



Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association

The **ManeLine** www.ontra.ca

President: Viki LaCombe
Vice President: Kirsten Smith
Treasurer: Virginia Pohler
Secretary: Pat DiMambro
Directors: Jessica Malpage, Kelly McGarrell, Megan Vance
ManeLine Editor: Kelly McGarrell

Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association's 20th Anniversary

The Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association (TBTRA) is proud to celebrate our 20th anniversary this 2010 season.

TBTRA began in 1989 but did not officially become a registered charity until 1990. The program started with 2 borrowed horses and ten riders. In twenty years we have grown to a program that owns five horses, one pony and offers riding to up to sixty riders a season.

Because of the weather in Thunder Bay we are only able to offer riding during the months of June thru September with the horses having an off season through the winter and spring.

Many of TBTRA's riders will sign up for the four months to get the full benefit from the program.

In the last twenty years we have seen a dramatic shift in the age range in which we service. When the program first started the average age was approximately 35 years old. In 2010 the average age is 14 years old. Many of the young riders have started with the program at the age of 3 or 4 and are still with us at age 15 or 20. This helps to create the welcoming, family atmosphere that we strive to offer. We always try our hardest to cater to each individual's needs. This is what keeps them and their families com-

ing back year after year.

Our ranch is a privately owned facility which adds to the welcoming atmosphere. There are no other borders on the property trying to ride while we are running our lessons. Of the nine horses

on the property, six are owned by TBTRA. The other three borders are also volunteers with our program. Our barn door is always open if riders or their families would like to come in and find out where their

horse sleeps. The grounds are also open to families to walk or even to find a quiet place to sit while their loved one is enjoying their ride.

We have enjoyed our last 20 years as Thunder Bay's only Therapeutic Rid-

ing Association and look forward to another 20 years! In 1989 no one knew the group would grow to this size so we are excited to find out how we will continue to grow in the next 20 years.

Northern Lights Therapeutic Riding Association

Clients of the Northern Lights Therapeutic Riding Association participated in an ONTRA regional horse show that was held at Northern Lights in Val Rita, Ontario on August 21, 2010. Marie-Hélène Lessard, a certified Equine Canada judge from Orangeville, Ontario spent the day judging the different classes at the competition.

Also, a first for Northern Lights: our Para-Dressage Team participated in Equine Canada's Para Equestrian "Coast to Coast" video competition. This program is a 3-year development plan enabling clients to participate, enjoy and achieve their goals all the while providing continuity and valuable progress. Our clients can hence be judged

and their performances compared.

Many thanks to all our volunteers, to Mr. Ken Read, our video photographer, parents and clients for their enthusiastic participation.

Following is a brief description of four of the day's participants: Cole was born in 1977 in Kapuskasing, Ontario at 8 months he was diagnosed with CP and seizure disorder. As a result Cole uses a wheelchair and is considered non verbal. Cole has been involved in TR since the age of 5. Cole has always faced his challenges with determination and a great sense of humour. He loves to be around people and of course horses which is evident by that perpetual smile on his face

while riding Buddy. His favourite activities are trail riding and obstacle courses and he loves the challenges of going up and down hills.

Kayla is a very loving 12 year old young lady who is hard of hearing. She is starting grade 7 at Ray Lewis School in Hamilton. She struggles with school because she went so long without hearing properly. Kayla came to Kapuskasing to spend the summer with her Grandparents and saw people riding horses passing by and said I want to do that. So, she has been riding since the age of seven. Kayla also loves music, movies, reading, and plays tennis. She counts the days until her first ride of the summer and always wants to do more.

Jenna is a vibrant 13 year old young lady with Down's Syndrome. She has been riding for several years, but only in the last year has she been riding competitively. She resides in Kapuskasing Ontario with her parents and older brother Daniel. She is a very active young woman who rides during the spring and summer and then swims, figure skates and bowls during the winter months. She is in grade 7 and loves to ride and dreams of doing wonderful things with her favourite horse Mickey.

Submitted by: Jo-Anne Chevalier, Program Director, Northern Lights Therapeutic Riding Association 705-335-2441

ONTRA Job Posting

ONTRA is now seeking a motivated individual for a part-time Administrative Coordinator Position. Check out our website for details www.ontra.ca

JOIN OnTRA today!

Don't miss out on your free subscription to The Rider!
 Individual membership just \$20.
 Membership forms available at: www.ontra.ca

2010 OnTRA MEMBER CENTRES

ASHBURN: The Stables at WindReach Farm - 905-655-5827
BARRIE/ORILLIA: Stonegate Farm - 705-327-7801
BELLEVILLE: Quinte Therapeutic Riding Assn. - 613-395-4472
BRACEBRIDGE: With Care Oke-Cook Family Farm - 705-645-5866
BRAMPTON/CALEDON: Caledon Equestrian School - 905 584-2022
BRENTWOOD: Kuruka Equestrian
CALEDON EAST: Peace Ranch - 905-584-9156
CARLETON PLACE: Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program - 613 257-7121
CORNWALL: Brave-Hearts Riding Club - 613-528-1616
CORNWALL: Second Wind Acres - 613-528-1616
GREELY: TROT
GUELPH: Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre - 519-837-0558
HAMILTON: T.E.A.D. - 905-679-8323
HARROW: Four Willows Farm
KITCHENER: CODRP / Pride Stables - 519-653-6686
LONDON: SARI Therapeutic Riding - 519-666-1123
MILTON: Windrush Stable Therapeutic Riding Centre - 905-854-6008
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE: Red Roof Retreat - 905-684-0235
NORTH AUGUSTA: Touch a Rainbow - 613-926-2116
OWEN SOUND: G.R.A.C.E. - 519-372-2721
PETERBOROUGH: PARD Therapeutic Riding - 705 742-6441
PETROLIA: Tomlynn Acres Reg. Quarter Horses - 519-882-0958
PORT BURWELL: Jabez Therapy Ranch - 519-874-1168
PORT ELGIN: P.R.A.N.C.E. - 519-832-2522
SCHOMBERG: King's Ransom Equestrian
ST. CATHARINES: Horse Alternative Therapeutic Services - 905-704-9820
SAULT STE. MARIE: Therapeutic Ride Algoma - 705 945-8546
VAL RITA: Northern Lights TRA
HAMILTON: T.E.A.D. - 905-679-8323
THUNDER BAY: Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Assoc. - 807-472-5650
TIMMINS: Timmins Therapeutic Riding Assoc. - 705-269-5994
TORONTO: C.A.R.D. - 416-667-8600
WHITBY: Durham TRA
WINDSOR: Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Assoc. - 519-969-1261

Please volunteer at a centre near you!

DISCLAIMER: Please be advised that OnTRA is not responsible for the accreditation, actions or activities at any OnTRA Member Centre. OnTRA has no legal or structural authority over any Member Centre as each Centre is autonomous. Be aware that horseback riding can be a dangerous sport therefore you should verify the safety procedures & the certification of the instructors at the therapeutic riding facility of your choice.

Intercity Insurance Honours the Memory of Horses Equine Guelph's Hoofprint Program Gets Industry Support

Guelph, ON – Equine Guelph has announced that Intercity Insurance will be sponsoring Hoofprints, a new memorial program celebrating the lives of horses. Hoofprints is an online initiative created to remember and honour the memory of deceased horses through stories and pictures.

"Hoofprints provides grieving horse owners a positive means to cope with the devastating loss and a loving way to remember horses through sharing their memories with other horse lovers – folks who care and understand," says Gayle Ecker, director of Equine Guelph.

Equine Guelph invites those who have lost a horse (recently or in the past) to pay tribute by sending a photo and message of remembrance along with a memorial gift in the name of the horse.

To honour your horse or to view the legacies of other cherished horses, go to www.equineguelph.ca/supporters/hoofprints.php

"Intercity knows first-hand about the trauma of losing an equine friend," says Mike King, principal broker of Intercity Insurance.

"We are pleased to support this heartfelt Equine Guelph initiative. Our sponsorship is being directed to help fund Equine Guelph's education

programs and I'm all for that. Educating our care givers empowers them with knowledge on the health and well-being of horses. In the end, this leads to maintaining health and even saving horses' lives."

Gifts to Equine Guelph help make a difference in the lives of horses through the funding of equine research, education, performance, healthcare and industry development.

By Henrietta Coole



Intercity Insurance supports Equine Guelph's new Hoofprints memorial program – a place where grieving owners can share stories and pictures of their departed friends. Photo Caption: photo by Susan M Carter.