

News From the "Neigh"bourhood

December

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January

January 1 - 2
New Years Office Closed

January 5
Session 3 Youth Leadership Begins

January 7
Session 3 Public Riding Begins

February

February 16
Session 4 Youth Leadership Begins

February 25
Session 4 Public Riding Begins

March

March 6
Session 3 Therapeutic Riding begins



~Stay In Touch~



~ Merry Christmas! ~

Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS) would like to extend our most sincere appreciation for the effort and dedication our supporters have shown us throughout 2016. The Peace Region is an extraordinary community and we are truly blessed to have been a part of it for over 30 years.

To our Donors, Volunteers and Supporters; our riders continue to succeed and achieve because of your valuable support. Your time, skills, compassion, commitment and contributions open doors and provide opportunities to the disability community in our region. Your generosity touches so many by keeping our programs accessible to all who need them. You are extraordinary people and each and every one of you plays a vital role in the PARDS organization.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

To our Riders; you are remarkable individuals who truly inspire us with your courage, strength and spirit. As we work with you, teach you and get to know you and your families, we learn so much about fortitude, resilience, determination and, above all else, acceptance. Thank you for allowing PARDS to work with you and for you and to be a part of your continued successes.

You are the heart and soul of PARDS.

We look forward to working with all of you again in 2017.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!



~ Thank You, Keddie's! ~

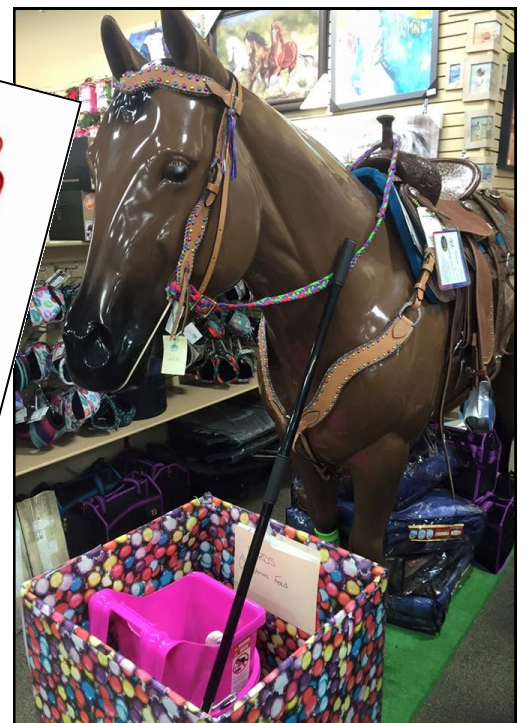


Keddie's Tack & Western Wear has been a long time supporter of PARDS therapeutic programs. Over the years, they have supported our FUND Ride with a beautiful tooled western saddle for the first prize rider, given lovely silent auction items for the Dine & Dance, donated boots for PARDS riders and provided the use of trailers to haul hay for the horses. Keddie's has also helped in many fund raising initiatives, selling Gator tickets, participating in PARDS Great 'Neigh'bour campaign and so much more!

For several years, Keddie's supported PARDS therapeutic programs by inviting their staff to PARDS Dine & Dance as their staff Christmas party. Many years ago, when Jeff was still in school, Glenn & Jeff donated their time to fit PARDS Stall mats for the barn. Those mats remain in our barn today.

This year, Keddie's has taken PARDS' Wish List and turned it into this delightful PARDS Christmas Tree, where donors are able to choose an ornament, purchase an item for PARDS therapeutic programs and either deliver them to the PARDS barn or leave them with Keddie's horse, Charlie, until Christmas.

The PARDS herd have written their letters to Santa asking for PARDS Wishlist items. Keddie's is generously giving this initiative some of air time on Big Country 93.1fm Saturday mornings to help make the horse's wishes come true! PARDS would like to thank Keddie's Tack & Western Wear and the Keddie Family for the many ways they support PARDS riders!

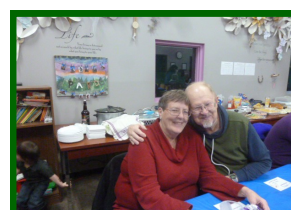


~ Incredible Volunteers! ~

PARDS would like to say a special Thank You to our incredible volunteers who provided more than 12,000 hours of service this year! PARDS programs rely very heavily on our barn, lesson, fundraising, committee and maintenance volunteers who come out to support us come rain, shine, holiday, or snow days! You make it possible for PARDS to help over 350 therapeutic riders reach their goals! We appreciate you more than you will ever know! Have a safe and happy holiday season! Merry Christmas!



PARDS would like to say a warm Thank You to everyone who braved the cold weather to come out and join us for our annual Volunteer Potluck! It was wonderful to gather around, relax, enjoy good food and great company with our many friends and supporters! PARDS amazing volunteers are a very important part of PARDS organization and we are very thankful that you have chosen to share your time with us! Merry Christmas!



~ Community Involvement ~

Christmas Wish List

Every year PARDS hard working equine staff write letters to Santa asking for items from PARDS Christmas Wish list. This year Greenhawk Harness & Equestrian Supplies, Keddie's Tack & Western Wear and Peavey Mart have posted PARDS Christmas Wish List, promoting items wished for by PARDS to operate our therapeutic programs and the very giving community purchase & donate them to PARDS herd. People have been busy bringing the horses presents this month. Thank you all for your generous support of PARDS this Christmas season!

ATCO

PARDS was chosen as the benefitting charity at this year's ATCO Christmas party with all proceeds going to PARDS therapeutic programs. ATCO generously gave PARDS a \$500 honorarium to supply volunteers at their event. PARDS volunteers enjoyed a delightful evening of fun working the coat check, raising an additional \$312.25 in tips from ATCO employees! PARDS is very thankful to have been a part of their holiday celebrations!

Centre for Creative Arts

PARDS was invited by the Centre of Creative Arts to partner with them for their Christmas Show and Sale Launch Party to wrap Christmas gifts by donation. All proceeds went to PARDS therapeutic programs. This was the first year wrapping was available at the event and PARDS was delighted to be invited. PARDS volunteers enjoyed the evening, were gifted beautiful handmade glasses and raised \$100 for PARDS therapeutic programs!

~ Other Ways to Give ~

There are many ways to help out at PARDS. We work with our donors and sponsors to find opportunities that are most meaningful to them. Together, we can create an environment where all can participate and everyone is given the opportunity to reach their potential.

To see other Giving Opportunities, please visit the PARDS' website:

<https://www.pards.ca/ways-to-give/>

~All the Best~



With a family move to the Edmonton area, we are sad to say goodbye to long time PARDS rider, Jessica Lang and her family.

Jessica started riding with PARDS 15 years ago when she was just 7 years old! Jessica's goals have always been focused around attention, strength and independence. It didn't take Jessica long to go from one leader and one side walker to just a leader and eventually no leader at all. As a long time rider at PARDS, Jessica has ridden many different horses over the years and found something special to love about each one. However, she had a very special relationship with Tidy and rode him for many sessions (pictured on Tidy above).

Jessica began riding at PARDS to help her with her challenges when concentrating on specific tasks. Her deep rooted love of horses and keen interest in learning anything and everything "horses" helped her to overcome these challenges when she was in the barn or arena with her horse. Each week she would have a new fact to tell about horses; whether it be about how they eat, sleep, or communicate with one another. Jessica always wants to know how or why and loves to share her knowledge with anyone willing to learn. Jessica's love of horses made her a quick learner as she always wanted to do better for the animals she loves so much. However, horses are not the only animals Jessica loves. No week was complete without a visit to our resident PARDS dog, Jade. Many pats and cuddles were given, as well as information shared about dog breeds and all of the dogs Jessica knows and loves. She will be missed by all of the PARDS staff, equine partners, and volunteers and we all hope she is able to find another equestrian program so she can continue learning and achieving.

We would like to wish Jessica and her family all the best in their move and all of their future adventures!

Help us ring in the 2017 New Year by reaching our 2016 goal of \$15,000!

PARDS Dime at a Time Campaign has been a great success! To date, we have raised \$13,356 and we thank everyone who has donated, done bottle pick ups and spread the word. We are so close; only \$1644 away. If you have bottles that you would like to donate, please contact us through email, facebook or call the office at (780)538-3211 to arrange a pickup!

All proceeds go towards the care of our very important equine partners who provide so much for their riders everyday!

A Dime At A Time...

**We are \$1644
away from our 2016
goal, with your help
we can get there!**



To schedule a pick up:

- Message us on Facebook**
- Email
community@pards.ca**
- Call the office at :
(780)538-3211**

**Schedule a pickup
OR
Drop Your Bottles
Off At:**

**PARDS
8202 84 Street
Grande Prairie**

**Recycle Plus
Depots with PARDS
Account #
1273-3211**



Thank You for Donating!