



2017 OWNER OF THE YEAR: JOHN & JUDY RUMBLE



The Equestrian Canada Owner of the Year Award was created to recognize the dedication, commitment and support owners provide in order to ensure Canadian athletes have access to world-class horses. This award is presented to an owner, individual or group who has progressed equestrian sport by investing toward, breeding or supporting a horse competing at a national or international level.

John and Judy Rumble of Schomberg, ON are the recipients of the Owner of the Year title for 2017. The Rumbles have been passionate supporters of equestrian sport for decades and have a long and successful history in eventing.

100-308 promenade Legget Drive
Ottawa, Ontario Canada K2K 1Y6
613 287 1515 equestrian.ca



After John helped the Canadian Eventing Team claim the bronze medal at the 1956 Olympics in Stockholm, alongside teammates Jim Elder and Brian Herbinson, the Rumbles emigrated to the United States for work and remained there for many years. But they always dreamed of returning to Canada and partnering with Jim Elder to find an eventing horse with Olympic potential.

“Throughout my working life away from Canada, I’ve always wanted to come back, have my own farm, and get back into horses, because it meant so much to me,” explained John.

This dream came to fruition when the Rumbles bought a farm just a few miles down the road from Jim in Schomberg, ON. The plan was for John to handle the groundwork and Jim to train the horse in show jumping. All they needed was the horse.

Although it took two years of searching, their patience paid off in 2007 when they stumbled upon Foxwood High (“Woody”), a Canadian Sport Horse gelding by Rio Bronco W, bred by Canadian Olympian in show jumping, Hugh Graham of KingRidge Stables in King, ON.

Woody was just five years of age at the time, and relatively inexperienced under saddle, but John and Jim saw the potential immediately. John explained, “When they walked him out to this little ring and put him into a trot, I said, ‘That’s the horse, right there.’ And Jimmy came over and said, ‘John, that’s the horse, right there.’”

And since that fateful day, the Rumbles have become passionate and dedicated owners for the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET). John added Canadian Olympian Selena O’Hanlon into the mix as Woody’s rider in 2011, and they are now closing in on a decade of representing Canada at the FEI level in eventing.

The Rumbles and Selena have travelled the world with Woody, representing the CET at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, MEX and helping the Canadian Eventing Team bring home the silver medal. In 2014 they set off to Normandy, FRA to compete for the maple leaf at the FEI World Equestrian Games, where they contributed to Canada’s sixth place finish and secured the Canadian Eventing Team’s qualification for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

And ‘Team Woody’ has only gotten stronger since, with 2017 marking their most impressive season yet. Showing his true dedication to the success of the CET and the



“One Team” approach across all disciplines, John brought six-time Canadian Dressage Olympian, Christilot Boylen, and the legendary Millar show jumping family into the fold heading into the 2017 season. The goal was to help sharpen Woody and Selena’s dressage and show jumping performances.

“When I saw Christilot working Woody, I was knocked out,” said John. “It was obvious this was going to make a lot of difference, and, it did, dramatically.”

Woody and Selena’s results climbed throughout the season, and their hard work culminated in a historic win at the CCI 3* Fair Hill International in Elkton, MD in October when they became the first-ever Canadian pair to claim victory since the event’s inception in 1989. The result was made possible by their personal best scores in dressage and show jumping.

This win allowed the Rumbles to become the first-ever Canadian owners to add the United States Eventing Association (USEA) Advanced Horse of the Year title to their accolades.

EC is grateful for the incredible level of support and dedication John and Judy Rumble have generously provided as CET horse owners, and honoured to recognize the Rumbles with the 2017 Owner of the Year Award.