


The logo features the number '50' in a large, white, stylized font. The '0' is partially filled with a silhouette of a horse's head. To the right of the '50' is the word 'wetra' in a white, lowercase, cursive font. The entire logo is set against a dark red rectangular background.

**50<sup>TH</sup>** wetra

A stylized winter illustration with a teal background. It includes a string of colorful Christmas lights at the top, white snowflakes, and silhouettes of evergreen trees. A brown horse is grazing in the center. The illustration is framed by two large, dark teal evergreen trees on the left and right sides.

# **HOLIDAY 2023**

A group of nine people, including two children riding horses, are posing for a photo in a field. They are all wearing winter clothing and Santa hats. The scene is set outdoors with a fence and trees in the background.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY  
TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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## JERRY'S STORY

Meet Jerry Kluytmans, a remarkable individual whose journey at WETRA spans over three decades. Living with Cerebral Palsy, Jerry's story is a testament to the transformative power of therapeutic horseback riding.

From his earliest years as a toddler, Jerry's family immersed him in riding to enhance his physical abilities, focusing on flexibility, range of motion, balance, and coordination.

Jerry's involvement at WETRA extends beyond mere participation; he maximizes the support available, engaging in a spectrum of therapeutic activities. Whether it's the warm-up exercises on Quincy, mounted lessons on Lena, or the post-ride grooming routine, Jerry embraces every facet of the experience.

Jerry's path hasn't been without its share of challenges, though. A prolonged hospital

stay resulted in significant muscle tone and range of motion loss, rendering riding painful. Yet, Jerry's indomitable spirit prevailed. Faced with adversity, his determination to continue outweighed the physical setbacks. Supported by his family and the dedicated WETRA staff, a collective effort was made to bring him back to the saddle. Through incremental progress, Jerry rebuilt his stamina, preparing his body to ride once again.

Now, every Monday, Jerry graces WETRA with his infectious smile as he sits tall upon his horse. His journey, from overcoming physical setbacks to becoming an ambassador for WETRA, is a living testament to the impact of collective support.



The collaborative effort of donors is crucial to Jerry's success story. Without their contributions, Quincy wouldn't be there to aid Jerry, Lena wouldn't receive the necessary care, and the tailored equipment wouldn't suit Jerry's needs. Volunteers, essential in preparing his horse and assisting with stretching, mounting, riding, and grooming, also play a pivotal role in Jerry's weekly sessions.

Jerry embodies the spirit of teamwork, showcasing that, together, as a united front, incredible transformations can occur. His unwavering commitment makes him the hardest working member of the WETRA community.

In expressing gratitude, we extend a heartfelt thank you to Jerry for the weekly smiles that brighten our days. His journey is a source of inspiration, highlighting the remarkable impact of collaborative efforts at WETRA.



## NEW ARRIVALS

This fall, WETRA welcomed Cate! Cate is a 6 year old Haflinger mare who is broke to drive, and is currently working hard under saddle, with the hopes of making her therapy debut in the new year!

## HORSE SPONSORSHIPS

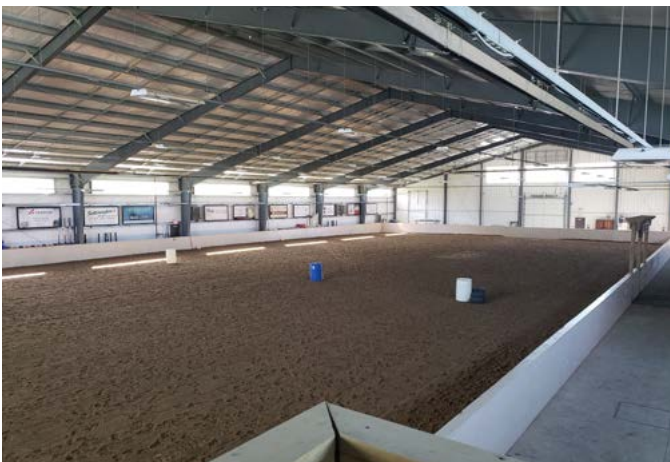
We have had several generous donors step up this year and offer their support by way of a horse sponsorship. Kali, Charlie, Briar, Tequila, Cody, and Emmy have all obtained sponsorships for 2024. To learn more about our horse sponsorship program, and to choose your next sponsorship recipient, visit [www.wetra.ca/horse-sponsor](http://www.wetra.ca/horse-sponsor).



## CLIENT SERVICE UPDATE

Our programs are booming! We have more horses, more instructors, and more clients than ever before! Plus, little-to-no wait list! Further growth and development are on the horizon, and we're honoured to be able to reach so much of our community through meaningful equine-assisted services.

## ARENA RESURFACING



WETRA was fortunate enough to be awarded funding from Farm Credit Canada's AgriSpirit Fund and a grant from the WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF) on behalf of C.M. Bus (Lossing) Greater Windsor Junior Sports Fund. The funds will be used to resurface our arena with new footing over the winter break. This will make it safer, and more comfortable for horses and humans alike.

## BELL LET'S TALK

Bell Let's Talk was our partner in developing the EACPT program back in 2020. This year, they have chosen to further support its initiatives through their Community Fund, which has awarded WETRA money to be used as a scholarship fund, assisting first responders in accessing the EACPT program.

# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

With thanks to the Canadian Red Cross – Community Services Recovery Fund, WETRA was awarded funds to purchase lockers, provide volunteer training days, and create a bigger online presence to engage with our new and existing volunteer base. We look forward to celebrating with all our volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week 2024.

**Community Services  
Recovery Fund**



Canadian  
Red Cross



Funded by the  
Government of Canada's  
Community Services Recovery Fund

**Canada**

The Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association is delighted to announce that our organization has received a grant from the WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF) on behalf of the Inspiration 100™ Association and the Inspiration 100™ Endowment Fund. #Inspiration100Grantee



## FUNDING

This year has been a successful and busy year for fundraisers, and while they have served our program well, we have identified a need to enhance our focus on our clients and the services we provide. Our commitment to delivering high-quality programs and support to those in need remains unwavering and we know, that with your support, we can amplify our efforts to create positive change.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March Break Camp  
March 11 – 15, 2024

National Volunteer  
Appreciation Week  
April 14 – 20, 2024

Blue Jean Bash  
May 25, 2024

## HOW TO HELP

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

SPREAD THE WORD!