



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



“THE WHINNY”

**Issue #25
NOVEMBER 2020**

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.

KICKIN’

COVID



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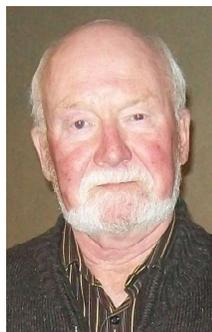
L to R: Lauren, Marg, Trish, Luke (with 40th anniversary medallion, riding Logan), Gilles, Daphne, Kathy.

IN
THE

BUTT!



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ANDY ROBB – SORELY MISSED

This issue of the *Whinny* is dedicated to Andy Robb, who passed away in September. We have lost a giant supporter: friend, colleague, volunteer, doer of things that needed to be done. Andy served on the board from 2003 to this year, including a long stint as president and later as board member emeritus. We will miss his wise counsel, his determination and focus, and his willingness to roll up his sleeves and help in any capacity he could. And we will miss his presence. On behalf of all our members, we extend our deepest sympathy to Deena and her family. *Read more about Andy on page 3.*



Whinny meets Winston

Our new buckskin Equicizer warm-up horse, Winston, has arrived safely from Ohio, and was introduced to Whinny whom we adopted in 2014 from the same stable. The Equicizer is the brainchild of American jockey Frankie Lovato of the Wooden Horse Corp. Julie MacLeod won our Facebook competition to name Whinny's new stablemate. Thanks to our judges (and Joyriders volunteers), Sally and Les Warrington, for taking on the difficult task of choosing the winning name – from 28 entries!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

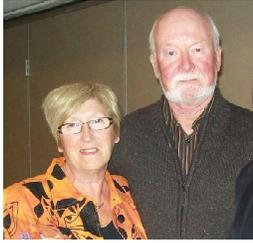


Of course, right away you can see that our talented newsletter designer, Nicole Kitchener, has definitely retired from the job that she took on for us in 2014. So for the time being, the *Whinny* will revert to its former look as I return to do a bit of pinch-hitting with my beloved but dinosaur PageMaker program. The hunt for a new designer is on!

What an up-and-down year it has been! But despite the unprecedented cancellations – our Spring Riding Program, our Gingerwood fundraiser, the Christmas Party – we pulled several rabbits out of the hat. Or as our inspired past president Janice Cole put it: **WE KICKED COVID IN THE BUTT!** We successfully ran a summer riding program, a new “Pet and Play” program, and a fall riding program, almost smothered under regulations, paperwork, sanitizer, and masks. What a crazy experience, but what a lot of happy smiles on our riders' faces! So please enjoy this issue, which tells the story of 2020. And don't forget to check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thejoyriderspei/> for ongoing stories.

Have the best possible merry holiday season under the circumstances, and here's to a brighter 2021.

Daphne Davey



ANDY ROBB'S LEGACY

continued from page 1

In addition to serving on our board, Andy strengthened the Joyriders in other important ways.

As a founding member of East Royalty Lions Club, Andy brought our cause to their attention, which resulted in many significant donations coming our way over the years. He was also a central organizer of our biennial gala fundraising events at Gingerwood, hosted by Danny and Martie Murphy.

Andy served the Joyriders quietly, and often behind the scenes, but his contribution was truly great. And by his side all along has been Deena, best known to most of us as the Joyriders Volunteer Coordinator. They joined the board together in 2003 and have continued to serve our cause as directors and in many capacities.

Plans are in the works to remember Andy in a meaningful and ongoing way. The board will announce details in the New Year.



Julie Scales, Rider Coordinator (left) and Holly Studzinski, Facebook Administrator, tickle Henry behind the ears for a photo op. Nah! He's just too laid back!

2020 SUMMER RIDING PROGRAM

Logan's the lad! Luke (at top) and Sharlena enjoyed the summer weather on a very laid-back therapy horse. With the necessity to train under COVID rules, we ran our adapted summer program with only our instructors and therapists. But our mood was quite the opposite from blue!



WHAT WOULD WE HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU?

A huge thanks to these funders who came through with grants and donations just when we needed them.

* \$2,500 from PEI Cupcakes, a PEI fundraising Facebook group that keeps its face down but makes many donations to PEI charities.

* \$25,000 from the Government of Canada COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund, administered by the United Way of PEI.

* \$20,500 from 100 Women Who Care (Charlottetown).

* Dr. Rosemary Henderson and all our other individual donors.



L to R: Aileen Matters and Cheryl Paynter representing 100 Women Who Care (Charlottetown) present a giant cheque to Joyriders presenters Janice Cole and Daphne Davey. Submitted photo.

“Each year for Christmas we choose different organizations to donate to as Christmas gifts for family members.” *Shared by a new donor.*



SPECIAL FEATURE



ELLEN McCLOSKEY, “FIRST LADY”

You may not have heard of or met Ellen unless you are a new rider. But you should know what an important role she plays as our Applications Coordinator (she is also a former board member).

Ellen is the first person who hears about people who want to ride on our program. She shepherds them through the application process, including sending out the necessary forms, explaining how we run things, and maintaining the waiting list (mercifully not too long these days). Once the Program Team has made the decision to assess an applicant for suitability – and if our chief instructor and physios agree that they are a good candidate – Ellen notifies the applicant and passes their file on to Julie Scales, Rider Coordinator, to follow up. Thanks, Ellen!

If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a Joyrider, please refer them to Ellen McCloskey at ellen.jmccloskey@gmail.com.



What better grad prom partner than a fellow Joyrider? Especially one you love competing against. Luke and Paxton shed barn clothes for glad rags – to great effect! Congratulations to Paxton, who graduated from Grade 12, and Luke, a previous graduate. Submitted photo.

**“PET AND PLAY”
starring
BOBBY THE WONDER HORSE**

Bobby may be a Mini, but he’s still a horse! And he proved his worth this fall in our new “Pet and Play” program for the few riders we were unable to serve this year, and some former riders.

On Saturday afternoons from September to November, three volunteer friends – Mary Morrison, Linda Stewart, and Karen Thompson – helped Bobby’s young admirers learn to groom and lead him around a trail course. And of course, love him! We are grateful to Bobby’s “mom,” Velma Pinsonneault, for loaning him to the Joyriders. He is a popular member of our therapy horse team!



*Norah completes the trail course with her team.
From left: Karen, Linda, Mary.*



Ethan is reunited with Bobby. Photo: Alison Jenkins.



Justin finds out you’re never too tall for a Mini!

Special thanks to *Guardian* reporter Alison Jenkins, whose original story about Bobby was expanded to include our fall riding program, and was published in the Saturday, October 17, issue on pages A-1 and A-2. What better PR can you have than that?



Cassidy grooms Bobby with help from Mary.





Winston, the new boy on the block, watches a lesson to learn some tips as a warm-up horse.

DONATING JUST GOT EASIER!

Our website is now hooked up to our new presence on CanadaHelps, a national registered charity that helps potential donors find good causes to support. Under the Donate Today tab on our website, you will find a big red “Donate Now” button, which links you to our page and donation form on the CanadaHelps website. Payment options include credit card and PayPal.

CanadaHelps automatically issues charitable tax receipts, transfers donations to our bank account, and offers many other benefits. Our slide show highlights our riders in action.

For more information about the mission and work of CanadaHelps, visit <https://www.canadahelps.org>.



Trish, Sarah and Julie take a socially distanced break.



Thanks to Horse and Pony Boutique in the UK for giving us a special deal on these custom-fitted, COVID-washable fleece saddle covers, one modelled by Whinny and the other by Marc on Henry.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

COVID disrupted many AGMs this year, including ours. We finally held our 2020 AGM in October (instead of May).

We were happy to welcome two new board members this year: **Linda Stewart** and **Florine Proud**. Linda is one of our volunteers, with lots of personal experience with Miniature Horses, so she was an ideal member of the “Bobby” team this summer. Florine is also a volunteer who has served as interim Volunteer Coordinator.

Florine has also agreed to take on the position of Secretary, so **Pat Lush** can retire from this responsibility while staying on as a board member. Thanks, Pat, for your service as Secretary. **Elizabeth Rankin** is taking a one-year leave of absence due to COVID concerns, but we hope to see her back on the board next year.

2020 FALL RIDING PROGRAM

We had to think outside the proverbial box to do it, but we managed to serve almost all our regular riders in our COVID-STYLE fall program. It did mean that riders were offered only a five-week session instead of the full 10 weeks. But that way, almost everyone got a turn. There were lots of smiles as riders were reunited with their therapy horses after several months.



Top to bottom:

Emily on Henry

Spencer on Henry

*Paxton (Logan)
and Marc (Henry)*

Winston

Top to bottom: Ryan on Henry and Charley-Anne on Logan / Gabriel on Logan / Jessica on Whinny.



Rowan does a stretch exercise, demonstrated by Doug, while Julie and Erin give support.



Now he's ready to ride Logan!



The weather cooperated for Marc's ride outside on Henry, under Gilles' direction.



Now that's a happy team! Ryan rides Logan, directed by Gilles.

CAPTAINS COVID

We had three of them: Doug Ellis, Cathleen O'Grady, and Janice Cole. They brought each rider in (with COVID declaration form) from their car in the parking lot, made sure they washed their hands, fitted helmets and belts, then ushered them through the "Whinny" door to the aisle for warm-ups, or into the arena to the Rider's Chair. They weren't really that fierce, though.

Doug attacks the viewing room.

Heads up! Sanitizing in progress.

Cathleen goes for the rider chair.



Ryan, Janice, Charley, Ashley



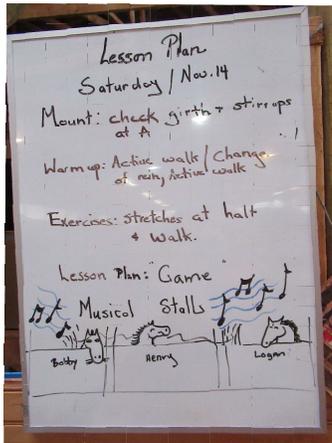
Jessica walking independently on Henry

Marc and Vaeda



CANDID CAMERA!

Karen Gallant adds art to the lesson plan



L to R: HENRY, Sarah, Janice, Julie L, Gilles, Kerry, Trish, Kathy, LOGAN, Marg, Doug, Julie S.

Geraldine and Jessica



Paxton (with COVID form) and Captain COVID (Doug)



Logan's the man!



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2020-2021**

President Daphne Davey
Past president Janice Cole
Vice-president Jim McQuaid
Secretary Florine Proud
Treasurer Mel Gallant

Directors Pat Lush
Butch McGee
Elizabeth Rankin
Linda Stewart
Karen Thompson

Ex Officio Kathryn Barrett
Chief Instructor
Deena Robb
Volunteer Coordinator



PROGRAM TEAM

Chief instructor (CTRI)
Kathryn Barrett

Basic Instructors (CTRBI)
Daphne Davey
Debbie Gormley
Marg Gray
Lauren MacIsaac
Gilles Richard

CTRBI Trainee
Doug Ellis

Physiotherapists
Trish Helm-Neima
Kerry O'Connor

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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.

The Whinny is posted on our website and Facebook.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Please forward address or email changes to the editor.

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thejoyriderspei](https://www.facebook.com/thejoyriderspei)

www.cantra.ca