for this provincial initiative, which encourages volunteering in groups such as ours.



Responding to a call from MC Steve Loggie, volunteers at the Christmas party trooped up to the stage to receive a well-deserved round of applause.

***PHYSIOTHERAPIST'S
REPORT
Trish Helm-Neima***



This year I would like to thank the Board for their support for education and first aid recertification along with their support for the Program Team’s requests for equipment. The new Barefoot saddle will be of great benefit to our horses and riders. Our new mounting ramp will allow for easier mounting procedures for riders who have difficulty with stairs and will minimize the amount of lifting that instructors do for riders who are wheelchair users. We try to maximize the safety of our program for volunteers as well as riders.

My primary responsibilities are: to provide support to the Program Team and volunteers through education and advice regarding the abilities of our riders and potential adaptations needed; assessment of potential riders; and to encourage the riders to have fun when doing their exercises. I am always happy to talk to families and volunteers regarding the program or riders.

Thank you to the Program Team for their commitment to the riders and to the volunteers who give freely of their time to ensure that our riders are able to participate.

PROGRAM TEAM

Chief instructor (CTRI)

Kathryn Barrett

Assistant Instructors (CTRAI)

Daphne Davey

Debbie Gormley

Marg Gray

Trish Helm-Neima

Gilles Richard

CTRAIs in training

Helen Kristmanson

Stephanie MacDonald

Lauren MacIsaac

Physiotherapist

Trish Helm-Neima

Other members

Joan Leslie, Equipment Manager

Virginia Reddin, Volunteer

Deena Robb, Volunteer Coordinator

Julie Scales, Rider Coordinator

Note: Applications from potential riders should be addressed to Daphne Davey (see page 6 for contact information).

WELCOME BACK!

Rider and board member Douglas Roper will be easing himself back into the program this spring, after spending some time in hospital.



Island Horse Council president Chester Gillan presents Kathy Barrett with the Island Horse Council Appreciation Award at its 2009 awards night. This annual award recognizes an outstanding member of the horse community. Our congratulations, Kathy!

IT'S A BRONZE!



We are delighted to receive confirmation that CanTRA has approved Bronze Accreditation status for The Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association. The Accreditation system has just completed its pilot phase, so we are one of the first regular applicants to attain this status. The Accreditation program particularly addresses *quality*, while the Risk Management Evaluation (RME) insurance inspection focuses specifically on *safety*. Nanci Picken completed her inspection while on PEI last fall to conduct an instructor workshop, technical and exam, and our insurance RME. A busy weekend!

Bronze Accreditation is the first level. CanTRA wants all centres to work towards this level, which does not discriminate against the size of the program (a “one instructor, one horse, one rider” program can be accredited if it meets safety and quality standards). The vast majority of centres will fall into the Bronze category. Standards for Silver Accreditation (CanTRA Examination Centres) and Gold Accreditation (CanTRA Training Centres) are being finalized.

The 2010 CanTRA Annual Meeting in Guelph was perfumed with lavender. “Lavender, Laughter and Learning,” a retreat weekend for key personnel in therapeutic riding programs (chief instructors, executive directors, and others at the top of the stress list), was held at the

same time as the AGM and board meetings. I was privileged to be able to attend the business meetings and participate in most of the retreat sessions.

By soliciting topic requests in advance, the “Lavender” agenda aimed to meet participants’ most burning questions. Our intent was to provide an empathetic, relaxing setting, with appropriate resource people. And, yes, there was much laughter and we all got to take a lavender plant home. Air Canada neve smelled so sweet.



From left: CanTRA board members Ann Caine, Daphne Davey, Eliane Trempe (president) and Gay Wood, with Sophie the dog.

“FREE TO ROAM” NEARLY SOLD OUT



Michael Brown, former Joyrider (here with his mom), enjoys a reunion with Daphne Davey at her book-signing for Free To Roam, hosted by Indigo in Charlottetown. Instructor and student hadn’t seen each other for 20 years.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.thejoyriders.ca

Promotional DVD --- *The Whinny* information --- photos --- links

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2010-2011**

- President* Andy Robb
- Past president* Trish Helm-Neima
- Vice-president* Valerie Paton
- Secretary* Mel Gallant
- Treasurer* Charlie Goodwin
- Members* Philip Cutcliffe
Stephanie Drake
RoseEllen Ghiz
Shelley MacEwen
Mary Morrison
Douglas Roper
Debbie Vickerson-Doucette
- Ex Officio* Kathryn Barrett (chief instructor)
Deena Robb (volunteer coordinator)

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SUBMISSIONS are welcome! Why not write something for the next newsletter? Or send a photo or drawing.

PHOTOGRAPHS are by Daphne Davey unless otherwise credited. Thumbnail photos of Daphne Davey and Deena Robb are by AnnMacNeill.com.

The Whinny is also posted on our website.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Please forward address or email changes to the editor to ensure *The Whinny* reaches you.