

The kindest treatment of the horse is gained through knowledge.

## Thank you, sweet Bella!

As I'm sure everyone knows by now, we lost Bella on March 5th.

Bella had been with us since early 2018. She came to us from another riding school, and we always felt we were very fortunate to get her. In many ways we were thankful that her previous owners did not really appreciate her because it gave us the chance to welcome her to Harrogate.

When we first got her, she seemed a bit indifferent and frankly lacked any real personality. But after she settled in and found that her



workload was substantially less than she was used to, she started to come alive and her real personality started to shine. She got glossier and chubbier, and overall looked the picture of health. In fact, a few of us often mentioned that she looked quite a bit like Northern Dancer, which is a great complement in some circles. ☺

At any rate, we had purchased her never expecting her to be a competitive horse that we could take to horse shows. Instead, we

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## Calendar of EVENTS



### HUNTER CLINIC WITH LICENSED EC COACH LESLIE McCORMICK

Sunday, March 30

*Limited to 8 riders, but we invite all interested students to come out to watch.*

### JAMIE DOWNEY MASSAGE CLINIC

Friday, April 11

*Learn how helpful massage is for the horse and discover how underlying bodily systems of the horse can benefit from this therapy.*

### HARROGATE HUNTER HORSE SHOW SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 4

Sunday, June 8

Sunday, October 5

### AWAY HORSE SHOW SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 25 (Stonewood Equestrian)

Sunday, June 22 (Stonewood)

Sunday, September 21 (Stonewood)

*All students are welcome to come out and cheer on the Harrogate Team.*

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were confident that her contribution to the school would be in teaching our beginner and intermediate riders. And of course she did that beautifully. What was always lovely to watch, though, was when someone with a bit more experience got on her. It was then that she could show everyone what she had been capable of in her younger years. (At those moments we'd regret that we didn't get the opportunity to bring her to Harrogate earlier!)

Bella dutifully took on the task of teaching her students and while she was never unfair or dirty about it, she was just cheeky enough to keep her intermediate and beginner riders on their toes.

She injured a ligament in her foot this fall and was on a six months leave of absence in the hopes that the injury would heal and she could return to work. Her future with us was secure regardless of her recovery as she had definitively earned her retirement.

Making a decision to let a horse go is one of the hardest things I ever have to do. While still

not easy, sometimes, when an injury or illness is catastrophic, the decision is made for us.

On Tuesday evening we realized that Bella was clearly in trouble with a neurological event that had affected her hind legs. By the next morning, despite the drugs we had given her, she still seemed very fragile. By the afternoon, her hind legs had weakened to the point where if she had laid down, she would not have been able to get back up. The decision had been made for us.

She was blessed by the fact that she did not seem to be in any discomfort at all. If ever a horse deserved to pass away with no pain and a mouth full of grain, it was Bella.

She had some hard miles on her over the years and we're so thankful she got to share her twilight years with us at Harrogate.

She will be missed. RIP Bella and thank you.

## Fun Fact!

The university of Sussex discovered that horses react negatively to photographs of angry people. When shown the photos, the horses heart rate actually went up.

Interestingly, there was not as clear a reaction to photographs of happy people which suggest that this ability the horse has might be defensive in nature. Another reason to always smile when you greet your horse!



Pexels.com / Mitya Zotov



# March Break report

We had an amazing March Break Camp. It was great having the more experienced kids and the younger kids here at the same time. The younger ones got to learn from the older ones and the older ones got to assist the younger ones.

Everyone got to help us build a jumping lane so that we could allow some of our school horses to 'free jump' their way down the lane. You can watch a video of the jumping on YouTube in "IsMyHorseHappy".

Great fun for all!



### TRIVIA QUESTION:

*In the trot, the rider either 'sits' to the trot or rises. Why do we sometimes call rising trot the "POSTING" trot?*

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

The answer to February's Trivia Question is:

**The Military is the original name of Three Day Eventing**

Allie Del Biondi won the February Trivia Quiz with Daniel Z. a close second. Allie wins a \$25 gift card from GreenHawk Equestrian.



### 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 correctly submitted answers and one person will win a prize.
- The winner will be announced in the following month's Newsletter.



**HARROGATE HILLS**  
est. 1983

This coupon entitles you to a **FREE** introductory lesson at HHRs on **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 – 7:00PM**

The evening includes an introduction to grooming, safe handling, equine behaviour, and anatomy. This a great way to introduce your young animal lover to the world of horses.

**Claim your spot!**  
Call us at (905) 473-3847  
or email us at [info@harrogatehills.com](mailto:info@harrogatehills.com)

\*Please note – This session includes a **FREE** assessment ride.

**If you know someone who might be interested in taking riding lessons but really don't know where to start, please share this with them for a free, no obligation opportunity to try it out.**



Maverick (left) and Jackson playing their favourite game of halter tag.



Stay tuned 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.



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