

LETTER FROM PRINCE**Fond horse recollections****KRISTYL CAHILL**
Times Reporter

When Langley resident Joy Richardson opened her mailbox last Friday morning (May 20), she received a pleasant surprise.

Wedge between bills and flyers was a letter addressed to her from Prince Charles' Deputy Private Secretary in London, England.

The royal message was a reply to a letter that Richardson had written in mid-April to His Royal Highness, regarding a wedding gift that he, and the Duchess of Cornwall had received — two American Quarter horses.

Richardson is the ~~vice~~ president of the Langley Horse Federation, and is also well-known in the community for her fondness of American Quarter horses.

In her letter, she wrote that she was very pleased that the newlyweds had become owners of American Quarter horses.

She also wanted to remind His Majesty that at one time he had shown a keen interest in her own American Quarter horse, Hyline Gentry, while fox trotting in Leicestershire, England.

In the letter the Deputy Private Secretary relayed that the Prince did remember her as well as her horse, and had fond memories of them both.

"The Prince of Wales has asked me to thank you most warmly for your kind letter of 14th April," said the Deputy Private Secretary in her letter to Richardson. "His Royal Highness remembers very well admiring your marvellous American Quarter Horse whilst out hunting with the Cottermore."

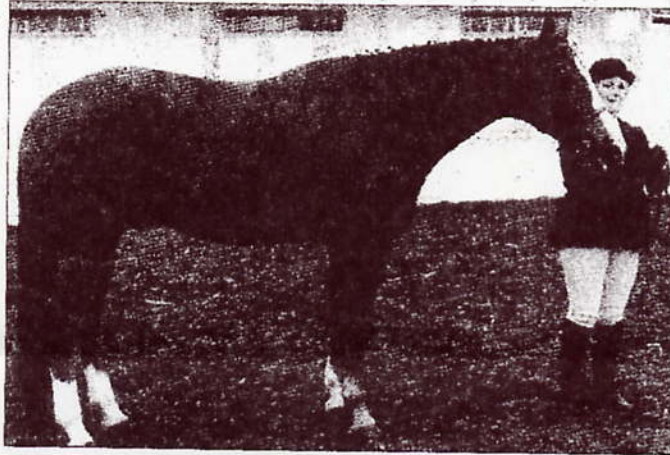
Richardson was born in England and enjoys the popular British sport of fox hunting. She moved to Canada in the 1950s and has often returned to England to visit.

During her visits she spent many leisurely afternoons with her American Quarter horse, Hyline Gentry, fox hunting in Leicestershire.

The location was a popular place for the sport, attracting many of England's most respectable and elite — including the Prince of Wales.

Richardson recalled one day when Prince Charles came trotting up on his horse next to her, to say that he really admired Hyline Gentry.

"He told me how much he loved my horse and expressed his regret to me that the horse was not a stallion as he would have



Contributed photo
Joy Richardson posed with Hyline Paladin after he won a championship in 1985.

liked to have used him for the royal horses," said Richardson.

Richardson loves taking care of horses and said that she had always dreamed of becoming involved with Her Majesty's horses. She promised Prince Charles that she would import a full brother, when born, and bring him to England.

Richardson honoured her promise and returned in the early 80s with an American Quarter horse for His Majesty. He was named Hyline Paladin, but Prince Charles never did get to meet him.

Shortly after arriving, her dream of becoming involved with Her Majesty's horses came to an end. Richardson was kicked by the horse and had to spend many months in a hospital with a shattered leg.

Meanwhile, Hyline Paladin was being looked after by someone who didn't take proper care of him. He shattered and tore both of his front tendons. She was told by five veterinarians that he should be euthanized.

Luckily, a horse vet from New Zealand approached Richardson and offered to help. Richardson said he told her he had been working on the tendons of Quarter horses for the past six months in Texas and had been quite successful. She accepted and soon Hyline Paladin was well on his way to recovery.

Prince Charles never did get to meet Hyline Paladin but expressed his gratitude to Richardson for taking care of the horse after his injuries.

Paladin went on to live an extraordinary life with Richardson. He eventually became even more successful than Gentry, winning several prestigious awards and competitions.

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