

Milestone celebration



As you may already know, we are working up to the 40th Anniversary of the Harrogate Hills Riding School. Some very kind people at the farm (led by Meredith Parker and Sarah Mark) have decided we should commemorate this in some way, and so here we are (event will be held Sunday, September 28).

It's hard to imagine how this all started. Back in 1984 the University of Toronto Riding School was scheduled to close down on October 1 and, as the manager, I was responsible for selling the horses. I talked to some trustworthy students and asked them to

buy the school horses, and keep them for one year.

The plan was that I would get my own place and buy them back. Such is the optimism and confidence of youth! The funny thing is after a year of working multiple jobs to keep my two horses afloat and having precious little time to search for a place, I lucked out and found myself sitting down to sign a lease on the Gormley property. The lease required I write in the date and there it was: October 1, 1985.

It felt like a bit of a miracle, to be honest.

continued next page....

CALENDAR of EVENTS



**STONEWOOD
SCHOOLING SHOW**
Sunday, September 21

**HARROGATE HILLS
HUNTER SHOW**
Sunday, October 5

STAFF TEACHING SEMINAR
Friday, October 17

HALLOWE'EN PARTY
Sunday, October 26

**40TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**
Sunday, September 28

P.A. DAYS
Friday, September 25
Friday, October 24
Friday, November 21
Friday, January 30

*For more information on any
of these events please email
info@harrogatehills.ca*

40 YEARS



est. 1985

... from previous page

The process of buying back my school horses began and so did this adventure. It's very kind of Meredith, Sarah, and everyone else to put together this celebration, but I just feel a need to clarify a few things. The Harrogate Hills Riding School might have been my idea but there are a few reasons it became a reality, and those reasons have nothing to do with me.

There have been people in my life who love horses and love the change they see in the individuals who handle them. Almost everyone, if you spend enough time in the company of horses, will realize that learning to be present, like horses always are, is a great way to renew your soul. Whether its children learning the value of commitment, or nervous riders learning to develop courage, horses tend to bring out the best in us

So many people have supported Harrogate spiritually, physically, and financially. I have been blessed to be surrounded by like minded individuals who appreciate all the gifts that the horse gives to us.

The other reason Harrogate exists is because of my equine colleagues. I have gotten to spend the last 40 with the world's best teachers and the life lessons I have learned from them could fill a book.

I have had horses that demanded clarity, and I have had recalcitrant horses that demanded excellence by challenging every request. I have had horses that demanded courage and some horses that made me laugh each and every day. I have also had many horses that were so generous they could make you weep. But each and every one contributed 100% of their existence to teaching their students about life.

For that I am eternally grateful.

I fear Sunday will be an emotional day, which typically means for me that I will probably have trouble speaking in full sentences. So please accept my thanks now, to all of you who have ensured the Harrogate Hills Riding School has survived for four decades, and remember to thank the horses!

The answer to August's Trivia Question is:

We are repeating the trivia question from August since it took us a long time to change the question on the entry box, which seems unfair. For those who have placed an answer in the box already, we have not seen the answer we are looking for. **Hint:** it is a reflex particular to a startle response.

SEPTEMBER TRIVIA QUESTION:

When a horse hears a sound, its ears will swivel towards the source of the sound. Was is that process called?

The answer will be in next month's issue of The Mane Bit.

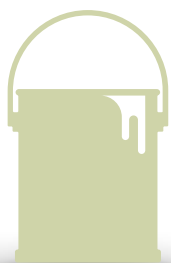
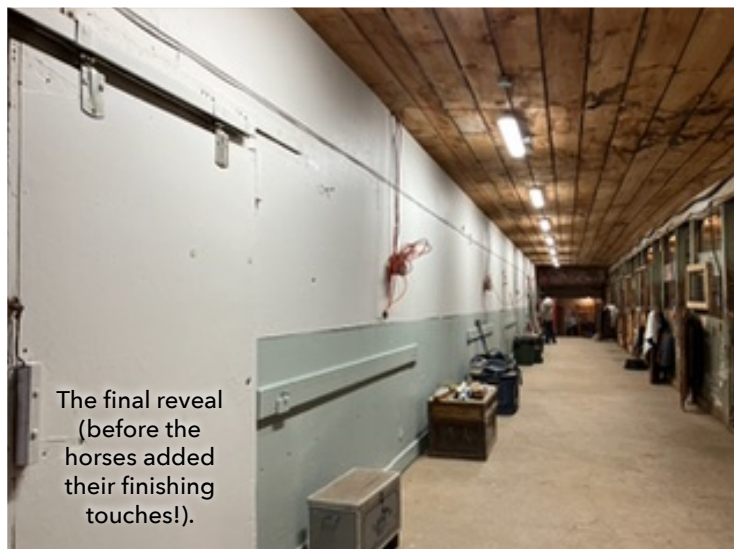
TRIVIA GUIDELINES

- Place your answer in the box found in the lounge and include your name and contact information.
- There will be a random draw from the correct submitted answers and one person will win a prize.
- The winner will be announced in the following month's Newsletter.

All correct Trivia guesses have a chance to win, so don't miss the opportunity to be our next Trivia winner!

A fresh coat of paint

While the school was closed at the end of August, we tackled painting the top aisle of the barn. With paint collected from the good folks at *Harbour Painting Co.* in Newmarket, our friend Rob mixed some similar colours together and equipped with our pretend HAZMAT coats, we got to work. We had hoped to get the arena done too... maybe next year! Thanks to everyone who helped!



SPECIALTY CAMPS



Braiding practice.



EAL specialty camp.



More braiding practice.



Kaitlyn & Jake

Here are some photos from our successful specialty camps this summer.



Elora, Maelle & Hannah.



Samantha & Jackson at Grandview.



Stay tuned to our monthly newsletter for unique and exciting adventures with horses, as we present new learning opportunities in our monthly newsletter that take you beyond your regular weekly lessons.



*The kindest treatment of the horse
is gained through knowledge.*