



THERAPEUTIC & PUBLIC RIDING PROGRAMS

P.O. Box 1820 205-7th Ave. N. Creston BC, V0B 1G0 ph. (250) 428-2296 mwhiteaway@hotmail.com

Report to CDSCL AGM – September 27th, 2011

Summary

The Therapeutic and Public Riding Programs continues to grow in popularity. Our therapy horse herd provides continuity for our riders as they have all been working this year. The area of the program that saw the most growth again this year was our therapeutic riding lessons in the summer session with 28 riders. Last summer, summer session had 18 riders.

	2009	2010	2011
RIDERS			
# of therapeutic riders	26	31	35
# of public riders	15	17	22
VOLUNTEERS			
# of volunteers	24	22	30
INSTRUCTORS			
# of certified instructors	1	3	3
# of instructors in training	2	1	2
Total # of instructors	3	4	5

Riders

The number of riders signed up in the therapeutic riding program and public riding program continues to increase every year. The spring session saw a total of 56 rides a week. However, this proved to be too much for the horses and they were showing signs of stress. This fall, the number of riders was capped at 50, with priority given to therapeutic riders. This resulted in fewer public riders being able to take lessons.



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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) are the most common disabilities seen in the program.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are fantastic, enthusiastic and energetic and very much appreciated by the riders, caregivers, instructors and horses! 9 new volunteers joined the team this year. In addition to having volunteers help with the lessons, Paul and Patricia Bartlett have been feeding the horses their breakfast and cleaning pens when lessons are in session, which is a great help.

Summer Student

Although we were approved for a grant from Canada Summer Jobs, the program was not eligible to receive one as a union concurrence letter was not provided to the program. However, Shayla Leacock was hired for 30 hours per week during the summer to facilitate summer session lessons, horse camp, horse care and facility maintenance. The Town of Creston did fund \$300 towards this position, and we received extra donations that will offset the cost.

Instructors

Christine Ross, our head instructor has certification as a CanTRA Instructor and as an Equine Canada Instructor. Christine attended the CanTRA conference in PEI this June.

Judine Maki, an Equine Canada Certified Instructor, continues to offer 4 public riding lessons on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Peggy Hawes is a CanTRA Assistant Instructor.

Michelle Whiteaway, a certified CanTRA Assistant Instructor, continues to teach one on one and is registered from the CanTRA Intermediate Instructor course so that she may teach up to 4 students at a time. Michelle expects to take the exam in Spring 2012.

Shayla Leacock, is registered in the CanTRA Assistant Instructor course and is being mentored by Christine, Michelle and Peggy as she practices therapeutic riding instruction.



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Avis Hutchinson, a volunteer, has registered for the CanTRA Assistant Instructor course and is being mentored by Christine, Michelle and Peggy as she learns about therapeutic riding instruction.

Events

In 2011, the following events took place:

March – An Open House and volunteer training session was held (despite the snow!)

April – a booth was shared with the woodshop at the Home and Garden Show

April – May – 8 week spring session

June – Therapeutic Riding Horse Show, Dressage Day and Volunteer Appreciation Fun Day

July – 4 week summer session and 3 day summer camp

August – Joan and Anya Sopow Riding Clinic

September – October – 8 week fall session

Fundraising and Donations

The program continues to be supported by individual donations, local businesses and foundations. Once again, the bulk of the funding came from the Direct Access gaming grant. People continue to be very generous with their donations.




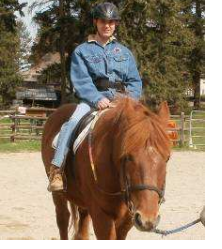


Completed Projects

Thanks to grants from the Creston Kootenay Foundation, the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives program and a donation from the Knights of Columbus, the south perimeter fence and the north entrance fence were replaced with beautiful post and rail fencing. And a huge thanks to Alex Nilsson and Terje Munkerud for installing all of the rails.





Horses

	<p>This spring, Spyder was retired from the program. He found a wonderful retirement home with Erika and Arnie Woker and their miniature horse, Chico.</p>
	<p>To replace Spyder, Emma, an 11 year old Suffolk Punch/Quarter Horse cross joined the program. She has been doing an amazing job and the program definitely wants to keep her. Funds will be raised to cover Emma's purchase price of \$3500.</p>
	<p>Windy, a 16 year old Morgan mare, joined the herd in April 2011 on a free lease. Her owner, Lisa Linnemeyer of R Lil Morgans in Lister, donated Windy to the program in January 2011.</p>
	<p>As Emma is quite a large, solid horse, the program was able to return Marty to Lyn Kistner. Marty was on loan to the program so that our largest riders were able to take lessons. Emma is quite capable of handling Marty's riders.</p>
	<p>Unfortunately, Blue's arthritis and general old age has gotten to the point where the program has decided to retire him.</p>
	<p>Inga, Kit and Salty continue to work for the program. The horses have continued to enjoy good health and happy living.</p> <div data-bbox="384 1794 1002 1980">  </div>

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