
Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS)

Annual Report

For the year ending December 31, 2015

*Annual General Meeting
April 25, 2016*



~ Our Mission ~

Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society is committed to providing high quality Equine Assisted Therapy to Peace Country residents

~ Belief Statement ~

We believe in the inherent worth of all people

We believe in the dignity & healing power of horses

We believe all individuals have the right to independence, self-confidence, community presence & involvement

We believe all individuals have the right to access quality supports and services to assist them to achieve independence, self-confidence, community presence & involvement

We believe the community as a whole is strengthened by developing and providing services that enhance quality of life for individuals of all abilities

We believe the development and support for services for individuals with disabilities increases their opportunity to become equal, integrated and contributing members of the community

We believe the community as a whole has a responsibility to support social programs which are able to demonstrate benefits to society

~ Our Aim ~

We strive to develop a client-centered organization with skills, knowledge and resources that are in keeping with current and innovative therapeutic riding approaches

We are committed to working in partnership with our community to meet these goals

~ Our Vision ~

To build a community that embraces differences and supports growth and success for all of its members

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Messages From the Leadership

Our riders are the heartbeat of our organization. They are our reason for being and their progress is the single most important thing that happens within our walls and fences.

Our volunteers are the backbone of PARDS. It is upon the foundation they provide that our organization is able to flourish and grow and our riders are able to experience transformational change and inspirational success.

The PARDS staff, human and horse, breathes life into everything that occurs on these grounds. The enthusiasm of our Instructors is the essence that brings our programs to life. The support of the administrative staff strengthens the impact of our programs by organizing and building on all the small pieces that fit together to make the whole. The herd gives everything of themselves to support and challenge our riders to leave behind their perceived limitations and embrace the opportunities available to them.

Our donors and sponsors are the lifeblood of every facet of who and what we are. Their investment nourishes our efforts to create positive change in the lives of those living with challenges. Their generosity opens up the realm of possibility for our riders and encourages them to step outside their comfort zone and be exceptional.

Within the following pages, you will read of incredible accomplishments and selfless giving. We share stories of fortitude, generosity, courage and accountability. You will learn of all that it requires to bring the gift of Equine Assisted Therapeutic Programs to our region and we hope you will join us in our belief that it is truly worth it.

~Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director

PARDS provides Equine Assisted Therapeutic Programs to those living with disabilities. Our unique programs engage riders to work toward their therapeutic goals in a non-clinical setting while also benefitting from the development of horsemanship skills, increased confidence and full inclusion. PARDS is one of a kind. We are the only full time equine assisted therapeutic center in Alberta; operating year round and offering a number of program options to accommodate all abilities as well as a Youth Leadership program to support youth experiencing challenges with building relationships, positively interacting with peers and family members and coping with everyday stressors.

We believe in the inherent worth of all people and their right to independence and self-confidence. Our programs target the goals of each individual to help them to improve not only their physical well-being but also to experience and celebrate their successes and accomplishments. PARDS is a safe place to come and feel acceptance and belonging.

Our community becomes stronger by creating awareness and bridging the gap between those of all abilities, leveling the field through programs that are not offered anywhere else in the community.

PARDS has experienced monumental change and growth in the 32 years since we first opened our doors to 5 riders with the support of a few volunteers, borrowed land, and borrowed horses. Our current location is home to 11 full and part-time staff members, 17 equine staff, over 100 volunteers and, most importantly, over 350 riders who take part in our therapeutic programs. Our membership base has grown to over 600 individuals!! We are bursting at the seams in terms of time and space and now require a new, expanded facility.

Relocating will open up opportunities for sustainable income with public horse boarding, arena rental and public riding. This revenue stream will help to fund our therapeutic programs. Most importantly, with the growing population and the growing need for our services, Grande Prairie and Area needs this facility.

Over the last year the new facility has transformed from a shell to being very close to completion. We are hard at work looking to raise funds to complete the project with the goal to move into our new home this summer. But raising funds this year within our current economic environment has resulted in some significant challenges. We will continue to build strong relationships with our existing supporters and forge new partnerships wherever possible to make this goal a reality.

Plans for the remainder of the year are to continue raising funds to complete the new facility and continue cultivating new board members and members for our various committees. This spring, the board will be taking part in facilitated board development workshops to continue strengthening the skills and knowledge of the board to effectively guide and govern the organization to best serve the needs of our members.

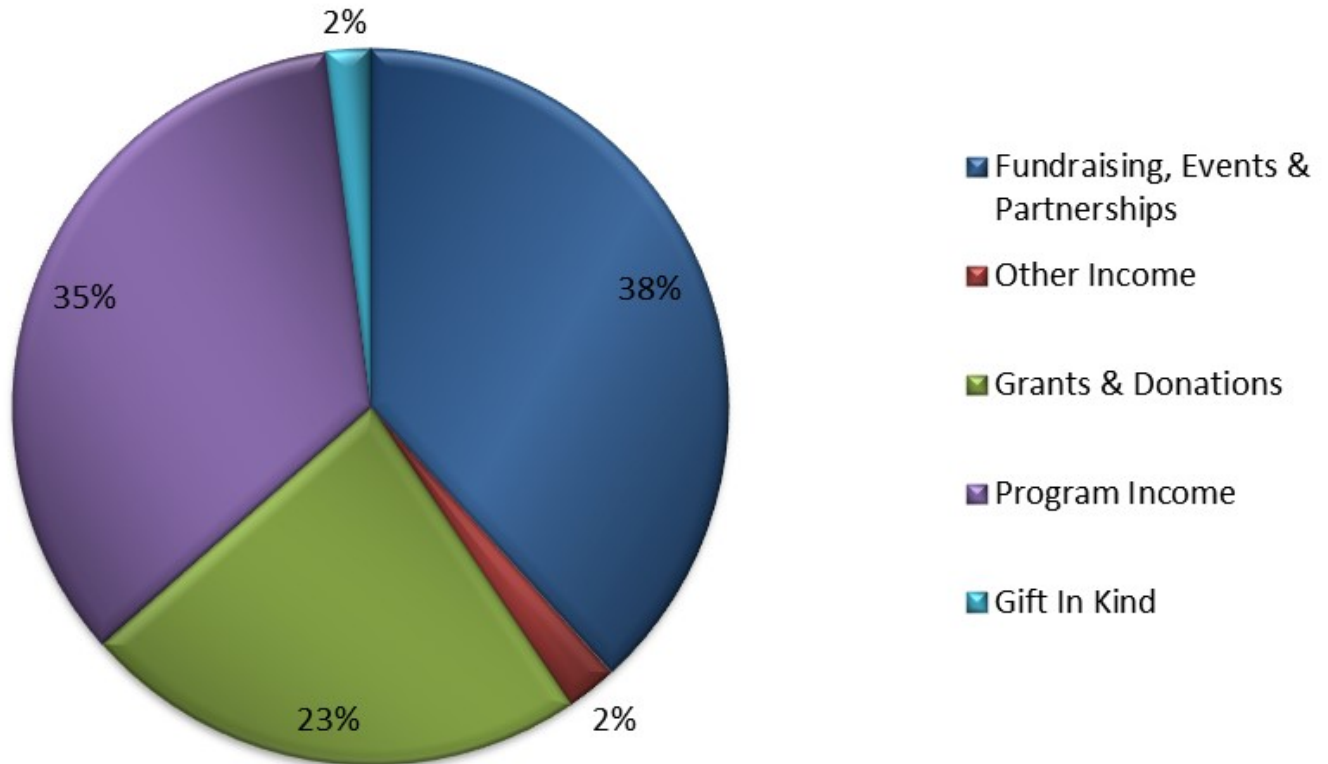
I would like to thank our Executive Director, Jennifer Douglas, for her dedication and hard work over the last year with continuing to grow and develop her team, being front and center in the community building awareness of PARDS, her time dedicated to running this facility, the countless hours she puts in for our events and committees and everything she has done to move the plans for our new facility forward.

I also want to thank the PARDS staff, volunteers and community for their time and support of PARDS. All of you are an important part of PARDS and everything that it means to and does for so many people in our community.

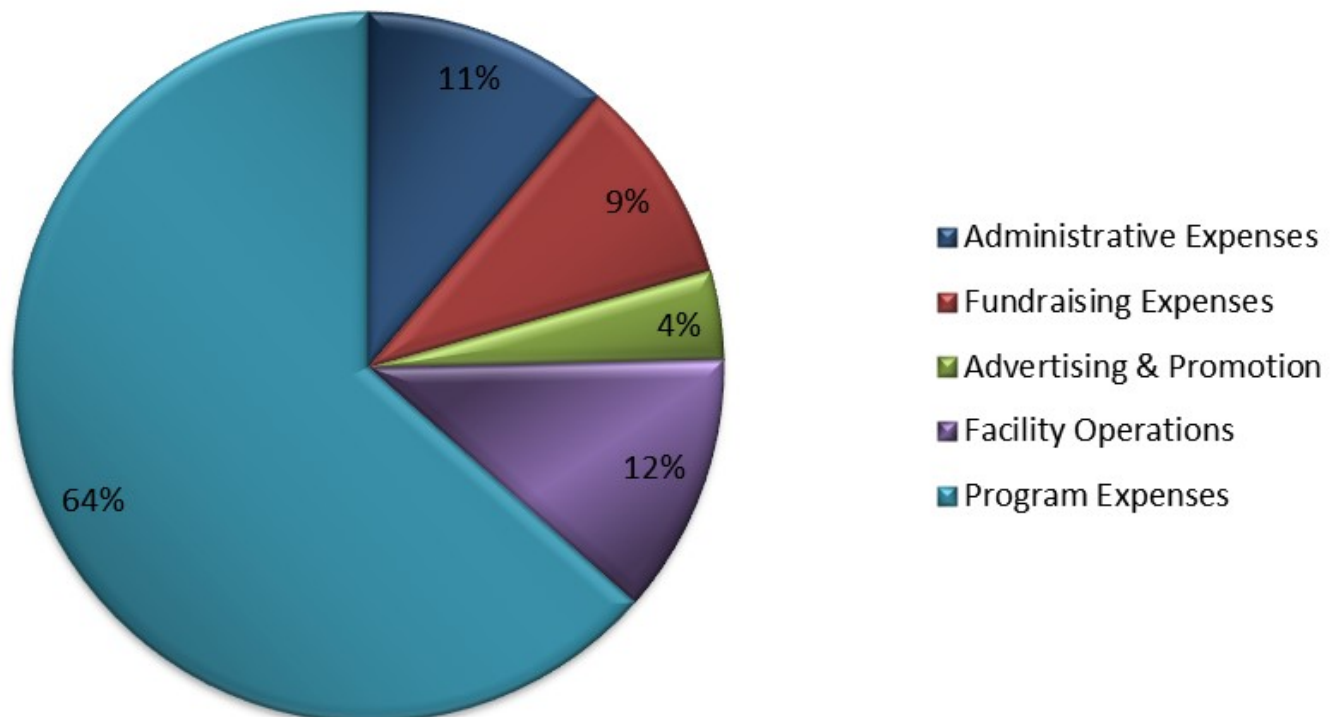
~Christina Balcom, Board Chairperson

An Organizational Snapshot

Where Do the Funds Come From?



Where Do the Funds Go?



Goodbye to our Special Friends

Robert (Bob) Wallace

It was with deep and profound sadness that we said farewell to our friend, Bob Wallace.

Bob was involved with PARDS since it's earliest days, lending support and labour wherever there was a need. As a lesson volunteer, he always made the lessons fun, keeping the Instructors on their toes and creating loving bonds with all the Riders he came into contact with; the sound of his voice booming "trot" could be heard throughout the building. All the PARDS staff and the many volunteers who knew Bob loved him and looked forward to his "Good morning, how's it going!" greetings. He had also been instrumental in the planning and funding of PARDS' New Facility, lending his wisdom, support, ideas and determination to get it done. We are truly saddened that we will not be able to share with him the results of his efforts.

Bob was a loved and valued member of our family, we will smile through our tears, remembering Bob and know that we are richer for having had him in our lives.



Jidy



Tidy was a wonderful therapeutic riding horse who kindly and confidently helped his riders to learn, grow and excel in their riding goals. Tidy lived a very full and long life and we will all miss him. Our thanks to everyone for sharing your thoughts, pictures and memories with us and a special thank you to Dale MacDougall for choosing PARDS as Tidy's home and trusting us to take great care of his equine friend.



New Facility Updates

NEW FACILITY...

For over 30 years, PARDS has supported the Grande Prairie and Area disability community through Equine Assisted Therapeutic Programs. During this time, the number of riders PARDS serves has grown exponentially. As a result, PARDS has been unable to accommodate all riders seeking programming despite extended operating hours and increased staffing. The Board of Directors made the strategic decision to expand the facility and grow the organization. In 2007, with the help of the County of Grande Prairie, PARDS was able to secure a lease on 55 treed acres of Crown land adjacent to Evergreen Park and in May of 2013, we broke ground and construction began on our \$4.2 million Expansion & Relocation Project.

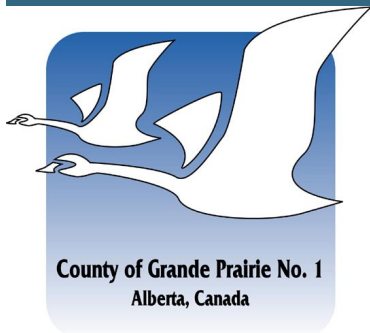
The new facility construction is in the final stages of completion. The areas remaining to be completed include installation of stalls, exterior power and water services to the paddocks and pastures, paddock fencing, completion of the arena footing, installation of remaining windows and doors and installation of plumbing fixtures and lines.

Southwest Design & Construction has worked closely with us as the Project Manager and assisted us in receiving additional support from the subcontractors of the project through discounted services and generous payment terms. We are so appreciative of M&R Plumbing & Heating, Northgate Electric, Wilmar Drywall, Con-Struct Designs Ltd., Lan-Tech Services, All West Glass, All Class Fabrication, Overhead Door, Butcher Construction and Odessa Doors for working with us to make this project a reality. We continue to work together with Southwest Design & Construction and Field Engineering & Associates to secure additional project support through gift-in-kind donations, cash donations and sponsorships.

Upon completion of the facility, PARDS Therapeutic Centre will continue to serve children and adults living with an array of challenges and will also offer expanded Equine Assisted Therapeutic Programs to meet the needs of the youth in our community through the Youth Leadership Program as well as preschool aged children through the Equimotricity Program.

We are excited to grow our capacity to further support and encourage community members of all ages and abilities to maximize their potential, achieve their goals and increase their confidence in an inclusive, supportive environment.

Thank You to our Project Partners



Culture and Community Spirit



Field Engineering & Associates Ltd.



Rotary Club of:
Grande Prairie,
Swan City Rotary
& Grande Prairie
Sunrise Rotary



SOUTHWEST
Design & Construction Ltd.



Robert & Ruth Finch
Capistrano Holdings
MC Pardell Contracting
M&R Plumbing & Heating
Tom Brown—1000 Mile Ride
Global Raymac/HIW Surveys
Roy Bickell
Behlen Industries
Rocky Mountain Equipment

Smash & Sons Contracting
Laurence & Lianne Read o/a Sheepo
Greenhawk Equestrian & Supplies "Loonie Shoes"
AccuPro Real Estate Appraisal & Consulting
1266823 Alberta Inc.
Roy Borstad
Joseph Peskunowicz
Wade Mayer
Downtown Association Christmas Carollers

St. Gerard's School—Destination Imagination "Leaders of the New World"

New Facility Updates



FACILITY - FRONT VIEW



RIDING ARENA



BARN



VIEWING AREA



BOARD ROOM

From Our Riders & Their Families

PARDS is where Josh has had his first and only, up to now, independent experiences. The staff at PARDS are so skilled and so accepting of Josh that he, non-verbal and functioning on a toddler level, can attend the adult day camps without an aide. The first day, when we came in and put his lunch in the fridge, when I said, "See you at 3:00", he was very confused. He'd never been anywhere by himself before. The next day, he put his lunch in the fridge and all but pushed me out the door. He was his own man at PARDS day camp and he did not need Mom hanging around anymore.

PARDS is the only place our rider can come where she doesn't feel broken and wrong.

Very happy with the lessons she gets. She looks forward to going every week and is showing real progress along with more self-confidence.

Our rider has come so far, she has become completely independent and we are so proud of her. We believe this is due to her comfort level with staff and environment. We hope to see her keep progressing.

Dear PARDS, Thank you for letting us know the horses. I liked my horse.

The staff at PARDS have always tried to do their best to accommodate times when the riders are allowed to ride. They are very kind and interact with the riders as they would anyone else. We enjoy attending the program and always look forward to it. Thank you to all PARDS staff & volunteers.

I was raised around horses and so I especially love to see the opportunities given to get experience around these beautiful animals. To see our guys be up close and interacting with such large but gentle giants is incredible. They grow to become more secure in themselves and riding also greatly increases their muscle tone as well as posture and flexibility.

The instructors and volunteers are caring, kind and patient

There is a pure joy when PARDS is mentioned around our house. My son is filled with bliss when he gets to come and see the horses.

I can't say enough about the great job that PARDS does!

As a parent of a child with quadruple amputations, it's a constant struggle of wanting to ensure that she experiences everything that any other child may experience while still preserving her self esteem and confidence. PARDS has given us the perfect opportunity for her to be active, gain skills, find a passion and experience success while following her current dream of entering competitions.

When I come to my lessons and get on Molson's back I feel a sense of freedom and he takes all the worries away.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and patience. It shows in her excitement to come to each lesson as well as her confidence in riding. Keep up the good work!

I feel like I belong and it is a safe place to be.

Client Profile: Aly Keay

The experience of a lifetime began on a beautiful morning in July. Aly Keay, along with her riding coach, Stephanie Golder, loaded Aly's equine partner, Manny, onto a trailer and headed out to 4tress Farms in Grande Prairie. This is where Aly would compete in her first Dressage Show. This was an exciting opportunity as this would be the first year that the Peace Region Alberta Dressage Association (PRADA) would include a Para-Equestrian Class in their Bronze Level Dressage Show.

Aly's journey to competitive riding started in 2002 when she first began taking Therapeutic Riding Lessons at Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS). Aly joined PARDS at 6 years of age as a means of keeping active and remaining strong and to help her minimize the physical symptoms associated with her diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. Her diagnosis displays as extremely limited control of both legs and left arm and she requires the support of a wheelchair in her day-to-day life. Aly also has athetosis and spasticity in her right arm resulting in very minimal movement. These challenges combined make mounting, dismounting and riding a significant challenge, but a challenge that she meets head on with strength, grit and courage that is inspiring for all who witness her riding.

In the following years, Aly's hard work and determination allowed her to begin riding independently, bringing her closer to her ultimate goal of riding competitively in dressage. Aly explains, "Competitive sport gives me the opportunity to do something everyone else does. It allows me to leave my chair, climb on my horse and go. Dressage gives me a goal to achieve and forces me to work hard with the hopes of improving my riding scores each time I compete."

After three years of Video Competitions, Aly expressed an interest in competing in a live dressage event. PARDS was extremely fortunate to have "Manny", who was generously donated to PARDS by Heather Hoggan after a long and successful show career in dressage, to partner with Aly. Aly shared, "it was difficult to ride him when he first came to PARDS. However, eventually he got used to my right leg constantly applying pressure, and learned how to neck rein. We became the perfect match."

The PRADA Cygnet Dressage Show was a two day event with Aly competing in two classes to demonstrate for the judge and the regional horse community the incredible range of talents she has as a Para-Dressage rider. The Show also presented a wonderful opportunity to help break down stereotypes surrounding the capacity of people living with disabilities.

After the show, Aly had this to say about her experience, "This summer Manny and I were allowed to compete in the Cygnet Dressage Show, and what an amazing experience that was! I was the only Para rider that competed, but to have that show experience was incredible! I would say that you could definitely see the transition in Manny from a PARDS pony to a show pony. This was our first show together and Manny and I worked flawlessly together. He knew his job, while also taking care of me along the way. I am very proud of the two of us, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for us both."

Aly's mother, Tracy has been Aly's cheerleader throughout all the years she has been riding. She has supported all of Aly's goals and has a deep respect for all of the benefits Aly realizes from these competitive opportunities. "To be able to have access to a competitive show was a new and amazing experience for Aly!" Tracy shares. "In fact, it was a total game changer; it allowed Aly the opportunity to push past her comfort level and reach an entirely different level of riding. She was welcomed warmly into the Cygnet Dressage show and has met many people who have shared their stories and offered suggestions. The support received was tremendous! This experience has opened new doors for Aly and we are looking forward to watching her compete in the future."

PARDS is very proud to support riders like Aly in their efforts to thrive in competitive sport.

~ Stephanie Golder, CTRL



Community Recognition



PARDS is so honoured to have received the award for "Best Not-For-Profit 2015" from the Business Excellence Forum & Awards event presented by Business Innovation Group and Action Coach. As described by Emcee Dave Doyle, "This award goes to the organization who has distinguished achievements that have resulted in significant progress toward a meaningful cause in our community. The organization clearly defines its mission and priorities with its end goal, maximizing its ability to achieve social change. This organization is relentless in its focus on results and can demonstrate evidence-based, measurable outcomes." Congratulations to the riders, volunteers and staff at PARDS who contribute so much to the overall impact of our organization. It is wonderful to be recognized for our role in making Grande Prairie a vibrant and inclusive community!

2015 Horse of the Year

Congratulations to Molson, PARDS' 2015 Horse of the Year!

Molson has been a member of the PARDS herd since 2013, settling into the program almost immediately upon his arrival. With his strong stature, he is capable of carrying almost any size of rider and with his steady, reliable gaits he is an ideal Therapeutic Riding Program horse.

Molson has a background in low-level Dressage and jumping and this experience has proven to be beneficial for all levels of riders in our Therapeutic and Public Programs alike. Molson gives our Therapeutic Program riders an edge in the Equine Canada Dressage Video Competitions as well.

With his goofy personality and good looks, he has earned a place in the hearts of our riders, their parents and many volunteers. We look forward to many more years with this exceptional horse.

A huge PARDS "Thank You!" to Ruth and Bob Finch for sponsoring the purchase of Molson, giving us the opportunity to have this handsome horse in our stable.



Horse Sponsorship

Becky

Becky is a 17 year old Quarter Horse mare, and she stands at 15.1HH. Becky was born in 1999 and has been at PARDS since June 2015. Her purchase was made possible thanks to John Perkins and family. As part of the horse sponsorship package, John and his family were given the opportunity to name their horse. After much consideration, they decided on the name Becky, after

their wonderful granddaughter Rebecca who is a long time rider at PARDS. Before starting life as a therapeutic equine partner, Becky competed in the discipline of Western Pleasure and also took part in numerous parades.

Becky's background in Western Pleasure means that she has a wonderful slow and steady gait. Her rolling walk and sturdy build is great for any riders feeling a little nervous about riding a horse. She has a soft and quiet nature, and this helps her build relationships with her riders based on trust. Her riders trust her and she trusts them. For riders whose goal is to improve confidence, or learn to canter; Becky is the perfect partner!



Becky with her namesake, Rebecca and Instructor Robyn



Youth Leadership Program

Client Profile: Jordan

The Youth Leadership program is designed to assist youth in life skills development. This learning takes place through hands on activities with a horse partner and is reinforced through group discussion, sharing ideas and experiences and gaining insights through peer-to-peer feedback.

Youth come to this program for a variety of different reasons but the one thing they all have in common is the desire to feel a sense of belonging. Aside from general safety practices, essential to anyone working with an equine partner, there are very few rules surrounding participation in the program. The guiding principle is respect for self and others and all of the activities and themes taught in the program build upon this.

Jordan registered for the Youth Leadership Program with the intent of fulfilling the requirements of the Youth Intervention & Diversion program through Crime Prevention. Jordan was a quiet, basically polite 13 year old who had gotten himself into some trouble for car-hopping (stealing small items out of unlocked vehicles), fighting, drinking and was beginning to experiment with drugs. Throughout the intake meeting, Jordan accepted no responsibility for the things he was in trouble for; instead he made the excuses that he was “just out with his friends”, “mom wouldn’t give me money”, and “everybody smokes pot, it’s no big deal”. Jordan was not excited to be here, he felt it was a waste of time and he made no secret of his feelings.

During the first lesson, the youth were introduced to the herd and spent some time simply observing herd behaviour from outside the paddock fence. Within a few minutes, Servus walked up to Jordan and began nudging him in the shoulder with his nose in an effort to get some attention. It was obvious from that moment that Jordan was hooked! He had never had any experience with horses before, but the simple act of Servus “choosing” Jordan to engage with made his face light up and brought about an enthusiasm that none of us would have ever expected.

Throughout the following weeks, Jordan continued to work mainly with Servus and the bond between horse and human became stronger. Jordan displayed an empathetic nature that no one suspected he possessed. Whenever the activity involved getting Servus to do something and Jordan was unsuccessful, during the debrief he always applied the most generous interpretation of how he thought Servus was feeling and why the activity didn’t go as planned. He showed true accountability in identifying things he could do differently next time and never made excuses or put blame on Servus. When asked how he could apply this behaviour to his relationships outside of PARDS, he responded that when things weren’t going as planned, he could take a moment to think about how he could help make them go better instead of getting angry or getting into fights.

Jordan continued in the program for 8 sessions (48 weeks) and continued learning and growing and engaging. He still experienced struggles and challenges in his decision making; because he is human and imperfect, as are we all, but he left the program with many more skills than with which he arrived and a noticeable increase in self-esteem.

The Youth Leadership program is not a quick fix. Its success is a result of giving youth the opportunity to engage in experiential learning opportunities in a safe and non-threatening environment, supporting them to develop skills like cooperation and problem solving and allowing them to make their own connections between what they have learned in the arena and how it can translate to their everyday lives.

Thank you so much to the City of Grande Prairie Community Social Development—FCSS and Encana for providing financial support to subsidize the registration fees for our youth.

Program funding provided in part by:



Equine Canada Para-Equestrian Video Competition

Para-Equestrian Sport

November 2015 Video Competition Video Series

Some of our riders took part in Equine Canada's Video Competition Series this year and they achieved some wonderful results. We are so proud to be a part of their accomplishments to their personal goals. Congratulations to all that participated!

Sea-to-Sea Para-Dressage Video Competition

Class #18 - Bronze Grade 1b Test 1

1st / Aly Keay

Coast-to-Coast Video Competition

Class #1 – Balance Pattern for Riders Without Reins and with a Leader and Two Side Walkers

1st / Reeghan Funk

Class #9 –Equitation/Horsemanship for Independent Riders (Walk, Trot/Jog, Canter/Lope Optional)

1st / Bailey Bienert

5th / Andrew Bienert

2nd / Sydney Park

6th / Lon Rubie

3rd / Justeen Schneider

7th / Zachary Bienert

For individuals with a disability, Para-Equestrian sport can represent an opportunity to enjoy freedom and movement by learning to ride a horse, competing alongside their peers, and progressing to high-level competitions such as the Paralympic Games or the World Equestrian Games. Challenges can be overcome and the experience is so rewarding.

There are many benefits to Para-Equestrian Sport for individuals with a disability. Para-Equestrian Sport:

- ◆ Provides riders with goals and focus
- ◆ Improves or restores self-confidence and feelings of satisfaction as a result of acquiring the ability to work in partnership with the horse to achieve success
- ◆ Provides a sense of empowerment and the ability to acquire the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become effective advocates for themselves and others
- ◆ Enables riders to compete alongside their peers
- ◆ Focuses attention on abilities and moves the disability to the shadows

(The Power of Para-Equestrian Sport, 2015)

“Disabled children are equally entitled to an exciting and brilliant future. We must see to it that we remove the obstacles... whether they stem from poor access to facilities; poor education; lack of transport; lack of funding; or unavailability of equipment such as children's wheelchairs. Only then will the rights of the disabled to equal opportunities become a reality.” - Nelson Mandela, December 1995

“Competitive sports have proven to be an effective vehicle to promote equality, inclusion, accessibility and awareness about the capabilities of those with a physical disability. ...and dispel the stigma surrounding disability and illuminate the realm of possibility.” - <http://www.paralympic.org>; Roger, 2005, p. 51



PARDS Summer Camp



What a busy summer here at PARDS!

180 riders passed through the gates over 10 weeks. PARDS partnered with Camp Tamarack for their riding camps for 3 weeks followed by 5 weeks of PARDS Inclusive Summer Day Camps and 2 weeks of Adult Therapeutic Riding Camp.

During the day, riders were introduced to horse care, grooming, tacking, feeding, riding, saddling, along with a youth leadership program, arts and crafts, games and, most importantly, fun!



30th Annual Fund Ride & Community Carnival

THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 FUND RIDE & COMMUNITY CARNIVAL SPONSORS



**1ST PLACE ADULT
SADDLE SPONSOR**



CARNIVAL SPONSOR



**2ND PLACE
ADULT SPONSOR**



**2ND PLACE
YOUTH SPONSOR**



**FENTIE'S PETROLEUM SALES
PONY RIDE SPONSOR**



GLITTER TATTOO SPONSOR



**3RD PLACE
ADULT & YOUTH SPONSOR**



FACE PAINTING SPONSOR



Fund Ride Sponsors & Donors

**AN AMAZING GROUP OF PEOPLE MADE THE
2015 PARDS FUND RIDE & COMMUNITY CARNIVAL
A GREAT SUCCESS**

**THANK YOU TO
OUR PARTICIPANTS WHO GATHERED PLEDGES
OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE OF THEMSELVES
AND
TO THE COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE DONATIONS**

**TOGETHER YOU ALL MADE
PARDS FUND RIDE & COMMUNITY CARNIVAL HAPPEN!**

2day FM	Jennifer Wolf
Action Sportswear	Jim Rawlek
Alberta North Auctions	John Perkins Insurance & Financial Services
Altus Geomatics	Kin Club of Grande Prairie
Army Navy Air Force Club	Lamplighters
Ashley Heft	New Horizon Co-op
Barton's Big Country	Northern Bottling Ltd
Brogan Safety Supply	Peace Country Amateur Radio Club
Carl's Jr.	Peace Draft Horse Club
Carolyne McBride	Pizza Hut
Catherin James	Prairie Signs
Connie Steigenberger	Richard's No Frills
Countryside Motor Sports	Rick Parsons
Debbie Wood - Party H.Q.	Rotary Club of Grande Prairie
Dino's Potable Water	Safeway northside
Elite Waste Disposal Inc.	Safeway southside
Evergreen Park	Save On Foods
Expert Mobile Communications Ltd.	Starbucks, Cobblestone
Fountain Tire	Strad Oilfield Rentals
Game Country Archers	Sue Wasylchew
Giant Tiger	Superior Fire Control Ltd
H & M Meats	The Butcher Shop
Horse Trekking Adventures	Walk Run & More
In the Zone Party Rentals	Wapiti Shell

**Your continued support makes a huge impact
on so many lives!**



Outstanding Community Support



Game Country Archers

PARDS staff were out cooking burgers and hotdogs for the Game Country Archers 3D Tournament. We all had such a great time! Game Country Archers donate all of their refundable recyclables to PARDS in return for our culinary expertise. We are so appreciative of this ongoing support that continues to grow and directly benefits our riders. They have been a great group to partner with!



Rotary Club of Grande Prairie Dream Home Lottery

PARDS volunteers generously shared their time with us as we partnered with the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie to sell Dream Home Lottery tickets. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the lottery was completely sold out! As a lottery partner, a donation of \$9720.00 was made to PARDS by the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie. Thank you Grande Prairie Rotary and PARDS volunteers!



GP Eye Care Grand Opening

PARDS was asked to participate in GP Eye Care's Grand Opening BBQ event. Volunteers cooked up burgers and provided information about PARDS while inviting guests to go inside and meet the great staff and enter their draws. Proceeds of \$350.00 from the BBQ were generously donated to PARDS. The daughter of the owners was so excited to hear about PARDS that she came to one of our summer camps!



Stompede Breakfast

The New Horizon Co-op, On Fire BBQs and Big Country CJXX teamed up to put on a delicious, hearty breakfast during Stompede week. PARDS was on hand offering assistance where needed and sharing information about the benefits of Equine Assisted Therapies. Proceeds of \$950.00 raised at the breakfast were generously donated to PARDS.



Laurel's Peace Country Preserves Art and Book Sale

Staff and volunteers helped Laurel to sort books and arrange art work in preparation for her Art and Book Sale. Volunteers shared information about PARDS over the weekend. Laurels' generosity continued throughout the month allowing for the sale to continue with proceeds of \$1200.00 benefitting PARDS' riders.



My Law Team Supports Charity Golf Tournament

We had a fun filled time at the My Law Team Supports Charity Golf Tournament at the Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club. Staff and volunteers shared about PARDS as Golfers tried their hand at our Feed the Horse bean bag toss. Thanks to KMSC Law for hosting this event and to all the generous sponsors, donors and volunteers for supporting PARDS with \$4200.00 from this event.



Royal Bank - Day of Service

Royal Bank Downtown employee volunteers were hard at work painting horse shelters for their Day of Service. As well, a donation of \$1000.00 was made for their volunteer time by RBC.



Countryside Motor Sports Grand Opening

Countryside Motor Sports' asked PARDS to lend their "expert" BBQ skills during their Country Motor Sports Victory Demo days raising \$350.00 for our riders. Thanks to Al and his fun crew for including PARDS in your event.



Out and About



GPRC Adapted Physical Education

PARDS hosted students from GPRC's Adapted Physical Education Program spring and fall programs for an afternoon, introducing them to Equine Assisted Therapy. Students had a tour, watched a lesson and then participated in some mock lessons and barn work. They were an enthusiastic group and many of them chose to complete their required volunteer hours with us.



Chamber Showcase

PARDS joined other community groups and businesses for the Spring and Fall 2015 Chamber Showcase. The Showcases are an opportunity to connect with businesses, groups and the general public. We always have an enjoyable time talking with attendees about our riders and the benefits of Equine Assisted Therapy. We had the opportunity to share updates on the New Facility. We thank the Chamber staff for putting on such a professional and well attended event.



Grande Prairie Stompede

PARDS was again offered space under the Grandstand compliments of the Stompede Association. to meet people from the community and surrounding area and share information with them about PARDS and our programs. Glitter tattoos were a big hit! Thank you to the volunteers and staff who manned the booth and applied the tattoos.



Guitars and Wagons

PARDS staff and volunteers lent support selling tickets for the 50/50 draw over the weekend long event raising \$1366.50 for our riders!



Tour of Alberta

PARDS was invited to join in the event to share information about PARDS. Staff and volunteers on hand met with the public and offered glitter tattoos.



Alberta Equestrian Federation

PARDS hosted an information session on what the Alberta Equestrian Federation is and does. This info session was open to the public as well as PARDS staff, riders and boarders.



Prairie Dusters Drill Team - Celebrating Animals for Autism

The theme for 2015 was Celebrating Animals for Autism, to celebrate animals who lend a hand to those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. PARDS provided a demonstration of reining and cooperation skills learned in our Youth Leadership Program.



Peace Draft Horse Club Light Show

PARDS volunteers served up hot chocolate to the public during a night at the light show out at Evergreen Park.



PARDS 18th Annual Dine & Dance "Rivers of Change"

~ Thank you to our Dine & Dance Sponsors ~

"Mane" Event Sponsor



Hearts, Hooves & Courage



WESTJET



Horseshoe



Ring Box

MUSIC



Champagne Reception

Good "Neigh"bour



remote

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Chipron A Ingraham Professional Corp.



Dine & Dance Donors & Sponsors

~ Rivers of Change ~

Thank you so much to the following individuals & business for their donations to PARDS' 18th Annual Dine & Dance

Acropolis	Carolyn Sinclair	Fashionista	Jade Cash
Adeline Halverson	Cat Rental Store	Five Mile Hall	Janina's Jewellers
Adrea Simmons	Cathy Withers	Forbes & Friends	JCL Trucking
Advantage Brake and Muffler Auto Centre	CatWauk Compression	Foster's Covered Wagons	Jeff Davis
Afterhours Boutique	Chatter's Salon	Gail Haakstad	Jennifer Wolf
All West Glass	Cheeky Chic	Gayle Mayer	Jersey Meadows
Alysoun Wells	Cheryl Brown	George Kraft	JH Interiors
AmGas	Chipron A. Ingraham Professional Corporation	Global Pet Foods	Joan Prankie
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Anna Kittilsen	Chris Wolf	GP Express	Joe & Jan Gass
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Anonymous	Coffee Crave Café	GP Public Library	Judy Moynihan
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Assure Lock	Controltech	GP Stompede Assoc.	Jysk
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Aurora Eye Care	Crystal Catering	Grande Prairie Fire Dept.	Kal Tire
Bama Furniture	Culligan	Grande Prairie Kubota	Kathy Crough Catering
Barton's Big Country Outdoors	Cute as a Bug's Ear	Grande Prairie Storm Hockey Club	Keddie's Tack & Western Wear
Beachcomber Hot Tubs	Daddio's Pizzeria	Grande Prairie Therapeutic Massage	Kelly Rawlek
Bear Creek Animal Hospital	Darren Bosomworth Trucking	Greenhawk Harness & Equestrian Supplies	Kelly Sutherland
Bear Creek Funeral Home	Deb Attwood	Gregg Distributors	KG Designed
Bear Creek Golf Club	Delta Grand Okanagan	Grovedale Golf Course	Klassica
Best Western	Den Pub & Carvery	Hair T's	KMSC Law LLP
Better Than Fred's	Des McCaffrey	Happy Trails RV Inc.	Lafarge
Beyond Wellness	DEW-Line Enterprises	Harold's Towing	Larry Bentley
Big Country CJXX 93.1 FM	Don Golden Auto Body Ltd	Healing Elements	Laurie Duncan
Big Stick Rentals Inc.	Douglas Lake Equipment	Health Hut	Leather Plus
Blackman's Butcher Shop	Down To Earth Petting Zoo	Hertz Equipment Rental	Lee's Sheet Metal
Bounty Cellars	Dunes Golf & Winter Club	Holiday Inn & Suites	Leyman Distributors Ltd.
Bowling Stones Ten Pin Entertainment Centre	Dunvegan Gardens GP Ltd.	Holloway Inns & Suites	Lon Rubie - Mary Kay
Bradvin Trailer	Earl's	Holly J. Crichton	London Drugs
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Canada Cup Curling	Edward's Factory Outlet	Home Hardware	Maddhatters
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Carline Muffler	Erik Gault -Century 21	Inspectrum Testing Inc.	McGovern's RV & Marine
	Evelyn Viens Dobish	Investors Group	
	Royal LePage		
	Evergreen Park		

Continued next page...



Dine & Dance cont...

~ Rivers of Change ~

Thank you so much to the following individuals & business for their donations to PARDS' 18th Annual Dine & Dance

Modern Bombshell	Pizza Hut	Safeway - Southside	Teepee Creek Rodeo
Motion Fitness (World Gym)	Plank Health Coaching	Sandvold Family	Teric Interiors
Moxie's	Podollan Inn & Spa	Save-On Foods	The Gift Box
Mr Mikes	Powder King	Sawridge Inn	The License Centre
Nevada Bob's Golf	Propeller & Co.	Service Plus Inns & Suites	Tim Horton's
Nighthawk Recreation Area	Pure Home	Servus Credit Union	Todd Perks
Northern Metalic	Pye Family	Seven Generations Energy	Tom Pura
Norwex Enviro Products	Q99	Sherry Drysdale	Tony Roma's
Odessa Doors Ltd.	QEII Hospital Foundation	Shirley Kyle	Town of Sexsmith
Okanagan Foodie Tours	RCMP Grande Prairie	Skelly's Web	Tractor Jacks
OMG Cupcakes	Reach 96.3 FM	Smash & Sons Contracting Ltd.	UFA
OpsMobil	Recycle Plus & Signature Support Services	Sportswear Plus/ Alberta Trophy	Union Tractor
Park Lane Jewelry	Reilly Transfer	Stanford Grande Prairie Hotel	Val Bundy
Pat's Auto	Resource Purchasing & Supply	Stefura, Greber & Beal	Valard Construction Ltd.
Peace Country Western Dance Club	Revolution Auto Group	Sterling Upholstery	Victoria Ann Photography
Peace Draft Horse Club	Richard's No Frills	Stonebridge	Vintage Wine & Spirits
Peavey Mart	Rio-Can Starbucks	Strandz Styling	Watson's Foto Source
Perks Family	Riverbend Golf Course	Suddenly Slender	Wayne Drysdale, MLA
Phillip J Currie Museum	Rocky Mountain Equipment	Sue Wasylchew	Western RV Country
Picture Perfect Frame & Gallery	Rona Building Supplies	Sundog Tours	WestJet
Pink Rain Hair Lounge	Royal Spirits Wine & Ale	TC Equipment	Windsor Ford
	Safeway - Northside	Pat & Carrie Tebbutt	Windsor Ford RV

*Thank you for your
generous support!*



Dine & Dance Committee Members

Jenn Ash	Jennifer Douglas	Adrea Simmons
Christina Balcom	Tina Gaylard	Peter Waayenberg
Carol Balcome	Shirley Kyle	Sue Wasylchew
Lyn Caldwell	Gayle Mayer	Jennifer Wolf
Stefanie Clement -Lacroix	Jim Rawlek	

Dine & Dance Volunteers

Shirley Barstad	Anna Kittilsen	Barb Wald
Robyn Boudreau	Leigh Melligan	Marilyn Walker
Ivan Danielewicz	Nicole O'Flaherty	Shauna Wells
Shelby Douglas	Louie Percell	Sharon Wilson
Marge Elliott	Megan Schur	Victoria Wolf
Leilani Gaylard	Brittney Sherwood	Ceiran Young
Stephanie Golder	Trish VanDuinen	



Off the Grid Adventure Race

PARDS is excited to have been given the opportunity to take over the organizing and hosting responsibilities for the Annual "Off the Grid Adventure Race". This event highlights teams with a strong drive, intense commitment, competitive spirit and focus on cooperation; all characteristics that epitomize PARDS riders, making this a terrific fit to add to our annual fundraising initiatives. This year's event was held on Saturday, September 12. Thank you so much to all the past Adventure Race Sponsors for continuing your support of this fun and challenging event. And a big thank you to all the participants and volunteers; we couldn't have done it without you!



1st Place
Ian Cleland &
Derek Baker
Team Greyhound
Thank you to Team
Greyhound who, after
hearing about the
work we do at
PARDS, decided to
share a substantial
portion of their race
winnings as a
donation back to
PARDS. You guys
rock!!



2nd Place
Bryan Austin &
Mark Young
Team Shake &
Bake



3rd Place
Les Drieger &
Perry Wolfe
Team Lost Boyz



Celebrating Our Volunteers!

PARDS Volunteer of the Year: Jim Rawlek

Thank you so much, Jim Rawlek, for all the time, skills and dedication you share with us to benefit PARDS riders! PARDS Instructor, Robyn Boudreau, shared this sentiment about Jim; "I want everyone to know how much I adore this guy. He's just so committed to the Dine & Dance and the Fund Ride fundraisers, not to mention everything else he does throughout the year from hauling hay to fixing the skid steer. He makes me want to do more, work harder, work faster and get up earlier! Any time I've thanked him or asked him if we could PLEASE have a break, he tells me to think of our riders and how he volunteers because he loves to see their smiles when they are with the horses. Jim, you are appreciated more than words can express. Thank you for being our friend."

Jim has been volunteering with PARDS for many years. Always prepared with tools, wisdom, humour and helping hands, he is our "Jim of all Trades". We appreciate you so very much and were honoured to present the Volunteer of the Year Award to you at our 18th Annual Dine & Dance on Saturday, November 7, 2015.



PARDS Volunteer Spotlight: Hunter Walker

Hunter has been involved with PARDS for several years, attending summer camps and lessons. He became a weekly volunteer in September of 2015 and in that time has become another invaluable PARDS volunteer.

Hunter is one of our younger volunteers who gives his time to PARDS. While he is young, he shows a maturity beyond his years; he comes with a great attitude and strong work ethic, always busy mucking out stalls, grooming and tacking horses without needing prompting or continuous guidance which makes him a reliable and dedicated help in the barn.

Hunter also helps in lessons with riders as a leader or a side walker and our riders look forward to seeing him each week. He is encouraging and understanding with the riders; building confidence through kind words and actions, helping them to reach their highest potential.



During this year's summer camp, Hunter was the "big brother" to some of the younger campers, the helping hand to the staff and the team leader whenever a team was formed. Hunter played to his best ability, while demonstrating teamwork and honest sportsmanship. PARDS' summer day camps are inclusive, therefore, some of the youth that participated have some form of disability. Hunter gave them support; taking the campers under his wing, helping them participate in camp games and activities to the best of their ability.

Hunter is an all-round great volunteer who is a pleasure to be around and work with and we are lucky to have him with us!

Bear Creek Animal Clinic

It takes many hands and a lot of generous people to make an organization like PARDS run smoothly. With a herd of 18 incredible horses, we need to know we have a team of people we can rely on to ensure the wellbeing and care of our herd. Animal owners in this region know that Bear Creek Animal Clinic can be trusted with their furry friends, big or small, and the staff members at PARDS are no exception to this.

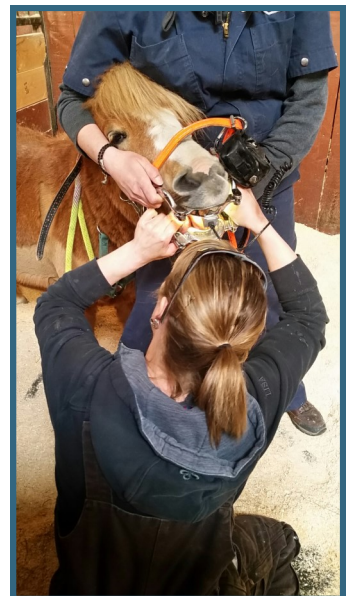


Whether something as simple as testing a fecal sample or as dire as an emergency vet call at 2am, we know we can trust Bear Creek Animal Clinic to work with diligence to help us keep our herd healthy and strong. When an issue arises with one of our beloved horses, we feel confident looking to Dr. Lisa McClarty for help and advice to give us a place to start with preventing and treating the issues that can sometimes arise with little or no warning.

Emergency care and special circumstances aside, one of the biggest roles Bear Creek Animal Clinic plays in our herd health program is with the routine care of our horses, much of which they generously donate. The Bear Creek Animal Clinic staff offer us their time, resources and expertise to keep our vaccinations and deworming on schedule and our herd's annual dental care maintained. Exceptional care is put into the dental services and the importance of equine dentistry is obvious to anyone who has looked into the mouth of a horse who has been left untreated, leading to ulcerations of the mouth and sharp uncomfortable points. Pain from these issues leads to decreased performance and can negatively influence behaviour. Thanks to the generosity of the team at Bear Creek, our horses do not have to experience such discomfort and our riders and clients can experience our horses at their very best.

Recently, Dr. Lisa McClarty has begun to offer acupuncture as a new service to the area. The results are surprising and the process is fascinating. Acupuncture serves as a way to help relax tense muscles and reduce anxiety. Finale and Montney, two beloved members of our herd, have recently benefitted from this service. Subtle but significant differences in their behaviour and way of going have been observed by the PARDS staff who work with them every day. Bear Creek Animal Clinic's commitment and compassion for our herd positively impacts our entire therapeutic riding program.

The PARDS herd works extremely hard for the benefit of their riding partners and the team here at PARDS appreciates knowing our horses are so well cared for as a result of the ongoing support of Bear Creek Animal Clinic along with numerous other generous companies, individuals and organizations. The simple way of putting it is that without a healthy herd, we could not offer any of the programming we do and Bear Creek Animal Clinic helps to make that all possible.



Other 2015 Donors & Sponsors

The following individuals, companies and organizations supported PARDS through donations of cash, gift-in-kind, horse sponsorship and selecting PARDS to be a recipient of fundraising efforts. We thank you all so much for your generosity and kindness...

Alberta Equestrian Federation	Derek Bakker	Jody Walker	RBC
Alysha & Savannah Barr	Donald & Jacqueline Murray	Joe Francoeur Trucking	RBC Day of Service
Amanda & Allan Hentges	Donna & Shayne Van Veen	John Perkins Insurance & Financial Services	Redline Powercraft
Aquatera Bottle Donation Program	Doran Stewart	Kal Tire	Risley Equipment
ARC Resources	Double J Equine	Karen Badger	Ritchie Bros. Construction
ASB Summer Tour	Erin Ryan Walsh	Karen Graunke	Rotary Club of Grande Prairie
Ashley Heft	Fenties Petroleum Sales Ltd	Karen Munjak	Rudy Maxwell
ATCO Gas	Fresh Coast Investments Inc.	Ken & Linda Bienert	Shalyn Bencharski
Aurora Spring Water	Game Country Archers	KMSC Golf Tournament	Sharon McLean
Baker Hughes Pressure Pumping	Glen's Graders	Larry Bentley	Sherry Granger
Bear Creek Animal Clinic	Government of Alberta	Larry Betker	Silent J Oilfield Services Ltd
Bev Little	Government of Canada	Laurel's Peace Country Preserves	Smash & Sons Contracting
Brandon's Excavating Ltd	GP Eye Care	Manulife Financial	Stephanie Golder
Caitlin Wageman	GP Stompede	Marilyn Gourlay	Sue Wasylchew
Canadian Home Builders Assoc. Golf Tournament	Grant Evaskevich	Merck	TC Equipment
Carol Balcome	Guitars & Wagons	Mort Timanson	Teepee Creek Hauling
Carol Martin Professional Corporation	Healing Elements Myofascial Release & Massage	Nancy Ingram	Terry Helm
Cathy Kelly	Hinton Wells	Norma Barber	Tina Berge Equine Therapy
Cinch Hauling	Holly Thiessen	Northern Spirit Light Show	Topco Oilsite Products Ltd.
City of Grande Prairie FCSS	Horse Saddle Shop	Parents of St Joe's Safe Grad	Victoria Wolf
ConocoPhillips Canada	Ian Cleland	Parker Jones	Visar Velu
Countryside Motorsports Victory Demo Days	Jenn Ash	Patricia Lynne Stone	Wild West Oilfield Rentals
Dalyce Sather-McNabb	Jennifer Biggs	Patrick Tebbutt	WinMar
Deb Attwood	Jessie Tolway	Prairie Signs (2000) Ltd.	Zayda Charles

In Loving Memory

Bob Wallace
MacDiarmid "Mac" Hoggarth
Rachel Emily Wopereis

Thank you to all the family and friends who chose to remember their loved one through a gift to our special riders

Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice Chair
Kris Waye
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Secretary
Adrea Simmons

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Peter Waayenberg
Lyn Caldwell

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Lisa Szafron

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Marge Elliott
Ashley Heft
Shirley Kyle
Gayle Mayer

Carolyn McBride
Rick Parsons
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Mort Timanson
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Jennifer Wolf

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Raymond Binks
Jennifer Douglas
Jim Rawlek
Adrea Simmons
Peter Waayenberg
Kris Waye

Dine & Dance Committee

Carol Balcome
Jennifer Douglas
Donna Durnford
Tina Gaylard
Shirley Kyle

Gayle Mayer
Jim Rawlek
Adrea Simmons
Peter Waayenberg
Jennifer Wolf

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Jennifer Douglas
Executive Director

Gayle Mayer
Office Manager

Jennifer Wolf
Executive Assistant/
Volunteer Coordinator

Jenn Ash
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Robyn Boudreau
CTRII Senior Instructor

Amanda Udey
CTRII Instructor (Volunteer)

Leigh Melligan
Instructor/
Program Coordinator

Anna Kittilsen
Instructor

Sarah Anstey
Instructor

Shauna Wells
Herd and Barn Maintenance

Dayton Fenton
Facility Maintenance

Sasha Harvey
2015 Summer Student

Thank you to these wonderful
individuals who were a valuable
part of PARDS in 2015. Wishing
you all the best in your future
endeavours.

Stephanie Golder
Program Coordinator / CTRII
Instructor

Ashley Schadeck
CTRAI Instructor

Britney Goebel
Public Riding Instructor

Holly Thiessen
CTRAI Instructor

2015 EQUINE STAFF

Encana, Norwegian Fjord
Holly, Belgian Fjord
Tidy, Appaloosa
Finale, Welsh Pony X
Manny, Trakehner
Montney, Quarter Horse
Servus, Quarter Horse/
Thoroughbred

Tim-BR, Percheron X
Hot Wheels, Miniature
Petunia, Miniature
Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse
Molson, Canadian
Windsor, Anglo Arabian
Burr, Fjord
Star, Welsh/Arab
Becky, Quarter Horse
Rajah, Arabian

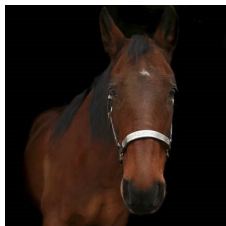
Our Canine Partner
Jade

***And Our Hard Working Feline
Staff...***
Mrs. Howell & Gus

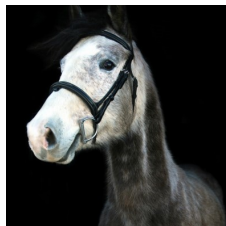
*Thank you to all of our
generous supporters who
have shared or donated their
equine friends. These
amazing animals have
impacted and enriched our
programs and touched so
many lives.*



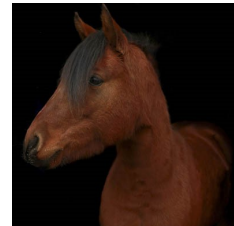
**MOLSON-PARDS 2015
HORSE OF THE YEAR**



BECKY



RAJAH



STAR

PARDS WELCOMES



Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society

Tel: 780-538-3211

Fax: 780-538-3683

info@pards.ca

www.pards.ca