



The Mane Bit

www.harrogatehills.com

905-473-3847

Spring 2011

SUMMER CAMP 2011



Will you be tired of sitting at home, bored, all summer? Do you want to have some fun and meet new people? Are you horse crazy? If so, Harrogate Hills has a summer camp for you!

The camp runs for three sessions during July and August

- July 4 – 15
- July 18 – 29
- August 1 – 12

The camp consists of a daily extended riding lesson, an in depth theory lesson, interactive time with the horses followed by horsey games and arts and crafts to finish off the day.

On the last day of each two week session all parents are invited to watch their kids showcase their newly learned riding skills at the Harrogate Hills Summer Camp Horse Show!

There have been some changes this year. Firstly – **LUNCH IS INCLUDED!** The students will have healthy choices every day. Secondly there is a new line up of riding instructors including **Cassie Rennie** and **Nicole Pelrine**, who will be working under Pat's direction. Lastly, when the students are assigned their horses at the beginning of each session, they will be introduced to the idea of owning the horse for two weeks. They will be responsible for grooming their horse, cleaning their horse's tack as well as other barn responsibilities.

Summer camp will be a fun, social, learning experience that will not disappoint. But hurry, spots are filling up fast. Sign up before it is full!

ATTENTION: If you wish to volunteer during summer camp please sign up at the barn.



Whisper, Cassie, Nikki, Sadie

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SADDLE UP



Every Wednesday evening in April we offered a new program – Saddle Up was an opportunity for people who thought they just might be interested in riding, but had probably never given it a try before.

We all had a great time showing off the barn and introducing new people to the horses. As you can see, Rocky threw himself into the spirit of the event, enjoying all the attention and ready with a welcome kiss!

The visitors also participated in a complimentary lesson – it was truly amazing how soon they looked comfortable astride their horse and how quickly they mastered the rising trot.

We look forward to seeing more of these new riders.

ARE YOU MISSING ANY CLOTHES?



A great many hats, mitts, vests, jackets, sweaters and pants seem to be left at the barn.

If you are missing anything please check in the Lounge. A trip will soon have to be made to Goodwill if they are not claimed.

HAVE YOU MET SAMSON?



Samson is a quiet, good natured, 15.2 chestnut quarter horse who has recently retired from the race track – NO, he was not a race horse! He was one of those wonderfully calm 'ponies' who accompany the thoroughbred racehorses out to the starting gate before the race.

As can be seen from his pictures, we have found a very smart bridle for him but the saddle is proving to be more of a challenge because he has extremely wide withers. The saddle fitter has to be consulted.

At the moment he is very much enjoying his rest and relaxation while he gets used to his new surroundings - but we hope to put him to work soon.

Who wants to be the first to ride him?

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DO YOU REALLY KNOW ANNE SPRINCIS?

A recent article in the Montreal Gazette tells us the following:

“The Ballet de Montreal Eddy Toussaint ceased to exist in 1980. The company had lasted 15 years buoyed by ballet mistress Camilla Malashenko’s coaching, Toussaint’s new take on ballet, general manager Renee Hebert’s dogged determination and a nucleus of dancers who weathered the best and the worst of life in a financially strapped, creatively vibrant environment.

None of the original dancers is still dancing. Too many years have passed. Even the babies from the original troupe are entering their late 40s. Second careers have been forged.

What are they doing now?

“Anne Sprincis taught dance in Toronto for 10 years before buying a dance studio in 2001 and calling it Dansecore. She now has more than 200 students. She is an avid rider and spends all her spare time at Harrogate Hills Riding School taking care of her Palomino pony Dallas.”

WOW!!!! And we all thought she was just famous for owning one of the best teaching horses at Harrogate Hills!

Is there anyone else that has a hidden talent they would like to share? We are always looking for interesting articles to fill these pages. Don't be shy!



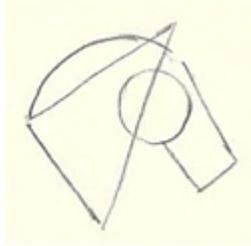
Anne Sprincis (jumping, seen with Kathryn Greenaway) teaches dance and spends her spare time riding.



Anne and Dallas – happy together!

HOW TO DRAW A HORSE

Draw these shapes, very lightly, arranged just as they are in the example:



- Start with a triangle
 - Add a circle for the cheek
 - A rectangle for the face
 - A curving arch for the neck



- Add the eye (a semi-circle with a pointy hat shape)
 - Cut off the corners of the rectangle to make the nose
 - Add the bump of the chin
 - Draw nostril and mouth
 - Add an s-curve for the throat
 - Add the mane and ears



- Erase your working lines and fix any bits you don't like. Strengthen the drawing with a firm pencil or pen line, or add shading or colour.

Visit www.drawsketch.about.com for more great drawing tutorials.

EDDIE – FIRST EDITION



It is with great sadness that we have to tell you Eddie passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 1st.



Eddie was owned by Lynn Brown, who bought his mother, Lady, at an auction in the late 90's "because she had nice eyes". Lady was pregnant at the time and soon gave birth to a feisty foal that Lynn named First Edition – abbreviated to Eddie.

Our condolences go out to Lynn.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

***"Human safety is first.
Horse safety is second.
Everything else is third."
John Lyons***

John Lyons is a respected horse trainer who has become known as "America's most trusted horseman". This article has been adapted for Harrogate Hills from his web site.

Whether you are learning to handle a horse for the first time or just enjoy leaning over the fence watching, learning a few safety precautions will prevent accidents and injuries. The calmest horse or smallest pony has the potential to hurt someone if it is startled or scared. These recommendations may help you avoid kicks, trampled toes, bites, drags, or run-aways. If you are just starting out, you may feel a bit overwhelmed at all you need to remember. But safety rules soon become habits, just like looking both ways before crossing the street.

As prey animals, a horse's ability to react quickly and out-run a predator was key to their survival in the wild. This instinct remains strong in domestic horses.

IN THE BARN:

- NUMBER ONE RULE – if you are not sure about something ASK FOR HELP before you get into a situation that could go wrong.
- Be calm and quiet. Sudden moves can cause a horse to shy (jump sideways) or kick out.
- Organize your grooming kit and tack before getting your horse – this way you will not need to leave him unattended.
- The safest way to lead a horse is with a halter and lead rope. Don't hook your fingers through the halter straps, rings or the bit. If the horse pulls away, your fingers could be caught, injuring them or catching your hand.
- Before taking the horse out of the stall ensure the lead is properly attached to the halter.
- When leading your horse through the barn try to position yourself between your horse and the occupied stalls – especially in the top aisle.
- Make sure the cross ties are snapped on to the halter before removing the lead.
- The safest place to stand is beside your horse's shoulder where you can see each other, or about 10 or more feet away.
- Remember, you should always walk round the front of the horse, not the back.
- Never stand directly behind a horse. If you are grooming its tail, stand to one side and pull the tail gently over.
- When cleaning a horse's hooves or putting on leg bandages, don't squat or kneel. Bend over so that if the horse moves you can get out of the way quickly.
- When grooming, saddling up, or cleaning your horse's stall, tie your horse up. A loose horse in a barn can cause havoc.
- Slip the halter over the head and down the neck of the horse (cross ties still attached) when putting on the bridle.
- When going through a doorway, make sure the door is wide open so the horse doesn't hit itself. This can startle the horse and result in you being trampled or dragged.
- Please return the horse to the stall wearing the same equipment he had on when you found him! Make sure he has on his own halter, not one belonging to another horse. Most of the Harrogate horses do wear halters as it would be easier to manage them in case of a fire (heaven forbid this should happen), but there are a few who do not have a halter on, maybe because it is causing a sore spot on the nose – try to remember this!
- If your horse wears a cribbing collar, take note of how it fits and which holes are used for the buckles before taking it off.
- Pick up and put away all grooming equipment.
- Clean and return all tack.
- Family members are requested to stay in the Lounge when students are grooming and tacking up.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots that will protect your feet if your horse or pony steps on them. No sandals or thin shoes!

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SPRING REALLY IS HERE!



The horses are very happy to see the snow has been transformed into green grass



Even the water tastes better when the sun shines!



We are just as happy to be able to get out and fix the fencing . . .



You are doing a great job, Joan!!

DID YOU KNOW

The average horse weighs about half a ton, its brain is the size of a baked potato.

A horse's hoof is analogous to the human fingernail. Horses stand on their middle fingers.

Some of the equine family's closest relatives are tapirs and the rhinoceros

The horse is a herbivore, which means it feeds on plants.

Horses cannot vomit.

The normal horse's small intestine is about 12 feet long.

The average horse's heart weighs approximately 9 or 10 pounds.

Horses produce approximately 10 gallons of saliva a day.

Horses cannot breathe through their mouth.

It is said that horses can produce 50 pounds of manure a day - that's about 30 kg! (If you have ever mucked out a stall you will know this is true!)

SCRUFFY THE BARN CAT



Scruffy the barn cat turned up one day, up in the hayloft, up in the hay.

"Where did he come from?" asked Patricia of Paula. "Why his jaw is not quite right, perhaps he's a koala!"

"This isn't Australia, so he can't be a koala. Why he's a poor old stray cat that needs a good home," said our Paula.

They gave him some food and he lapped up some cream. They patted and stroked him till he slept like a dream.

*"What shall we call him?" said Paula to Pat. "He needs a good name, not simply **that cat!**"*

"How about Scruffy for that's how he looks, and when he looks better we'll check in our books."

Just then Scruffy woke up with a terrible sneeze and Pat guessed that Scruffy had hay allergies.

"Come down from the hay loft Scruffy, if the hay makes you sneeze. Come down to the barn with the horses and catch rats if you please."

So Scruffy's new home was on top of the grains, no kernels went missing though the rats took great pains.

The children loved Scruffy and he purred out his love. Every day he looked better and was now white as a dove.

Little Nicole was his favorite mate. Each day she fed Scruffy from a shatter-proof plate.

Scruffy was no long scruffy but the kids kept his name, for they said it would remind them how much love could bring change.

So Scruffy The Barn Cat had found a good home where kindness to animals always was shown.

(Found in the depths of the filing cabinet)

SPECIAL SUMMER RATES!

Enjoy our special riding rates for the summer of 2011. Sign up for both July and August to save 15% off of our regular rates.

If you are interested in this special deal, please return the form sent out with your June invoice by Friday, June 17th.

Lesson spaces will be filled on a first come basis.

Please note: This is a riding package. There are no makeup lessons for missed days.

Regular Cost:	\$397.76
Your Cost:	<u>\$338.00</u>
Savings:	\$59.76

For students who wish to continue to purchase lessons on a monthly basis, the regular rates will apply (\$176.00 plus \$22.88 HST for four lessons.)



Did you know that Harrogate Hill now has an official site on Facebook?

Let us know what you think.

Be a fan and keep up to date on all the news, photos, upcoming events and more!

Many thanks to **Christine Bennis** for managing this site.

