

Pyramid Stables Article

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It is one thing to begin with a dream, it is quite another to follow through with all the planning, long hours and hard work required to create a successful business.

Owners Jennifer Payne and Howie Thomas were able to build their dream business because together they bring unbridled enthusiasm and decades of experience with horses.

Thomas is a professional farrier of 30 years who is certified by the American Farrier Association and Payne is an Equine Canada Certified coach and trainer who in 2012 won an Equine Canada National Coaching Award.

Thomas and Payne started Pyramid Stables in 1993 on Saddle Drive in Nanoose Bay running their operation on their 5 acre parcel. Over a 20 year period their business grew to its maximum capacity and they began sending boarders over to property they leased from neighbours. At that point they realized it was time to expand, and began hunting for a larger property that would be suitable to relocate Pyramid Stables and build a complete Equestrian Centre. Finally, 5 years ago, a beautiful 25 acre property became available which was perfect for the relocation, and in May of 2010, the new facility at 7581 Harby Rd in Lantzville was completed, with the help of many friends and dedicated volunteers.

“Our clientele built up over years” says Payne. “Pyramid stables is now seeing a second generation of riders, as former students bring in their own children for lessons. It’s a wonderful feeling for us to be trusted like family.”

In fact, trust and respect are central to the training methodology that Payne uses. She instructs students in techniques that allow them to feel comfortable and safe with the horses and with each other. “It’s about valuing the rider, the horse, and the individual. Everyone is welcomed, and we set up a buddy system for new riders that matches them up with more senior students. We make room for newcomers, and keep a positive attitude towards common goals like improving riding skills and really enjoying your time with your horse.

In addition to that, on a year round basis over a hundred riders call our stables home. We find every opportunity to meet the needs of our clients by the many programs we create and offer - from introductory riding classes for children, to hunter/jumper instruction at the competitive level.

"Another aspect that makes our operation special is that The Errington Therapeutic Riding Association operates here and they offer a tremendous service to the community. ETRA is run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Pyramid Stables offers a broad variety of programs, Including:

Pre-school program for 4 to 6 year olds

Adult beginner classes

Monthly lesson plans

Coaching

Training

HCBC Rider Prep Programs

Summer and Spring break camps

Boarding

Stable management

Workshops

Clinics

Leased horse program

Farrier services

Some of the amenities Pyramid Stables offers their clients

The 72' x 200' indoor ring offers their clientele year round riding in all weather. The indoor also features an upper heated viewing area for colder days.

At 220' x 110' the outdoor ring has beach sand footing, partial shade for the hot summer days and a grass berm viewing area.

There is a 26 stall barn with blanket drying and storage room, wash stall, washroom with washer and dryer, 6 tack up stalls, boarders and school horse tack rooms and office.

The Property includes.

Hay fields

Large daily turnout paddocks

Seasonal grass turnout

Grass jumping field

Perimeter trail system

Thomas and Payne's newest venture is a farm market, with home-grown vegetables from their garden. They use organic practices and guests can even wander over to the garden and view their future salad being grown. The ponies like the view too!

The staff at Pyramid Stables has not only taught horsemanship to my daughter, they have also installed values and a sense of trust that have carried over to life outside the barn. The environment they offer supports all kids in learning and growing in a way that works for them which helps young riders develop into caring and thoughtful individuals.
- parent testimonial

You can reach Jennifer or Howie at 250-390-7631 or visit the website www.pyramidstables.com