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Appaloosa youth team rider hoping to raise money for national competition

Sue Dickens

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Campbellford – Organizers of an indoor yard sale/tack sale fundraiser for the Ontario Appaloosa youth team hope the event will also help promote this particular breed of horse.

Marsha Chrysler's 15-year-old daughter Carissa, a Grade 9 student at Campbellford District High School, is a member of the seven person team of young people who will be heading to Brandon, Manitoba to compete in the youth team tournament at the annual Canadian National Appaloosa Horse Show in July.

She is one of about 50 members in the Ontario Appaloosa Horse Club which has riders from Napanee, Millbrook and from as far away as Niagara.

This will be Carissa's second time at the national show and she is hoping that she and her teammates will do well at the competition includes halter showmanship of their horses as well as walk, trot, canter exercises, gaming and more.

Carissa's horse, Maisie, a nine-year-old Appalossa, will be front and centre for her at the event.

"I like the people and enjoy the sportsmanship," she commented. The registered name of her Appaloosa is Cowgirl Made Bright "but the horse's barn name is Maisie" and she is looking forward to participating again this year.

"Riding is a family event for us and we all enjoy competing," said her mom.

Louise Dobbin of Millbrook is a director with the Ontario Appaloosa Horse Club and said, "The show is more of a fun thing for most people I would say. It is kind of like a vacation when they go to the show," but she added, "We encourage the breed itself to grow and the more people breeding and showing the better it is for the club."

The fundraising sales will help offset costs for the youth team. "We've asked everybody on the team to raise \$1,000," said Dobbin. Another fundraiser, a bowling tournament in Campbellford which takes place March 5 is fully booked and there will also be a horse clinic in Garden Hills in April. "We've also been doing a bottle drive nonstop," Dobbin commented.

There will be 15 vendors at the fundraiser selling everything from kids' items to household goods and horse related items. The vendors' fees go to the youth team and vendors get to keep whatever they make by selling items at the event.

The sale takes place Sat., Feb. 27 beginning at 9 a.m. at St. John's United Church.

Anyone wanting to help the team with their expenses can also contact Marsha Chrysler at 705-653-0523 or Louise Dobbin at 705-957-2016.



The Ontario Appaloosa Horse Club youth team includes a rider from Campbellford. This photo was taken of the team when it competed last year at the national show. From left, Carissa Chrysler from Campbellford; Breann Wiley, Niagara; Regan Sluskie, Napanee; Jack Dobbin, Millbrook; Alexa Clark, Niagara; Blake Westnutt, Millbrook; and front, Mya Westnutt from Millbrook. Regan and Alexa are the only two not competing in 2016.