

55 horses and the Hillmond Family Funday

June 18, 2009

It began with a letter to the principal.

Dear Mr. Larson,

Hey how's it going? Well I'm great. I was just wondering if we could gather a whole bunch of Dads and Moms and... maybe all the people could ride horses to school and give the bus drivers a break, for some people that have horses of course. Well have a great day!!!

From: Shelby McKenzie Gr.5

(PS: I Love School)

What would you say to an idea like that? Chances are, you'd say no. Like, a **no** with zero ifs, ands or buts attached to it. Nice idea and all, to give those bus drivers (bless their hearts and patience) a break, very thoughtful girl Shelby, but.....no.

That's what you'd say. You wouldn't even think twice about it. You'd say no.

But the principal thought about it. And he took it to the Hillmond School Community Council, who also thought about it, and after their initial reaction, (which was probably the same as your's), they thought hey.... it would be kind of neat if we could pull this off. They believed that Hillmond was probably one of the few places that could do this thing. They got a lot of support and encouragement for the idea from their division trustee, Bill Cosh, and so the principal took the idea, and a form to sign, to Glen Winkler, the DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

Who signed the form. Yes, you read that correctly. He signed the form.

He said that he felt it was a very worthwhile activity for the school and the community.

Which gave the principal a problem. Where do you go to get all those horses?

So they met with the School Council and they met with students and they sent out invitations to parents and grandparents and the community, and on that morning 55 horses and one horse drawn buggy left from three different locations all about 6-7 km from Hillmond to ride to the school. Like your grandparents did. And another group of 40 students rode their bikes.

After arriving at the school, the community was able to take in the Elementary Awards celebration, a bus stuffing fundraiser for the playground, sack races, the traditional three-legged race and a roping demonstration and lesson.

They had a great day. And they intend to have another next year. *With more horses.* And why? Why, because in the words of Principal Shawn Larson, "If you listen to kids, and you really listen to them, sometimes they have the best ideas and it can be amazing what you can do."

So thanks Shelby!

