

# News From the "Neigh"bourhood

## September



### We have moved!!

All PARDS programs are now being held at our new location which is just NE of Evergreen Park (follow the gravel road)

We are so excited to be in this fabulous new facility now known as **PARDS Therapeutic Centre**.

There is space available in all programs and registrations are still being taken. For more information and forms for the following programs please visit [www.pards.ca](http://www.pards.ca)

Therapeutic Riding  
Cart Driving  
Little Pony Motricity

Youth Leadership  
Public Lessons  
Volunteers

## ~ Dates to Remember ~

### October

October 7 - 13  
No Lessons

### October 9

Thanksgiving - Office Closed

### November

November 3  
No Lessons - Office Closed

November 4  
Dine & Dance

### December

December 4  
Session 2 Therapeutic begins

December 16  
Session 2 Public begins

December 23 - 31  
Christmas break  
Office Closed

## ~ Stay In Touch ~

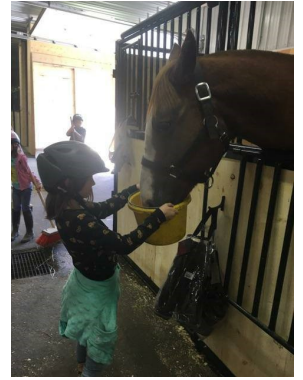
[www.pards.ca](http://www.pards.ca)



# ~ Summer Camp ~

PARDS new facility was a busy place this summer with 8 weeks of Summer Camps in total. We partnered with Camp Tamarack for their horse camp for 2 weeks, followed by 5 weeks of PARDS Summer Youth Camp seeing over 100 riders come and enjoy trail rides, learning about horse care, crafts, Youth Leadership activities and finishing off the week with a display of their talents in the form of a Musical Ride for family and friends. For the final week of camps we had our Adult Therapeutic Camp.

Many campers went on to sign up for Public lessons which began mid September. Registrations can be submitted for the next session which begins December 2nd.





# ~ New Facility Update ~

Wow! It has been a long time coming, but on September 18<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed our riders for their first lesson in our new home. The smiles and amazement on their faces when they first entered the arena made all of the challenges of getting to this point pale in comparison. There is so much more our riders will now be able to do in their lessons and so many new and exciting directions they can explore with their instructors because of the new arena. We began this voyage to expand opportunities for our existing riders and to increase our capacity to serve those riders who wanted to enjoy the benefits of therapeutic riding but we couldn't accommodate; we are so pleased to share that we have welcomed 35 new riders into our programs this session!

Thank you so very much to all of you who supported us through sponsorship, time, skills or simply kind words of encouragement. We appreciate all you have done, given and shared. We are here, we are operational, but we still need your help. There are many projects remaining that we simply do not have the funds to complete; an elevator to make the facility completely accessible, the divider curtain for our arena, tinting for the arena windows and window coverings for the offices are some of the projects remaining. If you are able to help us out with any of these projects or would like more information on other outstanding projects, please contact Jennifer Douglas (780)538-3211 or executive@pards.ca.

## A HUGE Thank-You to all of our project partners!



### Tom Brown 1000 Mile Ride



**Rotary Club  
of Grande  
Prairie**

**Ed & Terri Haberman  
& Family**

**Robert & Ruth Finch**



**SOUTHWEST  
Design & Construction Ltd.**



**Dean & Sheilah Swanberg**

**Bowes Family**

**Karen Blais**



- ☞ Glen's Graders ☞ McLeod Family ☞ Sanjel Corp. – Staff Fund ☞ 1266823 AB Inc. ☞  
 ☞ Diamond J Equine Services Ltd. ☞ Shepo Fencing ☞ Roy Bickell ☞  
 ☞ Evaskevich Family ☞ Joe Peskunowicz ☞  
 ☞ Dulux Paint ☞ St. Gerard School -Leaders of the New World ☞ Hans Valen Painting & Décor ☞  
 ☞ AccuPro Real Estate Appraisal & Consulting ☞ Bryan Tink & Family ☞ Roy Borstad ☞  
 ☞ Charlie & Marilyn Cramer & Family ☞ Wade Mayer ☞ DTA Christmas Carollers ☞

# ~ And the Winners Are ~

We would like to thank everyone who supported this year's Gator Raffle.  
We are that much closer to the purchase of a new tractor for  
PARDS Therapeutic Centre



1st Place Winner of the Gator - Derek Arneson

2nd Place \$1000.00 - Kim Miller

3rd Place \$500.00 - Diane Steinke

# ~ Upcoming Events ~

## Save the Date!

### Save the Date

*Big Stick Rentals and Southwest Design & Construction proudly present...*

**PARDS 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Dine & Dance**

## THIS IS OUR STORY



**PARDS**  
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

Five Mile Hall

5:30pm Champagne Reception

Dinner, auctions & dancing to follow

Tickets ~ \$85

For more information & to purchase tickets  
call 780-538-3211 or visit [www.pards.ca](http://www.pards.ca)

# ~ Volunteer Spotlight ~

Carol Balcome

Carol has been a volunteer at PARDS for many years . Raised on a family farm she has always had a love for horses and children. She had co-workers that volunteered at PARDS so when she retired from her career she came right on over. My first memory of Carol was 6 years ago on my first day as a volunteer. She was so friendly and welcoming. I volunteered with Carol for a session or two before I was on the instructor team and will always appreciate the way she made me feel in those first few weeks and how she continues to welcome all the new volunteers.



Carol shared, "everyone comes with so much knowledge and experiences. I've developed friendships with so many other volunteers "

Carol regularly assists as a horse leader in lessons and sometimes sidewalks. She enjoys working with the same clients each week and chatting before the lesson. The riders like the consistency of seeing the same person waiting with their horse when they arrive for their lessons each week. She has made many bonds with the PARDS horses over the years and she sure loves them all .

"I have built a lot of personal relationships with the clients .... I love being able to encourage them to do their best, keep them safe, keep them smiling and giving high fives ! ", says Carol.

You won't just see Carol helping in the lessons. She likes a clean barn, which we can all appreciate and helps sweep the floors when she has time. She has also really enjoyed being in the barn learning about the training and care that is involved with the therapeutic horses .

Carol said, "the first thing I learned when I came to PARDS was that this is not a facility that provides pony rides to kids. I've learned there is so much involved in caring for the horses, managing the barn and arena. I've learned so much about working with our clients abilities and the value of equine therapy ".

Carol is involved with many of our fundraising events. Her efforts in the silent auction for our annual Dine and Dance are very much appreciated and she is a fantastic spokesperson for PARDS within the community as she collects donations. Carol is always ready to lend a hand with the pony rides at the Fund Ride and Carnival in June and it wouldn't be the same without her either. She even brings her husband Doug along to help!



Carol joined us for 5 weeks of summer camps offering her support to our younger and new riders. From selling raffle tickets to glitter tattoos and almost everything in between Carol's enthusiasm and dedication to helping is amazing! She values the opportunity to educate the community about what PARDS offers and hopes to have had a positive influence on others to volunteer, sponsor and donate .

With November 4th fast approaching, PARDS Dine & Dance is just around the corner and Carol says, "my friends will soon be hearing from me regarding the 'Balcome' table! "

We can't thank Carol enough for all she gives of herself to PARDS over the years and we look forward to seeing her for many more years to come.

Written by Robyn Boudreau, CTRII, PARDS Senior Instructor



# ~ Donor Spotlight ~

## ENTREC Corporation

ENTREC delivers safe, exceptional, innovative crane and specialized transportation solutions. They routinely work with over-weight and over-size cargo within the oil sands, Liquefied Natural Gas ("LNG"), conventional oil and gas, mining, petrochemical, pulp and paper, infrastructure, refining, and power generation industries. ENTREC began operations with 1 truck and 4 trailers in 1995 and is now a fully equipped, employee owned company considered a top provider in the industry, specializing in loads and lifts up to 800 tons. They are always growing and the Grande Prairie branch currently has an awesome team of 61 employees who love being here, supporting the organizations that build community spirit where they operate in. This philosophy is shown throughout the community with their name on the ENTREC building at Evergreen Park, sponsorship of many local events and their employees volunteering with community organizations such as PARDS, Peace Draft Horse Club and Grande Prairie Stompede.

The ENTREC team are very supportive of PARDS Riders and we truly appreciate the many ways they support our organization. ENTREC Corp was the 2<sup>nd</sup> company to come on as a PARDS Triple Crown sponsor, a new sponsorship available this year meaning that they sponsor all 3 of PARDS Annual events; FUND Ride, Shoot for PARDS Stars and Dine & Dance. When they heard PARDS Cart was requiring repairs, they immediately offered to have their welder complete the repairs free of charge so our Riders did not have to do without their cart lessons. Not only did they weld the cart but they purchased new tires and wheels and painted it as well! When lead instructor Robyn arrived to pick up the cart she was overwhelmed by the improvement and relieved that the cart was back in working order for PARDS Riders. If you ask Gord, General Manager of the Grande Prairie branch, the look on Robyn's face that day is his most memorable moment with PARDS because in that moment he knew how important and appreciated ENTREC's act of kindness was to the organization.

The ENTREC team strongly feels that local businesses should support local organizations within their community. They truly believe in PARDS programs because of the incredible things they bring to the special needs community and they know funds go where they are needed most, directly to the therapeutic programs so the PARDS Riders benefit. Gord, who has been interested in PARDS from day one as soon as he realized what the organization was, says "Your programs bring special needs members together showing community spirit. It's a great organization and we will continue to support you anyway we can." If you ask him what he wishes other people in the community knew about PARDS his answer is PARDS GEM's. The PARDS GEM program is our monthly giving program and "GEM" stands for "Giving Every Month." This is a way donors can sign up for a monthly donation (minimum of \$10) to be withdrawn from their bank account or charged to their credit card and receive a thank you card with tax receipt at the end of the calendar year. With just one form to fill out, it makes giving easier than ever!

ENTREC continues to give to PARDS because of the riders and the staff. They love what PARDS does for their community and the people who work with the organization, saying the staff at PARDS show dedication and sincerity that is real. We here at PARDS are so very thankful to have grown such a strong relationship with ENTREC's amazing local team and we look forward to partnering with them more in the future!





## *PARDS GEM's*



PARDS GEM's are donors whom show their continued support of PARDS therapeutic programs by providing monthly monetary donations. To become a PARDS GEM is simple, just 1 form and we will withdraw from your bank account or charge your credit card once a month!

Your Monthly Donation Could...

\$20/Month could provide 3 Riding Helmets a Year

\$25/Month could provide Farrier for a Horse for a Year

\$50/Month could Sponsor a Rider for a Year

\$84/Month could Sponsor a Horse for a Year

To become a PARDS GEM Please see the office!

Thank you for your support!



# ~ Our Equine Partners ~

## CHEVY

Meet Chevy, a 5 year old painted, miniature horse. He stands 10 hands high or 40 inches.

Chevy has joined PARDS latest program addition, Little Pony Motricity. Little Pony Motricity is designed for ages 4 to 7 (maximum 48" tall and 50 lbs.). The program has fun activities that incorporate fundamental skills in early ages of development, while working with assisted learning through our equine partners. Lessons run in 10 week sessions, once per week for 30 minutes each week. Riders will work with a pony as their equine partner to challenge obstacle courses designed to create self learning and independence through play.

Chevy loves to be a part of little kids learning. Her patience and calming demeanor helps her rider work with her on learning, while using all their gross motor skills.

Chevy comes to PARDS through the generosity of Kathy McNally who has leased Chevy to us.



# ~ Just Horsin' Around ~

## YAWNING IN HORSES

Most of us yawn when we are tired. It's the way our bodies inhale a little extra oxygen to fuel our sleepy brain. Horses, however, don't yawn for the same reason. And, yawning is not an appeasement gesture, as in dogs. A University of Guelph study found that yawning may be a way for a horse to release endorphins. Yawning and most horses will do it several times in a row, is a sign that the horse was feeling stressed, and by yawning, is releasing the stress.

For more information on this and other related facts go to <https://www.thespruce.com/how-horses-express-stress-1887396>

