

# LANARK COUNTY

## Therapeutic Riding Program

### TR Heroes

February, 2021

### The Ottawa Valley Hunt

*Featuring the People and Horses Who Make a Difference*



In the late spring, early summer and fall you might catch a glimpse of horses and riders galloping after hounds through the fields around Ashton Ontario. What you are seeing is the impressive Ottawa Valley Hunt (OVH), one of the oldest fox hunting organizations in North America. They are not actually hunting foxes though. The OVH is a drag hunt. The hounds are following an artificial scent and the exhilarated riders are following those hounds. Riders are experiencing the beauty of the land and the joy of the horse and they are February's TR Heroes.

According to one Hunt member: "Our organization is so fortunate to have the support of our community and of land owners in the community who allow us access to over 1,000 acres of land for our sport. We wanted to express our gratitude by giving back to the community. The Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program is a natural fit for our support because we are helping individuals, who may not have the same advantages that we do, to experience the healing power of the horse."

And give back they have. Members of the Ottawa Valley Hunt have made huge contributions of time, creativity and funds to the LCTRP. "The Hunt has kind of taken our program under its wings," says Program Coordinator Amy Booth. "The generosity of its members is overwhelming."

Here are just a few examples of the support TR has received from members of the Ottawa Valley Hunt. One member sponsored table for TR riders and volunteers to attend the prestigious Hunt Ball. When a Hunt member won the 50/50 draw at the Ball she donated the winnings to the TR program. A Hunt member furnished a lounge for TR at our Fox Hollow Farm location, and another provided a barbecue for opening days at the farm. One of the Hunt's popular Hunter Paces was dedicated to the TR program. A Hunt member contributed over 30 bottles of wine for a raffle to support TR and other members bought many tickets. When a Hunt member won the draw, she donated all the wine back to TR for a future fundraiser. Hunt members have participated to the max in TR's online auctions and some members have also volunteered as horse handlers and side walkers for TR lessons.



"The support of the members of the Ottawa Valley Hunt has been ongoing," says Amy Booth, but the stepped up efforts during this pandemic have been extra valuable. We are so fortunate to have this partnership with the Ottawa Valley Hunt." And according to one Hunt Member: "We are lucky as Hunt riders to experience the magic of the horse and we are united in our desire to help ensure that the riders at LCTRP get to feel the magic too. Horses bring us together."

*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](http://www.therapeuticriding.ca), on Facebook, and by calling our Program Administrator Amy at 613-257-7121 extension 3238.*