

January 2006

Dear Boarders and Students

It has been a mild winter for the most part, so far! Of course, Rick and I (and Slim) are off to Florida for February and part of March, along with Shannon Fillion and Millie, Anne Fay and Sully and a big gang from Monterra Farm (Natalie's group). We shall think of you guys as winter shirts to show its true colours. One could always think about coming, it's not impossible! We still have things planned for you folks while we are in the sunny south and once we get home we will be hot with what's in, what's out and what's up!

Rick and I have taken the time to train the staff to run the facility, ride the horses and teach the lessons while we are gone. Not to mention we are fortunate enough to have the clientele who encourage this venture, as they know it helps to serve them better. Rick is busy course designing, making connections, up-grading his computer skills for course designing, while being paid to be there and Cathy's coaching, riding and trying to sell horses while competing against some of the best professionals in North America. This helps to further our education and continue to bring modern horsemanship back to Northern Ontario. Thanks guys for the opportunity. We are often asked how we can do it and our response is "super staff and super customers"! We can't afford not to do it if we want to stay on top.

What's new? A few new things are in the works like a jumper class added to our schooling show series this spring (see program online for details) and a SYR local show being hosted at B&H Ranch. An opportunity for our local riders to compete at a different venue. Our local show series is in danger of not existing if we do not get better participation. This series was originally developed to offer riders who do not have the time, the finances or the horse to compete at the Trillium or "A" levels. It also serves as a practice for the latter to upgrade their skills and school their horses. The Sudbury Young Riders run bingos to help pay for these shows (pay judges, facility rental, prize money, coaches and course designers, as well as purchase prizes and ribbons). They need your support to continue. Keep in mind the parental bodies that run these shows are volunteers; Line Richard, Joe and Sandy Meuleman, Dawn Condon, Caroline Hawson and others are offering you an opportunity to show...so SHOW!

What else is new? A Trillium Show in North Bay! Finally, the 'easterners' are back on board with a brand new facility. Gord and Bobbie Cardwell have opened an equestrian facility in Powassan and are hosting the Knowlton Ridge Trillium Horse Show on July 1st and 2nd. The show facility will offer on-site stabling, a beautiful show ring, brand new jumps and much more. We look forward to bringing many riders over to kick start this new venue. Lots to look forward to in the future from this facility as they plan to host many clinics and shows at all levels. Don't forget to book your stabling early for this event as they are building the portables as required.

Ok, perhaps that's enough. There are logs of new horse and rider combinations that we could blab on about. However, show up at the shows and clinics and see for yourself. It

is going to be a very competitive year. Oh yeah, that reminds me, something very good has been added to the Trillium Championships. It is the Modified Child/Adult Hunter Division. The maximum height will be 2'9" and the division will consist of 2 hunter over fences classes and 1 hunter under saddle class. They are also adding a medal class for this level, and allowing all to enter their applicable equitation classes at the Trillium level on the flat only. Therefore, restrictions for riders in this division are as follows: the rider may not enter in any other division at the championships with the exception of the Hack Division, as well as Equitation Flat. The horse with another rider may enter other rated divisions. This totally works for our shows as we do the same except we don't call our equitation over fence class a medal. We promise to ease into the 2'9" height slowly with it only maxing out by the end of the season. Holy competitive now, as this opens up the championships to a whole new level of horses and riders. You will need your memberships and a valid passport to qualify in this division for the championships.

Sincerely,
Rick, Cathy and Gang