



PARA NEWS

Spring 2006

PARA BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL “PARA”!

P.A.R.D. - Peterborough Association for Riding for the Disabled has changed its name to **PARA Therapeutic Riding** to better reflect what our program represents. But don't worry, nothing else has changed. We're still the same wonderful organization with friendly, dedicated volunteers, great riders and lovable, reliable horses. And we'll still affectionately be known to most people as **PARA**.

All of us who work so diligently during the winter for PARA are looking forward to welcoming back our riders and volunteers. Our horses have had a good winter and are ready to start lessons again. Be sure to make note of the Important Dates listed in this newsletter and check the notice board at the farm as we have a busy summer planned.

See you soon.

2005 GRANTS

Last year we were successful in obtaining two grants to help finance different aspects of our organization.. The first was from the **City of Peterborough Community Grants Program** which awarded us \$1500 for the purchase of tack and safety and/or adaptive equipment for our program.

The second grant came from **OnTRA (Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association)** who gave us \$1000 to help send our instructors to the CanTRA 25th Anniversary Conference in Guelph last October. This conference had excellent speakers and clinics and our delegates came back with lots of new ideas for our program.

Our sincere thanks to both these organizations for their support of PARA.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

This winter we ran a special campaign to recruit corporate sponsors to sponsor, or partially sponsor, our horses. Red ribbon sponsors fully sponsor a horse by donating \$3000. Blue ribbon sponsors and White ribbon sponsors partially sponsor a horse by donating \$1500 and \$500 respectively.

At the time of printing of this newsletter we are pleased to welcome the following as White Ribbon Sponsors:

Alan Stewart Homes Ltd.
Howell Fleming Law Firm
Keene Lions Club

Thank you all for your generous support. By sponsoring our horses you are helping our riders – without the horses there would be no riding program!

KEENE CANADA DAY PARADE

On July 1st (of course) Robbie and Buck, dressed in all their Canada Day finery and carrying their flags, marched through the streets of Keene in the Canada Day Parade. They did PARA and their country proud.



Laura and Buck ready for a Parade

From a PARD Rider:

Hi, my name is Emilie. I have a seizure disorder. I am 9 years old and I started riding at PARD in May 2005. I usually ride Robbie. I love riding at PARD because it makes me feel independent and safe – happy because I ride such a special horse named Robbie. I always bring him a treat. So far I have learned to groom the horses, feed them food and treats, trot, move them backwards, walk on, halt and a lot of other things too. I have amazing side-walkers and a fantastic instructor named Laura. She takes extra time with me. I have been in two competitions. In the OnTRA Prince Philip Games our team came in second. In the PARD Horse Show, where I rode independently, I also came second in the Lead Line Class.

I just love riding at PARD and I love Robbie!

By Emilie



Emilie ready to present the ribbon and trophy to the Grand Champion of our Horse Show

PARD'S 2ND ANNUAL HORSE SHOW

Last year's Horse Show was again a great success. Congratulations to our PARD riders who participated in the Lead line class as well as the costume class and did really well. Many of them stayed to watch the rest of the show and particularly enjoyed the jumping.

A special thank you to our Judge, Shari Irwin and our ring steward, Brijette Gruber who made the day run so smoothly.

Thanks also to Linda Hubbard and Jeannine Stillman for all the work they did in organizing the Show and to everyone who so generously helped out, as well as to all the participants.

Once again all proceeds from the show were donated to PARD.

PARD Riders Compete in the Prince Philip Games!

For the very first time PARD riders packed up their horses and ponies and jumped (with both feet) into the wonderful world of competition. The event was the OnTRA Prince Philip Games at Cedar Lynde Stables in Ashburn, Ontario. To simply set foot on the grounds of these beautiful stables (part of WindReach Farm) is a joy, but to compete in a fast-paced mounted games competition in the indoor arena was a thrill unlike any other for the four members of PARD's PPG team, and oh how the PARD team made us proud!

Aimee gave a masterful display of horsemanship aboard Buck while Emilie and her beloved partner Robbie formed a lovely team who drew much praise and admiration from volunteers, instructors and spectators (of which there were many). The event was held in conjunction with OnTRA's Eastern Ontario Dressage Championships and drew crowds of supporters and dignitaries as well as print and television media. PARD riders adapted quickly to the two unfamiliar horses and overcame competition nerves to put in a stellar team performance. Doug sat tall in the saddle on a beautiful thoroughbred mare and Donna displayed her very transferable equestrian talents atop the aptly named Brutus – surely the biggest therapeutic riding horse ever!!!! (A most wonderful retired mounted police horse doubling as a therapy horse.) It was through the generosity of the borrowed horses' owners, the efforts of volunteer sidewalkers from other centres and the hard work of our own grooms extraordinaire (Emily and Charlie) that this team came together and brought home some beautiful ribbons. The Prince Philip Games competition came down to a nail-biting tie-breaking fifth race in which PARD was narrowly edged by the team from Owen Sound. PARD was proudly represented by four skilled riders who learned, on this day, about teamwork, friendship and about competing not for ribbons and trophies, but for the sense of accomplishment and joy that only those who have shared a partnership with a very special horse can know. Thank you to Ed and Jane Raaymakers for their support and encouragement on this exciting,

busy day and especially to Judi Island and OnTRA for arranging the borrowed horses and for hosting such a fantastic event. We can't wait for "Prince Philip Games 2006!".

My Experience as a PARD Volunteer

I have been a volunteer with PARD for three years now. I happened upon a PARD booth one afternoon at the mall and was immediately interested. I had just moved to Peterborough and had actually been wondering if there was a local therapeutic riding association. I immediately signed up.

A typical evening for a PARD volunteer might begin, upon arrival at the farm, by helping to set up and get equipment ready. Some volunteers tack up the horses while others get the required helmets, saddles and reins ready for each of the scheduled riders. The riders generally ride the same horse each week and the volunteers get to know them quickly. As the riders begin to arrive and are checked in for each session, side-walkers are selected and assist with the mounting and the ride. Volunteers then lead the horses around the ring and through various exercises. Some riders require physical support throughout the ride, while others require little more than good conversation. At the end of each half hour ride, the side-walkers assist with rider dismount and the next session begins.

Working with PARD each week is gratifying, uplifting and fun. When day-to-day stress seems to be taking its toll, everything seems to turn around when I pull up to the farm. I think it's some combination of the familiar faces, the laughter, and the look on a rider's face as the horse takes its first steps; it's impossible to not leave in a great mood! For such a small investment of time, you can be a part of this and make a difference. PARD is definitely one of the highlights of my week.

Kimberly MacDougall

2005 RAFFLE

Congratulations to the winners of our Raffle drawn at the Norwood Fair, October 10, 2005. The winners were:

Roger Neilson Framed Print – Mary Armstrong, Peterborough

Mike Fisher Signed Jersey and Cap – Bill Gillan, Peterborough

Petes' Signed Jersey – Joanna Palin, Peterborough

Wooden Garden Bench – Clive Higgins, Millbrook

Viamede Dinner Theatre for 2 – Mike Eves, Peterborough

Stony Lake Dinner Cruise for 2 – Brijette Gruber, Bradford

Thank you to all those who donated prizes and to everyone who bought tickets in support of PARD.



Donna on Brutus at Prince Philip Games

HALLOWEEN ON HORSEBACK

The second Halloween on Horseback was an even greater success than the first. The day was perfect, the costumes - amazing and the riders of Stillbrook Stables raised over \$2000 in pledges for PARD. Many of our PARD riders came out to enjoy the event.

Our sincere thanks to Jeannine and all her riders for doing such a fantastic job.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO -

Fred and Jeannine Stillman and family –for all your help and for your wonderful care of our horses.

Campbellford Veterinary Services, our veterinarians, and **John Jamieson**, our farrier –for your excellent care of our horses.

The riders of Stillbrook Stables –for doing such an awesome job of fund raising. This year's "Halloween on Horseback" was another amazing event

John Eadie, Terry and Teresa Leonard, Brendan Carruthers, Viamede Resort and Stony Lake Cruises– for your kind donation of prizes for our raffle.

Caravaggio Orthotic Clinic for generously sponsoring our Horse Show

Ron Lalonde and Investors Group Matching Gift Program for their generous donation.

The Staff at Central East Correctional Centre for their substantial donation

Peterborough –Lakefield Police –for the use of your Committee Meeting Room for our monthly board meetings.

OUR VOLUNTEERS – We could not run our program without your support and commitment. You are truly appreciated.

OUR DONORS and SPONSORS – Your continued support allows us to offer our program at a reasonable cost to our riders. Thank you for your generosity.

NORWOOD FAIR

After having such a good time the previous year, PARD again entered a float last year in the Norwood Fair Parade. Several riders and volunteers came out to participate and we won 2nd prize in the General Category for our PARD theme. Thanks to Paul and Donna White for providing the wagon and to Kathy and Laura and all those who helped decorate it. It looked great.

Inside we had our information booth and sold lots of raffle tickets. The draw was held at the end of the final day of the Fair.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration, Orientation and Training for all volunteers - new and returning– Saturday, May 27, 2006 at 11 a.m. at the farm

Horsemanship clinic– Saturday, June 10, 2006 at noon at the farm

First Riding days are:

Monday, May 29, 2006; 6 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday May 30, 2006; 5 – 7 p.m.

(PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME)

Thursday, June 1, 2006; 6 – 8 p.m.

Summer Volunteer Clinic – Tuesday June 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Keene Canada Day Parade – Saturday, July 1, 2006 in Keene

Horse Show – Sunday, August 27, 2006 at 9 a.m. at the farm

Year-end Party CORN ROAST – Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 7 p.m. at the farm

International Plowing Match – September 19 – 23, 2006

Norwood Fair – October 7 – 9 , 2006 at the Norwood Fair Grounds

Halloween on Horseback – Saturday, October 28, 2006