



## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016



*in loving memory of  
our beloved Laddy*

2016 started off with a BANG, not the good kind of bang, but the kind that stops you in your tracks. Our beloved Laddy foundered February 3rd. He had been the mainstay of the program since 2004. Despite the best efforts of volunteers, farrier, and vet, it was necessary to send him on his way on February 27th, but not without over 30 people able to come and say their goodbye's thanks to the good efforts of Aleta. In the words of Amy, who had been riding Laddy since 2005 **"We love you, we miss you, we thank you"**



On the upside Hailey, who had been in training since August 2015, was able to step right into the program. She, with Blondie, the senior, was able to fulfill the needs of the program not only in the winter session, but through the spring session as well.



*The 14th annual Mother's Day Ride/Walk-a-thon was dedicated to Laddy's memory which included a Celebration of his life, raised \$4,500.00*



Leah Ostlund won second place in the Sea to Sea video competition in a Canada wide competition organized by the Canadian Para-Equestrian committee of Equestrian Canada. Also newsworthy, our head instructor, Jane James received Governor General's Caring Canadian Award.

Special thanks to Salt Spring Foundation who provided funds in 2015 towards the purchase of three custom made saddles. However, as we had only purchased two saddles in 2015 they allowed us to apply the remaining funds towards the purchase of Spud, a welsh cob, who arrived in June. He settled right in to the summer program, again taught by Irene Lintner from CTRA.

We have our eye on Big Cal, a Halflinger, like Laddy, but he will have to wait until next year.



In the meantime, Percy arrived at the farm early in July, to the delight of everyone. His Hee-haw hello is a joy to share.

Jane has taken on the added role of mentoring Morgan to becoming a Basic Instructor as well as John and Jacqueline in their next level of CANTRA certification. As well, Amy is trying out the position as Horse Management Coordinator – resulting in less work for Erika and two full days off for Suzy and me!



In the meantime, we again were the recipients of an exquisite quilt from Gwen Denluck, quilter extraordinaire! The lucky winner was Jackie Stewart from Ripon, North Yorkshire, home of Downton Abbey! The raffle raised \$3,000.00! Board Member Phil Clarkson tries it out for comfort.

This year we had our own tent at the Fall Fair. The theme was “We’ve got a good thing growing”. It gave us time to reflect on how far we have come since we started in 2001 with two riders, one horse, one instructor, three volunteers, with a four week program expanding over the years to now have three horses, 18 riders, four instructors with 34 weeks of program and over 2800 volunteer hours!

Our volunteers are vital to the program and we are delighted to welcome new and sincerely appreciate those currently with us and those from the past. We are also grateful to everyone who supports us, as like volunteers, we could not make it happen without you!

Our “meet and greet” for parents and volunteers in November was well attended.



*“I do wish I could meet the parents and tell them how much I enjoy working with their kids! It does not matter how we all feel when we arrive rider and volunteers alike we all leave feeling better about ourselves and our accomplishments. Therapeutic riding is a highlight of my week!”*

*- Tish*

Meanwhile, 2017 is shaping up to be an exciting year! Follow us on our new and improved web site or facebook, as we launch our Relocation Campaign!

**Wishing you and yours peace and joy  
for the Holiday Season and 2017!**

*Liz*

President and proud member of SSTR