



EQUESTRIAN CANADA ÉQUESTRE

DRESSAGE QUARTERLY REPORT

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DRESSAGE COMMITTEE CHAIR VICTORIA WINTER

In this second edition of the Equestrian Canada Dressage Quarterly Report, we are honoured to announce the Élisabeth Brosda Memorial Fund and future Olympic Bursary. This Fund will provide assistance to Canadian riders striving to represent our country at the Olympic Games while



creating a legacy in memory of a talented and ambitious young Canadian rider who left us far too soon. In this report we also recognize the great achievements of members of our dressage community who received 2016 National Awards. We also highlight a Youth Mentorship Program generously created and sponsored by one of our own Grand Prix riders, Jill Irving. Finally, we are particularly excited to announce the schedule for the first annual Performance Advantage Symposium taking place at the Caledon Equestrian Park in Palgrave, ON on Friday Oct. 20, 2017. We encourage you to register while spots remain available! Best of luck to all who are in the midst of the Canadian competition season and, as always, please contact us if you have ideas for future issues.

Member Suggestions

We would like to hear from you - our dressage community. If you have suggestions for the next issue of Dressage Quarterly, please submit those ideas to:

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Élisabeth Brosda Memorial Fund & Olympic Bursary

Élisabeth Brosda, was a passionate young equestrian and an accomplished dressage

athlete who was tragically killed in a head on car collision in September of 2016. Élisabeth's goal was to one day reach the Grand Prix level and represent Canada at the 2024 Olympic Games.

In memory of their daughter the Brosda family reached out to Equestrian Canada (EC) to facilitate support for the Élisabeth Brosda Memorial Fund. EC established this fund through the Horsepower Foundation - a fundraising program created by EC, in partnership with the Canadian Olympic Foundation, to inspire and support Canadians to embrace lifelong participation in equestrian activities.

As a lasting legacy in memory of Élisabeth, donations to the Élisabeth Brosda Memorial Fund will be directed specifically to the annual Brosda Olympic Bursary starting in 2018.

Donations to the Élisabeth Brosda Memorial Fund can be made online at www.equestrian.ca/about/horse-power-foundation, or by cheque. Please make cheques out to the Canadian Olympic Foundation and include Élisabeth Brosda Memorial Fund in the memo area of the cheque. Cheques can be mailed to: Canadian Olympic Foundation, 21 St. Clair Ave. E., Suite 900, Toronto, ON Canada, M4T 1L9.

The Brosda Olympic Bursary will be designed to help aspiring athletes reach their full potential by supporting the development efforts of athletes who demonstrate the skill and determination to represent Canada at the 2020 and, or 2024 Olympic Games. The Bursary will provide financial support for international competition, sport science, training and sport education.

Successful candidates will embody the dream and goal of Élisabeth to, represent the Canadian Dressage Team at the Olympic Games, and will become ambassadors for the Bursary. They will promote the Olympic values of excellence, teamwork, leadership and fair play. This may include public speaking engagements and appearances to

share stories about their experience in the sport, as well as promotion through social media.

Further details on how to apply for the Brosda Olympic Bursary will be announced at a later date.

Awards Program Expanded

Equestrian Canada is excited to announce the following new recognition categories for the Dressage Awards Program:

- Century Award (no Awards Program registration required)
- Made in Canada Breeders Award
- Horse of the Year Awards
- Athlete of the Year Awards
- Horsemanship and Sportsmanship Awards

These new awards join the following existing program recognitions:

- Achievement Awards
- The "Eight" Award
- Lauren Dilanni Rider Freestyle Awards

Eligibility

All Equestrian Canada (EC) Sport Licence holders who purchase a dressage affiliate membership may qualify for the dressage awards

- Senior dressage affiliate membership fee - \$30
- Junior dressage affiliate membership fee - \$20

Owners of horses registered for awards must be current EC Sport Licence holders and current dressage affiliate members

Lifetime registration fees (scores received prior to registration will not be considered)

- \$50 per rider,
- \$100 per horse (horse registration fee is transferrable upon sale)

Results must be achieved at EC (Silver, Gold) or FEI (Platinum) sanctioned competitions

Awards Program Registration:

<https://licence.equestrian.ca/dcaareg/login.aspx>

Score Report Portal:

<https://licence.equestrian.ca/dcaareports/login.aspx>

Over the next few issues of Dressage Quarterly, we will profile each of the award categories. This issue we start with the newly-created Century Award Recognition and the re-vamped "Eight" Award.



The Century Award

The Century Award, recognizes dressage riders and horses with a combined age total of 100 years or more

- In order to qualify, the rider and the horse must perform any level of dressage test at either an EC (Silver, Gold) or Platinum (FEI) sanctioned competition.
- The test must be scored by an EC certified dressage judge of any level.
- Individuals do not need to be registered in the Awards Program to receive recognition under the Century Award category.
- There are no score threshold requirements for the Century Award.

The “Eight” Award

The “Eight” Award, recognizes the improvement of riding skills: position and seat, correctness and effective use of the aids and increases the understanding of the judge’s collective marks.

- The “Eight” Award scores are cumulative and may be earned on more than one horse.
- Results from EC (Silver, Gold) and FEI (Platinum) competitions qualify for The “Eight” Award.
- Individuals must be registered in the Awards Program to receive recognition under the Eight Award category.

Score Requirements

- Eight scores of “8” are required from either the Rider’s Position and Seat or the Rider’s Correct and Effective Use of the Aids collective marks on a test.
- If a rider receives an “8” for both collective marks (8 for the Rider’s Position and Seat and an 8 for the Rider’s Correct and Effective Use of the Aids) both scores will count toward the “Eight” Award recognition.

2016 National Award Winners

EC Lifetime Achievement Award Cara Whitham

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-time service and dedication have contributed directly to the ongoing growth and development of Canadian equestrian sport and industry.



Cara Whitham from Stoney Creek, ON is the 2016 recipient. Cara’s remarkable career in the equestrian industry has spanned everything from high performance dressage rider and certified coach to world-renowned judge and industry leader and volunteer. A little known fact about Cara is that she was the first woman in Canada to go for her jockey’s licence.

During her riding career, Cara was named to the Canadian Dressage Team short list numerous times, and earned many Canadian and Provincial Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle Championship titles. She has also had a remarkable impact on dressage within Canada and around the world as a certified High Performance Coach, Coach Evaluator, and FEI Course Director. Plus, she holds the record for being the only official in the world to obtain FEI 5* judging credentials for both Dressage and Eventing.

Cara’s judging career has taken her around the world and to the very top of the sport. She was appointed to the Dressage Ground Jury for the 2003 and 2011 Pan American Games, the 2005 European Dressage Championships and the 2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG). On the eventing side, Cara was appointed to the Eventing Ground Jury for the 1998 and 2002 WEG, as well as the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Recognized internationally for her knowledge and insight into equestrian sport, Cara was hired as a television commentator for the 2007 WEG, as well as the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games.

A former Manager and Director of Dressage for EC, Cara has given back to the organization throughout her long and illustrious career, providing invaluable service

through various volunteer roles, including Chair of the former Dressage Canada Committee. Cara continues to donate her time and knowledge toward the betterment of Canada's equestrian industry, and today is a current EC Category A Member, as well as current Chair of the EC Official's Task Force.

Equestrian Canada Volunteer of the Year

Anne Welch

The Volunteer of the Year 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 the hard work and dedication of individuals who so generously give their time in order to support the goals and vision of EC.

Anne Welch, the 2016 recipient, has had lifelong involvement in the Canadian equestrian community. She has dedicated her time to many volunteer positions over the years, including President of the former Canadian Dressage Supporters Club (CDSC), Chair of the former Dressage Canada Committee, chair of the EC Dressage Competitions Committee, and member of the EC Sport Council. She has also been involved in the EC Stewards, Equine Medications Control, Health & Welfare and Nominations Committees.



Anne is also a current FEI Dressage and Jumper Steward and an EC Senior Steward in all disciplines. In addition she is well known as an owner of elite horses and together with her husband, John, and the Brooks family, was recognized in 2012 as the Dressage Owner of the Year.

Dressage Athlete of the Year

Belinda Trussell

Belinda Trussell, from Stouffville, ON, was named the 2016 Dressage Athlete of the Year based on her outstanding results throughout the season, capped off by her appearance at the Rio Olympic Games.

Partnered with Anton (Antaeus x Shirley), a 17-year old Sachsen-Anhaltiner gelding owned by Robyn Eames and Mark Trussell, Belinda kicked off 2016 early in the year at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) series in Wellington, FL, where she earned multiple wins at the CDI level, and set a new national record for the highest score achieved in the Grand Prix Special (75.529%).

Her success with Anton continued in the spring when she travelled to the Ottawa Dressage Festival and added another national record to her name after scoring 73.780% in the CDI Grand Prix.

Due to their success throughout the year, Belinda and Anton were named to the Canadian Dressage Team for the Rio Olympic Games. There, Belinda added even more records to her name after achieving the highest scores received by a Canadian at an Olympic Games in both the Grand Prix (72.214%) and Grand Prix Special (72.325%).



Belinda currently holds the following records for Canada:

- CDI Grand Prix – 73.78%
- CDI Grand Prix Special – 75.529%
- Olympic Grand Prix – 72.214%
- Olympic Grand Prix Special – 72.325%
- World Equestrian Games Grand Prix – 71.614%
- World Equestrian Games Grand Prix Special – 72.409%

All records were achieved with her long-time partner Anton.

Dressage Horse of the Year

Laurencio

Laurencio (Laurentino x Donerhall), a 10-year-old gelding co-owned by Tina and Jaimey Irwin of Stouffville, ON, was named the 2016 Dressage Horse of the Year in light of his consistent winning performances throughout the season.

With Tina Irwin in the irons, Laurencio won an incredible nine small tour classes in a row during the 2016 season. His first hat trick came at the CDI 3* Ottawa Dressage Festival in May, with scores of 71.404% in the Prix St.



Georges, 73.509% in the Intermediate 1, and 74.333% in the Intermediate 1 Freestyle.

Just one month later, Laurencio once again dominated the small tour, this time at the CDI3* Cedar Valley, in June at the Royal Canadian Riding Academy in Cedar Valley, ON. After starting out with a score of 70.921% in the Prix St. Georges, Tina and Laurencio received 74.605% in the Intermediate 1, before finishing with a decisive win on the impressive Personal Best score of 79.208% in the Intermediate 1 Freestyle.

To wrap up the season, they travelled to Devon, PA for the CDI-W/3* Dressage at Devon in September. Despite a rain-filled weekend, nothing could dampen their success, and Tina and Laurencio earned progressively higher marks throughout the week, beginning with a score of 71.009% in the Prix St. George. They followed up with scores of 73.579% in the Intermediate 1, and finished with 77.175% in the Intermediate 1 Freestyle.

To start the 2017 season, Tina and Laurencio set a 2017 World Record for the Intermediate 1 Freestyle with a score of 78.708% at the Wellington, CDI1* held Feb. 26 in Florida.

Dressage Owners of the Year Robyn Eames and Mark Trussell



The mother and husband team of two-time Canadian Olympian, Belinda Trussell, were honoured with the 2016 Dressage Owner of the Year Award at the Royal Winter Fair in November.

Robyn and Mark have supported Belinda over a great many years by supplying her with horsepower, and Anton has proven to be truly world class.

“It’s been a wonderful journey with Anton and his rider, Belinda,” said Mark. “We remember Anton’s early competitions as a six-year-old in Devon, where we learned he loved the ring, but had some big fears of the applause. We were so proud of how he developed and grew up, going to the World Equestrian Games in 2010. His major injury afterwards devastated us all, and it was with amazement that, two years later he was totally healed and stronger than ever. He went on to the World Equestrian Games in 2014, the 2015 Pan American Games, and then had his redeeming Rio 2016 Olympic

Games. He and Belinda have set Canadian records with their teamwork in competition, and we can easily say he’s the greatest horse we’ve ever known.”

M.H. Lessard Dressage Volunteer of the Year Renee DeGaris

Renee DeGaris of Fredericton, NB was named the M.H. Lessard Dressage Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

Twelve years ago, dressage in New Brunswick was in decline. Renee faced this challenge head on, and along with her mother, Diane and sister, Michelle, marshalled a handful of other dressage enthusiasts to rekindle the Dressage New Brunswick (DNB) organization.



As a DNB Board member, Renee not only sought to support the growth of the sport, but also to start leveraging the Princess Louise Show Park, which was newly-finished at that time. Thanks to the unflagging enthusiasm of Renee and the DNB Board, today the organization runs as many as five full, three-day EC Bronze/Gold competitions annually from May to October. Participation has grown from an average of 25 horse-rider combinations the first year to over 60 in recent years.

In addition to competitions, through DNB, Renee works with stable owners and the New Brunswick Equestrian Association (NBEA) to help run educational clinics, manage an active social media network, and actively seek and promote sponsors.

Renee has been part of a core group with DNB that have been the backbone of the organization for the long haul. Through her commitment to the growth and development of the sport, Renee has helped to provide a ladder that allows riders to progress from Training through to the FEI levels, and a venue and opportunity for para-dressage athletes to enjoy competing at home in their own province.

Officials’ Licensing and Promotion

The Licensing and Promotion rules for 2017 have not changed from what was presented in the 2016 dressage rulebook. All details on Licensing and Promotion will be provided in a new Officials Program Manual shortly.



In the meantime if you have any questions about your application or the licensing / promotion criteria please contact:

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2017 Officials' Clinics

Information on upcoming Officials' Clinics can be found through the EC website at: www.equestrian.ca/events-results/clinics

Dressage Promotion / Updating Clinic

Dates Sept. 1 – 3, 2017

Location CDI 2* Autumn Classic in Bromont, QC

Clinician FEI 4* Dressage Judge Brenda Minor

For registration details contact

Rachel Hubert – rhuebert@equestrian.ca

Dressage Levy Support

The Dressage Committee has received recent inquiries regarding levy funding support which we felt should be clarified in this issue of Dressage Quarterly.

The Dressage Committee had to take a hard look in 2016 at all programming being offered and make some tough decisions due to our strategic priorities and the rising costs across the board which are being experienced at all levels. It is always concerning when funding limitations impact our sporting community; therefore, every opportunity is reviewed in an effort to provide alignment on programming which increases the potential for each dollar.

When programs are reviewed the Committee takes into account not only the available funding moving forward, but also the programs return on investment and how it directly impacts performance and development of our riders, coaches and officials.

As announced earlier, the levy funding is used annually to support not only talent identification and personal development programs, but also the high performance teams representing Canada at major games (World Equestrian Games, Pan American Games and Olympic Games). As everyone can appreciate, the required costs of sending teams to represent Canada at major games is a vastly expensive endeavor, which results in deficit budgets in three out of every four years. Sending these athletes to represent our country at these championships is a top strategic priority for all National Sport Federations;

it directly impacts Sport Canada and Own the Podium funding and provides inspiration to our next generation athletes.

The goal for the re-designed levy program is to offer a multi-faceted symposium with a wide array of experts coming together in one place, so that passionate equestrians can receive direct education on everything from proper development using the training scale, to coaching evaluations and athlete fitness, to performance analysis, sport psychology, freestyle choreography and perfecting test riding. Hosting this type of event meets the goal of aligning the delivery of education to increase the reach of a dollar.

The symposium will be an event that moves across the country with an investment of approximately \$15,000 - \$25,000 into the development and education of riders, coaches and officials in the host province and surrounding area. In that regard, our overall levy support to the community does not change, but the delivery of that support is directed with the potential to benefit everyone in the community.

Our initial plan was to offer the 2017 symposium as a three day event. However, the timing of the Carl Hester Masterclass already scheduled for October in Ontario provided the perfect opportunity to combine our efforts with this already existing event. In future years it's likely that the symposium will proceed as a 2–3 day event as originally planned. We would also like to arrive at a stage where we can hold a number of symposia across the country within the same calendar year; this of course is dependent on budgets.

The Dressage Committee as part of Equestrian Canada will participate in ongoing discussions with our Provincial/Territorial Sport partners in an effort to build stronger partnerships which will allow the provinces to have a direct and more active role in the grassroots and athlete development programming in their province. Developing these partnerships, clarifying the delivery mechanisms and aligning programs with the National Team Programming offered through the EC office will strengthen our system and open new opportunities for equestrians across the country.

Symposium - News

The tentative schedule for the Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium – Presented with support from Sun Life Financial Durham is outlined below:



Time	Session	Clinician(s)
8 am–12pm Arena session	Training Scale Perfecting Test Riding Athlete Development (<i>Human & Equine</i>)	Cara Whitham Lorraine MacDonald Belinda Trussell
12–12:45 pm Arena session	Freestyle Choreography	Jacqueline Brooks
12:45–1:30 pm	Lunch (provided)	
1:30-2:15 pm Arena session	Massage Therapy (<i>Human & Equine</i>)	CET Massage Therapist Caroline Archambault
2:15-3:15 pm	Rider Fitness and Exercise Prescriptions	EC Head of Sport Science Jessica Dillriott
3:15-4:30 pm	Performance Analysis	Jessica Dillriott Elizabeth Steacie
4:30-5:30 pm	Town Hall	EC Dressage Committee
7 – 10 pm	Octoberfest Dinner Celebration	

The symposium will take place Oct. 20, 2017, at the Caledon Equestrian Park in Palgrave, ON. Due to the timing, those attending the Carl Hester Masterclass (*separate registration required through www.caledonequestrianpark.com/carl-hester*), scheduled for Oct. 21-22, 2017 at the Caledon Equestrian Park, have the perfect opportunity to add the Symposium to their weekend plans and enjoy three full days of dynamic, dressage-specific education.

Symposium Pricing

- **Day Pass (Dressage Levy Contributors)-Free**
- **Day Pass (Dressage Affiliates) - \$30**
- **Day Pass (General Public) - \$45**
- **Octoberfest Evening Celebration - \$50**

Pre-Registration Required

To register for the Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium, please visit the [online Symposium registration portal](#). Please note that space is limited and this event will fill up quickly!



Youth Mentorship Program

A highlight of the winter season for a group of Canadian youth was travelling to Florida and participating in the Youth Mentorship Program the dream and inspiration of Jill Irving from Moncton, NB. In Jill's words, "I am passionate about giving back and offering opportunities for our youth and grass-roots." And she certainly has created opportunities which inspired six young riders from across Canada as well as their volunteer chaperone. Lisa Schultz of BC's Lower Mainland. Here are some comments from Lisa:

"I was honoured to be selected as the chaperon for Jill Irving's Youth Mentorship Program. This was a great experience – I was thrilled to be part of this program

Not only did we get to meet and tour the stables (or I should say horse castles!), we were able to view training and have Q & A periods with several team riders. Plus, we met several famous horses, including Pop Art and D'Niro. From these experiences, we got the inside scoop, and the chance to see what it takes to perform at such a high level.

We've left with new-found friendships from Wellington – and we feel more educated and lucky to have been part of



Left to right: Ashley Holzer, Jill Irving aboard Degas 12, Jordan Loughlin, Rebecca Russell (SK), Marina Muir (BC), Kelsey Loft (ON), Erica MacKeen (NS), Brynne MacLeod (BC), Lisa Schultz (BC) & Anne Craig (NB)



these experiences. We also created life-long memories and were inspired to reach the highest levels.

Thank you Jill Irving and all others that helped create this incredible opportunity.”

Marina Muir, one of the participants, enjoyed the Whirlwind Tour of Wellington.

“Over the course of the first week in March, the Canadian Dressage Youth Mentorship Program brought a group of six young riders from across Canada together to take in the sights of Wellington, FL. For the second consecutive year, Canadian rider Jill Irving organized this initiative and generously provided accommodations for the participants. BC-based riding coach and volunteer chaperone, Lisa Schultz, accompanied the six girls, all of whom were selected for the program by lottery after applying online a month prior.

The four day schedule was packed with an exciting variety of activities ranging from barn tours to lectures, as well as plenty of time spent at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival. Dressage4Kids instructor Lendon Grey welcomed the Canadian group to join her students in the Winter Intensive Training (WIT) program for a day, which included a fitness session, lesson auditing, and afternoon lectures at Hampton Green Farm. Lendon's WIT participants are all in a similar age range to the Canadian riders and the girls enjoyed spending time with them and their horses over the course of the trip.

Opportunities to speak to international trainers were also abundant; participants went on several educational visits to the stables of top professionals. Chris von Martels (Halcyon Farms) and Mikala Munter Gundersen (Bell Tower Farm) allowed the group to tour their respective stables and watch training in progress, both taking the time to explain their process and answer any questions. Similarly, the group joined Ashley Holzer at Ecurie Ecosse to listen to her speak about her years of dressage experience both in North America and in Europe.

Jill even hosted a special meet and greet dinner with the WIT students and numerous accomplished young professionals based out of Wellington, including Brittany Fraser, Anna Buffini, Nicholas Hansen and Juan Matute Jr. Other activities included a tour of the Palm Beach Equine Clinic, an educational session with Judge Joan Macartney and Saturday Night Freestyles at AGDF.

All six participants enjoyed their time in Wellington tremendously and would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Jill and her team for making this all possible. It is truly a fantastic opportunity for young Canadian riders to

experience firsthand the international dressage scene and all the hard work that goes into these horses outside of the show arena. Next year the size of the group will potentially be doubled to include one more volunteer chaperone and six young Canadian jumper riders in addition to the dressage riders. Anyone interested in applying for the 2018 trip can contact their provincial equestrian organization later this year for application details.”

Highlighting our Rising Stars

Our “Rising Star” in this edition is Camille Carier Bergeron.

Camille is an up-and-comer” having achieved amazing success with ponies as a Junior and now as a Young Rider.

Camille has recently been recognized as recipient of the EC Red Scarf Dressage Athlete of the Month Award (for the second time) in light of her recent achievements

particularly on the Florida circuit. We appreciate that Camille has taken time to share her experiences beginning when she was eight years old all the way up to life now as a Young Rider who balances training, competitions and schooling.

Let’s hear from Camille:

“When I was eight years old I started riding in a summer camp. I loved it so much that I’ve never stopped since. At nine years old I did my first competition on my first horse, a Thoroughbred from the track. As one could assume, this was not a perfect match for a 4’ 7” girl. After coming out of the ring with a 47% we decided it would be a much better idea to buy a pony.

I had three ponies altogether, each of them contributing differently to build my character - as my parents call it. Looking back at my days on ponies, I think they are a really important stage for children, because they make one



A nine-year-old, Camille, at her first show with the mare Discover My World.



Camille and Lowelas

mentally strong.

In 2011, when I was eleven, I participated at the first ever Interprovincial Canadian Championships with my pony mare at 1st level, and we finished first place in the team test. That same year, we found a very talented pony in Ontario, and in 2012 I started competing at the FEI Pony level.

Dressage at Devon 2012 was my first big show in FEI Pony, and it was exciting to meet all the great Canadian riders having just returned from the London Olympics. I was very impressed and it was a lot of fun!

In 2013 I was again doing the FEI Pony level and, amongst other shows, competed at the CDI Saugerties - this was a big jump.

In early 2014, I had the great fortune to get my first FEI Junior horse, Lowelas, and with him also began my training with Albrecht Heidemann. Lowelas is such an experienced schoolmaster who taught me so much - and still does to this day. I have to say, competing him at the 2014 NAJYRCs is still the best souvenir and memory: the atmosphere there was something indescribable. For me, it was like taking part in the Olympics for youth - both my horse and I were 14 years old. Even though we were mostly on different teams, all Canadians supported each other like one big family. All Canadians watched each other's rides and cheered incredibly loud after. For me personally, it was also a very successful competition, as I came home with two gold medals (for Individual and Freestyle). EC named me the Red Scarf Equestrian Dressage Athlete of the Month for July.

During the 2015 Florida winter season, I continued to show Lowelas in CDI at the FEI Junior level. Having the chance and the challenge to ride internationally against riders from Spain, Germany and Belgium, was a great - if at first intimidating - experience. In March 2015 Lowelas and I were ranked 15th in the FEI Junior world ranking list.

Parallel to Lowelas, I was competing to qualify my other horse, Delfiano, at the FEI Junior level, and I took him to the 2015 NAJYRCs. Since my friend Beatrice Boucher and I were the only two qualified Quebec Juniors, we were paired with two girls from British Columbia to complete a team. I love this kind of event, because it created new friendships. I'm grateful to say it was another successful championship for me, with a silver medal for the individual competition and bronze medal in the Freestyle.

In the fall of 2015, my trainer thought I was ready to try my first Young Rider test, but since I was still fifteen it had to be an open PSG, because one isn't eligible to compete in classes labeled YR until the year one turns sixteen. Then, during the 2016 Florida winter season, we started to get our feet wet at the FEI Young Rider level, in both national classes and CDIs.

In fall 2016, Expression came to us, and in the 2017 Florida winter season, we started at the Young Rider level, first at two national shows and then in CDIs. The end of the Florida season was a great success for us with some scores even above 72%. These scores helped us to jump to 11th place in the FEI Young Rider world ranking list in April 2017. In March this year, EC again named me the Red Scarf Equestrian Dressage Athlete of the Month. I feel unbelievably lucky to have Expression. He always, always tries to give his best. He is very intelligent and truly gentle. He can be spicy at times, but he's never stupid about it - I really love this bright and sparkling way about him.

My short-term goal is to participate and hopefully do well at the NAJYRCs in Saugerties this year. As a long-term goal, I should of course like to aspire to make it onto the Canadian Team!

Handling school, homework, training, and really spending time with my horses can be



Camille with her pony Monte Carlo competing at the FEI Pony level



Camille with Expression with winter in Florida

challenging at times, since my school doesn't have special programs for athletes. However, I have a lot of support from my school, as they allow me to leave for three months for the Florida winter season. In Canada, I get up around five in the morning to do all my homework, I go to school from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and around 6 p.m. I can sit on my first horse. My parents' support and help is amazing!

During the Florida season, I help with barn chores as much as I can before and after I home-school from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., but I couldn't manage without the great help of our friend Alexandra, especially since the shows often start on Wednesdays. I'm home-schooling with a teacher from my school in Canada who stays with us in Florida. Around 1:30 p.m. I can be on my first horse. I am doing the same exams and work as all the other students (except for the labs). Although I would really like to make horses my career, for me there must be more in life than horses, so I find it very important to have the best education possible."

As we highlight our "Rising Stars" in Dressage Quarterly, we are hopeful that competitors and friends will come out to cheer on these up and comers.

Rule Updates

Clarification E 3.4.2

Firstly an important update specifically for Stewards and Young Riders:

When Article E 3.4.2.10 was updated for 2017, the intent was to ensure that Young Riders who have competed for Canada at the North American Junior and Young Riders

Championships (NAJYRC) are allowed to apply for Amateur status. This was effectively accomplished by removing any reference to Young Rider Championships in the rule.

Unfortunately, we inadvertently forgot to remove the following statement from Article E 3.4.2:

'Any athlete, 18 and over, who has represented Canada as a Young Rider and who has not competed for a period of two years may apply to EC to have their amateur status reinstated. Competitors in FEI sanctioned competitions must comply with the definition of amateur.'

The 2017 rulebooks have been published and widely circulated and although it is possible to make this change on-line, many stewards will be relying on the printed rulebooks for reference. The offending statement will be removed from the Section E Dressage Rule Book for 2018. In the meantime, please know that effective immediately, any Young Rider over the age of 18 who has competed for Canada in a Young Rider Championship, and is not earning remuneration from teaching or training in the horse industry, is eligible to apply for Amateur status.

We apologize to anyone who has been affected by this oversight.

Clarification E 7.6

The Dressage Committee recently received an inquiry regarding the ability to offer Prix Caprilli classes at EC Competitions. The rules as posted currently limit the Prix Caprilli classes to the Bronze level.

In digging into the reference to A503 Miscellaneous classes, there is absolutely no reference to limiting miscellaneous classes to any particular show licence. Therefore, this limitation will be removed from the rules (specifically, Article E 7.6), which will then allow show organizers to offer Prix Caprilli classes at any level of EC competition.

Have you ever thought about which movement has the greatest impact on all the tests you ride? There could be any number of answers but consider for a moment which movement creates the first and last impressions. If you said the 'halt' then you would be correct. But what constitutes a great halt and what do the rules say?

Article E 1.3 FEI Article 402 -The Halt

- a) the horse should be attentive, engaged, motionless, straight and square with the weight distributed evenly over all four legs.

- b) the neck should be raised with the poll at the highest point and the nose line slightly in front of the vertical.
- c) the horse remains 'on the bit' and ready to move off when asked.

Those are the basics of the halt but there is so much more to consider as you ride in straight from A to salute at X in front of the judges at C, and possibly at other marked locations.

- Does the quality of the paces before and after the halt affect the score? Yes
- How long must the horse remain motionless in halt? 3 seconds
- Should the halt be maintained throughout the salute? Yes
- Can the horse quietly chew the bit when in halt? Yes
- Must the horse move off directly into the gait required? Yes
- If the halt is abrupt, will this negatively affect the mark? Yes
- Can there be a judging difference for the mark for halt at C or E? Yes - the judge at C sees straightness, the judge at E sees a hind resting or flattening of the back.

The halt also appears in other movements meaning that it is important to ride actively forward into and out of them. In riding a reinback, a balanced, square halt comes first before the rearward diagonal steps; likewise when a turn on the haunches is required from halt to halt.

Good luck as you create the best of first and last impressions.

Wellington Nations Cup – Chef Report – Elizabeth Steacie

It was my privilege to serve as Chef d'Equipe for Canada's Nations Cup team in Florida this year.

Our team consisted of Megan Lane riding Caravella, Jill Irving riding Degas 12, Tina Irwin on Laurencio and Jaimey Irwin on Donegal V. In addition, we had two U25 competitors in Tanya Strasser on Action Tyme and Mathilde Blais Tetreault on Utah.

Our Nations Cup week started on Sunday with an informal dinner hosted by Denielle Gallagher-Legriffon at her home in Loxahatchee. We had a brief meeting first, where I distributed the team apparel. At the meeting we also discussed the order of go for the classes, and were all in agreement. Following the meeting, we enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Denielle. Enthusiasm was

high and team spirit was excellent. There were other supporters and sponsors in attendance, so it was a fun, positive send off for our team.

Tuesday morning, I arrived at the showgrounds in time to check in with everyone, and decorate the stalls and tack rooms with Canada banners and flags. Team spirit was high as our riders prepared for the horse inspection, which began at 3pm Tuesday.

Our team members all looked extremely smart in their white trousers and red Canada shirts. So smart that Linda Zang, President of the Jury, even commented on it! All the horses were readily accepted except for one, which was held until the following morning (and passed at that time).

Following the Horse Inspection, all the riders gathered at the VIP tent to receive the complimentary vests given by the event sponsor Stillpoint Farms. Then both official and unofficial photos were taken. Afterwards everyone dispersed with instructions from me to get a good night's rest!

Wednesday began early as our one team horse was presented and ultimately accepted at 7:30am. Then the U25 competition began in the late morning. Tanya Strasser led off with a solid test, followed by Mathilde Blais-Tetreault, who laid down a very promising test and a fourth place finish. Both girls were pleased with their rides and their bronze medal for the team competition. The awards ceremony was held immediately after the test. Following the presentations, Mathilde represented the team at the press conference and spoke with confidence and charming honesty.

In the afternoon, we began with the Prix St. George test and our small tour team members did not disappoint, finishing 1-2 in the test with extremely high scores and a very good impression. Both horses were expertly presented and looked amazing. Both Jaimey and Tina achieved personal best scores in this test. Jaimey and Tina then returned ringside to cheer on their teammates in the Grand Prix.

The Grand Prix began with a stunning disappointment for the US team when Tuny Page's horse Woodstock was eliminated. Following Tuny's ride, the strong American combination of Shelly Francis also experienced some misfortune when Shelly went off course, costing her 2% points on her final score. We then watched Jill Irving have one of the best rides of her career, riding on a 70%+ until a small mistake in the one-time changes cost her a bit. Nevertheless, she finished with a good 69%+



score. We all held our breath during Megan's ride, which was nearly flawless. At the end of the day, Canada was unexpectedly standing two points ahead of the strong US Team! So, once again, team morale was very high and everyone felt very positive going into the second day of the team competition.

My email to the riders on Thursday morning cautioned against over-confidence, however, and stressed the importance of an "optimal" TEAM ride on day two. The US Team was within easy striking distance and would not make the same mistakes they had during the first day!

However, our seasoned and experienced riders needed no help from me to again put in beautiful tests with confidence. Again, all the horses were superbly presented and looked very good. Team riders were there ringside to support each other throughout. Our day began with Mathilde winning the individual Gold Medal in the U25, and Tanya again having a solid and nicely presented test. I'm very proud of these two girls and their skill and good sportsmanship. Mathilde was also very poised in the press conference afterwards.

A short rain delay took place prior to the start of the senior Nations Cup. Thomas Bauer made the call and notified all the Chefs in good time. I was able to alert the riders early in the day as to the possibility of a rain delay, so we were well positioned to deal with any timing issues.

Once we got underway in the Intermediate test, Jaimey led off with a good test, and even though the continued unsettled weather led to a few tense moments and minor mistakes, Jaimey was excellent at toning it down and getting the best possible score under the circumstances. Tina was able to once again produce a very high scoring test on her Laurencio, truly a unicorn if ever there was one!

The Grand Prix became one of the most exciting tests to watch, as the gap between the Canadian and US teams was very small, and the US riders had good tests. Jill held up her end with another exemplary ride, having only a tiny mistake in the ones up centre line and finishing on 69.5%. With the 1.5% bonus for the big tour riders, this put her score over 70%, just what we needed, and only .1% behind the third American rider, Lisa Wilcox. So it all came down to the final ride of the day, and Megan needed a 68%+ to anchor us to the win, which she did, laying down a 70.1%. It was a happy day for Canada.

Although there were not any presentations for the team medals following the competition, the riders all attended the press conference and spoke well, thanking all the

sponsors and the OC, as well as giving credit to their marvelous horses.

Friday, competition got underway in the afternoon with the Intermediate 1 Freestyle, and again, Jaimey and Tina were superstars, riding well-designed and fun Freestyles to take the Gold and Silver Individual medals.

The evening saw the U25 freestyles take place for individual medals in the U25 Nations Cup. Tanya had a good ride and bettered her scores from the technical tests, as her old campaigner Action Tyme handled the atmosphere like the pro he is. Mathilde was a little less lucky as Utah was tense and some mistakes crept into the test, leaving her off the podium with a fifth place finish. Time and experience for this new combination will improve this Freestyle, and the future is very bright for this pair.

The presentations for the Team awards took place during the break in the U25 Freestyles, and it was a very proud moment for Canada as the team received their gold medals. Everyone was beautifully presented and again showed wonderful sportsmanship as they quickly moved to congratulate the other team riders, coaches and chefs following the podium ceremony.

The Grand Prix Freestyles were very exciting to watch, as it was anyone's to win. Jill had a super ride, mistake free, and ended up with a very good score of 72.8%. But it was Megan who stole the show with a flawless ride of great difficulty, including double one-handed canter pirouettes and wildly extravagant lines of tempis. Second last to go in the test, she was grace itself and ended on a winning score of 74.5%!

It is worth noting that it really was a great weekend for Canada. In the non-CDIO classes both Ava MacCoubrey in the Junior classes and Camille Bergeron in the Young Rider classes were superb, both on relatively new horses. Diane Creech posted super results in the small tour CDI 1* with Robbie W. And Christilot Boylen, in addition to coaching Megan, also rode in both the CDI 1* with Rocky Lane and the CDI 3* with Drentano, achieving top 10 results with both. We heard the Canadian anthem so much I was afraid they might wear out the CD!

Super weekend.

