



PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

News From the
"Neigh"bourhood

October

Dates to Remember

November

November 3
DINE & DANCE

November 10
No Public Lessons

November 12
Remembrance Day
Office closed

November 12 - 16
No Lessons

November 24
Volunteer Potluck

December

December 9
Winterval

December 10
Therapeutic Lessons
Session 2 Begins

December 15
Public Lessons
Session 2 Begins

December 22 - January 1
Office closed

December 23 - January 6
No Lessons

PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

**21st Annual
DINE & DANCE**

Champagne Reception • Dinner • Auctions • Dancing

Hidden Treasures

Tickets \$85

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 3**

**FIVE MILE
HALL**

**5:30
PM**

Tickets \$85

"Mane" Event
Sponsors

P/S
RENTALS

IRON SUN
EQUIPMENT RENTALS

For More Info
and Tickets:
780-538-3211
www.pards.ca

Stay In Touch



www.pards.ca



Rider Spotlight



Michael Knox

Michael always has a smile on his face and is always up for conversation when he walks into PARDS. Michael has been riding with PARDS for 8 years and is 52 years old. He shared that he loves being around the horses as he finds it a wonderful relaxing, stress free environment. Having been diagnosed at age 20 with mental health concerns it seemed like a great fit. Riding gave him a sense of freedom and allowed him to be in control. He says with fondness, his favourite horse for riding

was Holly as she had a calm to her personality and a gentle rocking motion to her walk. PARDS strives to fit the right horse to the right rider. Over the past years due to a diagnosis of Parkinson's, Michael's balance became impaired so between balance and weight it was unsafe for both Michael and volunteers in the lesson for him to continue mounted riding. As PARDS makes every attempt to fit the program to the rider, Michael was offered our cart driving program. He was very open to the chance to learn something new and still remain in the place he found relaxing. Michael has now been riding independently in the cart for 3 years. Cart driving offers the same horsemanship skills as in a mounted program and so much more. Michael has gained confidence in his ability to harness and hook up his cart and finds that focusing on reigning while driving and keeping his cart on track helps him focus. In the beginning Michael's equine partner was Petunia (his favourite mini he says). She provided him with challenges which he enjoys he says, because he likes a challenge as it keeps his mind engaged. With Michael's skills advancing and Petunia moving on to other programs Michael was introduced to Tory who brought new challenges with her quick step.



For Michael, driving is not the only time he is involved at PARDS. For the past 3 years he has volunteered with the FUND Ride Carnival. For Michael, he wanted to give back and said, "he could" when asked to help with one of the carnival games. The first year, when he arrived with his support worker, he was very anxious about being in such a large crowd. With a bit of a nervousness in his voice but still with his witty, joking manner he said to the carnival coordinator, "Well, I'm here". He was offered the fish pond game that was in a quieter corner, where he would mostly see little children laughing and having fun. It's not only our programs where PARDS takes the needs of our clients into consideration. He had so much fun and with his confidence in himself building through his riding program and the involvement in the community there was no hesitation when asked again the following year and he even started asking in April this year, when the carnival was! (June)



We look forward to opening many new doors with Michael.

Community Champions

This month we are highlighting our many Need for Feed Trucking Partners.

PARDS equine staff work extremely hard for the benefit of their riding partners and their health and well being are essential to PARDS therapeutic programs. In order to provide the best therapeutic lesson possible, PARDS herd needs to remain in good health. An essential part of a horse's health is their diet. A stable, well rounded diet is required as an equine's digestive system is a delicate balance of getting the right proteins, grains, hay, supplements and water intake. This delicate balance affects a horse's weight, behaviour and even their ability to stay warm through our cold Alberta winters.



To help PARDS manage the overhead costs of feed, we run a 'Need for Feed' campaign seeking donations of high quality hay from Peace Area farmers. It takes many hands, tremendous amounts of hard work, cooperative weather and lots of generous people to make this campaign a success. This year, we have seen many challenges with a province-wide under-productive growing season and a shortage of hay in BC due to the wildfires. This has left many generous farmers who normally offer their hay in the position of not having enough hay to serve their own needs and therefore are unable to donate to the campaign this year. It has been a significant struggle for us to even locate hay available to purchase. This local shortage has resulted in the need to purchase hay from much further distances.

A significant part of this campaign is the transportation of our hay. Whether donated or purchased, it all needs to make its way to the facility. Over many years, this has been organized by Randy & Greg Smashnuk of Smash & Sons Contracting who have reached out to many of their contacts in the trucking industry to help fill this need. Our current campaign partners for hauling round bales, donating their time, semi-trucks and drivers are Rene Blais of R&B Oilfield Hauling, Ken & Connie Lambert of Regulator's Oilfield Hauling, Jarvis & Kim Dawson of J.D.A. Oilfield Hauling, Joe & Vickie Francoeur of Joe Francoeur Trucking, Justin & Amber Binks of Teepee Creek Hauling, Neil & Cole Withers of Cinch Oilfield, Fenton & Val Authenac of Wild West Oilfield Rentals & Derek Stevens of Wesleigh Trucking. Our current campaign partners for loading, hauling and stacking square bales, donating the time, pick up trucks and trailers are Randy & Greg Smashnuk of Smash & Sons Contracting, the Brandt sales team at Brandt Tractor and Craig Drysdale.

This year, with the local hay shortage, PARDS reached out to see how far these trucking companies were willing to truck loads for free as we were unable to purchase the much needed hay locally. Their answer "We'll go where you need us to go." These companies are willing to travel to Valleyview, Crooked Creek, High Prairie, Woking, Fairview, Hythe, wherever we need them to go. We are so very thankful for the generous support of all of these companies over the years and their willingness to ensure PARDS herd receives high quality hay. In a typical year, PARDS sees the donation of many thousands of dollars in Gift-in-Kind hauling from these companies; with the shortage of hay this year making the trips longer, these companies will come together to donate an estimated \$100,000 of trucking!

All of these generous donors are the backbone to the success of our 'Need for Feed' campaign and we are truly appreciative that they have chosen to support PARDS Riders! We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them for all the amazing work they do for PARDS and the community. We are thrilled to have the pleasure of working with you!



Upcoming Events

Big Stick Rentals & Iron Sun Construction proudly present...

PARDS 21st Annual Dine & Dance

Hidden Treasures



Saturday, November 3rd

Five Mile Hall

5:30pm Champagne Reception

Dinner, auctions & dancing to follow

Tickets ~ \$85

PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

For more information & to purchase tickets
call 780-538-3211 or visit www.pards.ca



~ TONS OF FUN & LAUGHTER ~ SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS ~
~ RING BOX RAFFLE ~ 13 BOTTLE OF WINE AUCTION ~
~ FANTASTIC FOOD ~ DANCING ~

Volunteer Spotlights

Lesson Volunteer



Louis Ducsharm

Louis has been volunteering with PARDS for about 4 years. He spent a summer volunteering with Camp Tamarack in their partnered summer camp with PARDS. He enjoyed it so much he decided to continue volunteering and we are so glad he has. He has welcomed many opportunities since those early days. When he first came to PARDS he was helping in the barn and lessons leading, sidewalking, grooming and tacking. "I like working with the horses", he shared. Louis has a calm, gentle way and patience in his nature. This is a fantastic fit not



only with our horses but our riders as well; "it brings me joy to see our riders happy and excited to work at achieving their goals". He remembers some challenges of his own working with the horses when he first started but, with his confidence building and the help of the instructors and other volunteers, has become very competent and confident in all aspects of his volunteering role.

Louis had completed some goals of his own like completing the Event Management Program at Algonquin College so when he saw some opportunities to help in fundraising he stepped right up. Just this past summer he helped with the organization and setup at our Shoot for PARDS Stars event. He says he knows having worked in other events throughout Grande Prairie he can appreciate how hard it is to find volunteers and wanted to help in any way he can.

"I really enjoy coming and spending time with the horses and being in the barn. Watching the growth of the riders and the organization over the years has been very exciting to be a part of. I love seeing the smiles on the riders faces on the trail rides and all the space the new PARDS has to offer. And the best part - no mud to get my boots dirty!"

Thank you so much, Louis, for being an amazing role model for our riders and a tremendous asset to the organization as a whole.



Barn Volunteer

Katrina Abbott



Katrina arrived in Grande Prairie early this summer. Not knowing many people her own age to make friends, she looked for opportunities to fill her summer. She found the volunteer needs for summer camps at PARDS on the website and with her love of horses it seemed like a natural fit. She arrived with her father to inquire and signed up to help in summer camp with the trail rides on Tuesday and Friday mornings. This quickly changed into all day, every day!!! She spent Monday to Friday in the barn and helping with trail rides. Her enthusiasm and work ethic was seen by all and we were glad when she said she would like to return to join us as a barn volunteer in September. Although she enjoys volunteering she also had an interest in riding and registered for the fall session of public riding. On Saturday's, after her morning lesson riding her favorite horse Windsor, she

spends the rest of the day mucking stalls, sweeping floors, and helping us keep lessons on time. Katrina is eager to work hard on whatever job the barn offers and is a welcome face on any day.

Thank you, Katrina for sharing your time and talents with us.

Instructor Spotlight

Abelone Peterson

Abelone joined the PARDS team in 2016 as a therapeutic and public instructor. Abelone brings with her a wealth of knowledge gained through her many years of horse training, riding and barn management.

She is currently involved in the Equine Canada Rider Level Program certified at Rider 2. She is working towards gaining her next EC levels to pursue her Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association certification while she mentors with our Senior Instructor to ensure high quality equine assisted therapy.



Just Horsin' Around

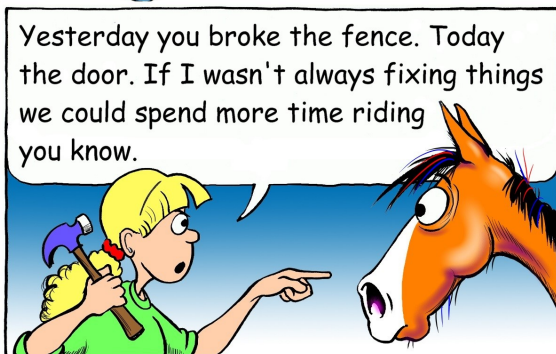


The AEF is pleased to be able to offer for the first time ever, an opportunity for Para-Dressage riders to participate in a clinic with world renowned Para coach Clive Milkins.

For more information please go to https://www.albertaequestrian.com/event/aeef-para-dressage-clinic-with-clive-milkins/?instance_id=543

Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY

www.FergusTheHorse.com



Giving Card

Please use this card to make your generous
gift to PARDS Riders!

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Spouse Name: _____

Legal Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

My Company Will Match My Donation Y N

Company Name: _____

Amount: _____

 Monthly Annually One-Time

 My Check Payable to PARDS is Enclosed

 Visa Mastercard

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please return your card by Email to volunteer@pards.ca

Or by Mail to:

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