

2nd Annual Alberta Wish Ride a Repeat Success!

By Roger Matas
Photos by Bill Bruce



If improving on past achievements is a measure of success, then the 2nd annual

Alberta Wish Trail Ride was definitely successful. While the event, on August 21st at Little Elbow in Kananaskis about 45 minutes west of Calgary, attracted fewer riders than the inaugural ride, the initial fundraising total came in at \$25,000--\$5,000 more than 2009.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the result," said committee chair Irene White. "Thanks to all the volunteers and our community support we put on an amazing event. It's heart-warming

to know we are able to make this significant contribution to the Children's Wish Foundation in an effort which gave everyone such a great day."

There was some concern over air quality due to smoke drifting into the area from forest fires in B.C. which may account for the slightly reduced turnout, but it didn't seem to cause any significant problems. There were about 65 riders and horses who were able to choose from three trails through scenic Kananaskis country. Before they left they were treated to a pancake breakfast and then feasted on Alberta beef on a bun when they returned.

"There were a lot of happy faces at our base camp in the afternoon. A great day on the trails followed by a delicious dinner, entertainment and lots of prizes combined to ensure all the participants had fun," White said. Calgary-based singer/songwriters Joni Delaurier and Troy Kokol along with 14-year-old Angela McInnes and Larry Watmough cranked up the tunes and had everyone clapping.

There were prizes for the most pledges raised (\$2535 by Heidi Siviglia), rider who traveled the farthest (Lac La Biche), oldest male and female riders and the youngest rider (16). The top prize, a customized saddle donated by Frontier Western Shop in Claresholm provided an international flair to the event as it was won by 16-year-old Lia Meiseberg who visits her aunt in Carstairs every summer from Germany. Her squeals of delight when her ticket was drawn echoed through the camp and her huge smile was infectious. She can't wait to show off the saddle to her riding friends in Germany.

"Putting on this event takes thousands of hours and lots of people, but it's all worthwhile knowing we're making a difference in the lives of children who are going through a rough time," said White.



Irene White and Lia Meiseberg



Getting breakfast ready



Larry Watmough and Angela McInnes



LITTLE ROCK CREEK RANCH



- Hwy 3 Rock Creek
- 2.93 Acres c/w 3 Titles
- 1700 sq ft rancher
- Beautiful landscaping
- River view
- Backing Crown Land
- \$350,000



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