



# *British Columbia* **Competitive Trail Riders Association**

## **MEMBER BIO**

*Nancy Gourlay, Central/North Island Director*

Hi all. It's your friendly neighbourhood dairy queen and trail riding fanatic here, Nancy Gourlay. Actually I'm the Central and North Island Regional director for BCCTRA. I haven't always held this auspicious title, in fact, I was a lowly milk maid for many years, squeezing cows and churning milk into cheese. Then I re-discovered horses in 2010. That changed everything! Actually my boys discovered horses first and the 2 old geldings we bought for them had me running down the trail trying to keep up. I thought I'd better get one too, you know, for safety.

Many years ago (remember when helmets were really thin and covered in black fuzzy stuff?) I rode with the Richmond Pony Club. Then I grew up, moved to Montreal, got married, moved to Turkey, Switzerland and Afghanistan. Kids and stuff happened and we ended up back in good ol'Canada. Then there was the dairy thing, but somehow when I got on a horse again it was like a new lease on life! Maybe it was the new perspective it gave me, not just from the top of my 17 hand Saddlebred, but the new view of our precious remaining recreational trails and the threats they face. Maybe it was the sobering vision of a warmed-up globe that has tossed out horse-power in its greed for more speed and the oil and gas that requires. I sense a need to find ways to live with less stuff, to slow down, listen more and be more patient. I have a renewed appreciation of the awesome beauty of creation – our forests, fields and mountains - all their complexity and the critters that live in them. And I have a great respect for the people I've met (in the 4 horse clubs I belong to!) whose kindness and generosity inspires me to try to be a better person. Anyway, where was I? . . .

These days my main riding partner, son Kevin, has flown the coop to study to be a farrier at Kwantlen Polytechnic in Cloverdale. He'll be back in a year to practice on local horses. In the meantime, I rotate horses and ride a lot with my other trail partner, the famous I-never-knew-a-horse-could-do-that, Barbara Smith. We'll be traveling to the Interior for an annual CTR "somewhere completely different" as well as cooking up a ride or two in the Central Island area. I look forward to seeing many old and new friends out on the trail and back at camp in 2014.

Nancy



The Gourlay clan, including new daughter-in-law. John, Clarke, Rebecca, Raymond, Nancy and Kevin



Barbara Smith and I at Merritt's Magic Mountain