



LITTLE BITS

THE THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
for persons with disabilities

info@littlebits.ca

www.littlebits.ca

June 2014



Edmonton Sheriff's Posse presents a \$35,000 cheque to Little Bits

2014 Little Bits Sponsors and Donors

ATCO I-Tek

RBC Foundation

TELUS Corporation

Culloden Holdings Ltd.

Coronet Leaseholds Ltd.

Edmonton Sheriff's Posse

2013 Community Spirit Grant from the Government of Alberta

Round Hill Riders 4H Club

CIBC Children's Foundation

Leder Charitable Foundation

In memory of: Eleanor Clare

Alberta Trail Riders Association

Strathcona Arabian Horse Association

FALL 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FUNDRAISING

July 1 – 50/50 raffle ticket sales at Edmonton Prospects baseball game at TELUS Field.

August 16 – Canadian Derby (*aka Dash for the Daisies*) @ Northlands Park selling daisies.

November 5 - 9 – Canadian Finals Rodeo program sales @ Rexall Place.

November 9 – Sunday Achievement Day (*FUNDRAISER*)

November 11 – Tuesday Achievement Day (*FUNDRAISER*)

November 12 – Wednesday Achievement Day (*FUNDRAISER*)

RIDING / VOLUNTEERS

August 26 – Fall Volunteer Orientation Evening @WELCA 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

September 7 – first Sunday of fall riding session, ending November 9th.

September 9 – first Tuesday of fall riding session, ending November 11th.

September 10 – first Wednesday of fall riding session, ending November 12th.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

(All dates tentative)

August 13 – Meeting at the Prince of Wales Armoury @ 7:00 pm.

September 10 – Meeting at the Prince of Wales Armoury @ 7:00 pm.

October 14 – Meeting at the Prince of Wales Armoury @ 7:00 pm.

November 11 – Meeting at the Prince of Wales Armoury @ 7:00 pm.

December 10 – Meeting at the Prince of Wales Armoury @ 7:00 pm.

Little Bits Classic Breakfast Fundraiser

On Sunday, May 25th, we hosted the second annual Little Bits Classic Breakfast fundraiser in conjunction with the Edmonton Classic Horse Show that was put on by the Edmonton Hunter Jumper Association (EHJA).



Many members of the Edmonton Sheriff's Posse were present at the 2014 Little Bits Classic Horse Show Breakfast. Fred Greunheidt contacted Little Bits earlier this year to tell us that they wanted to give us a donation of \$35,000.00. As this was such a generous offer we wanted to get the Posse some recognition for being long-time supporters of Little Bits. Since the horse show is always well attended and covered by the media we thought this would be the perfect place and time for their presentation to us. On hand to receive the cheque were two Little Bits Directors, Tom Reaume and Dana Watson. The cheque was presented to Little Bits (in the main jumper ring on the show grounds) by Fred and other members of the Posse who had enjoyed the breakfast prior to their presentation. The Edmonton Sheriff's Posse has donated to our program for the past 25 years and support other charitable causes such as STARS and the Stollery Children's Hospital.

Once again we had much assistance from Devon Craig (Edmonton Hunter Jumper Association) and this year she obtained sponsorship for us from the RBC Foundation, and for the second consecutive year C.W.Carry Ltd. Steel Service Centre and Structural Steel Fabricator and Nancy Sanbourn Royal Lepage Noralta.

Repeating their efforts from last year, the hard work fell to LBTRA parents Sharon Sutherby and Flo Lanctot who delivered and prepared all of the food, coffee, and supplies resulting in a delicious pancake and sausage meal for all who attended. Four other parents helped at the breakfast, selling tickets, setting up, clearing tables and serving.

We would also like to thank our very dedicated parents for selling tickets and attending the breakfast themselves. Other donors at the breakfast were the Pemberton family and the Kelm family.

The day was cloudy and cool but the rain held off until we were just finished serving the pancakes. There was no rush for people to finish eating as the tent provided cover from the rain and heaters for those who were chilly.

ACHIEVEMENT DAYS 2013

Our riders and their families, friends and sponsors are the best! Thank you so much for making 2013 Achievement Days a most successful event. *Some of the highlights of 2013 Achievement Days were:*

- Congratulations to the Turgeon family who amassed just over \$2005.00 for the second year in a row! For their efforts, they will receive their spring 2014 riding fees and 10 weeks of PSF for 2014 at no cost, a value of \$565.00.
- Thanks goes to the Leung family who collected over \$1500.00 for the second year in a row. They will receive their spring riding lessons at no cost, a \$405.00 value.
- The Anderson, Halldorson, and Little families each collected over \$1000.00 and will receive credit for their 2014 PSF hours, a value of \$320.00.
- An *honorable mention* also goes out to Sophie C. who collected \$905.00.

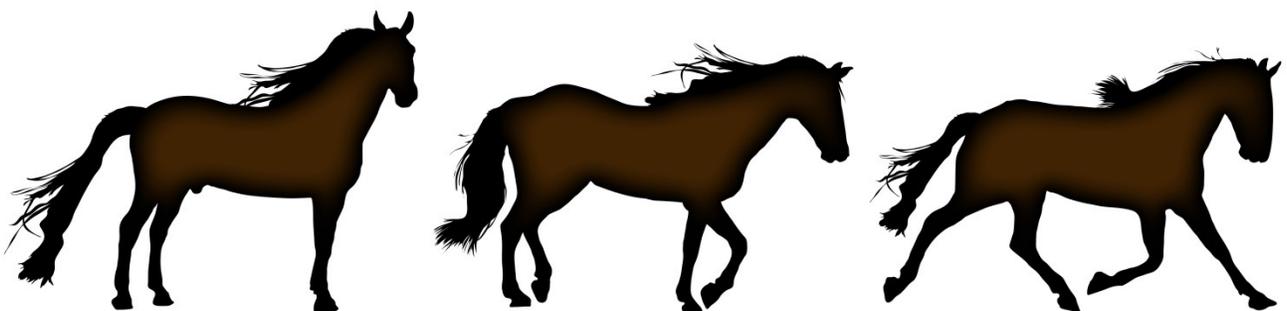


Those riders (45!) who collected more than \$100.00 will all have their name entered into a draw for one of 10 gift certificates.....to be drawn the first week of riding.

Collectively you made Achievement Days 2013 one of our most successful yet. Without your achievements, your sponsorships and your dedication, we could not have exceeded our goal. So again, we say thank you to the riders for working so hard, for without you we could not have raised in excess of \$22,500.

Congratulations to each of you who passed onto the next Skill Development Level, and congratulations to those whose gains did not quite move them up to the next Skill Development Level, for good things come to those who persevere. Our philosophy is that we want you to be excellent at the skills you have mastered, and to spend time becoming excellent at those you are working on.

This year we hope to have some of our classes participating in the Para-Equestrian Video Competitions against riders from other associations across the country.



Little Bits Summer Riding Session

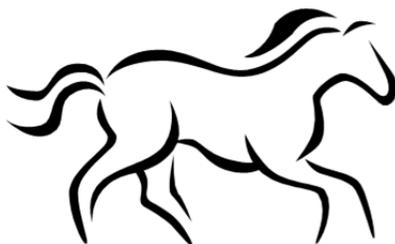
There will be a summer riding session from August 11th to August 15th, beginning at 10:00 am and ending at 2:00 pm each day.

To help us make these lessons go as smoothly as possible, we need volunteers from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm. Please let Marielle or Linda know if you are interested in volunteering. Contact us at: littlebitsvolunteer@gmail.com OR info@littlebits.ca
Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

There is one slot still available for a rider that is currently enrolled in our program and is interested in riding. If interested, contact Linda at: info@littlebits.ca

Fall 2014 Volunteer Orientation

Hands-on
training



Information
booklets

Tuesday, August 26th
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Whitemud Equine Learning Centre

Come and learn all about the Little Bits Program & ask any questions you might have!

-- Any returning volunteers that would like to help can contact the office --

A message from **J. McKinney, Chair, LBTRA Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors of LBTRA wishes to thank you for your efforts in assisting them with all of the fundraising activities over the past few years. The Board of Directors has worked to bring the organization's financial status back to a secure state in order to maintain the level of subsidization that has been offered over the years.

As a result of everyone's efforts, we are pleased to let you know of the Board's decision to reduce the number of Participation Service Hours required this year from 20 hours down to 16 hours; your post-dated PSF cheque will remain at \$320.00.

A Volunteer Profile of Sarah

Benevolent: generous, kind, caring, giving, compassionate, loyal and dedicated.

Sarah started volunteering at Little Bits about 10 years ago, and I remember the first class she helped out with. We went down to the west end of Keillor Road and back through the hills of the show grounds. Man ... I thought "this girl is so friendly." And was I ever correct! Sarah has become a good friend of the program, a good friend of our riders, volunteers, staff and a good friend of mine.

Back when she first heard of Little Bits, Sarah was working with Jean Smith in the library at Landsdowne School. At that time, Jean boarded her horse, Chad, at WELCA and she allowed Little Bits to use Chad in our lessons. Sarah came to make sure we were treating Chad with the best care and attention he could get. I think we passed her standards for the handling of all the lesson horses, as she has stayed with the program since then. Sarah admits that Chad is her all-time favorite horse at the stable, but she gives all the horses the utmost care and attention.

Sarah has "*done it all*" at Little Bits: leading, side-walking, tacking, filing, cleaning, typing; you name it, and Sarah is up for the job! I have never known Sarah to say "no", "I can't", or "not now" to any request we have ever made. I must say that one of her specialties is sweeping the barn floor ... no one could ever do the impeccable job that Sarah does every time she picks up a broom. Better yet is that we never ask her to do it, she just does it!

Sarah is also very handy helping in the office with filing, phoning, scanning, and/or anything else she can assist us with. If she hears you talking about something that needs to be done, she just jumps in with "I can help" or "What do you need me to do?" With Sarah around, you never have to ask ... she is ready, able and more than willing to help. Sarah's own family is also aware of her many and varied contributions, as she is always encouraging them to participate in our fundraising events and has even brought her Mom out to help in the classes! The Pemberton's have been exceptionally generous to many of our Little Bits causes over the years.

Sarah does have a sneaky side though ... she has some instinct that tells her when your (or your dog or your horse's) birthday or anniversary is, and you can be sure to get a card and a lovely gift. We are always receiving Christmas goodies, Halloween treats (for the staff, volunteers and riders!) and really good delicacies throughout the year. Just a couple of weeks ago, I was pondering about snacks for the Annual General Meeting. Sarah piped up that she could bake some cookies for us. Sure I said ... but only if you have time, as Sarah has a real job as well. The next day we she showed up with four trays of cupcakes, fruit, cheese, crackers, olives and other munchies for the meeting. I shamefully put back the Girl Guide Cookies and Timbits that I had brought.

I have had the opportunity to meet countless wonderful individuals in my many years at Little Bits, but Sarah is indeed one of those *once in a lifetime* friends who I will never forget and will always cherish. She is a blessing to our program: selfless, a real sweetheart, and the most benevolent person I have ever met. Thanks Sarah ... just for being you and for doing everything you do for us at Little Bits!



Ros the Teacher

by Julia Mortensen

When I was asked to compose an article about Ros, I immediately thought of how effortless it would be to complete. It is never difficult to write positive things about an incredible person. When I first started at Little Bits, I was very rusty on my horse knowledge. Ros was so patient with me, with my many questions and requests for her to check over what I had done.



She will often take time to coach volunteers on safety, which of course is of the utmost importance when working with horses. As we know, horses often come with their own quirks; Ros remembers these and has a special understanding of how each horse likes to be dealt with.

The horses love her, especially when she pays extra attention to the fuzzy ones in the spring by combing out their winter coats. If you ever hear an “OY” in the barn, you know a horse is being especially naughty -- step back and watch how she is dealing with the horse who is giving her a bit of attitude!

Her many years of horse experience gives me and other volunteers the opportunity to tap into her extensive understanding of horse behaviours, and techniques on tacking and grooming. I am looking forward to observing her in the barn and learning all I can for many more sessions. Thank you, Ros, for your kindness and patience when dealing with me and other volunteers.

Donations

If you are interested in making a donation to Little Bits, please mail your contribution to:

Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association

Box 29016 Lendrum P.O.

Edmonton, AB T6H 5Z6

Phone: 780-476-1233

Fax: 780-476-7252

Email: info@littlebits.ca