

#"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected." - Chief Seattle



Happy Holidays! We have had a very interesting year and are eager to pass on the news. We have added five new horses to the Refuge and to help you keep track we have included a booklet of all the horses currently under the care of the refuge. We have placed many horses, attended events and fundraisers and have some great stories to share with you.

Encouraging Support

An unprecedented number of calls about horses needing homes/retirement were received by the refuge this summer. Twenty-seven horses needed homes. We have also received many calls from individuals asking to adopt older or un-ride able horses simply as pets or as companions to their horse. Most horses in need have been placed in this way. Others have been placed in homes more directly through us, with contracts guaranteeing their care and safety for life. This growth in concern for retiring horses is terribly encouraging. However, our resources are being sorely taxed as a result. All horses adopted out on our contracts can potentially return to us. For example, **Bonnie***, a beautiful mare who needs \$5.40 a day just in medication, was adopted out two years ago to caring individuals. Their situation took a bad turn and Bonnie is back with us, unexpectedly. Also, we still have a waiting list of ten horses, a number of them at risk of death, whom we cannot take in nor find homes for yet.

We need more foster homes, or more foster "parents" who will take over the financial care of a horse while we care for the horse physically and find him/her a home.

We also wish to encourage the growth in satellite refuges - individuals who retire a number of horses through us at their farms and get help from us with the unexpected expenses like vet bills. So far this has resulted in great pleasure and satisfaction to those caring for these horses.

We are greatly encouraged by these events. We feel that all of our hard efforts over the years are bearing fruit, retiring horses is beginning to be seen as a viable option.

NEW ARRIVALS

Laurentians

Whinney 7 years old & **Scott** 5 years old

The woman who owned this little pinto mare and the taupe & blond stallion was struck down with a severe debilitating disease. She placed these badly spoiled ponies with us to keep them safe from abuse.

Luckie 20-30? years old, just arrived. Being perfectly sound, extremely gentle and safe did not save this thoroughbred from being slated for euthanasia because of his advanced age and emaciation. (One month of complete feed and supplements and he is round again)

Alexandria

***Bonnie** is a large, white, 21 year-old Warm-blood who was placed by the Refuge in a loving home about two years ago. She was well cared for and gained much needed weight and received treatment for a condition called Cushing's*, a tumor on the pituitary gland. Unfortunately, late this summer the situation changed and Bonnie's adoptive family could no longer keep her. We had only two weeks to find her a new home but were unsuccessful so she was brought directly to the Refuge, as per our contract. Bonnie became fast friends with our other newcomer, Buckey and stays by his side. We did try putting her in with the herd but she was very stressed, as was her sidekick, Buckey. We decided the best thing would be to keep them together in a separate pasture from the others. Just watching Bonnie with Buckey, you would never suspect she has a life-threatening disease.

*The medication for Cushing's is available only through a pharmacy and is quite expensive. (\$160/month) This medication stops the growth of the tumor and can in some cases reverse it. Without it Bonnie would die. We are currently looking for a sponsor/sponsors for Bonnie, to help pay for her medication so she can enjoy a longer, healthier life.

Buckey (Buckwheat)

Buckey now

Buckey before

Buckey is a 33 year-old buckskin who was boarded at a stable and not checked up on by his owner for two years. The owner had mistakenly entrusted the stable owner with his care. This summer we were contacted to find

him a home, as the owner could no longer pay the board. We had someone in mind and put her in touch with Buckey's owner. When the potential adopter went to see Buckey she discovered he was incredibly thin. She knew that he would require special care and called the refuge to check on him. We were shocked at his malnourished condition. The owner had been convinced that this is to be expected in old horses. The poor animal was starving!

While at the stable we noticed Buckey was not the only one who was thin. There were two others. We explained to the stable owner that at a certain age some horses can no longer chew properly and need special food. He did not want to hear what we had to say. He said that they would just die in the field one day of old age. But his horses are not dying of old age; they are dying of starvation. This ignorant and neglectful treatment of animals is unacceptable in our opinion. The S.Q. and the S.P.C.A. were called in. Pressure from the Refuge resulted in a veterinary consultation. It was agreed upon to allow him keep the horses on the condition that he follow the vet's recommendations. You can rest assured that the refuge will be there for the December follow-up.

Buckey was fortunate he got to come home with us. It has taken almost four months for this shy, delicate, and frightened gelding to transform into a strong-willed, proud and healthy senior equine. Buckey has put on weight and his eyesight and hearing have improved greatly. It is amazing what proper nutrition can do.

CALECHE HORSES RETIRED

This year we were very pleased to work in conjunction with Action Anti-Caleche of Montreal and two very kind caleche owners, to retire King and Royal. King, a lame working horse and Royal, a 23 year old, 20 year veteran of the hard, hot paved streets of Montreal, have moved up to Brebeuf to a small farm, to remain on soft pasture to the end of their years.

The look on their faces when turned loose on their pasture meant more to us than any thank you. They took off as far from us as they could get, so they wouldn't have to go back! Thank you Louis and Claude for opening your hearts and pasture to them.

Action Anti-Caleche raised the funds to help supply King and Royal with all they need for their first year.

A caleche horse owner said to keep encouraging people to work on humane laws for working horses because there are still huge abuses present in Montreal: big harness sores, over work, and bad treatment of horses.... all ending in slaughter.

Nursemaid gelding

Recently an 18-month-old filly arrived at a friend's place. Jet, her quarter horse gelding, took a great shine to the filly and protected her from the other horses in the pasture. When carrot time came he voluntarily shared his ration with her. When she wouldn't eat this unfamiliar treat he chewed some up and spat them out for her to eat more easily, which she promptly did. Then he went and came back with a big mouth full of hay for her. Horses never cease to amaze us!

FUNDRAISER

On November 22nd, the first of an annual fundraiser was put on in support of our refuge at the beautiful luxury hotel, Le Quintessence in Mont Tremblant. Thanks to the efforts of numerous enthusiastic volunteers, many people had a chance to enjoy an elegant evening and learn about our cause, surrounded in appealing photographs of our charges.

This incredible effort had unforeseen results as well. While selling tickets and collecting all sorts of amazing door prize gifts (donated), hundreds of people were introduced to what we do, and how horses in our present society live and die. The feedback was really heartening.

Our thanks, once again, to Genevieve and Dan Bigras who masterminded the whole effort (and keep 5 retired horses themselves!). Our thanks to the owner and staff of the Quintessence for their generosity and participation in the use of their hotel. And not the least, our thanks to all the terrific, energetic and warm-hearted volunteers who have supported us in this way!

Carolyn



Dog Days of Summer.

This past summer we were invited to attend an adoption event with



some of the dog and cat rescues in Quebec. With everyone together under one large tent it was a great opportunity to educate the public, even some of the rescues, on how horses and other animals (goats, pigs, etc.) are mistreated. Many people could not understand why there would be a need for a horse rescue and were very shocked to discover that horses, like dogs and cats, suffer from physical abuse and neglect just the same. The important difference is that the vast majority of horses have the added burden of working for a living only to be slaughtered when they are deemed no longer useful. Thank you to Monique Landry for organizing the much needed Dog days of Summer. If all the rescues would work together side by side then greater things could be accomplished.

- Rose

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.

Laurentians

Inconnu - was a small horse who came from a rental barn where he had to run all day to keep up with the bigger horses. He had been cruelly treated by blacksmiths and needed special handling (ultra gentle) to overcome his terror whenever we trimmed his feet. He remained aloof for years until his eyesight started to fail. Then he finally decided to trust in us. I always admired this spunky little horse who maintained supreme dominance in the herd for years without aggression only self-defense. We had to euthanize Inconnu this fall at the age of 42. We are grateful that he lived so long so that he had many years of retirement (13 yrs) among his friends after almost 30 hard years of service.

Caprice was a tall thoroughbred mare who arrived 7 years ago severely emaciated. Feeding her special feed three times daily soon had her filled out. She was kind, friendly and always gentle. Caprice was companion to many TLC horses ostracized by others in the herd. My children trusted her and loved to pet her. In her last years she would sometimes have trouble getting up and my neighbours would come by to help boost her up. Finally, well into her thirties, she stayed down for good. The vet was called to help her on her way.

Gamine was rescued on the day she was to be shipped for slaughter and stayed with us for 13 years. In some ways incredibly stubborn, she was also peaceful and friendly. She had always

looked older with her silver mane on a black roan coat but only started feeling her years when she reached 31. Accompanied in life by Caboose for most of those 13 years she went peacefully from this world, along with Inconnu this fall. Inconnu had been her very dear friend in the years they had worked together.

THANKS TO....

Michelle for her wonderful photographs of our residents. **Michelle & Guy** generously supplied all the beautiful photographs for the Fundraiser.

Monique for her two group shots in the forest in this issue.

Masterfeeds for producing superior feed for senior equines and **Brunet & Wylie** for being our feed depot.

Anne Bauer for once again taking on the daunting task of translation and doing an excellent job of it. What would we do without you?

All the individuals (too many to mention here - you know who you are) who responded to our request for support. We eagerly accepted your gifts of blankets, halters, buckets, building materials, etc., and your time. This kind of help is just as important. Your generous spirit is greatly appreciated.

All our supporters for believing in what we do.

Alexandria (formerly Ormstown)

Just a quick reminder that this spring our Ormstown location moved to **Alexandria, Ontario**, just minutes from the Quebec border. Please make note of our new address and phone number.

May you and yours enjoy a peaceful holiday season. Thank you so much for your continued support.

- Rose & Carolyn

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