



THERAPEUTIC & PUBLIC RIDING PROGRAMS

P.O. Box 1820 205-7th Ave. N. Creston BC, V0B 1G0 ph. (250) 428-2296 fax 428-2297mwhiteaway@hotmail.com

Report to CDSCL AGM – September 28th, 2009

Summary

The Therapeutic and Public Riding Programs continue to grow in the number of riders, instructors, volunteers and donors! Our focus is to grow the program slowly by building on a solid foundation of certified instructors, well trained volunteers and happy and healthy horses that enjoy the work that we ask of them. Our instructors and assistant instructors have visited three larger therapeutic riding centres over the course of the year and everyone reports back that our program compares very favourably in regards to facility, trained volunteers and horses.

Sessions

Session	# of TRP Riders	# of PRP Riders	Number of Volunteers
Fall 2009	25	15	21
Summer Camp 2009	1	9	7
Summer 2009	6	7	4
Spring 2009	26	13	24
Fall 2008	20	7	11
Summer Camp 2008	0	9	4
Summer 2008	3	0	3
Spring 2008	18	4	13

Riders

The number of riders signed up in the therapeutic riding program and public riding program continues to increase every year. New therapeutic riders this year are from the local elementary schools, adults who are benefiting from this unique therapy for their individual challenges and riders referred to the program by existing riders.

Volunteers

The program recruited and trained a record 26 new volunteers this year. Our volunteers are fantastic, enthusiastic and energetic and very much appreciated by the riders, caregivers, instructors and horses!

Summer Student

Thanks to a grant from Canada Summer Jobs, we were able to hire a student for the summer. Shayla Leacock did a fantastic job and her hard work was much appreciated.



Instructors

Last year, our facility was certified as a CanTRA Full Member Centre after passing a Risk Management Evaluation. This year, the focus has been on certification of the instructors who teach at the program and providing mentoring to other instructor candidates.

Christine Ross, our head instructor who has certification as an Equine Canada Instructor, is working towards her CanTRA Instructor certification. She was evaluated in September in Maple Ridge at North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association, and has been recommended for the instructor exam in Spring 2010. Christine is being mentored by Fionna Christenson of NFTRA. Fionna is a certified CanTRA Coach, which is the highest Canadian designation. She has worked in the field for 15 years and is also certified as an Equine Canada Coach 2, and has experience working with the equestrian Para Olympic team.

Michelle Whiteaway passed her CanTRA Assistant Instructor exam in Langley at Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities in July. She is now a certified CanTRA Assistant Instructor.

Peggy Hawes is working towards CanTRA Assistant Instructor certification. Peggy attended a CanTRA workshop at Arion Therapeutic Farm in Kelowna in September and will attend another workshop in Lethbridge at the Lethbridge Therapeutic Riding Association in October.

Our program is providing mentoring to two other instructor candidates this fall; Ginette Chambray from Slocan Valley travels to Creston every Wednesday and Friday to gain therapeutic riding instructor experience as she intends to open her own Therapeutic Riding Center at her farm. Gail Rite spends every Wednesday morning with our program to gain experience as she intends to offer therapeutic riding lessons at her facility in Salmo.

During the spring session, Liz Campbell from Nelson traveled to Creston every Friday to gain experience to help her achieve her Assistant Instructor certification.

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

Fundraising and Donations

The program continues to be supported by individual donations, local businesses such as the Creston and District Credit Union, the Royal Bank of Canada and grants from organizations such as the Creston Valley Gleaners Society, Creston-Kootenay Foundation, the Province of BC's gaming fund and the Knight's of Columbus.

Horses

All of our horses have been with the program since 2007, which makes things easier as they all know and enjoy the routine, especially the treats after the lessons.

We had an extraordinary fundraiser this past December to raise funds to buy Salty. We needed \$800 to cover his purchase price and ended up raising about \$4000. The excess funds were put in a reserve fund to cover Salty's care and feeding.

Completed Projects

The front entrance fence has been completed by Alex Nilsson and Terje Munkerud. It is now a very attractive post and rail fence.