



THE JOYRIDERS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
Prince Edward Island, Canada



“THE WHINNY”

Issue #9
SEPTEMBER 2012

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.

THE TWO FACES . . .

. . . OF CUE



Cue always greets Barbara Gillis first before she is mounted using the hydraulic lift at the ramp, where he stands perfectly still, focusing on the job in hand in partnership with his human volunteer team.



*Cue and Hannah MacLellan all dressed up and ready to practice their Para-Equestrian dressage test. Hannah rode Cue last winter in private lessons without a leader or side-walkers. Butch McGee is cheerleader.
Photo: Stephanie Drake*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As it wasn't possible to get the spring issue of the *Whinny* out in its traditional month of June, this issue will belatedly cover the 2012 annual meeting and spring program, while the next issue (slated for November) will cover the summer and fall programs. In the meantime, as usual we welcomed new volunteers (including board members) and said farewell to others who left us. As people move on or move away, they leave something of themselves behind -- their effort, their enthusiasm, and their experience. Each one enriches our program.

Daphne Davey

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andy Robb



Ed. note: Due to space limitations, annual reports have been edited. Copies of the full reports can be obtained from board secretary Mary Morrison at morrison.jim@pei.sympatico.ca

It has been my privilege to serve another year as president of Joyriders. In last year's report I wrote: "...What I see is a dynamic, energetic and exceptionally talented group of individuals all united by a common goal – the well-being and progress of our riders." The same is true of this past year, but with the addition of Catherine Thomas, Ellen McCloskey and David Park to the board.

After six years in the role, I will be retiring as president, and Douglas Roper will be retiring as rider representative. We have asked Doug to be rider correspondent for the *Whinny*. Incoming president David Park brings a strong business background, as well as Joyriders volunteer and board experience. I am delighted that two new board members will be joining us: Jennifer DeCoursey and Butch McGee.



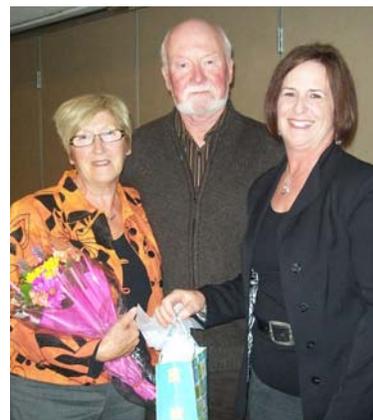
Douglas Roper receives a retirement gift from Andy Robb

Last year's two major events – the CanTRA conference and our Gingerwood fund-raiser – were exceptionally successful. Our instructors, volunteers and riders represented the Island's hospitality for an appreciative national audience. Daphne Davey will be the next CanTRA president. We wish her well in this challenging role.

The Gingerwood fund-raiser had a high benchmark to reach after David Myles in 2009, but Matt Andersen's magic did the job. It was our best-ever result, and will

help to sustain us through 2013. The organizing team was terrific; Stephanie Drake's dynamism and Mel Gallant's organizational experience were especially critical. My thanks to *everyone* who helped. It goes without saying that Danny and Martie Murphy's generosity made it all possible. They are good friends to the program.

The training program for our new assistant instructors is in the home stretch. Our thanks to ParaSport and Recreation PEI for funding their training. It will be great to have Helen Kristmanson, Lauren McIsaac and Stephanie Compton fully certified.



Deena and Andy Robb accept a gift from vice-president Valerie Paton (right)

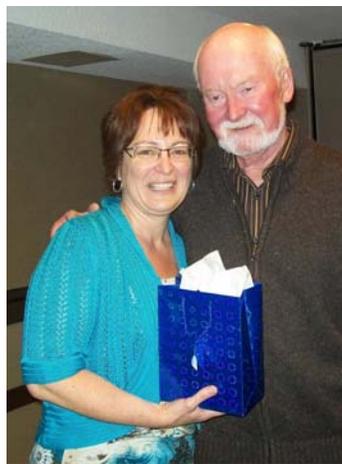
One of the most significant things to happen was Para-Equestrian Canada's videotaped competition series. Hannah MacLellan had very strong results in dressage, and most of our riders successfully competed in a trail class. Thanks to a grant from ParaSport and Recreation PEI, we were able to purchase needed video equipment.

The 2011 fall riding session was the first at the renovated Island Wide Equestrian Centre under the proprietorship of Harma Germs. Our relationship is positive and cordial. As ever, our chief instructor, Kathy Barrett, and her assistant instructors have been a rock solid core in the program. The many hours they spend preparing and offering the riding sessions is at the heart of what we are. The same is true for our volunteers. We couldn't do it without them, and wouldn't want to!

This past fall and winter were a kind of sabbatical for Deena and myself. Although we were absent from board meetings and the Christmas party, our thoughts were with

you. My thanks to all who stepped up to help, especially Valerie Paton, who was a *very* active vice-president. David will be well served as she continues in the role.

Our terrific financial sponsors this year were the Rotary Club of Charlottetown, Easter Seals, Metro Credit Union, Island Lions Clubs (especially the Winsloe club). Individuals such as Dr. Rosemary Henderson and Danny and Martie Murphy, and donors to our Gingerwood auction, have been consistent friends. Many organizations have chosen Joyriders as the beneficiary of their fund-raising events. Without the resources these donors provide, our program would be impossible.



Andy Robb thanks Trish Helm-Neima, who was past president for six years

Another positive development has been our joining (or rejoining) Island Horse Council. With their new insurance arrangements we can now join the table and share our experiences. They also provide modest and occasional program grants.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of former rider Barbara Pineau. The Joyriders meant a lot to her, and she meant a lot to us. It was wonderful that she could ride with us when she did. The pictures of her displayed at the wake show her courage, joy and spirit in face of terrible life-threatening prospects. We extend our condolences to her husband Phil and her family.

In closing, let me thank you for your support over the past six years. We face 2012–13 in good financial shape, the team is organizationally strong, and our reputation is positive and growing. Trish Helm-Neima was a hard act to follow. My thanks to her and all of you.



David Park, incoming board president, volunteers with the program during the week. This spring, he visited a Saturday session to meet those riders and volunteers for the first time. He was very impressed with what he saw, especially Barbara Gillis being “floated” onto Cue’s back by means of the hydraulic hoist!



Adam Bateman enjoys a spring morning ride on Tanner, with help from Catherine Thomas (left) and Kylie Ford (leader)

NEW WHEELCHAIR MEETS NEW RAMP

Sometimes, as our riders grow, we must resort to back-saving strategies for their comfort and that of our volunteers. Recently, **Clary Stubbert of Home Safe Living** in Charlottetown donated a wheelchair, which we can use to transport riders up the mounting ramp more easily than walking them up. The ramp itself, thanks to **Butch McGee and his crew**, has now been lowered six inches to decrease back stress on those who are mounting riders.

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT

Kathy Barrett, CTRI



This was a transitional year as the Winsloe Equestrian Centre, owners Kim and Kurt Kershaw, became Island Wide Equestrian Centre, owner Harma Germs Fraser.

We ran our **spring program** using Peanuts and Jessie (loaned by the Kershaws); Duchess (loaned by Deb Wellner); my own mare, Rain; and Cue (on permanent loan from Dr. Jean MacLean). Kenneth Stewart and Claire Lockhart were unable to ride due to weight restrictions, and Barbara Gillis sat out on sabbatical. For the rest of our riders we ran only nine lessons because of the CanTRA national conference held in June.

Our **summer introductory program** was held in Hunter River (at the Barretts' River Trails Ranch), due to renovations taking place in Winsloe. We were able to accommodate new rider Lucas Metcalfe, while Paxton Cole from our main program took one-on-one lessons with our physio, Trish Helm-Neima. We used April, a pony that was on loan to us.



Paul Boswall learns to turn Tanner, supported by side-walkers Merv Froehlich (back left) and Gilles Richard, CTRI, and led by Frank McCloskey.

Our **fall program** at Island Wide Equestrian Centre. meant a big adjustment as we had to supply most of the horses. We were able to borrow Daisy, a horse that met the guidelines for carrying heavier riders. We also

used Peanuts, Cue, Rain and Duchess again. We now spend more time between lessons ensuring the horses are schooled properly as they are not used in other lessons. All 17 of our riders learned a detailed trail course designed by Para-Equestrian Canada, and were videotaped. Seven actually competed in the Coast-to-Coast (trail) and one in the Sea-to-Sea (dressage) video competition.

The fall session saw very committed riders with a purpose, with more focus and excitement in the lessons. We hope to compete again with some riders doing more advanced tests and others competing for the first time. We had a visit from Lynn Marshall from Para-Equestrian Canada, who helps prepare riders classified for the Sea-to-Sea competitions. She also gave the Program Team an informative clinic.

Throughout 2011, our three CTRAI candidates have participated in volunteer orientations and practiced teaching in many lessons. Their dedication is commendable. In July 2012 they will take the Technical, evaluated by CanTRA examiners.

I would like to thank the Program Team for tirelessly working for the betterment of each riding session, and the Joyriders board for all the ways they support the program. Of course, thanks to all our dedicated volunteers and riders.



ALUMNI NEWS

Heather Burrage, CTRAI (Newfoundland) (former volunteer) graduated from the Atlantic Vet College with two awards.

Janell MacDonald (former volunteer) graduated from UPEI with a fistful of prizes and awards (eight!).

Jennifer MacDonald (former rider) recently celebrated her 30th birthday with a merry party attended by a large crowd of well-wishers.

Darcy MacPherson (former rider), a professor of law at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, was recently interviewed in the *Guardian*. As a child he had been told he would never be able to finish school.

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



It's great to be back at the barn after being absent for the fall session for personal reasons. The past year was educational and entertaining.

The national conference was excellent in its content and a stellar example of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, Program Team and Board. Thank you to the Board for sponsoring my attendance.

The summer program included one new rider and a one-on-one lesson with myself as instructor and physiotherapist for Paxton Cole. This lesson was recommended to help Paxton with specific physical training. This option is being considered for other riders as needed and as resources are available.

Due to my absence I missed the action over the fall but was delighted to hear how well all the riders performed on the videotaped competitions. When I returned in the new year, I assisted with the rider reports and attended workshops on the CTRAI rubrics and on leading. I also led a review for the Program Team on how to use the mechanical lift.

I continue to enjoy my role as consulting physiotherapist and CTRAI, and am looking forward to another exciting year.



CONDOLENCES

We will remember former rider Barbara Pineau, who passed away in May 2012, for her valiant spirit facing insurmountable odds. She was always smiling, and it took little to prompt her infectious laugh. She gave to us just as much as she gained enjoyment from our program. Our condolences to her husband, Phil, and family.

**HORSE SHOWS GO
HIGH-TECH**



Para-Equestrian Canada has developed a video competition series that allows riders to compete without having to leave home (which few can afford to do). The competitions are held several times a year.

Hannah MacLellan chose dressage, while all our other riders rode a trail course. Of these, we selected seven to enter the national competition, while Hannah entered three dressage competitions over the winter. Each rider received a score sheet with lots of helpful comments from the judges.

Congratulations to *all* our riders, whether riding for fun or competition. Thanks especially to David Keenlyside for huddling in the chilly arena behind the video camera.

**TRAIL CLASS #8
(December 2011 competition)**

Some judges' comments added after each name.

- 1st Claire Lockhart
Congratulations. You did a wonderful job.
- 2nd Cody MacDonald
Great job. You can do it.
- 3rd Marc McKearney
You had super bending poles and a lovely turn on the forehand.
- 4th Rachael Loggie
Good job. You are a lovely rider.
- 5th Paxton Cole
My goodness, you sat up so beautifully walking down the long side.
- 6th Douglas Roper
Terrific job.
- 7th Kenneth Stewart
You did such a good job.



At the Joyriders annual meeting, Hannah MacLellan is presented with three Para-Equestrian ribbons and a plaque for her dressage competition results. Left to right: volunteer Butch McGee, Hannah, coach Kathy Barrett, and past president Andy Robb.

**VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR'S REPORT**
Deena Robb



I have been on the board of Joyriders since 2003, serving as Volunteer Coordinator for most of that time. I can honestly say that our volunteers are among the nicest, kindest, most dedicated and cheerful people I've ever met. Because so many have remained loyal to us over the years, we now have a strong core of skilled help to provide the consistency so important to our riders, and the experience needed to assist our Program Team.

Our sincere thanks to the following volunteers who contributed their time and effort from April 2011 to December 2011:

DRESSAGE CLASS

(Hannah MacLellan -- Novice: Grade 1a)

Some of judges' comments added after each result.

1st – December 2011 competition

Nice consistent test. Lovely quiet position throughout test. Keep up the good work.

1st – February 2012 competition

I appreciate your attention to your turnout – even to braids [on Cue].

1st – March 2012 competition

Quality presentation. Good effort, a pleasure to judge.

TWO FINAL NOTES

* On one of Hannah's tests the judge wrote: "Very compatible partnership – good training of pony and coaching of rider evident." So congratulations also to Kathy Barrett for turning out this "very compatible partnership."

* Thanks to Hannah's achievements, a nice article with photo was published in the *Guardian* – great for PR.

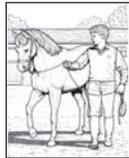
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Cassie Anderson | Laura Mark |
| Sarah Beauregard | Hilary May |
| Ashley Blanchard | Ellen McCloskey |
| Amy Bullerwell | Frank McCloskey |
| Stephanie Compton | Butch McGee |
| Elaine Estey | Linda McKittrick |
| Jessica Farmer | Robyn McMillan |
| Kylie Ford | Janet Midgley |
| Janet Fraser | Mary Morrison |
| Merv Froehlich | Dede Nicholson |
| Rose Ellen Ghiz | Nick Oakley |
| Sarah Gillis | David Park |
| Charlie Goodwin | Winkie Park |
| Katie Harrison | Chelsea Pellerin |
| Tara Huestis | Allen Perry |
| Hannah Hughes | Ashley Quinn |
| Maria Kearney | Cat Radtke |
| Kim Kershaw | Virginia Reddin |
| Christina Keuper | Miriam Rhodes |
| Helen Kristmanson | Jordon Rowledge |
| Patrick LeClair | Mike Rowledge |
| Joan Leslie | Sheila Rowledge |
| Heather Lizama | Cyril Roy |
| Malcolm Lizama | Julie Scales |
| Lauren MacIsaac | Joan Sullivan |
| Taylor MacKenzie | Catherine Thomas |
| Melissa MacKinnon | Monica Waite |
| Heather MacLeod | |

Also thanks to Sandra MacDonald, who with Marg Gray, CTRAI, shared viewing room duties with me.

Finally, ten enthusiastic new volunteers completed the spring 2012 training session: Anna Evans, Becca Henderson, Katelyn MacKinnon, Jessica MacLeod, Sarah MacLeod, Cassandra Mellish, Patricia Phillips, Karen Thompson, Nicole Walsh, and Rebecca Watts. Our student volunteers continue to participate in the Community Service Bursary Program. We appreciate this provincial initiative that encourages volunteering.



**LEARNING TO BE
LEADERS**



In April 2012 we piloted a new Leaders Training Certificate for our CTRAI's, current "senior" leaders, and "junior" volunteers who help warm up the horses. As need arises, we can train other volunteers with potential to become experienced leaders.

We perceived a need to offer the Leader program in order to maintain consistency among our leaders in handling the horses; for safety; and to teach a very specific protocol in the mounting ramp area. (We also have a protocol for mounting with the hydraulic lift, but Cue is the only horse currently partnering a rider who uses the lift and he knows the job back to front!).

Participants were given a take-away summary sheet with the leader's job description and safety procedures. Graduates will be awarded their certificates at the Christmas Party.



Tea-break for horses and leaders. From left: Dot (Kylie), Duchess (Anna), Cue (Sarah), Tanner (Cyril).

We are offering two certificate levels:

Level 1 – Basic: A person who can lead a quiet horse in the program but not sufficiently experienced to handle a more challenging horse.

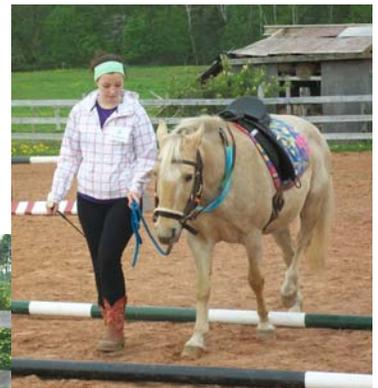
Level 2 – Advanced: A person who is capable of handling any horse used in the program.

**LEADER TRAINING GRADUATES
LEVEL 1 – BASIC**

Ashley Blanchard
Stephanie Compton
Daphne Davey
Jessica Farmer
Janet Fraser
Debbie Gormley
Marg Gray
Trish Helm-Neima

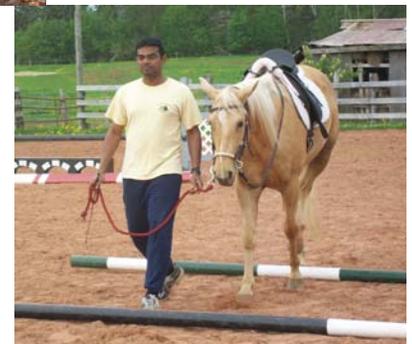
Helen Kristmanson
Joan Leslie
Heather MacLeod
Mary Morrison
Virginia Reddin
Gilles Richard
Catherine Thomas

Sarah and Cue >



< Monica and Dot

*Cyril and
Tanner >*





END NOTE

Volunteer Tara Huestis taking care of loose ends. Cue, of course, looked spic and span in the end.

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
Helen Kristmanson

Physiotherapist
Trish Helm-Neima

Other team members
Joan Leslie, Equipment Manager
Deena Robb, Volunteer Coordinator
Julie Scales, Rider Coordinator

DISABILITY TODAY NETWORK

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITES!

www.thejoyriders.ca

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

www.cantra.ca

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2012-2013**

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Treasurer Charlie Goodwin

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Jennifer Decoursey
Stephanie Drake
Shelley MacEwen
Ellen McCloskey
Butch McGee
Catherine Thomas

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

“THE WHINNY”

Semiannual 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 anmacneill.com.

The Whinny is also posted on our website.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Please forward address or email changes to the editor.