



Peace Ranch News

Spring 2010

Spring just seems to be showing off all over the ranch. Mr. Peacock's re-growth of his magnificent tail feathers always reminds us of the beauty of nature. Rosie has been doing her daily walkabouts on the property wagging her tail at anyone who passes. Our wonderful band of wild turkeys is also back and eyeing the garden for any signs of new growth. And once again, we await the new babies. Speaking of babies, Skittles, last year's baby alpaca has finally grown into those impossibly long legs and is sporting a silky soft coat of reddish brown fur. Our beautiful new program building (which is yet to be officially named) is turning out to be worth its weight in gold. It is being used daily by both our residents and our many Green Spaces clients. This new space has proved to be invaluable to our clients and staff alike. Several of the committees meet there weekly and it has been used for various meetings with our partner agency staff as well. The solarium section of the building is totally full of green right now. Heidi has innumerable seedlings waiting to be transplanted, lush blooming geraniums and pointsettia plants and assorted other potted species. Entering that space is like walking into a verdant tropical oasis with all the earthiness and floral scents abounding. Our wonderful handyman volunteers have been making good use of the workshop area, refinishing several pieces of furniture and installing a tools cage on the east wall to keep everything neat. The clean up of the property has been particularly arduous this year because of the extensive foundation repairs, refurbished front porch and new roof that all took place in late fall, but the spring flowers are starting to bloom and nature starts fresh, again.

Town of Caledon Charity Golf Tournament

Peace Ranch was thrilled to be the lucky recipient of the proceeds of this year's tournie. A Golden Dove Certificate of Appreciation presentation was made to the Council of the Town of Caledon to thank them for their very generous donation of **\$50,000!** Grateful thanks to all who participated.

Green Spaces

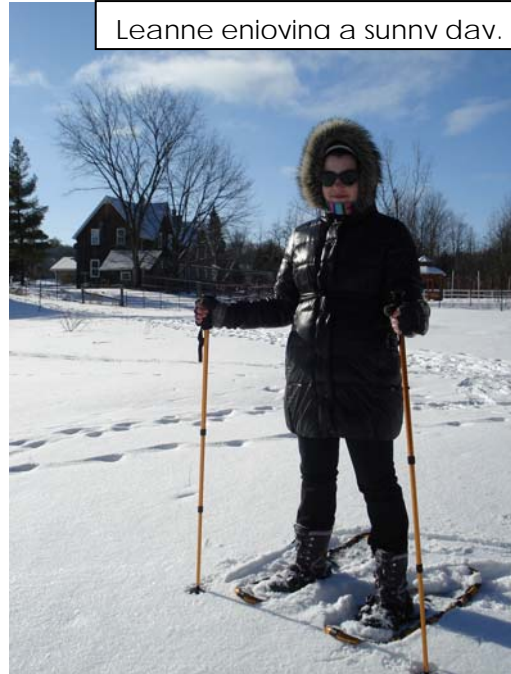
Greetings from Green Spaces –
By: Sue Morling, Green Spaces Worker

You may have noticed some unusual track marks in the snow around the Ranch. Some have said it was the Sasquatch or the yeti but no it was

definitely BIG FOOT. In the New Year we purchased 4 pairs of snowshoes and walking poles from Big Foot Snowshoes in Waterloo

www.bigfootsnowshoes.com. These snowshoes are light weight and easy to get on and off. Many of the day participants and residents have had a go around the House property. The adventurous ones have toured to the back country and have flushed out wild turkeys, discovered our pond and wetland area and visited our neighbours' horses.

Snowshoeing is a true Canadian activity that was developed by our First Nations Peoples to get to animal traps and for hunting during the winter season. Early settlers learned the value of being able to walk on top of the snow instead of trudging through it.



Leanne enjoying a sunny day.



Darrell on the front lawn.



Sue and Matt taking a break!

The snowshoes at the Ranch have given us the ability to appreciate our beautiful property and get active during the winter season. We just need more SNOW!

Peace Ranch Community Housing Support Program

Our Community Housing Support Program has been operating in Caledon for 8 years, providing service, housing and support for 15 individuals. In the last year, since April of 2009 we have expanded our program into Dufferin County. We are presently working with another 15 people, supporting them in their own or newly provided housing. Our program continues to grow as the housing and support needs in the community are desperately needed. The partnership between Peace Ranch and SHIP has provided our clients with wonderful opportunities to change their lives when basic needs are met.

Peace Ranch would like to extend a big *Thank You* to the **United Way of Peel Region**

for the donation, by IBM, of a new System x3650 M2 Intel XEON blade server. Valued at \$5,000, this new IT equipment will launch us into the next phase of refurbishing the administrative offices and provide a means for all our staff to focus on the number one goal – best service to our clients. We are very grateful for all our donations and have benefitted from our association with United Way for over 10 years, beginning with their support and funding for our day program, Green Spaces and now extending to our newest program, Rosie's Kitchen.



Retrofit Projects:

Peace Ranch recently was successful in receiving some **\$100,000**

in surplus funds from our funders to do some renovation projects for the property including new energy efficient windows for the farmhouse, a new septic bed and driveway resurfacing, as well as new lighting and perimeter fencing.

www.peaceranch.com

Peace Ranch just completed the finishing touches on its beautiful newly designed website. Check it out!

Integrated Assessment Record Project

Peace Ranch is fortunate to be involved in a new pilot project initiated by the Central West LHIN to allow workers more readily available access to consumer documentation. Seven agencies in the CWLHIN are collaborating in the uploading of client information to a centrally located repository where care givers will be able to access each other's info to provide best service to our clients in a timely fashion, avoiding the "red tape" syndrome. Every client is given the option to participate voluntarily and has no obligation to share any personal information. This service is slated to go province wide once everything is in place.