

An ode to Gus...

Sometimes it can be almost overwhelming to think of how different we are from horses.

It goes well past the prey/predator dynamic although that might be the obvious one. We speak an entirely foreign language compared to our equine colleagues, and our language is equally foreign to them. And yet somehow, we manage to communicate with them in ways that seem almost miraculous.

Just as all of us have a different capacity for language, the same can be said of horses. Some are a bit high-strung and require perfect clarity to agree to do



what is being asked of them. These are the athletes of the horse world; the ones whose physical power and abilities require a skilled and experienced communicator.

Some horses, like some people, have little patience for the struggles of a new language speaker and are clever enough to cause problems with their indifference. Of course, they serve a great purpose in teaching self awareness and challenging riders to continue to learn.

And then there are the very exceptional ones, the ones
continued next page....



Calendar of EVENTS



PA DATES

Friday, November 21
Friday, January 30

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Friday, December 5

CHRISTMAS PARADE IN MOUNT ALBERT

Sunday, December 6

H.H. POT LUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 14
(including our annual
Musical Ride!)

TINY TROTTERS ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, December 20

CHRISTMAS BREAK CAMP

Check your email in the
coming days for all the
exciting details!

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who are clever, of course, but also kind and patient. These special creatures willingly take on the task of communicating with beginners, patiently distinguishing between the touches that are meaningful, and ignoring and forgiving the signals that arise from lack of balance, inexperience, and sometimes fear.

These are the ones that are rarely found in the show ring or on magazine covers. And yet, these are the ones that are at the foundation of the entire sport. These are the ones that are worth their weight in gold. And when we lose one of them, we are all the poorer for it.

Gus was one of those exceptional ones. He seemed never to tire of untangling what his rider was trying to say and his patience was legendary. In hindsight, it was probably his wonderful disposition that delayed our decision to retire him a year ago. In the summer of 2024 we noticed that, despite his stoicism, he seemed uncomfortable even with



only the weight of a small child on his back. The ongoing progress of his Cushing's Disease had caused the atrophy of many of his muscles, including those along his back. True to his nature he never objected, but he did seem tired and there was something in his eyes that told us it was time.

In retirement, he still added to the school. He happily stood quietly while the tiny trotters surrounded him and learned about horses. He was always a superstar for Halloween. He also enjoyed the attention of his former pupils. It was wonderful that so many people took the time to groom him and remind him of how special he was.

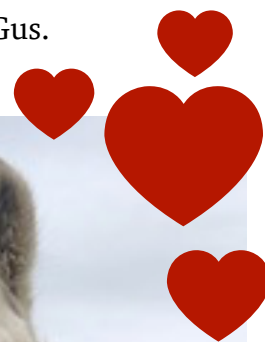
Something changed again last month. The excessive hair growth

and muscle atrophy caused by his Cushing's Disease had continued but now laminitis had begun to ravage both of his front feet. We are thankful that the pain was still at a point where we could manage it

with drugs and so his last afternoon was spent happily grazing on the lush grass between the paddocks.

On Thursday, October 30th, with the help of our vet, we were able to provide a dignified and peaceful farewell to a beautiful soul. We will really miss him.

Thank you, Gus.

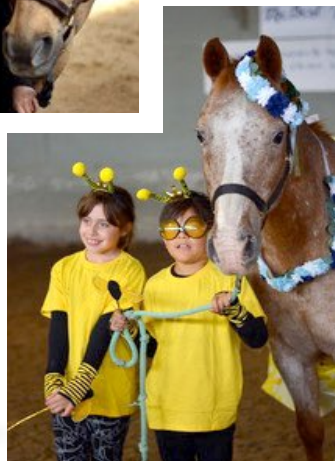
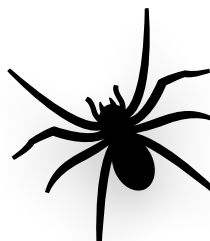
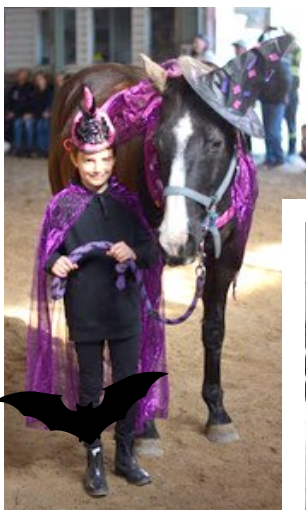


Halloween fun



Once again this year our students let their creativity shine as they painted pumpkins and dressed up the horses for our Halloween celebration!

They also made quick work of the Scavenger hunt...we witnessed some amazing sleuthing ...next year we'll have to make it harder!





Christmas Festivities

Friday, December 5

Join us for a festive evening with the horses.
You will make your own Christmas ornament
with a picture of you and your favourite horse!
SIGN UP FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE LOUNGE.

NOVEMBER TRIVIA QUESTION:

Even though it's not really the bone that is the source of pain, there is a bone we have that the horse also shares. Given that it can be fractured, the horse probably doesn't find it funny if he hits it. What do we sometimes call this bone and what is its real name?

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

CHRISTMAS PARADE 2025

Saturday, December 6

Come with us to walk in the Mount Albert
Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, December 6th!
All Saturday lessons will be cancelled that day
and rescheduled to Tuesday December 23rd.
We'll be in touch with more info on this.
We hope you can join us for the parade!



The answer to October's Trivia Question is:

Q: This bone's name is derived from the latin for "PEA".
We also have one in our wrist.
What is this bone called?

A: Pisiform bone.

The winner is **Silvia Satheeskumar**
who wins a \$25 gift card
from Greenhawk.
Honourable mention goes to
Charlotte Coburn.
Congratulations to all!

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.



CHRISTMAS At the Barn

POTLUCK

MUSICAL RIDE
@ 6:30pm

RAFFLE

Sunday, December 14th

Starts @ 5:30pm

ALL ARE WELCOME



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