



Above: Spirit (after a roll on the ground)

Below: Princess Tammie



Paige and Spirit

Spirit of Topsail and a Special Grandfather

Paige Payne was 19 when she got her first Newfoundland Pony. She's 27 now and lives in Parson's Pond on the Great Northern Peninsula, along the famous Viking Trail. There's a lot of excitement about Paige's two Newfoundland Ponies and for good reason. Princess Tammie (Reg. #336), is in foal and if all goes well, she will have the first foal (that we know of) to be born in Newfoundland & Labrador in 2021! Paige's stallion, Spirit of Topsail (Reg. #337) is the sire and the 24-year holds a special place in her heart. Paige's grandfather, Archibald Payne, helped take care of her ponies while she was working up to 60 hours a week at her previous job. "If I was gone all day, he would feed and water them so I didn't have to in the dark," she said.

One of the challenges with stallions is that they need to be kept in a separate area so her grandfather kept 'Spirit' at his place and developed a bond with him. "If you tell Spirit to give you a kiss, he'll put his nose to your lips. He is so gentle," she said.

On June 10, 2020, Paige's grandfather passed away after a short illness. Paige plans to honour the memory of her grandfather by naming the foal 'Archie' if it's a colt. For now, the hard work continues while she waits out the birth of the foal. On her days off work, Paige repairs fences, takes care of the animals, and drives to Pasadena to buy hay. Recently she got a pump set up so she doesn't need to lug buckets of water anymore which is a big help.

What would be a great help to Paige and the affordability of keeping her ponies, is being able to place them on a community pasture for them to graze in the summer. The loss of habitat and grazing and breeding land is the biggest threat to the survival of the Newfoundland Pony.

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