

2 0 1 1 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

RTES *Riding High*

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

Lead with Your Heart Luncheon - Success!

Calendar of Events

Spring Session
April 4 - June 13

RTES CLOSED
April 25 & May 23

Summer Session
July 4 - July 27

Summer Camp
August 22 - 25

Summer Camp
August 29 - Sept 1

Fall Session
Sept 26 - Dec 5

When we consider the tough economic times – the number of fundraising events being held in the area that are competing for every available dollar – the Major Disaster that occurred in Japan, which impacted a significant number of people living in Richmond, which also triggered a number of fundraising events in support of the people in Japan, the success of our recent Fundraising Luncheon was all the more rewarding.

To everyone who attended – donated items for the Auctions – purchased raffle tickets – and/or volunteered time I say a rousing THANK YOU! It would not have been a such a success without your involvement.

This event is however, only the beginning of our fundraising efforts for 2011 as our annual budget is just over \$200,000.

To everyone who helps contribute to RTES' fundraising efforts, a huge thank you.

Frances

Congratulations to the following winners!

1st Prize: 2 round trip tickets to any West Jet Destination

CANDACE DOVEY

2nd Prize: \$250 Gift Card to Best Buy

NINA GREAVES

3rd Prize: \$100 Gift Card to any HBC Affiliate

CHERYL DOUGHERTY

Volunteers

This winter was a cold, but very successful one for volunteers at RTES. Usually the winter wind and rain scares some people away. We are very fortunate to have some very dedicated people and a wonderful co-ordinator that helped make the last 3 months of lessons operate smoothly. The Instructors rely so heavily on the presence and patience of the volunteers that spend their time here each week to make the lessons happen for the kids and we would like to say “Thank you!” You are a delightful group of people and you all bring something special to the programme.

RTES would also like to extend a “Thank you!” to Victor Fan for helping us maintain our website. We would be lost without your most valuable knowledge.



Looking for Fundraising Committee Members

If you are interested in helping RTES by being on the fundraising committee, please contact Sandra via email or phone: rtes@shaw.ca OR 604-241-7837

No experience necessary. Any and all help is appreciated!



Alethea & I.R.

Alethea started riding horses with the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society when she was three years old. She enjoys it immensely and looks forward to riding every week. The experience of being on such a powerful animal has given her more confidence and has provided her the opportunity to interact closely with an animal. She loves pretending to be a horse in her role-play dramas and often asks us to give her the command to walk on or whoa, just like when she commands her horse to walk on or whoa.

Riding horses has provided valuable learning and the practice of skills such as listening and following instructions, identifying her left and right, becoming more aware of her body and how it moves, and using her reins to move the horse. Alethea's horseback riding experiences also serve as an excellent topic of conversation as Alethea shares her stories with others.

Alethea's riding teacher, Sandra, and the volunteers have such a positive way of working with her and are helping Alethea become more independent.

It is a joy to see her ride!

~ Alethea's Parents

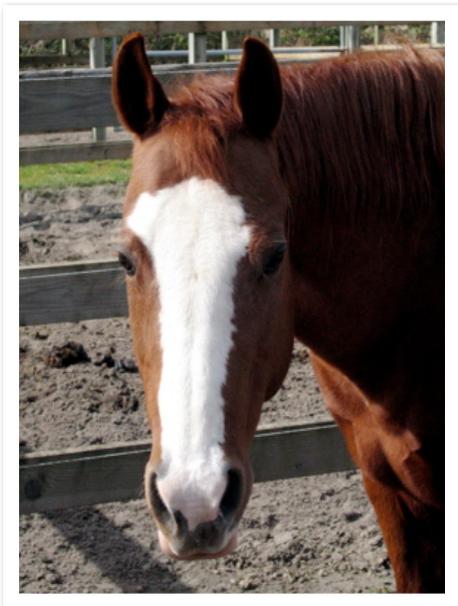


Welcome Shay!

RTES would like to introduce the latest member to our equine team, Shay. Shay is a 1990 registered Arabian gelding.

Shay has spent most of his life as a show horse on the Arab Circuit and seems to be enjoying the quieter pace here at RTES and all the daily love and attention by staff, volunteers and riders.

Erin, our Head Instructor, would like to extend a personal thank you to Sarah and Lori Kavanagh of White Rock, BC for thinking of RTES when they were looking to retire Shay. Erin has known the family and Shay for a few years through a common boarding facility. Lori made the call to Erin to offer RTES Shay at just the same time as RTES was looking to retire Missy. It was a perfect fit.



Goodbye Missy

Missy was retired from RTES on advice of our good vet Dr Ray Wise. Her back could no longer handle the weight of our riders and to keep her healthy, it was in her best interest to go back home.

Missy has returned to the Stevenson family of Langley, BC where she will be fussed over and loved by the family's grand children.

Thank you Stevenson family for letting RTES staff, volunteers and riders have Miss Kitty in their lives for the past year. She will be missed.

TWO HORSES

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

From a distance, each looks 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 will
disclose that he is blind.

His owner has chosen not to have him put down,
but has made a good home for him.
This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening,
Looking around for the source of the sound,
you will see that it comes from the
smaller horse in the field.

Attached to her halter is a small bell.
It lets her blind friend know where she is,
so he can follow her.

As you stand and watch these two friends,
you'll see how she is always checking on him,
and that 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 stops
occasionally and looks back, making sure her
friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like these two 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.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by
the little ringing bell of those who are placed in our lives.
Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see.

Good friends are like this .
You don't always see them,
but you know they are always there.

Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours.

"Be kinder than necessary,
for everyone you meet is
fighting some kind of battle".

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.

DONATION FORMS FOR USING VISA OR MASTERCARD CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE.



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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