



**PARDS**  
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



# *Annual Report*

*For the year ending December 31, 2022*

# *Guiding Principles*

## *~ Our Mission ~*

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

## *~ 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

## *~ 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



# Message From the Leadership

Our client base continues to grow and we are so humbled to have the opportunity to be a part of each of our riders' journey to being the best version of themselves. All of our riders are so inspirational and they each have their own special gifts and talents; it is truly an honour to help them discover, build upon and celebrate them.

It is the commitment of our volunteers that allows us to continue providing our therapeutic programs. They are vital to the success of PARDS and it is impossible to thank them enough. We are blessed with many volunteers who have prioritized their support for PARDS riders for many years and are open and available to mentor new volunteers.

Our Instructors and Barn Assistants are hardworking and dedicated to the progress of our riders and the care of our herd. Their roles are imperative to our existence and their riders value the relationships they develop with them almost as much as those with their horse partners. Their role can be challenging, uplifting, draining and inspiring, sometimes all in the space of a single lesson! Sarah Gunter has rejoined our team after a 2 year hiatus and we appreciate her professionalism and the support she offers to our team. We also welcomed back Instructors Sheri Young & Anna Kittilsen. The energy & dedication they bring has made us stronger.

It cannot be forgotten that the Instructors could not achieve what they do for their riders without the support of the rest of the team. Gayle Mayer, Office Manager and Jennifer Wolf, Volunteer Coordinator/Administrator are the unsung heroes at PARDS. In addition, we welcomed Shirley McDonald to our team in 2022 in the role of Community Engagement Coordinator. She exemplifies her title as there is nothing she enjoys more than connecting with the community and building relationships with supporters.

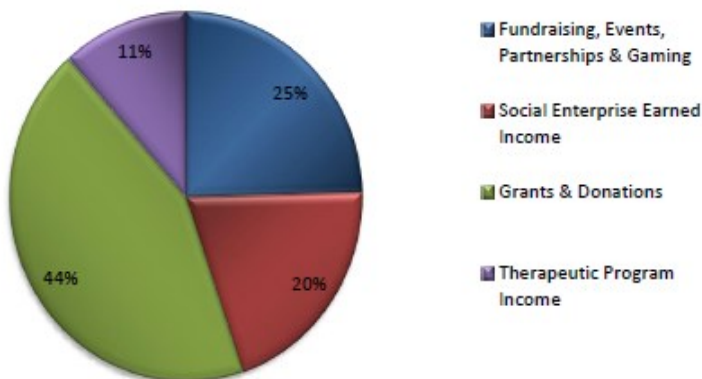
Our Governance Board has been focusing heavily on Risk Management. An Audit Committee was developed and they have been working hard to organize compliance documents that meet the Board objectives. All of our Board members work on various committees beyond their ongoing Board responsibilities and they are all valued for the various skills and knowledge they bring to our organization.

All of us here at PARDS value all of these relationships and we are committed to continuing to be a true "community organization" in all that we do. Thank you to all staff and Board for embracing our mission, upholding our core values, working to high standards and investing in the well-being of those we serve. And thank you to all of our donors, sponsors and funders for the many ways you strengthen and support PARDS and those we serve.

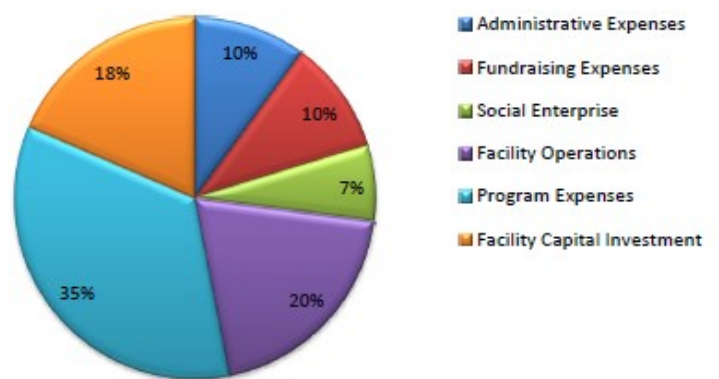
*~Tyla Savard, Board Chairperson & Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director*

## Treasurer's Report

### Where Do the Funds Come From?



### Where Do the Funds Go?



At the start of 2022 there were still some lingering pressures of COVID-19 being felt by PARDS management and staff and focus was on providing herd care and quality lessons. This provided similar challenges in the beginning of the year as the previous two years, but as COVID-19 restrictions lessened and business started to return to pre-pandemic levels it brought forth a renewed sense of purpose to everyone at PARDS. The region we serve is full of compassionate and generous individuals and companies who believe in the value of the programs and supports PARDS offers to those of all skills and abilities. This year there was an increase of 4% in Grants and Donations and an additional increase of 4% in Fundraising Events, Partnerships and Gaming. PARDS hosted our Carnival where the winner of our Side of Beef Raffle (donated by JDA) was announced, and the Dine and Dance fundraiser in November. Both events were well attended and received positive feedback from the community. PARDS was also successful in securing grants and donations specific to funding our programs.

Facility Expenses included facility capital expenses with the construction of a 3 bay garage and a hay & shavings storage shed; PARDS received \$60,000 through the County's Major Capital Projects Grant and \$169,000 through the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie to facilitate the project. PARDS also received a donation of \$15,000 from CNRL for the hay shed project in addition to their "Day of Service" on May 18<sup>th</sup>. PARDS also received a grant for the purchase price and installation of a new ceiling mounted sling lift from the Swan City Rotary Club as our old one broke and, due to its age, parts were no longer available to repair.

*~ Stacey Longson, Treasurer*

Thank you to all of our Sponsor Partners for your support of funds and gift-in-kind services. You make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many through your generosity.

## Program Sponsors



## Facility Sponsors



## PARDS Accessible Bus



We continue to operate our accessible shuttle and with the generous support from New Horizon Co-op, the County of Grande Prairie and Commandeur Mechanical we have been able to ensure all riders and school groups experiencing transportation barriers are able to access our Programs.





# Community Carnival & Cook-Off 2022 Sponsors

A HUGE thank you to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers and community members who contributed or came out in support of the Community Carnival & Cook-off. Families joined us to take part in the carnival games, pony & cart rides, petting zoo, glitter tattoos and delicious food.

## CARNIVAL SPONSORS



### PONY RIDES



### PETTING ZOO



### PRIZES



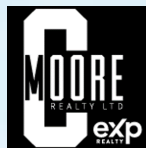
### CART RIDES



### BEER GARDEN



### SILLY STRING CORRAL



### ENTERTAINMENT

**TRIN POTRATZ & JASON CHEESEMAN**

## GAME SPONSORS



D.R SALES WOODWORKING Div. of FAYDA Const. EST. 1978

**BARRY & PATSY SMITH**

## EVENT SUPPORTERS

**Solution Services Inc.**

**Elite Vac & Steam**

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**Ketek Group Inc.**

**Five Mile Hall & Catering**

**Safeway GP North**

**Brandt Tractor Ltd.**

**New Horizon Co-op**

**Red Rock Urban BBQ**

**Hi-tech Business Systems**

**Beer Bros & Spirits**

**ATCO Electric**

**Alberta Sheriffs**

**Gordon Food Services (GFS)**

**Rentco Equipment Ltd.**



# Therapeutic Cart Driving Program

In the fall of 2001, at the age of 12, Michelle began her journey with PARDS. At the time, Michelle was in grade 7 and one of her teachers discovered PARDS and thought the programs offered may interest her and be a fun and rewarding experience. At the age of 2, Michelle was diagnosed with Multiple Specific Disability Syndrome which is defined as two or more disabling conditions that affect learning and other important life functions. Michelle has continued to participate for many years and, over her time here, she has ridden many horses, but she shared that Scout stands out in her memory as her favourite. She fondly remembers her trusty partner that she cared so enthusiastically and compassionately for.

Since first joining the program, Michelle, now 34, has moved into our cart driving program and has had much success. She very quickly began driving independently and took to it as well as she did to riding, giving her a new equine and learning experience at PARDS.

During the shutdown of the pandemic, having taken such a long break, Michelle lost a little confidence in her driving ability, but she did not let that stop her. When lessons resumed, she signed up right away as she missed coming to the barn each week. She got to work regaining that confidence and getting her driving back to the level she had been at, which took her no time at all. Michelle then looked forward to learning more. Currently her lessons are focused on her goals of driving patterns and improving her driving skills, which can help her personal goals of maintaining focus, improving memory and following instructions.



Her pony partner currently is Frodo, who just so happens to be one of her two favourite ponies, the other being Tori. Michelle is working with Frodo, doing arena figures and patterns at a trot and keeping that trot consistent and forward without breaking stride. Michelle has long term goals of taking the arena figures she is learning and working her way up to driving a full Para Dressage test.

Michelle also has interest in some barn activities and has expressed a goal of hitching and unhitching her own pony to the cart. She has recently started to learn where all the buckles are located, and in which order they need to be undone when unhitching Frodo. There is a lot to the cart and Michelle not only enjoys learning about it, but she is learning and retaining the information quickly and is a great assistant as she works her way to doing it independently.

Michelle always has a smile on her face and her infectious laugh is loved by all. We look forward to many more years of supporting Michelle in her goals.

~ Anna Kittilsen, Instructor

# Little Pony Motricity Inclusive Preschool Program

PARDS was excited to have 27 children between the ages of 3 and 5 from the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre join us for 10 weeks in our Little Pony Motricity Program. Each week, through fun activities, they learned about safety and basic leading and riding skills. They learned about horse care, grooming, picking hooves as well as enjoying the learning and engagement of the literacy focused activities with the critters. We can't thank retired kindergarten teacher Nancy Ingram enough for helping to create the fun, interactive literacy part of the day. The Head Start Program's philosophy is "Every child has the right to develop his or her full potential as a spiritual, emotional, social, and physical being. Our program thrives to instill a sense of pride and a desire to learn, provide parenting skills, foster emotional and social development, increase confidence, and improve family relationships." PARDS is honoured they chose to include our program as a support of their program objectives.





# Therapeutic Riding Program

## Reeghan Funk

Reeghan began riding with PARDS in 2009 at the age of 3 years old in the Therapeutic Riding program to help her build balance and strength. Reeghan has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy which, for her, results in limited muscle control and weakness, especially in her lower extremities, lack of coordination and a paralyzed vocal chord which impacts the volume of her speech. She came to ride at PARDS for the physical benefits of increasing her strength and fine & gross motor skills as well as to provide an activity where she would feel safe, enjoy herself and be fully engaged.

I first met Reeghan over 10 years ago as a bright, ambitious little girl with a huge smile that would light up a room. Her initial physical goal was to strengthen her core and her first riding goal was to use her reins with a long term goal of one day riding independently. Reeghan's mom shared that doctors had told the family that Reeghan likely would never be able to sit up on her own so that became the first goal. To help her achieve this, her lessons consisted of having her mounted on her horse, holding herself up and slowly improving her strength, balance and coordination. When she began riding, Reeghan had the support of a leader and two sidewalkers in her lessons.

Early on, Reeghan was introduced to the Para Equestrian Video Competitions where she has flourished over the years earning many ribbons and benefitting from the comments of the judges. Over the many years Reeghan has competed, she and her instructors have incorporated the feedback and suggestions from the judges into her weekly lessons.

These many years later, Reeghan continues to excel. In pursuit of her long-term goal of riding independently, Reeghan pushes herself to work through challenges and fatigue and is currently riding patterns without a leader. We continue to provide sidewalker support with a volunteer leader nearby able to hook on to Cowboy, Reeghan's horse partner, in the event it becomes necessary.

Reeghan has partnered with many PARDS program horses over the years and, together, they have always progressed and she has learned something from each of them. Reeghan has shared that her "heart horse" was Gertie who she partnered with early in her equestrian journey. Currently, Reeghan is partnered with Cowboy which has proven to be a great match. The bond between Reeghan and Cowboy is incredible, he is such a gentleman and takes care of Reeghan every step of the way.

I am very happy to have reconnected with Reeghan after I returned to PARDS, not only as her current instructor, but also as a true fan of her aspirations, dedication and determination. Reeghan is a true inspiration to everyone she meets and we look forward to continuing her journey at PARDS.

*~Sheri Young, CanTRA II Certified Instructor*





# P'tit Trot Program

Penelope began riding in the P'tit Trot program at the age of 6, with the help of a horse leader and her trusty welsh pony partner, Northstar, generously sponsored by Northstar Hydrovac. Northstar is the perfect size for riders like Penelope as she is small so the rider is able to get the halter on, brush all the hard to reach areas and put their own saddle on, which are all requirements of earning certificates and passing the levels of the P'tit Trot program. Penelope passed her Bronze Level with flying colours last year and is now at the Silver Level riding Risley independently and trotting!! Can't wait to see how far she gets in her riding skills this year!

After being in lessons for a while, Penelope decided she wanted to volunteer. Penelope and her mom came to the Volunteer Orientation and the two have since been volunteering in the barn. They clean stalls and sweep up the alleyways the day of Penelope's lesson and her mom has filled in leading when another volunteer can't be there. We can't thank them enough for their help.

"P'tit Trot is an exciting program for children ages 5 years old and up, who love horses and want to learn more about the equestrian world. The P'tit Trot program is devoted solely to the initiation of equitation and general horsemanship, allowing children to discover the pleasures of English & Western disciplines as well as an introduction to trail riding and developing proper knowledge on how to care for the horse.

The P'tit Trot book is lavishly illustrated throughout and introduces familiar characters for the children to follow and relate to. Each book is divided into 4 chapters – Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum with each chapter building on the previous skill set. In addition to the illustrated manual that supports practical teaching, a game book allows the child to reinforce the knowledge gained while having fun. At each level attained (bronze, silver, gold, platinum) the young rider receives a certificate of achievement.

This program offers a fun way to discover the wonderful world of horses. It contributes to acquiring various motor and technical skills and encourages children to be physically active, and gaining confidence & self-esteem as they progress through the program." (Alberta Equestrian Federation)

~ Robyn Boudreau, CanTRA II Certified Instructor



## Need For Feed Campaign Sponsors

We are so thankful to the following partners for their donation of hay, transportation of hay and cash donations for the purchase of hay. Your generous support helps us manage our expenses and direct more funds directly to the programs that support our riders. Keeping our fabulous herd well fed is a huge undertaking and, with your help, we are able to meet their nutritional needs to support their well-being and health which allows them to give their best performance for our riders.



### Hay Donations

Patsy Wachter  
Richmond Hill Estate  
Ken Drysdale  
Jonathon Freeman  
Amanda Aly

### Trucking Partners

RB Oilfield Hauling Inc  
T-Ruckin Oilfield Service  
Cinch Oilfield Hauling Ltd.  
Wild Horizon Adventures Ltd.

### Donation for Feed

Linda Side  
Tim Powell  
Robert Dewald



# Youth Leadership Program

Aaron is a 12 year old boy struggling to find his place within his social circle as well as his family circle. Aaron has been raised by his mom with very little interaction with his dad throughout his life. His mom has multiple medical issues including blindness and, as a result, Aaron has developed the belief that he needs to be the caregiver and he is behaving selfishly when he doesn't "feel like it" or is feeling overwhelmed by the role.

Aaron's grandma and grandpa are very involved in his and his mom's lives and are a major support to the family. Grandma recognized that he was withdrawing and seemed to be experiencing behavioral changes outside of what she considered normal for the transition into adolescence. After numerous conversations and observations, grandma realized that he has been struggling for the last several months with bullying and teasing. After attempting to access supports for Aaron through school and the medical system without satisfaction, she brought Aaron to PARDS to look around and meet some horses along with some of the people that work here.

Aaron decided he was comfortable and willing to sign up for the Youth Leadership program. His goal in the program was to learn to deal with his feelings when he was being picked on and maybe to even learn how to get out of the situation when it occurred. Aaron was extremely engaged in the lessons that included "Basement & Balcony Friends" where participants learn, with the help of their horse partners, to recognize traits that can help them see if an individual will pull them down into negative thinking/talk, defiant behavior, risky behavior, etc. or if they are someone that can be relied on, respectful of others, engaged in the world around them, and be a good friend overall. Before learning these concepts and skills, Aaron thought his only option was to latch on to anyone that paid him any attention.

Although Aaron shared that he enjoyed the horses and activities overall, becoming aware that he had even some control over choosing who he wanted to associate with and learning strategies to both pursue a friendship as well as avoid or end one had the most immediate positive impact on him.

Aaron's grandma sent the following note to us after Aaron moved from the area and was no longer able to attend the program.

*"Hi, I just wanted to say thanks from my grandson for the opportunity to participate in your Leadership program, he thoroughly enjoyed it.*

*He missed a few days due to illness and then they moved to St Albert so he was unable to say goodbye or express his gratitude.*

*It is an excellent program, one which I was hesitant to put him in because he had expressed a fear of horses in the past, but from his first day he loved it and said he wanted to move to a farm.*

*Please pass on our gratitude to the people involved for making the experience such a memorable one!*

*Thanks again,*

*Aaron's Grandma"*



## Youth Leadership program funding provided in part by:





# *Gone but never forgotten...*

## *A loving and lasting legacy*

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

~Margaret Head~

~Ron Bolin~

~Jerry Lafond~

~James Brown~

## *Grooming Program*

Boyd is a valued participant in our Therapeutic Grooming Program. Boyd originally enrolled in our Therapeutic Cart Driving Program in 2018, but experienced a number of health related issues resulting in an interruption in his participation. In 2022, Boyd was diagnosed with dementia and in an effort to seek out engaging opportunities and fun activities, his caregiver inquired if there might be a way for Boyd to get involved with PARDS again. It was determined the Therapeutic Grooming Program would be a great fit for Boyd.

When Boyd first returned to PARDS he was a bit apprehensive and reluctant to leave the people he knows best, but, within weeks, he began greeting everyone he met when he came to PARDS. Nothing gives Boyd more joy than having someone address him by name whether or not he knows who they are. His face lights up and he quickly approaches them for a hug.



As with all PARDS programs, the activities are designed around the goals and interests of the participant, and in Boyd's case, this meant the focus would be on keeping him interested and give him opportunities to do things he remembers doing as a child and young man. His program consists of a variety of activities; grooming, leading the horse around the arena following simple directions and getting outside when the weather allows, looking around as we walk, and talking about what he sees. The program keeps Boyd engaged and fully participating in horse partnership activities, giving him periods of time where he is not worried about where he is, when he is going to bed, or when his family is coming to see him.



Coming to PARDS and having the interaction with staff and his equine partners gives him a valuable break from his increasing state of anxiousness. His caregiving team is doing all they can to give him as many quality activities as possible in the present. One of his caregivers shared that his symptoms are rapidly progressing and it won't be long before he will possibly forget how to walk. They went on to express that when this happens, they are so appreciative that he will still be able to enjoy his participation in the programs at PARDS.

It is bittersweet to recognize that many of our participants will not experience recovery from their diagnosis and we are all so honoured to be part of their journey, providing experiences that contribute to their happiness and quality of life.

~ Sheri Young, CanTRA II Certified Instructor

### **Thank you!**

As a result of the extreme generosity and creativity of John Cosens of **Wood If I Could**, PARDS received a selection of wooden tree ornaments and keychains to sell as a fundraiser to support the programs that help our riders thrive. These items are hand cut, requiring detail and precision and we truly appreciate John sharing his talents with us in support of our riders.



# PARDS Therapeutic Programs

Each client that comes to PARDS first goes through an assessment process. We establish goals, go over any other therapy they may be undergoing, establish the physical, emotional or cognitive challenges and work out which horse would be best suited. If it turns out that a client shouldn't ride for health reasons, we work diligently to find an alternative program.

## Therapeutic Riding

Therapeutic riding is offered to clients aged 3 and up. Clients who participate in riding lessons must have a clinical diagnosis. Our therapeutic client base encompasses a wide spectrum of disabilities classified under the scope of Physical (includes riders with limited mobility, delayed fine and gross motor skills, low trunk control/core strength, undeveloped balance, etc.), Cognitive (includes riders with limited cognitive capacity, autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury, etc.), Sensory (includes riders with visual, auditory or speech impairment) and Nonvisible (includes riders with learning disability, epilepsy/seizure disorder, ADD/ADHD, anxiety, a variety of psychological disorders, etc.).



## Therapeutic Cart Driving

Not everyone can ride – or wants to – but cart driving is another excellent way to access the benefits of equine therapy. Learning to work with and control a horse as the driver of a cart brings many therapeutic benefits, similar to the ones for therapeutic riding. Cart driving is where a horse or pony is hitched to a wheeled cart and is driven around an arena, an obstacle course, or out on a trail. Driving is a fabulous opportunity to make new friends, gain a sense of independence, be out in the open air (weather permitting) and have fun! Cart driving can range from a relaxing ride around our indoor arena or out on our specially designated cart trail, to thrilling PARA Equestrian competitions run by Equine Canada.



## Therapeutic Grooming

We offer several programs to clients who cannot take part in horseback riding due to a disability that has a contraindication to riding of any sort. They are also offered to clients who are looking for a different or additional challenge. Grooming offers participants the chance to develop a relationship with a horse, learn horse care skills and benefit physically, psychologically and educationally. The benefits are actually quite similar to those of therapeutic riding with the most important being the positive impacts of the human/animal bond.



## Youth Leadership

Youth Leadership is a ground work experiential learning program focusing on cooperation, relationship building, self-esteem and more. It's learning, without realizing you're learning.

- The client works directly with a horse partner and a volunteer mentor under the guidance of the program facilitator and a horse co-facilitator.
- The client participates in a variety of activities with their horse partner (e.g. interacting with the horse to achieve a result such as moving in a specific direction without the aid of tools or props, observing herd behaviour and dynamics, long reining as part of a group).

As co-facilitators, the horses guide and support. It's all about choices. That's our ultimate goal: having participants make the choices and evaluate those choices in the end.



MOUNTED THERAPEUTIC



YOUTH LEADERSHIP



# PARDS Inclusive Programs

## Little Pony Motricity

Little Pony Motricity is designed for ages 3 to 7 to a maximum 48" tall and 65 lbs. The program is set up with fun activities that incorporate fundamental skills in early ages of development through activities and engagement with their equine partners. Little Pony Motricity is both a ground work and riding program. Riders work in pairs with their pony partner to challenge obstacle courses and complete activities designed to create self learning and independence through play. The activities are proven to develop and enhance self-confidence, fine and gross motor ability, communication, concentration and attention span, understanding and application of instructions, discovery and development of body, space and time concepts, respect for others and animals and imagination. Benefits of this program are realized in children of all abilities.



## Critter Connections

Critter Connections provides children and youth connection with a fun, compassionate and non-judgmental animal while they develop and strengthen their fundamental literacy skills. Participants build their reading skills by reading to their chosen animal partner whether it be pony, horse, donkey, goat or sheep. The program helps build their confidence in reading. They also play fun literacy developing games with their trusty animal partners. These games focus on letters, sounds, sight words, writing, combination sounds and much more! The participants also write a story about their animal partner throughout their session which they will take home at the end of their program further strengthening the human/animal bond they developed and reinforcing their learning.



## Inclusive Youth Day Camp

Inclusive Youth Day Camp is open to children between the ages of 6 (as of January 1 of camp year) and 14, of all abilities.

Campers spend each day practicing and learning the basics of horse care and horsemanship through activities, lessons and hands-on learning. It's a fantastic way to learn the basics of horse care, riding, horsemanship, cart driving and much more. Youth Leadership activities are also incorporated into the daily camp schedule along with games, group activities and crafts. PARDS summer camps provide an inclusive environment where children and youth 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.



# PARDS Public Programs

## P'tit Trot

P'tit Trot is an exciting program for children ages 5 years old and up, who love horses and want to learn more about the equestrian world. The P'tit Trot program is devoted solely to the initiation of equitation and general horsemanship, allowing children to discover the pleasures of English & Western disciplines as well as an introduction to developing proper knowledge on how to care for the horse. The P'tit Trot sessions are divided into 4 levels – Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum with each chapter building on the previous skill set. This program is a fantastic stepping stone to beginner riding lessons.

## Public Riding Lessons

Our Public Riding Lessons are for anyone aged 7 and older. The lessons are geared toward many skill levels, from riders with little or no experience with horses to more advanced novice riders. Lessons are facilitated by qualified instructors, and are designed to help riders become comfortable with riding basics enabling progress to an intermediate novice riding level. We run 3 – 10 week Public Riding Sessions that mirror the traditional school year. The programs are personalized to each rider's abilities, giving you the choice of participating in any or all of the three, 10-week sessions. Throughout your session, our goal is to help you progress, perfect your techniques and most importantly, have fun!



# 2022 Horse of the Year



Tim-Br is a Bay Quarter Horse Percheron Cross mare, and she stands at 15hh. Tim-Br was born in 2004 and has been a member of the PARDS herd since 2012.

When we went looking for big sturdy horse for our Programs, this beautiful bay mare caught our eye in a herd of 20 or so horses. It was a fortunate choice for us as she has been one of our most reliable horses for 10 years!

She was originally sponsored for PARDS by Grande Prairie Woodland Tim-Br Mart who chose her name. This is the last community donation they made and they wanted to make it impactful and long lasting.

Tim-Br has been the perfect horse for PARDS, while she is one of our bigger, taller horses even the smallest child can ride

her with ease as the walk is her favorite gait. Whether Riders need a horse leader, side walker, are independent, nervous, or confident she's definitely been our go to gal for all our programs and we look forward to seeing this mare continue to make our riders shine for years to come. Her only challenge is that she is a tad camera shy, which makes parent's day at summer camp quite the adventure!

Congratulations to Tim-Br, PARDS Horse of the Year for 2022.



## Care & Feed Sponsors



Emma Holton



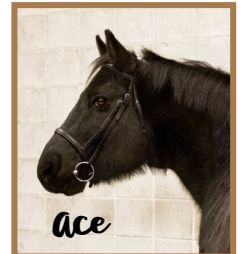
Greg Smashnuk



Sean Sargent



C.A.P. Controls & Power



Canadian Tire



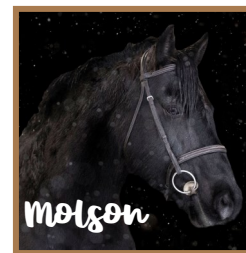
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Entertainment Sponsor



Champagne Reception Sponsor



13 Bottles of Wine Sponsors

Champagne donated by Crown & Anchor Pub



Shirley Weiss, Artist

A fabulous night was had by all. Event attendees enjoyed a Champagne welcome, a delicious dinner catered by Five Mile Hall & Catering and danced the night away enjoying the live music by Night Ryders. Throughout the evening there were raffles sponsored by Celtic Construction and New Horizon Co-op, a silent auction and live auction excitement with auctioneer Dave Neale.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful sponsors, donors and generous attendees for a fun and successful evening, raising \$110,000!



# PARDS Summer Camps



Youth day camp is open to children between the ages of 6 and 14, of all abilities. Campers spend each day practicing and learning the basics of horse care and horsemanship through activities, lessons and hands-on learning. Youth Leadership activities are also incorporated into the daily camp schedule along with games, group activities and crafts. PARDS summer camps provide an inclusive environment where children and youth 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. We also offered our Little Pony Motricity Half Day Camps. Camp is set up with fun activities that incorporate fundamental skills in early ages of development while working with our miniature ponies. Riding, groundwork and horse care skills are taught.

Both programs offered diverse opportunities working both on the ground and mounted, incorporating other PARDS programs such as Youth Leadership and Critter Connections Literacy. Campers also learned about barn maintenance, horse care, built friendships and had fun!

We would like to thank the following summer staff who joined us for summer camp to make it a memorable experience for everyone: Cailie Johnson, Jaymee Tuffs, Isabelle Kraushar, Bailey Dunne and Jaiden Russell-Sperling.





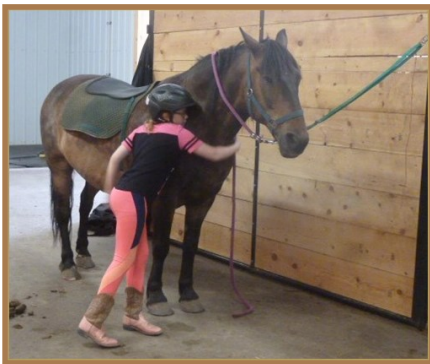
## *From Our Riders & Their Families*

My 7 year old has gotten so much out of his PARDS program. He has developed his core muscles and sense of balance. He totally enjoys his 1/2 hour lesson and looks forward to it. He has developed a love of horses and animals. Without PARDS he would never have had the opportunity to be around horses. His disability for once has not stopped him from doing something he enjoys. Thank you!

**My daughter, Eva, is highly anxious. The time spent with her coach learning has been nothing short of amazing. We are so grateful!**

PARDS has shown me that I can challenge myself to be better and do anything I set my mind to!

PARDS has helped me in so many ways by a simple smile, and even making me so much more happy with how my life is at the moment. I came into this barn worried, but now being a part of the group I am so much more happy and comfortable here. Everyone is my supporter and we are all like a family. My riding and knowledge with horses has been amazing all with the help of them. They treat their riders better than anything I have ever seen before. I am just so grateful to be here. Luxe, age 13



I like PARDS because I get to ride horses. I like horses because they are super cute. PARDS makes me feel really happy. Natasha, age 8



I like PARDS because I love riding horses and being with the staff. I am happy being here today. I like the horses because they are nice animals. Thank you for having me here. I like coming to PARDS, it is fun and I enjoy it! Erin

My client is always happy when she knows she is going to PARDS to see her horse Holly. Aside from that, her body posture also improved because of the riding and of course with the help of her instructor.

**Thank you for your patience, care, knowledge and positivity. Your organization has been AMAZING for our students!**

~ Mrs. Clark ~ Mathias ~ Tristan ~ Barrett ~ Dominic ~  
~ Layne ~ Chanel ~ Colton ~  
~ Students & Staff from Clairmont Community School ~

**I love this place!** ❤️  
Maci, age 11



# *Celebrating Our Volunteers!*

## 2022 PARDS Volunteer of the Year: Wade Mayer

Our well-deserving 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient is Wade Mayer. Wade received his award at our annual Dine & Dance event in recognition of his many years sharing his time and his skills with us. Wade has worn many volunteer hats in his time with PARDS; currently he collects bottles from supporting businesses for our Dime-at-a-Time campaign, refills our water bottles and does an excellent job of helping us maintain our riding trails so our riders can enjoy a safe trail riding experience as part of their riding lessons.

Wade embodies a giving and generous spirit and we are so appreciative that he has chosen to support our riders through his efforts.



## *2022 Campaigns and Community Events*



PARDS extends a huge thank you to the employees of Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. for coming out for a Day of Giving. Many hands get the jobs done! Painting, electrical work, stalls moved, walls built, sound baffles made and hung, pasture fences removed and so much more!! They are such a great crew and are so fun to work with. We truly appreciate you all.



PARDS would like to thank an anonymous donor for their support of continuing education supporting 3 of our instructors in their pursuit of Instructor Certification through the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA). PARDS is an accredited member centre and we are so eager for our instructors to continue their training under the model and achieve their certifications.



PARDS Dine & Dance saw over 300 guests enjoying an evening of silent and live auctions, a fabulous dinner and live music to dance the night away. All proceeds from the event went directly to PARDS therapeutic programs which serve people from the Peace region living with a diagnosed physical, cognitive or emotional challenge.



The weather was beautiful for PARDS staff to gather with some of our fabulous volunteers who were able to make it out, to thank them for another unforgettable year. PARDS volunteers give over 14,000 hours of their time in so many ways!! We cannot say enough thank you's to all our volunteers, but we will try anyway... Thank you, thank you, thank you!!



Thanks to donations from the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and Canadian Natural Resources Limited, construction began on a hay storage shed and an equipment storage garage. Both these projects were completed and they will ensure we can protect both our feed and our equipment from the elements.

# 2022 Campaigns and Community Events



PARDS was excited to launch the opening of our tack store. Donations of gently used tack and equipment are available for sale and all proceeds directly support PARDS programs. If you would like to purchase or donate items to the store, please contact the PARDS office.



PARDS held our annual Community Carnival where over 1000 community members enjoyed a day of fun. Carnival foods, games and prizes, face painting and pony rides were among the many events throughout the day. We had a great time working with the committee again this year and thank all the donors, sponsors, attendees and volunteers for helping to make the day memorable and fun!



Encana had a lovely afternoon visiting with friends at Emerald Gardens. He received many scratches, pats and treats from the residents and gave them joy and love in return. Thanks to the family of resident Ray Pollock for inviting us. Ray has been a long time supporter of PARDS and, in 2008, was the first recipient, of the Slim Allen Award of Excellence for his contributions to PARDS. Sadly, Ray passed away soon after the visit and we are honoured to have had the opportunity to make one of his final days memorable.



## ~ Christmas Blue Bow Campaign ~

Thank you to everyone who contributed for your bows and donations which answered the wish list letters from our horses. Your generous support not only provides much needed feed & program supplies, but also results in a truly BEAUTIFUL tree!



PARDS was invited to set up our Critter Petting Zoo at both the Harvest Festival and Heritage Day events. Our critters went to visit with the community and enjoyed the attention. Outings like this bring awareness about PARDS to the community and give us the opportunity to connect with many families who could benefit from the therapeutic, inclusive or public programs offered.



PARDS was pleased to once again join in the Stampede festivities by providing a delicious pancake breakfast to competitors and spectators. PARDS partnered with the Stampede to host the event's morning pancake breakfasts where volunteers had a blast working together and feeding some very hungry and appreciative folks. We were happy to have them start their day with us!



## ~ Dime-at-a-Time Bottle Donations ~

Thank you to the Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse, Brown's Social House and Bar Burrito for choosing to give PARDS their recyclables. Thank you as well to Wade Mayer and Don Roubos for picking up these donations each week and to all community members for contributing your recyclables throughout the year. The little things really do make a difference with Dime-at-a-Time contributions totalling over \$7000 this year!



Thank you!

We were very pleased to be invited to participate in and benefit from the KMSC Corn Hole Tournament and The Bissell Foundation Golf Tournament. An additional shout-out to Katie Mayer for her Because Cake fundraising initiative benefitting PARDS.





# 2022 Donors

Throughout 2022 PARDS has been the recipient of incredible generosity from individuals and companies. We sincerely thank all of those who stepped forward and donated from their hearts because, as one donor said, "I really believe what you do matters."

*We are all so thankful for the support shown by all of our donors .*

Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators' Association	Canadian Tire	Grande Prairie Wheaton Chevrolet
Anonymous	Canfor	Greenhawk Harness & Equestrian Supplies
Aquatera	Carver, Krista	Greening, Jeremy
ARC Resources Ltd.	Celtic Construction	Grimshaw Trucking LP
ATCO Electric	Chaibos, Melissa	Grinde, Hilary
ATCO EPIC	Chic Perspective Photography	Hammerhead Resources
Aureus Energy Services Inc.	Cinch Oilfield Hauling Ltd.	Harker, Judi
Balderston Farms	City of Grande Prairie	Head, Percy
Barber, Joanne	CLH Bid	Hi-Tech Business Systems
Barda Equipment	Comeau, Trina	Holloway Inns & Suites
Barry & Patsy Smith	Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta	Holton, James
Barton's Big Country Outdoors	Country Pump Out	Inspire Art Cafe
Bauer, Donald M	County of Grande Prairie #1	Intact Financial Corporation & BrokerAge Insurance
Beairsto & Associates	Cramer, Marilyn	Jackson, Hazel
Bear Creek Animal Clinic	D.R. Sales Woodworking	Jacobsen, Ben
Bear Creek Funeral Home	Dewald, Robert	Jamieson, Ray
Beattie, Gwendolyn	Douglas, Jennifer	JDA Hotshot & Oilfield Hauling
Beer Bros & Spirits	Ducklow, Naomi	JJ Consulting, Josh Pino
Begg, Ryan	The Dunes Golf & Winter Club	Keddie's Tack & Western Wear
Big Oil Rentals Ltd	Edward's Factory Outlet	Kev's Kids
Big Stick Rentals	Elite Vac & Steam	Kin Club of Grande Prairie
Big Timber Archery And Hunting	Empire Oilfield Solutions Inc.	KMSC Law LLP
Bissell Well Site Supervision Ltd.	Entegrys Engineering Ltd.	L Daniels & Associates Ltd
Blackmans Butchers Shop	The Eye Doctors At Grande Banks	LaCroix, Nadine
Boak, Leighton	Fashionista	Lema, Pierre
Bootle, J. Fletcher	Fidelity Investments Canada ULC	Little River Contracting
Boston Pizza North	Finch, Robert & Ruth	M&H End Dump Services Ltd.
Bowes, Margaret	First Alert Locating Ltd.	M&M Food Market
Brandt Tractor Ltd.	First Choice Seals Ltd.	Mammoet-Grande Prairie
Breuer, Margrit	Fletcher Mudryk LLP	Mark, Dori
Brown's Social House	Foster's Agri-World LP	Marlin Travel
Browne, Lois & Sean	Fraction Energy Services	MAS-Pro
Bueckert, Angela	Freeman, Jonathan	Matheson, Alexander & Laverne
C. Moore Realty Ltd.	Funk, Corrie & Bryan	Mayer, Gayle
Cabie, Estrella R.	G & M Plumbing & Heating Ltd.	Mayer, Wade
Calabria Deli & Bistro	Goldie, Beth	McDonald, Shirley
Caldwell, Lyn	Government of Canada	McGoverns RV & Marine
Calfrac Well Services Ltd.	Government of Alberta	McLeod, Ann
Calgary Foundation-Hope & Aspire Fund	Grande Prairie Live Theatre	MD Of Greenview
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Grande Prairie Golf & Country Club	Menzies, Ann
	Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation	Meyaard, Jake
		Meyaard, Trina & Jeff



# 2022 Donors cont'd

*We are all so thankful for the support shown by all of our donors .*

Milano For Men  
Millsap, Colleen  
Morris Financial Group  
Mr. Mikes SteakhouseCasual  
Neumann, Karla  
New Horizon Co-op  
New Horizon Co-op Trader Ridge  
Liquor Store  
Northern Doors  
NuVista Energy Ltd.  
Oberten, Janet  
Orangetheory Fitness  
Pack, George  
Peace Country Western Dance Club  
Pederson, Kevin  
Pembina Pipeline Corporation  
Perkins, John  
Perkins, Linda  
Perks, David  
Pigeau, Ernest  
Pipestone Energy Corp.  
Plett, Deborah  
Pomeroy Lodging  
Powell, Tim  
Prairie Signs (2000) Ltd.  
Predy, Lorri  
Primetime Hunting & Fishing  
Pugh, Jessica  
PVT Group  
Railtown Animal Clinic  
RB Oilfield Hauling Inc.

Red Rock Urban BBQ  
Rentco Equipment Ltd.  
Richmond Dry Cleaners  
Richmond Hill Estate  
Rintamaki, Craig  
Rooted Heat Yoga & Art Studio  
Rotary Club of Grande Prairie  
Sacook Remote Project Administration Ltd.  
Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse  
Schlicht, Kathleen  
Scribner, Karen  
Sears, Susan & Murray  
Secure Energy Services Inc.  
Semerra Ltd  
Sharp, Darryl  
Sharp, Donald & Janice  
Sheehan, Tia  
Side, Linda  
Simmons, Adrea  
Simmons, Suzanne  
Skaley, Jodie  
Sloan, Audrey  
Smith, Janet  
Snatic, Shone  
Sole Addiction  
Solution Services Inc.  
Stamp, Kelvin  
Sterr, Nathanael  
Stringham LLP  
Swan City Rotary Club  
Swift Oilfield Supply Inc.

T-Ruckin Oilfield Services Ltd.  
Tara Energy Services  
Tina Berge Equine Therapy  
Tire Pro Inc.  
Tiresmith Inc  
Tofteland, Bonnie  
Total Safety Services  
Traveland Happy Trails RV  
Trican Well Service  
Trident Oilfield Services  
Tymchuk, Maury  
Udey, Winnie  
VanHoutte Coffee Services Inc.  
Victor's Contracting Ltd.  
Waayenberg, Peter  
Wachter, Patsy  
Wald, Barb  
Warren, Lexie  
Weiss, Shirley A.  
Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.  
Whiteford, Donald  
Wild Horizon Ventures Ltd  
Wild River Adventures Ltd  
Wild West Oilfield Rentals Ltd.  
Wilson, Brian & Joanne  
Wilson, Brian & Pearl  
Windsor Ford  
Wolf, Jennifer  
Wolf, Tim  
Wolf, Victoria  
Wynnychuk, Trudy





PARDS  
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

## 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.

# Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive

Chairperson  
Tyla Savard  
Vice Chair  
Colleen Millsap  
Secretary  
Ellen Archibald  
Treasurer  
Stacey Longson

### Directors

Raymond Binks, Past Chair  
Adrea Simmons  
Jim Rawlek  
Caitlin Lamb  
Leon Gullickson  
Rene Blais

### Directors con't...

Dorin Diesel  
Kristen Ward

### Volunteer Advisors

Fletcher Bootle (Governance Process)  
Todd Perks (Client Representative)

## 2022 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Governance Committee

Tyla Savard (Chair)  
Ellen Archibald  
Christina Balcom  
Fletcher Bootle (Advisor)  
Jennifer Douglas

### Facility Committee

James Rawlek (Chair)  
Christina Balcom  
Raymond Binks  
Fletcher Bootle  
Jennifer Douglas  
Enos Kyle

## 2022 STAFF

Jennifer Douglas  
Executive Director  
Gayle Mayer  
Office Manager  
Jennifer Wolf  
Volunteer Coordinator/  
Administrative Assistant  
Sarah Gunter  
Programs & Facility  
Coordinator  
Shirley McDonald  
Community Engagement

Robyn Boudreau  
Instructor Mentor/Para  
Equestrian Competition  
Instructor  
Heidi Robertson  
Instructor  
Anna Kittilsen  
Instructor  
Sheri Young  
Instructor  
Arris Trottier  
Instructor/Lesson Support

Isabelle Kraushar  
Instructor/Barn Support  
Nik Diesel  
Barn Support  
Justeen Schneider  
Lesson Support  
Jaymee Tuffs  
Barn Support  
Kacie Vandemark  
Instructor/Lesson Support  
Bob Dressler  
Bus Driver

*Thank you to the  
staff & summer  
students who were  
a valuable part of  
PARDS in 2022.  
Wishing you all the  
best in your future  
endeavors.*

## 2022 EQUINE STAFF

Encana, Norwegian Fjord  
Holly, Belgian Fjord  
Montney, Quarter Horse  
Tim-Br, Percheron X  
Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse  
Molson, Canadian  
Chance, Quarter Horse  
Peppermint, Paint/Quarter Horse X  
Odyssey,

Alberex, Quarter Horse  
Brandt, Quarter Horse  
Windsor, Anglo Arabian  
Becky, Quarter Horse  
Ace, Quarter Horse  
Northstar Shetland Pony X  
Chip, Appaloosa  
Cowboy, Quarter Horse  
Maisy, Morgan Cross

Petunia, Miniature  
Tory, Miniature  
Hot Wheels, Miniature  
Chevy, Miniature  
Swancy, Miniature  
Frodo, Miniature

### ***And Our Critter Connection Crew***

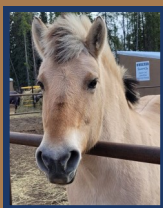
Goats ~ BamBam & Fred  
Sheep ~ Leo & Luna  
Donkeys ~ Ruskin & Harker  
Guinea Pigs ~ Milk & Butter & Stoic

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

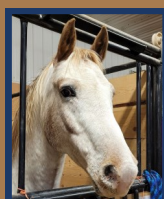
## PARDS WELCOMED IN 2022



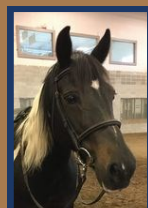
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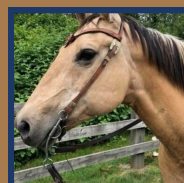
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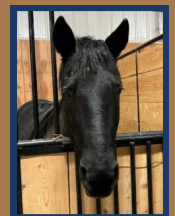
VALA



ZENA



SNUGGLES



MOXIE





# PARDS

THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



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A: 710009 RGE RD 55 COUNTY of GRANDE PRAIRIE #1, AB T8W 5A7

