



## 2017 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: SUSAN GRANGE



The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual whose contributions to the Canadian equestrian community are considered exceptional by their peers and whose long-term service and dedication have contributed directly to the ongoing growth and development of Canadian equestrian sport and industry.

The 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award has been posthumously awarded to Susan Grange in recognition of her incredible contributions in championing Canadian equestrian sport and industry.

In October 2017, Susan succumbed to complications related to a terminal illness, which she had been battling with courage and strength. She left behind an incredible legacy as an athlete, owner and bolster of equestrian sport in Canada. At age 12, little did she know that accompanying a friend to a riding lesson would kick off a life-long passion for horses. Susan competed internationally in show jumping until an injury in her 30s led her to turn her primary focus to ownership and breeding.

Susan purchased over 500 acres of farmland in Cheltenham, ON in 1974. The property was dubbed Lothlorien in reference to the woodland valley of the Elves in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. True to its namesake, Lothlorien has become an operation so exceptional it borders on mythical, producing countless world-class horses. From 1977 to 1989, the farm also hosted riders from across North America at the Cheltenham Gold Cup Horse Show, which included an FEI World Cup Qualifier.

She opened a second location in Wellington, FL, named Lothlorien South, to accommodate the farm's horses during their southern migration to show and train over the winter. Despite juggling two farms, scores of horses, numerous dogs, and a growing family, Susan managed to remain



hands-on in all aspects of her life.

Susan also owned top horses used by the Canadian Equestrian Team, including the late In Style (Acord II x Lord), a renowned Holsteiner gelding who was Ian Millar's partner on the 2008 Beijing Olympic team that earned Silver for Canada. Millar's current top mount, the 15-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, Dixson (Vigo D'arsouilles x Olisco) was also owned by Susan, along with her daughter, Ariel. Ian and Dixson contributed to Canada's Team Gold Medal at the 2015 Pan American Games.

The superior quality of Susan's horses is recognized around the world. As the current rider for Lothlorien, Daniel Coyle of Ireland has been racking up top results with many of Susan's horses, including Martha Louise, Fortis Fortuna, Somerset, Cita, Grafton and Dillinger.

In 2005, Susan was inspired by her mother, Audrey Campbell, to expand her equestrian interests to Standardbred racing. She partnered with Audrey to purchase Standardbred mares Belovedangel, Please Me Please and KiKiKatie to breed with the famous pacing stallion Rocknroll Hanover. In addition, her stallion Well Said earned many titles during a 2009 sweep that included the 3-Year-Old North American Pacer of the Year, Meadowlands Pace, Pepsi North America Cup, and the Little Brown Jug.

Susan's grandfather was Canadian media mogul, Roy Thomson. In addition to being an accomplished horsewoman, Susan embodied the philanthropic spirit that characterizes the Thomson family. In 2004 she joined forces with her mother, Audrey, and sisters, Linda Campbell and Gaye Farncombe, to donate \$67.5 million to The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, ON. After their mother's passing in 2007, the sisters continued to uphold the tradition of giving by donating \$30 million to Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in 2011.

Susan was an icon in her local Greater Toronto Area community, as well as for the Canadian equestrian community nationwide. Her tireless efforts – whether as a supporter and horse owner with the CET, breeder, or stable manager – advanced the state of the equine industry in Canada, and EC is honoured to add Susan to the list of esteemed recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award.