

TO US RETIREMENT MEANT “FARM AND HORSE”

By Verna Britton



Ron and Verna live their retirement dream.

They say the 60's are the new 40's, so why not live out your lifelong dreams - if you can?

Ron and I came from quite different backgrounds and followed different paths through life while working to raise a family, but we had the same dream - farm and horses.

He was a city boy and I was a farm girl. He had one sibling and I had 13. Both of us were the "runt" of the litters. I'd always wanted my own horse but never could with 13 ahead of me making their demands. I think Ron was a frustrated city boy - always wanting to be a cowboy.

So there we were, retired and searching for that "farm and horse". We found the farm, a small vineyard near Naramata Bench, close to Penticton. As for the horse, my older, now mellow "cowboy" brother said "What - horses? You had better get a cold blood - something like a Fjord". Good advice (at retirement age) I thought. It didn't take a lot of searching to find Brian and Ursula Jensen at Trinity

Fjords in Lumby, B.C. and from that point on, our dreams were realized.

We purchased two babies (Torstein and Kittle) almost immediately and left them at Jensen's to be raised by their Fjord family until old enough to make it on their own in the Okanagan. They are now personality plus four and five year olds.

We, of course, train along with them. We have carts, wagons and buggies to play with and are currently learning to ride. Grandchildren are getting involved too. What fun!!!



Ron takes Kittle for a walk, and Kittle takes son Rob, and grand-daughter Adliih for a ride.

Our plan is to mow our small vineyard with a custom made, horse-drawn mower from the Amish in Pennsylvania. This should be no problem with our horses so versatile and adaptable.

All this horse life actually wouldn't be possible without the mentoring and support of Brian and Ursula. They have our horses twice a year for training and we e-mail for help or to calm a dispute ("I think..." "You think ..." "Let's check with Brian and Ursula!!".)

We so love these horses!! They are right there at the top of our "what to keep on doing" list. We are hooked on Fjords! We are living our dreams, "farm and horse."



