



**THE JOYRIDERS**  
**THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION**  
Prince Edward Island, Canada

**“THE WHINNY”**

Issue #11  
JUNE 2013



**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.

**PAXTON COLE**

Paxton has been a Joyrider since 2009. In those four years she has made great progress with her riding skills, knowledge, and physical strength (including her ability to give strong voice commands to her horse). Here she is riding Jewel, with leader Cassandra and side-walkers Winkie and Daphne.



**2013 EASTER SEALS  
AMBASSADOR**

Congratulations to Paxton on being chosen as the 2013 Easter Seals Ambassador. By all accounts, she did a great job of representing the abilities of people with disabilities to thousands of students in schools across the Island.

*Photo: David Park*



***FROM THE EDITOR'S  
DESK***

We always seem to be celebrating something or other. In this issue you will read not only about achievements of riders and volunteers in our program, but of their achievements out in the community as well. For such newsgathering, we have very competent help.

*Whinny* Roving Reporter and program volunteer Sally Russell has contributed articles about two riders who have been honoured in the community. We are very proud that they are Joyriders.

As our spring program draws to a close, we are gearing up for an expanded summer program to serve applicants on the waiting list with autism. We look forward to lots of fun. Happy holidays!

*Daphne Davey*

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The 2013 annual general meeting was held in a private room at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Charlottetown. Joyriders president David Park thanked many people whose volunteer contribution to the program ensured its success: board and program team members, program volunteers, and especially Danny and Martie Murphy for their commitment to a biannual fund-raising event. As David said, "Joyriders is indeed a special organization with very special people."

David thanked past president Andy Robb for his support; board members Valerie Paton, Mary Morrison and Stephanie Drake for agreeing to extend their terms for better continuity; and chief instructor Kathy Barrett for her dedicated and conscientious leadership. He also recognized the outstanding contribution of Charlie Goodwin who now passes the treasurer's hat to Jennifer Decoursey. In addition, three new board members were welcomed: Janice Cole, Adele Dixon, and Dr. Stirling Keiser.

We are now completing our second year based at Island Wide Equestrian, during which we revised our agreement with owner/director Harma Germs-Fraser. Both Harma and Kathy seem to be benefitting from it and developing a solid relationship.



*Cassidy Cheverie warms up for riding with help from Rider Coordinator Julie Scales.*

This past year, the board instituted a new *Joyrider of the Year* award, bestowed on Barbara Gillis. Her award, together with a special one-time award to Hannah MacLellan for her achievements in Para-Equestrian Canada video competitions, was presented at the annual Island Horse Council Awards Banquet.



*David Park presented the Joyriders awards at the Island Horse Council banquet. From left: Barbara Gillis (Joyrider of the Year), Hannah MacLellan (special one-time award), Stephanie Drake, and Marion Gillis.*

Two major initiatives have been developed this year. First, in recognizing the changing mix of our participants, the board established criteria and protocols for candidates entering and continuing in our program, including an annual review to fit our riders into the component of our program that will best meet their needs. Second, we are expanding our summer program at Kathy Barrett's facility in Hunter River to include a Horsemanship program with less emphasis on riding and more on learning at ground level about horse care and handling. This will be particularly geared towards clients with autism, who predominate on our waiting list.

Finally, our website got a face lift, thanks to our consultant, Patrick Ledwell, who donated a significant amount of time to this project.

*The above notes are based on David Park's annual report.*

Check us out at [www.thejoyriders.ca](http://www.thejoyriders.ca)

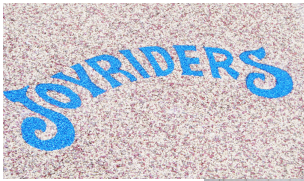


## MEANWHILE BACK AT THE BARN . . .



. . . we did a bit of landscaping. Thanks to Keith Doiron at Creative Gardening in Rustico, who was very generous with his prices for labour and materials, we got a new non-slip surface on our mounting ramp. No more slipping away for both riders and volunteers. Thanks, Keith!

[www.creativegardening.ca](http://www.creativegardening.ca)



Barbara Gillis, safely tucked into the hydraulic lift harness, is steered by her team onto Cue's back. Cue, an old pro, is quite unruffled by this unusual activity. Inset: The "Joyriders" name was set into the new non-slip surface.

Photos: David Park

### VOLUNTEER'S VIEWPOINT

For me volunteering in therapeutic riding with the Joyriders gives me a sense of fulfillment for being able to help the riders feel the freedom, happiness and self-confidence that a horse can give them. Seeing the smiles on their faces makes it all worth while for me.

Gilles Richard, CTRAI

## PAXTON COLE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINAIRE by Sally Russell

**Paxton Cole** is the Rotary Club of Charlottetown's **2013 Easter Seals Ambassador** for Prince Edward Island. She has had a busy touring year, meeting the public in schools and at events of various kinds. Although this public life can be hard work, Paxton has not let her studies slide, and she says she wishes she could do it again. At eleven years old, she exhibits an admirable presence which makes her a full-powered ambassador in any situation.

Those of us who have met Paxton at Joyriders are not surprised at her willingness to work and to put the best of herself into whatever she does. She is a spunky and confident rider. During a lesson when her pony, Jewel, had an itchy back and shook rather violently trying to scratch, Paxton was almost shaken out of the saddle. As she straightened up quickly, the first thing she said was, "I'm okay. I'm fine." Asked if she was frightened, she said, "Well, they have to shake sometimes."

Ask Paxton which horses she has ridden in her four years with Joyriders and she thinks only a second. "First I rode Cue," she says, then corrects herself. "No, first it was Peanuts, who was a Paint pony, then Cue, and I have ridden a black pony named April. I've been riding Jewel most recently, but Jewel was hurt today, so I got to ride Tanner."



With help from their team, Paxton and Jewel are ready to ride off into the arena.

Photo: David Park

“Was it difficult to adjust to being on a horse so much taller than Jewel or the other ponies?” I asked. “Not at all,” she answered, “but after I dismounted Tanner he tried to eat my walker. I think he thought the red knobs were apples.”

Paxton’s favourite gait is trotting. She feels her horse is her friend and says she would love to be a horse farmer or at least involved some way with raising horses. In spite of her disability, Paxton has a bright, can-do attitude towards everything. Asked what is her favourite subject in school, she replied, “You mean besides gym?”

Paxton is an ambassador of courage and grace.



### *A VERY SPECIAL PERSON*

The Joyriders and many others lost a good friend with the recent passing of **Bob Bateman**. He was a great supporter of our program ever since Adam joined as a rider (especially, he chaired the capital campaign that built our wheelchair-accessible viewing room). We will miss his upbeat approach to life, even in adversity, and his ready, puckish humour. Our condolences to Carolyn, Adam and their family.



*Our favourite photo of Bob (the airline pilot) perched on an aerial seat to watch Adam as he rides by.*

## *ONE THOUSAND HOURS AND COUNTING*

*by Sally Russell*

**Marc McKearney** has been joyriding for twenty-six years, starting when he was ten years old. Congratulating Marc on his thirty-sixth birthday recently at a Joyriding lesson, instructor Gilles Richard teased, “Marc, you’ll soon catch up with Doug’s thirty years of horse riding!” Marc, who is the definition of good-natured and pleasant, smiled broadly at this idea.

Now we have learned that Marc has been doing something special, partly because of some of the lessons he’s learned through his years of riding lessons. He has achieved his **One Thousand-Hour Award** for volunteer work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown. One thousand hours of working to help others! And Marc has been involved in this endeavour for no less than fifteen years.



*Marc riding Jane.  
Photo: annmacneill.com*

Janice Morrison, manager of volunteer services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, had this to say about Marc: “Monday afternoons at the QEH you will hear “Hi Bud” as Marc carries out his volunteer assignment escorting patients from the Rehab Unit to Physical Medicine for their appointments. Always smiling and friendly, Marc has become a familiar and welcomed face with staff, volunteers and patients since he started volunteering at the hospital in 1998. Marc was excited and pleased to receive his 1000-hour pin at the recent Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April, but not as excited and pleased as the Volunteer Services Department was to be able to present it to him for the commitment and personality he brings to his volunteer role.”



I asked Marc why he has put in one thousand hours at the hospital. “Because I love people,” he said, to which I replied, “I’ll bet it’s also because you like helping others as you’ve been helped here.” Giving his inimitable grin and bright look, Marc responded, “That’s right, that’s right!”

With his serenity and kindness, there can be no question that Marc is a comfort and help to people he meets everywhere, whether in a hospital or in a riding arena.



### *A WELL-DESERVED MEDAL*

Congratulations to Charlie Goodwin, board member and program volunteer, who was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for “community service” through his many years of work in 4H, Island Horse Council, the Provincial Exhibition Association – and of course the Joyriders.



*Charlie at the Island Horse Council banquet.*

### *NEWS BYTES*

**Lauren MacIsaac**, assistant instructor in training, recently graduated from UPEI with a Bachelor of Education. Congratulations!

**Jane James** from BC, a CanTRA examiner and past president of Para-Equestrian Canada, will be on the Island this month to give an instructor clinic and conduct an accreditation site visit in Hunter River.



## *CHRISTMAS IN JUNE*



Scenes from our Christmas party. Everyone seemed to be having a good time!



*From top: Spencer Brennan makes a match with Santa’s Elf. Gilles Richard receives his “500 Club” volunteer certificate. Justin MacEwen and mom Shelley say a big thank-you to the instructors. Paul Boswall shares a joke with Santa and his Elf.*



*UH-OH! WHO LEFT THEIR FEET BEHIND  
AT THE PARTY?*

### **PROGRAM TEAM**

*Chief instructor (CTRI)*

Kathryn Barrett

*Assistant Instructors (CTRAI)*

Daphne Davey      Trish Helm-Neima  
Debbie Gormley      Gilles Richard  
Marg Gray

*CTRAIs in training*

Stephanie Compton      Lauren MacIsaac

*Physiotherapist*

Trish Helm-Neima

*Other team members*

Joan Leslie, Equipment Manager  
Deena Robb, Volunteer Coordinator  
[deena.robbs@gmail.com]  
Julie Scales, Rider Coordinator  
[juliescales@msn.com]

### **DISABILITY TODAY NETWORK**

The Joyriders video and a selection of photos are posted on the DTN CanTRA Channel. Go to [www.disabilitytodaynetwork.com](http://www.disabilitytodaynetwork.com) (Therapy channel).

### **VISIT OUR WEBSITES!**

**[www.thejoyriders.ca](http://www.thejoyriders.ca)**

Video --- *The Whinny* --- information --- photos --- links

**[www.cantra.ca](http://www.cantra.ca)**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2014**

*President*

David Park

*Past president*

Andy Robb

*Vice-president*

Valerie Paton

*Secretary*

Mary Morrison

*Treasurer*

Jennifer Decoursey

*Members*

Adele Dixon  
Stephanie Drake  
Ellen McCloskey  
Butch McGee

*Ex Officio*

Kathryn Barrett  
(Chief Instructor)  
Trish Helm-Neima  
(Physiotherapist)  
Deena Robb  
(Volunteer Coordinator)

### **“THE WHINNY”**

Semiannual newsletter of The Joyriders Therapeutic  
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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.