



## Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association

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### Presidents Report 2010

OnTRA has had a tremendous year. We hit the ground running in January 2010 by holding 2 clinics before the end of March, working with Para Equestrian Canada for a third clinic in March and offering a sanctioned Gold Level show, also in March, to help our Ontario riders obtain the necessary scores they required to show at the CPEDI\*\*\* held in May. 3 other shows were offered over the course of the summer culminating with the Ontario Para Equestrian Championships in September. With the exception of not being able to find sufficient participants to offer a First Aid course, we are pleased to report that we met the programming goals set by the board for this year.

OnTRA continued its relationship with the OEF and the Associations council. Pat DiMambro continues to act as the OEF. She will provide a report in turn.

OnTRA was very successful in their fund raising efforts this year. We raised over \$7,000 from TD Canada Trust and Para Sport Ontario towards funding our competitions. This has helped keep our competition costs extremely low for competitors. Once again, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy was very generous in providing 80% of the funding used for our Member Centre grant program. This year, \$25,000 will be distributed to 10 Member Centres for a variety of capital projects, horse purchases and instructor training costs. OnTRA's goal is to offer another very exciting grant program in 2011. Stay tuned!

OnTRA's show experience this year was bitter sweet. Those riders who participated all enjoyed well organized events and were both complimentary and appreciative of the opportunity OnTRA provided. Unfortunately, our rider and centre participation rate was extremely low. This was disappointing from an organizers perspective, because the work to prepare for a show is not diminished when the number of participants is low. We must thank our host centres for the work they did to prepare their venues and thank the riders and centres who went to the tremendous effort of bringing your horses out to the shows. We applaud your efforts one and all!

Once again, we are holding our membership fees steady while providing our members the choice of receiving their communication from us via paper, or through email. This option has been well received by our members, though we do implore members to ensure we have an accurate email address when choosing the electronic option.

Our newsletter was very well managed by Kelly McGarrell. We have tried to spotlight at least one rider or centre in every issue. We continue to be extremely well treated by Barry Finn at The Rider with most months receiving a full page of space when we are technically only entitled to a half page. We are pleased that our newsletter is accessible by all readers of The Rider and hope this has sparked more interest in therapeutic riding and Para Equestrian activities.

At present, we have two openings on the Board of Directors. As always, we will be accepting nominations from the floor, but also encourage anyone who may be interested in participating on a committee to contact either myself or any other member of the board.

Next year we are very excited to once again welcome Pippa Hodge to Ontario. Pippa will be facilitating a 2 day workshop. Exact date and location will be announced in the new year. We also have plans for a clinic with Sonia Koczekan on practical "In the Ring" tips, as well as a Volunteer Training Clinic with Jo Anne Chevalier. Exact dates and locations of those clinics are also to be determined. The Ontario Para Sport Summer Games are going back to Sarnia/Lambton and will be held at Fiddick's Stables outside of Petrolia on August 20, 2011. We will host the Ontario Para Equestrian Championships, as well as an Entry and Intermediate Level show on this date. Given the very low turnout at our Regional Shows in 2010, this will be the only show OnTRA will host in 2011. We will be opening up a grant program where Member Centres can apply for funding to assist in defraying the cost of hosting their own shows or fun days.

Thank you for joining us at the Annual General Meeting. Best wishes for 2011!