

Mortlach Riding Arena Association  
2009 Year End Review



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Hello Everyone:

Before 2009 comes to a close I would like to let you know what took place with the MRAA during its second year.

I very much appreciate Glen Fafard for the job he took this year of providing horsemanship classes to the youth in our community. Glen took all the kids 13 years of age and younger. His classes ran in May, June and in September.

With the help of funding provided by the RCMP, Heartland Agro (now CPS), Sask-Sport, SGI and Community Initiatives Fund we were able to provide subsidized lessons to the youth 17 and under. The participation was almost overwhelming. In the spring session we had 56 youth and 30 in the fall session. *(We didn't have an advanced youth class in the fall as it conflicted with volleyball.)* We had a few kids from outside the Mortlach area...a couple from Eyebrow, one from Courval, one from Caronport and 12 from Moose Jaw. The rest were home grown.

We have had many volunteers who made the summers activities a big success. I am aware that to start mentioning names can get me in trouble...forgive me if I overlook your name.

I would first like to mention the volunteer who I feel was "used and abused the most" (or at least I think he at times felt it) and that would be Tacoma, the big brown horse that was in the MRAA pasture all summer. Tacoma came out of retirement to come and help us out. He was a lesson horse used in Regina and was purchase by Toyota for the MRAA. He is a great horse and is spending the winter at Ferne and Harry Smith's.

The next volunteer was amazing...his name is "Bugsy". He stands somewhere between my knee and hip but he was a superstar with the kids. Bugsy is everything that a great kid's horse needs to be. Bugsy belongs to Candis Molde and was given to the MRAA to use for lessons. Thanks Candis!

Next is "Gracie" who belongs to Sydney Smith and was shared with the MRAA. Gracie again another great kid's horse also spent the summer in the MRAA pasture. Thank you Sydney...

Last but not least is "Small Fry". Small Fry is a very well trained kid's horse who was given to the MRAA to use for the summer by Kevin and Dallas Pole. Kevin and Dallas are new to our community and their generosity and support to the MRAA with Small Fry is greatly appreciated. Thank you Kevin and Dallas...

With so many students (most of them not owning a horse) at times we required more horses which were supplied by other families with kids in the MRAA. Thank you to those of you who shared your horse and made it possible for a kid to have a lesson.

Again for the second year Al Bakke provide horsemanship classes for all of us over 14. I didn't make it to quite all 16 classes (combining got in the way) but almost. I certainly enjoyed the classes and the people I was with and my horse.

The MRAA was involved in the Saskatoon Berry Festival in July. We were in the parade and had demonstrations again this year in the arena. It was a good day.

We had a couple "barrel racing" nights where we had riders from the surrounding communities come and race with us. It is nice to have our community come out and support our riders and enjoy the horses...we will do more next year.

A big event for the MRAA this summer was the Second Annual Mortlach Horse Show. Up until last year it had been years since Mortlach has hosted a horse show. This last summer horses and riders came from afar to take in

the day which was a great success. I would like to thank Candis for the hours and hours she put in to make it so. We look forward to next years show.

Throughout the summer the arena and outdoor facilities were often used by the members as a great place to enjoy their horses and others who have the same interests.

Planning is already underway for 2010. We have plans to change the format of how the youth classes are structured. We would like to move away from the group style lesson format and go to only two student (maybe three at the most). We learned from the success we had this year that we have many youth who desire to have a relationship with a horse. We also learned that having five kids to one horse in a lesson is challenging for everyone...mostly the horse. Our feeling is if we could hire an instructor who could offer horsemanship classes a few evenings a week and some on the weekends we could better meet the needs of our maturing students. With smaller class sizes we could perhaps offer a horse to every student in a class with the horses we have available to us.

2009 was a good year. We are finding out what we are good at and maybe a couple of things not so good at. But for the most part I think we can look back over the year and say it was good.

Again I would like to thank everyone who has made our second year a success and say that I am looking forward to next year.

Greg Haukaas  
MRAA Director

**MRAA Vision**

An organization that teaches, supports, and provides opportunities for youth and all others who are interested in experiencing how a relationship with a horse can enrich a persons life.

