

Cindi

Instructor – LBTRA

“No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.” ~ Winston Churchill

I was raised on a farm in southern Saskatchewan. Our family were grain farmers who at any given time were raising cattle, chickens, pigs and horses! My love for all things horses began early in life. Dad put me on the back of a horse at the age of 3! All of my childhood I rode, owned and trained horses until I left the farm to attend the University of Alberta. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Administration majoring in Community Development and minoring in Working with People with Disabilities.

After university, I made Edmonton my home and have worked in post-secondary education for nearly 30 years. My career began at MacEwan working in Athletics and Intramurals; 3 years later I began providing extra-curricular programming and activities for the Students' Association and then took a left turn and decided to work as a fundraiser. I've been fortunate to meet so many amazing people while working for MacEwan, the University of Alberta and most recently, NorQuest College.

In 2008, I came to Little Bits as a volunteer because I was missing horses...I told myself I was only there for the horses...little did I know, I would find a passion and love for working with both horses and riders. I would eventually, with a nudge from Jo-Anne B, go on to study, train and mentor with Jo and become a certified Canadian Therapeutic Riding instructor.

While taking my Rider Level training, as part of my Instructor qualifications, I met a feisty ball of fire, a 6 year old bay Arab/Quarter horse cross that stole my heart. Sage had been abused and was angry, frightened and trusted no one who put tack on her, especially a bit in her mouth. She and I have been and continue to be on an amazing journey built on patience, love and understanding. She is becoming the horse I always hoped she could be...still jet fueled and feisty but sweet, gentle, mostly calm and willing to do as I ask. Sage and I learned that kindness builds trust – a lesson we can all use in our daily lives with others.

“I call horses ‘divine mirrors’ they reflect back the emotions you put in. If you put in love and respect and kindness and curiosity, the horse will return that.” ~ Allan Hamilton

