

20 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
February 2, 2009

Scott Myers, Mayor
City Hall
288 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820


Dear Mayor Myers:

I am writing to share a wonderful experience we had in Dover on my wife's birthday last Tuesday. At 69 years of age, she went on a ride with the Dover Police Mounted Unit! I have made a contribution to the Friends of Dover Mounted Unit and am including a copy of the letter describing the event and the things leading up to it. I hope you will read it and perhaps share it with other members of the council.

Actually I am writing because I like Dover. I think it is a nice city. And, to me, nice is important. Being nice comes not without effort. The city's support of the mounted unit is an example of doing an important job in a nice way. They are a living example of excellence and I think excellence is contagious. Moreover they have inspired many citizens to support the unit, the police, and the city.

For my part, I will continue to dine and shop in Dover. And I am going to tell my friends why.

Sincerely,



Stephen Burns

Attached: letter to Friends of Dover Mounted Unit

20 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
February 2, 2009

Friends of the Dover Mounted Patrol
46 Locust Street
Dover, NH 03820

Dear Friends:

Enclosed is my check for \$100 as a contribution to the Dover Mounted Patrol. This is not a payment for the wonderful experience you afforded my wife on her 69th birthday, but a token of my genuine conviction of the value of the Patrol. After leaving the stable, we felt we had received a gift from friends. But, for those who weren't there, let me briefly describe that experience and the events leading to it:

My wife Andrea's father died when she was 13. Her mother had a breakdown and Andrea was sent to a Mennonite school in Pennsylvania for a year before they moved to northern Vermont. Among her experiences at the school was riding. She still tells anecdotes of her adventures there including riding through the reflecting pond on a dare! Her brief riding experiences created a lasting love for horses. She always tells me when she sees the Mounted Patrol, most recently before Christmas in downtown Dover. She said they looked magnificent. She loved the bells. The patrol seemed to be making a real hit with everybody. Last year, we attended a silent auction in benefit of the hospital. After the auction Andrea told me that the best item sold was a ride with the Dover Mounted Patrol. It was too late to bid on it but I added a ride with the patrol to my mental-list of possible surprises for my wife on special occasions.


After her enthusiastic description of the Mounted Patrol in downtown Dover just before Christmas, I resolved to try and figure out how to get her a ride. I thought just asking would be too much, but clearly the department was supportive of worthy activities, like the hospital. So I contacted Captain Raiche to explore the possibilities. I was pleased and a bit more than surprised when he said, "Sure!" and arranged to have Officer Murch contact me. I had planned on offering a direct contribution, or if that wasn't appropriate, contributing to some other worthy cause in Dover. Commander Raiche told me that they were pleased with our interest and no contribution was necessary. I had to ask a second time to get him to tell me that I could contribute directly.

COPY

We met at the stable at 10AM on January 29. We were greeted like family! Andrea was speechless. We had driven the long way, through Maine, and Andrea had no idea of what was going to happen. She only knew that she should wear her UGS and be prepared for climbing. Officer Murch and her fellow patrol members introduced Andrea to the horses while I tried to photograph her face when she discovered that TJ was saddled and waiting. Everything went well! When Andrea wondered how she was going to mount TJ, Joe told her to "just throw your leg over". In the days before her 69th birthday, Andrea was not looking forward to the ever-increasing limits of aging. She didn't anticipate throwing her leg over the edge of the bathtub, much less a 1500 pound horse! But she did it . . . and is now convinced that being 69 isn't as bad as she thought it might be.

It was a great experience. The patrol members seemed to be as delighted as Andrea. All were very gracious and supportive and thoroughly professional. They explained some their duties, training and experiences and revealed some of the extensive community support they enjoyed. I could see real and well earned pride and commitment in these officers. They and the patrol make a real contribution to making Dover the truly nice city it is. And excellence is contagious. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,


Stephen Burns

COPY