JANET HENDERSON

Over 40 Years of Leadership in Equestrian Sport



Janet Henderson is an Equestrian Canada Medium (M) Dressage and Para Dressage Judge with more than four decades of experience as a competitor, coach, breeder, facility owner, official, and volunteer. Since 1978, Janet and her husband have owned and operated their own equestrian facility, where she has bred, trained, and competed horses through the Prix St. Georges level while mentoring numerous successful riders.

A respected official across multiple disciplines, Janet holds Equestrian Canada judging licences in Medium Dressage, Para Dressage, Senior Arabian, Saddle Seat Equitation, Hunter, Hack, Hunt Seat Equitation, and Western Dressage. She is also a USDF L Graduate with Distinction and is committed to continuing education, regularly attending judge seminars, symposiums, and clinics with many of the sport's leading experts, including Stephen Clarke, Carl Hester, Steffen Peters, Charlotte Dujardin, Cindy Ishoy, Dr. Hilary Clayton, and Arthur Kottas-Heldenberg. She also participated in the Para Dressage judging clinic led by Sarah Rodger and Cara Witham.

Janet has judged extensively throughout North America, including all four of the Arabian Horse Association National Championships, events with over 1,700 horses, and has officiated internationally in Parys, South Africa, for the Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup. In 2026, she will serve as a judge at the Equestrian Canada Silver Championships.

Beyond the competition arena, Janet has dedicated countless hours to volunteer service and governance within the equestrian community. She currently serves on the Ontario Equestrian Board of Directors and the Equestrian Canada National Rules Committee, and is the immediate past Chair of the Arabian Horse Association Sport Horse Committee, a role she held for 23 years. She has also served on the USEF Arabian Rules Committee and currently contributes to the AHA Equine Stress, Research & Education Committee and the AHA Dressage/Western Dressage Committee.

Janet's commitment to the sport extends to mentoring and education. She has coached riders to numerous championship titles, including Team Ontario Gold at the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC), hosts educational clinics, and volunteers annually as a dressage scribe. Notably, she served as a scribe during the 2015 Toronto Pan American Games at Caledon Equestrian Park.

A founding member of Dressage Niagara (formerly Niagara CADORA) in 1974, Janet continues to support the organization as an active member and annual sponsor. Her lifelong dedication to equestrian sport has been recognized through the Ontario Equestrian "People Who Make a Difference" Award and multiple Arabian Horse Association Regional and National Volunteer Service Awards.

Janet brings a wealth of knowledge, practical experience, and a lifelong passion for horse sport to every event she officiates, making her a highly respected leader within the Canadian dressage and para dressage community.