

The Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society

4839 Headquarters Rd., Courtenay, BC

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Newsletter

Spring 2017



~Schedule of Events ~

Winter 2017 Riding Session.....Jan 16—Mar 18
Spring 2017 Riding Session.....Mar 27—June 1
Fall 2017 Riding Session.....Sept. 25
2nd Annual Hay for Horses 50/50.....Draw Mar. 17
Gigantic Bike Sale.....Apr. 14/15
Basket Raffle.....Draw June 17
Volunteer PicnicJune 17

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~ 2017 Board of Directors ~

- Antonia Botting — Chair
- Trudy Beaton — Secretary / Treasurer
- Helen Furgale — Director
- Joanne Keelan — Director
- Graham Hilliar — Director

Feature Program—The Barn Buddies

The Barn Buddies program is a class designed for our littlest riders and our littlest ponies! Because the riders are so young (ages 5-7) they aren't always able to ride for an entire hour, so we break up the classes with games and activities. Our instructor says that they are educational, but everyone is having too much fun to tell! The riders learn boundaries, their own and others; safety around the horse and around everyday situations; and they work on their listening and learning skills. The ponies aid the students by providing them with feedback to their emotions, like if they are tired or nervous or excited.

The dedicated volunteers help Ashleigh teach the students by reminding them of their tasks and keeping the students safe and on track. By the end of the lesson, it's hard to tell who had the most fun, the students or the volunteers!



Grant Announcement



We are very pleased to announce that CVTRS is one of 26 local recipients of a **Community Enrichment Grant** this year. This funding will sponsor twelve of our riders in 2017.

The grant is from the CVCF's Developmental Disabilities Fund. This is a fund for social and recreational activities for individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, the Comox Valley Community Foundation will also fully sponsor Maggie for 2017. Maggie is an amazing horse and she was purchased specifically to work in the program with many of the riders the CVCF will be sponsoring this year.

Winter Wonderland in the Comox Valley

Well this has to be one for the record book, or at least it sure felt like it to CVTRS staff and volunteers. It seemed like we just got ourselves dug out and almost back to normal just in time for the next dump of snow! All I can say is thank goodness for our amazing team of staff and volunteers who just took it all in stride. The day would start before the crack of dawn with CVTRS's caretaker plowing walk ways around the barns so people and horses alike could at least make their way out to the fields and lower stalls. Then as daybreak approached, staff and volunteers would start rolling in to look after the herd. Feeding, mucking out, changing blankets and checking to make sure everyone is ok.



If you happened to have driven by the Dove Creek field you may have even seen what looked like crop circles . No we weren't visited by aliens. They were actually walkways carved into the snow so that the horses could get around for a little bit of daily exercise.



Thank you everyone who worked so hard and generously so that the herd could get about safely and comfortably!

Did you know that you can donate your returnable bottles and cans to CVTRS?

Now you can donate *your Bottles and Cans* directly to the Return Centre at either:

678 Anderton Road [Account# 129]
or 493 Puntledge Road [Account# 427]



Your gift will help to Feed and Care for the Therapeutic Riding Horses.

Our Feature Horse

It's always difficult to pick just one horse to be our feature horse for the newsletter. They are all very special and unique in their own way. Having said that, we have decided to give 'Pockets' a big shout out this time around. He has earned it!

A therapeutic riding horse above all else must possess a calm and 'non-reactive' disposition. This usually comes with maturity and a little worldly experience.

Pockets applied for an opening with CVTRS in 2014. Although the interview went very well, and he ticked all the boxes on paper, he could be a little too reactive sometimes and so at that time he wasn't suitable as a therapy horse.

Well, Pockets never gave up. He went home and practised and practised. Two years later, he re-applied for the job, and he got it! What a difference a little time and determination can make. Today Pockets is a favorite with riders and volunteers alike. He is just such a lovely spirit. Calm and easy going and he really seems to love his work.



Brain Teasersand a *Teaser!*

Q: Why did the horse eat with its mouth open?
A: Because it had bad stable manners!

Q: Where do horses shop?
A: Old Neigh-vy!

Q: What kind of horse likes to be ridden at night?
A: A nightmare!

Q: How much money does CVTRS spend to look after their 12 horses?
A: \$60,000/year!

Whoa, that's no laughing matter!
That is a nightmare!

If those were brain teasers what's the teaser?

CVTRS is launching a new horse sponsorship campaign to help attract enough donations to cover this rather large, but oh so important, cost of running the business of therapeutic riding. How could we do what we do without the horses? Watch this space and the Comox Valley Record in the very near future to get the full story.
Giddy-up.

Would you like another clue?

Q: Why are most horses in shape?
A: Because they are on a stable diet.

The Comox Valley
Therapeutic Riding Society:

*Improving lives,
one hoof beat at a time.*



Grant Announcement!

CVTRS is very grateful and pleased to announce that we will be the recipient of a \$50,000 **Community Gaming Grant** for 2017. This grant will fund a significant portion of the operating costs of many of our programs.

Community Gaming Grants support eligible not-for-profit organizations that deliver community programs that benefit the citizens of British Columbia.

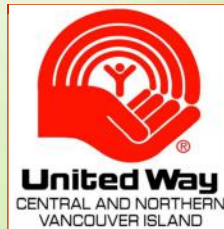
BC Gaming has been partnering with CVTRS for over 20 years, and represents a sizeable portion of our core funding.



Thank You United Way

CVTRS has been very fortunate to have been one of United Way's Community Partners for a couple of decades now. United Way support provides us with that very hard-to-obtain funding for programming. This past year CVTRS piloted a new form of rider assessment. A fellow therapeutic center down-island, Cowhichan Therapeutic Riding Association, had embarked on revising their assessment form and they invited other therapeutic centers to help test their new system. CVTRS adapted their format and chose to measure physical functioning (balance and coordination) as well as social, emotional and life skill improvement.

Assessed over ten weeks, the results showed that 100% of our riders showed some degree of improvement. Results varied considerably but so do our riders. No surprises really, those with a higher degree of challenges showed more modest increments of improvement, BUT improvement none the less! Considering all 37 riders assessed (regardless of the degree of disability) the average rate of improvement over 10 weeks was 41%. In the areas of social, emotional and life skill improvement there was an average of 50-60% improvement. Not too shabby for ten weeks!



LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR TICKET!



Tickets can be purchased at the CVTRS barn, 4839 Headquarters Rd. or any of the following locations:

-Coastal Community Credit Union-
Ryan Rd. & 4th St. Courtenay
Comox Rd., Comox

-Van Isle Veterinary Hospital
-Shamrock Veterinary Clinic
-Sunrise Veterinary Clinic

-Georgia Straight Towing & Recovery
2351 Cousins Ave., Courtenay

Thank you to all of our community partners!

Businesses

Presley & Partners, Investors Group Financial Services,
Columbia Fuels Employee Donations, Mid Island Heating Services,
Georgia Strait Towing, 1st Class Driving School, North Island Tractor, Life Line,
Water Pure & Simple, Detailed Face Painting, Atlas Café, Seeco Automotive,
Home Depot, Planet Clean, Nelson Roofing & Sheet Metal, Coastal Welding and
Metal Fabrication, Churchill Timberworks, Creative Employment Access Centre,
Precision Tree Services, Woofy's Pet Food, Child's Play Physiotherapy,
Smitty's Restaurant, The Eagle fm 97.3, The Comox Valley Record,
Coastal Community Credit Union

Individuals

Isabelle Elva Spencer (bequeath),
Deanna Provencher & Larry Petkus, Dr. Leo Johnson, Dr. Lui Carvalho Simon,
Carvalho, Marianne and Robert Eng, Cecil Stacey, Barbara Metheral, Avery Niesen,
Katherine Smith, Al Munday, Linda Leslie, Heather Deane Clark, Donna Dickens,
Liz Agnew, Bran Davies, Leah & Jeff Ricketson, Ralph & Sharon Reynolds,
Glenda McGladdery Brenda, Terry & Jessie Searl, Diane Formosa,
Janine Harris, Kimberley Franke Margaret Pratt, Katherine Smith, Ken Webster,
Jane & David Adamson, Maia McKenzie, Judy & William Jackson,
Miwa & Ru Ogasawara, Yaela Gleusteen, John Novak, Judith Couper, Cathy Ross,
William Quiqq, Eva Wilson, Liz Stubbs, Elizabeth Clements, Jane Richter,
Evelyn Linton, Carmen Phillips, Careth McNutt, Adrian Francke, William Drucitt,
Jane Murphy, Diane Brown, Harold Bigelow, Evan Mason, Maggie Seymour,
Jo Hellenes, Leonard Kusnick, Jill Gould, Trudy Beaton, Marianne Thompson,
Shirley Jorgensen, Sharon Berube, Tracey Newman, John & Carol Allan,
Lyn Blenkinsop, Duane Drobot, Jamie Knudsen, Ginger MacKenzie,
Patricia Woolsey, Marilyn Simpson, Ralph Watts, Bob Adrian, Mickey Pederson,
Norm Prince, Ray and Marie Roberts, Jenifer Sawula, Anne Thompson,
Keanna Jameson, Mary Kamann, Sylvie Peron, Cecil Stacey, Ann Scott,
Valmon Vaillant, Elizabeth Karunaratne, Deb MacKay, Tess Coombes,
M I Hartfelder, Judy McMaster, Cynthia Robertson, Linda Stickney, Ann Booth,
Barbara Fudge, Betty Jo Baird, Janet Scantland, Peter Giles, Joan Robertson,
Janet Field, Catherine Gailloux, Jim Gordon, Marilyn Crysler, Jemima Strachan,
Gerold Bullen, Janet Orosz, Mary Dundass, Barbara Brooks, Linda Maasz,
Mona Wile, Joan Collin, Cary Keighley, Gary Woodroffe, Susan Toresdahl,
Tanis Moyls, Julie Jensen, Mike O'Neill, Barbara McKell, Mary-Ann McCrea,
Linda McLean, Margaret Pratt

*And a huge thank you to everyone who supported **Hay for Horses**
during our 2016 'Gift of Giving' Stocking Stuffer campaign.*

Thank you to the following Clubs & Foundations
for their generous support for the work we do.

Service Clubs & Organizations

Pythian Sisters Plateau Temple #7, NVIHA, Lazo North,
Baynes Sound RD, Puntledge, Black Creek RD, Knights of Columbus,
Bishop Hill #5468, Baynes Sound Lions, IODE Laura Gordon,
Knights of Columbus Charity Fdtn., Comox Valley Lions Club,
Comox Valley Monarch Lions, Royal Canadian Legion Br. 160,
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 17, Altrusa Club of Campbell River,
St. Michael and All Angels Chapel—19 Wing Comox,
Comox Valley Regional District, Tsolum Rebekah Lodge #78,
NVIHA, Courtenay Rotary, Comox United Church,
Strathcona Sunrise Rotary,
Florence Chapter # 53 Order of the Eastern Star,
School District # 71, Loyal Protestant Assoc.

Foundations

BC Gaming Grant, Children's Health Fdn., Toronto Fdn., Lohn Fdn.,
United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island, Chris Spencer Fdn.,
Ministry of Children & Families, The Hamber Fdn.,
First Credit Union, Coast Capital Savings, The MacLean Fdn.,
Allen & Loreen Vandekerkhove Fdn., Air Canada Fdn.,
Comox Valley Community Fdn. , Peninsula Co-op,
Boomer's Legacy (Cdn. Forces) ,



**I would like to support the work of
The Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society**

My Donation is: \$100.00 \$250.00 \$500.00 Other _____

(choose one of the following)

- I would like to sponsor a horse (name of horse) _____
 I would like to sponsor a rider I would like my gift used in the area of greatest need

I'm paying by: Cheque Visa M/C Discovery Card

Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Name (please print) _____ Signature _____

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Please do not acknowledge my donation publicly Please mail my tax receipt

In Memory

I would like to make my donation in the memory of _____

Please send an acknowledgment to _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Relationship to the deceased _____

Mail to: CVTRS

PO Box 3666, Courtenay, BC
V9N 7P1

OR—Donate on Line at www.cvtrs.com



**Looking for a Great Deal on a
gently used bike?**

Check out our bike shop Wed. 1-4 year round
and Sat. mornings 10-1 during the summer.

**Gigantic Bike Sale
Saturday April 15, 2017**

at the CVTRS Bike Shop
located on the Exhibition Grounds,
4839 Headquarter's Rd.

