

RTRA

| Winter Newsletter 2018 |

Autism Info Session

RTR is having an Info Night on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Feb 15 from 4:30 to 6:00pm in the lounge at Twin Oaks. The guest speaker is Rebecca Farnell from the Pacific Autism Network. Everyone is welcome and admission is by donation benefitting RTR.

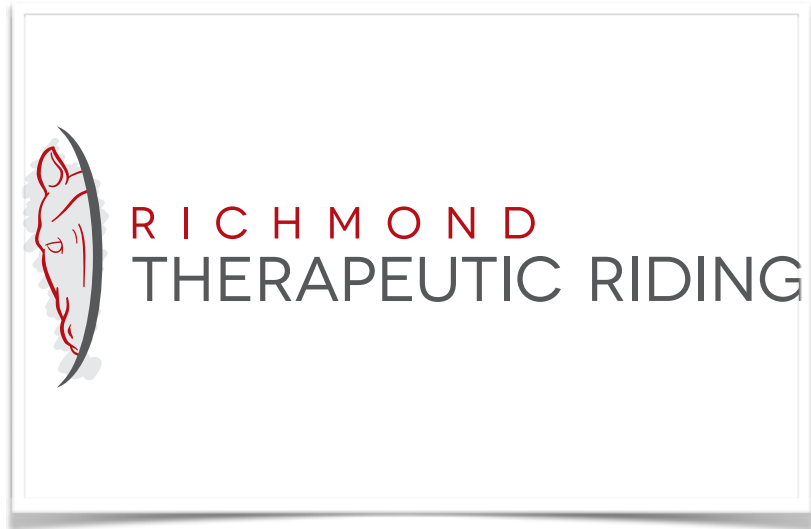
Spring Camp

For the first time ever RTR is excited to offer a Spring Camp! March 19-22, 4 days for riders to discover stable management, get more riding in, play and do some crafts. \$275 for 4 days. Camp is currently full but we will let you know if spots open up last minute. There are 4 days in the camp for \$275.

Spring Session

The last week of Winter Session is Mar 12-14.

Our Spring Session will begin on April 3 after the Easter Long Weekend.



New beginnings

Richmond Therapeutic Riding has gone through many changes during the past few months. We have seen, Erin McRae, our Program Director, leave our program after 15 years. She is dearly missed and we will never forget all her hard work and dedication to the program. Moving forward, we are excited for a new beginning and the new roles our staff have undertaken. Melodie and Alyssa will be managing all aspects of the program and are excited to welcome Donna as the new Office Manager to take charge of billing and numerous other administrative tasks.

Read down to know more about the new team!





Alyssa Bigioli,

Co-Program Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Alyssa has participated and worked in the horse industry in the Lower Mainland for over 15 years. Taking a short break from horses to travel and study at SFU, Alyssa then started at RTR in 2013 as an Exercise Rider. She quickly fell in love with the ponies and was very excited when she was asked to be the Part-time Volunteer Coordinator in 2015. Over the past few years Alyssa has learned a lot about Therapeutic Riding and has completed her CanTRA BI and Equine Canada Instructor certification. Her roles at RTR now include teaching, managing volunteers, fundraising and taking care of our horses. Alyssa can be reached at volunteer@richmondtherapeuticriding.com



Melodie Gerbier-Violleau

Co-Program Manager and Head Instructor

Melodie's love with horses started in France very early on but initially decided to work as a project manager in the chemical industry. After a few years in the industry she realized that horses and people needed to have a bigger place in her life, and she joined RTR in February 2017 as a CanTRA Intermediate Instructor. Melodie is the Head Instructor and takes care of special projects along with troubleshooting tech related issues! You can contact her at

instructor@richmondtherapeuticriding.com



Donna Hand

Office Manager

Donna started with us in Dec, 2017, and comes to us with a background in hospitality and administration. She is excited about her new role in the program and is eager to learn more about RTR. Donna is the office manager and some of her duties include invoices, billing, tax receipts, and other administrative tasks. Donna can be reached at

officemanager@richmondtherapeuticriding.com.

The herd grows

Speaking of new beginnings, we are happy to introduce three new horses to RTR!



Snow White

Snow White was rescued by Tiny Tales Pony Rescue in the summer of 2017. She joined our program in September and has become a fast favourite with her kind heart and cuddly personality. She is happiest eating grass, hanging out with the kids and getting lots of scratches.



Quidam

Quidam is former Grand Prix jumper owned by Heather Rix, a boarder at Twin Oaks Farm. Quidam can no longer jump due to an injury, but is happy to walk in lessons and get extra scratches from all our riders and volunteers. Quidam is one of the tallest horses on the farm, but is definitely a gentle giant.



Spot

Spot is a 18 year old appaloosa pony owned by Gary Brewster, the head trainer at Twin Oaks Farm. On weekends Spot is ridden and jumped by Gary's eldest son, and they are letting us use him for some of our more advanced riders during the week. Spot is happy for the extra work and attention, especially when he gets lots of treats.

You might have seen one more beautiful golden-coloured horse hanging out with our herd... Belle is in training. We hope that she will like it with us and that we will be able to keep her. Don't get attached just yet, me make no promise!

Events, events, events...

Info session on colic

RTR held its first information on Colic Clinic on Feb 7. Dr. Kim Steele from Wise Equine generously donated her time to come speak about the types of colic, prevention and what to do if your horse shows signs of colic. 15-20 people turned up and we gained some great knowledge.

Thank you for speaking to us Dr. Steele!

Save the date! Spring Fundraiser and Shred-a-thon

Our annual Spring Fundraiser will be on Thursday, June 21 from 6:30 to 9:00pm at the Richmond Curling Club. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your support selling dinner and raffle tickets. More information to come

Our 2nd annual Shred-a-thon will be on Sat, May 5, from 10-2pm in the parking lot at No. 3 Rd and Steveston Hwy. Great way to safely shred any sensitive materials and support a great cause! Minimum \$5 donation per box.

First winter fundraiser

We had a successful first Pub Night at the Buck & Ear. Thank you to all of our friends, volunteers and family who came out to support us. It was a fun, casual evening with a common goal of raising funds for our RTR.



Richard and Ruth enjoying the burger at the Buck N Ear.

Photo Credit: Tracy Zhu

Idea, comment, suggestion, feedback?

Please let us know. We want to hear from you and make this program always better.

Would you like to know more about a specific topic, have an idea on how to keep grooming kits clean (or IR!), or tell us how (un)happy you are to come here...

You can email any of us, or leave a anonymous note in our NEW feedback/comment/suggestion box!