



THERAPEUTIC & PUBLIC RIDING PROGRAMS

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Report to CDSCL AGM September 10th, 2007

Therapeutic Riding Program

The rider numbers keep increasing! It's very exciting to see the progress that each rider makes and to hear the feedback from their caregivers regarding the progress made off the horse which they attribute to the program.

This coming fall session will be the busiest yet with over 20 riders projected to sign up. Riders range from the age of 4 years old to adult. Disabilities that our riders are challenged with include Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down 's syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and/or visual impairment.

Public Riding Program

The number of public riding program students has remained low. This has been a mixed blessing as the high numbers of TRP riders have meant a busy schedule, however, the public riding fees do help subsidize the low cost of the TRP lessons.

A leasing program has been inaugurated whereby a rider pays \$75 a month to ride one of the program horses three times a week and to help out with chores one day a week. Currently, two of the horses are being leased.

Volunteers/Summer Student

Our volunteers continue to be dedicated to the program, helping out with classes, events and chores. The Creston Valley Advance published an article (see attached) submitted by Sarah which sums up the challenges the program faces in recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Several Grade 10 students from PCSS are volunteering or have indicated their desire to volunteer. Sarah is also following up with the work experience coordinator to encourage students to join our program.

Angela MacKay was hired by the program for the summer as a result of the Canada Summer Jobs grant that CDSCL received. She was a superb addition to the program and is missed very much now that she has moved on to study at the University of Saskatchewan. The program will most definitely apply for the grant again next summer.

Horses

Despite unfortunate losses to the herd this spring, with the passing of Patti, Red and Rupert, the current members of the herd are quite enough to serve our riders. Salty and Spyder, added this spring, are very well trained and are doing especially well.

The program is following up with a local owner to obtain the use of a very large horse to serve two of our riders who haven't been able to ride as there hasn't been a horse large enough to support them.

The program could always use another pony or small horse to help out with our numerous smaller riders.



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Fundraising and Donations

Danielle Edwards, one of our dedicated volunteers, entered the scarecrow competition at the Fall Fair on behalf of TRP. Her entry won the contest - a \$200 donation to the program!

Our supporters have continued to be very generous this year. Significant donations have been made from local service clubs, individuals, local companies and foundations.

Location

The program continues to make improvements to the facility on which it resides. This year saw the installation of new water lines, new fence posts, new panels for a 4 stall area, and repairs to the feed room roof. A new horse shelter was recently completed and there are plans for another horse shelter and hay feeders. Thanks goes to Terry Munkerud and Alex Nilsson for all of their help around the facility.

Profession Development

Sarah attended the annual CanTRA Conference this spring. She also attended an Equine specific NCCP Coaching course this August. Sarah is currently teaching under her Equine Canada Coaching certification and is working towards her CanTRA Instructor's Certification. The GM Coaching Grant is being applied for to help defray the costs of certification.

Michelle is currently working towards a CanTRA Assistant Instructor's Certification.

Fionna Christensen, a CanTRA examiner, will visit the facility for a Risk Management Evaluation in October. She will also be providing an educational opportunity for Sarah and volunteers while she's in Creston.

Media

The program continues to enjoy good coverage from the Creston Valley Advance. In addition, Sarah has submitted articles that have appeared in the Canadian Horse Journal and Pacific and Prairie Horse Journal.

Upcoming Events

Please visit the website for more details on these upcoming events:

<http://cdscl.com/trpcalendar.htm>

Introduction to Horse Showing Clinic – September 15th.

TRP Benefit Schooling Show – September 29th

Garage Sale – date to be announced

Show Off Day – October 21st