



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

### CRESTON-KOOTENAY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THERAPEUTIC RIDING

The CDSCL Therapeutic Riding Program fall session is starting up on September 19 and will run for eight weeks. Thanks to the Creston-Kootenay Foundation, riders will have some new goals to strive for. The Creston-Kootenay Foundation has donated \$1,000 to purchase and implement the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA) Rider Level Programs

There are two rider achievement programs – one is designed for those whose progress is measured in smaller increments (Achievement Rainbow) and one for people who can achieve greater challenges (CanTRA Achievement Program). Riders progress through the levels and earn certificates and discs as they achieve various standards. For one stream an achievement may be to locate their helmet and put it on without assistance. For the other stream their goals may include mounting and dismounting without assistance.

Implementing a national standard will enhance the local program's credibility both locally and nationally. It also enables instructors and therapists to develop treatment plans consistent with nationally recognized guidelines as well as provides tangible recognition to the riders and their community of their progress. Utilizing these programs assists in goal setting, lesson planning and rider evaluation. It also creates a way to measure the success of the program (although it is not the only criteria of success for a therapeutic riding program).

“The Creston-Kootenay Foundation is extremely pleased to be able to support the efforts of our community. Programs such as the Therapeutic Riding Program benefit so many people – their influence goes far beyond their clients – to the caregivers and families, the volunteers and their families – everyone who comes into contact with the program is affected.” says Larry Brierly Chair of the Creston-Kootenay Foundation.

As September 19, is fast approaching riders are asked to sign up now so that the complicated task of scheduling riders, horses and volunteers can get started. If you are interested in volunteering with the program, orientation and training sessions are also being scheduled.

For more information, to register as a rider or sign up for a volunteer orientation session, contact Sarah at 404-9646 or [sschmidt.cdscl@shawlink.ca](mailto:sschmidt.cdscl@shawlink.ca)



## **THERAPEUTIC & PUBLIC RIDING PROGRAMS**

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PHOTO ATTACHED: left to right – Larry Brierly, Chair Creston Kootenay Foundation & Alex Nilsson, Past Chair, Creston and District Society for Community Living discuss the new rider level program with Marianne & Giggles, therapy horses in the Therapeutic Riding Program

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