

Fall 2007



**Why did the pony
have to gargle?**

**.... because he
was a little hoarse!**

Calendar of Events:

- **Clean Up Day**
Saturday Sep 22
10AM to 2PM
Bring your rubber gloves
and smiles!
- **Fall Session**
10 weeks
Sep 24 to Dec 3
- **Winter Session**
10 weeks
Jan 7 to Mar 12

**Note: There may be slight
changes in the schedule**

Riding High



Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society
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www.rtesrichmond.com

Great Success in Spring & Summer Events

You'll read in this issue about the participation and successes RTES has had at a number of events this year:

CanTRA's Spring Conference, the Phae Collins Memorial Horse Show, Family Picnic & Volunteer Appreciation Day, Pony Rides at Twin Oaks Derby and a visit to the Vancouver Mounted Police Horse Stables.



Frances Clark wins CanTRA's Outstanding Volunteer Award

RTES staff attended CanTRA's 2007 Conference - "The Power of the Horse" from May 4 to 6. The conference was hosted by the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association in Duncan, BC on beautiful Vancouver Island.

It was a great weekend full of informative workshops and very knowledgeable guest speakers.

On Saturday evening at the awards banquet, RTES staff accepted the *Rhonda Davies Award for Outstanding Volunteer* on behalf of our Board Chair, Frances Clark.

This CanTRA award is presented to a volunteer who deserves recognition for their contribution to therapeutic riding in Canada.

Congratulations Frances on receiving this very well deserved award!



L to R: Sandra, Kitty, Frances, Erin and Joan



“Riders Got Talent”



We wrapped up our Spring session with all four staff members plus six volunteers taking 6 riders and 3 horses to compete at the Phae Collins Memorial Horse Show.



The show is hosted each year by Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities in Langley.

It was very busy, but we had a great day and RTES riders did extremely well—**taking home many ribbons including 6 first place ribbons.**

Madeleine Wieczorek also came home with the Reserve Hi-Point trophy for the Introduction to Dressage.

Equitation walk/trot assisted Jr/Sr
Angela Schuster - 2nd
Robbie Armstrong - 1st

Equitation walk/trot assisted Jr.
Adrian Christopher - 2nd

A special thanks to our volunteers:

- Anne Hynds** (who also helped by grooming horses the day before)
- Debbie Lawrence**
- Stacey Cassinos**
- Mariko Vaughn**
- Katrina Zimich**
- Andrew Hass**

Equitation walk/trot assisted Sr.
Coulson Hoogveld - 4th

Equitation walk/trot Jr.
Natasha Sanford – 4th

Equitation walk/trot/canter Sr.
Madeleine Wieczorek – 2nd

Obstacle Course walk/trot assisted Sr.
Coulson Hoogveld – 2nd
Angela Schuster – 1st

Obstacle Course walk/trot assisted Jr.
Robbie Armstrong – 3rd (tie)
Adrian Christopher 3rd (tie)
Natasha Sanford – 1st

Pole Bending trot assisted
Robbie Armstrong – 1st

Pole Bending trot Sr.
Madeleine Wieczorek – 1st

Pole Bending trot Jr.
Natasha Sanford – 6th place

Intro to Dressage walk/trot Sr.
Coulson Hoogveld – 2nd (tie)
Angela Schuster – 2nd (tie)
Madeleine Wieczorek – 1st

Intro to Dressage walk/trot Jr.
Adrian Christopher – 3rd

Many thanks to Val Woida of:



“Horse on Course Hauling”
for donating transportation of our horses.

And our lovely horses:

Harley, Dandy and Phoebe



The Winner's Circle—Robbie with Phoebe

June, 2007

Our son Robbie started riding with RTES just over two years ago and the success he has had shows in this picture. He is pictured in the Winner's Circle being awarded a first place blue ribbon, at his very first horse show, the Phae Collins Memorial Horse Show in Langley!



*A Big Shot is
a Little Shot
that kept
shooting!*

Robbie was born with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that results in physical and developmental disabilities. He is 14 years old and has faced many challenges in his young life. Due to PWS, Robbie has very weak muscle tone and is very small statured which does not let him succeed in typical athletic activities that his peers enjoy.

Two years ago, we heard through friends in our “special needs” community about the program at RTES. Robbie has always loved horses (a surprise to his mom who finds the big animals quite intimidating!) and was excited to join the program. There was a lengthy waiting list and he had to wait patiently until there was an opportunity for him to start.

Robbie has not looked back since starting his equestrian passion. Early in the program, the focus was to get him comfortable approaching the horse, then sitting on the horse with a leader and two side walkers and slowly learning how to walk around the arena. The progression from gaining familiarity with the routines at the stable, to learning simple games while on horseback, and then increasing his horsemanship skills has been wonderful to watch. Robbie can now ride unassisted with a leader and can do a rising trot holding his reins only – an amazing accomplishment!

The staff at RTES work very hard to provide a wonderful and safe environment for all the participants. The benefits that we have seen with Robbie since participating include significantly improved core body strength, better balance and coordination as well as increased confidence in his equestrian skills. Another wonderful benefit to Robbie has the incredible sense of achievement – the pride he had in winning the ribbons (two firsts and a third!) in his first show was huge. He loves to share his accomplishments with friends and family.

RTES is a wonderful organization committed to providing a quality therapeutic riding program to children who benefit so much from the experience. RTES relies on support from the community to keep the program going and we greatly appreciate your consideration to help us. As a parent of a child who has benefited so greatly from the program, I can't speak highly enough of this wonderful organization.

Cindy Armstrong
Proud mom of an RTES Equestrian

Picnic in the Park

What a fun day our **Family Picnic and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ** was on June 24th at King George Park in Richmond.

It was great to have the families of our riders get to know each other better as well as have time to get to know our volunteers.

It's so important we recognize our volunteers who are vital to us. Without them, RTES would not be able to continue this important and needed service to our community.

We have a large group of volunteers who give their time and energy generously—thank you so much to all of you.

A special thank-you also to Lisa Christopher who cleans our lounge while her son is having his lesson.

If you're considering volunteering—don't hesitate—it's so rewarding!

email Joan at:

volunteer_rtes@shaw.ca



We are so happy to recognize the following volunteers who have each generously given hours of their time to the RTES program for over 5 years.

Thank you for caring so much. You're incredible!

- Brin Powell
- Anne Hynds
- Joan Thomsen
- Anastasia Cassinos



2007's Major Donors

It is with great respect and appreciation that we list our major supporters for the RTES program year 2006-2007. Your contributions made it possible for us to provide therapeutic riding classes to a number of children with disabilities in our area. These children and their families benefit greatly from this program—so on behalf of everyone associated with RTES we want to express our thanks to the following for their support.



Richmond Chinatown Lions Club donation



BOM Employees Fund donation

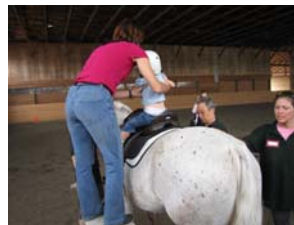
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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans | Pioneer Pub |
| B.C. Gaming | Steveston Harbour Lions Club |
| BOM Financial Group | Rick Hansen Man In Motion Foundation |
| Burnaby Lougheed Lions | Richmond Central Lions Club |
| City of Richmond | Richmond Chinatown Lions Club |
| Coast Capital Savings | Richmond Friends of Children Society |
| CKNW Orphans Fund | Richmond Firefighters Society |
| Fisher Foundation | Vancouver Sun Children's fund |
| GoldenPalace.com | Quadra Chemicals Ltd |
| Kiwanis Club of Richmond | YVR Golf For Kids |
| Loyal Protestant Association | Mrs. Wai |
| Milan & Maureen Ilich Foundation | Parents Fundraising Committee |

Pony Rides at Twin Oaks Derby

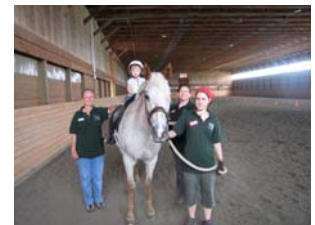
While riders and horses came from across the country to compete at the Twin Oaks Derby, children came for an exciting ride on an RTES therapist.



Where is he?



Here we go....cool!



Can I go again? Can I?



He's so big, but riding is great!



Some of the many volunteers-thanks for making it fun!



End of the day.

Colouring Contest Winners

Choosing a winner was difficult because there were many great entries. So... our panel voted (like American Idol). And the final results were ...

Two 1st Place Ties — Congratulations Adrian & Lucy !



The contest picture was drawn by Constable Mike & used with his permission.



"Constable Adrian" on Maverick



"Constable Lucy" on Maverick

Runners-Up

Richard



Robbie



Sabina



William



Vancouver Mounted Police Officer, Constable Mike (upper right), provided the winners with their prize—a tour of the Vancouver Mounted Police Horse Stables and a ride on police horse Maverick. Constable Doug (upper left) assisted. He is the first certified police mounted officer *instructor* in Canada.

Constable Mike gave an awesome tour explaining so many interesting facts about horses. Here he is demonstrating how horses move their ears to hear what is around them.



Everyone, including the winners' families, truly enjoyed the tour. And we're pretty sure that Constables Adrian & Lucy loved their rides on Maverick. Apparently they didn't need instruction—they were told that it was clear they already are experienced riders!

And a big congratulations to all four Runners-Up. All of you showed especially good effort and artistic skill.

Richard, Robbie, Sabina & William (in alphabetical order)

Each Runner-Up received a special ribbon with a bookmark and can be seen in the banner to the left. What a great job everyone!

Photos, Fun, Puzzles and More.....

1. What should you do to show you're friendly when you meet a horse for the first time?

- offer to shake hands
- blow gently up its nose
- cross your eyes and smile

2. If you're using coconut shells to make a sound like a galloping horse, which rhythm would you use?

- clip clop clip clop, clip clop clip clop
- clip clip, clop clop, clip clip, clop clop
- clip clop clip, clip clop clip

3. Who do you call when your horse needs new horseshoes?

- a furrier
- a farrier
- a harrier

(answers on last page)

S	A	D	D	L	E	Z	A	G	H	I	U
H	R	A	O	M	A	N	E	P	A	O	Y
O	A	T	S	M	U	S	T	A	N	G	P
W	N	O	S	T	R	I	L	S	D	A	A
H	I	S	T	H	A	Y	S	T	A	L	L
I	C	W	I	T	H	E	R	S	L	L	O
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X	H	O	O	F	R	O	K	K	E	T	M
W	A	I	J	M	U	Z	Z	L	E	C	Y

CAN YOU FIND THE HORSE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE ABOVE?

Across:

NOSTRILS
 WITHERS
 MANE
 MUSTANG
 HOOF
 EQUINE
 STALL
 SADDLE
 MUZZLE
 OATS
 BIT
 HAY

Down:

VET
 HALTER
 TROT
 NICKER
 PALOMINO
 GALLOP
 SHOW
 STIRRUP
 REIN
 HAND
 KNEE
 WHINNEY



We're on the Web

www.rtesrichmond.com

Our Mission

To provide a quality therapeutic riding program for children and youth with disabilities in order to promote physical, social and psychological well being.

Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society

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Phone: 604-241-7837

Fax: 604-241-7858

Fundraising and Special Events

Phone: 604-277-3158

Donation forms using Visa or Mastercard can be downloaded from our website

You'll also find a "Wish List" should you want to help in other ways

RTES Membership (\$25 annually) and Donation Form

All donations are tax deductible. Registered Charity #89415 0135 RR0001

I wish to support the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society.

Enclosed is \$_____ for Membership and/or \$_____ for Donation

Date _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Answers to Questions on Page 7:

1. What should you do to show you're friendly when you meet a horse for the first time?
Answer: b. blow gently up its nose
2. If you're using coconut shells to make a sound like a galloping horse, which rhythm should you use?
Answer: c. clip clop clip, clip clop clip
3. Who do you call when your horse needs new horseshoes?
Answer: b. a farrier