

SPORTS

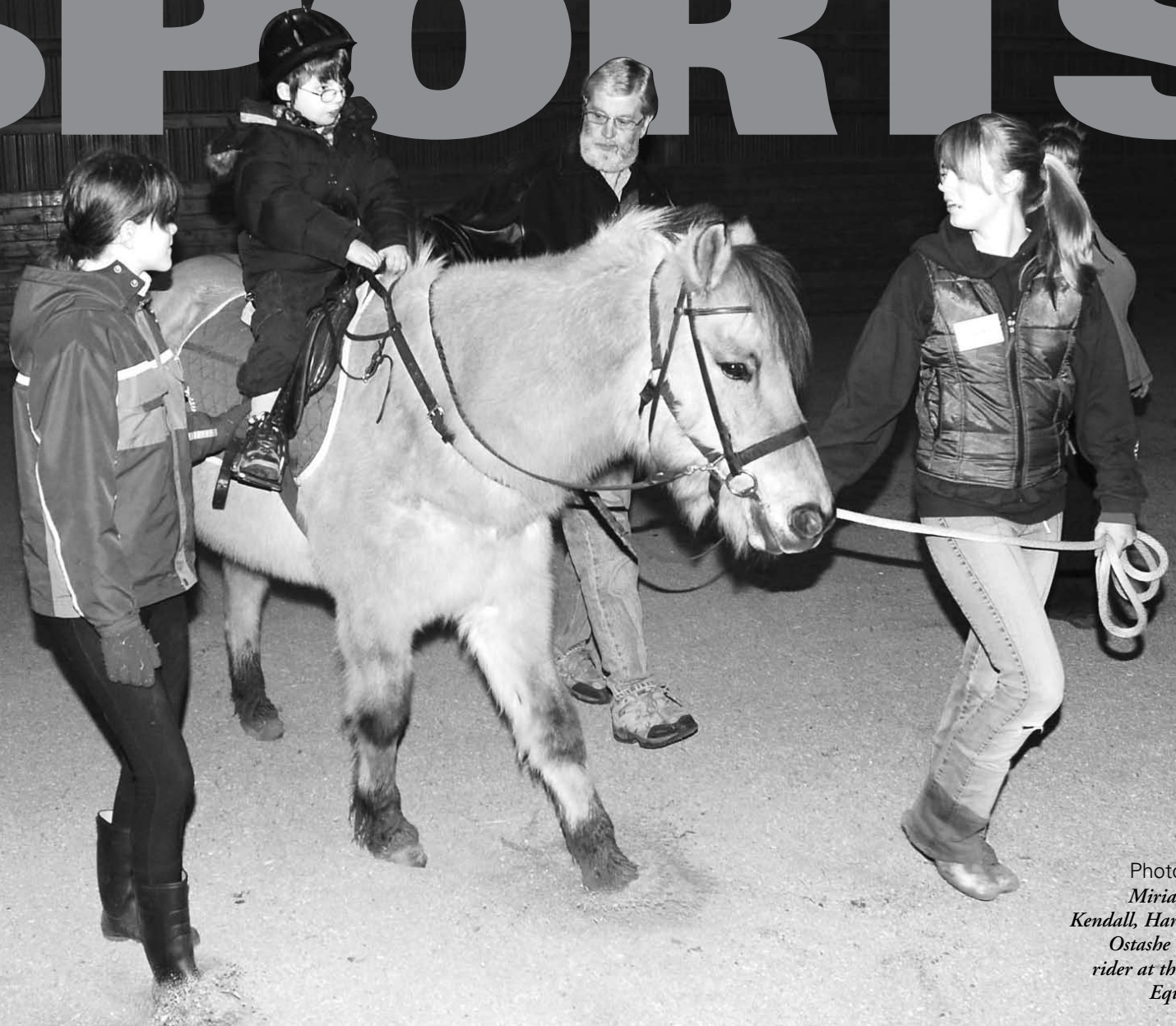


Photo | **Cam Hutchins**
Miriam Halliday, Francis Kendall, Harold Swift and Jenna Ostashe walking a horse and rider at the Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association.

Extra horse power helping hot rodders and disabled riders this Christmas

When it comes to the Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association, the 360 members of the B.C. Hot Rod Association have been in a giving mood for many years.

DALE CORY
post reporter

The members of the B.C. Hot Rod Association are used to doing a lot of four-wheeled riding utilizing as much horse power as they can muster up.

So, it made perfect sense they hook up with the Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association (VTEA), which has an equestrian centre at 3987 - 232 Street in Langley.

Therapeutic riding is widely accepted as a valuable method of improving the physical and mental well-being of people with special needs. Riding offers exercise, recreation, and a sense of achievement. In addition, riding provides independence from

artificial aids such as crutches and wheelchairs, allowing access over uneven trails to new sights, sounds and smells.

The VTEA started in 1983 with 20 riders using four ponies one day per week. The association now operates five days per week with 110 to 175 riders per eight-week session. Sixteen to 20 specially-trained horses and ponies are now utilized in this program. Dedicated instructors are examined and certified through the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association.

Because of the work of the VTEA, the British Columbia Hot Rod Association, which turned 50 years old in 2007, got involved in fundraising efforts.

"To celebrate this milestone, the 350-member club (many of

whom reside in the Abbotsford area) hosted a weekend cruise-in last June. This car display and banquet was attended by 900-plus hot-rodders and car enthusiasts," explains club president Harold Swift. "The net income from this highly successful event including the generously-donated booking fee from the house band, *Keith Diamond and the Rockets*, was combined with the proceeds from the club's annual December auction."

The resulting grand total of \$18,000 was presented to directors Adam Kendall and Irene Schenk of the Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association Dec. 15. Over the past six years, BCHRA's total donations exceed \$60,000.

For more information, call the VTEA at 604-888-1262.



Photos | **Cam Hutchins**
Right: Jenna Ostashe, Miriam Halliday, Francis Kendall, Harold Swift walk with a horse at Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association in Langley. Right: Swift, Bill Townsend, Agnes McCorquodale, Irene Schenk, Adam Kendall, Henry Tjart, Bill Alder, Keith Biddlecombe with their cheque presentation.