

Lope for Hope's fresh trails

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combination of a generous community and beyond, but Julie Kay states that businesses and individuals in both the surrounding community and the Stirling area have been exorbitant in their generosity.

The annual event has not only been supported by individuals and communities near and surrounding, but landowners and people in the community look forward to the event, just as much as the riders, just to glimpse the beauty of horse and rider.

"I still can not believe I raised that much money." Top fundraiser, Bettie Barker said she has raised over six thousand dollars in the five years she has been riding in the Lope for Hope. "I placed 4th in 2003 riding Nugget my other appy. I feel that I have done well. I had set a goal with myself to place in the top five with both horses and I made it. I could not have done it without the support of all of my friends and clients. I was also sponsored by the Masonic Lodge in Consecon and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 509."

"I enjoy this ride at the end of the season and I will be doing it as long as I can get on my horse. There is not a better cause." Bettie Baker says that when the day comes she can't get on her horse, she will continue to support and help out with Volunteering with the Lope for Hope. She is that committed to not only the cause, but the well organized ride through beautiful countryside.

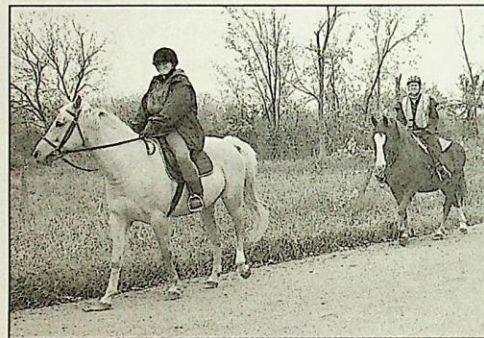
The top fundraisers are; Betty Barker, Lori Brown, Amanda Stone, Linda Berry and Donna Jan

There were 32 children participating. The top fundraisers for the children are; Brendan Laroche, Taylor Reid, Stephanie Stuart, Samantha Reid and Tiffany Floud.

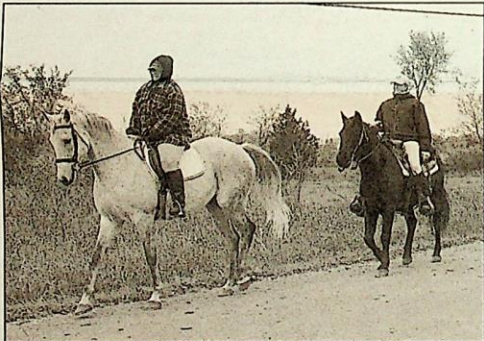
"There was \$29,500 raised in total today, with over 230 riders." Coordinator Julie Kay Dracup said that this year was great for both Heart & Stroke, the Cancer Society as well as for the riders. She is already planning for next years Lope for Hope and is hoping to add a change of scenery to the ride with the trails going north instead of south.



The horse has long been a symbol of freedom. The faces of the riders, as they returned from their rides through the Oak Hills and past the conservation area showed that horse and rider agreed. A sense of freedom and calm rode in with them.



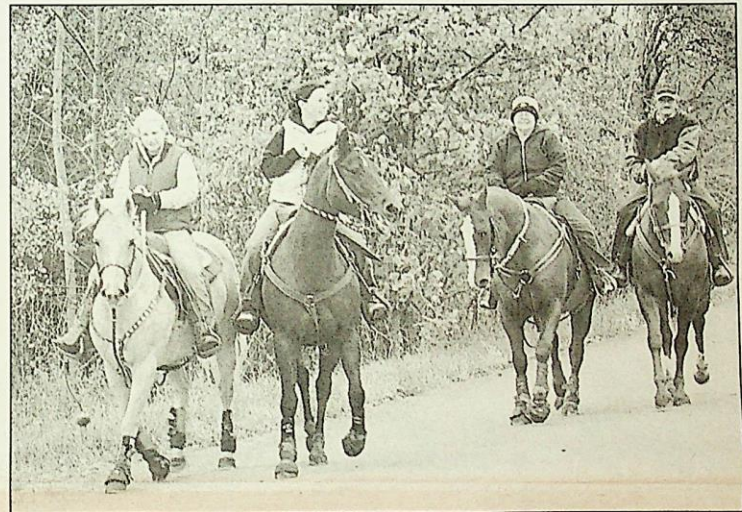
There is therapy in watching a horse and rider watching the bond between them and the steady clip clop as they travel down a road.



They gallop and trot, whinny and neigh and remind us of the heart of life. It has been said that horses have done more to change human history than any other domestic animal.



Wolfy Lambert-Reid saddles up "Eartha" ready for the trails on the Lope for Hope ride.



It was all about caring, enjoying, friendships and the ride. It was teamwork of horse and rider enjoying an autumn day in the Oak Hills and supporting the efforts of both the Cancer Society and the Heart & Stroke Foundation.



Tiffany and Glenn Floud enjoyed the shorter of the trails during the ride. Glenn riding "Chicken Stew", a twenty year old Appaloosa and Tiffany on "Old Paint". Tiffany was one of the top children fundraisers.

Photos By: L.J. Jackson