

# BETH UNDERHILL

Schomberg, ON



## Equestrian Background

- Started in equestrian in the Toronto and North York Pony Club.
- Veteran of the Canadian Show Jumping Team, first named to the team in 1990.
- Has represented Canada in Olympic, Pan American and World Equestrian Games, with team and individual medals to her credit.
- Has represented Canada in nearly 30 nations cup competitions.
- First woman to win the Canadian World Cup League.
- Three-time Canadian Show Jumping Champion.
- Grand Prix earnings of over \$1.6 million.
- Colour commentator for CBC Sports, including 2008 Olympic Games.
- Helped pioneer EC Jumping Youth Development Program as inaugural Program Advisor.
- Extensive experience as Chef d'Équipe for Children's, Junior and Young Rider Show Jumping Teams.
- Operates Beth Underhill Stables and is one of Canada's top coaches.



## Professional Background

### **Beth Underhill Stables**

Owner/Operator

- Full-service competition stable offering custom coaching programs and specialized training programs for the development of jumper, hunter and equitation horses.
- One of Canada's top coaches for junior/amateur riders through to grand prix athletes.
- Guides, trains and mentors both horse and rider from junior to world-class competition level.

### **Equestrian Canada**

2015 – 2019

- Jumping Youth Development Program Advisor

## Volunteerism

- Member of Guelph Equine Public Policy Group
- Long-time Member of Jump Canada Board (now EC Jumping Committee) and sub-committees and working groups, including High Performance, Young Horse Development Series, Athlete Development, Newsletter Editorial, Bursary, Owners and Rules.
- Member of FEI North American Group advising World Cup Show Jumping League
- Participated in fundraising activities for numerous organizations, including Community Association of Riders with Disabilities, Children's Wish Foundation, Guelph University, WWF and Sunnybrook Hospital.

## Letter of Interest

Dear Nomination Committee,

### **Re: Equestrian Canada Board of Directors Letter of Interest**

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the Equestrian Canada Board of Directors. I have been involved in the sport of show jumping for many years as a rider/owner and a

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professional in the industry. First and foremost a horse lover, I have been fortunate to realize many of my goals in the sport throughout the years from my start in the Toronto and North York Pony Club through to the Olympic Games. I feel the experience I have garnered from the grass roots level of the sport through to the elite level has provided me with a unique skill set that I feel would be relevant and beneficial to the growth of Equestrian Canada in an ever-changing climate. Alongside my riding career and operation of my business Beth Underhill Stables, it has been very important to me to give back to the sport by being involved in committees that I felt were vital to sustaining the growth and spirit of our industry. By being a long term member of the Jumping Committee, President of the Grand Prix Riders Committee, and member of the High Performance Committee, it allowed me to understand the unique challenges our membership faces as our industry evolves, and to understand the need to make concrete adaptations or changes to accommodate those needs. I think I am trusted by my colleagues and peers to bring a fair-minded, educated perspective to the issues and "get the job done".

For the past three years, I was the EC Young Rider Development Program Advisor and Chef d'Équipe of the Young Riders Teams. Our membership of this program grew exponentially during my tenure and our country was represented by some exceptional young talent from coast to coast. This experience gave me the opportunity to listen, learn and understand the different geographic and financial challenges that our young people face and how we can work together creatively to achieve success. I implemented an educational program for our Young Riders that enabled them to participate free of charge in interactive seminars with International riders such as Nick Skelton, Laura Kraut and McLain Ward, Olympic Course Designer Leopoldo Palacios, Sports Psychologist John Haim and many more.

Since 2017 I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, a group of dynamic, exceptional people that are passionate and dedicated to keeping The Royal one of the top indoor venues in the world. Juxtaposing the horse show with the Fair, vendors and a diverse demographic of exhibitors and spectators, while keeping our fiduciary commitments for a not for profit event has been a unique experience and one that I have enjoyed immensely. Having the opportunity to work side by side with people from all aspects of the agricultural sector has enabled me to expand my perspective and understand some of the complexities faced by a federation such as Equestrian Canada.

Most recently I have been invited to be part of the Guelph Equine Policy Group. Our mandate is to develop and champion public policies that will support the ability of the Canadian horse sector to be humane, accessible and professional; economically, environmentally and inter-



generationally sustainable; and integrated into coherent policy frameworks for education, employment and culture as well as meeting with ministers and legislators to press for implementation of those policies.

I would very much welcome your consideration for my nomination as a member of the Equestrian Canada board and would endeavor to be an energetic and effectual contributor.

Sincerely,

Beth Underhill