

# Horseback riding remains alive and well in the area

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ENGLEHART A recent visit to Wintergreen Farm, in Englehart, was not only a breath of fresh air, it was also a refreshing reminder that area residents can still enjoy the leisurely sport of horseback riding.



With the recent closure of Rosegrove Stables and, along with it, the disbanding of the auspicious Kirkland Lake Cadora Club, it is nice to know that locations such as this still offer instruction in horseback riding and facilities to board horses.

One such rider, Kirkland Lake resident Anna Sawicki, was kind enough to offer some insight as to what the district has to offer to area riders, during a recent visit to Winterwood Farm where she boards her horse, Chelsea Buns, and receives instruction from well-known riding instructor Shelley Loach, from Earlton.

"This is actually a farm. This is Winterwood Farm," said Sawicki, adding, "But she's got her own horses, and there's several people from Kirkland Lake that have their horses here."

Sawicki has been riding horses since she was a little girl, and though she sold her horse eight years ago, she and Chelsea

Buns were recently reunited, and Sawicki was back to her favorite sport of horseback riding.

Sawicki prefers Western-Style riding, and plans to partake in relevant upcoming events.

"Most of us like to show in the summertime," said Sawicki. "We show at the local fairs. There's Western Horsemanship, barrel racing and some of the girls ride English Style and do

dressage."

Sawicki and other area riders receive expert instruction from coach Shelly Loach, from Earlton, who teaches the Western and English styles of riding, as well as the finer points of dressage and barrel racing.

"Shelley Loach, from Earlton is our coach," said Sawicki. "She is the coach for most of the riders here. She's got a pretty extensive background, from barrel racing, to Western, to dressage. She worked at lots of big barns down south, and she owns two horses here as well."

Although Englehart and other areas in the district may seem a little distant to travel to take part in the sport, Sawicki said that it is well worth her while.

"Some people wonder why you drive the distance to board your horses, but when you find the perfect home, such as this place, you don't mind the distance."

Other riders from the area, boarding their horses and riding at Winterwood Farms, include Carla Vine and Jessica Connelly.

For more information on Winterwood Farm, please visit the website at [www.winterwood.info](http://www.winterwood.info).