



## **KATHLEEN WILSON** **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**



### **Kathleen Wilson Named Volunteer of the Year**

Kathleen Wilson of Caledon, ON has been named 2022 Volunteer of the Year. This award was created in 1998 to recognize the tireless volunteers who have selflessly contributed to the advancement of equine and equestrian interests in Canada. This award is an acknowledgement of Wilson's hard work and dedication to her generous support of the 'Pratoni, Let's Go!' fundraising efforts.

Wilson played a key role in supporting the Canadian Eventing team to make it to the 2022 World Championships in Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy. Her efforts were instrumental to the fundraising campaign, as she spearheaded an online auction that raised more than \$27,000 in just ten days. Wilson also created all the rider marketing videos for their Pony to Podium campaign, further contributing to its success. These and other valuable contributions were crucial in meeting the fundraising goals.

"I feel honoured to be asked to do the massive fundraising efforts by the HPEG team (Emily Gilbert & Shandiss McDonald). They trusted me to do the hard things and get it done. It is such an honour to help



people achieve their goals and dreams. Many of these riders I consider my friends and they have coached me in the sport of Eventing.” said Wilson on the experience.

A seasoned volunteer, Wilson's extensive experience includes serving three years as a Director for the Ontario Eventing Association. Using her computer science degree, Wilson enabled a modern digital experience for their members and partners. Additionally, Wilson previously ran three other successful fundraising auctions supporting Karl Slezak for PanAms, the Ontario Eventing Association's Adult Amateur program, and the Young Rider Auction for the 2021 North American Championships.

In addition to her work as a volunteer, Wilson and her daughter are both active in equestrian sport. “It is the best feeling to ride with your best friend who is also your daughter; our love of horses and competition keeps our bond even stronger.” Wilson shared. Wilson is an adult amateur Eventer and Jumper, placing 5th place overall in the 2022 Pre-Training.

In her professional career, Wilson works in the software development industry and is committed to using her technical skills and capabilities to make a difference. Her employer, Microsoft, encourages employees to volunteer for causes they are passionate about through their 'Give' Program, which offers up to 5 paid days a year provided for volunteering. Engineered by Wilson, Microsoft also generously donated the five paid days she worked on the campaign to the Canadian Eventing Team.

Wilson believes in the importance of giving back to the sport she loves. “Volunteering is key to ensuring that the sport of Eventing remains viable, accessible, and attainable for all equestrian athletes. It is fantastic to be recognized and share with others that every bit of volunteering helps me as an adult amateur as well as our high-performance team.” Wilson stated. Wilson consistently exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism and plans to continue supporting the Canadian equestrian community in any way she can.