



SUNRISE THERAPEUTIC RIDING & LEARNING CENTRE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

November 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023

MISSION

To develop the full potential of children and adults with special needs through therapy, education, horse riding, recreation, and life skills programs, farm-related and social activities, and to further develop and expand Sunrise's programming to support a Respite and Residence Village community.



**Serving Our
Community
Since 1982**

6920 Concession 1
Puslinch ON, N0B 2J0
(519) 837-0558

www.sunrise-therapeutic.ca

Registered Charity
11920 6027 RR0001



Values

Respect For people, horses and the environment.

Innovation We strive for excellence through continuous improvement in our inclusive programs and services.

Personal Growth We believe that every person should be treated with dignity and empowered to reach their full potential.

Fiscal Responsibility We adhere to clear and comprehensive accounting policies in our operations and fundraising practices.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Hello! First of all, I'd like to introduce myself. I am the recently appointed Sunrise Board President. Ann Caine has chosen to take a larger role in our capital campaign and focus on fundraising goals as we work toward the construction of the new residence, The Village at Sunrise Farm. Ann acts as a liaison between the Capital Campaign and the Board, so thankfully, she still attends Board meetings and shares her infinite wisdom and knowledge with us. I have been on the Sunrise Board for about four years, but in my former capacity as Councillor for the Township of Puslinch, I have been involved with Sunrise for more than twenty years. So, it is an absolute honour to lead Sunrise through 2024. The Sunrise Board of Directors is a dedicated group of individuals who strive to maintain the excellent programs and reputation we have. I'd like to personally thank our directors, Karen Curtis, Councillor Jessica Goyda, Donna Christie and David Kennedy for their support and tireless work advocating for our beloved Sunrise. Our outstanding Executive Director, Lynne O'Brien, is the heartbeat of Sunrise. Lynne keeps everything running like a well oiled machine. I would like to express my thanks to Lynne for her endless patience as I learn on the job.

A few of the highlights of 2023

The Pasta Dinner returns! The first Pasta Dinner since covid was held to a sold-out crowd in support of Sunrise and other Rotary projects by the Guelph South Rotary Club. Between the dinner and the online auction over \$17,500 was raised.

Celebrate Sunrise was well attended in June and we were generously supported by the attendees. The video by Catherine Rix highlighting Sunrise was viewed and as usual, there were not too many dry eyes in the house!

Don McDermott consulted with the Sunrise Board to update our strategic plan. This document will provide a blueprint to guide Sunrise through the coming years. We thank Don for sharing his expertise.

Fundraising efforts which will lead to our long-held goal of opening the Village at Sunrise Farm, will be a focal point this year. Decisions have recently been made to refresh the Capital Cabinet and to invite others with direct expertise to assist us with fundraising.

Please continue to support Sunrise, financially, spiritually and supportively through this journey. We need each and everyone of you. Remember in the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."



Susan Fielding
Susan Fielding
Board President

Executive Director's Report

Thank you to everyone in the Sunrise community for your continued support!!

Through the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteers, collaboration with our community and partners, and generosity of our donors and supporters, Sunrise continues to grow and impact the lives of those with special needs through a variety of equine-based programs and with horticulture on our 102-acre farm. The human-animal bond is a powerful motivator and at Sunrise we see remarkable things happen every day!

Our People Sunrise Staff

Our greatest strength - our staff team! - continue to give their passion, dedication, and professionalism, to fulfil the Sunrise vision. 20 full and part-time staff make up this small but mighty group, most of whom are long-term employees.

Sunrise Volunteers

Volunteers are such an important part of the Sunrise team! This past year saw a growth of the Sunrise Volunteer program base in the areas of Lesson Volunteers for therapeutic riding, property maintenance, office support, fundraising and special events, and visiting corporate volunteers to help in all areas. **250 Volunteers annually.**

Our Programs

Therapeutic Riding

Sunrise's foundational program saw three Student Instructors join the program to be certified by the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association in the coming year ensuring future stability and development. An ever-growing program, with most clients coming through a family doctor referral, 25 new Riders joined the program last year and three new Therapy Horses joined the herd! **120 weekly participants.**

Adult Life Skills Day Program

This program, working with horses on the ground and a with horticulture, saw successful expansion to four days per week in 2023! Many practical life and transferrable skills are practiced, and the social community built into this program is invaluable. **24 weekly participants.**

Equine Assisted Learning (EAL)

The past year saw a very successful partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) throughout the summer months with visiting students working with horses on the ground through a series of fun activities to improve communication, problem solving, team building, and cooperation. **150 participants annually.**

Equine Facilitated Wellness (EFW)

Sunrise Staff, Camilla Giffen, Sunrise Head Instructor/CTR II and Merle Fast, MSW/CTR II, are working toward becoming credentialed by CanTRA as an EFW Mental Health Professional and Senior Equine Specialist to begin individual equine-based counselling at the Sunrise Farm.

Camp Sunrise

Accredited by the Ontario Camps Association, the camp program is based on a total inclusion model for children with and without special needs. A special donation recognizing Camp Sunrise's success with inclusion provided for the creation of an Inclusion Counsellor position for the first time and allowed many campers to participate independently with this occasional extra support. **300 campers annually.**

Little Breeches

Offered 5 Saturdays each Fall and Spring for ages 4-8, this program is the beginning of the Sunrise journey for many. Youngsters with and without special needs learned about the farm and horses and experienced their first riding lesson! **50 participants annually.**



Lynne O'Brien
Lynne O'Brien
Executive Director

Capital Campaign Steering Committee Report

Work continued on our Site Plan Application (SPA), for which approval of all technical elements was received in February 2022. Discussions with the township regarding the amount, form, and timing of financial assurances, as well as wording of the Site Plan Agreement continued through February 2023. In April 2023 the final agreement was signed by Sunrise and submitted to the Township. In May 2023 the Financial Assurances in the amount of \$144,000 were put on deposit with the Township and on 1 June 2023 the Site Plan Agreement was formally registered. This represents a major project milestone and completion of what has been defined as Stage 1 of the project. We are now able to communicate

In November 2022 we met with Ted Arnott and a representative from Michael Chong's office to provide a project update. This meeting resulted in a subsequent visit to Sunrise in August 2023 for a project briefing with Logan Kanapathi, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

In the Fall of 2023 the Steering Committee initiated Stage 2 of the project which focuses on completion of design drawings and readiness for Building Permit applications as well as raising an initial \$2 million in new capital funding. Stage 2 is projected to last until Fall 2024. The completed a video by Canadian Filmmaker Catherine Rix, and Kurt Carpenter (view by using the QR code below), as well as a newly created Capital Campaign brochure and the previously built model, are being put to good use in this stage and the Steering Committee met 7 times during the last fiscal year. The composition of the committee remained stable over the course of the year.

Village At Sunrise Farm Residence/Respite Building



- We have the land
- We have the zoning
- We have the building designs
- We have a Registered Site Plan Agreement



Peter Cummins
Peter Cummins,
Steering Committee Chair.



view campaign video here

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & FUNDRAISING

Thank you "Friends of Sunrise"

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

\$50,000

Michael Balnar

\$11,151.83

The Peter & Susan Cummins
Family Foundation

\$8,566

The Township of Puslinch

Up to \$1,000

Boyd, Ken
Caine, Ann
Day, Anne
Puslinch Optimist Club

SUNRISE OPERATIONS

\$100,000

Barbara Wood

\$15,000

Wm & Mary Singer Family Foundation

\$10,000

Priest, Andrew
Waterloo Region Community Foundation
- Nichola Pollock Family Fund

\$9,000

Rotary Club of Guelph South

\$8,500

Petersen, Reg & Carol
Yzerman, Will

\$6,000

Bast, Cheryl & Brian Dolmer
Bryan's Auction Services
Flewelling, Pat
Frasson, Susan
Mason, Marlene
Ross-Shire Foundation

5,000

Creative Landscape Depot
Cummins, Peter & Susan
de Demeter, Dr. Dorrit
Finn, Dianne
Fortier, Judy & Shane
Fraser Financial Consultants
L J Pearson Foundation
Melo, Maria
Wilkie, Dorothy
Woodbine Cares

\$1000-\$4999

Bast, Brad
Blurton-Jones, Nicholas
Boiler Inspection & Insurance Co.
Bulmer, Barbara
Caine, Ann
Christie, Jim & Donna
Clark, Pete & Celia
Cross, Larry & Glenna
Curtis, Karen
Fergus Lions Club
Flewelling Garage Ltd.
Gilmar Investments
Kiwanis Club Cambridge
McKay, Don & Barb
Pavli, Peter & Candace
Pawsitively Paradise (Peggy Gael)
R & C Accountants
Reid, Alan
Scalia, Janet
Stanton, Kenneth
Toyota Motor Mfg. Canada
vpi Inc.
vanEngen, Scott
Vanderpol, Sara
Wallenstein Equipment

Donations up to \$999

Alders, Carol
Allegion Canada
Andersen, Michael & Donna
Arbuckle, Elnora
Badger, Lynn
Barnes, Charlie
Baxter, Clara
Bennett, Lyndsey
Betteridge, Keith
Bienzle, Dr. Dorothee
Blackburn, Heidi
Bolster, Wayne
Bousfield, Carl
Bowring, Michele
Brenner, Sharon
Brown, James & Jean
Brown, William & Vivian
Brunette, Diane
Butler, Pat & Ed
Buttrum, Marjory
Canada Life: Jack Lillie Fund
Carter, Shiela
Catholic School Council:
Guardian Angels
Christie, James & Aneta
Clapperton, Ken & Irene
Clarkson, Marion
Copp, Terry & Linda
Crammond, James
Curzon, Barbara & David
Davies & Mahnke Private
Wealth Management

Day, Anne
de Demeter, Garrick & Joan
De Luca, Peter
Diaz, Anita
Dilworth, Carol
Donkersgoed, Philip
Dube, Sherry
Dutrillac, Martha
Ecker, Gayle
Entz, Abraham & Matilda
Everett, Dayna
Fabbiano, Roy
Farrell, David & Nancy
Finnis, Elizabeth
Fish, Jackie
Gall, Susan
Gibson, Alissa & Mark
Gillespie, Susan & Scott
Gogol, Shirley
Golych, David
Graham, Sandy
Grainger, Andrea
Griffiths, David & Judy
Guelph Red Chevron Club
Hamp Family
Harding, Karen
Harman, Iris
Hayden, Linda
Hiscock, Lt. Col. David
Hodgkinson, Isabelle
Hollis, Susan
Huether, Gail & Mel
Huitema, Nick & Jack
Hull, Brad
Irving, Kathy
Johnson, Susan
Joyce, Major Paul
Kaczorowski, Michael
Kearns, Lorna
Kelly, Shirleen
Kennedy, David
Kilgour, Joan & Marc
Koetsier, Sarah
Kruth, Stephen
Le Carpentier, Elizabeth
Leachman, Barbara
Litchfield, Martin & Beth
Lockhart, Lynn
Lok, Charmaine
Lord, Catharine,
Lord, Jayne
Love, Robert
Marcheagiano, Judy
Marshall, Linda
Mason, Robert & Patricia
Matthies, Carla
Mazzorato, Annalisa
McBey, Betty-Anne
McCaig, James
McCallum, Janet



COMMUNITY SUPPORT & FUNDRAISING

Thank you "Friends of Sunrise"

Donations up to \$999 continued

McGee, John
McKay, Linda
McManus, David
McMillan, Jacqueline
McNeilly, Ivan & Elsie
McRobert, Darleen
Meyer, Angela
Milton, Joanne
Minnick, Francis & Claudette
Mooney, Dianne
Morrison, Joanne & Peter
Morrison, Peggy
Morton, Marilyn
Nicoll, Kenneth
Nixon, Margaret
Notman, Sandra
OPP Veteran's Assoc. #6, Guelph
OVC Equine Club, Guelph
Ottewell, Geri
Overdevest, Sarah & Joe
Peace, Anne
Piercey, Raymond & Joan
Pimentel, Edgardo
Prosser, Ryan
Pryde, Ann
Rainford, Paula
Rainford, Ralph & Alison
Ravenscroft, David & Karen
Redmond, Barb & Steve
Reed-Davis, Moira
Renahan, Mea
Richard Van Dyke Insurance Group
The Cooperators
Roberts, Colleen
Rutter, Bernard & Christine
Rutter, Shirley
Salt, Stephen
Scalia, Janet
Schiedel, Allen
Schneider, Margaret
Sellers, Barbara
Settlers Supplies
Shackell, Susan
Shaver, Pat
Sims, Dale
Slack, Susan
Smith, Catherine
Smith, Glenna
Smith, Kim
Stemerding, Dr. Christopher
Stone, Jim
Strimas, Mary
Sugg, Nathan
Summers, Betty
Swanson, Michele
Switzer, Clayton
Taylor, Murray
Thompson, Susan

United Way Halton & Hamilton
Van Alstine, Lynn
Vosburgh, Ann
WSSC 235 River Mill Guelph
Walker, Jackie
Walker, Janice
Waterloo Region Community Fdn
Wickenheiser, Shelley
Wilson, Mary
Wojcicki, Helen
Wollis, Wilman
Wood, Wendy
Woode, Patricia
Wright, Dr. Robert & Arlene
Young, Chris & Pamela
Young, Terry & Janet

In Memory of Animals

Sherman (Michele Bowring's horse)
Sushi (a beloved cat)
Motley (Sunrise Therapy Horse)

Donations in Honour of:

Janelle
Vanessa Agoston
Laura Bailey
Wayne Bolster
Ann Caine
Terri, JM & Family

Donations-in-Kind/Professional Services

Anderson, Jane
Arscott, Ted
Badenoch Archery
Caine, Ann
Capital Paving Inc.
Christie, Jim & Donna
Classy Lane Stables
Cox Construction Limited
Creative Landscape Depot
Curtis, Karen
Gaudet, Cheryl
Gerdau Metal
Melo, Maria
R&C Chartered Professional Accountants
Robinson, Barbara
Rona Cashway, Guelph
Settlers Supplies
ShowWorks Inc.
System Fencing Ltd.
Tacoma Engineers
UPI Energy
WASTECO
Williams, Joy
Yzerman, Will

ANIMAL HEALTHCARE PARTNERS

Veterinarians:

Halton Equine Veterinary Services,
Dr. Laura Frost
Southgate Animal Hospital, Dr. Barb
Deter

Farriers:

Victoria Coy
Jessica Parson
Sara Vanderpol
Wendy Wood

Equine Vet Product Donors:

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal
Health (Leanne Pollack)
Leis Pet Distributing Inc., (Melissa
Wolters)
Zoetis Canada (Andrea MacLean)

Health Care Advisory Team:

Dr. Christopher Stemerding
Angela Meyer OT
Carol Peachy - Hill OT
Winnie Warywoda PT
Andrea Gow SLP

Environmental Partnerships

Williams and Associates, Forestry
Consulting Ltd.
Martin Litchfield RPF (R)

Other Partners

Ontario Mounted Special Service
Unit
Equine Guelph through CanTRA



EQUESTRIAN
CANADA
ÉQUESTRE



VISION

To be a leading
Therapeutic Riding and
Learning Centre where
children and adults with
special needs can
experience farm activities
and the joy of working
with horses.

To encourage and
support participants by
providing a positive
environment, enabling
them to realize their full
potential, by taking on
responsibilities in diverse
and appropriate
interactive farm and
animal programs.

To further enhance a
sense of supportive,
caring and inclusive
community through the
development of a
residential and respite
facility for adults with
special needs.

To continue to reevaluate
standards and embrace
innovation pertaining to
services, programs and
fundraising.

Overarching Statement

"Sunrise is committed to the physical and mental well-being of our horses and the protection of the environment and wildlife. This is reflected in the learning experience and training available to all the children and adults in our Sunrise programs."



40 YEARS BEHIND US

NOW "BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES"

Village at Sunrise Farm & Program Expansion



Brooke F (adult participant)

"SUNRISE HAS THE VISION, THE PLAN AND THE EXPERTISE TO MEET THE OVERWHELMING DEMAND FOR A RESIDENTIAL / RESPITE FACILITY."



Reception Hall



Interior Courtyard



Studio Suite



Hayley V - 4 years old



Hayley V - 24 years old

"I have volunteered and worked at Sunrise in some capacity for over 20 years (more than half of my life). One thing that keeps me so invested is that many of our adult participants, who I have grown alongside and learned so much from, have spent most of their lives as part of the Sunrise community. In many ways - Sunrise already feels like home to them and there is a deep sense of family amongst us all because of that."

-Sydney Holmes (Sunrise Employee)