

FALL 2011

PARDS News for the “Neigh”bours



~ Saturday, November 19th, 2011 ~

Although it feels like Summer only just arrived, Autumn is on it's way in the colour of the falling leaves and the little frost on the grass each morning becoming more regular. It must be time for our Annual Dine & Dance, dress-up for the ladies and cleaning up the 'good' clothes for the men to show their stuff in! We are all abuzz in preparations for our FUN-draising and dancing at Five Mile Hall! Yippee! Our theme this year is something close to the heart:

“Journeying to Success, Together”

Our Gala this year is a celebration of being your personal best, the journey we are each on and of course, coming together to see the achievements of this past year and the hopes of the upcoming year over a beautiful supper with friends. Enjoy a champagne greeting, delicious buffet dinner, cash bar, auctions, draws, door prizes, music and dancing! Our goal this year is to raise \$55,000 in support of PARDS therapeutic programs, and with your help, we know we can do it!

Tickets are only \$50.00 each and are available through the PARDS office, 780-538-3211. Call today to order your tickets and reserve your tables. We look forward to seeing you at PARDS 14th Annual Dine & Dance in celebration of “Journeying to Success Together”.

Executive Director’s Note

There is always so much to be grateful for and watching therapeutic lessons reminds me of why I want to be here. There is so much to do with the change of the Seasons, Winter preparations to be made inside and out, while we have sunshine to work under. On the calendar there is a new series of Sessions starting, both public and therapeutic. Scheduling is so important to get the best out of each horse, rider and instructor together. Working together is the theme of our Gala this year. We want to highlight how each element of our team, the administration, the volunteers, the barn helpers, instructors, the riders, therapists, aides, family, supporters and sponsors each doing their best makes this community effort come together and create individual successes. Remembering that this journey we are each on is different, and our successes might be wildly diverse, but at heart they are all about pulling the best from ourselves and being proud that we are the best we can be. Our successes are not miracles, they are the result of the caring and cooperation of so many people.

This year we will continue with our Equine Facilitated Wellness program. This is an addition to our regular scheduling and involves youth from 10-17 years working with a mentor and horses most suited to helping them achieve their personal program goals. Sometimes this means matching two stubborn personalities, sometimes a withdrawn youth and an outgoing horse! Either way, the program offers a journey of discovery and life skill building strategies for the young individual.

Just like those many elements coming together to make our Association great, a synergy forming between the horse, mentor and youth is an amazing feeling for all involved.

With so much to be thankful for, it must be Thanksgiving coming, I wish you all the best and hope to see you soon through our doors!

Jennifer Douglas

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Tickets for our Annual Dine & Dance - are on sale for only \$50 each!
- ◆ Therapeutic Riding Session I (Fall) successfully underway!
- ◆ Public Riding Session I also happily underway!
- ◆ PARDS now accepting pre-registrations for Therapeutic Riding Session II (Winter) and III (Spring)!
- ◆ Equine Facilitated Wellness accepting students for Session 1 to start November 28th.

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Enjoy the newsletter and come out and visit us anytime!!



Therapeutic Lessons

This is what PARDS is all about. We're always so excited to begin each new year of therapeutic lessons! PARDS Therapeutic Program Commencement Dates:

Session 1 September 12, 2011 (No lessons October 9-14)

Session 2 November 28, 2011 (No lessons Dec. 19 - January 6, Feb 20 - 24th)

Session 3 March 12, 2012 (No lessons April 9 – 13th, May 21 - 25th)

Sessions run for 10 weeks for \$200 plus \$10 individual annual membership or \$20 family annual membership.

Equine Facilitated Wellness

October (TBA)

Public Lessons

PARDS offers public riding lessons, beginner to intermediate, on Saturdays (plus Sundays when Saturdays fill), during our regular riding season, as a means of helping support our therapeutic programs. Classes are set in 45 minute group lessons and teach riding skills and form. Sessions are 6 weeks long and cost \$210. Session dates available:

Session 1 September 10, 2011 (No lessons October 8 & 9th)

Session 2 October 29th, 2011 (No lessons November 19 & 20th)

Session 3 December 17th, 2011 (No lessons Dec. 19 - January 6th, 2012)

Session 4 February 11th, 2012 (No lessons February 18 & 19th)

Session 5 March 31st, 2012 (No lessons April 7 - 15th & May 19 & 20th)



PARDS Success Stories -written by Maria Murray

We are proud to share with you this most recent of many PARDS Success Stories in this regular feature of our Newsletter. This story is told by Maria, instructor and all around "Go to Girl" for all things lesson related.

This summer's riding camps brought 158 riders through our doors. Although we had a number of repeat riders, we also made many new friends. Our riders ranged from ages 6 to 28 which suited our horses just fine; they love the tenderness of younger children but also appreciate the determination and maturity of older riders.

Riding activities ranged from basic walk and trot and advanced to different games on horseback. Some favourites were "What Time is it Mr. Wolf?" and the gymkhana game "flags". On the ground, the students learned horse handling techniques and stable management skills. We played a variety of games with each other to promote cooperation, communication, and an active lifestyle.

Tori and Vanessa, our new instructors, taught their first summer camps with us and did a fabulous job. Lauralee, our seasoned staff member, proved to be a hit as always with her many groups. We actually had a number of repeat riders from camp to camp, which is a testament to the ability of all our instructors to develop a safe, fun and stimulating environment for their students.

A number of our campers have also continued with us to further increase their riding skills through our weekend public riding program.



DID YOU KNOW?? The foal/filly is born with no teeth. As it gets older, the horse grows teeth. By the time the foal/filly is six to nine months, the young horse has all of its milk teeth.

Get your tickets! Get your tickets!

**It's PARDS 14th Annual Dine & Dance
Saturday, November 19th, 2011!**

"Journeying to Success, Together"

Champagne greeting, delicious buffet dinner, cash bar, auctions, draws, door prizes, silent auction, music and dancing!!

Doors open @5.30pm with NickyRae Photography on location to capture every special moment!

Our Community Continues to Give from the Heart

PARDS would like to extend a heart felt *Thank You* to our most current Donors!

The following organizations and individuals have helped us greatly by donating Cash, Gifts-in-Kind and/or Labour:

- ~ Aquatera
- ~ ATCO Gas EPIC
- ~ Aurora Spring Water
- ~ Bale Express Ltd. Keith Giddeon
- ~ Bear Creek West County Animal Clinic
- ~ Bill Friesen
- ~ Bob Wallace
- ~ Bottles4Cash
- ~ Brian Hillaby- Grande Spirit Foundation
- ~ Bruce Hillbom
- ~ Cheryl Deverdenne & Greg Schmidt
- ~ Christine Schoorlemer
- ~ CJXX Big Country
- ~ County Disposal(2000) Ltd.
- ~ Dallas Shofner
- ~ Don & Jan Sharp
- ~ Eden Lancaster
- ~ Ellen Adam
- ~ Encana Cares Foundation
- ~ Garry Holmes
- ~ Garry Walker
- ~ Gateway Farm Equipment
- ~ Gayle Mayer
- ~ Giant Tiger
- ~ Giant Tiger 50th Anniversary Celebration
- ~ GJJM Oilfield Consulting GP Ltd.
- ~ Glenn & Brenda Donohue
- ~ GP Promotional
- ~ Grande Prairie Chuckwagon Heritage Foundation
- ~ Heavy Equipment Repair Ltd.
- ~ Helen Moore/Parti Lites
- ~ In Memory of Dan Deley
- ~ In Memory of Vicki Alberts
- ~ Jackie Mitchell
- ~ John Perkins Insurance & Financial Service
- ~ Kathy Makin

- ~ Kelly Wilson
- ~ Kerry & Vivian Sandboe
- ~ Laura, Greg & Megan Boyd
- ~ Laurie Sutherland
- ~ Lyle Neumann
- ~ M&M Meats
- ~ Maddhatter's Liquid Lounge
- ~ Marcene Buck
- ~ Nevada Bob's Golf
- ~ No Frills
- ~ Paul Morrison Trucking Ltd. & River Boy Tours
- ~ Ray Binks & Tina Finch
- ~ Recycle Plus
- ~ RNC Trucking
- ~ Ron Kiers
- ~ Safeway
- ~ Scott Benson
- ~ Simply Primitive
- ~ Swan City Rotary Club
- ~ TC Equipment Grand Opening
- ~ The Mortgage Centre
- ~ Tim Horton's (Stephanie & Brandi - managers)
- ~ Tina Berge Equine Therapy
- ~ Todd Donaldson
- ~ Toner One Inc.
- ~ Tracey Rice/ Silpada Jewellery
- ~ Twyla Edwards
- ~ Vern Carnochan
- ~ Victor Bartsch
- ~ Wayne Drysdale MLA Grande Prairie-Wapiti
- ~ Wee Care Drop In Centre (Senior Room)
- ~ Wendy Coogan
- ~ Willsey Davis & Co. LLP





RIDDLE: A man rode his horse into town on Friday. The next day he rode back on Friday—how is that possible?

Welcome to our Family!

Our new office member, Ainsley Lamontagne will be greeting you when you register for the new season of classes. Don't let her Australian accent fool you, she is a ten year resident of Grande Prairie and became a Canadian citizen three years ago. She is excited to learn all about our organization and looking forward to starting her first ever riding lessons this Winter. Her family was very happy to meet all the horses and kittens and you may meet them on a weekend, wandering about, playing with the kittens!

We are thrilled to announce that Victoria (Tori) Klimp who joined us as our Summer student is continuing her employment with us. Tori has a rich history of experience with horses and is working toward her Bachelor of Education degree. She has the perfect mix of commitment toward helping our riders succeed in reaching their goals and training our equine staff to be the best they can be.

Our new Barn Helper & Instructor, Dayton Fenton, is also new to lessons and raring to go! He has years of horse experience and has volunteered and helped out at PARDS over the last five years. He's very comfortable working to get the best out of our horses and equipment. You will see him in the barn and pastures focusing on maintenance and lessons. Dayton is working towards his CANtra certification and is currently focused on building up those teaching hours! Once he achieves that certification he will be able to instruct alone—very exciting for both Dayton and PARDS!

Welcome Ainsley, Dayton and Tori, we hope this is the start of a long and happy time helping us meet our goals and build awareness of how valuable our programs are to so many sectors of this great community we live in.

Straight from the Horse's Mouth

As told by Vanessa Klimp by Holly

Well, hi there! They call me Holly.



I have been living at PARDS since July 2006. With my sweet personality and charm, I proved to the staff that they could give me any rider and I would take care of them and make the ride enjoyable. I am so lucky to be among the favourites of the PARDS horses to our riders and have had the chance to help so many of our timid riders get comfortable with horses and find their confidence.

Now I will admit, I am a bit on the "lazy" side, but I will always give my heart and soul into any job you give me. Before I came to PARDS, I was a driving horse and I will have to say that sometimes I make it my daily goal to "drive" the staff crazy. But they love me for my quirky attitude! See you around soon!!



Horse Boarding Available

We are accepting horses to board in our pastures and outside shelters here at PARDS. We will feed and graze your baby plus we have an automatic watering system so they will always have fresh water, a real bonus through Summer and Winter! We love to have animals on the property but we do keep any new horses in strict quarantine for two weeks before allowing them into our pastures and buildings for all of their health and safety.

You are welcome to use our indoor or outdoor arenas for exercise and training except during lesson sessions, which are always posted in the barn and available from the office.

The price is just \$275 per month and we need you to ensure your horse has worming and vaccinations up-to-date and a negative Coggin's test. If you have any questions, come in and visit the office, take a walk through the barns and talk about the environment we can offer you and your horse with our barn staff and instructors.



"Anything else you can offer besides horse sense?"





Calendar

- October 10th -Thanksgiving, Office Closed
- November 11th -Remembrance Day, Office Closed
- November 19th -Dine & Dance at Five Mile Hall
- December 5th -Volunteer of the Year Awards Pancake Breakfast—Golden Age Centre—
-Everyone is Invited!
- December 24th—January 2nd - Christmas Break, Office Closed
- January 4th-6th -No Classes
- January 3rd -Regular Classes (this is a make-up day for Jan 31st)
- January 31st -No Classes



The Year to Date...

What a year it has been, crazy busy with all the activities we have had going on! We participated in the Kay McVey Smith & Carlstrom Supports Charity Golf Tournament, TC Equipment Grande Opening, Giant Tiger Anniversary Celebration, the Maddhatters/CJXX Stompede Kick-Off Breakfast, Grande Prairie Chuckwagon Heritage Foundation Dash-for-Cash, Stompede, ATCO Electric Employee Appreciation Event and our Annual FUNdride & PEP Games.

The FUNdride was looking questionable when it snowed the day before, but as the big day dawned, the sun shone and we had perfect weather for our outside activities. Pancakes and sausages were on the grill with thanks to the Grande Prairie Rotary Club BBQ Crew from everyone who needed their morning sustenance! Registration was in the morning then the walkers headed on their trail, the ATV riders on theirs, horse riders on their way too. There were wagon rides for those who just wanted a seat to watch from. The fun activities were rounded off with face and arm painting for everyone to enjoy the day. When the rides were completed, everyone met back at the future site of our facility in the big tents we had set up. Everything was held there so we could start enjoying the site, even without our buildings to be. Beef on the bun rounded off the day of smiles with thanks from H & M Meats for their donation of cooking and slicing to get everyone fed.

To all the participants, volunteers and sponsors, a huge thanks for helping that special day bring in \$25,000 for the PARDS Therapeutic Programming!





International Volunteer Day Celebration Breakfast & Volunteer of the Year Awards

~ December 5th 7 - 9am ~

This annual event is organized by the Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau in honour of the many volunteers that give of their time and themselves to support the programs, services and organizations that enhance the community for all of us. We would like to extend a special invitation to all of our wonderful volunteers to be a part of this event to celebrate, socialize and enjoy of the culinary expertise of the Grande Prairie Rotary Club as they cook up a hearty pancake breakfast and we put the spotlight where it belongs—on you!!

Santa Parade

It might seem a little early to mention but the perennial favourite welcoming in of the Christmas season is the Santa Parade in downtown Grande Prairie. This year it's to be held December 4th instead of the last weekend of November so mark your calendars now!

There are always some beautiful, big horses and we might even have our minis trained by then to pull a small cart!

Christmas Giving

Perhaps a thank you gift to your favourite people this year is an annual membership to PARDS, just \$20 per family so they can come and visit our beautiful horses. Many people have never experienced the friendly personalities of horses like ours and wouldn't know how to even approach a horse. Give them a gift of a new experience and support our Association at the same time. Let them know when the office is open and when the next sessions start, maybe they would be interested in joining our public riding lessons or just coming in and seeing what we are all about.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Elder Finch & Elder Larson

 written by Tori Klimp

Elder Finch and Elder Larson came to PARDS on a mission! And I mean literally. These two young men came from Utah as missionaries and are currently stationed in Grande Prairie giving their time and skills to help out our community. We have had the pleasure to have worked with these two gentlemen who have come to PARDS over the past few months and donated their time. We are so grateful to each of them.

We would like to thank Elder Finch and Elder Larson with a special thank you to Elder Faber. PARDS is blessed to have had these hardworking individuals dedicating their time and energy to help us in achieving our mission. Although they do not have any horse experience, they make up for it with their array of other maintenance skills and



willingness to put their muscles to work! Any job we have for these men, no matter how messy or difficult, they always get the job done efficiently and at lightning speed. It's hard to keep up with them! They have done so much for us, coming back each week for all sorts of jobs with a smile! The staff at PARDS greatly appreciate the help these young men have given us and we will miss them when they are gone. Thanks guys!





PARDS Wish List

PARDS is currently looking for the following items:

- ◆ Electric or Cordless drill
- ◆ Winter coolers, rain sheets and fly sheets, size 78-80 blankets
- ◆ Round & Square bales of Timothy & Brohm mixed with 25-35% Alfalfa
- ◆ Fuel or fuel card donations - diesel and natural gas
- ◆ Western saddle covers
- ◆ Western bridles
- ◆ Draft-size bridle
- ◆ Horse toys and exercise balls
- ◆ Durable black hose

Current Volunteer Opportunities...

Special Events Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist with upcoming special events and information booth events. Current Upcoming Events include:

Dine and Dance Committee Volunteers: Assisting with planning and preparation.

Dine and Dance Event Volunteers:

Set-up: **Friday, November 18th** Evening of event: **Saturday, November 19th** Tear-down: **Sunday, November, 20th**

If you are interested in assisting with any of our upcoming events, please contact the PARDS office at 780-538-3211.

Bingo!

Our next Bingo is September 21st.

Please contact Gayle at
(780)538-3211

to sign up & volunteer.

Future Dates: Oct.2 afternoon
Dec 21 afternoon

PARDS Therapeutic Riding Sessions - Day-time Volunteers

Would you like to make a difference by getting directly involved in our Therapeutic Riding Lessons?

On Mondays through to Thursdays we are seeking Volunteers to help during lessons with the following:

- ◆ **Leading horses around the arena**
- ◆ **Supporting Riders as a Side Walker**
- ◆ **Maintaining the barn**

Even if you don't have much experience with horses but have a love for them and for helping your community, it's very easy to learn, and our experienced instructors will show you how.

If you have an hour or two to spare each week, or more, and are looking for a fulfilling experience, please contact the office at 780-538-3211.

Lost Property

Just a reminder, we are starting to stockpile those naughty wandering sweaters and hats and the pile is overly large! If you have had a student here recently, especially over the Summer, please call by or think about what you might be missing—we are washing them and making a donation to Goodwill by the end of September. The kittens have made a home in a few very comfortable clothes so the lost property pile is especially hairy these days!

We'll see you again next time with our Winter issue, out in January 2012, so until then, we hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season!

Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (P.A.R.D.S.)

has been offering equine assisted therapy to children and adults

with physical, intellectual, behavioral and

emotional challenges since 1984.

P.A.R.D.S.
RR1, Site 24, Box2
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 2Z8

Phone:780.538.3211
Fax: 780.538.3683
info@pards.ca



VISIT US ONLINE

@

WWW.PARDS.CA