



THE JOYRIDERS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
 Prince Edward Island, Canada

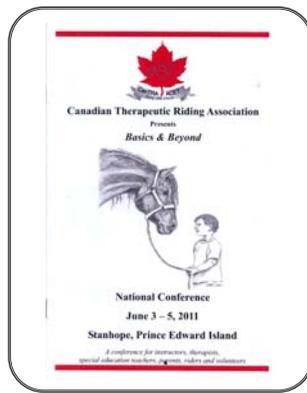


“THE WHINNY”

Issue #7
 JUNE 2011

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.



Marg, Marc and Joan

Cue, who stole the equine limelight at the conference, all decked out for his role in the pre-conference Lungeing Clinic.



Trish, Hannah and physio Marion Slatter-Blitstein



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

Wow! What a stupendous effort! The CanTRA Conference, hosted June 3–5 by the Joyriders and Danny and Martie Murphy at the Stanhope Beach Resort and Gingerwood, was by all accounts a great success. A photo is worth a thousand words, so I will let these photos speak for themselves.

But first, on behalf of both CanTRA and the Joyriders, our deep thanks to everyone on PEI who worked so hard to make this such a great conference.



Janet, Mary Lauren and Stephanie



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 Andy Robb at arobb@pei.sympatico.ca

It was my privilege to serve as president this past year, from which position I got to watch our board, instructors, volunteers, riders and financial supporters in action. What I saw was a dynamic, energetic and exceptionally talented group of individuals united by a common goal—the well-being and progress of our riders.

It is important to stress the role of the volunteers, the “engine” of the organization. In particular, our board served as a model of how to work collegially toward a common goal, and the instructors were meticulous, professional and gifted as teachers.

We have generous and supportive donors, of whom the following deserve special mention: Easter Seals, Charlottetown Rotary Club, Lions Clubs, Metro Credit Union, the Telus Community Foundation, Dr. Rosemary Henderson, and Danny and Martie Murphy.

Board member Mel Gallant retires at this AGM. He has made an exceptional contribution to the organization as vice-president, secretary and fund-raiser. At the same time, we welcome new board members Ellen McCloskey, David Park and Catherine Thomas.



Andy Robb (right) presents retiring board member Mel Gallant with a commemorative glass plaque.

The board developed a new initiative this year, the Friends of Joyriders, with first members Debbie Vickerson-Doucette and RoseEllen McGowan-Ghiz. This group will grow and be an important element in our work.

Training and professional development are critical in our program. We have three trainee assistant instructors: Stephanie Compton, Helen Kristmanson and Lauren McIsaac. We are grateful for the support of ParaSport and Recreation PEI in funding their training.

We devoted a fair bit of planning time to a couple of events taking place in 2011: the CanTRA Conference in June, and our biannual fund-raiser at Gingerwood. *[See other pages for more details on both events.]*

Inevitably, we have some challenges to deal with—operating costs continue to rise—but your board would be remiss if it didn’t think prudently about the future. So far so good. I’m looking forward to great things in the next year.

RIDER NEWS BYTES

Tracey Crane, who started riding with us in 2001, retired from the program last year.

Hannah MacLellan, chosen as the 2011 Easter Seals Ambassador, kept a gruelling schedule of visits to dozens of schools, delivering her “Believe in yourself—you will be amazed at what you can do” motivational speech to hundreds of students.

Ryan MacNeill and Brody, who graduated from our 2010 introductory program, joined our main program this spring. Welcome, Ryan and Brody!

Marc McKearney is currently at the Special Olympics in Greece, competing on the Canadian softball team. Go, Marc, go!

CONDOLENCES

We send condolences to Barbara Gillis and family on the recent passing of her father, Joseph.

**CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S
REPORT**
Kathryn Barrett, CTRI



Spring 2010 highlights included a new mounting ramp donated by Elwood and Nancy Lawton, and a mechanical lift fund-raised by the board. Both of these are valuable back-savers.

The summer Introductory program accommodated four riders from the waiting list, three of whom were assessed to move into the main program. Of these, Mikaela Arsenault was able to start in the fall session and fitted in well. Riders continued to take turns on sabbatical, while Tracey Crane retired from the program after 10 years.

Two riders, Claire Lockhart and Hannah MacLellan, participated in the Para-Equestrian Canada "Sea To Sea" national dressage video competition (thanks to Mel Gallant for running the video recorder). In the Novice 1a class, Claire placed third with 62.105 points and Hannah placed second with 64.737 points. Congratulations to both girls! We plan to do more of these in our fall 2011 session.



At the CanTRA Conference, Hannah MacLellan was presented with her second-place blue ribbon and saddle pad by CanTRA board member Margaret Rigby on behalf of Para-Equestrian Canada.

Our assistant instructor trainees, Stephanie Compton, Helen Kristmanson and Lauren McIsaac, began their practice teaching in some of the lessons, which our riders seemed to enjoy.

We have completed another great year with many goals, small and large, achieved with the help of our many volunteers. Thank you to all who keep us afloat!

THE CONFERENCE IN A NUTSHELL (part 1)

Much could be written about the CanTRA Conference, hosted by Danny and Martie Murphy at Stanhope Beach Resort and Gingerwood, June 3–5, 2011, with a pre-conference CanTRA Lungeing Certificate I clinic at Gingerwood on June 2. First, our deep thanks go to Danny and Martie for doing so much to ensure the conference would be a success, with delegates from across the country suitably impressed, but also that our "barn crew" (our beloved therapy horses and their volunteer care-givers) would be comfortably and safely housed. And everyone was!



Gingerwood and the Joyriders, partners in presenting the arena sessions, which comprised over half the conference's session time.

We were especially proud to pull from our Island pool of expertise no less than four presenters: Daphne Davey (Communications), Michele Moffat (speech-language pathologist), Peter Mutch (music therapist) and Dr. Art Ortenburger (equine surgeon). Sue Ross (equine massage therapist) from Nova Scotia added to the Maritime contingent. All these presenters were well received.

Peter Mutch, music therapist, serenades an enthralled audience. As with others, his presentation time was simply too short for the amount of information he had to share.



WHAT THEY SAID

"I thought the conference was very well organized and I met so many friendly and interesting people from all over Canada. I learned a lot and I have so much knowledge to pass on to my program. I had a really good time and I am very happy that I attended!"

Heather Clements, Manitoba RDA, Winnipeg

**VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR'S
REPORT**
Deena Robb



We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers. Their duties include preparing the horses, arena and equipment, leading and side-walking, even poop-scooping and sweeping the barn floor. They are always friendly and cheerful, appreciated by riders and coaches, and essential to the operation of the program.

There were no less than 51 volunteers (not including board members and program team) who contributed their time and effort in our programs from April to December 2010. Even more gratifying, almost all of them were “repeaters,” many returning to volunteer for many riding sessions.

We are pleased to welcome seven new volunteers to our team: Maria Kearney, Heather and Malcolm Lizama, Laura Mark, Hilary May, Nick Oakley and Ashley Quinn. Tyler Brown also assisted in our spring 2011 volunteer training session.

Our student volunteers continue to participate in the Community Service Bursary Program, amassing from 30 to 100 volunteer hours in return for a post-secondary education bursary of up to \$500. We are grateful for this provincial government initiative that encourages volunteering with groups such as ours.



At the full-house Christmas Party last December, volunteers pitched in to help with facility and food set-up, and of course the ever popular Pass the Parcel game. Virginia Reddin calls out the cards, with backup by Melissa MacKinnon.

VOLUNTEER NEWS BYTES

Mike Rowledge, a Charlottetown Rural grade 12 student, won a Skills Canada-PEI gold medal (with former volunteer Emily Acorn) for their video about the Charlottetown Food Bank and the Upper Room.

Cyril Roy, studying for his PhD at the Atlantic Vet College, is working on a project, “Welfare issues associated with the transport and slaughter of horses.”

Joan Sullivan is a speech-language pathologist with 24 years of experience in the field.

THE CONFERENCE IN A NUTSHELL (part 2)

Thanks to generous financial support from the Joyriders board, the following people were able to attend the conference as delegates, as well as helping out when needed at Gingerwood. Several also attended the pre-conference Lungeing clinic.

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|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kathryn Barrett | Daphne Davey | Debbie Gormley |
| Marg Gray | Trish Helm-Neima | Joan Leslie |
| Valerie Paton | Gilles Richard | Andy Robb |



At Gingerwood. From left: Sallie Murphy (Halifax), Gay Wood (Ottawa), Debbie Gormley, Gilles Richard.

Under the direction of Kathy Barrett, the following volunteers managed the horses, equipment, and leader/side-walker and rider requirements for the arena presentations. Their efficiency, patience, unflappability and professionalism made them an absolute credit to the Joyriders:

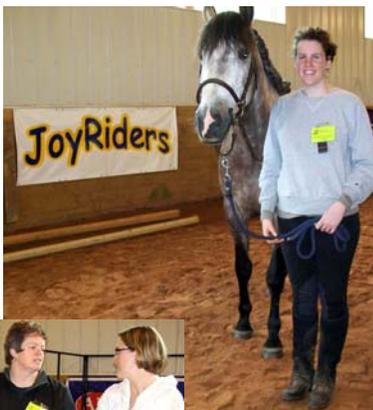
- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Stephanie Compton | Janet Fraser | Charlie Goodwin |
| Ellen McCloskey | Frank McCloskey | Lauren McIsaac |
| Mary Morrison | Virginia Reddin | Deena Robb |

A special thank you must go to three people: Andy and Deena Robb, and Kathy Barrett. Andy not only served on the national organizing committee (even while in Florida!), but among many other duties he and Deena drove many miles shuttling delegates to and from the airport, even taking some of them shopping in Charlottetown. On the other hand, Kathy masterminded the Gingerwood operations, no small feat with the care of three special horses, all their equipment, and the inevitable last-minute changes—a challenge well met.



Virginia with saddle trees for saddle fitter Christian Lowe's presentation.

Rain and Lauren



Cue with Mary and a delegate



Jessie, Charlie and Andy

WHAT THEY SAID

On behalf of all the groups in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, a huge thank you to all the Joyriders volunteers and parents who have worked so hard to help organize this year's CanTRA Conference in Prince Edward Island.

Sallie Murphy, CanTRA Atlantic Zone Chair

PHYSIOTHERAPIST'S REPORT *Trish Helm-Neima*



I want to begin by thanking the volunteers, program team and board for their support for my role in the Joyriders.

This year has been exciting, with the advent of several pieces of equipment that greatly enhance program delivery. The Barefoot saddle was designed by a physiotherapist for the comfort of the horses and the benefit of riders. The ramp made mounting much easier for riders and coaches. Last but not least, the mechanical lift has almost eliminated any heavy lifting of riders during mounting and dismounting.

I am very excited to be attending the CanTRA Conference in June and am grateful to the board for supporting the advent of the conference on PEI, for all their hard work to make it happen, and for financially supporting me to attend.

Our riders continue to impress me with their progression. I will continue to provide advice to the program team on both our riders' physical abilities and on equipment modifications. I also hope that others will feel free to ask me questions.



Program team members Joan, Kathy, Trish, Debbie and Gilles meet in winter to prepare rider progress reports.

THE CONFERENCE IN A NUTSHELL (part 3)

To lighten the intensity of the daytime sessions, two social and celebratory evenings were held. The first evening, popular Island artist Mike Pendergast entertained delegates in the Red Dory bar with his songs.

Two nights later, the more formal occasion of the banquet was filled with fun, celebration and elegance—this last provided in part by the Singing Strings, who delighted the audience from their orchestral corner as well as performing their signature manœuvre, strolling among the tables to serenade the guests. This prompted one delegate to exclaim, “This is the best banquet evening I’ve ever been to.”



Anita and Ivan Morrison



Kurt from the Singing Strings waxes romantic.



Andréia Malisia, Clinique de Réadaptation Carolyne Mainville, QC, for CanTRA Therapy Horse “Dana.”



Kara Grant, keynote speaker

GENEROUS ISLAND SUPPORTERS

Through the Joyriders, the following agencies and businesses contributed to the conference. We deeply appreciate their support:

Grants

The Telus Community Foundation
PEI Department of Tourism
Dr. Donald K. Taylor Award (2010), Community Foundation of PEI

Awards

Greenhawk Harness and Equestrian Supplies, who donated the CanTRA Therapy Horse award cooler.

Silent auction

Agro Co-op
Charlottetown Veterinary Clinic
Hi-Time Tack
Kensington Veterinary Clinic
Sunny Brook Farm Pet Supply

SPECIAL THANKS

Photographer Ann MacNeill of Sees The Moment generously donated her time and talent to cover some of the presentations at Gingerwood. She has given both the Joyriders and CanTRA permission to use her images for charitable public relations purposes. They will be a great addition to our respective Web sites and other promotional material. Some of her images will be seen in the next issue of *The Whinny*.

In addition to the many acknowledgements, three awards were presented: CanTRA Volunteer, Instructor and Therapy Horse. The biographies that accompanied these winners reflected, no doubt, the kind of dedication to therapeutic riding that might be found in any of the nearly 100 CanTRA centres across the country.

CanTRA also took the occasion to present Hannah MacLellan with her Para-Equestrian dressage award (see page 3) and the bronze accreditation plaque to the

Joyriders, accepted by Andy Robb. A silent auction was also held during the banquet to raise funds for CanTRA.

PEI's own Kara Grant, a two-time pentathlon Olympian and former Charlottetown Pony Clubber, delivered the keynote speech. She spoke movingly of her teenage experience with her first and decidedly most challenging pony, who unknowingly sowed the seeds of strength through adversity that her future chosen sport would later demand of her.

THREE VERY SPECIAL HORSES

What can we say about **Cue, Jessie and Rain**, except to love them to bits? They took a couple of days to settle down in their new surroundings at Gingerwood (as Rain said, What do you mean, it's just a wash stall? It smells of rubber and shampoo and strange horses and . . . POOH!). But the day of the Lungeing Clinic, suddenly the bleachers filled up with a small crowd of very social humans, typically chatting away, twirling jackets and equipment. Now *that* seemed more like home!



The conference sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning demanded a little more from them. But, hey, what's an audience of eighty "networking by mouth" delegates to worry about? Or flapping papers (always papers), or masses of the weirdest equipment ever? (As Jessie said [yawn], "So I've never seen a plastic sword before, so what?"). Sue Ross chose Cue for her equine massage demonstration. (As he said, "I'm top pony dog, so I deserve this!").

The horses worked in hand and carried able-bodied riders as well as Joyriders Hannah MacLellan and Marc McKearney during various demonstrations, including games on horseback, Equine Facilitated Wellness, saddle fitting, the horse and rider team, mounting techniques, and volunteer training.



Several instructors attended a series of workshops on autism hosted by the Stars For Life Foundation. From left: Rhea Vardy MacPhee (clinician), Debbie Gormley, Carolyn Bateman (Foundation president), Daphne Davey, Kathy Barrett.



Cody MacDonald riding in the spring program on Jessie, with his team: Janet, Virginia (at back) and Merv.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**GINGERWOOD FUND-RAISER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011**
Reception – Live auction – Entertainment
featuring Blues singer/guitarist
MATT ANDERSON

Tickets \$60, including beverages/snacks

Contact Andy or Deena Robb
894-5750 / arobb@pei.sympatico.ca

CanTRA REPORT
Daphne Davey



In the past two years I have been serving as CanTRA second vice-president and chair of the CanTRA Conference organizing committee. I am now the incoming president (to be ratified at the AGM during the conference).

I look forward to the interesting challenges ahead as CanTRA strengthens its base of support, launches new programs, and embraces the electronic age.

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 Helen Kristmanson
Lauren MacIsaac

Physiotherapist
Trish Helm-Neima

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

Note: Enquiries from new rider candidates should be addressed to Daphne Davey (see this page for contact information).

VISIT OUR WEBSITES!

www.thejoyriders.ca

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

www.cantra.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2011-2012

President Andy Robb
Past president Trish Helm-Neima
Vice-president Valerie Paton
Secretary Mary Morrison
Treasurer Charlie Goodwin
Members Philip Cutcliffe
 Stephanie Drake
 Shelley MacEwen
 Ellen McCloskey
 David Park
 Douglas Roper
 Catherine Thomas

Ex Officio Kathryn Barrett (chief instructor)
 Deena Robb (volunteer coordinator)

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“THE WHINNY”

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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 Wsb site.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Please forward address or email changes to the editor.