



SPRING 2008

Dear Friends of PARD:

Here at PARD we were not sure if we would be able to take the snowshoes off the horses but winter is finally behind us now and we can swap them for new spring horseshoes. After a long, hard winter we all are “chomping at the bit” to get out to the farm to clean up and complete our up-grades so we can open for business in June. Our spring letter is our first opportunity of the year to touch base with all of our friends and supporters and to bring you up to-date with PARD’s news as well as giving you an overview of where we are going in 2008 along with what we need to do to get there. When the last rider dismounts on the final day of our riding season our job continues as we look at new ways to streamline costs, raise money, build the program and retain our very valuable volunteer base. One result is that we have decided to try to make our program larger and more dynamic in 2008.

Our website has been recently up-dated with a great deal of thanks to Graeme Walker Graphic Design and our many volunteers who helped contribute to the information we added. We will continue to refine the website and keep it as current as possible. Please take a look at it - www.pard.ca. We hope to increase our database and use our website for more information and more communication in the future as the program grows. Having said that I think one of the best attributes has been and will always be our personal contact and the relationships we have made and cherish.

As our program grows so do our needs for our buildings and our horses. This spring we are moving our washroom facility to a larger space in one of the existing buildings to make it more modern and accessible. We will be adding new support bars thanks to Stephen Lovick @ the Medical Centre Pharmacy whose kind donation of products and knowledge will enable us to create a safer environment for our riders. We will also be finishing the walls, ceiling and floors in this area. This project is one of our major undertakings for this year and we still require funds to help offset the cost. Any help with donations would be greatly appreciated. PARD will also complete the soffitt and facia on the office building this season in order to “mouse, bird and bee” proof it. Our largest and most costly endeavour this year will be the purchase of two new horses for our program. Freedom, sadly, has been retired from our program and we will be faced with another retirement before long. The cost of these purchases is staggering, as it could be as high as \$10,000 for both. This is an expense for which we will need as much help as possible and we will be looking to our supporters and the corporate sector for help. PARD is run solely by a volunteer network that works very hard to run a safe and seamless program while, behind the scenes, always scrambling to make the numbers work. I know that with your support we will work through the business side of our charity and will continue a tradition that spans 25 years.

PARD is also faced with all the costs that any business incurs including maintenance of our buildings, Insurance for our facility, horses, riders and volunteers as well as the costs of boarding our horses, their feed and vet bills. We continue to upgrade our equipment and educate our instructors on the newest and most innovative techniques to best serve our riders and their needs. We are currently putting together several fundraising events for 2008 from simple BBQ’s to concert CD release parties. We will also have our Horse show and Halloween



on horseback, which are becoming annual events and would not be possible without the co-operation and initiative of Jeannine & Fred Stillman and their wonderful family. We will soon be filling in our upcoming events section of the website and I know there will be something on it that you can come out and enjoy as well as support. We are also working on several other events that will help us reach our monetary needs.

If you have supported PARD in the past please continue to do so in whatever way you can and if PARD is new to you please take a closer look at what our amazing volunteers do to make a safe and fun program for each and every one of our riders. Our video can also be seen on our website to give you a closer look. We will be operating from our home at Stillbrook Riding Stables in Keene Monday and Thursday evening from June until October.

Thank you in advance on behalf of the PARD board,

John Eadie,
President

Upcoming events

Program start - Monday June 2,2008 @ 5:00 PM & Thursday June 5,2008 @ 6:00 PM. Times will be confirmed.

Volunteer orientation day – Sunday May 25,2008 @ 1:00 PM in Keene at the farm

Look for our upcoming news letter and more coming events on our website www.pard.ca!