



THE JOYRIDERS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
Prince Edward Island, Canada

“THE WHINNY”

Issue #13
JUNE 2014



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.



2013 JOYRIDER OF THE YEAR
~ KENNETH STEWART ~

This annual award, in its second year, was presented to Kenneth at the Island Horse Council Awards Night, followed by a repeat presentation at the Joyriders Christmas party. Congratulations, Kenneth!

Kenneth has been riding with the Joyriders since 1994 and has overcome many obstacles along the way. See page 8 for his citation.

At left: Joyriders president David Park presents Kenneth with a plaque at the IHC awards night.



**FROM THE EDITOR'S
DESK**

The past few months have seen much activity. But as any newsletter should, this issue reports on both happy events and sad ones.

While we celebrate the achievements of our riders and volunteers, welcome new faces, and enjoy

memories prompted by the photos, we also pause to remember with affection and gratitude three people – two riders and a volunteer/board member – no longer with us, who have become an integral part of our family's history.

And just to keep you on the edge of your seats, watch out for the fall 2014 issue of the *Whinny*. You might not recognize it!

Daphne Davey

NEW FACES AT THE AGM

The 2014 AGM was held in Charlottetown on May 14. David Park, outgoing president, gave an extensive report on the past year's activities, from Riding and Horsemanship programs, to workshops for instructors (and two newly qualified as Assistant Instructors), to fund-raising and PR opportunities. No wonder we're all out of gas!

David thanked several board members who were stepping out of the saddle (and, we suspect, heading for the nearest saloon) for their hard work: Stephanie Drake, Ellen McCloskey, Mary Morrison, and Valerie Paton.

Four new board members were welcomed into the directorial saddle. They join the incumbent board members: Janice Cole, Jennifer DeCoursey, Adele Dixon, Butch MacGee, and David Park:

Nicole Kitchener has been involved with horses for more than 30 years. She has owned and operated Get-Away Farm, a small riding school in Fairview, PEI, since 2003. A journalist by profession, Nicole is former editor of *Horse Sport* magazine. She continues to freelance, primarily for equestrian publications, and works as a web writer at CBC Charlottetown. Nicole also served as secretary and communications person for Island Horse Council for more than five years, and is looking forward to once again volunteering in the Island's horse industry with the Joyriders board.



Jennifer Lawton holds two degrees, a master's in Business Administration, and a Certificate in Adult Education. She has worked in Calgary, Halifax, and now back on PEI, in a variety of settings, including major fund development. In 2011, she was in China teaching international business students for Holland College, where she currently works as the Events Management instructor. She is a board member and fund-raiser for Camp Gencheff. Jennifer started volunteering with the Joyriders in 2008 but had to give up due to a back injury, although she has remained supportive and has now joined the board.

Note: The beautifully designed programs for all of our fund-raisers at Gingerwood are thanks to Jennifer and, although she would probably never admit it, her influence probably had a lot to do with the new portable loading ramp which was generously donated by her parents a couple of years ago!



Paxton gets ready to mount Jewel at the non-slip ramp.



Jim McQuaid is a UPEI graduate from Charlottetown. For many years he was employed in the federal government, while contributing in many ways to his community. Some of his "hats" over the years include Deputy Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus (St. Pius X Parish Council); member of Charlottetown Police Consultative Committee; member of Charlottetown City Council and Sherwood Community Council; minor hockey and soccer coach; and incoming president of the PEI Golf Association. Jim has been married to JoAnn for 42 years and has three daughters.



Lori Morris grew up in Charlottetown. She graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University with a BSc of Public Relations, then held various communications positions before joining the Canadian Mental Health Association (PEI Division) as a Communications Officer. Lori started volunteering at the Joyriders in the fall of 2013 with her husband, D'Arcy. They were drawn to the Joyriders because of the wonderful

organization that it is and also the many therapeutic benefits they receive working beside the horses – and also seeing the “joy” that it brings to the riders. Lori and D’Arcy have two children.



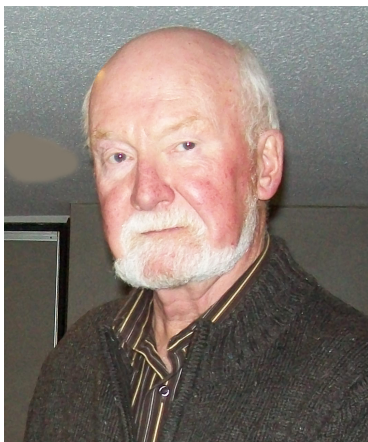
BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

A new honorary category, Board Member Emeritus, was inaugurated at the AGM. Its first inductee was, to no one’s surprise, **Andy Robb**.

Andy joined the Joyriders board nine years ago in 2003 and served as president from 2006 to 2012. During his tenure as president, he spearheaded many major events, including the biannual Gingerwood fund-raising evenings and the 2011 CanTRA Conference in Stanhope.

Other projects that he oversaw include our new website, new assistant instructors qualified, and our therapeutic programs expanded. The list goes on. Andy also pursued grant opportunities (and still does) with the focus of a bloodhound and just as successfully.

Congratulations and deep thanks to Andy for such a well-deserved designation. Your experience and wisdom will, we are sure, be made good use of by the board!



FOUR CHEERS!

Congratulations to . . .

Paige Gamester (volunteer) on being accepted into the Atlantic Vet College (and earning her BSc in the process).

Rachael Loggie (rider) for being named Special Olympics PEI 2013 Female Athlete of the Year (for her involvement in swimming and curling).



Rachael doing her very best to cheer up Santa

Lauren MacIsaac (Assistant Instructor) on obtaining her Bachelor of Education from UPEI.

Deena Robb (Volunteer Coordinator) on joining the “500 Club” (500+ hours of volunteer service) at the Christmas party.



Gilles presents Deena with her 500 certificate

~ **FEATURE ARTICLE** ~

STEPHANIE COMPTON
Brand New Instructor!

by Roving Reporter Sally Russell



Stephanie



Sally

Stephanie Compton, who recently qualified as an Assistant Instructor (CTRAI), is an energetic and talented young woman. She is exactly the kind of horse lover needed to become an ardent proponent of therapeutic riding. We are fortunate to have her on our Joyriders team.

Stephanie was a typical horse-crazy little girl, lucky enough to have a backyard horse. Sunny entered her life when she was twelve, and they were companions for 21 years. They had no interest in competing in horse shows but enjoyed riding around their farm down woodland trails and along the beaches of Savage Harbour. Sunny didn't care where they were going as long as they went FAST.

Stephanie recalls these rides with wonder, yet the important recollection is of the strong bond she felt with Sunny. This companionship, which she sees happen with our riders, is a great gift. "It's more than the lesson or the ride," she says. "They have a wonderful, powerful, four-legged friend. There is something very special about that."

Stephanie became interested in the Joyriders in 2006, just after she completed her BSc in Agriculture at UPEI. While temporarily unemployed, she wanted to give back to society, and the Joyriders was one of the organizations she volunteered with.

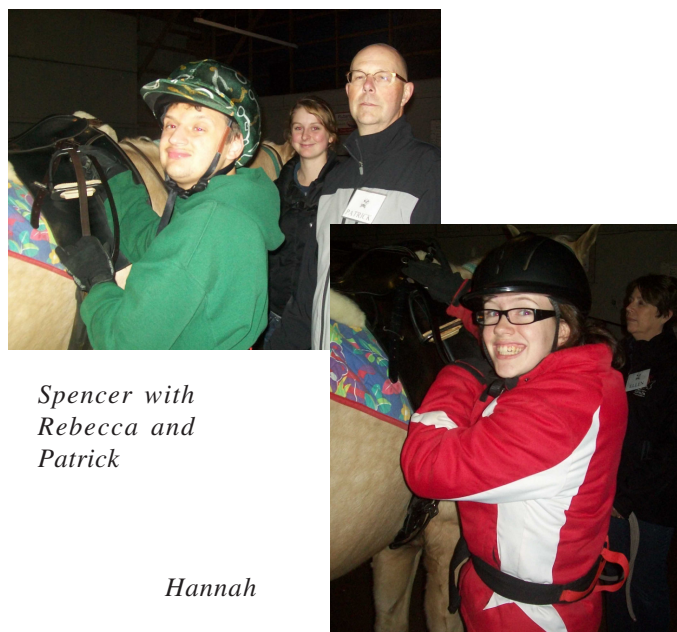
"I found my way to the Joyriders because I like spending time with horses, but I stayed because I discovered my relationships with the riders to be inspiring. I felt great after spending time at the barn. There is so much positive energy there. I also enjoyed the structure of the program—grooming and warming up the horses, learning correct horsemanship techniques, observing Kathy Barrett's gentle training and coaching methods."



Mikaela (centre) with Tanner, flanked by side-walker Elspeth (left) and leader Hannah. Mikaela has been riding with the Joyriders since 2010.

In 2010, Stephanie began working on the many requirements of CTRAI certification. She says that Kathy's high standards and consistency as a riding instructor and her fairness and consideration as a horse trainer were motivating factors, as were Daphne Davey's vision and energy. "I had never accomplished anything as a rider," she says. "Becoming an Assistant Instructor is probably something I would never have pursued on my own. Kathy nurtured my natural ability to communicate with the riders and through her mentorship nurtured my ability to become an AI."

Stephanie, who had never had formal riding training, took her first real riding lessons as she began her training. “I enjoyed being the riding student,” she says. “It has given me a better perspective of what our riders have accomplished through their lessons.” Certification training involves obtaining a current First Aid/CPR certificate, mentoring hours (with Kathy), completing a prerequisite workbook and lesson plans, practice teaching, student reports, participating in a pre-exam Technical, and the actual exam (hands-on teaching, oral questions and a written exam), which was held at Cavalier Riding Club (a CanTRA centre near Moncton).



*Spencer with
Rebecca and
Patrick*

Hannah

Why is Joyriders such worthwhile work? Stephanie finds it so because, as an able-bodied rider, she took for granted what her body could tell her horse to do and also took for granted how perceptive horses are to people. She sees Joyriders asking their horses to do something—using very modified horsemanship/riding techniques—and the horses are listening, interpreting and following through on the rider’s request. “It’s a beautiful thing to see,” she says. “I’ve seen Joyriders horses connect with our riders in a way that is so profoundly intuitive that it brings tears to my eyes.”

Stephanie thanks the entire Program Team for their support and encouragement. She is pleased to be part of that team. “I enjoy being able to provide our riders with the opportunity to connect with a horse in the way that I had the opportunity to be companions with Sunny,” she says. “This is my place in the equestrian world.”

The next issue of the Whinny will feature an article about Stephanie’s co-candidate, Lauren MacIsaac, who also successfully qualified as a CTRAI.



FONDLY REMEMBERED

JENNIFER MacDONALD

In March 2014 at the age of 31, Jennifer finally gave up her long struggle with her disability. She joined our program in 1996, but when she had to give up riding several years later she continued helping out at fund-raisers. She tried not to miss our Christmas parties, too!

All who knew Jennifer were humbled by her quiet courage. Her positive attitude, even to the point of consoling her parents in her last days, moved us all.



Jennifer on Korey with Virginia, Trish and Debbie at the 1990 CanTRA Atlantic Games in Nova Scotia.

A VERY SPECIAL PERSON

The Joyriders lost a great friend when Charlie Goodwin passed away this May after a long battle with cancer.

In 1981, we invited Charlie to be the judge at our fund-raising Horsarama Horse Show held at Strathgartney Horse Park. This was his first exposure to our riders and their abilities and it made a big impression on him. Again, in 1996, Charlie judged our in-house Mini-Games. In 2008, Charlie joined the Joyriders as a program volunteer, then as treasurer of our board until his declining health forced him to retire.

Charlie was a fun-loving professional. He just loved horses, horse people, and horse activities – and he especially loved horse-loving kids and adults with disabilities. We feel very privileged to have had him as a supporter and volunteer with our program.

Our condolences go out to his wife, Irma, and family.



*Charlie
with Royal*

ROTARIANS SPONSOR A HORSE AND RIDER

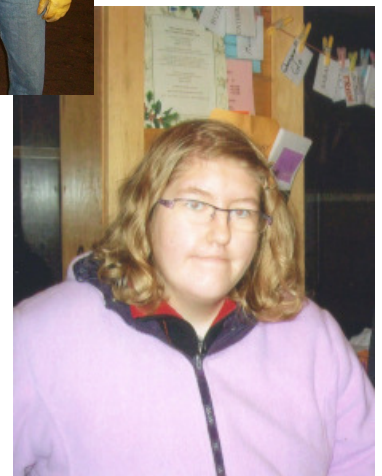
We are very fortunate to have the **Charlottetown-Hillsborough Rotarians** agree to sponsor **Claire Lockhart and Duchess** for one year.

Claire Lockhart started in the program in 2009. Despite major physical challenges, she does really well with her riding, thanks to her strong determination. She also enjoys swimming, reading, sewing, and Girl Guides. Claire has participated in the Para-Equestrian national video competition in the past two years, catching first and third places in her category. She always looks on the bright side of every situation and works hard to meet her own expectations.

Duchess has served in the Joyriders program for several years, graciously loaned to us by her owner. She is calm, predictable and totally dependable. Because she is a large horse she can handle the older and bigger riders. She is much loved by her riders, leaders and side-walkers because of her sweet temperament. She seems to understand that she is carrying a special rider needing special care.



*Duchess with
Anja and Gilles*



Claire Lockhart

PARA-EQUESTRIAN VIDEOS

In the fall of 2013, our intrepid videographer, David Park (a.k.a. Joyriders president) crouched, well wrapped up, at the far end of the arena to videotape a number of our riders for the Para-Equestrian Video Competition.

Our riders had been practicing the challenging Equitation test for several weeks. As the time for taping drew near, we discovered that costs for entering the national Para-Equestrian Competition had risen substantially since last year, so we offered an in-house option at minimal cost, the videos to be judged by two local horse people, both qualified Equine Canada coaches – I'm sure the first time they had been asked to judge this way!

Janet Fraser has been a program volunteer for several years, but her first contact with the Joyriders was in 1985 when she judged the Dressage Demonstration that we staged during the Charlottetown Pony Club Show. Her involvement with the Charlottetown Pony Club and Horse Trials PEI goes back many years.

Valerie Paton recently retired from the Joyriders board after several years of service, and can sometimes be seen hanging around the barn watching our riders in action. Her involvement with Pony Club and CADORA (Dressage) also goes back many years.

The judges decided to review the videos under three headings: Position, Effectiveness, and Effort, and place the riders under the heading best suited to their performance, but without allotting placings. Everyone received a ribbon for a grand effort. Here are the results:

Position

Patricia Bradley
Claire Lockhart
Rachael Loggie

Effectiveness

Douglas Roper
Kenneth Stewart

Effort

Jesse Craswell
Ryan MacNeil
Marc McKearney

RIBBON GALLERY



Val Paton (left), Patricia, Janet Fraser



Claire



< Rachael



Jesse



< Ryan



Marc

< Kenneth

2013 RIDER OF THE YEAR CITATION FOR KENNETH STEWART

In 1994, a young lad joined our program. This was Kenneth Stewart, the recipient of the Joyriders 2013 Rider of the Year award.

We have been privileged to watch this rider grow and mature from a boy to a teen to an adult — and he rides with us still. Over the past 19 years, Kenneth has worked hard to overcome obstacles and to constantly improve. As a result, he has become one of our senior riders with much experience now tucked under his belt.

In addition to participating in our spring and fall riding sessions, Kenneth has been involved in a number of riding competitions and demonstrations, both in this province and on the mainland. He was

- * a member of the 1995 PEI Team at the Atlantic Coast Games for the Disabled held in Nova Scotia, winning ribbons in Equitation, Trail, and Mounted Games.

- * a member of the 1999 PEI Team at the Atlantic Coast Games, helping to win the Hi Point Team trophy

- * a member of the 2001 PEI Team at the Atlantic Coast Games, winning ribbons in Dressage, Trail, and Mounted Games

- * a participant in the 2002 and 2006 Joyriders Open House riding demonstrations at our home base in Winsloe. At one of these events, he acted as guest judge.

Additionally, in the past two years, Kenneth has participated in Para-Equestrian Canada's Coast to Coast national video competition, entering the Trail class for his category, and is currently training for the Equitation class in the next competition.

Kenneth has shown great dedication to the Joyriders program. He arrives promptly for his lessons and rarely misses any. He is always keen. His friendly and cheerful disposition is enjoyed by his peers and volunteer helpers. In fact, he has been a great volunteer recruiter. His sister Amanda volunteered with the program for several years, and his dad Allan has trained as a

volunteer to step in when needed. Kenneth knows that the support of his family has played an important role in his success at riding.

Like many of us, Kenneth has had to face the challenge of weight gain, but more so for him as vigorous exercise like jogging is not an option. When his weight has surpassed the limit allowed to ensure the comfort and safety of the therapy horses, he has taken a leave of absence and the bull by the horns. He has worked hard to return to the program, suitably slimmed down, and moved forward again with his riding. You have to admire a guy who has gone to the lengths of refusing birthday cake in order to lose weight so he can get back to riding.

We congratulate Kenneth on this award. It represents our recognition and admiration of everything he has put into his participation in the Joyriders over the many years he has been involved.

FONDLY REMEMBERED

YURIMARUT

Yuri was one of our original riders in 1979. He rode with the program the first year, then from 1981 to 1994. He passed away in April at the age of 51. Yuri participated several times in the Atlantic CanTRA Games held in Amherst, NS, and in other "away" events. He was always gentle, happy, and smiling.



Yuri riding Cavendish, with side-walker Helen and leader Colleen at Linden Farm (now Birch Lane Farm), Milton.

PARA-EQUESTRIAN NATIONAL RIDER

Hannah MacLellan also prepared for the Para-Equestrian Video Competition and chose to compete nationally. We are delighted to say she won her class with the high score of 78%. Congratulations!



Hannah with Lynn Marshall from Para-Equestrian Canada after a lesson on Rain in 2011.

RED SHORES DOES US PROUD

A benefit race at the Charlottetown Driving Park, sponsored by Red Shores, brought the Joyriders a donation of \$3,200. We braved a chilly, damp day to receive the cheque with our grateful thanks to Red Shores – and to Toad River, the horse who made it happen. Coincidentally, Marg Frizzell, a part-owner of the horse, very kindly lent us the use of her mare Ellie a few years ago (a favourite of Douglas's).



Toad River does his bit for the Joyriders



CHRISTMAS CHEER



Cassidy with Karen and Amy



Volunteers Lisa and Cecil with physio Trish at the Christmas party.



Patricia with Karen, Cue and Mary



Mary helped make the table decorations at a "bee" hosted earlier by Stephanie



Stephanie and daughter Clara try out some of the soft toys during the Equipment Clinic for our instructors held this past November.

PROGRAM TEAM

Chief instructor (CTRI)

Kathryn Barrett

Assistant Instructors (CTRAI)

Stephanie Compton	Trish Helm-Neima
Daphne Davey	Lauren MacIsaac
Debbie Gormley	Gilles Richard
Marg Gray	

Physiotherapist

Trish Helm-Neima

Also part of the Team

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

VISIT THESE WEBSITES!

www.thejoyriders.ca
www.cantra.ca
www.disabilitytodaynetwork.com
 (CanTRA channel under Partners tab)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

<i>President</i>	[vacant]
<i>Past president</i>	David Park
<i>Vice-president</i>	Janice Cole
<i>Secretary</i>	Adele Dixon
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jennifer Decoursey

<i>Directors</i>	Nicole Kitchener Jennifer Lawton Butch McGee Jim McQuaid Lori Morris
<i>Director Emeritus</i>	Andy Robb

<i>Ex Officio</i>	Kathryn Barrett <i>Chief Instructor</i> Trish Helm-Neima <i>Physiotherapist</i> Deena Robb <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>
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“THE WHINNY”

Semi-annual newsletter of The Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association of PEI Inc.
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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.