

Fall 2008

# Riding High



Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society  
13671 No. 3 Road, Richmond BC V7A 1X7 604-241-7837



## New Member in Our Herd

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 RTES was able to purchase "Victor" from a family who loved him dearly, but their daughter had outgrown him and he needed to move on and find another home and job.

Our Instructor Erin found him in a local advertising magazine and made an appointment to see him at once. He was a true gentleman and seemed to fit RTES's specifications perfectly

After a trial period here at Twin Oaks and with the generous grant from McDonald's,

RTES was able to purchase the 14 year old bay Quarter Horse Gelding.

You will see more of "Victor" as he starts to do more and more in his role as our new "Therapist".



## Chocolate Sale time Again!

It's the third year for the RTES chocolate horseshoe fundraiser. This program began three years ago when it was determined there was a need for more assistance with the huge job of raising money to sustain the program. This was started not only as a fundraiser, but as an opportunity for the families of the riders to be included in the Society's fundraising efforts, thereby helping to raise awareness of our ongoing need for assistance.

A huge thank you goes out to Marie Murtagh, one of our parents, who spends countless hours each year ordering, picking up, processing orders and delivering chocolates to our families. Each year the sale has been a little more successful than the last, as many people are able to build upon their previous year's lists.

This year, we've had many people collect orders over and above their personal needs for gifts etc., and offer these fine quality chocolates for sale in the community. Thank you to everyone for your assistance, once again, making this a successful fundraiser for RTES.



### Calendar of Events:

- *Fall Session: 10 wks*  
*Sep 24 to Dec 3*
- *Winter Session : 10 wks*  
*Jan 5 to Mar 11*
- *Spring Session: 10 wks*  
*Mar 20 to Jun 8*
- *Summer Session: 5 wks*  
*Jun 22 to Jul 22*
- *Sparkling Champagne*  
*Lucheon April 5*

## RTES's Got Talent!

RTES attended the Phae Collins Show again this year held at Langley PRDA on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

There were a lot of smiling faces by riders, families, volunteers and staff! This is a wonderful show to attend, with everyone always having a great time.

Riders that got all gussied up this year in show clothes included: Coulson, Isabell, Lucy, Natasha, Robbie and William. All our participants took home rosettes in all classes they entered and one even got to ride a Norwegian Fjord named "Gimli" while "Ben" was working off some extra excitement with Sandra!

RTES staff, riders and families would like to send out a big thank you to: Stacey, Anne, Jennifer, Mariko, Dave, and Feli who volunteered time out of their weekends to help make it a successful day. Outings like this would not be possible without the help and dedication of volunteers.



## Volunteering

Welcome back to all the veteran volunteers! The fall session has been a busy and fun time for all. Special welcome to our new volunteers: Ania, Elise, Kathy, Leah, Natalie, Rob and Shelley. All the volunteers have been wonderful this session and we hope you will continue to donate your time with us in the new year.

The Winter Session will run for 10 weeks beginning Monday Jan 5 and will end Wednesday March 11. Volunteer Coordinator, Joan Simmons will be planning some interesting information and social nights and hopes you will all attend. If you have any ideas, please let her know and she will try to include it.

Please mark your calendar to attend an Open House Appreciation Tea being held December 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 in our lounge from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Let's make the holiday season a joyful one for all. There will be tea, coffee, snacks and some surprises. See you then!

## Bio: Sandra Evans, Program Director

Sandra grew up a horse crazy kid in a non-horse family. At the age of twelve, she found a local riding school where she was able to pursue her passion. Spending countless hours at the stable, riding and working, there were plenty of opportunities for learning.

At the age of eighteen, Sandra purchased her first horse. Centaur was a great companion for several years and together they explored every rural corner of Port Coquitlam. Trail riding was the first passion, then came showing. Competitive riding was a major part of Sandra's horse days for many years, showing in hunter/jumper and hack classes primarily.

After moving to Mission in 1984, Sandra received 2 year old Jackson as a gift. At the age of 24, he is still a great companion. It is during this time that she discovered and began competing in dressage. Training with a coach and several different clinicians, she and Jackson had embarked on a long journey together.

In 1994, Sandra enrolled in the newly developed "Equestrian Coaching and Management Program" at Kwantlen College in Langley with the goal of becoming a certified riding coach. Upon completion of the course and attainment of certification, she opened a small riding school in Mission. At this same time, she was raising two wonderful boys, one of whom was showing signs of developmental delays and was later diagnosed with Autism.

After several years learning about Autism through workshops, conferences, books and professionals, the two worlds came together with a single phone call. A newly formed therapeutic riding program in Aldergrove was looking for a certified instructor willing to teach for them and work towards CanTRA certification. That's how it all began.

After working for two different therapeutic riding programs, Sandra accepted a position with Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society in 2001. Today, she the Society's Program Director and takes great pride in the program and its' staff and volunteers as well as the many success stories attributable to RTES.

## The Winner's Circle - Phae Collins Show



William and his ribbon with two of our Paralympians, Jennifer McKenzie and Ashley Gowanlock

## Two Horses

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it.

From a distance they look like every other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse you will see that he is blind. If you're listening, you will hear the sound that comes from the smaller horse. Attached to her halter is a small bell—it lets her blind friend know where she is so he can follow her.

She is always checking on him and he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she

Coulson sitting proud on Benjamin



Robbie with a great smile on Eclipse



stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like these horses, just because we are not all perfect or because we have problems or challenges someone watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Excerpts from an email—author unknown

### The RTES Team

*Who on the staff,  
spends a week  
chasing cows on a  
farm in Alberta  
every year?  
And why?*

*See the next news-  
letter to see if you  
guessed right.*



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### Our Equine Team



#### Where's Phoebe ?

Phoebe was getting a bit too old for our program and needed to go to a comfy life in retirement. We'll sure miss having her. She is enjoying her time in a large field being spoiled by her new owner.



#### Where's Eclipse ?

Eclipse's owner also knew how great he was and decided she would like him back. We thank her for the time she let us have with him.



Ben

Dandy



Victor



Harley

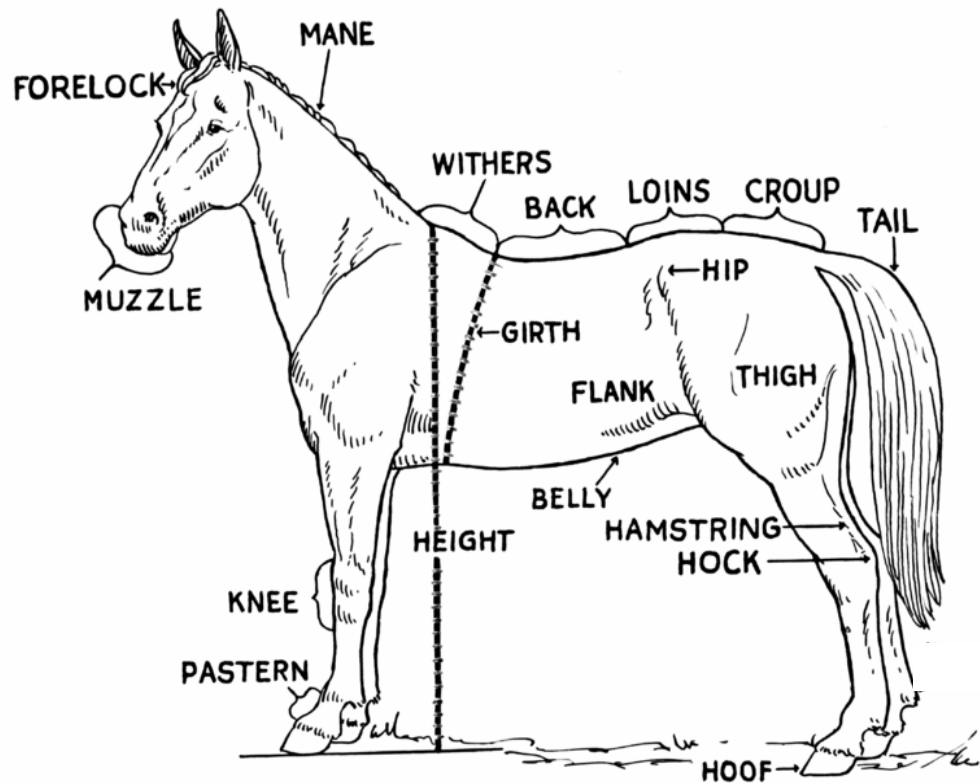
Ginny



## Horse Anatomy

Pay close attention to all the parts of the horse.

Next newsletter there will be a contest with some fabulous prizes!



## Horse Hee Haws...

Q: What is the difference between a horse and a duck?

A: One goes quick and the other goes quack!

Q: How do you lead a horse to water?

A: With lots of carrots.

Q: What animal has more "hands" than feet?

A: Why, a horse, of course!

Q: What does it mean if you find a horse shoe?

A: Some poor horse is walking around in his socks.





*We're on the Web*

*[www.rtesrichmond.com](http://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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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 \_\_\_\_\_