



*Gillian Phillips competing a green horse at a local 2010 Radical Jumper*

Gillian Phillips began her riding at the age of eight on the farm pony “Shelley”. Since then her love of the sport has blossomed into a full-time coaching career. Currently running a successful riding school at a private farm in Almonte, Ontario, Gillian specializes in the adult pleasure rider. She also enjoys giving back to the equine community by organizing and running clinics, rider level testing, a trail riding group proudly called “Hack ‘n Yack”, and an equine book club. Gillian also coaches students and schools green horses at local events and horse shows.

Gillian has dedicated most of her life to academic achievements that have helped play a role in developing her strong coaching skills. In 2000 she graduated from St. Lawrence College with a Personal Support Worker Certificate giving her the opportunity to branch out and help the elderly in the Ottawa community. In 2004 she graduated from Kemptville College with an Agricultural Equine Diploma that furthered her equine knowledge and helped her find a wonderful job coaching at Huntleigh Equestrian Centre in Carp. Under Sue Ziereisen’s and Victoria Andrew’s five year tutelage Gillian was able to successfully complete her Coach 1 evaluation in 2005. She continued to coach under the guidance of Sue Ziereisen until 2007 and in that time she trained and competed green horses in Eventing, Dressage, and the Hunter/Jumpers. In 2007 she graduated from Carleton University with a General BA in English in hopes of becoming a class room educator. Those plans soon changed when in 2008 Gillian and her husband Richard welcomed their son Christopher into their lives.

Gillian has long been involved in Pony Club, achieving her C2 level in 1999 and then becoming an educator for a local branch. She has volunteered at a local therapeutic riding establishment working with the disabled as a side walker and instructor. Currently, Gillian is a riding member of the Ottawa Valley Hunt where she enjoys working with green horses and new to the hunting world riders, to introduce them into the wonderful world of drag hunting.