

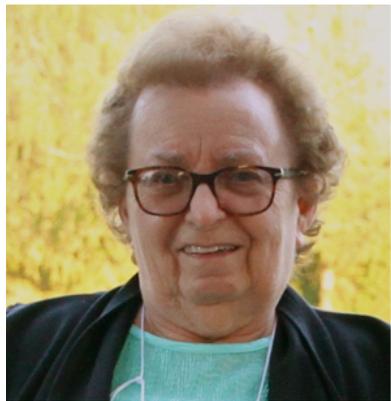
2 0 1 3 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

RTES *Riding High*

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

FAREWELL FRANCES

Frances Clark is no doubt a fantastic advocate, successful fundraiser and a feisty and caring person to have on your side. It is these characteristics that made her such a successful Chair of the RTES Board of Directors for the past 18 years. Without Frances all these years, RTES would not be where it is or what it is today. Many people have come and gone from our society, Frances has been the only constant.



Frances has taught us to stand up for what we believe in, to be strong in our conviction and to share our passion for the work RTES does on a weekly basis. With strong community support and Frances' help with the transition, we will continue to be successful at operating a top notch Therapeutic Riding Program.

From everyone at RTES, we would like to thank Frances for her many years of service and support and we wish you the very best of luck with your new endeavours.

Below is Frances' final message:

A LITTLE HISTORY – AS I SAY GOODBYE!

Eighteen Years ago, Norma Jordan, Special Needs Coordinator for the City of Richmond, came to the Richmond Committee on Disability (now recognized as the Richmond Centre for Disability) seeking help. She wanted RCD representatives to attend a meeting she was holding with a group of parents who had requested that the city establish a Therapeutic Riding Program in the community.

Norma had done her research, travelled out to Langley to visit existing programs, and spoken to Pippa Hodge CTRI & CanTRA representative, inviting her to attend the meeting, and had also made contact with local stables to enquire about their interest in having a program at their site. She was ready to go - - well, almost - - -

I, along with Shawn Logan, agreed to attend and report back to the RCD. I was seen as a logical choice because of my background in dogs, interest in Human-Animal Bond Programs and experience with non-profits.

It was an interesting meeting, but it was fairly obvious that the people in attendance were looking to the City to lead the way, and they knew little about establishing the type of organization required to run a program. Neither did Norma.



Calendar of Events

Fall Session
September 16 - December 44
(break Nov 11 - 13)

Thanksgiving - Closed
Monday October 14th, 2012

In House Show
Date TBA

Winter Session 2013
January 13 - March 12

Family Day - Closed
Monday February 10th, 2012

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When we advised the RCD that the group needed help, the decision was - - - “of course the RCD will help!”- interpretation - “go ahead Frances, make it happen!” (or words to that effect). It was very difficult for me to say “no” when I believed in the value of what the group wanted so I agreed.

That was the beginning of an unexpected 18-year involvement as Chair and principle fundraiser for the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society.

That there were several very special people in the group of parents and supporters who participated in forming the society, goes without saying. I will never forget Susan Hoogveld, who we lost to Cancer a few years later, a very dynamic lady who made such a difference during the early years, as did Melanie Coath, another great Board member who still supports the Society, Nancy Buchan, Physiotherapist who also continues to remain supportive of the program, Val Woida, who was very active as a volunteer before moving to the Interior, and Heather Nelken to name just a few.

Fundraising was a challenge, but a grant from Milan Ilich, gave us the start we needed, helping us hire our first Program Director, Max Reed, who guided the program while it was at Riverside Equestrian Centre. She only had the bare essentials of equipment to work with, all of which had to be kept in a garden shed under the spectator stands on one side of the Arena. After morning classes, Max would head over to my house to do her paperwork, having access to a desk in my home office. Something she would continue to do for the next five years.

Sandra Evans, came on board after we were invited to move the program to Twin Oaks, and was named Program Director, replacing Max, a year later. We then hired Erin McRae, as an assistant instructor. Erin took over the program when Sandra stepped aside in 2011 and is supported today by Stephanie Meadows, Assistant Instructor -Volunteer Coordinator.

After the move to Twin Oaks, I was able to negotiate annual program funding from the City of Richmond's operating budget, thanks to the support of Cathy Carlile, General Manager of Community Services. There is a performance agreement associated with this funding, which is reviewed annually. The opportunity to obtain annual funding through a B.C. Gaming grant, and accessing the support of several Foundations, Corporations, Community Groups and individuals, along with hosting annual Fundraising events and parent's fundraising efforts, have provided the balance of the funding support we required to keep the program going. There have been difficult times, to be sure, but we somehow managed to keep going.

All of the operating funds, with the exception of the City's funding, must be applied for annually or gained through the annual fundraising events. Today, while the Society needs to keep a close watch over its budget, it is on a much more solid ground, financially, than during the early years.

There are a number of individuals and organizations that stand out in their support of RTES over all these years. Linda Reid MLA is one example. If she couldn't attend an event, her family and/or friends were assigned to do so in her place. Councilors Bill McNulty & Evelina & Greg Halsey-Brandt, have been involved from almost the beginning. Edna Plaxton, program volunteer from our early days at Riverside, is still a dedicated supporter to this day. Parent, Melanie Coath, who continues to support the program though her son graduated from it many years ago. Too, the RCD, which has supported every fundraising event we have ever held.

I have, for the most part, enjoyed my involvement with RTES, seeing the changes that have taken place in the lives of so many of the children who participated. I cannot leave, however, without thanking the staff team who along with a major number of volunteers, helped in establishing and maintaining the high standards by which the program is provided. Thanks, as well, to the many volunteers who worked with me on the Board, over these 18 years.

Thanks, as well, to everyone who supported the program by allowing us to take over the lives of their equine friends. Without these very "special" horses, able to stand up to the challenges of having small and/or disabled children on their backs, we would never have seen the success stories we have experienced.

Thanks, too, to the Twin Oaks family – Barry & Laurie Cavanaugh - Trevor and Wendy Graham, for inviting us to move the program to your outstanding Equestrian Centre 13 years ago, which gave us room to grow, the right setting for the program and provided a sense of stability.

I closed this report by reminding everyone that fundraising will always be a challenge. So, it is important keep your eye on the ball. Above all, follow the rules!

GOOD LUCK IN THE FUTURE.

Frances

Congratulations Stephanie!



Stephanie, our Instructor and volunteer coordinator was married to her long time partner, Graham Meadows over the summer break. Steph and Graham enjoyed an intimate ceremony with just immediate family and a photographer on Saturna Island Saturday August 24th and then had a large reception in Ontario at Graham's family farm one week later.

For any volunteer information or opportunities, you can still contact Steph via the volunteer_rtes@shaw.ca email address, but with her new last name, she needed a new personal email so...please now use steph_rtes@shaw.ca to contact Steph directly.

2013 - 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The RTES Annual General Meeting was held Tuesday September 10th and a new Board of Directors was elected. The new team will have their first meeting Tuesday October 8th, at which time they will start strategic planning for our society. Each member is very excited about the future of RTES and what they can all bring to the table during their terms. This year we have a new Chair and 3 new directors. Your new board is as follows:

Chair	Cindy Armstrong	RTES Student Parent
Directors	Victor Atkinson	Current Program Volunteer
	Warren Bente	RTES Student Parent
	Robin Borody	Past Program Volunteer
	Arlene Epp	Current Program Volunteer
	Anne Hynds	Current Program Volunteer
	Jennifer Ikeda	RTES Student Parent
	Kippy Khehar	Current Program Volunteer
	Marie Murtagh	RTES Student Parent
	Joan Oyestensen	Current Program Volunteer

Fall Session

As we start a new year at RTES, we wanted to introduce you to a few new things and remind volunteers, students/families and their caregivers of a few other points.

- * Volunteers, please arrive a 1/2 hour prior to the start of lessons.
 - * Volunteers will be trained to sign in and out via a computer system to track hours.
 - * Everyone will be asked to sign in and out of the office by writing your name on the white board in the lounge as you enter and wiping it clean as you leave. This so that in case of a fire, we can grab the board and account for all persons on the property.
 - * Students, please arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the start of their lesson time to use the washroom if needed and put on their helmet and belt.
 - * At the end of your lesson, we kindly ask that you clear the parking lot as quickly as possible to allow the close spaces for the next riders.
 - * Please remember Twin Oaks is a private property and that walking around the facility without a RTES staff member or Program Volunteer is prohibited. If you would like to visit the horses etc, please just ask and we will make every effort to take you around.
 - * Please try to keep your dogs at home, but if they have to come with you, remember they are not allowed out of your vehicle.
 - * A parent or caregiver must be on site while the child is in his/her lesson.
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Show Opportunities

We are planning on having an In House Show again this October. Stay tuned for dates and information regarding entries. This is a wonderful day, usually a Saturday, where you can bring all your family and friends to watch. The riders compete in three events and prizes are awarded to everyone!

There will be another chance to enter a Para Equestrian Canada Coast to Coast Competition this fall! The deadline for entries is November 15th, so taping of any rider entries will take place November 4th, 5th and 6th to allow us time to send the videos to Ontario. Please talk to Stephanie regarding this opportunity.

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 and the lounge for updated information regarding the Special Event Dates for next year. Information will be updated as dates are set.

Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society 2014

January '14						
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February '14						
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March '14						
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April '14						
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31						

June '14						
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July '14						
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August '14						
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September '14						
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October '14						
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November '14						
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December '14						
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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 _____

Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society
13671 No 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V7A 1X7
phone 604-241-7837, fax 604-241-7858

www.rtesrichmond.com

