

## **RIDE OVER THE RAINBOW'S TRIBUTE TRAIL**

**Submitted by Barbara Holmes-Balmer**

It all started with Rainbow socks!

Our horse trails were developed by a small group of people who wished to hold an endurance ride over lovely trails which we wanted to share and keep!. This trail system, named Ride Over the Rainbow, is a permanently marked, registered trail system located south of Merritt. B.C. The system includes approximately 85 miles of game and cow trail, old forest road, a minimal amount of old gravel road and a meadow from which the trails loop.



The Endurance Riders of B.C. held a 100 mile and a 50 mile ride on this system each year on the July long weekend. I, with Terre O'Brennan and Grant Balmer have been the ride managers for "Rainbow" for most of the past 26 years and have long wished for an easier way to both publicize the system and maintain it, thus ensuring its continued existence.

### *Artist's rendering of Rainbow trail map*



My mother used to knit Rainbow Sox for us to use as awards at the ride. When she died in 1997 some members of ERABC thought it would be nice to name a part of the trail after her and put up a plaque in her name. From that idea grew the Rainbow Tribute Trail.

Buy a mile of trail for \$60 and have a beautiful wooden plaque hung at base camp during the Rainbow ride and a permanent sign posted on the trail marking the mile of your choice! The funds raised from the sale of these miles goes to trail maintenance. ERABC has a trail clearing and marking party each year before the Rainbow ride.

To date over 36 miles have been sold to remember horses and people who have passed on or who just mean a lot to those purchasers. Riders are seeing the added benefit of knowing where they are on the trail by seeing whose mile they have just ridden and the system continues to be maintained by the average trail rider, the Back Country Horsemen and the Endurance Riders Associate of B.C.!

Contact Grant Balmer at (250) 547-6630 or email at [balmergrant@gmail.com](mailto:balmergrant@gmail.com) for more information or a Tribute Trail order form. You can also visit our web site at [www.erabc.com](http://www.erabc.com)