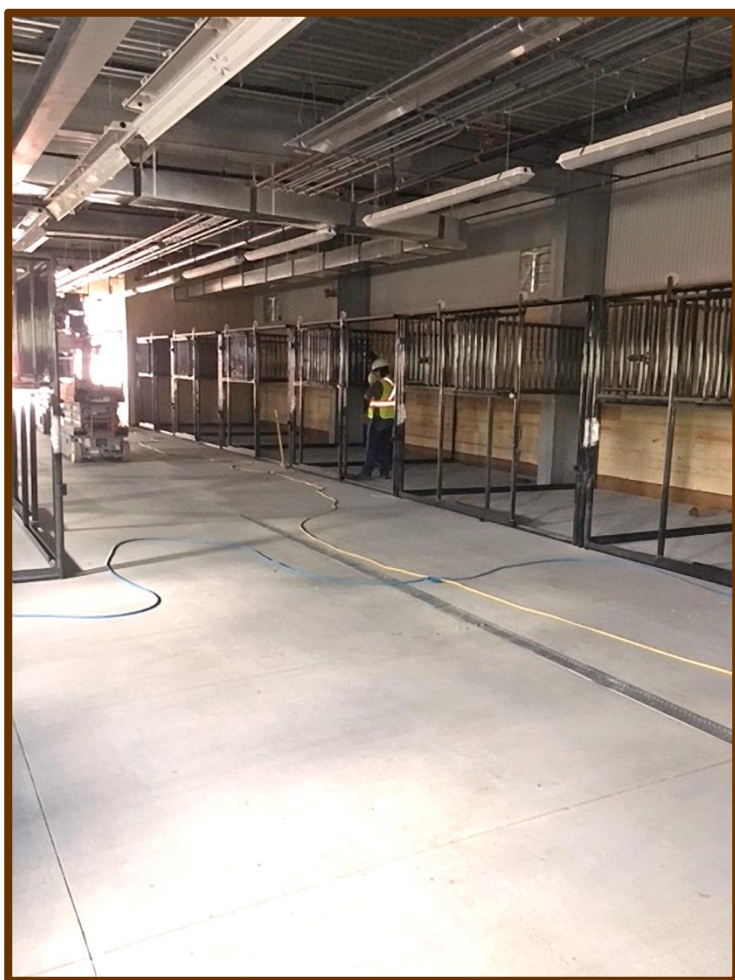


## WELCA Riding Arena Construction Project Update

It's hard to believe that one year ago, we broke ground for the new riding arena building. Our contractor, Atkinson Construction, has done a great job keeping to the schedule and to the budget despite some uncooperative weather conditions.



Outside the building, work has started on grading the area for drainage and landscaping. The concrete entranceway has been poured and the cedar wall which will feature the woodburning artwork piece was installed at the beginning of June.

Inside, the horse stalls are going into the barn area. The box stalls on the north side even have windows that open so that the horses have fresh air at night! The barn includes two spacious tack rooms, a specially equipped vet/farrier stall, a large feed room and a single unisex washroom.

The public side of the building - the entrance, classroom, spectator seating and arena - is defined by the light streaming in from the windows. No more dark, narrow, low ceiling hallway or arena to navigate!

The new footing for the arena is a wax-coated sand with special fibers designed to be dust-free. It will be the very last piece to be installed in the building.

Our plan is to start moving furnishings and equipment over by the end of June and then start

acclimatizing the horses to their new home. We intend on starting all of the September classes and programs in the new building and maybe even some of the summer ones, depending on how things go.

Very soon, we will announce plans for auctioning off bits and pieces of the old building for those of you who want a keepsake from the old building (or who are renovating a house and want some barn wood).

The Grand Opening Festivities are scheduled for **October 21<sup>st</sup>**, which is the Saturday after the municipal elections. Make sure to mark it on your calendars!



Through Mirella Nardi from Hearts of Blue, Alberta Blue Cross' employee-led charity, a number of items were generously donated to Little Bits:

3 Western saddle pads – cutback, barrel racer and pony size

5 sets of colored rubber reins

2 Ovation Helmets - XXS

3 felt-lined western cinches

1 English saddle pad

-- and we still have some funds left for other purchases at Lammles!



## Daisy Day at the Canadian Derby



Saturday, August 19, 2017

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Northlands Park

**Come and sell daisies to the public!**

20 workers needed (earn PSF service hours)

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

10:00 am to 3:30 pm

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

**(Shifts WILL be assigned)**

*This position involves enthusiastic selling, handling money and making change.*

*Workers must be willing and able to perform these tasks in order to receive credit for hours.*

*Please dress for the weather as you may be outdoors for much of the time.*

***No jeans or t-shirts; please wear office attire.***

Wheelchair accessible; parking and refreshments available





## Edmonton Classic Horseshow Pancake Breakfast

On a beautiful Sunday morning and under the skilled guidance of Flo Lanctot and Sharon Sutherby, it was our most successful breakfast to date! Several other parents also helped and a great time was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the RBC Foundation for the generous donation of \$5000 and to Jen from the Edmonton Hunter Jumper Association for all her assistance in helping get us set up. Ticket sales this year exceeded \$3000 – we really appreciate all of you who purchased or sold tickets for us!





## Mayor's Award

In March of 2017, an employee of Selections Career Support Services, Haley, nominated Little Bits for a Mayor's Award. The category recognizes businesses that promote inclusion for persons with disabilities. Haley brought Sam, a young man from Selections who has volunteered with Little Bits for the entire spring session. Sam helps in the barn under the direction of Ros, our wonderful and patient Barn Supervisor. On Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the chair of our Board of Directors, Jodee Pearse McKinney, attended the Mayor's Awards ceremony at City Hall, and we were very pleased when they announced that Little Bits was the winner of the category.



Quinn, a Little Bits volunteer who at one time was a rider in our program, is proudly displaying LBTRA's 2017 Mayor's Award trophy and certificate!

# Riding Dates for Summer & Fall 2017

## 2017 Summer Riding Session

Monday July 31 until Friday August 4 (one week)  
for current riders in the program.

Riding time: 10 a.m. ending at 2 p.m.

Volunteer time: 9:30 a.m. ending at 2:30 p.m.

If interested in riding, contact Linda at: [info@littlebits.ca](mailto:info@littlebits.ca)

## Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> - Mandatory for all NEW volunteers

## 2017 Fall Session

Sundays: September 10 to November 12

Riders: all day classes start - 10:00 a.m. ending at 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers: 9:30 a.m. ending at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: September 12 to November 14

Riders: morning classes start - 9:00 a.m. ending at 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers: 8:30 a.m. ending at 1:30 p.m.

Riders: afternoon classes start - 4:00 p.m. ending at 9:00 p.m.

Volunteers: 3:30 p.m. ending at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: September 13 to November 15

Riders: afternoon classes start - 3:00 p.m. ending at 9:00 p.m.

Volunteers: 2:30 p.m. ending at 9:30 p.m.

*Thank you to Nikol and Peter!*

*We want to thank you for all the volunteering time that you have dedicated to us here at Little Bits. The riders you have worked with benefited from your patience and understanding. Good luck in Ontario! Any program will be better off having you as a volunteer.*

*The Volunteer Staff*





# Mother's Day



**Elizabeth with daughter Cami  
-- and  Penny --**



**Aunt Brenda and Mom Shelley with Kristy  
-- and  Gemini --**

## The Adkin Ladies

Our names are Elaine and Megan Adkin and we are a mother-daughter volunteering duo. In high school, Megan volunteered with Little Bits after school. But then of course life happened, and unfortunately volunteering was one of the things that got pushed to the wayside. This year, Megan asked if I wanted to volunteer with her -- she specifically said "We should get back into going to Little Bits." It was a great decision! This has been a fantastic opportunity to establish a bond between you and a horse & rider, and to create a team. Volunteering with Little Bits is very rewarding, especially when you start building those bonds. You pick up on what works for your team, and you learn so much more from your rider than you would imagine. The genuine friendly, positive atmosphere is something that makes you want to come back every week -- and as an added bonus, it's great to be able to do this with my daughter.





## Some memories from Megan & Maya



Megan and I have been best friends since we were in preschool. I think we bonded immediately over our love of horses, which has endured to this day. We have gone to every level of school together - elementary, junior high, high school, University of Alberta and even (part of) law school. We also rode together at Whitemud Equine Centre as kids for many years - I remember getting my start at riding on such famous Whitemud "old timers" as Tuffy, Pax, Chi Chi and others.



I started volunteering with Little Bits in the spring of 2010 and Megan joined me in the spring of 2012. It has been surreal for our parents to watch us, as adults, meet up at Whitemud once a week to get our fill of horses, just like we did as kids. I love getting to see Megan every Wednesday night, and I especially admire her dedication to Little Bits given her horse and dust allergy, which keeps her stuffy and sneezing through the week. Megan and I have both developed strong attachments to the riders we help - I walk with Katie, Megan with Michael, and I feel so honoured to be able to have made such strong friendships right next to my best friend. Little Bits is always a bright spot in my week, and getting to go with Megan has made it extra special.

***Megan here!*** I'm so happy that Maya discovered Little Bits and told me about it back in 2010, because I jumped at the chance to join such an amazing group of people doing such wonderful work for our community. I always tell people that I "came for the horses, but stayed for the riders" (and all the wonderful teachers, coordinators and volunteers, too, of course!) And Maya's right, the memories it has brought back of our younger days taking lessons at Whitemud came flooding back the moment I walked into the barn! I used to ride Czar when I was young, and despite those allergies you sure couldn't keep me away from horses all throughout my childhood and up to now. ***\*sniff sniff\**** Whitemud was the birth place of my lifelong obsession with horses, and I'm pretty sure I followed Maya's lead into that as well as Little Bits...



Even though school and now a busy career have gotten in the way of getting back into riding, and even though we can't volunteer for more classes each week, it is the highlight of my week in the spring and fall to get to be back in the barn again on Wednesday evenings with everyone and my best friend. Maya and I have both met so many wonderful people, especially Jo-Anne, Ros, Marielle, Linda and our riders Michael and Katie, I know that we both will always encourage our friends and people we meet to volunteer if they can! Thanks for all the great times Little Bits.



# BFK Fundraiser

Dear Little Bits Supporters,

This year Little Bits TRA was selected by the Shaw Charity Classic Golf tournament to participate in the fundraising arm known as Birdies for Kids (BFK). BFK will help us in raising monies by providing matching funding for up to 50% of the money we are able to raise through this program.

All donations must be made through the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation, and 100% of donations designated to LBTRA will come directly to us.

Over the past number of years, our November Achievement Days have raised over \$20,000.00 annually. **This year we would like you to consider asking your usual Achievement Day donors to submit their donations through the BFK system.**

**All donations must be made no later than September 3, 2017  
in order to be eligible for matching.**

Just imagine that we are able to raise \$20,000.00 – and then BFK will match that with another \$10,000.00 – certainly a fabulous return on our money!!! All administrative costs, fees and receipting is taken care of by the Shaw Charity Classic Tournament.

Donations can be made at:

**<http://shawcharityclassic.com/donatenow/#BirdiesforKids>**

As an added incentive, we have 4 free tickets to any one day of the tournament. The first 2 donations of over \$100.00 will each receive 2 free tickets for the day of their choice to the tournament in Calgary.

This is a phenomenal opportunity for us to increase our funding – moving into the new arena will be costly, so the extra 50% of matching dollars will go a long way in enabling us to keep our costs reasonable.

Of course, we will still celebrate Achievement Days on the last days of riding in fall session with our talented and skilled riders, hot dogs, and hot chocolate for all. Our regular Achievement Days incentives will apply to the Achievement Day donations made by the membership.

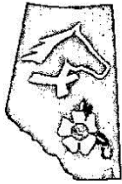
Linda Rault  
Riding Program Administrator  
Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association  
Ph: 780.476.1233





# Alberta Equestrian Federation Donation

**The Alberta Equestrian Federation has kindly donated \$500.00 from a grant that we applied for, to go towards the purchase and installation of a change table in the universal washroom in the new facility at Whitemud. Below is the letter we received.**



**Alberta  
Equestrian  
Federation.**

100, 251 Midpark Blvd SE, Calgary, AB T2X 1S3  
Phone: 403.253.4411 ext. 5 • Toll Free: 1.877.463.6233  
Fax: 403.252.5260 • [execdir@albertaequestrian.com](mailto:execdir@albertaequestrian.com)  
[albertaequestrian.com](http://albertaequestrian.com)

May 30, 2017

Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association  
c/o Linda Rault  
Box 29016 RPO Pleasantview  
Edmonton, AB T6H 5Z6

Dear Linda,

Re: Request for funding from the Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF)

Your request for funding was fully considered by the AEF Finance Committee according to our vision, mission, bylaws, policies, procedures and application criteria. The AEF is strongly committed to being the best possible steward of the funds entrusted to it by its members, the Government of Alberta and other funders.

Your application was well prepared and complete; your request meets the criteria set out for funding from the AEF. On behalf of the finance committee, I am pleased to notify you that your application has been approved in the amount of \$500.00 to contribute towards washroom facility upgrades.

The AEF is member driven with over 18,000+ individual members, as well as over 220 provincial equine clubs, business members and industry partners. We look forward to hearing about your successes and receiving photos or hard copy materials on how the AEF was acknowledged for this donation.

We are pleased that we are able to provide some funding to you this year. We wish you the best in your endeavors!

Sincerely,

Sonia Dantu  
Executive Director