

January 2007

Dear Boarders and Students,

I can't really boast about flying off to Florida and leaving you in the deep freeze, as it is barely -5 degrees celcius, one of the coldest days so far this winter. However, it is likely that once Rick and I leave the country the mercury will drop to the point of frozen water bowls and the snow will not stop falling until we get back! Hence we know you miss us when we're gone.

How about those northern girls at the Royal this fall! Did they not do us proud! Paige came home with a 3rd, 4th and 8th and Christine managed to keep Randy in the ring and out of the laps of the spectators and piloted him to a 9th place finish. Considering that these are the best in the country in their respective divisions these are results to be proud of!

On a sadder note, one of the horses we were boasting about in our last newsletter has passed away. Summerside owned by Foothills farm and a partner, George Cameron, since she was a weanling suffered from a fatal bout of colic at 6 years of age on the eve of Paige's showing at the Royal. After Heather's Thursday night lesson all was well when she left, but shortly after Summer was thrashing. Through very quick actions of some very dedicated boarders they had her out and walking, called the vet and me. Kari, Christine, Denise, Collette, Kelly and of course Dr Suprenant tried their hardest to keep her walking and comfortable however, she had to be put out of her misery in the early hours of the following morning. I know having all of you around her was important to her and Rick and I really appreciated all of your exhausting efforts. Summer was partnered with Heather Condon this past show season and capped it off with a very successful Trillium Circuit Championships. Losing her was a big loss to our Foothills Competition Team and a huge loss to Heather, Summer's triumphant partner. She will be sadly missed by us all.

On a brighter note we have also had some wonderful additions to our team. It's the European invasion! Three newly imported animals have found their way to Northern Ontario (lucky them), to help us continue the tradition of growth and success. Pablo and Le Boe owned by Katriina Ruotsalo (Northern Legacy Farm) and Sparrow owned by Janet and Kari Bradley were the result of us flying to Europe a couple of times this year, not to mention Natalie bringing home three as well. OK now, all of you Canadian bred horses, variety is the spice of life we still have great animals being bred here daily, they just have more!

We better get to our 2007 calendar as we have quite a full season planned out for everyone. No rest if you wish to stay current. Only 7 spots per division for the Trillium Circuit Championships, and 15 per division for the Royal. With new horses everywhere, the shows bigger than ever this year, hup, hup, tally ho and off you go! Remember to check with your instructor to see what's good for you. There is something for everyone.

Remember to check our website for updates as some dates are subject to change. We try to work our schedule out to accommodate both Trillium and "A" circuit riders and show organizers, however with a full summer of events it is difficult.

We cannot forget that Kelly and Ernie are tying the knot this summer. Ernie needs to be an official Northern Ontario Citizen in order to represent us at future Olympic Equestrian events. So he had to marry a local girl (just kidding, it is true love!). Our congratulations to you guys for the big engagement. Some of us will get to witness the event May 12, 2007 - I'm gonna cry! Don't worry gang, Kelly won't miss a horse show. It is also a big year for Christine and Devin as they make it official June 23, 2007. Best wishes to both of you guys, can't wait to buy your toddlers their first pony!

All for now folks.

Sincerely,

Rick, Cathy & Gang