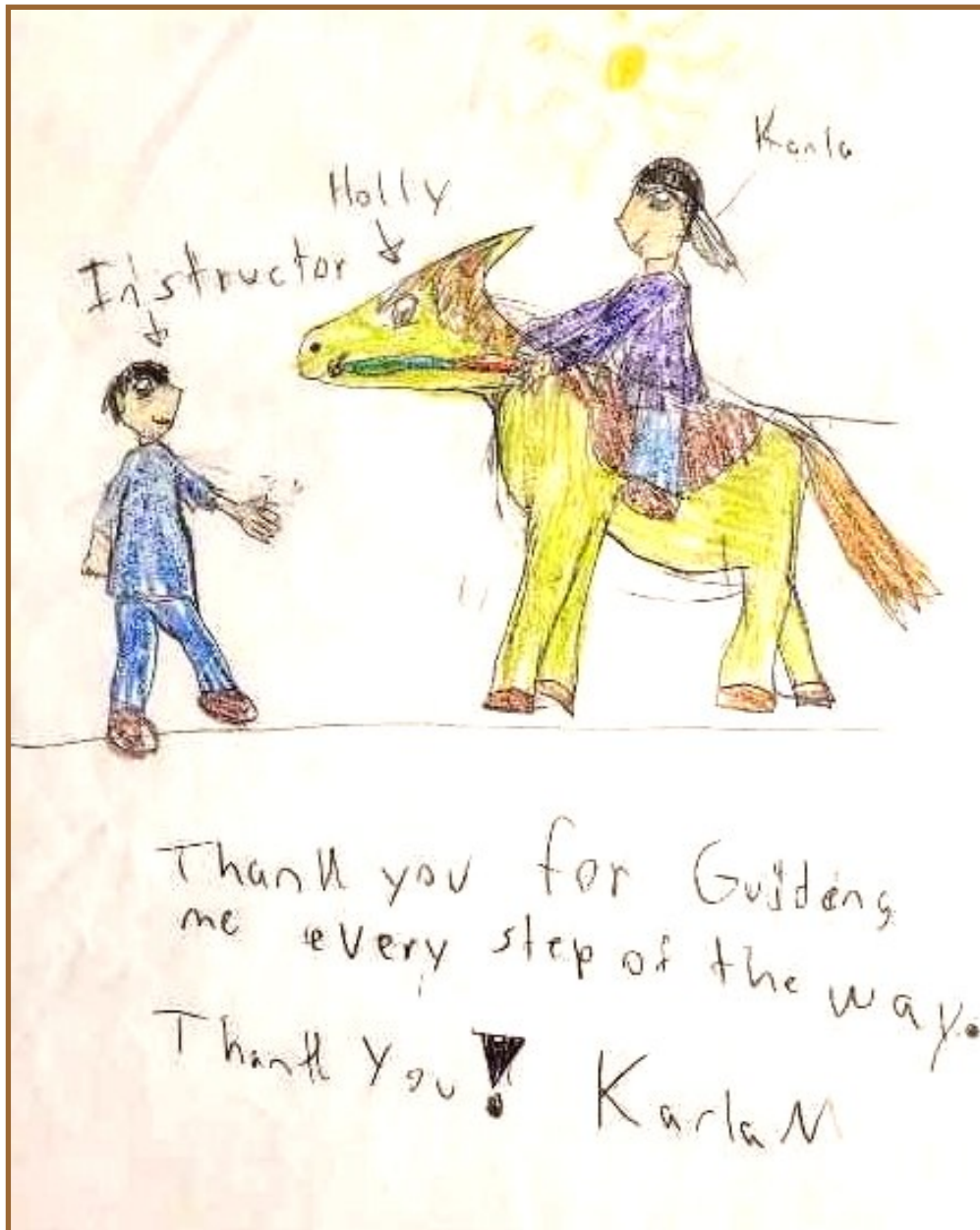




PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



Annual Report

For the year ending December 31, 2023

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

PARDS operates under a governance model and, as such, the Board governs through policies that establish the organization's aims and management limitations. Through these policies we define the relationship between the Board and the Executive Director. These policies set the framework from which the Executive Director oversees the day to day operations of the organization. They allow the Board to monitor the performance of the Executive Director and ensure that the organization is following its mission and vision and that we are accountable to our stakeholders.

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.

PARDS 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! Our instructors could not achieve what they do for their riders without the support of the rest of the team.

Our committed and dependable volunteers continue to be instrumental in our ability to provide our equine assisted therapeutic programs. They are vital to the success of PARDS and it is impossible to thank them enough. We are beyond fortunate to have so many volunteers who have prioritized their support for PARDS riders for many years and are open and available to mentor new volunteers. 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.

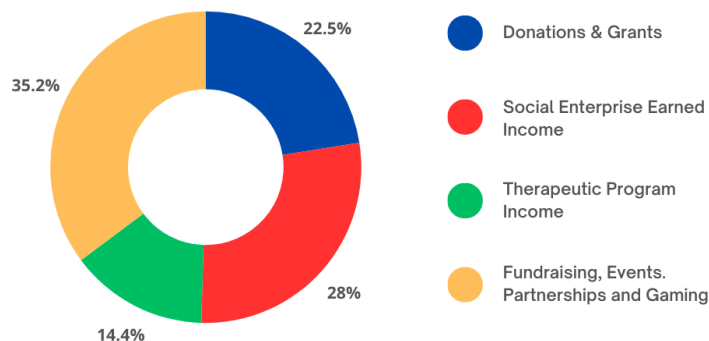
We welcomed many new sponsors over the past year that have chosen to support PARDS in a variety of ways. Their generous support of our programs, facility and accessible bus helped us to manage expenses and continue providing our life enhancing programs at an affordable cost to our riders.

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.

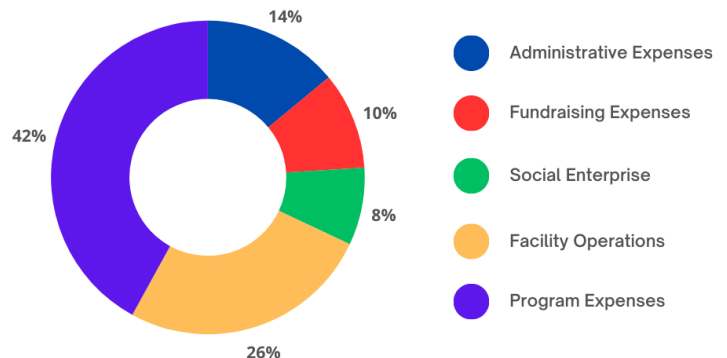
~Tyla Savard, Board Chairperson & Shirley McDonald, Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

Where Do the Funds Come From?



Where Do the Funds Go?



Total revenue is down 21% compared to 2022. This discrepancy is primarily due to the substantial capital grants received in the previous year for the construction of our hay shed and 3 bay garage, along with funds from our casino event through the AGLC. These funds amount to \$280,000 of additional revenue in 2022 that PARDS would not anticipate to receive in 2023.

In 2023, PARDS faced significant challenges due to severe drought conditions that adversely impacted the hay crop in our region. Due to limited supply, the cost of hay increased and led to increased expenses for purchasing and transporting hay from outside the region, compounded by the necessity of supplementing feed due to poor hay quality. These factors contributed to a rise in operational costs.

Amidst this challenge, we are pleased to report that, while donation revenue decreased by 25%, we experienced a 13% increase in fundraising revenue and a 25% increase in Board and Stable revenue, demonstrating our commitment to providing exceptional services and facilities that attract more members and users. Additionally, our annual Dine & Dance event set a new record by raising \$154,200 in 2023, surpassing last year's record of \$125,150, reflecting the continued support and generosity of our community.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to finding sustainable solutions and optimizing our resources to mitigate the impact of external challenges while continuing to enhance our programs and services.

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



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Facility Sponsors

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Culligan Water



PARDS Accessible Bus

You're at home here.



PETROLEUM
NEW HORIZON



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 2023 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 Sponsor

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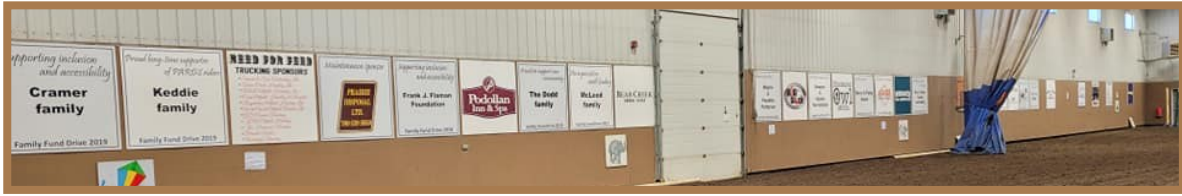
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MNP

2023 Kickboard Sponsors



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First Choice Seals Ltd.	NorLan Chrysler	Wayne & Paulette Patterson
Frank J. Flaman Foundation	Northern Mat & Bridge	Windsor Ford

Thank you to all Kickboard Sponsors for your support of **PARDS** Therapeutic Programs.

Slim Allen Award of Excellence

Slim was one of the founding members of PARDS and stayed connected with PARDS throughout our history. Before Slim passed away, he reached out to PARDS with the idea of the award which he wanted to be presented to someone that made an exceptional contribution to PARDS in any capacity. Over the years, we have had the honour of presenting the award to riders, volunteers, long-time advocates and even staff members. Slim's life and legacy reflects his belief that horses are healing and that everyone deserves an opportunity to be active and engaged in whatever they are passionate about. PARDS was so fortunate to have had Slim as a foundational member of our organization.



Bill Finch and Leann Martin have been long time PARD volunteers and supporters for many years. If there is anything they can do to help they can do to help promote the progress of PARDS they are more than happy to show up.

They have attended several Dine & Dances and remember attending the Medieval Fundraiser.

Bill and Leann hosted the Fund Ride in 2023 at their local ranch. Registered riders range from young to seasoned veterans. Many hours of work and organization went into this event and all riders and participates fully enjoyed the day.

When we think of Bill and Leann and what it means to embody the spirit of PARDS as volunteers, we know they are more than deserving of the Slim Allen Awards of Excellence.



Therapeutic Cart Driving Program



Alvin is a gentle man of few words but when we asked if we could write about him, he was very excited and eager to be involved. He expressed that he was honoured to be chosen and shared that years ago he was looking for a healthy recreational activity that was fun, social and helped him get exercise but felt his choices were limited given his interests and disabilities. This led him to PARDS. Alvin was born with FASD which for him presents with characteristics of Pervasive Development Disorder. (PDD). When Alvin joined PARDS he was in a mounted riding program and has now transitioned to the cart driving program with his driving pony partner, Hot Wheels. Alvin's 6'2" frame dwarfs Hot Wheels but, even though there is much bending and

stooping on Alvin's part, he truly enjoys the hands on time he spends with Hot Wheels grooming and tacking. His gentleness and engagement forged a connection with Hot Wheels when on the ground but it was in the cart where this connection was truly cemented. Alvin's hand movements when manipulating the reins started out exaggerated and rough but through perseverance and determination Alvin learned to communicate with Hot Wheels with a gentle rein. Now driving independently with direction, Alvin gives Hot Wheels appropriate instructions using different pressure and lead directions on the reins to turn, halt and accelerate. To support Alvin to succeed in achieving his riding goals, he receives instruction in small steps with time given to process the instructions and to ensure understanding. One of Alvin's favourite things to do when cart driving is trot! His wide grin and intermittent bursts of laughter are evidence of the enjoyment he experiences in his lessons. His ever increasing engagement with Hot Wheels and the instructors show that he has also found the social interaction he was seeking. PARDS strives to provide a welcoming, safe environment and, according to Alvin, we have succeeded right along with him. We look forward to seeing Alvin continue to grow and develop his horsemanship skills and continue to have fun!

Abelone Peterson ~ PARDS Instructor

Little Pony Motricity Inclusive Preschool Program



PARDS was excited to have partnered in 2023 for another year with the Aboriginal Headstart Program. 28 children between the ages of 3 and 5 from the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre joined 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, and picking hooves. They also enjoyed the learning and engagement of the literacy focused activities. We can't thank retired kindergarten teacher Nancy Ingram enough for her help creating 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 strives 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 the Friendship Headstart Program chose to include our program as a support for their program objectives.



Therapeutic Riding Program



Desmond has been a longtime PARDS rider. He was first introduced to PARDS at the age of 8, when his school felt he would benefit from the therapeutic program, and from then, he was hooked. Once the school program ended, his parents saw how much pleasure he had when riding and being around the horses and so they signed him up into the program. Desmond has taken some breaks over the years, but the interest and benefits from his therapeutic riding lessons bring him back to PARDS. Now 31 years old, Desmond returned for lessons in September. For Desmond's lessons he rides with a leader and 2 side walkers, ensuring he has a safe ride that allows him to feel at ease to concentrate on achieving his riding goals. Desmond is working on his balance and core strength along with some fundamental riding skills such as steering, by doing circles and going through different patterns. Desmond's favourite activity during riding is working on his halts and playing basketball on his horse! Desmond continues to come to PARDS because he loves the relationships he builds with the horses and instructors. Every time Desmond walks into the barn he with a huge smile on his face greets staff and volunteers throughout the barn.

Desmond and his family have been longtime supporters of PARDS, participating in our annual Fund Ride events and were involved in raising funds for our new facility. We look forward to seeing Desmond in the barn for years to come!

Abelone Petersen ~ Instructor

Grooming / Horsemanship Program

The PARDS Grooming & Horsemanship program ensures everyone can participate in one of our therapeutic programs; Therapeutic riders who either choose, or are unable to participate in a mounted program, have a way of connecting with horses through the grooming/horsemanship program. Being able to properly groom a horse, as well as handling a horse on the ground, is essential to having a great bond with every horse we have at PARDS.

William was born with Cerebral Palsy, but due to seizures, is unable to participate in the mounted program. The option for the grooming/horsemanship program was discussed with William and he has been with Encana since, and they have formed a beautiful bond. William grew up around horses and wanted to be around them again. From getting covered in hair from deshedding picking Encana's hooves, learning to tack, to learning proper arena etiquette and leading techniques, William excels.

When I first met William, we focused on being comfortable around Encana through grooming. We also utilized Pinocchio, our therapeutic mechanical horse we use during assessments for new riders. Being able to utilize Pinocchio helped William strengthen his core as well as work on isolating different muscles to improve his mobility. After teaching William important mobility exercises, we moved on to horsemanship with Encana. The groundwork gave William exercises for improving strength and a different way to connect as a team with Encana. William makes the most of every lesson and is always willing to try and learn new things through the program.

Maria Christiansen ~ Instructor



Therapeutic Riding Program

Lyle has been riding at PARDS since 2005. He was born with a developmental delay and a cleft palate, which makes articulation challenging. Lyle has been, in addition to PARDS, involved in other athletic pursuits as well as PARDS. He represented Grande Prairie at the Special Olympics Championships in London, Ontario as a member of the bowling team.

Lyle has developed good balance, a deep seat in the saddle and gentle, firm manners when reining. Vala is 13th horse he has ridden over his years at PARDS, and she is his new favourite since Molson, but that is only because Molson retired. Lyle is always positive and smiling when he rides. Each horse has different skill sets, enabling lesson horses to be chosen for specific areas of riding skills or the physical needs of a rider. Lyle's time at PARDS also gives him a place where he feels welcome and well received. He often comes early to his lesson to talk to staff.

Lyle has worked at the bottle depot for many years picking up recycling around the Grande Prairie area and values being a part of the workforce. He took a break from work recently and went to Cuba where he sampled Cuban dark rum, ate the "best food" and got to ride a camel. Lyle's riding lessons at PARDS may have helped him enjoy his ride even more through gained confidence, balance and knowledge. He said the camel bowed down low to the ground for him to mount, then stood up quickly and made him taller than any PARDS horse. He laughed and said, "Now if we could just teach PARDS horses to bow down to get on."

We are so happy that Lyle enjoys his time at PARDS and we are looking forward to watching him flourish!

Abelone Petersen ~ Instructor



Need For Feed Campaign

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

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Wilson, Brian & Pearl



*Thank you to RB Oilfield Hauling for
the transportation of the hay*



Youth Leadership Program

Many youth today share that they feel like, they never quite fit in anywhere. Youth are referred to the Youth Leadership Program to help develop coping skills and strategies around their struggles to form social relationships with peers. Some youth are in a constant state of worry and low self-esteem.

One youth ('Abby') came to the program and has a good heart, adores all animals and fell in love with horses after her first lesson at PARDS. After the barn tour, the group participated in an exercise of interacting with various herd members in an effort to find an equine partner for that evening's lesson. One of our herd, Freckles, who can be quite impatient when separated from the other horses and vocalizes her disapproval loudly and constantly, caught Abby's attention. As she called out for her friends and pranced around while tied in the alley, Abby watched very closely. The other kids in the group flocked to the mini pony and other large black horse standing calmly farther down the alleyway, making comments why they didn't want to work with the loud horse. (Freckles)

After a few moments, Abby walked over and patiently waited for Freckles to acknowledge her presence. Freckles sniffed at her and stood very still, eyes wide and very unsure of the young girl watching her. As Abby started to brush Freckles, she noticed her starting to calm down, relax, and focus on the grooming session and not the other horses. Abby described Freckles demeanor as "like she feels accepted and isn't afraid of being alone". After a few minutes, the rest of the group noticed that t/freckles had quieted and the horse was settled with Abby still grooming. The rest of the group slowly joined Abby with one youth asking her how she got Freckles to settle down. Abby replied, "I just quietly spoke to her and gave her some space while watching, letting her know she wasn't alone".

Since starting the Youth Leadership Program, Abby has found a place to belong. She has found an interest to pursue with pride in what she is capable of. She has overcome so many fears and since attending PARDS Youth Leadership program she has learned strategies to help her continue to conquer even more.

Observable changes in behaviour over the time Abby has participated in the program include a significant reduction in negative self-talk, a notable increase in the confidence she displays, and every week when she arrives, she is more and more comfortable with her surroundings. The people she has gotten to know, she now considers as friends to look to for support, instead of strangers to look at with fear. This is the greatest gift of the Youth Leadership Program. Abby may not "fit" in with the rest of her part of the world, but at PARDS she has found acceptance and the confidence to believe that safe places do exist. It is the hope that the strategies learned and the acceptance Abby has found can carry into her day to day life in her world outside of PARDS.

Youth Leadership program funding provided in part by:



Unbridled Program

I was approached by PARDS in the spring of 2023 about facilitating an Animal Assisted Therapy program for youth and adults. I was incredibly honored and excited to enter into this unique partnership as I have always been a firm believer in the healing power of animals. Growing up on a farm, I was able to experience first-hand the therapeutic nature of the bond between human and animal. Although challenging at times, I support this program in addition to operating a full-time private practice because I recognize that this is a much-needed program in our community and it is my hope to see the program continue to grow.

Research has shown that Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) has many benefits, especially for those who struggle to trust other humans as a result of trauma, anxiety, etc. Clients typically find it much easier to connect to an animal as it allows them to experience an unconditional relationship. Large animals, such as horses, present a unique opportunity where individuals must be mentally and emotionally present. Interacting with horses (and other animals) has been proven to decrease heart rate, blood pressure, and stress, as well as cause the release of oxytocin, which reduces anxiety and depression, while creating a sense of happiness.

Mindfulness, emotional regulation, relationship building, and confidence building are at the heart of each session. Sessions are tailored to the needs and goals of each individual client and talk therapy may be the primary or secondary modality utilized during sessions. Sessions primarily involve ground work activities with a horse and include:

Observing (inner and outer experience)

Mindfulness, emotional regulation, body awareness

Grooming

Mindfulness, emotional regulation, stress reduction, sensory, relationship building, self-esteem building

Leading

Confidence building, relationship building, decision making, boundaries

The program launched in October, 2023. We began with 2 adults and 1 minor with a total of 17 sessions. Interest has grown quickly, and we currently have a growing waitlist for new registrants. So far in 2024, we have provided a total of 24 sessions to 5 adults and 2 minors. Clients have returned for multiple sessions and have shared the following experiences and observations:

- Feeling connected and understood
- Working with the horses has been the first time they have felt 'in the moment' and 'present'
- Just watching the horses allowed them to feel a sense of calm and they were able to take a break from life's many stressors
- During their time with the horses, they are able to notice the world around them rather than feeling like they are in a 'fog'
- Feeling motivated and inspired to make productive changes in their life
- Feeling motivated to go home and accomplish tasks they had been putting off
- Feeling more aware of their emotions and how this impacts relationships
- It is easier to talk and share difficult stories with a horse
- Noticeable improvements in their confidence
- A noticeable decrease in anxiety levels by the end of session
- Able to draw parallels between work done in session and their day to day life

Sarah Ward

MSc. Registered Psychologist



HIGHLAND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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 they face and work out which horse would be best suited to their needs. 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 & Horsemanship

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 youth works directly with a horse partner and a volunteer mentor under the guidance of the program facilitator and a horse co-facilitator.
- The youth 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.



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, animals, and imagination. Benefits of this program are realized in children of all abilities.



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 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'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 a 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 riders the choice of participating in any or all of the three, 10-week sessions. Our goal, in every session is to help riders progress, perfect their techniques and most importantly, have fun!



2023 Horse of the Year



Risley was born in 2002, making him 22 years old and stands at a whopping 14.2 HH. He has been a beloved member of the PARDS herd since 2013. Before he started at PARDS, Risley spent many summers trail riding in the mountains. In his early years at PARDS he was used as a lesson pony. A young rider with Congenital Dislocation of the hip may benefit from riding Risley; his broad back puts the rider in a riding position with their legs far apart, which reproduces the wide leg position of the brace. The gentle rocking motion of his walk can help strengthen muscles which stabilize the hip joint. Even though his stature is small, he makes up for it with his heart. His soft eyes and soft coat are the perfect complement to his easy going

personality. A Morgan and Quarter Horse cross, his gentle and level headed disposition has now made him a favourite among both therapeutic and public riders. He is one of our 'Steady Head' horses, which makes him a perfect match for any rider in the program, whether that be young or old, new to riding or more experienced.

Care & Feed Sponsors



Sean Sargent



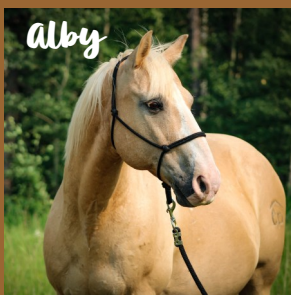
Adrianne Larsen



Jim Rawsthorne



Barrie Nauss



Rebecca Perkins



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Everlast Plumbing & Heating
Fountain Tire
Prairie Signs (2000) Ltd

R/T Rentals Inc.
Railtown Animal Clinic
RB Oilfield Hauling Inc.

Tiresmith
McClelland Financial Inc / Second
Chance Stables / Karen Blais

Great 'Neigh'bour Sponsors

Advantage North Services Ltd.
Big Stick Rentals
Brayco Services Ltd.

Canadian Tire
Canyon Rigging
County of Grande Prairie No. 1

DEW-Line Enterprises
Elite Vac & Steam
Food Solutions

Municipal District of Greenview
Pomeroy Lodging

A fabulous night was had by all. Event attendees enjoyed a Champagne welcome, a delicious dinner catered by Five Mile Hall & Catering and attendees kicked their feet up on the dance floor, with live music by TJ RUCKUS. Throughout the evening there was a silent auction, raffles and live auction excitement with auctioneer Dave Neale and his boys. We would like to thank all of our wonderful sponsors, donors and generous attendees for a fun and successful evening, raising \$157,000!

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.

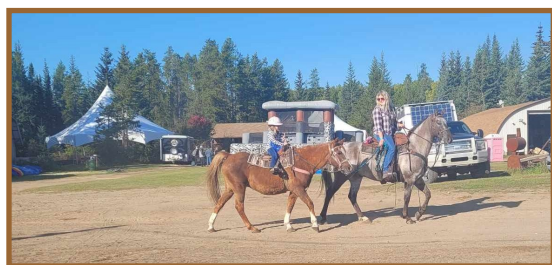
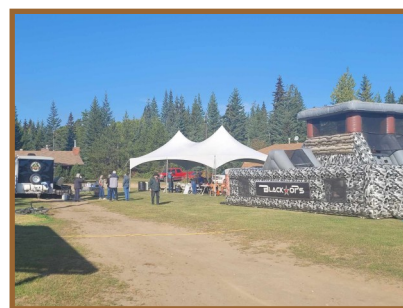
Both programs offered diverse opportunities working both on the ground and mounted, incorporating other PARDS programs such as Youth Leadership and Critter Connections Literacy. Campers also learned about barn maintenance, horse care, built friendships and had fun!



Equestrian Skills Development Camp for Adult Therapeutic Riders is 4 days filled with fun and learning for campers aged 15+ with a clinical diagnosis. Campers experience the social, recreational and physical benefits that come with a four-day immersion in PARDS' therapeutic programs. PARDS provides an instructor, a horse and all the necessary tack and riding/driving equipment. During their day at camp, participants will enjoy activities including riding lessons, cart driving lessons and stable management.



2023 FUND Ride



We had a great time at the Fund Ride! It was a beautiful day and everyone was in great spirits as they hit the trails after collecting pledges in support of PARDS. Anyone who came out for the day could enjoy a wagon ride, bounced in the Bouncy Castle, visited all the critters in the petting zoo and enjoyed the delicious pancake breakfast and hearty pulled pork dinner. Thank you SO MUCH to Bill Finch and Leanne Martin for hosting the ride out at their place and for all the gracious neighbours who allowed us to access trails on their properties. Thank you also to the Grande Prairie Gymkhana Club members who helped with the event in so many ways and raised funds for PARDS by collecting pledges and hosting the Gymkhana Obstacle Course at the event. In the Zone Party Rentals Grande Prairie was out with one of their fabulous Bouncy Castles, and provided tents to keep everyone comfortable on the beautiful sunny day. Red Rock Urban BBQ provided a mouthwatering pulled pork dinner complete with salads, and Aureus Energy Services Inc. was our generous Hearts, Hooves & Courage sponsor. Everyone had a great time and we had a great-uncle and great-niece (Jimmy & Blake) win the grand prize saddles for being the highest adult and youth fundraisers! Thank you to Keddie's Tack & Western Wear for donating the tooled prize saddles and Greenhawk Equestrian Sport - Grande Prairie for donating second prize store gift certificates. Thank you to all who attended, participated, volunteered or contributed in any other way.



Celebrating Our Volunteers!

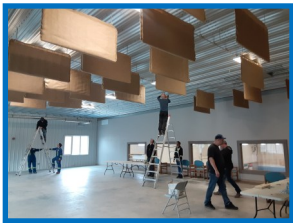
2023 PARDS Volunteer of the Year:

Canadian Natural Resources Limited

PARDS had the honour of presenting our Volunteer of the Year Award to Canadian Natural Resources Limited at our Dine & Dance in November. We have benefited SO MUCH from the support, expertise and enthusiasm of the great people from Canadian Natural Resources that choose to spend their Day of Giving with us over the years. They have completed SO MANY projects like building our goat playground, clearing our riding trails, completing many repair projects, moving our cover-all when we moved and much, much more! Thank you to the amazing employees for all you do!



Canadian Natural



2023 Campaigns and Community Events



PARDS was fortunate to be invited to share in both Hammerhead and Swift Oilfield Supply's Golf Tournaments. PARDS was there sharing information about PARDS. Over \$35,000 was received from these events, supporting PARDS Riders and programs.



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.



We had a great time at the Fund Ride! It was a beautiful day and everyone was in great spirits. Riders had collected pledges prior to the event and then hit the trails. Everyone who came out for the day could enjoy a wagon ride, bounced in the Bouncy Castle, visited all the critters in the petting zoo. Participants enjoyed the delicious pancake breakfast and hearty pulled pork dinner. Thank you SO MUCH to Bill Finch and Leanne Martin for hosting the ride out at their place and for all the gracious neighbours who allowed us to access trails on their properties.



Our lucky winning ticket holder for the Hunter's Dream Raffle for a Gun Safe and \$1000 Gift Certificate was Trevor Denis. Thank you so much to everyone who purchased a ticket on the raffle. Every dollar raised through the raffle directly supports our programs through purchasing adaptive riding equipment, safety equipment and feed and care for our amazing herd. A HUGE shoutout to Brandt Tractor Ltd. for donating the 25 Gun Deluxe Safe and to Primetime Hunting, Fishing & Pawn for donating the \$1,000 Gift Certificate



2023 Campaigns and Community Events



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!



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 a number of events this year. Our critters went to visit with the community at Heritage Days, Harvest Days, the AG Show and the Grovedale Fair 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 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 \$4500 this year!



Canadian Natural

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 was honoured to be asked to be a supporting partner in the Cash & Camping Lottery. PARDS volunteers gave their time to sell tickets and we can't thank them enough. Honorariums were given to the supporting partners, giving funds to PARDS programs.



**Thank
you!**

2023 Donors

Throughout 2023 PARDS has been the recipient of incredible generosity from individuals and companies. We sincerely thank all of those who stepped forward and donated to make what we do, possible!

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

1315731 Alberta Ltd. (Smith)	Canadian Tire Assoc. Store #344	Edward's Factory Outlet	Haughian, Nancy
Alstad, Wayne	Canyon Rigging Inc.	Eecol Electric	Hauser, Susan
Anonymous	Capistrano Holdings Ltd.	Elite Vac & Steam	Haystead, Melodie
Antaya, Gale	Carver, Krista	Emco Corporation	Hiney, Devon
Aquatera	Cavalier Contruction Corporation	Enterprise Holdings Foundation	Hi-Tech Business Systems
Archibald, Ellen	Celtic Construction	Evaskevich, Grant	Hollingshead, Barb
Arlint, Jamie	Chaibos, Hailey	Everlast Plumbing & Heating Inc.	Hollingshead, Bill
ATCO EPIC	Champion X	E-Z Backhoe Services Ltd.	Holton, Emma
Aureus Energy Services Inc.	Chan, Monica	Farquharson, Adam	Holton, James
Backyardz 'n Billiardz	Cinch Oilfield Hauling Ltd.	Fashionista	Hombert, Serge
Balcome, Carol	City of Grande Prairie	Fellows Sheet Metal	Hombert, Serge
Balcome, Douglas	Clark, Lacey	Ferster, Terry L	Homesteader Health
Balisky, Dan & Joyce	Clement, Brock	Finch, Irene	Hommy, Wendell
Barda Equipment	Climb Machining Ltd.	Finch, Melanie	Horizon Hauling
Barton, Amelia	CMB Insurance Brokers	Finch, Robert & Ruth	Huette, Margaret
Barton's Big Country Outdoors	Coffin, Nate	First Alert Locating Ltd.	HWD Construction Ltd.
Bear Creek Animal Clinic	Commandeur Mechanical	First Choice Electrical Supply Ltd.	InfoTech Solution Providers Inc.
Beattie, Gwendolyn	Cook, Scott	First Choice Seals Ltd.	Ingram, Nancy
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Big Stick Rentals	Country Pump Out	Food Solutions	JDN Oilfield Services Ltd.
Binks, Evan	County of Grande Prairie #1	Ford, Randy	Johnston, Chris
Blackmans Butcher Shop	Courtney, Stephanie	Fountain Tire (G.P.) Ltd.	Jones, Alice
Blais, Karen	Cox, Rachel	Friesen, Eunice	Kaymor Machining & Welding
Bond, Dale	Cramer, Marilyn	G & M Plumbing & Heating Ltd.	Keddie's Tack & Western Wear
Bootle, J. Fletcher	Crescent Point Energy	Gamble, Emily	KEN-CO Equipment Ltd.
Boston Pizza	Crown & Anchor	Gass, Janet	Key, Emily
Boult, Margo	Dewald, Robert	Gillespie, Suzanne	Kinderwater, Tanya
Bowes, Margaret	Diachuk, Leah	Gina Hommy Holdings Ltd.	King, Serina
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Bravo, Josie	Diesel, Nikolai	GP Petroleum Association	Kobe, Boyd
Brayco Services Ltd.	Dirt Gypsy Inc.	Graff, Nicole	Kowalchuk, Bernie
Breuls De Tiecken, Beatriz	Donaghy, Delores	Grahn, Jay	L Daniels & Associates Ltd
Brown, Barry	Douglas, Jennifer	Grande Prairie Golf & Country Club	Lafarge Concrete
Burton, Denyse	Downtown Association	Grande Prairie Gymkhana Club	Langdon, Robyn
C. Moore Realty Ltd.	Driedger, Justina	Grande Prairie Stompede Association	Lan-Tech Services Ltd.
Caines, Tasha	Drysdale, Ken & Sherry	Grande Prairie Wheaton Chevrolet	Larsen, Adrienne
Calabria Deli & Bistro	Ducsharm, Drew	Grimshaw Trucking	Level 52 Inc.
Caldwell, Lyn	Dunn, Suzanne	Grynspan, Quinn	Loos, Mark
Calfrac Well Services Ltd.	Dunne, Bailey	Gullickson, Leon	Love Boutique
Calista's	Durnford, Donna	Gunter, Patricia	Lund, Irwin
Canadian Helicopters	Dyck, Joshua	Gunter, Sarah	Lyons Production Services Ltd.
Canadian Natural Resources	Easton, James	Harold's Towing & Recovery Ltd.	MacDonald, Ian

2023 Donors cont'd

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

Mammoet-Grande Prairie	Pats Auto Supply	Ritchie Bros Auctioneers (Canada) Ltd	Torok, Cathy
Marlin Travel	PDQ Notary	Roberts, Krysta	Traveland HappyTrails RV
Maximum Tank Truck Services	Peavey Mart	Robertson, Dallas	Trident Oilfield Services
Mayer, Gayle	Peers, Rob	Robideau, Randy	Trottier, Arris
Mayer, Wade	Perkins, John	Rogue Compressions Inc	Tru Grit Excavating Ltd
McClelland Financial Inc.	Perkins, Linda	Rotary Club Of Grande Prairie Sunrise	Trudeau, Jenna
McDonald, Shirley	Perks, David	RyTy Developments Ltd.	Tuffs, Jaymee
McLeod, Ann	Petersen, Abelone	Sandboe, Carrie	Tymchuk, Maury
McMurphy, Marlene	Peterson, Darlene	Savard, Tyla	Tyrer, Danica
MD Of Greenview	Pigeau, Ernest	Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse	UPS Store
Meyaard, Jake	Pizza Hut	Sazwan, Sheri	Valard Construction LP
Meyaard, Trina & Jeff	Podmore, Greg	Scott, Cynthia	Van Dresar, Dale
Milano For Men	Pomeroy Lodging	Semeniuk, Colleen	Vanderzee, Richard
Miller, Dawn	Potvin, Cathy	Sharp, Donald & Janice	Vetsch, Janelle
MNP	Powell, Timothy	Smiegielski, Violet	Victoria's Attic
Molnar, Kurt	Prairie Girl Fine Arts	Smithdorf, Phoebee	Victor's Contracting Ltd.
Monks, Nicole	Prairie Irrigation 2000 Ltd.	Smoky River Ranching	Vigen, Melvin & Rose
Moon, Don	Prairie Signs (2000) Ltd.	Sole Addiction	Vintage Wine & Spirits
Morris Financial Group	Pretty Good Controls Ltd.	Stegmeier, Robert	Walker, Jody
Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual	Primetime Hunting & Fishing	Stevens, Bessie	Water Express
Munro, Tyler	Purnell Energy Services Ltd.	Stranaghan, Neal	Watson, James & Janice
Nadkrynechny, Monique	PVT Energy Group	Stringham LLP	Watson, Justin
Neale, Dave	R/T Rentals	Strong, Debbie	Weiss, Nicole
Neumann, Douglas	Railtown Animal Clinic	Surepoint Compression	Weiss, Shirley A.
Nevada Bob's Golf	Rawlek, James	Swan City Rotary Club Of Grande Prairie	Well Master
New Horizon Co-op	RB Oilfield Hauling Inc.	Swift Oilfield Supply Inc.	Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.
Northern Mat & Bridge	Rechlo, Wayne	Tara Energy Services	Whiteford, Donald
Northern Spirit Light Show	Red Rock Urban BBQ	Team Shillington	Wilson, Brian & Pearl
Northgate Electric (GP) Ltd.	Redhead Contracting Ltd	Thatchwood Ventures Ltd.	Windsor Ford
Northstar Hydrovac	Reid, Amy	The Dunes Golf & Winter Club	Wing It
NuVista Energy Ltd.	Rentco Equipment Ltd.	The Eye Doctors At Grande Banks	Wolf, Jennifer
OK Tire	Renwick, Kathleen	Thorpe, Rochelle	Wooden Nickel Ranch
Onsite 3D	Resource Purchasing & Supply	Timber Pro Logging Ltd	Wynnychuk, Laura
Pandachuck, Wanda & Shawn	Richmond Dry Cleaners	Tina Berge Equine Therapy	Wynnychuk, Trudy
Paragon Oilfield Supply	Richmond Hill Estate	Tire Pro Inc.	Young, Sheri
Parrill, Stephanie	Rintamaki, Craig	Tiresmith Inc	Zenner, Paula
Parsons, Geoff	Risley Equipment	Toerper, Nick	



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

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

Chairperson
Tyla Savard
Vice Chair
??
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)

2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Governance Committee

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

Facility Committee

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

2023 STAFF

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

Sheri Young
Instructor
Abelone Petersen
Instructor
Anna Kittilsen
Instructor
Maria Christiansen
Lesson Support
Justeen Schneider
Lesson Support
Marissa Sazwan
Lesson Support

Eve van de Beek
Instructor (casual)
Nik Diesel
Barn Support
Bob Dressler
Bus Driver

Thank you to
Arris Trottier
Instructor/Lesson Support
Isabelle Kraushar
Instructor/Barn Support
and our summer students
for your support.

We wish you the best in
your future endeavors!

2023 EQUINE STAFF

Encana, Norwegian Fjord
Holly, Belgian Fjord
Tim-Br, Percheron X
Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse
Odyssey, Arabian
Shine, Paint
Moxie, Paint X Thoroughbred
Vala, Paint Morgan Mare
Quid,

Alberrez, Quarter Horse
Brandt, Quarter Horse
Northstar Shetland Pony X
Chip, Appaloosa
Cowboy, Quarter Horse
Fjona, Fjord
Zena, Quarter Horse
Snuggles, Appaloosa

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

And Our Critter Connection Crew

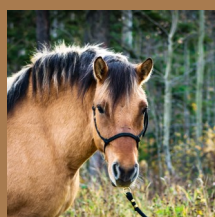
Goats ~ BamBam & Fred
Sheep ~ Leo & Luna
Donkeys ~ Ruskin & Harker
Guinea Pigs ~ Milk & Butter & Stoic

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 2023



MADDIE



DAISY



ROHO



MARSHMALLOW



PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

I Saw A Child

by John Anthony Davies

*I saw a child who couldn't walk,
sit on a horse, laugh and talk.
Then ride it through a field of daisies
and yet he could not walk unaided.*

*I saw a child, no legs below,
sit on a horse, and make it go
through woods of green
and places he had never been
to sit and stare,
except from a chair.*

*I saw a child who could only crawl
mount a horse and sit up tall
Put it through degrees of paces
and laugh at the wonder in our faces*

*I saw a child born into strife,
Take up and hold the reins of life
and that same child was heard to say,
Thank God for showing me the way.*



P: 780-538-3211 | E: INFO@PARDS.CA | W: PARDS.CA
A: 710009 RGE RD 55 COUNTY of GRANDE PRAIRIE #1, AB T8W 5A7

