

SUMMER MAKES ITS MARK AT PARDS!

It's been a hot summer in Grande Prairie!

We had a great Spring season here at PARDS. We would like to congratulate our Riders, both returning and new, who participated in the final session of our Therapeutic riding season (Session3-Spring). We're so proud of the work we did together and of the progress we've seen! We also wish to thank our public riders who came out to learn to ride, or to brush up on their riding skills. Good job everyone! We also had a blast with our summer campers! Thanks for coming out and having a great time with us! We look forward to seeing many of you again in the Fall when our 2010-2011 riding season begins.

The dates of all our programs for the 2010-2011 riding season are now up on our website calendar (under "Events"), and we've already been in touch with many of you to start scheduling rider times. If you haven't had the opportunity to get in contact with us yet to register for our Therapeutic or Public riding programs, we would love to hear from you, as available time slots tend to fill up fast!

Executive Directors Note

Our clients and their families have always left me in awe of their ability to accept what comes and make the most of what they have. We work with them to maximize their assets and develop new skills and abilities but it is inspiring to recognize how much they have to teach us. Before coming here to PARDS I had never given any thought to the communication skills to be learned from those who are unable to communicate verbally. Silence does not equal dislike or apathy and when the words just won't come, there are a multitude of ways to express yourself to one who is willing to hear.

To witness a rider whose every movement is a painful challenge find complete and utter joy in mounting a horse and moving to whatever area of the arena they choose is a deeply touching experience. Not only is the sense of freedom they are experiencing obvious, but the fact that every step they take, no matter how difficult, is worth this reward, puts into perspective all of the minor annoyances which limit progress in daily life.

To watch a rider being lifted from their wheelchair and mounted onto their horse and to observe the gradual relaxation of their cramped muscles is a visual memory to forever cherish. The sight of a rider being lowered back down into their chair at the end of the lesson is bittersweet, as their smile is much wider, their muscles more pliable, but their future is known and though we can offer some relief, we cannot cure. Learning that our riders are content with this has been an extremely difficult lesson to learn, but to not understand this is an injustice to these riders as we all need to celebrate their successes not dwell on our perceptions of their challenges or limitations.

I invite all members of the community to visit our facility and experience first hand the amazing world of therapeutic riding. See you this fall!

~ Jennifer

Special Points of Interest

- Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's **Fund Ride & PEP Games a huge success!**
- **PARDS Integrated Summer Camps** are here and we've been having lots of fun with our campers!
- Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! **It's time to register for PARDS Therapeutic and Public Riding programs!** We've already started scheduling lesson times for the first session of both programs. Spaces are still available but they are filling up fast!
- Get ready for **PARDS 13th Annual Dine & Dance on November 20th!**
- **Riders and Boarders:** PLEASE remember to check your mailboxes each week.

RIDDLE: I am as large as a castle, as light as air, 10,000 men and their horses cannot move me. What am I?

PARDS Programs

Therapeutic Lessons

Registrations for all three of our 2010/2011 Therapeutic sessions are being accepted for all who are interested in our unique form of therapy to help enhance their life. Session 1 (Fall) will begin on Monday, September 13th, 2010. Programs are specifically tailored to meet the needs of each individual rider.

Public Lessons

This program is perfect for new & intermediate riders of all ages. If you are interested in participating in our 2010/2011 Public riding year, we are taking registrations now for our Public Fall Session 1, which starts September 18th, 2010.

All programs are scheduled on a first-come-first-served basis.
There are limited spaces available, so be sure to register early to avoid disappointment!

For more information on our programs, please visit our website where you can find our Calendar with all our lesson and event dates, registration & membership forms and more, or call us at the PARDS office: 780-538-3211.

PARDS Success Stories

We see so many of our riders achieve so much here at PARDS, and one of the ways we would like to celebrate their success stories is by sharing them with you in this new, regular feature of our Newsletter. This first story was featured in our AGM report, and is told by our Lead Instructor, Sheri Young.

We have an incredibly determined young lady who has been riding at PARDS for 7 years. She has a wonderful personality and attitude and it is a privilege to teach her. This young lady has limited use and control of both of her legs and one arm. She is currently partnered with Rainmaker. This is a perfect match of rider and horse. Rain responds extremely well to her and the love between the two is obvious to everyone.

In the beginning, this rider was assisted by a leader and two side walkers. She has worked so hard and with such determination that she is now a skilled independent rider requiring no additional help in her lessons. She trots her horse, rides one handed and neck reins with great skill. Rain responds to her as though he is an extension of her and together they have worked toward and accomplished the goals she has set for herself.

This rider has shared that her favourite part of riding is the ability to go anywhere she wants to go and it gives her a true sense of freedom. Rain takes very good care of her and seems to truly understand her needs. As an instructor it is inspiring to assist her in lessons, see her incredible drive and determination and witness the progress made from week to week. I just stand back and watch with awe. She and Rain are their own magical team.

Volunteer Spotlight

RUTH FINCH RECEIVES SLIM ALLEN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Ruth Finch, this year's recipient of the Slim Allan Award of Excellence, in recognition of the enormous contributions she has made as a long-time PARDS volunteer and supporter. Ruth has filled many roles in the PARDS organization since opening our doors in 1984. Her hard work, dedication and commitment combined with her compassion, positive attitude and sense of humour has given all of us, throughout the years, a standard to strive for. Thank you so much Ruth, for all you have contributed in providing our special needs community with this effective and unique therapeutic opportunity and for keeping us close to your heart for so many years. You are truly and deeply appreciated!

PARDS 25th Annual Fund Ride and 2nd Annual PEP Games

On Saturday, June 5th, 2010, PARDS held our 25th Annual Fund Ride & PEP Games fundraiser. The weather was spectacular with the sun warm and bright, and there was just enough of a breeze to keep us all cool. The Grande Prairie Rotary Club started us off with an amazing hot pancake breakfast, and our local bagpiper was there to get all our horse riders, ATV riders, walkers, cyclists and volunteers energized and excited to go out onto the trails and enjoy the day's activities.

The PEP Games began later in the morning with a variety of ground games for everyone of every ability to participate in, and featured very popular face and arm painting. But, the fun really kicked off with the arrival of Sustainable Resources' mascot, Bertie the Beaver, who visited with our participants and played in the Games with us.

Once everyone returned from the trails later that afternoon, we all sat together, smiles on our faces, and enjoyed each other's company while we tapped our toes to the sounds of live classic rock played by the local band, Rockin 12 Bar. The event concluded with a fantastic barbeque beef supper, awards ceremony, and more great music that sent us dancing all the way home.

PARDS would like to thank all the participants of our Fund Ride and PEP Games for helping to raise over \$34,000.00 in support of our therapeutic programs. We would also like to extend a BIG thank you to all of our Volunteers and our Sponsors and Donors:

Keddies Tack & Western Wear	Stojan's Power Sports & Marine	Northern Metallic	Mark's Hauling
104.7 Free FM	All Peace Protection	Animals First Clinic	ATCO Electric
BDO Dunwoody	Big Country CJXX 93.1 FM	Blackman's Butcher Shop	Brandt Tractor Ltd.
Big Country CJXX 93.1 FM	Blackman's Butcher Shop	Brandt Tractor Ltd.	Buck-A-Roo Catering
Calaway Park	Canadian Tire Grande Prairie	Carol Couture-Tupperware	Carolynne McBride
Champion Feed Service	CIKT FM Q99	County of Grande Prairie No. 1	Crown & Anchor Pub
Custom Communications	D Company Armouries	Darlene's Hairstyling	Dave Ridgeway
Dino's Potable Water Service Ltd	Dobko & Wheaton	Edo Japan	Elite Waste Disposal Inc
EMS Cadets -AB Health SVC	Evergreen Park	Expert Mobile Communications	Fas Gas
Foster's Seed & Feed-Beaverlodge	Fountain Tire	Gateway Farm Equipment	GP Amateur Radio Club
GP Elks Lodge 285	GP Fire Department	GP Public Library	GP Rotary Club
GP Tourism Association	GP Volunteer Services Bureau	Grande Prairie Heavy Horse Club	Grande Prairie Kin Club
H & M Meats	Happy Trails Campground & Cabins	Hilton Garden Inn – Calgary	Hollandia Distributors Ltd
HJ's & Family Affair Bowling	Jake's Down South	Jeff Davis	Jenn Ash- Epicure
Jessica Newman	John Deere	John Perkins Insurance	Kimberley Hein
Lan-Tech Services	London Drugs	M&M Meat Shops	Mark's Work Wearhouse
MEDI-C*A*L	Neufeld Petroleum	New Horizon Co-op	Northern Bottling
Old Dutch Foods Ltd.	Play 'N Trade	Prairie Signs	Rainbow Automotive
Ray Binks & Tina Finch	Rentco	Rock Solid Sand & Gravel	Rockin 12 Bar
Safeway	Save-On Foods	Starbucks- Cobblestone	Sysco Foods
Sustainable Resource Development	Trina Irons Graphic Design	Technical Search & Rescue	Tamara Klimp
Vector Communications	Wally's Mini Mart	Wayne Drysdale MLA	

This year's Top Fundraiser, Rachel Schappy, was thrilled to accept the PARDS Fund Ride prize saddle, presented by PARDS Board member, Ray Binks. Through her hard work and unflinching determination, Rachel raised over \$5000 In support of our therapeutic programs. Way to go Rachel!

A huge thank you goes out to all of our wonderful committee members who put in many hours of hard work and care into making this event a success: Jenn Ash; Ray Binks; Jennifer Douglas; Tina Finch; Michael Johnson; Tamara Klimp; Shirley Kyle; Eden Lancaster; Gayle Mayer; Carolynne McBride; Jim Rawlek; Edie Renkema; Joan Thors; Kate Trevors; Sean Trostem; Sheri Young

Upcoming Events

PARDS 13TH ANNUAL DINE & DANCE ~ Saturday, November 20th, 2010 ~

Brush up on your dancing moves and get your holiday gift lists together, because PARDS 13th Annual Dine & Dance fundraiser is less than three months away! Our fabulous Dine & Dance will be held on Saturday, November 20th, 2010 at Five Mile Hall. We are looking for event sponsors and donations of items for our silent/live auction, raffles and door prizes. For information on donating auction/prize items, sponsorship opportunities, or to reserve your tickets please call 780-538-3211 or email info@pards.ca. See you there!

Garry Walker Rider Sponsorship Fund

PARDS is committed to providing programming to all individuals living with special needs regardless of their financial circumstances. While there are programs available to assist financially disadvantaged and/or disabled children, these programs are sometimes limited, and when they become adults there is very little available for anything but the most basic needs. In view of this, Garry Walker has set up a rider sponsorship fund to assist those riders in financial need to access our programs and services. This fund is available for any donors to contribute to and will assist riders in need as identified by PARDS. Please contact us at the office if you would like more information and to make a contribution to the Garry Walker Rider Sponsorship Fund.

Charitable tax receipts are available upon request for donations of \$20.00 or more.

Straight from the Horse's Mouth: Finale

Hi Everybody!

My name is Finale. I'm a new addition to the PARDS family, but I'm already fitting in and making lots of friends, especially my new best friend, Vern. The work here is a little different than what a girl like me is used to. Before I came here I used to jump – I've even been to Spruce Meadows! I'm loving it here at PARDS, living the good life.

...I think I can hear Vern calling me over to play some fun games with the rest of the herd, so I'd better be getting back now. It was great talking with you!

PARDS Wish List

PARDS is currently looking for the following items:

- ◆ Square and Round bales of hay - ideally Timothy & Brome mixed with 25-35% Alfalfa
- ◆ Winter coolers, rain sheets and fly sheets, size 78-80 blankets
- ◆ Fuel or fuel card donations - diesel and natural gas
- ◆ One 150 gallon water trough
- ◆ Western saddle covers
- ◆ Western bridles
- ◆ Durable black hose
- ◆ Horse toys and exercise balls

Did you know??? In the wild, it is the mare, not the stallion, who decides when to move the herd to another spot to find more food.

Our Community Continues to Give from the Heart

PARDS would like to extend a heart felt *Thank You* to our most current Donors!

The following organisations and individuals have helped us greatly by donating Cash, Gifts-in-Kind and/or Labour:

In memory of Keith Cassity: Dietmar & Doreen Schmidt	Miss Hannah Mildenberger through Leaders of Tomorrow	Kay McVey Smith & Carlstrom Enos Kyle
In memory of Bazel Driver: Jeffery & Trina Meyaard Hugh & Maxine Godwin Nola Godwin Jake & Shirley Meyaard	Miss Randi-Lyn Voss through Leaders of Tomorrow Miss Paulette Wainwright through Leaders of Tomorrow Miss Shea Mildenberger through Leaders of Tomorrow	Maddhatter's Pancake Breakfast Mark Manto Building Materials Ltd. Linda Murphy Wade Mayer
In memory of Chip Godwin: Nola Godwin Hugh & Maxine Godwin Larry R. & Theresa Driver Laura Driver Bill & Elsie Chaykowski	Anonymous through United Way Aquatera Association of Canadian Travelers Big Country CJXX East County 4H	Jake Meyaard Amy Mulligan Sandrina Nyland SuperTint Tina Noble Equine Therapy
In memory of Louetta Rudnisky: Jean Driver Gordon and Jo Otto	GP Chuckwagon Heritage Foundation Grande Bingo Society	Garry Walker Willsey Davis

We would like to acknowledge the bequest made by Mr. Clem Collins who passed away October 17, 2008. PARDS is proud to be one of the very many organizations Clem supported through his estate. His generosity and work within his community will always be remembered.

SuperTint

A great big "Thank you!" to SuperTint for mirroring the windows on the inside of the arena. This has really helped to keep the focus of both the riders and the horses on the instructor in each lesson which makes a safer environment for everyone.

Maddhatters/CJXX Stompede Kick-off Breakfast

PARDS was up, bright and early, on the morning of May 28th - and not just to feed the horses! We were all having a great time at the Stompede Kick-off Breakfast & Silent Auction hosted by Madhatters and Big Country CJXX. This year, the event raised \$2634.25 in support of PARDS programs. We are proud to partner with these organizations in this annual event, and thank everyone who came out to have breakfast with us!

Grande Prairie Chuckwagon Heritage Foundation

For the second year, PARDS riders have benefitted from the GP Heritage Chuckwagon Foundation's Dash-for-Cash event. PARDS received \$4000 from the group to support our programs and operations. Thank you all so very much for your ongoing support!

East County 4H Charity Calf Raffle

PARDS was chosen as the recipient of the East County 4H Club Charity Calf Raffle during the 4H Achievement Days in May, which raised \$2476 for PARDS therapeutic programs! Many thanks to such a great club and thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and stopped by our booth to talk with us!

Aquatera's Bottle Donation Program

We would like to thank everyone in our community who supported PARDS through the Aquatera Bottle Donation Program during the month of June. We received a total of \$6834.15 in support of our therapeutic riding programs!

Kay McVey Smith & Carlstrom Supports Charities Golf Tournament

PARDS is pleased to have been one of the 14 charities included in this First Annual Golf Tournament. The event provided us the opportunity to inform attendees about our organization and raise funds with our ever-popular Plinko Board. Kay McVey Smith & Carlstrom is a truly caring corporate citizen that PARDS is proud to call a supporter.

Pat's Auto Bumper-to-Bumper First Annual Golf Tournament

Pat's Auto Bumper-to-Bumper held their 1st Annual Golf Tournament held on August 21 at the Grande Prairie Golf & Country Club in support of PARDS. This was a great event and once again, Pat's Auto has supported PARDS through their fundraising efforts. Attendee contributions through the various event contests generated \$635 - wonderful! Kenton Switzer, Pat's Auto Owner, generously donated an additional \$1365 making the total donation received through the golf tournament \$2000! Thank you so much to everyone who participated and especially to Pat's Auto for including our organization in your event.

Current Volunteer Opportunities...

PARDS Therapeutic Riding Sessions

Would you like to make a difference by getting directly involved in our Therapeutic Riding Lessons?

Starting September 13th, 2010, Monday through Thursday, we are seeking Volunteers to help during lessons with the following:

- Leading horses around the arena
- Supporting Riders as a Side Walker
- Maintaining the barn/facility maintenance

Even if you don't have much experience with horses but have a love for them and for helping your community, it's very easy to learn, and our experienced instructors will show you how.

If you have some time to spare each week (minimum one hour), and are looking for a fulfilling experience, please contact us.

Special Events Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist with upcoming special events and information booth events.

Current Upcoming Events include:

13th Annual Dine and Dance Committee Members - ongoing

Dine and Dance Event Volunteers - November 20th

If you are interested in assisting with any of these upcoming events, please contact us.

PARDS Bingo!

Please contact Gayle at the PARDS office to sign up to Volunteer for any of the following dates (or any future dates):

Friday, October 1st, 2010 (afternoon)

Thursday, October 21st, 2010 (afternoon)

Cars for Christmas Lottery

We are looking for Volunteers to help sell tickets at the Cars for Christmas booth inside the Prairie Mall:

Monday, December 6th to Friday, December 10th, 2010

9:15am-1:00pm / 1:00pm-5:00pm / 5:00pm-8:45pm

Additional volunteer opportunities will also be available for this event at a future date (TBA). Please call Gayle for more information and to sign-up!

Answer to riddle: The castle's shadow!

Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (P.A.R.D.S.)

*has been offering equine assisted therapy to children and adults with physical,
intellectual, behavioural and emotional challenges
since 1984.*

RR1, Site 24, Box 2, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 2Z8

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