West Wind Stables

16TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL





OUR STORY:

West Wind Stables was founded in 2010 by Chris and Shawn. Chris has been training horses and riders full-time since 1988. Shawn began working with horses in 1998, coming from a background in construction, mechanics, and landscape design. The experience they gained from managing previous facilities, building their clientele and program, gave them the blueprint for West Wind Stables. Our home was built from the ground up by Shawn, Chris and numerous friends and clients.

Ground was broken April 30, 2010, construction followed, and the horses were moved in November 20, 2010. Prairie Strides, formerly Manitoba Riding for the Disabled, started their sessions here in the Spring of 2011. Chris and Shawn housed Manitoba Riding for the Disabled for 17 years and continue their long-standing relationship with the organization as Prairie Strides today. In 2024, we completed a major barn renovation, putting in new flooring, stalls and a penalty box in the arena.

We are grateful for the clients and horses, both old and new, who continue to be part of our story. Cheers to the years ahead!

OH HENRY





Henry is our longest-serving school horse here at West Wind Stables. Born in 1997, he has been with us since the mid 2000's. He came to us as a boarder horse, privately owned by his young rider. Together they competed at the local MHJA shows in Hunter classes up to 2'9'' successfully. Henry's young rider eventually outgrew him. While she moved on to another horse, Henry remained under her ownership and began his new career as a full-time school horse here at West Wind. He has taught countless riders throughout his years in summer camps and our lesson program. For many students, he has been their First. Their first introduction to horses, their first ride, their first canter, first jump, and so much more.

Coaches often chose Henry as their 'go-to' horse for a variety of lessons. His grumpy and often intimidating exterior teaches students how to read body language and move with confidence. Once students earn Henry's trust, the grumpiness goes away, and all he wants are cuddles and love. Meal time and turn out are two of his favourite things. At mealtime, he is loud and vocal to ensure he isn't skipped. During turn out, he becomes a blur of black as he dashes outside. His favourite treats include bananas and applesauce.

Henry is now retired and enjoys the occasional groom and visit with students who pass by. Next time you're in the barn, take a moment to say 'hello' to Henry; he might have some advice and wisdom to pass on.



SNAPSHOTS OF 16 YEARS















LONGEST CLIENTS

Allison

“I have been riding with you and Shawn since 1995 - 31 years!! Holy cow!”



Why did you start riding horses?

I was given a set of 10 riding lessons with Chris from a slightly snobbish boyfriend who wanted me to learn how to "ride English". I had ridden Western a handful of times, but nothing serious. Frankly, I was a bit afraid of horses. At the age of 41, I jumped in (pun intended) with both feet. Truly, riding changed my life. I exchanged the skis, canoe and backpack for the amazing world of horses.

Marlene

“I started riding when I was about 45 and rode until I was 75, with a couple of short-term breaks in between. I have lost track of time, but have been with Chris and Shawn when they were on Waverly.”



This is a photo taken around the time of my 71st birthday. Alomar was almost 29. Our ages totalled 100 years, so we celebrated with a party at West Wind.

When my son was in Grade 5, he said he wanted to take riding lessons. At one of his lessons, an adult rider told me how much she enjoyed taking lessons and how relaxed it made her feel. I have always loved horses, so I thought I would try it as well.

Anne

“I started riding lessons at Copall in 2000 so I’ve been riding for 26 years.”



I started riding because I always loved horses, and trail rides were not enough fun.



LONGEST CLIENTS

Miriam

“I started riding at Copall in the fall when I was 8. I've been riding with Chris and Shawn for 25 years.”



What is your favourite horse memory?

Doing Prix Caprilli with Surprise for a schooling show. He hadn't been a lesson horse for very long, and I had only ridden him once or twice. We ended up cantering a lot more of the test than we meant to, but we both had a great time!

Lorraine

“At the end of November, I will have been riding for 21 years. I have been with you and Shawn since the beginning, when I started at Copall. Chris has been my coach for 13 years”

How did you start riding horses?



I had wanted to ride horses since I was a young child, but had never had the chance. Our daughter started riding when she was 11. I always took her to her lessons and always said one day, when I had more free time, or my children were older, I would start lessons myself. Then one day I realized that you never knew how much time you had in this life, and I had better make the most of the time I had. So I called up my daughter‘s coach and started riding the next week. Now I can’t believe I’ve been riding for more than 20 years, and I’m still loving it!

Debbie

“I have been with you for 24-25 years. I started riding horses because my husband bought me lessons as a birthday present.”





EVENTS

November:

WWS Celebrates 16 Years: *November 20th*

WWS Private Shopping Night at Greenhawk: *November 28th*

MDC Saddles and Scones - Fashion Show and Awards: *November 29th*

MDC AGM: *November 29th*

Prairie Strides Final Class of Fall Session: *November 25th*

December:

WWS Christmas Party: *December 13th*

Christmas Eve - *No lessons; barn open for boarders/ leasees until 3:00*

Christmas Day - *Barn Closed*

Boxing Day - *No lessons; barn open for boarders/ leasees until 3:00*

January:

New Year's Eve - *No lessons; barn open for boarders/ leasees until 3:00*

New Year's Day- *No lessons; barn open for boarders/ leasees until 3:00*

Follow us on social media and be involved in the fun at the barn! You can stay up to date on what's happening at the barn with our riders' accomplishments, upcoming events, and the fun antics of staff, riders, horses, and our other lovable animals.

Make sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Our very own Miniature Horse Astro has his own Instagram page *@astrosminiadventures*. Follow along and see what antics happen weekly. As well as our adaptive riding program *@prairiestrides* and of course everything West Wind Stables *@westwindstables*