



SaltSpring Therapeutic Riding Association

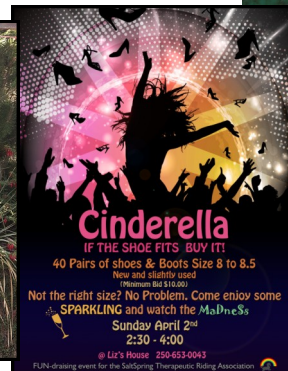
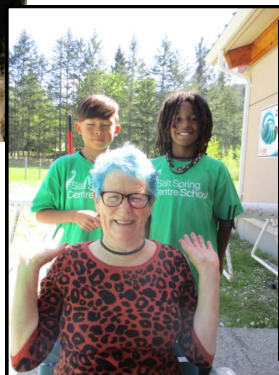
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017



2017 WAS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR. Not only was Canada celebrating 150 years but SSTRAs was celebrating one-tenth that many years for our ride-walk-a-thon! The logo that we created included words reflecting the values and experiences that are shared by both Canada and SSTRAs. T-shirts with the logo were given to all of our riders. See if you can spot the personalized "Salt Spring style" one further down in the newsletter!



It takes an army of volunteers to keep the program running and not everything is glamorous: best dressed goes to Tall Liz as she sets out to harrow the ring; Skylar enjoys his job even in the pouring rain. We appreciate the commitment, resources and resilience that each of you bring.



Fundraising was made easier this year with the help of Salt Spring Center School who held a hair cutting challenge with proceeds coming to SSTRAs! The boys did a great job with my hair! And this year the incredible Gwen Denluck provided not just one but TWO of her impressive quilts which meant we could raffle more tickets, raising just under \$4,000.00! Thank you Gwen. Congratulations to prize winners Nicky Arnoldus and Tina O'Donnell. Special thanks also goes to my friend Leslie Kollar, who, as it turns out, is a shoe-a-holic, donating 45 pairs of shoes for a fun fundraising event.



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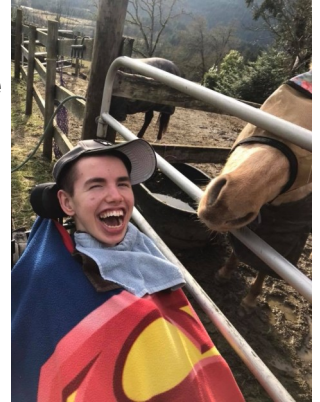
Four other components are also essential to keeping the program running:

Our instructors: Jane James has retired after three years with us. Her skills, empathy and knowledge will be greatly missed. Thanks also to her partner Owen who also volunteered his time making things for us including the new mounting block and dressage letters. We wish them well in their next adventures. Thank you Lynn, Jacqueline and John for all you do.

Donors: We thank each and every person, service group, corporation and foundation.

The horses: we definitely could not do it without them! Not sure who loved the visit more – Austin or Blondie who almost got his Star Wars hat.

Staff: Erika, Laura and Amy, together with a dedicated Board, which welcomes new members Johanne Skora and Janice Ferguson, keeps the machine in motion.



Other exciting events this year included a visit by the Girl Guides to obtain their horse badge; a trip off island to the Musical Ride for three of our riders; and another first – Leah attaining her Rider 1 Certificate! The year culminated with 13 volunteers and members enjoying munching and watching Shirley Valentine with a cameo appearance by Grace Jordan – the other Shirley.



Wishing you the best of the season: Peace Joy and Hope

Life

Feeling blessed to live in Canada

