

Patron:  
HRH The Princess Royal  
G.C.V.O

# CanTRA Annual Report

The Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association | L'Association Canadienne d'Équitation Thérapeutique  
Registered Canadian Charity # 11883 6543 RR0001

## President's Message Annual Report 2022-23

CanTRA's year, 2022-2023, has been momentous in many ways. While we worked to support the growth activities of our member centres, their staff, volunteers and precious participants, we as an organization had a year of challenges, reflection and change along administrative and management lines. The diligent work of our Board and Advisory Council members has prompted greater sustainability as we further defined CanTRA's role in the promotion of excellence in therapeutic riding, equine facilitated learning and wellness activities across the country.

After years hampered by pandemic restrictions imposed upon the entire country, CanTRA was finally able to begin again to offer in-person Certification Events for the development of skilled, knowledgeable therapeutic riding instructors. CanTRA member centres in the west, central Canada and Quebec were blessed with having these new instructors join their teams. Our goal for the coming year is to hold similar certification events in Atlantic Canada. This will require the creation of a CanTRA-accredited Exam Centre in Atlantic Canada, making travel to such an event more accessible and affordable for therapeutic riding instructors in that region.

Over the course of 2022, we said goodbye and a hearty thank you to our long-standing Office Administrator, Brenda Coward, who made the decision



During this year, many accomplishments have been achieved with the help of our steadfast advisory council members and committee chairs. We are blessed with their expertise.

to begin her retirement. This set in motion a search for her replacement. This task took time and faced an unfortunate hurdle when our newly trained Administrator had to leave us due to a tragedy at home, bringing about a second search. During that period, our office was run remotely for several months by a group of dedicated board and advisory council members. Though there were many ups and downs in the office during that time, our membership remained patient and kind, allowing for the analysis of outdated office systems and the development of an updated strategy. Our office reorganization brought about the creation of two distinct office locations as described later in this report, which will bring greater sustainability to our office structure.

During this year, many accomplishments have been achieved with the help of our steadfast advisory council members and committee chairs. We are blessed with their expertise. We also were thankful for the dedicated committee of examiners who worked

tirelessly to rewrite our entire Instructor Certification Manual. The French translation of this document was tackled with the generous help of Past President Eliane Trempe. We so appreciate the countless skilled volunteer hours that so many give to CanTRA.

As we roll out our Strategic Plan 2023-2028, we will focus our attention on promoting the sustainability of our organization and our many member centres across the country, with an eye on diversity, equity and inclusiveness in all its forms. Our strategic goals include activities that will streamline communications, will offer more educational opportunities, will help develop a board and committee structure with greater diversity and a solid succession plan and will restore greater accessibility to certification and accreditation activities across the country.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the hard-working members of our board, our Advisory Council and our committee chairs and committee members who have kept CanTRA moving ahead progressively, seeking best practises and generously sharing their vast knowledge along the way. I have enjoyed my time as President working along side many talented and amazing women. I invite others to consider joining one of our committees, helping to bring therapeutic equine-based activities to all.

We look ahead to a wonderful CanTRA year 2023-24 and wish all our members and member centres all the best in their valued work in their communities, bringing together their precious participants, volunteers and their kind and generous equine partners, without whom we could not exist.

Respectfully submitted,

**JoAnn Thompson Franklin PT**  
President, CanTRA

# Head Office Report

January 31 to February 1, 2023

## Report submitted by

JoAnn Thompson Franklin, CanTRA  
President

Ann Caine, CanTRA Advisory Council

During the past fiscal year, specifically in August 2022, our CanTRA Head Office Administrator, Brenda Coward, retired from this position after nine years of service.

CanTRA hired a new Administrator, Heather Shea, who had a sadly short tenure due to an unexpected family tragedy.

It was becoming increasingly busy in the Head Office, and therefore after much discussion and consideration, the CanTRA Board of Directors approved the splitting of the head office administration into two distinct « Administrative Hubs », one to continue at the Guelph, Ontario location, responsible for Insurance, Accreditation, Membership and the shipping of all Study Manuals and Merchandise items while the other office, now located in Sorel-Tracy, Quebec, will be focused on the administration of the Instructor Certification Program.

During this restructuring, a third « Hub » was established to focus solely on CanTRA's financial administration, administered by CanTRA Treasurer Rose Cook, assisted by President JoAnn Thompson Franklin.

The organization of this Head Office restructuring took considerable work and energy throughout many months of planning by a small team of CanTRA volunteers from the Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Therefore, the



final transition was not completed until after the fiscal year end.

Photo Credit: Clix Photography

More complete information will be an agenda item for information and discussion at the CanTRA Annual General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
**JoAnn Thompson Franklin**  
**Ann Caine**

# Certification Report

February 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023

## Certification Committee

Margaret Rigby (Chair)

Jane James

Hilary Webb

Fionna Christensen

Linda Rault

Gay Wood

**W**orking through 2022, most programs were starting to open up after the COVID restrictions were lifted.

As COVID infections were reducing, it was possible to begin providing some “in person” certification events. Many candidates and program directors felt it was simpler to hold virtual events at their own barn.

There are several very important reasons why we cannot continue to do this: a) the pandemic was an unprecedented situation; b) it has taken many years to standardize the level of excellence provided at CanTRA Accredited Examination Centres which supports not only continuity for the candidates at whichever centre they attend for their evaluation but also supports our hardworking and dedicated Examiners for the same reasons; c) although we were able to accommodate several candidate instructors, and

eliminate wait times which was important, this process was not cost effective for CanTRA.

CanTRA provides the highest level of Instructor certification standards and, by ensuring continuity between examination facilities, this standard will be maintained into the future.

The new revised CanTRA Instructor Manual was printed in the Fall of 2022. This Manual is much improved and has been very well received.

Appreciation is extended to our dedicated Team of Examiners who

accomplished this challenging task. Our thanks go to Jane James, Linda Rault, Fionna Christensen and Gay Wood.

CanTRA has 13 active examiners across the country, and eight accredited Examination centres, with two additional centres pending final approval.

Respectfully submitted,

**Margaret Rigby**

Certification Chair,

On behalf of the committee



*Barb Haffner, Ben riding Bella, Ashleigh Whitney on a trail ride at Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society on Vancouver Island.*

Photo Credit: Bill Jorgensen

# Accreditation Report

February 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023

## Committee members

Teg Harper, BC

Margaret Rigby, BC

Ann Caine, ON (Chair)

Margaret Tibbo, NL

JoAnn Thompson Franklin NB (ex officio)

During the past fiscal year, due to the continuing COVID pandemic, the accreditation of centres was still being done virtually.

Each centre submitted a 'self-evaluation' form in the usual way, accompanied by a sketch of the program site, illustrating the relationship to one another of all the buildings used in various CanTRA activities.

A video tour was also required, with the "tour guide" providing details of the activities in each area.

Following the submission of all this information, and after review by the Accreditation Committee members, either a follow-up phone conversation or a Zoom meeting with committee members and the senior staff and/or board members took place (whichever was most appropriate) regarding further details for discussion.

This new system was originally approved by the CanTRA Board of Directors as a two-year pilot project. It proved to be thorough and cost effective.

However, it was determined that for the accreditation of CanTRA Examination and Training centres, where as much consistency and continuity as possible is required between exam sites, to ensure the optimum examination environment



for both the candidates and the examiners, an « in person » site visit by two experienced and knowledgeable CanTRA personnel is still the preferred procedure.

There are four examination sites in British Columbia, one in Manitoba, three in Ontario, and two proposed sites in Quebec where they will be preparing for accreditation in the next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ann Caine**

Accreditation Chair,

On behalf of the committee

*Meghan riding Zar with volunteer leader and side walkers at Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre, Puslinch, Ontario.*

Photo Credit: Sydney Holmes

## Hippotherapy Canada

The CanTRA Hippotherapy Committee has been inactive during 2022. A meeting is planned in May 2023 to discuss the next steps for the future.

Respectfully submitted

**Pippa Hodge**

CanTRA Hippotherapy Committee.

## Equine Facilitated Wellness Committee

The Equine Facilitated Wellness Committee was dissolved at the beginning of 2022. In September 2022 the CanTRA Board appointed the Evaluation Team to carry out the review process for prospective Equine Facilitated Wellness Practitioners and Professionals.

The Evaluation Team members are:

**JoAnn Thompson Franklin**

**Margaret Rigby**

**Teg Harper**

**Charlotte Akerman**

**Dr Anne Barnfield.**

The portfolio evaluation process has been delayed due to the Head Office situation and will commence in 2023.

Respectfully submitted

**Christine Ross**

Vice-President, CanTRA



*Daphne Davey received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. She is pictured in the photograph with Madame Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.*

*Daphne Davey founded the Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association of PEI in 1979 and currently serves as president. She is also a founding board member of CanTRA and served as president from 2011 to 2015. She currently sits on the CanTRA Advisory Council. Daphne has been a CanTRA-certified instructor since 1990.*

Photo reproduced with permission of Government House PEI.

## DONATIONS TO CanTRA

## In Memory Of

JoAnn Thompson Franklin in memory of  
**Aileen Wright**

JoAnn Thompson Franklin in memory of  
**Ross and Marian Chartley**

Michelle Demers in memory of  
**Sandra Kohls**

Sarah Lawrence in memory of  
**Dr. Gillian Lawrence**

Vicki Ballantine in memory of  
**Queen Elizabeth II**

## In Honour Of

Paul Mallory in honour of  
**Warren and Carey**

Steven Trussler in honour of  
**Nicola Simmons**

## Donations

Daphne Davey

Dorrit de Demeter

Gay Wood

Jane James

Magdalena Soltys

Robert and Arlene Wright

Shelene Williams

Gluckstein Personal Injury Lawyers

## WHO'S WHO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JoAnn Thompson Franklin** – President  
(New Brunswick)

**Eliane Trempe** – Past President -  
Secretary (Quebec)

**Christine Ross** – 1st Vice-President  
(British Columbia)

**Margaret Tibbo** – 2nd Vice-President  
(Newfoundland and Labrador)

**Rose Cook** – Treasurer  
(New Brunswick)

**Dr. Angela Fountain** – Director  
(Ontario)

**Sarah-Michelle Senécal** – Director  
(Manitoba)

## STAFF

**Brenda Coward** Administrator  
retired July 2022

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Ann Caine** (Ontario)

**Daphne Davey** (Prince Edward Island)

**Bernard Gluckstein** (Ontario)

**Margaret Rigby** (British Columbia)

**Jeff Tiessen** (Ontario)

**Dr. Bob Wright** (Ontario)

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

**Lisa Burd** (Australia)

**John Davies** (USA)

**Jim Elder** (Ontario)

**Kara Grant** (Prince Edward Island)

**Mary Longden** (Australia)

**Dr. Ian Millar** (Ontario)

**Mea Renahan** (Ontario)

**Dr. Bob Wright** (Ontario)

## ANNUAL REPORT TEAM

**Christine Ross** Compiler

**Jane Chartley** Editor

**Warren Clark** Graphic Designer

**Gilles Jolie** Translator

**Eliane Trempe** Translator

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## Donating the Easy Way!

Would you like to make a donation to CanTRA?

Go the CanadaHelps way! [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) Type in  
"Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association" in the "I want  
to give to" space. Your tax-deductible donation will support  
children and adults with disabilities right across the country!



## Mission Statement

The Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association - promoting excellence throughout Canada in therapeutic riding and equine-assisted therapies through certification, accreditation and education.