



## Report to CDSCL AGM – July 20th, 2015

### Summary

The Therapeutic Riding Program continues to provide quality riding lessons to people with all kinds of different challenges. An increase in the number of riders from the local schools is keeping the schedule busy during the spring and fall months. The summer sessions are more relaxed with fewer riders on the schedule. The summer months see registrations from out of town (Cranbrook) and riders visiting family in Creston for the summer. Several of our riders sign up to take two lessons a week, instead of one lesson a week.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>RIDERS</b>				
# of therapeutic lessons a week	40	48	56	59
# of public riders	12	14	0	0
<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>				
# of volunteers	30	30		32
<b>INSTRUCTORS</b>				
# of certified instructors	4	6	5	5
# of instructors in training	2	1	2	0
Total # of instructors	6	7	7	5

### Riders

The disabilities that our riders are challenged with are quite varied. Downs Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), cerebral palsy (CP), multiple sclerosis (MS), learning disabilities, behavioral and socialization issues are commonly seen in the program.



## Volunteers

Our volunteers are fantastic, enthusiastic and energetic and very much appreciated by the riders, caregivers, instructors and horses! We've never had to cancel a lesson due to the lack of help! Our volunteers come from all walks of life; retirees, high school students gaining work experience or doing community service and everything in between!

## Instructors/Staff

**Christine Ross**, our head instructor has certification as a CanTRA Instructor and as an Equine Canada Instructor. Christine teaches two full days a week in the spring and fall sessions and two half days a week in the summer session.

**Judine Maki** is an Equine Canada Certified Instructor and is now teaching our more advanced therapeutic riders who do not have a physical disability. Judine teaches Tuesday and Thursday after school during the spring and fall session.

**Michelle Whiteaway** - CanTRA Intermediate Instructor. Michelle teaches each week day during the spring, summer and fall sessions.

**Avis Hutchinson** CanTRA Assistant Instructor. Avis teaches two half days a week in the spring and fall and one half day in the summer.

**Peggy Hawes**, a CanTRA Assistant Instructor retired from teaching in June. Peggy was previously teaching two lessons a week.

**Nyomi Mainville** continues to work year round as Barn Manager and Assistant to the Instructors thanks to grants from the Columbia Basin Trust School Works program (September through May; 15 hours a week) and Canada Summer Jobs (June through July; 30 hours a week).

**Tessa Chambers** worked as barn help this spring until the end of April. She has moved on to a permanent position with the Creston Veterinary Hospital.

**Erin Miller** has been volunteering regularly since May 2015 as she transitioned from high school at PCSS to the working world.



## Events

*In 2015, the following events took place:*

February – Art Trot Fundraiser

March – An Open House and volunteer training session was held

April – May – 8 week spring session

June – 10th Annual Therapeutic Riding Horse Show and appreciation BBQ

July – 5 week summer session and 3 day summer camp

*Planned events:*

September – October – 8 week fall session

## Grants, Fundraising and Donations (since last AGM July 29, 2014)

The program continues to be supported by low rider fees, fundraising, individual donations and grants. Once again, the bulk of the funding came from the Direct Access gaming grant. People continue to be very generous with their donations.

**Grants were received totaling approximately \$57,899 (2014 grants were \$76,252)**

Direct Access Gaming	\$45,000	For salaries and benefits
Columbia Basin Trust - Community Initiatives (Town of Creston, Area B and Area C)	\$3,929	For engineered plans to cover the small riding arena
Aviva Community Fund	\$1,000	For engineered plans to cover the small riding arena
Trinity United Church	\$1,000	Unsolicited donation
Columbia Basin Trust - School Works	\$3,360	Wage subsidy for a student 15 hours a week September 2014 through May 2015.
Canada Summer Jobs	\$2,460	Wage subsidy for a student working 30 hours for 13 weeks. Nyomi Mainville.
Participaction Grant via Myrna Johnson and	\$500	Unsolicited donation



# THERAPEUTIC & PUBLIC RIDING PROGRAMS

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Matching Funds via RDCK Area C Director Larry Binks		
Creston Legion	\$300	Unsolicited donation
Knights of Columbus	\$150	Unsolicited donation
Telus - Dollars for Doers	\$200	Via Anne Jackson

## ***Fundraisers were held for a total of \$13,975***

Fifth Annual Art Trot	\$6,452	
Horse Sponsorships	\$3,500	Cabay's Dirtworks and Gleaners
Sales of donated or no longer used items	\$2,702	
Newsletter Sponsorships	\$1,300	
Fence Notes at Wloka Farms Fruit Stand	\$1,061	Thanks to the Wloka's!
Magnum	\$535	Need to raise \$3,000 total.
Arena Fees	\$280	Laura Sobkiw teaching in big arena
Horse Cents Money Bank	\$279	
Fundraising Lessons (2)	\$90	

## ***Donations to date amount to \$7580***

Unsolicited Financial Donations	\$5,880	
In kind donations of hay	\$950	Charlie Moon, AR Grahn
In kind donation of apples	\$500	
Corporate Donation	\$250	Fidelity Investments

## ***Rider Fees***

Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2015	\$18,000	Approximately
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## Facility Upgrades & Maintenance

It's been a quiet time for facility upgrades after being incredibly productive in 2013 and 2014. No new projects were undertaken but we've been busy keeping the facility looking top notch. We are working on plans to cover the smaller riding arena and that will be our biggest project yet.

**Dangerous tree removal.** Several dangerous trees were removed from the horse paddock area. Thanks to the Lyn Kistner for taking care of this!

**Branches & weeds everywhere...** We've kept on top of branch and weed clean up around the property.

**Lawns, lawns and more lawns!** The property is looking great thanks to our lawn mower drivers, Michelle and Nyomi.

## Horses

Our horse herd remained the same as it was in 2014, with the exception of Magnum taking Paddington's place. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful team of horses who are willing and able to do the job.



**Cupcake** is doing a great job after arriving in late 2011. She's a very calm, solid horse.



**Caraigh** is on loan from Luanne Armstrong, who also rides in the program. He's an 11 year old Quarter Horse.



**Emma** is easily in the top two of our therapy horses as she is such a sweet and willing to please horse. She is now 15 years old. She takes our heavier riders, but as she is older, she is less able to take on the heavier weights.



**Kit**, now 15 years old, continues to be an awesome part of the program, suitable for therapeutic riders and first choice for riders who are learning to canter and jump.



**Magnum** joined the team in March 2015 and is doing really, really well! We are fundraising \$3,000 to cover his purchase price of \$2000 and a vet bill of \$1000 which was incurred soon after his arrival. To date, \$535 has been raised.





**Max** is an 11 year old Percheron/Thoroughbred cross. He is doing super well at his job and although he is a nice sturdy horse he can't manage heavier riders, so Emma helps him out there.



**Paddington** was retired from the program in November 2014 as he was not the best fit for the program.



**Peanut** is doing super well in the program. She can handle our most unbalanced riders without batting an eyelash and has a really nice forward movement, which is so important for a therapy horse.



**Windy**, an 20 year old Morgan mare, continues to do very well with our therapeutic riders. Both she and Peanut look very much alike!

**Want to keep up to date with what's going on with the Program?**

**Find us on Facebook! Creston & District Society for Community Living – Therapeutic Riding**