



Johanna Neuteboom has always loved horses. She lived on a farm growing up and has since returned to her passion of riding.

# Baby boomers *saddle up*

Article by Susan Smith / Photographs by Jan Pitman

Images of beautiful lakes, amazing granite outcroppings and towering pines first come to mind when people think of Muskoka. However, the district's natural backdrop has attracted an almost hidden community of horse lovers who are enjoying their favourite activity in a location they love.

Many of the people in the saddle are baby boomers who have the time and the financial means to embrace an equine lifestyle. Those in the over-40 crowd, particularly women, are re-evaluating their lives and giving themselves permission to follow their dreams. For some, that's learning how to ride for the

first time. For others, it's getting back to the sport after riding as a child.

Saddling up can be an opportunity for parents to bond with their children as they participate in a shared activity. Such is the case with Sue Mason who was attracted to horses when her daughter Quinn took up riding.

Mason and her husband, who is a dentist, operate a clinic in Thunder Bay but have a cottage at Buck Lake near Huntsville. Mason's daughter had been attending a riding clinic and met Jason Milburn who, along with his wife Sue, operates Woodridge Riding Centre in Utterson.

*Horse lovers are climbing into the saddle after years of passing the sport by*