

LANARK COUNTY

Therapeutic Riding Program

TR Heroes

February 2020

Featuring the People and Horses Who Make a Difference

There are so many heroes in the Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program. We celebrate and thank them all, but some of the most important heroes are our horses. They are very special, gentle creatures with a great deal of patience and a lot of strength.



February's TR Hero is a horse. His name is Mary's Prince. He is a beautiful shiny chestnut gelding with chrome to spare. He is calm and steady and he has a beautiful story connected to another special TR Hero: Mary Hugessen.

Mary Hugessen was a pillar of the community of Almonte. She was a busy, kind and extremely generous person who gave of her time and talent to the people of Almonte in so many ways. She was also a horse lover. Mary sadly passed away in 2013, but her generosity continued with a bequest to the Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program. That bequest was used to purchase a beautiful chestnut gelding in 2014. Mary's daughter said Mary had always dreamed of having a horse named after her. So that gelding became Mary's Prince.

"Mary's Prince is as perfect as a TR Horse can be," says Head Instructor Maria Hofbauer. "He is calm through all situations, and he has lovely smooth gaits that benefit all of those who ride him. He has been with the program through a few moves and has settled in to his job quickly every time."

Mary's Prince is a favourite of many of the program's riders, but is a special favourite of Megan. "Prince helped Megan to really improve her riding in 2019," says her instructor Patty Townsend. "They did so well together that Megan received the program's most improved rider award."

Megan says she loved riding Prince last season because he was never stubborn and was always gentle and patient. She says: "I always felt comfortable and safe with Prince because he is a good boy."



Would you like to see how horses change lives? Please consider volunteering for the program. Whether you want to work with horses or in some other capacity, we welcome the contribution of your time. We can be found at www.therapeuticriding.ca, on Facebook, and by calling our Program Administrator Amy at 613-257-7121 extension 3238.