

2 0 1 4 W I N T E R E D I T I O N

# RTES *Riding High*

Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society \* Making a Difference in the lives of Children with Disabilities

## WAY TO GO RTES FAMILY & FRIENDS!

In October, Marie Murtagh, Parents and Board Member, started the annual Chocolate Horse Shoe Campaign. Signs were posted in the lounge, the Twin Oaks barn and on Facebook. Many parents, volunteers and caregivers signed up to purchase the tasty treats for \$5.00ea. The Callebaut Chocolate Horse Shoes were given as thank you's, used as stocking stuffers and gifts to Therapists and served as a fundraiser that our families and friends could easily participate. The 2013 profits doubled those of 2012, making it truly exciting to report that this year we raised a whopping \$3000.00!

To those that bought or sold, we truly thank you for your supporting the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society!

### Gaming Grant Approved

On December 19th, RTES was presented with a cheque from the Province of British Columbia in the amount of \$40,000.00! This cheque was a result of a Community Gaming Grant that RTES applies for on an annual basis and thankfully we were successful again with our application. The funds from this application cover a significant portion of our annual budget.

John Yap, MLA presented the cheque to Board Member Joan Oystensen, Program Manager Erin McRae and Copper on a chilly day before Christmas Break.



## Message from our Board Chair

Hi RTES families and supporters! My name is Cindy Armstrong and I am the new Chair of RTES having taken over in September when our long time Chair Frances Clark retired. We are indebted to Frances for her dedication to RTES for many years.

I became involved with RTES over 10 years ago when a friend (and fellow Board member) Marie Murtagh told me about the program. Our son, Robbie, is now 20 years old and was born with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a rare genetic syndrome that presents with physical and developmental challenges. Robbie was always fascinated with horses and well, the rest is history! He loves riding and has been very successful in developing his equestrian skills over the years in lessons with Erin. We have seen firsthand the significant benefits that therapeutic riding provides.

I joined the Board over 6 years ago and really enjoy being involved with RTES. It is easy to dedicate time and energy to a program that you fully believe in. Our program is well managed by Erin and her team so my job is easy. I am also well supported by a wonderful Board of Directors made up of volunteers and parents who work very hard to make sure our program is a success.

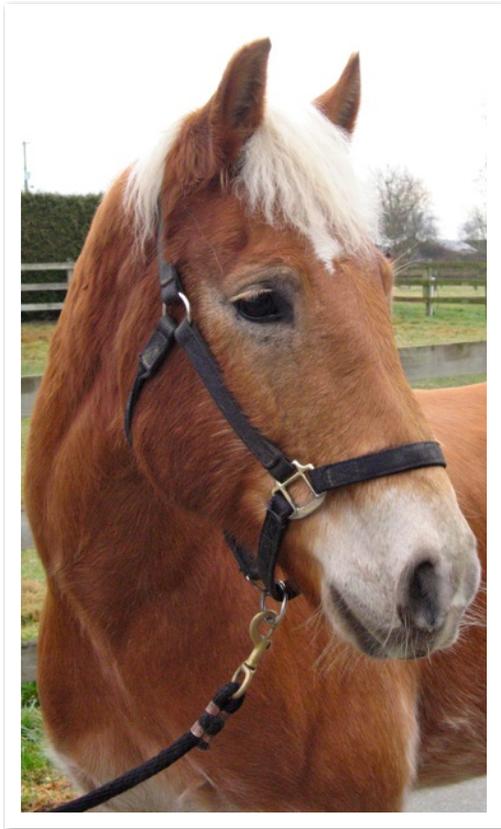
Our main focus is on fundraising as over 85% of our operating costs come from our fundraising efforts. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for us, please feel free to contact me at [boardchair\\_rtes@shaw.ca](mailto:boardchair_rtes@shaw.ca) – we welcome feedback! I would also encourage you to look at your employers, service organizations and other local corporations to see if they would be willing to support our wonderful program. If you know of any potential supporters, please let me know and our fundraising committee will be happy to contact them and provide further information on RTES.

Thank you for supporting RTES!



## Meet Myles

Myles arrived Monday January 6th and is here for a 2 month trial period to see if he would like to be one of our 'equine therapists'. Myles is a 10 year old Hafliger Gelding owned by Mona Hickson of Surrey BC. Mona has graciously allowed RTES to try Myles for 2 months to see if he will like living at Twin Oaks and accept our strange toys, mounting methods and indoor arena.



If Myles passes the tests and settles in well, RTES will purchase the gelding at the end of two months. This will be possible by a recent donation from the STEVESTON ROTARY CLUB by way of the RCMP Musical Ride that was hosted by Twin Oaks Farm in August 2013 that the Rotary Club organized.

## Winter Weather / Class Cancellations

Unfortunately it is that time of year again when the weather may cause RTES to cancel riding lessons due to snow, ice and or extreme cold temperatures. This is a reminder to those that bring riders to the program that if classes need to be cancelled, staff will do their best to make notifications before 8am by sending emails and posting the information on our website ([www.rtesrichmond](http://www.rtesrichmond)) in the "News and Events" section.

This is also cold and flu season, and because of this, we receive many late notice cancellations from our class volunteers. When staff are notified by volunteers of a cancellation, we do our very best to contact others on our list to fill the vacant positions, however; we are not always successful. In some instances parents or caregivers may be asked to help side walk. If you are able and willing, please be sure to bring appropriate clothing and footwear with you just in case.

In other circumstances, staff may not be able to fill all the positions required to run the class safely as scheduled and we may need to either cancel or split a class. If we cancel a class, RTES will provide a credit toward the riders next session. If we have enough people to safely take one rider at a time, we will split the class and have each rider ride for 20 minutes. In this situation, there will not be a credit issued. In the event that we need to split a class, staff will make every effort to advise the families involved prior to their arrival.

We hope you can understand that canceling or splitting a class is only used as our last option and that because safety is our number one priority, it is sometimes our only option.

## Things to know:

- In September 2013 Program Manager Erin McRae was awarded the highest level of coaching certification by the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA), her CanTRA Coach level.
- In December 2013, Juno left the RTES program as she was not truly happy being part of our team of 'therapists'.
- RTES will once again be selling raffle tickets to win 2 round trip airfares to any West Jet destination. Stay tuned for details...tickets will be available soon!
- A date for the annual fundraiser will be set at the January Board Meeting. RTES will notify family, friends and supporters of the date ASAP.
- Monday February 10th is a Stat Holiday (Family Day) in BC, RTES will be closed for lessons that day.

### *Dates to Remember:*

Winter Session: January 13 - March 12

RTES Closed Monday February 10th

Spring Break: March 17 - 28

Annual Fundraiser: Date TBA

Spring Session: March 31 - June 18

# 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The 2014 calendar is posted in our lounge and it will be on our website shortly. Please check [www.rtesrichmond.com](http://www.rtesrichmond.com) and the lounge for updated information regarding the Special Event Dates. Information will be updated as dates are set.

## Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society 2014

January '14							February '14							March '14						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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April '14							May '14							June '14						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

July '14							August '14							September '14							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					
							31														

October '14							November '14							December '14						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	1		
							30													

## Notes

<http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/>

LESSONS
Winter session - January 13 - March 12
Spring session - March 31 - June 18
Summer session - July 7 - 30
Summer Camp - August 25 - 28
Fall session - September 15 - December 10

**STAT HOLIDAY - NO CLASSES - RTES CLOSED**

SPECIAL EVENTS
LWYH Fundraiser
RTES AGM -
RTES In-house show -

**PROGRAM BREAKS**

# 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.



## 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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