



THE JOYRIDERS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
 Prince Edward Island, Canada



“THE WHINNY”

Issue #8
 NOVEMBER 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.

Marc McKearney gets acquainted with a cuddly toy during a games demonstration at the CanTRA Conference last spring. Marc took part in the mounted workshop with fellow Joyrider Hannah MacLellan.



Krista Breen, head instructor at Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre in Guelph, Ontario, presented the workshop, which gave the audience lots of new ideas, not to mention great entertainment.

Photo: annmacneill.com



**FROM THE EDITOR'S
 DESK**

Daphne Davey

Changes and challenges keep us fresh, alert and moving forward. Changes? Our home for the past fifteen years passed into new hands this summer, and a new horse and new volunteers joined the program this fall. Challenges? Our riders have been busy practicing for the video camera, while I have been forced to choose which of Ann MacNeill's many terrific photos from the CanTRA Conference I have room to include in this issue. As we all know, a picture is worth a thousand words.



**HEADS UP!
 CHRISTMAS PARTY**



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2011
 1 pm – 4 pm (potluck at 1:15 pm)

MALCOLM DARRACH CIVIC CENTRE
 MacRae Drive/Avonlea Drive, East Royalty

- * Dinner, Awards, Santa, Music, Fun *
- * Families and friends welcome *
- * Please bring food contribution *

RSVP

Shelley MacEwen 675-3519
 or Mary Morrison 676-2334



**WHERE ARE THEY?
EVERYONE'S TRAVELLING**



Some important people are missing this fall, but we expect them back next spring:

Andy Robb, president
Deena Robb, volunteer coordinator
Trish Helm-Neima, physiotherapist

**Acting president: Valerie Paton, 628-2214 /
valsullivan10@yahoo.ca**

**Acting volunteer coordinator:
Debbie Gormley, 675-3933**

**ISLAND WIDE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE:
OUR NEW PARTNERS**

Congratulations to well-known PEI dressage rider Harma Germs on the purchase of the Winsloe Equestrian Centre this summer. Harma has renamed her facility Island Wide Equestrian Centre and made a number of upgrades to the premises (including an attractive white-painted fence at roadside, which is a great landmark when giving directions to visitors!). We look forward to working with Harma for our mutual benefit.



*expanded, gravelled
parking lot*

*higher arena entrance
(riders no longer have
to duck their heads!)*



“And he whispered to the horse, Trust no man in whose eyes you do not see yourself reflected as an equal.” Anon.

ANN'S PHOTO GALLERY



At the CanTRA Conference this spring, award-winning Island photographer Ann MacNeill caught many special moments in the Gingerwood arena. Many thanks to Ann for donating the use of her images (and time) for the benefit of the Joyriders. A selection of her images are featured throughout this issue. To see more of Ann's great photography, visit her website at annmacneill.com.



*Saddler Christian Lowe (left) demonstrates on Cue how to check a horse's back for the best saddle fit, while Jessie waits her turn.
Photo: annmacneill.com*



*Volunteer Mary Morrison and CTRAI Debbie Gormley spend a relaxed moment with Cue.
Photo: annmacneill.com*



*Kathy Barrett and her horse, Rain, take a break between demonstrations.
Photo: annmacneill.com*

SUMMER INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM



With renovations in full swing at the Island Wide Equestrian Centre, we moved our introductory program to Kathy Barrett's stables in Hunter River this summer. With the smaller facility and just one pony (April) available, we could only accept one new rider. That was Lucas Metcalfe, who enjoyed the six weekly lessons riding April in the arena and (when the weather cooperated) in the outdoor ring. We also welcomed new volunteer Monica Waite.

We also offered Paxton Cole a series of summer lessons under the supervision of our physiotherapist, Trish Helm-Neima, who was able to get into some serious (but fun) one-on-one therapy with her. The results are clearly showing in Paxton's improved abilities this fall.

Paxton on April with Ellen, Monica and Lauren.



Lucas on April with Trish and Kathy.

RIDER/FAMILY NEWS BYTES

Congratulations to **Carolyn Bateman** (Adam's mother), president of the Stars for Life Foundation, on the opening of the Stars for Life Home and Resource Centre in Charlottetown. The centre aims to develop independence and life skills for people with autism spectrum disorder.

ANN'S PHOTO GALLERY



continued



Volunteers Charlie and Stephanie take a rare five at the CanTRA Conference.

Photo: annmacneill.com



Physio Trish and CTRAI Marg seem to have found something very funny. Photo: annmacneill.com



Daphne laughs out the answers to the "Spot the Mistakes" quiz. Photo: annmacneill.com



During the "Spot the Mistakes" quiz Trish models what jewellery not to wear. Photo: annmacneill.com

MATT AT GINGERWOOD!



Popular blues artist Matt Anderson, the big draw at our 2011 Gingerwood fund-raiser, didn't disappoint his fans. Tickets went like hot cakes (as did drinks at the bar, where a tidy sum was made on donations). Matt donated his time and talent for the cause. We are very grateful.

The capacity crowd also fell under the spell of veteran auctioneer Brian Craswell, and expert assistant (Joyrider) Rachael Loggie, who between them raised several thousand dollars on the silent auction.

MC Alan Buchanan once again kept the evening moving along – as did a lot of hard-working volunteers from the Joyriders board and program (side-walkers were seen tending the bar!).

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this, our fourth Gingerwood event, a resounding success. But our biggest thanks, of course, go to **Danny and Martie Murphy**, our hosts for the evening, whose generosity in supporting the Joyriders frees us up to do what we do best – providing the great opportunity of horseback riding to children and adults with disabilities.



Barbara Gillis shares a special moment with her faithful mount, Cue.

NEW APPLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Board member **Ellen McCloskey** has taken over the role of Applications Coordinator from Daphne Davey. Please direct enquiries from rider applicants to Ellen at **902-675-3550**. Thanks, Ellen!

more of ANN'S PHOTO GALLERY



Marc Mc Kearney and Hannah MacLellan demonstrate a new game with clinician Krista Breen. Well, I may have got the story all mixed up, but it went something like this!



Wicked baron Marc of Charlottetown, on his keenly interested mount, Jessie, sets a flag on top of his castle so he can find it again. From left, the common rabble (Charlie, Krista Breen and Gilles) watch in awe. Photo: annmacneill.com



Baron Marc, with bodyguards Charlie and Gilles, imprisons a golden-haired "damsel" (see closeup, page 1) in his castle, while his steed, Jessie, waits patiently for the next adventure.

Photo: annmacneill.com



"Sir" Hannah, a knight in shining armour, turns up unexpectedly, wielding "his" sword to rescue the fair damsel from the castle. Cue, the consummate actor, relishes the part of trusty steed.

Photo: annmacneill.com

**HEADS UP!
FALL RIDING PROGRAM**



This fall, we gathered our herd of therapy horses together — Cue, Peanuts and Rain – and introduced a new horse. Daisy is a Norwegian Fjord x Belgian mare with soup-plate feet. She can carry any weight! She is young but learning fast, and basically bomb-proof, although sometimes her brakes need oiling (Douglas Roper, who always rides her, is working on that). Our four therapy horses share their own corral and loafing shed. I wonder if they compare notes on Saturday afternoons after finishing their therapy duties for the week?

We also welcomed the following new volunteers, who were assisted to learn the ropes by many of our experienced “repeaters.”

Ashley Blanchard	Hilary May
Amy Bullerwell	Linda McKittrick
Jennifer Elsner	Robyn McMillan
Jessica Farmer	Dede Nicholson
Kylie Ford	Miriam Rhodes
Tara Huestis	Jordan Rowledge
Patrick Leclair	Monica Waite

In the absence this fall of our volunteer coordinator, Deena Robb, we are grateful to Sandra MacDonald for acting as mother hen in the viewing room (love those cookies!) and to everyone who has pitched in to help in so many ways. We also send best wishes to Charlie Goodwin for a complete recovery.



Returning volunteers Maria Kearney and Nick Oakley share a “smile” moment with rider Paxton Cole

**ANN'S PHOTO GALLERY
again**



Margaret Rigby and Jane James, both CanTRA examiners from BC, conduct a workshop on volunteer training to an attentive audience at Gingerwood. Conference attendees came from right across the country. Photo: annmacneill.com



The leaders and side-walkers of a Joyriders demonstration class show what not to do during the “Spot the Mistakes” quiz at Gingerwood. From left, able-bodies riders Debbie, Val and Lauren kept Cue, Jessie and Rain on the bit. Side-walker Andréia Malisia from Quebec (filling in for us) steps away from her rider to tie up her shoe-lace. Definitely a no-no!

Photo: annmacneill.com



Side-walker Stephanie (left), with loose, flowing hair and eyes cast down illustrates two more no-no's in the “Spot the Mistakes” quiz. Val on Rain, Gilles and Virginia are careful to put their best feet forward. Photo: annmacneill.com

HORSE SHOW? VID-E-O!



Sea-to-Sea and **Coast-to-Coast**? Sounds like a swimming meet! But these are the two divisions of Para-Equestrian Canada's national video competition, offered to riders with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

Sea-to-Sea This is a dressage competition, which Hannah MacLellan is entering (she and Claire Lockhart did extremely well in this competition last winter).

Coast-to-Coast From this division, we have chosen the Trail class for all our riders (except Hannah). Each week, Kathy has been teaching the course, one element at a time, until the whole course has now been learned. And it isn't easy! It has challenged our riders' skills – and brought out their best performances for the camera.

Thanks to cameraman David Keenlyside (muffled up in winter gear, hunched behind his video tripod), we will be taping all our riders during their lessons in November. This year, however, we will only send tapes of eight riders into the national competition:

Sea-to-Sea Hannah MacLellan

Coast-to-Coast Paxton Cole, Claire Lockhart, Rachael Loggie, Cody MacDonald, Marc McKearney, Douglas Roper, Kenneth Stewart

Next year, we hope to expand the list of Joyriders competitors. But the truth is, *everyone* is a winner!



Lynn Marshall from Para-Equestrian Canada recently visited us to promote the video competition. She gave a workshop to our instructors and some tips to Hannah MacLellan and Rain.

yet more from ANN'S PHOTO GALLERY



Nanci Picken (right), CanTRA Development Coordinator and examiner, gets help from Stephanie, Charlie, Val (on Jessie) and Virginia, during her presentation. The new Joyriders ramp is in the background. Photo: annmacneill.com



Hannah MacLellan and Cue with their support team, (from left) Ellen, Mary and Virginia, during a riding demonstration at the conference. Photo: annmacneill.com

VOLUNTEER NEWS BYTES

Stephanie Compton (CTRAI trainee) is a new mother! Congratulations, Stephanie and Gary, on the birth of Klara Helen on November 2, weighing in at 7 lb. 1 oz.

Helen Kristmanson (CTRAI trainee) is Director of Aboriginal Affairs and Archaeology with the provincial Dept of Health and Wellness, and recently gave a talk at Beaconsfield on an Acadian archeological dig in Prince County that she supervised.



CanTRA REPORT
Daphne Davey



Our national organization, the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association, is extrabusy working for its member centres. As you know, the Joyriders was awarded “CanTRA accredited centre” status in 2010, a great achievement. The accreditation program is yet another in CanTRA’s “stable” of training and education programs to ensure the best levels of safety and quality in our member centres.

We are currently embarking on a major fund-raising and public relations thrust to provide greater stability, so we can continue providing current programs and developing new ones, such as the recently launched Equine-Facilitated Wellness program.

I am finding my new position (and workload!) as president exciting, challenging and very educational. CanTRA’s website (www.cantra.ca) carries information on all its services and upcoming events, so please tune in.

CANADIAN HORSE JOURNAL
SUPPORTS CanTRA

The CHJ provides CanTRA with article space in every issue (which we take advantage of!). Visit their website at www.horsejournals.com. If you are interested in subscribing, click on the Central & Atlantic edition link, and answer the question Where did you hear about our magazine? with “CanTRA.”



Cassidy Cheverie warms up on “Wacky” with help from assistant instructor Debbie

DISABILITY TODAY NETWORK
CanTRA Channel

Jeff Tiessen, founder and president of DTN, also does sterling work as a CanTRA board member. The DTN is an amazing “online community” for people with disabilities, the people who work with and for them, and the businesses who supply their needs.

Jeff has generously donated one of his DTN “channels” to CanTRA, where we can post news and educational pieces on therapeutic riding and CanTRA’s services. The channel also include video and photo sites.

ARE YOU ON CANDID CAMERA?

Check out the CanTRA Channel photo gallery for a selection of images from the CanTRA Conference by Charlottetown photographer Ann MacNeill: www.disabilitytodaynetwork.com (choose Therapy from the categories list at bottom, then follow the links).



Photo: annmacneill.com



Photo: annmacneill.com



*Top to bottom:
Marc McKearney on Jessie,
with Charlie and Gilles;
Hannah MacLellan with
Virginia Reddin; Patrick
Leclair and Doug Roper*



AND A GOOD JOB TOO! Chief instructor Kathy Barrett does the necessary during demonstrations at Gingerwood at the CanTRA Conference. Photo: annmacneill.com

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

RIDER APPLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Ellen McCloskey, 675-3550

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 photo of Daphne Davey (page 1) is by annmacneill.com.

The Whinny is also posted on our website.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Please forward address or email changes to the editor.