



THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUCCESSFUL RIDING PROGRAM WINDS DOWN FOR SUMMER

Riders and volunteers at Creston and District Society for Community Living's Therapeutic Riding Program are winding down for the summer. The eight week spring session was deemed a success by all involved. "We have come so far in such a short period of time" says Peter Feltham, Executive Director, "When we started this project three months ago, there was absolutely nothing in place. Now we've finished our very first session and had tremendous results."

Seven riders ranged in age from seven to forty-eight, and included people with physical, developmental and emotional challenges. For many of the riders this was their first experience with horses and progress was excellent. "Several of our riders were only able to ride comfortably for five minutes in their first lesson – by the end of the session they were solid in the saddle for the whole half hour" said Instructor Sarah Schmidt. "Two of the riders are riding independently, and all of them achieved their goals in one way or another."

Volunteer quote from Diana

Plans for the summer focus on raising resources – both financial and human. Activities planned so far include a pot-luck for riders, volunteers, caregivers and donors, a "Garage Sale With Attitude" on August 6 (donations being accepted now), a car wash and volunteer training sessions. A group of volunteers is forming to put on a Barn Dance in the fall and is inviting anyone who is interested in helping out to get in touch.

For more information on the program and the various activities or to donate, contact Sarah Schmidt at 428-3938 or sschmidt.cdscl@shawlink.ca

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Picture Attached:

Volunteers left to right, Sidewalkers Elaine LeGatt & Gail Reed, Horse Handler, Diana Miller

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