



# CanTRA CALLER

## CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP!

Conference  
Edition

### MISSION

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



**CanTRA**  
**National Canadian**  
**Leader in Equine**  
**Assisted Therapies**  
**since 1980**

Supporting Canadian  
Therapeutic Riding  
Programs across the  
Country

Registered Charity  
#11883 6543 RR0001

CanTRA members from across the country came together on May 2nd, 3rd & 4th to participate in this Anniversary Conference, held at Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference Centre & Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre (Puslinch), with the Celebration Banquet at the Delta Hotel, Guelph.



There was an exceptional team of Presenters, including Keynote Speaker Pippa Hodge- Pediatric Physiotherapist, CanTRA Coach/Examiner, seen here during the practical demonstration of "Setting Rider Goals to Accomplish Great Outcomes".

Gayle Ecker- Director of Equine Guelph (photo top right) presented an entertaining, educational and interactive session on a "Journey through the Horse's Gut".

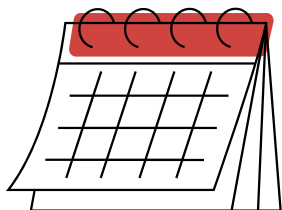
Christian Lowe- Saddle Maker who trained in England & France and is the Host of "The Saddler's Post" Podcast, seen in photo (right) showing the inner structure of a saddle and demonstrating the importance of the appropriate saddle for the well-being of the horse.

Also, on the three-day team of educators were Jamie-Ann Goodfellow- Program Coordinator, Para Dressage, Equestrian Canada, Marley Crosby- Para Equestrian, Arpeggio (owned by Steven Mock), Dr. Steven Mock- Professor at the University of Waterloo & avid Equestrian, Ute Busse (Marley's coach).



Photo (L-R): Jamie-Ann Goodfellow, Marley Crosby, Arpeggio, Steven Mock, Ute Busse

## CanTRA Examination Dates 2025



TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre, ON

- June 21st & 22nd
- September 13th & 14th

Creston Valley Society for Therapeutic Horsemanship, BC

- July 19th & 20th

Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre, ON

- September 5th & 6th
- Centre Équestre Élixir, QC
- September 13th



# Conference Highlights



Delegates enjoying the evening banquet at the Delta Hotel in Guelph. CanTRA Honourary Director, Dr. Ian Millar sent a recorded congratulatory message to conference attendees, which will soon be posted on our website for members to view.



Conference Volunteers Angela Fountain & Stephanie Douthwaite



Conference Committee (L-R:) Suzy Bender (ON), JoAnn Thompson Franklin (NB)- Co-chair, Ann Caine (ON)- Co-chair, Margaret Rigby (BC), Camilla Giffen (ON), Lynne O'Brien (ON), Fiona Ryder (ON), Rachel Reeve, Guelph Head Office



Pippa Hodge enjoying the blanket she won- made and donated by Andrea Gow, SLP



Handmade in Canada! Leena Kimsto's Angel Fundraising display from "All Through the House"



Andrea Gow's Communication booth



Daphne Davey & Kathryn Barrett (PEI) with rider Haley V



Christian Lowe & Gayle Ecker, both engaging with delegates at the Banquet Marketplace



A set of three digital recordings from the Conference will be available for purchase for instructor education from the Guelph Head Office, by the end of June:

- "Practical Nutrition for the Mature Horse"- Madeline Boast MSc Equine Nutritionist
- Conference Practical Session - Christian Lowe, Saddle Maker & Host of "The Saddler's Post" Podcast
- "Disability Literacy 101" Exploring Diversity, Equity & Inclusion- Jeff Tiessen, DTN President & Publisher, CanTRA Advisory Council member.

Conference Presenter Scott Haller, President & Lead Instructor of SHIFT Concussion Management has provided the following link to learn more about concussion: <https://concussionhub.org/>

Contact Rachel at the Guelph Head Office if you wish to receive information on running a "Gift Card Game" to raise 100% profit for your program, OR if you would like information on organizing an Angel Fundraiser & Marketing outreach.



# Celebrations & Presentations



CanTRA 45th Anniversary Cake



MC Jeff Tiessen speaking to delegates



President Christine Ross & Rider/Ambassador Brooke F cut the cake



**Left:** Christine Ross (BC) expresses appreciation to Past President JoAnn Thompson Franklin (NB) who remained as CanTRA President for a second term and then assumed responsibilities as Board Treasurer for two years; now remaining on the board as Past President. Christine acknowledged JoAnn's outstanding dedication by presenting her with a CanTRA coffee table book, signed by board members and conference delegates.



**Right:** Margaret Rigby, CanTRA Coach/Examiner (BC) has served as CanTRA's Certification Chair for many years, and during this time Jane James, CanTRA Coach/Examiner, has strongly supported Margaret as each new instructor certification initiative has been discussed, refined and initiated by the committee. Margaret took this opportunity to show appreciation to Jane, as members were gathered for the 45th Anniversary Banquet.

## Outstanding 2025 Therapy Horse of the Year

Dr. Alan Manning, of Manning Veterinary Services, was recognized for sponsoring this award for a total of 13 years. The 2025 winner was announced- **EMBER** from Cowichan TRA, Duncan (BC). Jane James, founder of CTRA, accepted the plaque and embroidered horse cooler.

**Below:** Gemini receiving her plaque



In addition to the "Outstanding Therapy Horse" award, 6 horses were recognized as "Horses of Distinction" as follows: **Brian-** Kamloops (BC), **Tippy-** Prance (ON), **Gemini-** Little Bits (AB), **Ronan-** CARD (ON), **Charlie-** TROTT (ON) & **Bobby-** Joyriders (PEI).



**Left:** Ember at home wearing the coveted prize

**Right:** Delegates from the programs accepted the horse's plaques



# Administrative Updates

## **NOTE- Administrative changes to both CanTRA offices are as follows:**

The old email addresses will be monitored for a couple of months but will then be shut down, and a full transition over to the new email addresses will be made as noted below.

### **Guelph Office**

(Administration, Accreditation,  
Membership & Insurance)  
Rachel Reeve- Head Office  
Administrator

#### **New Email Address**

[office@cantra.ca](mailto:office@cantra.ca)

#### **New Phone Number**

(226) 332-8115

#### **New Mailing Address**

PO Box 25059  
Guelph RPO  
Stone Road, Ontario  
N1G 4T4

### **Quebec Office**

(Instructor certification &  
Updating Hours)  
Eliane Trempe- Certification  
Administrator

#### **New Email Address**

[certification@cantra.ca](mailto:certification@cantra.ca)

#### **Phone Number**

(450) 556-1062



Remembering Dr Gillian Lawrence who was a founding member of CanTRA, and subsequently served as CanTRA President, hosted the CanTRA National Games at her farm in Nova Scotia, and also served as the President of the Federation of Riding for the Disabled International (FRDI).

Photo: Gillian being recognized for her outstanding volunteer contributions to Therapeutic Riding across Canada and beyond by Governor General David Johnston (2010 to 2017)

CanTRA works closely with Equestrian Canada (EC) requiring EC rider levels, Instructor/Coaching certification as prerequisites to various CanTRA Therapeutic Riding Instructor certification levels. Equestrian Canada also administers Para Equestrian competitions.



CanTRA is a proud member of HETI- Horses in Education and Therapy International. CanTRA was a founding member of the Federation of Riding for the Disabled International (FRDI), now known as HETI.

CanTRA is a member of Equine Guelph and through that membership, members are entitled to 15% reduction in registration fees for the Horse Portal and other equine educational programs.



## **PATRON**

HRH The Princess Royal  
G.C.V.O

## **HONOURARY DIRECTORS**

**Lisa Burd (AUS)**  
**John Davies (USA)**  
**Mary Longden (AUS)**  
**Dr. Ian Millar (ON)**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Ann Caine (ON)**  
**Daphne Davey (PEI)**  
**Margaret Rigby (BC)**  
**Jeff Tiessen (ON)**

## **STAFF**

**Eliane Trempe**  
Certification Administrator (QC)  
**Rachel Reeve**  
Head Office Administrator (ON)

