

» NEWS

# Owner of Renshaw horses may be facing charges

**Horse Rescue**, from page 3  
 He said, adding some came out of their nostrils.

"I was trying to give them some strength. I fed them as best I could."

He then left the horses with the oats and alfalfa pellets, removed the bells he had left on them and said goodbye to his animals.

"That's all I could do. I made every effort I thought I could do, physically or humanely, and after that you have to make a tough decision. I didn't have a gun, and I wasn't going to slit their throats. Even if I had a gun I don't think I could have shot them.

Everybody thinks euthanasia would have been the best thing. I had nothing to kill them with. I didn't go up there to kill them. I let nature take its course. If I had shot them, they wouldn't have been rescued."

When asked why he didn't ask locals for help in retrieving his horses, MacKay said he feels he would have had no luck if he had asked for help.

"I doubt people would have helped a stranger," he said.

After their rescue, Sundance and Belle were seized by the B.C.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The animals are

nary care.

The SPCA is conducting an investigation which could lead to charges under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

"If you own an animal and that animal is suffering, it's your responsibility to ensure the suffering is relieved," said Debbie Goodine, special provincial constable with the B.C. SPCA.

"Just to leave the animals and let na-

ture take its course is not acceptable. You're not relieving their distress."

Goodine said if the organization is in the position to rehome Belle and Sundance, the people of McBride will be considered first as potential adopters.

"If it wasn't for the volunteers and the community of McBride - they did this out of the goodness of their hearts - we wouldn't have the horses today," Goodine said.

"It was a miracle what they accomplished."

She said the horses are on a long road to recovery.

The SPCA expects to make a decision on whether MacKay will get the horses back and whether charges are warranted in mid-January.

MacKay has offered to pay for any equipment the volunteers used and any wages lost for the volunteers during the rescue.

"People out there are pretty nice people and I hope to meet them when I get there to get the horses," MacKay said.

*"I didn't go up there to kill them. I let nature take its course. If I had shot them, they wouldn't have been rescued."*

~ Frank Mackay

now recuperating on an SPCA foster farm in Prince George, where they receive veteri-

## Foundation Skills Assessment:

# What parents need to know

Foundation Skills Assessment testing doesn't help students learn or teachers teach. Instead, FSA results are used by the Fraser Institute for American-style ranking of schools that only erodes confidence in public education.

Teachers teach their students everyday. We care passionately about their success. We believe in regular assessment and testing, and working with parents to improve learning.

With so much to learn and so many challenges facing our children, why is the provincial government wasting valuable classroom time on a discredited approach to testing?

**If the government really wants to improve student achievement, they should keep their promise to reduce class size and improve support for students with special needs.**

## When will they learn?



**Kids matter Teachers care**

A message from BC's teachers  
 To find out more about FSAs, talk to your child's teacher or visit [bctf.ca](http://bctf.ca)

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Whistle Stop Gallery Society  
 January 15th, 2009 • 7:00PM

At the CN Train Station  
 1000 1st Avenue, McBride BC V0J 2E0

**Carol Patton**  
 Certified General Accountant

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