

# CANADIAN THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 - JANUARY 1, 2025

### MISSION

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



### VALUES

**Integrity** is sustained through respect, trust and positive work ethics towards all individuals and in all situations.

**Professionalism** is maintained to the highest level in all our interactions with our members and partners.

**Communication** is conducted in an open, two-way manner with our members and partners to foster responsible interaction at all times.

### A Message from the President

2024 has been a year of growth and development for CanTRA. Moving on from the period of the pandemic has been challenging for many therapeutic riding centres, who have experienced both staffing and financial issues. CanTRA thrives due to a great deal of volunteer support from members and a huge thank you goes out to all of those involved.

Rachel Reeve joined the CanTRA staff in summer 2024 in the position of Head Office Administrator. CanTRA warmly welcomes Rachel into her new position. Her first months have been spent learning about the organization and getting to know members and centres. Her appointment has been of great help to volunteers, Ann Caine and JoAnn Thompson Franklin, who kept the office going during the search for a new Head Office Administrator.

The Certification Committee has reworked and improved the certification process. There are now Certification Coordinators across the country to support members working towards their instructor certification. Mentors from all over Canada are training and helping the candidates in their exam preparation. Elaine Trempe is continuing as the Certification Administrator and providing excellent support from Head Office. The exams this year have been very successful with an excellent pass rate.

The CanTRA Instructor Manual and Home Studies have proved to be very popular, with copies being dispatched regularly to all parts of Canada. These are available in both English and French and are a fundamental part of the CanTRA Instructor training. They are also very useful as a reference document for qualified CanTRA Instructors and Coaches.

Throughout 2024, CanTRA has published articles in Canadian Horse Journal conveying many aspects of therapeutic riding to Canadians. Topics have included "Amazing Therapeutic Riding Teams", "The Magic of Horses – A Parent's Perspective", "Canadian Therapeutic Riding – Celebrating 45 years of Service" and "Supporting Communication Skills in the Therapeutic Riding Arena". We sincerely thank Canadian Horse Journal for this opportunity.

In 2024 CanTRA has communicated with members through Constant Contact. This proved to be a successful method of communication and allows everyone to be reached with current news and announcements quickly and efficiently. In addition to this, CanTRA has been using Facebook to connect with members and the public. This method of communication is favoured by CanTRA's younger members. The number of people engaging with the Facebook page has been increasing throughout the year.

Preparation for the CanTRA 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in May 2025 has continued throughout the year. A tremendous amount of work has gone in to planning the three-day conference. The amount of gifting and volunteering which has been done by CanTRA members and friends has been extraordinary and has benefitted multiple aspects of the Conference from speakers, to catering, to sponsors and much more. This has been very special.

*Christine Ross*  
Christine Ross  
CanTRA President



Christine Ross with Emma  
Photo Credit: Andrew Bibby



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

**Supporting Canadian**  
**Therapeutic Riding**  
**Programs across the**  
**Country**

**Registered Charity**  
**#11883 6543 RR0001**

# Certification Report

February 1, 2024 - January 1, 2025

This last year has been a very exciting and successful year for Certification.

The Certification Committee recommended a change to the system by eliminating the “technical evaluation” and having candidate instructors go straight to the exam. This decision was made for several reasons. The most significant one being that an increasing number of candidates completed such successful technical exams that they received credible passing marks at that time.

In addition, to ensure that candidates felt ready to proceed straight to the exam, we developed a stronger CanTRA mentoring system, with certification coordinators being appointed across the country to support this new initiative.

Appreciation is extended to all CanTRA mentors for doing such a wonderful job, as this has clearly been a great success; and to the many successful candidates who obviously worked hard to achieve their certification.

The average pass mark at all levels throughout the year has been well over the qualifying 80% which is commendable for all concerned!

2024 Instructor Certification Results: CTRBI: 16, CTRBI-2 14, CTRII: 8, CTRSI - 1

Looking forward to a great year in 2025!



Margaret Rigby  
Certification Chair



CTRA Duncan, BC, CanTRA Exam/Training Centre- 2024 Exam  
(L-R): Margaret R, Tegg H, Theresa B- OT/CTRII, AB, Jane J

## Certification Committee:

Jane James- BC, Gay Wood- ONT, Linda Rault- AB, Hilary Webb- ONT, Fionna Christensen- BC

# Hippotherapy Report

February 1, 2024 - January 1, 2025

Hippotherapy is a technique used by specifically trained, registered Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists. This technique utilizes the unique movement quality of the equine, providing a multidimensional dynamic surface for therapeutic outcomes.

CanTRA's Hippotherapy Committee has been inactive over this past year after the unfortunate disbanding of an international program that had been initiated. CanTRA's plan for the future involves the formation of a Hippotherapy Special Interest Group, which will comprise of interested therapists and equine specialists who work or are interested in working with these therapists, as a way of sharing ideas, experiences and case studies.

For more information, please reach out to our CanTRA Head Office [office@cantra.ca](mailto:office@cantra.ca)



JoAnn Thompson Franklin, PT  
CanTRA Hippotherapy Committee Liaison  
CanTRA Past President

# Equine Facilitated Wellness Report

February 1, 2024 - January 1, 2025

CanTRA's Equine Facilitated Wellness group has completed the pilot project aimed at offering a CanTRA EFW designation for individuals who have successfully presented a professional portfolio that contains evidence of their education and experience in the provision of EFW services in their community.

The categories that an individual can attain this designation include CanTRA EFW Mental Health Professional, for registered psychologists and social workers; CanTRA EFW Equine Assisted Learning Professionals, for registered educators and life coaches with a professional designation; CanTRA EFW Equine Assisted Learning Practitioner for those with teaching experience and duties who may not be registered teachers, and CanTRA EFW Equine Specialist and Senior Equine Specialist, for instructors and coaches who have demonstrated specific certification, education and experience in assisting the delivery of EFW services in a recognized program.

During this pilot project stage of development, many portfolios have been submitted to the CanTRA EFW Portfolio Review Committee and some candidates have received their designation while others have been asked to attain more education and or experience prior to submitting additional evidence for their portfolio.

The purpose of these designations helps both the practitioner and the executive director of an equine centre to ensure the validity of the practitioner's qualifications to provide an EFW program based on CanTRA's Code of Ethics, where safety and ethical considerations are at the forefront for the participants, the providers and especially the equines, who are the stars of these programs.

For more information, please reach out to our CanTRA Head Office [office@cantra.ca](mailto:office@cantra.ca)



JoAnn Thompson Franklin  
CanTRA EFW/EAL Portfolio Panel Coordinator  
CanTRA Past President



## Accreditation & Guelph Head Office Report

February 1, 2024 - January 1, 2025

The last fiscal year has seen many changes in CanTRA administration. The most exciting and positive news was the arrival of our new Guelph Head Office Administrator, Rachel Reeve on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She is a Physiotherapy Assistant by training, who has many years of experience with horses, in addition to strong public relations and administration skills.

These changes also impacted some designations of centre status within the CanTRA accreditation system. With the shortage of CanTRA administrative staff the decision was made to focus on the instructor certification program in 2024, since this is the lifeblood of CanTRA

Due to the restructuring of administration, very little was accomplished in accreditation site visits both virtual and in-person. However, with a new year unfolding, email and phone communications are once again moving forward, with the goal of strengthening the Centre Accreditation program in 2025.



Ann Caine  
Accreditation Chair



JoAnn Thompson Franklin  
Past President & CanTRA Board Treasurer



# Administrative Updates

Please note there have been some administrative changes to the CanTRA offices.

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 Head Office

(Administration, Accreditation,  
Membership & Insurance)

### New Email Address

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

### New Mailing Address

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

### New Phone Number

(226) 332-8115

## Quebec Office

(Instructor certification &  
Updating Hours)

### New Email Address

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



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** (ONT)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**JoAnn Thompson-Franklin**  
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**Paula Bernard**  
Director (NB)

## 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)

