



THERAPEUTIC & PUBLIC RIDING PROGRAMS

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Report to CDSCL AGM – September 27th, 2010

Summary

The Therapeutic and Public Riding Programs continues to grow. 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 this year was our therapeutic riding lessons in the summer session with a three fold increase over last summer. This was due to the fact that Michelle Whiteaway, as a certified Assistant Instructor, was able to teach lessons independently of her mentor, Christine Ross and that Peggy Hawes, an assistant instructor, was available to teach as well.

Sessions

Session	# of TRP Riders	# of PRP Riders	Number of Volunteers
Fall 2010	28	15	18
Summer Camp 2010	1	8	2
Summer 2010	18	2	10
Spring 2010	31	17	22
Fall 2009	24	15	21
Summer Camp 2009	1	9	7
Summer 2009	6	7	4
Spring 2009	26	13	24

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 have moved to Creston from outside the area and have previous therapeutic riding experience.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are fantastic, enthusiastic and energetic and very much appreciated by the riders, caregivers, instructors and horses! We had a great turnout of volunteers in the spring, but this fall, we had a few volunteers unable to return for various reasons. Fortunately, a few of our riders are becoming more independent and rely less on volunteers and the remaining volunteers always step up to fill in where needed.

Summer Student

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



Instructors

This year, the focus has continued to be 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 now a certified CanTRA Instructor after passing her exam in the Spring.

Michelle Whiteaway, a certified CanTRA Assistant Instructor, continues to teach one on one.

Peggy Hawes successfully completed her CanTRA Assistant Instructor certification at her exam in Langley this month.

Ginette Chambray from Slocan Valley who travelled to Creston every Wednesday and Friday to gain therapeutic riding instructor experience passed her Assistant Instructor exam in the summer. **Gail Rite** is no longer volunteering on a steady basis as she is busy preparing her home study in anticipation of taking her technical evaluation.

Shayla Leacock, who has been our summer student in 2009 and 2010, has registered in the CanTRA Assistant Instructor course and will be mentored by Christine, Michelle and Peggy as she learns all about therapeutic riding instruction.

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

Blue, Inga, Kit, Salty, Spyder and Marty continue to work for the program. Spyder became a permanent member of the herd when his owners decided to donate him. The horses have continued to enjoy good health and happy living, however, our two 20 year old horses, Blue and Spyder are starting to show more signs of aging. Blue's arthritis is being managed and we are being careful to not overload Spyder with heavy riders.

Windy, a 16 year old Morgan mare, joined the herd in April. She is on loan thanks to Lisa Linnemeyer of R Lil Morgans in Lister. Windy is doing wonderfully and we hope to continue to use her in the spring.

Completed Projects

Our mounting ramp was upgraded with new plywood and a coat of non-slip paint.

We also have a shiny new gate at the north end of the arena which facilitates exiting the arena when we take riders out for trail rides.