



CHRISTILOT BOYLEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Photo Credit: Cealy Tetley

In light of her prolific dressage career that has spanned over 50 years, Equestrian Canada (EC) is thrilled to provide Christilot Boylen of Schomberg, ON, with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The EC Lifetime Achievement Award is given to individuals 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. A well-deserving recipient, Christilot is widely respected by her peers, as proven by the many touching endorsements included in her nomination from renowned students, owners and athletes – who represent just a fraction of the lives touched by Christilot’s talent and guidance.

After buying her first horse in 1957 at the age of 10 with the profits from her role as a child actress on “The Howdie Doodie Show”, Christilot never looked back. A mere seven years later, she became the youngest-ever Olympic dressage competitor during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Christilot went on to compete at five more Olympic Games (1968, 1972, 1976, 1984 and 1992), landing in the top-10 seven times in team competition and three times as an individual. She also saw incredible success at the Pan American Games, earning individual gold medals in 1971, 1975 and 1985. Now in her 70s, Christilot continues to compete at the top levels of the sport,



most recently bringing her current partner, Rockylane, up the ranks to the CDI grand prix level. A breast cancer survivor, she even continued to compete throughout her treatment, winning the grand prix at Devon shortly after her second chemotherapy treatment.

Outside of the ring, Christilot's career has been equally impactful, especially in her dedication to helping generations of equestrians reach the world stage. Christilot holds the highest level of EC coaching certification (High Performance 1), and her nominators state you'd be hard-pressed to find many Canadian Dressage Team members who have not been coached at some point either directly by Christilot or by one of her students.

Some of Christilot's recent students include Belinda Trussell and Megan Lane, who represented Canada at the Rio 2016 Olympics and 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games. However, her reach goes far beyond the dressage realm, as proven by the impact she had on Canadian Olympian, Selena O'Hanlon, who credits Christilot with helping her earn game-changing dressage scores in the sport of eventing that have led her to the top of the leaderboard – including a historic win for the maple leaf at the prestigious Fair Hill International in 2017.

Christilot is also credited with igniting the sport of dressage in Canada. In 1986, she teamed up with the Pracht family to host the World Equestrian Championships in Cedar Valley, ON, marking the first time the event had been held in North America. A few years later, she founded the Canadian Amateur Dressage Owners Association (CADORA), a national organization created to support dressage owners, riders and trainers at the grassroots level. Her love of the horse and passion for dressage also led her to publish three books, including *Canadian Entry*, which tells the tale of her remarkable journey to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Christilot's nominators fittingly describe her as “the epitome of strength, endurance and positivity,” and EC is proud to add the Lifetime Achievement Award to her many accolades and countless achievements.