



# CanTRA Conference

Celebrating 45 Years

Friday May 2nd-  
Sunday May 4th,  
2025

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Durham Therapeutic  
Riding Association, ON

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Spruce Meadows, AB  
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Trust



Appreciation is extended to all the generous sponsors and donors for their invaluable support of the conference in celebration of CanTRA's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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# Conference Committee, Volunteers & CanTRA Board Members

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## **Conference Co-Chairs**

- JoAnn Thompson Franklin, NB & Ann Caine, ON
- Rachel Reeve, ON
- Camilla Giffen, ON
- Suzy Bender, ON
- Fiona Ryder, ON
- Lynne O'Brien, ON
- Margaret Rigby, BC

## **Conference Volunteers**

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- Merle Fast
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- Dr. Angela Fountain

## **CanTRA Board**

- Christine Ross- President, BC
- Margaret Tibbo- Vice President, NL
- JoAnn Thompson Franklin- Treasurer, NB
- Kendra Flynn-Stronach- Secretary, QC
- Paula Bernard- Director, NB
- Dr. Angela Fountain- Director, ON

## **Panel Moderators**

- JoAnn Thompson Franklin- PT, CanTRA EFW Credentialing- Review Panel Coordinator
- Jane James- EC Competition Coach, CanTRA Coach/Examiner
- Pippa Hodge- PT, BSc Rehab, HPCS, AHA Faculty Member, CanTRA Coach/Examiner
- Andrea Gow- SLP (Non-practicing), reg. CASLPO

## **Mounting & Dismounting Presentation**

- Margaret Rigby- EC Competition Coach Specialist, BHS Instructor, CanTRA Coach/Examiner
- JoAnn Thompson Franklin- PT, AHA Credentialed Practitioner
- Camilla Giffen- EC Competition Coach Specialist, EC Dressage Judge, CanTRA CTRII
- Suzy Bender- EC Competition Coach, CanTRA Coach/Examiner, Certified EAL Facilitator

## **Appreciation is Extended to:**

- The Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)
- The Delta Hotel & Conference Centre- especially to Madeleine Puchalski for her guidance and support of the CanTRA Conference
- Craig Bickerstaffe, owner of Showworks Inc. for sharing his considerable expertise and providing support throughout the conference

# Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

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**9:00-10:00am-** "Setting Rider Goals to Accomplish Great Outcomes" with Pippa Hodge- Crieff Upper Lecture Hall

**10:30-11:00am-** Coffee Break at Sunrise

**11:00-12:30pm-** Practical Session with Pippa Hodge- Sunrise Arena

**12:30-1:00pm-** Lunch

**1:00-2:30pm-** "Closing the gap between Therapeutic Riding and Para Equestrian Sport" with Dr. Steve Mock, Marley Crosby, Arpeggio & Jamie-Ann Goodfellow (EC)- Sunrise Arena

**2:30-3:30pm-** Panel Discussion- JoAnn Thompson Franklin, Jane James, Pippa Hodge & Andrea Gow

**3:30-4:00pm-** Coffee Break

**5:00pm-** Bus arrives to take group of 30 to OVC  
Remaining delegates go to Crieff Upper Lecture Hall for "Personality Dimensions" presentation with Patsy Marshall

**6:00pm-** Dinner for first sitting at Crieff (MacLean Hall) for delegates from Patsy Marshall's presentation

**7:00pm-** Breakout Cell Meetings

1. Volunteer Recruitment, Retention & Recognition (Upper Conference Hall)- Lynne O'Brien & Fiona Ryder

2. Fundraising Ideas (Library)- Ann Caine

**7:00pm-** Second sitting for dinner at Crieff- OVC delegates

# Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>

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**9:00-10:00am-** “Exploring the Many Implications of Concussion”  
with Scott Haller- Crieff Hills Upper Lecture Hall

**10:00-11:00am-** “Disability Literacy 101” with Jeff Tiessen-  
Crieff Hills Upper Lecture Hall

**11:30- 12:00pm-** Coffee Break at Sunrise

**12:00-1:30pm-** “Equine Bodywork” with Leslie Kennedy- Sunrise  
Arena

**1:30-2:00pm-** Lunch

**2:00-2:20pm-** “Competitive to Therapeutic Rider” with Mike St.  
Denis- telling his story

**2:20-4:00pm-** “Mounting and Dismounting” with Margaret Rigby,  
Camilla Giffen, Suzy Bender & JoAnn Thompson Franklin

**5:30pm-** Guests begin arriving at Delta Hotel for evening Banquet  
Marketplace:

- Equine Guelph Educational Booth
- Leather Care Products by Christian Lowe- Erica Allen
- CanTRA Educational Materials & Gifts
- “All Through the House” Angel Fundraiser- Leena Kimsto
- EC Educational Booth- Jamie-Ann Goodfellow
- Gift Card Game
- Silent Auction

# Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>

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**9:00-10:30am-** “Saddle Fitting” with Christian Lowe- Sunrise  
arena

**10:30-11:00am-** Coffee Break

**11:00-12:00pm-** “Practical Nutrition for the Mature Horse” with  
Madeline Boast- Sunrise arena

**12:30-1:30pm-** “A Journey through the Horse’s Gut” with Gayle  
Ecker- Interactive session

**1:30pm-** Boxed lunch, conclusion of conference & goodbyes

# Pippa Hodge

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BSc Rehab, HPCS, AHA Faculty Member, BHSAI, CanTRA  
Coach/Examiner



Pippa is a Pediatric Physiotherapist and has a diploma in Physiotherapy from the UK and a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation from University of British Columbia.

Pippa has her Clinical Specialty in Hippotherapy HPCS and was a founding member of Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association (1983) in Langley B.C. She continues to be involved in the Association today.

Pippa currently works with First Nations children in five communities around Pemberton. She has lectured in Australia, New Zealand, Greece, USA and Canada.

In her spare time, she rides her Bashkir Curly horse, Katie, plays guitar in a band, trains her standard Poodle to be a service dog and enjoys traveling.

## **Overview of Pippa's Presentation:**

In this presentation we will address the key points of assessment of the rider, in order to set attainable goals. We will do this by answering the following questions:

- Why is it important to set realistic goals?
- How do we set measurable and functional goals?
- Are you able to listen to the rider and together decide what you want to achieve?
- Are your lessons boring?
- How can you keep the rider engaged and active?

In the practical presentation we will look at some common rider postural issues and some fun ideas of how to influence the rider to meet the goals.

# Dr. Steven Mock

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Professor at University of Waterloo in Recreation & Leisure Studies,  
Previously certified EC Coach & Dressage Judge



In the 1990's Steve helped run a therapeutic riding program in Northumberland County, ON.

Steve was a riding instructor at Cornell University Graduate School, and a member of the Jr. Varsity Polo Squad.

He competed with Arpeggio up to 4<sup>th</sup> level Dressage, national classes for 2023 and 2024 show seasons. Steve also volunteers at Sunrise.

## Marley Crosby & Arpeggio

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Competition Coach Specialist, FEI Grade V rider 2023



Photo credit: Geri Porteous

In 2023 and 2024, Marley competed with Arpeggio (owned by Steven Mock) in national-level para dressage classes at events such as Angelstone, Palgrave, Saddlewood, and FEI classes at the Ottawa CPEDI 2\* and 3\*.

Marley has trained with Ute Busse and is currently listed on the Equestrian Canada Para Dressage Talent ID Squad, having been declared for the 2024 Para Paris Games.

Between 1997 and 2004, Marley trained with Gina Smith, an Olympic bronze medalist for Canada and a member of the Pan Am Games gold medal team in dressage.

Arpeggio is a 16.1 hh chestnut thoroughbred gelding, born in 2005. He has competed in Grade V para dressage, as well as national and FEI level classes. Additionally, he has shown in Fourth Level dressage at national classes.

# Jamie-Ann Goodfellow

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Program Coordinator, Para-Dressage - Equestrian Canada



Jamie-Ann Goodfellow brings 17 years of experience with Equestrian Canada, where she plays a pivotal role in preparing team logistics for international competitions, championships, and major games.

She has attended two World Equestrian Games and has supported numerous World Equestrian Games, Olympic/Paralympic, and Pan American Games.

Jamie-Ann is dedicated to coordinating programs that promote participation in Para-Dressage, identify emerging talent, and connecting therapeutic riding programs to competition pathways through initiatives such as talent clinics, video competitions, classification, and pathway support.

Her motivation at Equestrian Canada stems from her passion for helping athletes unlock their full potential, achieve their goals, and progress through the competition pathway.

# Patsy Marshall

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B.A.Sc. and an M.Sc., with a minor in Adult Education



Patsy grew up on a farm and, at 17, left her family and the farm to pursue her education at the University of Guelph. She earned both a B.A.Sc. and an M.Sc., with a minor in Adult Education.

Her professional journey has spanned health care and education. She spent eight years working full-time in respiratory medicine, followed by another eight years as the Director of Education in psychiatry at the



Homewood Health Centre, Guelph. In 1977, Patsy began teaching evening courses at Conestoga College and is proud to say that she has been with them for 47 years.

In addition to her role at Conestoga, Patsy currently teaches at two other colleges: Sheridan College, in their Creative Studies Program, and Mohawk College, in their Mental Health and Brain Disorders Management Program. She also teaches at two universities- the University of Guelph in their Human Resources Program, and McMaster University in both their Business and Health Sciences Programs.

Patsy will be presenting “Personality Dimensions”- Enhancing Personal Interactions & Teamwork.

## Scott Haller

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BSc Honours, degree in Osteopathy, President and Lead Instructor of SHIFT Concussion Management



Since earning his degree in clinical Osteopathy at the Canadian Academy of Osteopathy and Holistic Health Science in 2004, Scott has earned a reputation in his field that is second to none. Early in his career, Scott joined the medical rehabilitation staff of both the NHL's Edmonton Oilers and their affiliate team, the Hamilton Bulldogs- an experience that has paved the way for a successful and fulfilling career in sports injury management.

Scott has always been extremely passionate about delivering the highest quality of care to his patients- particularly those suffering from concussion and post-concussion syndrome. It is that same passion that inspired him to develop The Shift Concussion Management Program- an education and training platform providing Healthcare Practitioners throughout Canada with evidence-informed concussion assessment and rehabilitation strategies for patients suffering from mild traumatic brain injury. SHIFT Concussion's Head Office is in Guelph, Ontario. In addition to his busy clinical schedule, Scott lends his time speaking to sports organizations, hospitals, schools, and medical clinics throughout the province on the topic of concussion management.

Scott is currently a Credentialed IMPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) Consultant (CIC) and has significant experience with manual treatment techniques such as osteopathic manipulation, craniosacral therapy, and acupuncture.

# Leslie A. Kennedy

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FEI Dressage Steward, EC Senior Dressage Judge, FEI Permitted  
Equine Therapist Int'l DipAO, MMCP, CLT-U



Leslie enjoys a lifelong professional career in the equine industry, most notably in the world of dressage since 1980.

During her career she has trained, ridden and successfully competed up to and including Grand Prix Dressage. As a coach she travelled within and outside of Canada giving dressage clinics and dressage test riding workshops.

As an advocate for the horse, Leslie holds an International Diploma (Int'l DipAO) in both equine and canine osteopathy from the London College of Animal Osteopathy, with an advanced techniques certificate obtained in England. She is a MastersonMethod® instructor, coach and certified practitioner (MMCP) and holds certifications in various other complimentary modalities. She is a board-certified Light Therapist (CLT-U) for humans, horses and companion animals through the Board of Advanced Natural Health Sciences (BANHS).

As an FEI Permitted Equine Therapist, Leslie is allowed to apply specific therapeutic modalities to her client's horses during CDI (Concours de Dressage International) events.

Leslie is the owner of DressageWurks and Dynamic Bodywurks Canada.  
[dressagewurks.com](http://dressagewurks.com)  
[dynamicbodywurkscanada.com](http://dynamicbodywurkscanada.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/dynamicbodywurkscanada>

## **Overview of Leslie's Presentation**

- benefits of bodywork
- different modalities
- choosing the right modality for your horse
- demonstration of Osteopathy, Masterson Method and various other modalities

# Jeff Tiessen

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DTN President and Publisher, CanTRA Advisory Council Member,  
Paralympic Athlete



Jeff's life took an unexpected turn when he lost both arms in an electrical accident at age 11. He chose to survive and thrive in spite of society's perception of people with disabilities in the 1970s. He is a Paralympic champion and record holder in the 400-meter event, a husband and the father of two.

Jeff is an inductee in the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, the Windsor-Essex County Sports Hall of Fame and the University of Windsor Sports Hall of Fame. He is also a proud recipient of the Senate of Canada's Sesquicentennial Medal.

An award-winning journalist, with over 1000 published features to his credit, Jeff founded the acclaimed Disability Today Publishing Group delivering information and motivation to live life actively, independently and confidently.

Jeff is a respected educator, advocate and highly sought-after public speaker. As a presenter and facilitator, he provides audiences with disability literacy education from the lived experience perspective.

## **Overview of Jeff's Presentation**

### **"Disability Literacy 101"- Exploring Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Understanding disability isn't about training. It's about familiarity. It's about introductions and conversations. It's about the comfort, competence and confidence that follows.

Innovative and transformative, Disability Literacy 101 normalizes differences through authentic lived-experiences shared by highly regarded subject-matter experts representing a wide spectrum of varying disabilities.

Assumptions, stereotypes and biases are challenged with common sense scenarios. Wherever you may be in your diversity, equity and inclusion journey, mindset is fashioned to help you move the dial.

# Mike St. Denis

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Mike started riding when he was 12. Having gone on a trail ride with family he fell in love with horses. When his family moved out to the country in Puslinch they had 2 cows, and Mike would ride around on them. His parents said, "We better get this kid a horse".

By 1995 Mike was in his early twenties and was competing in Eventing at the international level. His life drastically changed when he suffered a very serious head injury which almost ended his life and left him with permanent life altering physical and cognitive changes. Mike's recovery was slow, but it did surpass all the Doctors' expectations. He even continued to ride horses and do some coaching. But the riding was more recreational now. He felt fortunate just to be able to still get on a horse and ride around a bit.

In the past year, riding, in particular mounting and dismounting had become a real struggle for Mike. He has been volunteering at Sunrise helping in the barn, since 2022, and has now begun riding in the Sunrise program. This has been a lifeline for Mike, enabling him to still ride, when it looked like he was never going to be able to ride again.

# Christian Lowe

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Saddle Maker | French Saddle Repair Expert | Creator of Christian Lowe  
Leather Care | Host of The Saddler's Post Podcast



Christian Lowe is a skilled saddle maker with a passion for French saddle repair and a deep understanding of saddle fitting. With years of hands-on experience, he's dedicated to providing top-notch care for saddles, ensuring both riders and horses get the comfort and performance they need.

In addition to his repair work, Christian is the creator of Christian Lowe Leather Care, a line of leather care products designed to keep saddles looking their best and lasting longer. As the host of The Saddler's Post Podcast, Christian shares insights, stories, and tips from the world of saddlery, connecting with fellow saddle makers, equestrians, and enthusiasts.

Whether he's repairing a well-loved saddle, fitting a new one, or sharing knowledge on his podcast, Christian is all about quality craftsmanship and making sure every saddle performs at its best.

## Madeline Boast

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MSc. Equine Nutritionist



Madeline Boast is an independent equine nutritionist based in Ontario, Canada. With a passion for improving equine well-being, she began her educational journey with a bachelor's degree in equine management at the University of Guelph. During this degree her beloved mare Piper struggled with weight loss after an injury, which heightened her interest in nutrition.

This led Madeline to pursue a master's degree in equine nutrition at the University of Guelph. Upon completion of this degree, she launched Balanced Bay, a full-service equine nutrition consulting company dedicated to working one-on-one with the horse owner to curate optimal, personalized nutrition plans that are practical to implement.

Through Balanced Bay she has worked with hundreds of horses across North America as well as globally- from competing thoroughbreds to companion ponies and everything in-between. Her primary focus is to create optimal and personalized forage-based nutrition plans as well as educate horse owners on equine nutrition. Madeline is passionate about staying up to date with the latest research to ensure that a scientific approach is at the forefront of her recommendations while also being mindful of the practical challenges faced by horse owners. In addition to her consulting work, Madeline regularly conducts workshops and seminars, educating the equestrian community on the importance of nutrition in equine health.

# Gayle Ecker

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Director of Equine Guelph, Hon. B.A., B.Ed., M.Sc., Cert. KMb Welfare  
Educator/Trainer, Associate Faculty of Campbell Centre for Study of  
Animal Welfare



With more than 20 years of leadership at Equine Guelph, Gayle has garnered worldwide respect for excellence in knowledge exchange and improving the lives of horses everywhere.

"Helping Horses for Life"; Longtime member of the equine industry in Ontario, with experience in many sectors/disciplines and leadership positions. Continuing experience in equine welfare assessment. Experienced in research, education and training and development of award-winning online education programs for all levels of learning- youth to professional.

Gayle will take delegates on an interactive "Journey Through the Horse's Gut".



Gayle was recently awarded the King Charles III medal. As the Director for 20 years Gayle's Leadership has resulted in Equine Guelph being a nationally and internationally recognized centre of excellence for the horse, in education, research and health care knowledge.

## Thank You

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Thank you for joining us at this year's conference in celebration of CanTRA's 45th Anniversary.

Your presence, participation, and support have helped make this event both successful and inspiring. We are grateful for the time and energy of each person involved in the conference preparation, planning and participation.

Whether you were a speaker, panelist, volunteer, sponsor, or attendee, your contributions played a vital role in the success of this gathering. We look forward to connecting again soon!