



West Wind Stables NEWSLETTER



September / October 2026



Summer Camp Season is Complete!

Summer Camp season has come to a close. Thank you to all of our Campers for spending part of your summer with us and our horses. Thank you to our Volunteers for helping our camps run smoothly. Thank you to our Camp Staff for creating a memorable Camp Experience. Summer Camp takes a village, and we are grateful for everyone who participates. See you next year!

September Events:

Prairie Strides Begins: *September 7th & 8th*

MHJA Fall Harvest Show: *September 10th-13th*

National Coaches Week: *September 14th-20th*

First Steps Dressage Show: *September 19th*

MB Horse Trials Show: *September 19th-20th*

MHJA Jump into Fall: *September 15th-27th*

Kick Cancer Video Submissions begin *September 29- Oct 6th*

Sharing the Fun While Respecting Privacy

We love seeing your photos and videos from the barn! Whether it's a picture with your favourite horse, a video of your lesson to help you improve your riding, or a special moment you'd like to share with family and friends, we encourage you to capture and celebrate your time here. As we share these wonderful memories, we also want to be mindful of the people around us. If your photo or video includes another rider, student, client, coach, or visitor—even in the background—please ask for their permission before posting it on social media, or choose another angle. Everyone has different comfort levels with being photographed or appearing online, and respecting those preferences is important.

By respecting each other's privacy while celebrating our shared love of horses, we help ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable. Thank you for helping us maintain a positive and respectful environment—both in person and online

A Wall Full of Memories!

Over the years, our barn has been filled with first rides, big smiles, proud moments, and memories we'll never forget. Now, we'd love to celebrate those special moments with a brand-new Memory Wall!

We're inviting our clients and riding students to share a favourite photo or special memory from your time at the barn. Send us a good-quality photo in either 4x6 or 5x7 size that captures a moment that is meaningful to you. It could be a favourite horse, a special ride, a barn buddy, summer camp, a special win at a show or simply a memory that makes you smile.



Your photo just might find a special spot on our Memory Wall, where we can all enjoy looking back at the wonderful moments that have made our barn so special over the years! So dig through those photo albums and camera rolls—you never know which treasured memory might become part of our wall! We can't wait to see your memories!

Helmet Quiz

1. True or False

- *Non-riding helmets, such as bike or hockey helmets, are acceptable substitutes for riding helmets.*

2. True or False

- *Non-riding helmets undergo the same tests as riding helmets for safety and certification.*

3. True or False

- *Sport-specific helmets are tested for accidents likely to happen within that specific sport.*

4. Riding helmets must meet the safety standards and be certified by: select all that apply

- *SEI (Safety Equipment Institute)*
- *ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials)*
- *CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission – USA)*
- *CSA (Canadian Standards Association)*



5. You should replace your helmet: select all that apply

- *After a fall or accident*
- *After you have dropped it on the ground or banged it against a hard surface*
- *Every 5 years*
- *If it no longer fits*

6. True or False

- *Riding helmets are designed for multiple impacts.*

7. True or False

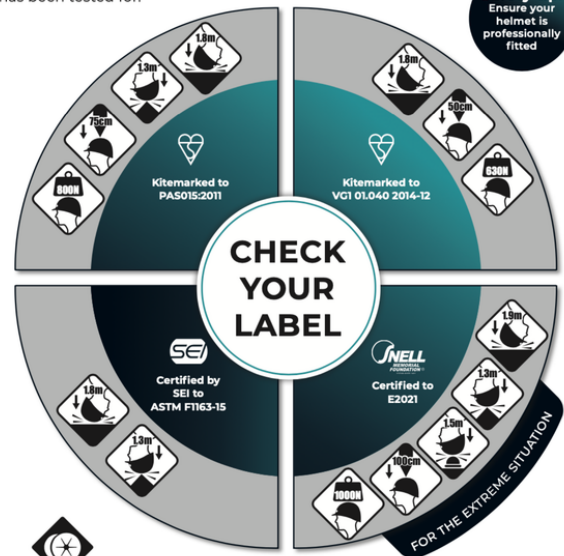
- *If your helmet doesn't fit, it will still protect your head as designed.*

Helmet Ratings & Certifications

Helmet Standards Explained

The standards shown on your helmet label tell you which types of riding accident scenarios your helmet has been tested for.

Safety tip:
Ensure your helmet is professionally fitted



CHARLES OWEN



This is a simplified visual representation of the main helmet safety standards available. You can view full information on the Beta website about these standards including details around their tests. Information correct as of November 2021.

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Answers: 1. F 2. F 3. T 4. A, B 5. A, B 6. F 7. F

Good Vibes, Great Rides!

At West Wind Stables, we are proud to have a welcoming, supportive, and positive barn community where everyone feels valued and appreciated. Whether you're a student, client, family member, or visitor, we want everyone to feel comfortable, included, and encouraged. We believe that celebrating each other's successes, offering kind words, and supporting one another helps create an environment where everyone can learn, grow, and enjoy their time at the barn. We ask everyone to treat others with kindness, respect, and encouragement. Cheer each other on, be welcoming to new faces, and help make the barn a place where people look forward to coming. A positive barn culture doesn't happen by chance—it's something we all create together. Maintaining this supportive atmosphere is an important part of being a member of our barn community, and it is an expectation we share with everyone. Thank you for helping make our barn a place where everyone feels welcome, respected, and appreciated.

Rider Spotlight - Tatiana

How long have you been riding, how often do you ride, and who is your coach?

I've been riding for 12 years. (Started in 2014) I ride once a week on Saturdays. Chris (who's been coaching me almost as long as I've been riding!)

Who do you ride with, who is your favourite horse, and why?

I ride independently, but I love seeing everyone at the barn each week! I can't pick a favourite horse when so many have impacted me over the years. Some have already passed on, like Rosie (the first lesson horse I rode with) and Whisper (there's still a photo of us in the lobby!) Rafi (a great mentor who gave me my first canter) and others. Echo holds a special place in my heart as I used to ride him all the time, and still do occasionally, if I can catch him! He's continued to watch me grow up over the years. I love all the horses at the barn because they all teach me something different and help me grow in new ways.



Rider Spotlight - Tatiana

What do you get out of riding?

Over time, riding has assisted in developing my confidence. As cliché as it may sound, it really has taught me to be persistent and to not give up. I've learned to stay calm in nerve-wracking situations and trust in my abilities. It pushes me outside my comfort zone in a good way. I love learning and developing riding skills during my lessons, but I think the aspect of riding I enjoy the most is doing peaceful, repetitive tasks with the horses. Grooming, tacking up, catching/turning out. I've done these actions so many times, so they help me relax. Spending quality time with such big animals who have even bigger individual personalities is such a special experience.

What would you tell someone who has never ridden a horse or is considering riding lessons?

I would tell them that having fun and bonding with animals is the most rewarding aspect of riding. Never put too much pressure on yourself, enjoy the process, and don't compare your journey to others.

What is your favourite memory at West Wind Stables?

I have a lot of great memories from Advanced Camp, but I really treasure memories of riding outside on a beautiful summer day, under the open sky. I remember riding on the hills with Rafi a few summers ago and feeling so grateful for the moment. I have a photo of us doing the same thing when I was much younger as well - I had the biggest smile on my face! Posing for Christmas photos also creates lasting memories that I'll treasure always.

Events:

October:

Mini Photo Shoot Fundraiser: *October 3rd*

WWS BBQ/Meet n Greet: *October 3rd*

WWS Fall Tack Sale: *October 17th*

November:

MHC Symposium: *November 7th*

WWS Holiday Photo Fundraiser: *November 14th*

WWS Celebrates 16 Years: *November 20th*



Horse Highlight:



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 [@astrosmiadventures](#). Follow along and see what antics happen weekly. As well as our adaptive riding program [@prairiestrides](#) and of course everything West Wind Stables [@westwindstables](#)