



SUE FOELL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



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 Equestrian Canada (EC). This year's recipient is Sue Foell.

Foell is a registered physiotherapist, national dressage steward, dressage rider, and enthusiast. She is a supporter for the inclusion of all eligible persons in equestrian sport. She has and continues to strive to share her knowledge and enthusiasm of the sport of para dressage and classification by maintaining her Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) credentials and through continuous education.

This continued learning helps her as she works to maintain the most current knowledge regarding classification and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards. She has attended three para dressage forums representing Canada, has participated in several CPEDI (International Para-Equestrian



Dressage)'s in both the USA and Canada in the role of Classifier. She has chosen to participate on the FEI Classification Research Reference Group to further develop the EC National Classification program.

She has worked with EC to bring the national classification system in alignment with the FEI and IPC standards. With the goal of helping to creating growth and sustainability in both national and international para dressage sport. She has been a member of the EC Para Dressage Committee for several years, and now is the Chair of the Committee. With her leadership, the Committee has developed a pathway for athletes from grass roots to the international playing field. She has presented and participated in courses for our officials to promote para dressage and explain the role of classification.

Together with the support of the committee, she has developed and presented courses to both recruit and sustain new national classifiers. She is chair of the Classification Advisory Group and in this role, she continues to review and approve applications and mentors the National Classifiers.

In addition to Sue's FEI Level 2 Classifiers status, she is also an EC Senior Steward. Sue volunteers her time to help support and educate dressage officials on para dressage through webinars, courses, and onsite at competitions. Sue is leading a working group on intellectual disabilities to better understand opportunities for competition for athletes with intellectual impairments. The vision of the group is to see inclusion of all athletes.