



PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



Annual Report

For the year ending December 31, 2017

Guiding Principles

~ 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, engaged 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 support individuals of all ages and abilities to maximize their growth and potential; physically, cognitively, behaviourally and socially, through equine assisted programs and activities.

OUR CORE VALUES



INTEGRITY

Definition: Maintaining congruity between one's values and actions.

What this means to us: Being honest and doing what we know is right even when it's difficult. If you do for one, you do for all.

RESPONSIBILITY

Definition: Being accountable for results.

What this means to us: We take ownership of our roles and tasks regardless of situation and associated outcomes, without excuse; being accountable to the team – subordinates, superiors, clients, stakeholders.

COMPETENCE

Definition: Possessing the ability and capacity to do something well.

What this means to us: Doing your job to the best of your ability, always; upholding organization standards and contributing to the creation of a safe, stable and supportive environment.

CARING

Definition: Feeling and exhibiting concern and empathy for others.

What this means to us: Considerate of others' feelings, perspectives, and beliefs.

LEARNING

Definition: Committing to growth, development, and gaining understanding.

What this means to us: We embrace change and the opportunities it creates, encourage innovative thinking and seek to improve. We encourage continued learning in a way that is mutually beneficial to the individual and the organization.

On behalf of the PARDS Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you our Annual Report.

2017 was a busy and successful year for PARDS!

In June we began our move into the new facility and our riders began their fall session in their new home! This was a 15 year journey from dreaming to planning, breaking ground to moving in with a lot of hard work from our staff, volunteers, donors and support from our community. Our much larger space has tripled capacity allowing us to increase our current programs and introduce new programs like our most recently launched Little Pony Motricity Early Childhood Program. Our facility was designed to meet the long term needs of our community and we are proud to have this amazing facility available to those who use our programs.

This past November, our Executive Director, Jennifer Douglas, celebrated her 10 year anniversary with PARDS. Over this time she has worked hard at growing and developing our programs for our riders and has built strong relationships with other groups, businesses and individuals in our community. In June 2017 she was the recipient of the Slim Allen Award of Excellence in recognition of her continued commitment to PARDS and for how far she has brought the organization. Jennifer, we are so fortunate to have you in the PARDS family and look forward to many more years of successes with you and your team.

Now that we are getting settled into the new facility we will be focusing on the challenge of raising funds to complete some of the remaining projects like fencing, building our outdoor arena and installing a lift so that all areas of our facility are fully accessible. With being in a bigger space and to assist with our growing programs, we will be focusing on volunteer recruitment to grow our volunteer base to assist with lessons, maintenance, events, committees and the Board of Directors.

2018 will be another exciting year as we continue to grow our programs and partnerships. We will also be hosting our Grand Opening event on September 15th to celebrate our riders and all of those who have been instrumental in making our relocation a reality.

We are so thankful for those who have given us their gift of time & service. It's through the support and dedication of our amazing volunteers and the generosity and support of this community through individual and corporate sponsorship and donations that has helped us grow and expand to where we are today.

~Christina Balcom, Board Chairperson

PARDS has had a very busy and exciting 2017. We moved into our new facility with our 20,000 sq. ft. indoor riding arena and all of our riders are thrilled with what the additional space allows them to do in their lessons! See pages 9,10, 11 and 14 to read about some of our riders. We also launched Little Pony Motricity, an early childhood program that partners riders with one of our miniatures to strengthen their motor skills development, sequencing skills and introduce them to equestrian sport. See page 12 to read about a generous sponsor of this program (hint... it's Swan City Rotary!).

Two of our Instructors, Robyn Boudreau and Sarah Gunter were successful in completing their Equine Canada Instructor of Beginners designation and we are SO proud of them! The commitment these ladies have shown, investing in their ongoing development, is inspiring and a HUGE benefit to our riders. Tiara Chambers joined our team in 2017 with certification as an Equine Canada Coach. All of our instructors have benefitted from her experience and willingness to share her knowledge. With her mentorship and coaching, Abalone Petersen, Mckayla VanNieuwkerk and Jessica Anderson all successfully completed their prerequisite rider levels to pursue CanTRA Certification.

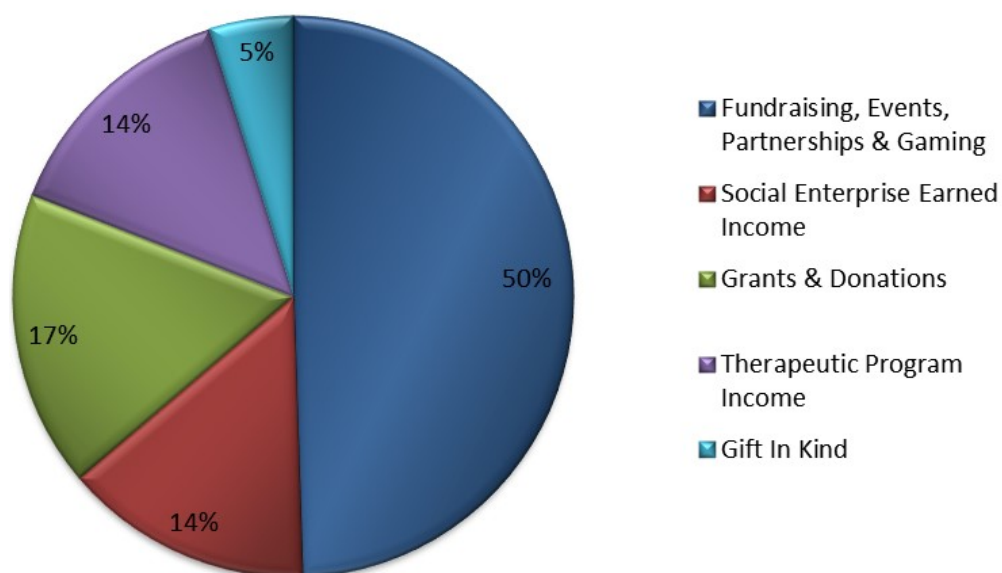
Under the tutelage of our instructors, many of our riders continue participating in the Equine Canada Sea-to-Sea video competitions and consistently have an excellent showing in their class. The comments we receive from the judges help the instructors to set goals and create targeted lesson plans for those riders. See page 15 for competition results. As with all change, there are challenges. After years on a hard packed arena footing, some of our volunteers found it difficult to maneuver on our much softer, sandy, deeper footing and were unable to continue as lesson volunteers. We thank you for your many years of service and for continuing to support our riders in a different capacity like helping with Dream Home Sales, manning information booths or sitting on committees. The coming months will see a significant effort to recruit additional lesson volunteers to support our expanding programs. Fortunately, we have some wonderful seasoned volunteers to help mentor those who become new volunteers. For a look at two of our Super Star volunteers, see page 24.

As we complete some of the outstanding projects associated with our move, like installing an arena divider curtain and finishing off our outdoor paddocks and pens, we look forward to growing the social enterprise aspect of our operational plan, creating a dependable and consistent revenue stream to support our mission of providing high-quality equine assisted therapeutic programs to Peace Country residents.

~Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director

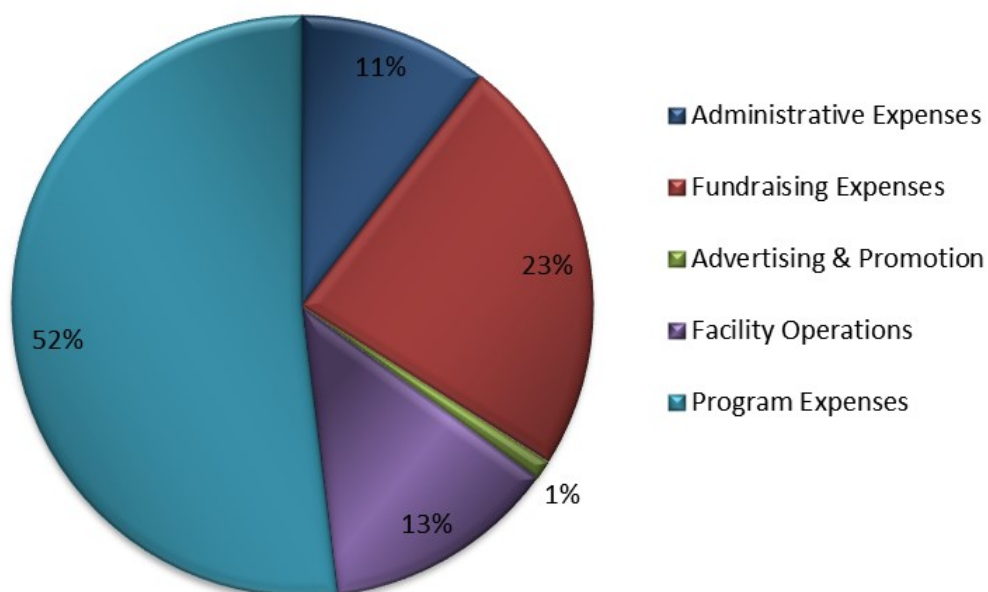


Where Do the Funds Come From?



Social Enterprise Earned Income consists of all revenues that are earned by PARDS outside of our charitable purpose. These include Public Riding, Horse Boarding, Facility Rental, Public Clinics and Birthday Parties. As we further expand, we will be adding Corporate Leadership and Corporate Teambuilding Workshops. Social Enterprise program revenues support our charitable purpose and are very important to our organization to ensure long term sustainability in meeting annual budgetary targets as well as to generate cash reserves so we are better positioned to weather periodic economic fluctuations.

Where Do the Funds Go?



The 2017 expenses for fundraising are an increase over previous years due to the generous partnership Friesen Bain Chartered Accountants offered us through their Pay It Forward initiative. The included 50/50 raffle in their hosted Winterval Event raised \$45,015 of which the \$22,507.50 payout is included as a fundraising expense. We will be continuing on with the Winterval Event, taking it over from Friesen Bain and the 50/50 draw will remain a part of the event. It is also important to note that a significant portion of fundraising expenses are gift-in-kind donations which must be expensed out but are not an actual cost to the organization.

2017 was full of excitement with moving into our new facility! As illustrated in the above charts, our highest area of expenses was programming while the largest area of revenue was fundraising.

Our new facility offers lots of opportunity to grow and expand our programs to ensure we continue to meet and exceed our riders' needs and expectations and allows us to increase our social enterprise earned income through our boarding program, public lessons and arena rentals. With a new, expanded facility and program offerings, operational and program expenses also increase. With our two well established annual fundraising events - Dine & Dance and Fund Ride, along with our other annual initiatives and campaigns, we do not anticipate there being a need to expand upon our existing fundraising efforts to cover expenses directly related to programs and operations.

~Tyla Savard, Vice Chair/Treasurer/Chair of Governance Committee

A strong governance model is critical for the well-being of an organization. Clear policy ensures the leadership is planning strategy and making decisions that align with the organization's mission & vision. Over the past year, our Board of Directors worked on ensuring that we have a strong Governance Model in place to support our Executive Director and ensure that we are keeping our mission and vision front of mind. The work we did was aided by Fletcher Bootle who has shared his knowledge and expertise with us and guided us through the process of evaluating and updating our policies and building a process for policy review to ensure they continue to serve the interest of our stakeholders.

As part of our Governance training and development, in September of 2017 we held our first Board Retreat/Mission Statement Review. With the guidance of Fletcher, the Board and staff worked on identifying our strengths and opportunities to further develop and grow our organization. The information gleaned from this session highlighted our need to develop standing committees to support the work of the Board. Each of these committees: Governance, Facility Development, and Fund Development includes at least one Board member representative along with the Board Chair and Executive Director being ex officio members of all committees. This committee structure ensures connectivity between Board and committee objectives.

With our move and the associated growth and expansion, it is imperative that we have the structures in place to facilitate continuity in the event of leadership change, whether Board or staff. We have progressed steadily with this over the past year and continue to strive toward a model of strong leadership, strategic planning and decision making and fiscal responsibility.

A Snapshot of the Year...

The Governance committee continued with its work with drafting policies in the following areas:

- ⇒ Global Ends Policies
 - why PARDS exists, who does PARDS serve, how will we operate and in what type of framework
- ⇒ Board & Executive Director Relations
 - how we will work together
- ⇒ Governance Process
 - Boards roles and responsibilities individually and as a collective
- ⇒ Executive Limitations
 - what the Executive Director can not do

Once each were drafted they were presented to the Board of Directors for review/input/approval.

We determined what committees were needed for the 2017-2018 year, which would be standing committees (ongoing) and which would be interim. Terms of reference were then drafted for each committee to outline the work to be done, their responsibilities and who its members are. Each Terms of Reference was presented to the Board, reviewed and approved.

The Board kick-started the year with a day of Board Development, identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, goals overall for the organization and goals for the Board. Part of the day included time with staff members to gain their insight to better determine outcomes.

2018 will include finalizing policies, a yearly schedule to review each, ensure they align with the work being done and recognize accountability for each. We are also drafting procedures for auditing purposes to ensure checks and balances are in place while exercising due diligence.

~ Tyla Savard, Vice Chair/Treasurer/Chair of Governance Committee

As part of the ongoing Governance Development PARDS has been undertaking, the Board created a Facility Development Standing Committee. This committee is responsible for monitoring the progress of completion for Phase 1 of the new facility, ensuring deficiencies are identified, addressed and corrected, monitor the progress of the development and implementation of Phase 2 (elevator, flooring, outbuildings) and identifying and organizing facility work-bee opportunities. Included in these responsibilities are monthly reports to the Board identifying priorities and cost estimates for projects.

The Board elected to incorporate this Committee Model in order to not only utilize the experience and expertise of existing Board members but to also provide the opportunity for related or interested staff to be a part of the planning process and to recruit additional committee members from outside of the Board who have the skills and desire to help us progress with our structural development.

Functionality of the facility is integral to ensuring we are able to incorporate all of the planned program and service expansions. With this at the forefront of the committee's focus, we are able to be proactive in identifying opportunities in the long-term while being able to effectively prioritize projects to align with our business plan.

Throughout the entire timeline of our capital project, we have been supported by so many people, businesses, community groups and government agencies in so many ways. Project funding is critical to a capital project and we are so appreciative of everyone that contributed financially to the campaign. We have also experienced so much support through work-bees, skilled volunteers, gift-in-kind donations and even the general encouragement we received from so many supporters. There can never be thanks enough to express our appreciation.

The journey has been long and challenging, but our riders and our community are worth any effort we can give. Through growing existing relationships and developing new ones, we have built so much more than a beautiful and functional facility, we have built a community that recognizes and celebrates all who come through our doors.

~Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director



Thank You to our Project Partners



Field Engineering & Associates Ltd.



SOUTHWEST
Design & Construction Ltd.

encana

Ed & Terri Haberman & Family

Robert & Ruth Finch

Dean & Sheilah Swanberg
Ruskin Construction Ltd.
Big Stick Rentals Inc.
MR Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
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Overhead Door
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Paul & Coreen Evaskevich
Strasdin Orthodontics
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KIN Club of Grande Prairie
Smash & Sons Contracting Ltd.
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Roy Bickell & Family
Dulux Paint
Beirsto & Associates
Engineering Ltd.
Hans Valen Painting
Telus - Day of Giving

Tom Brown 1000 Mile Ride
Behlen Industries LP
Kev's Kids
LSM Plumbing & Heating
Peavy Mart
Ken Sargent GMC
Amgas
Withers LP
Grant Evaskevich & Family
Brian Tink & Family
Grande Prairie Gymkhana Club
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J.R. Paine & Associates Ltd.
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I feel my self esteem is lifted and the staff make me feel welcome. I feel I am a part of something special!

PARDS is not only a therapeutic riding facility, it is also a place where families and caregivers of special needs children can come together to network and share resources and ideas.

I will be back in the fall!

She has come so far, she has become completely independent and we are so proud of her. We believe this is due to her comfort with staff and the environment PARDS provides

I am a client of PARDS. PARDS is a place where miracles happen. Where things never thought possible happen. Whether it be movement, educational skill or self expression. There is rare feeling greater than the joy of accomplishment; PARDS makes that feeling possible. There the immobile move, the blind see and the nonverbal express. All are welcome; no matter what the disability.

PARDS has been in the community for a number of years and provides a service to a population that is generally overlooked

Our daughter is definitely benefitting from her riding lessons. We see a huge difference with her small and large motor skills such as her balance and being able to hold onto something by herself.

Keep up the great work instructors, volunteers, staff and riders!

My daughter has met new friends, gets exercise, is learning riding skills and most importantly, has fun!

My children have enjoyed their lessons. The instructors have been fun, interactive, friendly and encouraging. They are knowledgeable and great with the horses and riders. They are very easy going and helpful.

All the staff and volunteers have been wonderful to work with. We see increased core strength, attention span and new skills. It's the one spot she can safely participate at some level of independence

I feel great and happy after my lessons. The lessons helped me with my stretching and balance. Most important the lessons have helped me with my self esteem.

Janelle Tucker



Janelle is a bright, enthusiastic 10 year old who has been riding with PARDS for 3 years. Janelle struggles with PTSD after experiencing not one, but two house fires. This effects her everyday life in the form of anxiety. She has always had a love for all animals, especially horses, so when her mom heard about PARDS offering therapeutic riding, she felt it was obviously worth trying.

Janelle participates in the weekly riding lessons where she has progressed to an independent walk-trot rider who has successfully competed in 2 Coast to Coast Para-dressage video competitions. In her lessons, Janelle is learning how to be a capable rider, working on skills such as transitions, correct riding position and control of the horse through the use of natural aids. Developing competence in riding will help build Janelle's confidence and sense of empowerment which will support her efforts to control her anxiety.

Throughout her time at PARDS Janelle has ridden many of our awesome horses that have all taught her something new. This at first wasn't easy for her as change, even a change in her equine partner, could be a trigger for her anxiety. Janelle's instructor supported her to cope positively with change by

preparing her well in advance and patiently explaining as often as necessary the positive aspects of the upcoming change. This strategy, over time and with repetition, will help Janelle to be able to use critical thinking skills to objectively consider all aspects of a situation. Her love for all the horses also helped her to create a bond and trust with each horse she rode. She recognizes that each horse has something to offer her in her endeavor to become an all-round strong rider. Out of all the horses, Janelle has the strongest bond with Finale; just hearing her name makes Janelle's eyes light up. She is her heart horse and Finale shows her mutual love; they are truly an adorable and committed pair!

Janelle describes PARDS as her "Happy Place". She loves riding, but she also just loves to be around the horses and anything involved with their care. There are many nights she has stayed late to help clean the stalls or trek through the mud to take horses outside with staff. She is always willing to help no matter the task. She finds it calming and rewarding to be in this atmosphere, which is therapy in itself.

Janelle hopes to one day be able to teach riding lessons to children and to share her love of horses and the therapy they provide with others. We are proud to be a part of her present journey and will continue to support Janelle in all of her equestrian and personal goals.



Ashleigh Wowk



Meet Ashleigh, a positive young lady with a bubbly personality who began riding at PARDS in 1995 at the age of 5. Ashleigh was diagnosed with Autism at an early age and her goals at PARDS have focused mainly around independence and confidence, physical activity and having fun!

Autism can effect many areas of a person's life, such as social interaction, communication, behaviors and, in Ashleigh's case, coordination.

To address her goals of increased confidence and coordination, Ashleigh's program originally included the support of a horse leader and two side walkers in her lesson. These supports were put in place to ensure a safe lesson, as well as give her a sense of security and community through taking a team approach to her riding lessons. Through consistency,

determination, shared goals and ongoing program adaptations, Ashleigh has progressed to riding completely independently at a walk and at the trot. This has taken much hard work on Ashleigh's part, over many years. It has been very important to recognize and celebrate Ashleigh's steady progressions through the years to keep her on track and motivated to continue to work toward her goals.

When working with Ashleigh, her instructors have employed a number of strategies to help her progress. Communicating in a clear and concise manner and offering instruction in small, easy to follow bits are instrumental in ensuring that Ashleigh fully comprehends what she is being asked to do, whether it be riding a pattern, correcting her technique or learning a new skill. Recently, Ashleigh's lesson goals have included achieving proper positioning on the horse, holding her head high and learning to use her eyes to direct her horse; all of which increase her core strength and posture and in the end positively impact her overall balance. A horse responds to a rider's body language and level of confidence in the saddle; by giving Ashleigh the tools to direct her horse, she builds her confidence which increases her control of her equine partner. Ashleigh joined the program with a fear of losing control of her horse, so building confidence to where she no longer needed the support of two side walkers was the original goal. When she reached this milestone, the next strategy employed was for her instructor to remain in her line of sight giving her a focal point and a goal; to guide her horse to reach her instructor. In the beginning, her leader would move away, perhaps for only the length between 2 letters in the arena, and then return; a huge accomplishment which increased her sense of independence and control. Ashleigh has achieved other independent skills over the years such as mounting and dismounting from a mounting block, leading her horse into the arena for her lesson and riding totally independently and increasing the distance she trots.

Ashleigh has had many equine partners over the years; each being chosen for a different goal. Currently she is partnered with Risley. This is a great match for Ashleigh for her goals of independence and confidence. Risley's steady, smooth gate and his willingness to do as he's asked, makes Ashleigh feel secure and at ease while riding independently, thus continuing to build on her level of confidence.

In the 22 years that Ashleigh has been in the PARDS therapeutic riding program she has made tremendous progress. Ashleigh has realized many benefits as a result of her riding program outside of the arena as well. Through her experiences working with her instructors and volunteers, she is more accepting of social interaction in all aspects of her life. Her overall skills in comprehension, communication and focus have all increased as well, allowing her to be more engaged in many situations she encounters. Ashleigh refers to her time at PARDS as "her PE time" as, yes, riding is a very physically demanding activity, and she has fun!

Ashleigh is always a joy to teach and puts a smile on everyone's face. We have loved having her ride with us for so many years and hope to get to watch her progress and grow through our therapeutic riding program for many more years. Her dedication, love and bond with her horse are truly heartwarming.



Katy Gerbrandt



Katy is a lively, energetic 6 year old who started riding at PARDS in the fall of 2016.

Katy was born with Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy is caused by brain damage. The brain damage is caused by brain injury or abnormal development of the brain that occurs while a child's brain is still developing - before birth, during birth, or immediately after birth. Cerebral Palsy effects body movement, muscle control, muscle coordination, muscle tone, reflex, posture and balance. It can also impact fine motor skills, gross motor skills and oral motor functioning. How a person is affected is unique from one individual to another. For Katy, her balance, coordination and inability to fully use her left hand are challenges she has in her daily life.

When Katy began riding at PARDS her goals were to have good posture on the horse, gain balance, improve coordination, be able to grip objects and learn basic riding skills. She began with a leader for her horse and a side walker. She rode on a sheepskin pad to benefit from the horse's warmth and used a vaulting surcingle to hold onto as she began building core strength, balance and just enjoying the rhythmic motion of the horse. Having to hold onto the surcingle encouraged Katy to use her left hand to grip onto the handle. Katy rode Encana, PARDS faithful Fjord that is at PARDS though a sponsorship with Encana Corporation, hence the name Encana, but he is also playfully known as "Encana Banana". Katy thinks that is pretty funny.

A wide barreled Fjord horse like Encana is not typically matched with a rider with Cerebral Palsy as most riders with CP have tight adductor muscles which would make riding a wide horse difficult and uncomfortable. Katy, however, is able to stretch comfortably on Encana. Because of his rhythmic motion, riders focus on his movement and with physical goals of balance and coordination this made him a great equine partner for Katy to start with. She learned to ask Encana to walk by squeezing both her legs against his sides; this helped her coordinate using both legs at the same time. Her leader wouldn't let her horse walk unless she used both her legs. We continued working on posture and hands free balance through stretches in our warm ups and playing games that made her reach for objects. Katy would often say, "she couldn't reach that far", or that she couldn't grab onto something like a toy schleich pony during our Pony Picnic Game or a brush in the Grooming Game, but with a little encouragement and concentration, Katy keeps trying and has learned that when she tries... she can!

This spring session, Katy has improved her balance enough to begin riding in an English saddle. She still benefits from the rhythmic movement of the horse in the saddle, but is now able to try more challenging riding goals. She is using loop reins, which are thinner than the surcingle, which means she needs to concentrate on gripping more with her left hand. Katy is also assisting with preparing her horse for her lesson by grooming and saddling. This teaches Katy to follow the sequencing of the brushes, hold objects and learn valuable horsemanship skills.

During lessons, I will often consistently repeat the phrase, "two hands". This encourages Katy to grip using both hands. While tacking up her horse Katy says "two hands" on her own while picking up each item to saddle Becky. On cold days Katy even holds the bit with two hands to warm it up before putting it in Becky's mouth! Katy is now with a leader but no side walker as she can correctly sit on her horse and adjust her position herself if needed. Katy's mom says she sees Katy's balance has greatly improved and she sees this outside of PARDS as well; she is able to regain lost balance quicker, where before she would just fall down.

Katy is now matched with PARDS horse Becky. Becky is with PARDS thanks to sponsorship by John & Linda Perkins and Family. Becky is a great horse for Katy with her 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 which will work wonderfully for Katy to reach her next goal of riding independently!



~ Robyn Boudreau CTRI, Senior Instructor

Congratulations to Tim-BR, PARDS' 2017 Horse of the Year!

Tim-BR is a Blood Bay Quarter Horse Percheron Cross mare, and she stands at 15HH.

Tim-BR is 14yrs old and at the prime of her career as a therapeutic equine team member here at PARDS. With Tim-BR's large stature she can look intimidating on first impression, but once you make initial contact you will find she is a gentle giant, allowing the most nervous or smallest of riders to feel extremely safe. Tim-BR is always a strong team player in the herd to help out wherever she is needed in our programs whether it be riding, grooming, youth leadership or public lessons.

If you have a chance to meet Tim-BR you will experience first hand that she is loveable and unforgettable! Her motto to all our riders is *"The things that hold you down are going to lift you up and up and up!"* what a great way to improve self-confidence!

Tim-BR is one of our sponsored horses and her purchase and care (vet, farrier and feed) was made possible thanks to Woodland Tim-BR Mart of Grande Prairie. This was Tim-BR Mart's last community donation before being sold and we are so thankful they chose to support our riders. Tim-BR has been at PARDS since 2012 and we are excited to congratulate her winning 2017 Horse of the Year!



Horse Sponsorship

Swancy



Swancy was generously sponsored by the Swan City Rotary Club.

Born in 1999, Swancy is a silver dapple miniature pony. His extensive driving training has enabled PARDS to better serve our growing cart driving program. Cart driving is a great way to build a relationship and learn empathy with an equine partner while learning different skills than mounted riding and with many of the same therapeutic benefits. Swancy can go for miles and he truly loves to work.

Swancy is also a pony that can be ridden under saddle, enabling PARDS to create a new program for the younger riders who we were not able to provide programs for in the past. Swancy is the perfect size and personality for our 3-7 year olds in The Little Pony Motricity program .



Swan City
Rotary Club

Characteristics of a PARDS Horse

What does PARDS look for in a therapeutic program horse prospect?

We don't look for a specific breed, as each horse is viewed as an individual. Traits we look for include: soundness, three good clear gaits (no gaited breeds) at walk, trot and canter, a nice temperament, low flight response, a minimum of 14HH and ideally between the ages of 10 and 17. We look for horses that are well-schooled in either English or Western. Experience in 4H, Pony Club and the competitive riding disciplines is a huge asset. They should have good ground manners and be able to tolerate the attention of many people.

Not every horse has what it takes to be a PARDS therapeutic riding horse. It takes a specific skill set combined with strong training and unique character traits for a horse to be accepted as a therapy horse partner.

It is sometimes necessary for us to seek out horses who have very specific skills and attributes in order to maintain a well-rounded herd for the benefit of all of our riders and often, these horses are not available as a donation.

With this in mind, PARDS created the Horse Sponsorship Program. To ensure a safe and beneficial riding experience, we seek community members and companies to sponsor the purchase price including associated costs (vet check, vaccinations, etc.) of a suitable therapeutic program horse. Sponsors are encouraged to name "their" horse, and signage is provided on the stall door with the horse's name along with the name of the sponsor.

All horses, whether donated or purchased, undergo a lengthy assessment and vet check before they come into the program as a PARDS 'Trial Horse'. During a trial period of approximately 7 weeks, PARDS qualified staff will further assess the horse before accepting them into the program.



PARDS could not exist without the generosity of sponsors and donors. Words might not suffice to thank them for everything they do but we hope they find their thanks in the eyes and faces of the children and adults who interact with the horses here. Every sponsor of PARDS is helping make a direct positive impact on hundreds of lives. In 2017, the following companies and organizations helped us to raise funds, or raised funds on our behalf. Thank you so very much!



Peace Draft Horse Club



Averil Valine



In Loving Memory

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

Kelsey Bell Gayle Moon Neil Moon Alva Badger
Sharon Norton Wyatt Bartsch Dale MacDougall
Dorothy "Evelyn" Dunn Sarah-Anne Stride

PARDS Summer Camp

2017 was another great year of Summer fun at PARDS in all of our Riding Camps. This was the first year camps were held at PARDS new facility which brought a new component to the camps - trail rides through the vast 55 acres of treed land. We hosted 5 weeks of PARDS Youth Summer Day Camps and 1 week of Adult Therapeutic Camp. We once again partnered with Camp Tamarack for 3 weeks of their riding camps.

PARDS Summer Camps provide an inclusive environment where those of all abilities are encouraged and supported to identify and build on their own strengths as well as recognize and appreciate the strengths of others.

Our camps are full of fun and friendship. They are also full of all kinds of learning and personal discovery hidden within the games, activities and adventures. Almost all of PARDS programs are incorporated into the day camps including Riding, Grooming, Cart Driving and Youth Leadership. It's a fantastic way to learn the basics of horse care, riding, horsemanship, cart driving and much more. The last day of each Youth Camp included a musical ride where campers displayed their horsemanship skills to family and friends.

We are pleased to report that all riders throughout the summer had a ton of fun!



Leah (not her real name), is 12 years old. Leah joined the Youth Leadership Program after her instructor for riding lessons noticed that Leah struggled interacting with the other riders in her group lesson. After one of her riding lessons, the instructor asked her parents if they had heard of the Youth Leadership program sharing that she felt it would be a great fit for Leah. Her parents were very happy to hear we had this type of program as they felt that Leah was very shy and nervous around groups at school or other sports activities and this made her resistant to participating or trying new things. Through Leah's Intake Assessment for Youth Leadership, it became clear that she lacked confidence in her communication skills. She felt that she didn't really 'get' the other kids and she was very sure that they didn't 'get' her, either, or that they even really wanted to.

During the first activity, Leah was tasked with a challenge to go with the group and find two things in common about their fellow equine teammates and youth in the group. At the end of the first activity each participant presented to the group the two most common facts they discovered.

As the group started to share, the facilitator noticed that Leah was displaying increasing signs of anxiety. As it got closer to Leah's turn to share with the group, her anxious behaviours continued to escalate. Tim-BR, one of our equine partners, was standing beside Leah and began nuzzling Leah's shoulder. Leah's expression started to change and her nervousness visibly lessened with Tim-BR's interaction. The nuzzling progressed into gentle prodding, pushing her closer to the group, almost as if to say "you got this! Go get 'em!". Leah turned and smiled at Tim-BR, giving her a light pat before she turned around looking right at the group to share her facts with the others. Leah was brief in her sharing, her voice caught and her fists were clenched but, she shared! When speaking with her later, Leah admitted that Tim-BR's attention made her feel special and she felt like he was really encouraging her so she decided she couldn't disappoint him.



As the 10 week session progressed, Leah worked closely with Tim-BR in many other activities and started to interact with the other participants of her own initiative rather than only when asked. Leah shared with her facilitator that "it is peaceful being with Tim-BR, I have found a best friend! I trust her and anytime I want to talk, she just listens."

After that lesson when all the participants headed back to the lounge, Leah started to head to take her boots off, turned around and walked back over to the Youth Leadership facilitator, gave her a big hug and said "please pass it on to Tim-BR 'til I see her again next week". Leah's parents spoke with the facilitator later and said they were in shock as they had never seen her share her emotions in front of others like this before and are so proud of her accomplishments with building the bond with her equine teammate.



This is just one of many stories of the impact of the human-horse relationship. The Youth Leadership program offers the chance for youth to tell their story and work on their challenges by attributing their hopes, fears and behaviors to their horse partners. This creates a very safe space to explore feelings, work on interpersonal skills and engage in building relationships.

~ Tiara Chambers, Youth Leadership Facilitator/Program Coordinator

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)

Para-Equestrian Sport 2017 Video Competition Video Series

Some of our riders took part in Equine Canada's Video Competition Series in 2017 and they achieved some wonderful results. We are so proud to be a part of their accomplishments and their efforts to achieve their own personal goals. Congratulations to all that participated!

April 2017 Coast-to-Coast Video Competition

Class #2 – Steering Pattern Class for Riders with a Leader and 1 Side Walker

1st Kamryn Bond

Class #3 - Steering Pattern Class for Riders with a Leader

1st Dakota Lynch 2nd Nicole Wasylchew 3rd Rochelle Driver

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

1st Zachary Bienert 2nd Zayda Charles 3rd Marilyn Walker 4th Janelle Tucker 5th Abbygaelle Bruels De Tiecken

Class #9 - Driving

1st Michelle Sandvold

April 2017 Sea to Sea

1st Bailey Beinert

May 2017 Coast-to-Coast Video Competition

Class #2 – Steering Pattern Class for Riders with a Leader and 1 Side Walker

1st Kamryn Bond

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

1st Justeen Schneider 2nd Marilyn Walker 3rd Zayda Charles 4th Janelle Tucker

Class #13 - Driving

1st Michelle Walker 2nd Michelle Sandvold 3rd Todd Perks

November 2017 Coast-to-Coast Video Competition

Class #1 - Balance Pattern Class for Riders using no reins and require a Leader and 2 Side Walkers

1st Reeghan Funk

Class #2 – Steering Pattern Class for Riders with a Leader and 1 Side Walker

1st Kamryn Bond

Class #3 - Steering Pattern Class for Riders with a Leader

1st Andrew Beinert 2nd Dakota Lynch

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

1st Justeen Schneider 2nd Leah Post 3rd Janelle Tucker

November 2017 Sea to Sea

1st Bailey Beinert 2nd Zackary Beinert



32nd Annual Fund Ride & Community Carnival

'Mane' Event Sponsor

You're at home here.



Horseshoe Sponsors



Great'Neigh'bour Sponsors



Hoofbeats & Heartprints



32nd Annual Fund Ride & Community Carnival con't...

17

Fun was had by all at this year's FUND Ride & Community Carnival, making the event in itself a success! A huge thank you to the participants, Sponsors, Donors and volunteers who, with their help, raised over \$50,000.00. With these funds PARDS is able to keep Therapeutic programs accessible and affordable to all Peace Area residents living with disabilities through program subsidies.

32nd Annual Fund Ride Sponsors

Carnival

Pony Rides

Pony Cart Rides

FUND Ride Supper

Glitter Tattoos

Carnival Prizes

Signage

Medic

Breakfast & Lunch

Friday Lunch

Beverage

Aquatera

UFA - Fentie's Petroleum

Field Engineering & Associates Ltd.

New Horizon Cooperatives

Nancy Ingram

GP Promotional Products Ltd.

Prairie Signs (2000) Ltd.

Superior Fire Control Ltd.

Grande Prairie Rotary Club BBQ Crew

The Butcher Shop

Northern Bottling Ltd.

32nd Annual Fund Ride Donors

Alberta Recreation

Alberta Wildfire

ATCO

Boston Pizza Westend

Carolynne McBride

CIKT Q99

Countryside Motor Sports

Crime Prevention

Devon Tretiak

Dino's Potable Water

Domino's Pizza

Elite Vac & Steam

Evergreen Park

Expert Mobile

Fraction Energy Services

Giant Tiger

Horse Trekking Adventures

In the Zone Party Rentals

James Holton

Jennifer Wolf

Jim Rawlek

London Drugs

No Frills

Northern Bottling Ltd

Peace Country Amateur Peace

Radio Club

Peace Draft Horse Club

Peace Fuel Distributors (2012)

Peavey Mart

Reach 96.3FM

Rentco

Rick Parsons

Safeway North

Safeway South

Secure Energy Services

Sticky's Candy

Street Performer's Festival

Sue Wasylchew

TeePee Creek Hauling

The Home Depot

The Pita Pit

UFA Farm Store

Vector Communications

Willy's Trucking Services

Wizard's Touch Countertops

Fund Ride Volunteers

PARDS 32st Annual FUND Ride was a huge success, as fun was had by all!
We couldn't have done it without the amazing volunteers who gave hours of their time.
We thank you!



Thank you to the ROTARY CLUB of Grande Prairie Barbeque Crew for providing an amazing pancake breakfast and BBQ lunch

TRAIL SETUP

Mort Timanson— Captain
Darrell Sweetman
Gordon Frentz

TRAIL CHECKPOINTS

Rick Parsons—Captain
Ian Brian Nock
Mike Cassidy
Dennis Bancesso
John Gilge
Lee Johnson
Heinz Schar
All above are members of
the Peace Country
Amateur Radio Club

Ashley Heft
Shane Anderson
Ian Puckett
Tanya Warner

PONY RIDE

Robyn Boudreau— Captain
Carol Balcome
Doug Balcome
Rhonda Schneider
Justeen Schneider
Ernie Pigeau
Judy Moynihan
Jaiden Russell-Sperling
Louis Ducsharm
Barb Wald
Della Morrison
Roxy Landry
Laurie Prichuck - cart
Sarah Gunter
Abelone Peterson
Tiara Chambers
Dayton Fenton

PEACE DRAFT HORSE CLUB

Lance Wilson

VOLUNTEER BBQ & FUND RIDE DINNER

Sue Wasylchew— Captain
Willie's Trucking BBQ
Crew: Shirley McDonald
Don Miller
Laurie
Shirley Kyle
Kelly Wilson
Carolyn McBride
Lorri Predy

REGISTRATION

Gayle Mayer- Captain
Carolyn McBride
Lorri Predy
Dave Perks
Nancy Ingram
Kelly Wilson
Jan Sharp
Don Sharp
Jodi Peebles
Scarlett Peebles
Mavis Bretkreutz

SITE PLANNING

SETUP & TEARDOWN

Jenn Douglas- Captain
Jim Rawlek - Captain
Dave Westwell
Jenn Ash
Tyler Boudreau
James Holton
Barb Wald
Robyn Boudreau
Rick Parsons
Jennifer Wolf
Gayle Mayer
Josh Dyck
Katie Mayer
Robert Noskey

MEDIC

Connie
Steigenberger

TICKET SALES

Doug Edey
Glenn Mayer

CARNIVAL

Jennifer Wolf— Captain
James Holton— Captain
Dave Westwell
Josh Dyck
Wade Mayer
Madison Holton
Abby Renner
Sharon Wilson
Len Nordlund
Janet Enfield
Chris Giraldi
Russ Giraldi
Emma Costley
Shelby Douglas
Brandy Boudreau

Tyler Boudreau
Lindsey McNeil
Chris Moore
Nancy Ingram
Katie Mayer
Sally Perkins
Robyn Wells
Presley Wells
Dave Perks
Camryn Timmins
Lyne Hallman
Annabelle Hallman
Cathy McKay
Taylor Langlois
Raven Lynch
Erin Post

Kelly Wilson
Anne McLeod
Christie Woodward
Linda Beinert
Ken Beinert
Rose Sandvold
Ed Sandvold
Don Sharp
Jan Sharp
Ryan Trofanenko
Josia Selzler

2nd Grande Prairie Pathfinders

Adrea Simmons
Carolyn Schmid
Cindy O'Flaherty
Debbie Stadelmann
Courtney Stadelmann
Samantha Labrecque
Ashley Brown

PARDS RIDER'S

Donna Hatton
Kevin Simon
Michael Knox
Todd Perks

Anevay Fraser
Shannon Shomady
Rowan McKay-Listman
Erik McKay-Listman
Leah Post
Bailey Beinert
Zachary Beinert
Andrew Beinert
Kolby Braseth
Amanda Fisher
Michelle Sandvold
Lynnae Trofanenko
Lyndon Knox
Brittney Neudorf

FUND RIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jim Rawlek Dave Westwell James Holton Rick Parsons Mort Timanson Sue Wasylchew
Marge Elliott Shirley Kyle Carolyn McBride Nichol Buchaski Shane Anderson
Robyn Boudreau Jenn Ash Gayle Mayer Jenn Douglas Jennifer Wolf

Outstanding Community Support

19

Fire & Ice Winterval



FRIESEN BAIN
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

Bain staff members volunteered hundreds of hours selling 50/50 raffle tickets and putting together the Winterval raising \$40,358.92 for PARDS Riders! Admission to the event was with the purchase of an item from PARDS Wish List and they succeeded at their goal of filling the horse trailer with

donations! PARDS Riders loved their nice new safety equipment and the herd were very happy with all of their feed, first aid and bath supplies. They certainly were spoiled! The benefitting charity of this year's event then chooses who they will be 'Paying it Forward' to and PARDS chose Camp Tamarack to be the benefitting charity of the next 'Paying it Forward' event. Thank you to everyone; Friesen Bains' community minded staff, donors, sponsors, volunteers and attendees who made this tremendous event possible!



Need For Feed

To ensure our incredible herd stay healthy, PARDS launched a 'Need for Feed' campaign where we sought donations of high quality hay from Peace Area farmers. It took many hands, tremendous amounts of hard work, cooperative weather and lots of generous people to make this campaign a success. We were so pleased to successfully secure an entire year's worth of feed for our herd. Thank you to everyone who made the campaign a success.

PARDS would like to thank the following businesses of Grande Prairie & Area for their tremendous support of PARDS Great 'Neigh'bour Campaign. Together, they raised \$4,116.81 for PARDS Therapeutic Programs.

Baled Hay Donations—Kenneth & Thelma Wilson, Bob & Barb Viravec, Vince Hauber, Aaron Peck, Brian Reid, Grant Evaskevich, Kleskun Hills Bison Ranch and Dan & Joyce Balisky in memory of Sharon Norton

Hay Transportation Campaign Partners—Smash & Sons Contracting, Teepee Creek Hauling, Westrange Hauling, Jenn Trucking, R&B Oilfield Rentals, Regulator Oilfield Hauling & Joe Francoeur Trucking

Hay Field Donations—Harold & Darcy Schalin of GP Landscaping Ltd with baling completed by Timber Metcalf.

Dime At A Time

PARDS "Dime At A Time" is a year long campaign to raise funds toward equine staff healthcare through the collection of recyclables. Below is a list of generous campaign partners and donors who helped us raise an astonishing **\$6181.95** for PARDS Therapeutic programs!

Campaign Partners—Crown & Anchor Pub, Better Than Fred's, Great Northern Casino, Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse, Shark Club, Earl's Kitchen & Bar, Boston Pizza West, Boston Pizza North, Urban Red Rock

Campaign Donors—Generous Peace Area Residents & PARDS riders

Great "Neigh"bour

Keddies Tack & Western
Wear

Grains Bakery

Peavey Mart

The Butcher Shop

Mama & Papa's Café

Country Club Animal Clinic

Bear Creek Animal Clinic

West County Animal Clinic

Greenhawk Harness &
Equestrian

UFA

Home Hardware

Daddio's Pizzeria

Esquire's Coffee

Beachcomber Hot Tubs
& Home Leisure



Happy Trails
Campground
& Cabins Inc.



Western Chuckwagon
Association

KMSC
LAW LLP
GOLF EVENT



Agri Show & Home Show—PARDS was excited to attend both the Agri Show & Home Show with Gator Raffle partner PrairieCoast Equipment. Thank you to PCE for sharing their booth space and to all the volunteers who manned the booth.

Happy Trails—Happy Trails invited PARDS to be the benefitting charity of the 50/50 at their campground concert. As always, the place was packed, music was good, and company was great! Thank you Peter for the invite and to the volunteers who gave their time to sell 50/50 tickets.

Big Country/New Horizon Co-op Stompede Breakfast—PARDS was the benefitting charity for this event! It is always a fun time working with the staff of both companies and our volunteers certainly enjoyed their time serving with Rodeo Royalty!

Hunt Mania Trade Show—PARDS was happy to attend the Hunt Mania show courtesy of Barton's Big Country, who shared space in their booth for us to sell Gator Tickets and promote PARDS very 1st clay shoot, Shoot for PARDS Stars, in which Barton's was the presenting sponsor. We had a great time working with them throughout the year!

WPCA Tarp Auction—The always amazing Stompede committee generously invited PARDS to attend their WPCA Tarp Auction where the last item of the evening to be auctioned off was PARDS' Cart! It was a fun night with lots of excitement and bidding. Although there were several very enthusiastic PARDS supporters bidding on the cart sponsorship, Craig Drysdale Landscaping was the final winner!

Peace Draft Horse Club—PARDS was excited to help the Northern Spirit Light Show out this year. We had volunteers out during the season and everyone loved the super toasty cabin and sleigh rides!

Sports Expo—PARDS volunteers were happy to attend this event promoting PARDS Programs and selling Gator Tickets in a booth generously donated by Sports Expo. Volunteers had a fun time chasing the bears around the show!

PARDS had an extremely busy summer filled with Rodeo adventures! Thanks to the generosity of the following rodeos we attended and were able to promote PARDS programs as well as sell Gator tickets: **Grande Prairie Stampede, Rio Grande Rodeo & Rycroft Race the 8**. Thank you so much for including PARDS in your events.

Western Chuckwagon Association Guitars & Wagons—Not only did we promote our programs and sell Gator Raffle tickets, but PARDS was also chosen to be the 50/50 beneficiary for the entire show!

KMSC Golf Tournament—PARDS has partnered with KMSC for this event since inception. Our golfers certainly enjoyed a fun filled day of golf, laughs and sunshine!

Evergreen Park's Derby Days—Volunteers spent the day enjoying the many different & unique hats of the Derby! Not only did we promote our programs and sell Gator Raffle tickets, but PARDS was also chosen to be the 50/50 beneficiary for the day!

Petroleum Show—PARDS was invited by Southwest Design & Construction to join them in their booth at the Petroleum Show to promote PARDS programs and sell Gator Tickets. Jenn & Jenn of PARDS enjoyed the show building many new relationships with local businesses!

Wanham Plowing Match—PARDS was invited to attend this event and promote PARDS Programs while selling Gator Tickets. PARDS volunteers provided glitter tattoos and the committee gave a honorarium to PARDS Therapeutic Programs!

Evergreen Park's Monster Trucks—Volunteers spent 2 evenings enjoying the rumble and excitement of the monster trucks! Not only did we promote our programs and sell Gator Raffle tickets, but PARDS was also chosen to be the 50/50 beneficiary for the 2 days!

TP Creek Stampede—We had a great time working with the committee again this year! PARDS partnered with the Stampede to host the Friday & Saturday morning breakfast. Volunteers had a blast working together and feeding some very hungry and appreciative folks.

~Jenn Ash, Community Engagement Coordinator

PARDS 20th Annual Dine & Dance "This Is Our Story"

21

"MANE" EVENT CO-SPONSORS



SOUTHWEST
Design & Construction Ltd.

HEARTS, HOOVES & COURAGE



HORSESHOE



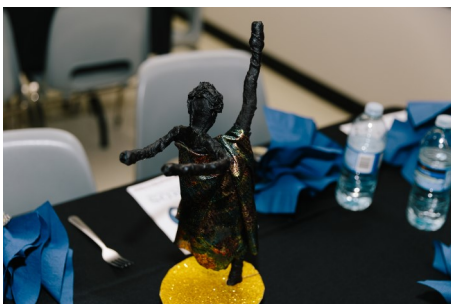
GREAT "NEIGH" BOUR



Teepee Creek Stampede

KEDDIE'S
Feed • Ranch Supplies • Clothing • Saddlery

Bolin Family Racing



PARDS 20th Annual Dine & Dance

"This Is Our Story" con't...

RING BOX

JANINA'S
DIAMONDS and TIME



CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

Windsor Ford

Thank you to Crystal Catering for
supplying glassware



Thank you to Sue Wasylchew and Shirley
Barstad for preparing and serving the
Midnight Lunch

SANGRIA

BROWNS SOCIALHOUSE
restaurant . bar . socialize

Enjoy a signature sangria
mixed and poured by the
amazing Browns Socialhouse
bartenders

Thank you to all of our generous donors and sponsors for your continued support. We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals and businesses for your commitment in making PARDS 20th Annual Dine and Dance a huge success.

- ~ Tom Pura for emceeing the event
- ~ Kathy Crough Catering & crew for the mouth watering meal
- ~ Dave Neale and his entourage for auctioneer services
- ~ Dawghouse Productions for donating the evening's DJ services

The Evening's Volunteers

~~~~~

- ~ Robyn Boudreau ~ McKayla VanNieuwkerk ~ Adrea Simmons ~ Sarah Gunter ~ Tiara Chambers ~
- ~ Shelby Douglas ~ Abalone Petersen ~ Jessica Anderson ~ Dine & Dance Committee Members ~

### *PARDS Dine & Dance Committee Members*

~~~~~

Jenn Ash, Carol Balcome, Nicole Boudreau, Nichol Buchaski, Jennifer Douglas, Tina Gaylard, Shirley Kyle, Gayle Mayer, Kathy McNally, Jim Rawlek, Sue Wasylchew, Kelly Wilson and Jennifer Wolf
Thank you for volunteering your time, ideas and expertise to make this evening a success!

...and a HUGE PARDS "Thank You!!" to our guests.

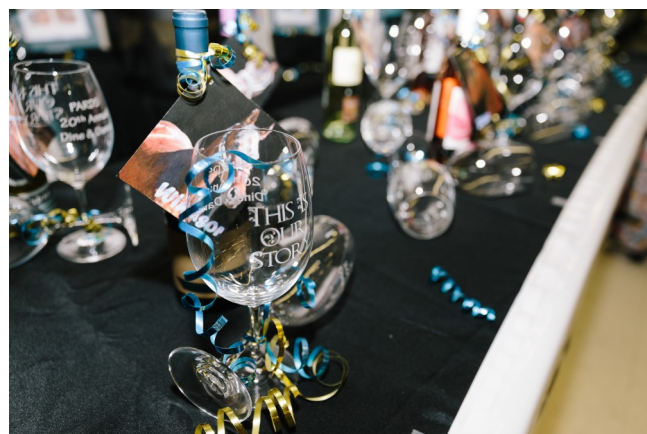
Thank you!!!



A4 Paws Dog Grooming
 Ab.SOLE.utely Reflexology
 Aero Rental Services
 Action Car & Truck Accessories
 Adrea & Suzanne Simmons
 Al's News
 Alberta West Transportation
 Amadora Massage Studio
 Anderson Hearing Aid & Audiology
 Service
 Angela Almstrong
 Assure Lock
 Aurora Eye Care
 Basic Hair Care
 Barton's Big Country
 Bear Creek Animal Hospital
 Bear Creek Funeral Home
 Better Than Fred's
 Big Timber Archery & Hunting
 Bliss Be Fit
 Boston Pizza Westend
 Brown's Socialhouse
 Bowling Stones Ten Pin
 Entertainment Centre
 Braeheid Gardens
 Breezy Ranch
 Calista's Career & Bridal Wear
 Canadian Brewhouse
 Carline Muffler
 Centrewest Enviro
 Chatter's Salon
 Cheeky Chic
 City of Grande Prairie
 Countryside Motor Sports
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 Daddio's Pizzeria
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 Grande Prairie Live Theatre
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 Great Northern Casino
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 Klassica Fashions
 Marge Elliott
 Marlin Travel
 Matt Patershuk
 Mavis Breitreutz
 McDonald's
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 Miller Built Custom Built
 Furniture
 Miss Faith Esthetics
 Modern Bombshell
 Monat-Courtney Hynes
 Mountain Park Lodges
 Marmot Basin
 Motion Fitness
 Mort Timanson
 Moxie's
 Mr. Mike's
 My Horse's ASSETS
 Nevada Bob's Golf

Nicole Boudreau-Origami Owl
 Nitehawk Year Round Adventure
 Park
 Norlan Chrysler
 Northern Bottling Group
 Northern Lights Metal Art
 Nitrogen Technologies of Canada
 Norwex Enviro Products
 Paintings by Shirley
 Paige Kerckaert
 Pala's Vitamin Honey Farm Ltd.
 Papa's Woodshop
 Pat's Auto Supply
 Peace Country Western Dance
 Club
 Perkin's Family
 Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
 Pita Pit
 Podollan Inn & Spa
 Pomeroy Hotel & Conference
 Centre
 Primetime Hunting & Fishing
 Pure Home Design
 Quality Inn
 Reach 96.3FM
 Red Rock Urban BBQ
 RONA Building Supplies
 Resource Purchasing & Supply
 Richmond Dry Cleaners
 Ricky's All Day Grill
 Rio Grande Rodeo
 Rhonda Schneider
 Royal Spirits Wine & Ale
 Ruskin Construction
 Val Bundy
 Vector Communications
 Vintage Wine & Spirits
 Wade Mayer
 Wapiti Gravel Suppliers
 Wayne Drysdale MLA
 Warehouse One-The Jean Store
 WesternRV Country
 Wizard's Touch Countertops
 Younique-Lindsay Rivet



PARDS Volunteer of the Year: Carol Balcome

Each year, we take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of one of our precious volunteers. Carol has been helping us for many years in lessons, selling tickets for various fundraisers, sitting on the Dine & Dance committee, helping with Pony Rides at the Fund Ride and manning information booths. She is engaged in all areas of our organization, celebrating our riders' accomplishments, welcoming new horses to the program and mourning along with us when we must say farewell to one of our amazing riders or one of our wonderful herd members. She always makes the riders feel welcome and as though seeing them is the best part of her day.

I feel confident in saying that there are few times that she doesn't have PARDS front of mind. If Carol sees an item

she feels could be useful to us while out shopping, she always makes sure to share the information. If she is attending an event in the community, she always comes back with ideas, insights and recommendations about what went well and what we might want to incorporate into our fundraising plans.

Although we have recognized Carol in the past, the outstanding support she has continued to give to PARDS made it impossible not to choose to celebrate her contributions once more.

PARDS Volunteer Spotlight: Della Morrison**Della Morrison**

Growing up in the country, living the farm life, Della felt drawn to volunteer at PARDS to escape from city life and get some much needed quality time with horses. Della has been a volunteer at PARDS for over a year and joins us a couple of times each week. She came into volunteering with no expectations other than working with the horses. What she didn't expect was how much she would love the clients; even developing special bonds with some of them. When Della was on a break between lessons, she took it upon herself to mentor one of our clients who volunteers to clean the lounge and office each week. Della owns her own cleaning company, so working along side to support and teach came naturally to her.

Della doesn't limit herself in how she engages as a volunteer. She does everything from leading and side walking in lessons, barn chores, cleaning in the lounge, right down to making the staff delicious baked goods (this is not an actual volunteer position, but hugely appreciated none the less! ☺). Della says what she enjoys most about her time spent at PARDS is interacting with the clients and instructors; "everyone is always so positive and upbeat, making it a joyful and fun place to be". What motivates her to continue coming back each week is that she loves helping others and finds her experiences at PARDS very rewarding. The highlight of volunteering for her has been all the growth and successes she sees the riders make throughout their lessons.

Through her involvement at PARDS she feels her community awareness has been broadened; seeing just how many people our programs reach and how widely supported we are throughout the community. Della is positively impacted by observing and being a part of the full and complete acceptance of each and every rider at PARDS, along with the appreciation from friends, family, and everyone within the PARDS family for her volunteer efforts. Della is a joy to work with; her positive attitude and soft spoken, gentle manner make her riders feel at home and comfortable.

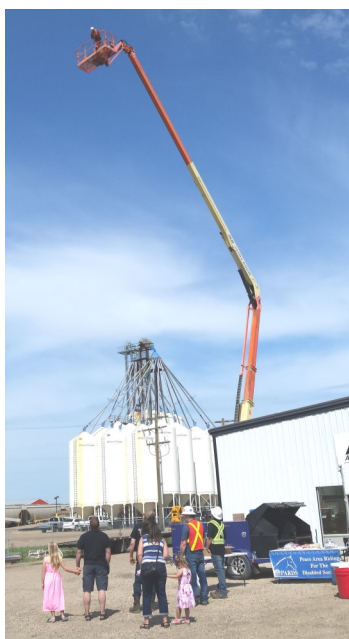
One of my favorite stories Della shared with us is when she ran into one of the riders she works with here at PARDS, at the East Link Centre. Together they walked laps, had races, and talked and laughed together. The next week, in his lesson they had so much to talk about and were so excited to share in that memory together.

We look forward to sharing many more lessons, experiences and goodies with Della!



PARDS Donor Spotlight: Big Stick Rentals

Big Stick Rentals opened their doors in Grande Prairie in May 2013 with 1 boom lift. Since then it has grown to over 60 pieces of equipment but specializes in aerial work platforms and telehandler rentals. Big Stick owner, Kevin Bjornsen, is a huge supporter of PARDS therapeutic programs. He was introduced to PARDS in September 2015 when he toured the new facility during the interior construction phase for his job. Since then, Big Stick has sponsored our FUND Ride and Dine & Dance events. Kevin has purchased many tickets for PARDS Gator raffle and Dine & Dance and can always be counted on to lend use of Big Stick equipment anytime it's needed. Kevin has also been very innovative with fundraising for the New Facility himself!



In July 2016 Kevin held a unique fundraiser which found him standing 125' in the air on a boom lift while people paid to shoot at him with a paintball gun. He vowed to remain in the air until he reached his goal of \$10,000. Armed with nothing but a cell phone and cooler of water, Kevin was lifted up in the air at 10:30am not knowing when he would be coming back down. With a donation of \$5, donors were able to take a shot at Kevin with a paintball gun. You could hear the shots ping off the boom and could even see Kevin flinch from afar when a paintball hit its mark. By 6:30pm Kevin had reached his goal thanks to the following companies: All Class Fabrication, Black Target Sales & Rentals Ltd., Echo Audio Video, Heat Oilfield Ltd., Iron Sun Construction, Mayne Transport & Recovery Services, Kubota Country, LED Services, Pat's Auto Supply, R/T Rentals, TriTech Safety & Training Inc., Vertical Building Solutions, Wallside Exteriors and many of Kevin's friends, including his hockey team. Kevin certainly was happy his generous contacts & community members got him back down on the ground so quickly where he was met by Jenn Douglas with supper in hand. Kevin will tell you that this fundraiser is certainly his most memorable moment with PARDS!

In his time supporting PARDS, Kevin says the most interesting thing he has learned is how *"PARDS is all inclusive, catering to both the disability and non-disability communities and serving a population of all ages."* If you ask Kevin what he wishes the community knew about PARDS his answer would be *"that you need more money to finish the new facility and that the general public knew the revenue streams this facility will create, making PARDS future more self-sustainable."* Kevin will tell you that the reason he chooses to continue giving to PARDS is how well run and transparent the organization is; *"I know my money is going to the right places, and I'm always reassured that my money is going where it is most needed, the therapeutic programs. If I was able, I would love to someday see the 'Big Stick Riding Arena' in the new facility."* That is one thing PARDS is very proud of; 100% of donated funds go to the therapeutic programs.

We love Kevin's visits to the barn, there is never a boring conversation when Kevin is involved! We always look forward to him stopping by, and he usually arrives with treats in hand. He says he loves seeing the staff and rider interaction and how everyone is treated the same here. He will be the first person to tell you *"I always see more reasons to give every time I visit the barn!"* We are very appreciative of all the support Kevin shows PARDS Riders and we look forward to the laughs that come with working with him for a very long time into the future!



~Jenn Ash, Community Engagement

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...

4 Winds Saddlery	Global Pet Foods	Marilyn Cramer
Abby Bruels de Thiecken	Gayle Mayer	Matthew Patershuk
Abelone Petersen	Grande Prairie Petroleum Assoc.	Melanie Fincaryk
Agnes & Bernie Langlois	Grande Prairie Stompede Association	Melodie Haystead
Alexandra Bromling	Grant Leman	Mike & Laurie Flynn
All Peace Petroleum	Hanna Regnier	Mona Polodusky
Amanda Udey	Hillybilly Haulin	Mrs Ballentyne
Angela Oakley	Hinton Wells	Nancy Ingram
Anne Driedger	Hi-Tech Business Systems Ltd.	New Horizon Co-op
Anne Letourneau	Hi-Volt Safety	Nicole Wasylchew
ARC Resources	Holton Family	Nitrogen Technologies of Canada
Assure Lock	Insurance Bureau of Canada	Northstar Hydrovac
ATCO EPIC	Isabella Nickerson	Peace Country Amateur Radio Club
Audrey Sloan	Isla & Chrystal Kier	Peace Draft Horse Club
Aurora Spring Water	Jaxon Caines	Peavey Mart Community Ag Grant
Austin Hurley	Jenn Ash	Perfect Floor Care
Averil Valine	Jennifer Douglas	Prairie Signs
Bear Creek Animal Clinic	Jennifer Wolf	Rebecca Perkins
Best Buy	Jim Rawlek	Reed Energy Group Inc.
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Child Save Canada	Justin McCool & Family	Sheilah Swanberg
Christina Balcom	Karin Hitchcock	Shirley Kyle
City of Grande Prairie FCSS	Katherine Gerbrandt	Shirley M
Colton Leslie-Lussier	Kathy McNally	Spring Creek Ranch
Compass Access Solutions	Ken Fenneman	Stacey Rowan
ConocoPhillips Canada	Kenzo Takeuchi	Stella Butler
Cory Pfannmuller	Kev's Kids	Stojan's Power Sports & Marine
Countryside Motorsports	Kianna Parker	Strad Energy
Craig Drysdale	Kimberley Cochranne	Swan City Rotary Club
Crystal Strelezki	Linda Brown	Teagen & Raeann Cote
David Linton	Linda Duval	Tina Berge
Dawn Miller	Linda Richard	Tom Peebles Professional Corp.
Donald Rowan	Lorri Predy	Trevor Panczak
Encana Corporation	LTUS Ltd.	Wild West Oilfield Rentals Ltd.
Finning Canada	Lynnae Trofanenko	William Thiessen
Frank Havies	Mac Trelle	Willie Braun
Freson Bros IGA South	Margaret Moon	Winnie Scobie

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

Thank you!



Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society

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*Thank you for your
service!*

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Executive Director

Gayle Mayer
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Jennifer Wolf
Executive Assistant/
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Community Engagement
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CTRII/Senior Instructor

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Abelone Petersen
Instructor

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Instructor

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Instructor

Amanda Udey
CTRII Instructor (Volunteer)

Anna Kittilsen
Instructor

Dayton Fenton
Facility Maintenance

*Thank you to these
wonderful individuals
who were a valuable part
of PARDS in 2017.
Wishing you all the best
in your future
endeavours.*

Courtney Dufresne
Kasandra Hudson

2017 EQUINE STAFF

Encana, Norwegian Fjord
Holly, Belgian Fjord
Finale, Welsh Pony X
Montney, Quarter Horse
Tim-BR, Percheron X
Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse
Molson, Canadian
Moonbeam, Paint
Angel, Pinto
Moxie, Paint Mix

Windsor, Anglo Arabian
Cleatus, Quarter Horse/Percheron
Star, Welsh/Arab
Becky, Quarter Horse
Rajah, Arabian
Saphyre, Pinto Pony
Polly, Quarter Horse
Teacup, Pinto Pony
Cinnamon, Miniature
Petunia, Miniature

Hot Wheels, Miniature
Chevy, Miniature
Swancy, Miniature

Our Canine Partner

Jade

And Our (Not-So) 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.*

PARDS 2017 HORSE OF THE YEAR



TIM-BR

CHEVY



ANGEL



PARDS WELECOMED IN 2017

SAPHFYRE



TEACUP



SWANCY



POLLY



MOONBEAM



PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



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