



PETER BARRY OWNER OF THE YEAR



Photo Credit: Cealy Tetley

The Equestrian Canada (EC) 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. The 2019 recipient, Peter Barry of Dunham, QC, has had an incredible impact on high performance eventing in Canada, not only as a dedicated owner, but also as an athlete and mentor.

A Canadian Olympian, Peter had a long and successful career as an eventing athlete, representing Canada at London 2012, as well as the 2014 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Caen, FRA. There, he contributed to a top-six finish for the Canadian Eventing Team, which secured Canada's eventing berth to the Rio 2016 Olympics. Peter remained at the top level of the sport for nearly 15 years, experiencing some of the world's most iconic eventing venues, including the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event and Les Étoiles de Pau in France.

In 2017, Peter suffered a stroke that brought his competitive career to an end. While he still enjoys riding for pleasure and rehabilitation therapy, his passion is now focused on breeding top quality horses and supporting the next generation of eventing athletes through ownership. He has



been an incredible source of support and mentorship for Canadian Eventing Team member and Dunham neighbour, Colleen Loach - providing her with a steady stream of talented horses, and collaborating on training and competition schedules.

Peter's 2004 Selle Français gelding, Qorry Blue D'Argouges (Mr. Blue x Count Ivor), has been a prolific partner for Colleen. Over the past six years the pair have represented Canada at three major games. Their first Games experience took place in front of a hometown crowd at the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games, where Colleen and Qorry contributed to a team bronze medal.

The next year Colleen had the opportunity to make her Olympic debut aboard Qorry – never forgetting that in addition to providing her with horsepower, Peter had also helped ensure Canada had the opportunity to send a team to Rio through his performance at WEG 2014. Most recently, the duo rode for the maple leaf at WEG 2018 in Mill Spring, NC. Having become well-known for their strong, consistent cross-country performances, Colleen and Qorry owned up to their reputation as the very first competitors on course, where they navigated all 42 obstacles for a clear jumping performance and ultimately helped Canada finish 11th overall despite a teammate's unfortunate elimination.

Peter also played an important part in Colleen's repeat journey to the Pan Am Games, this time in Lima, PER, for the 2019 edition. Placing his trust and confidence in Colleen, Peter joined her and Amanda Bernhard in co-ownership of her current top mount, FE Golden Eye, a 2012 Hanoverian gelding (Goldfever 3 x Contendro I). In just his second year at FEI level competition, FE Golden Eye rose to the world stage as Colleen's partner in Peru. Only seven years old at the time, he was among the youngest horses competing at the Games. Despite his relative inexperience, he rose to the occasion with bold performances across all three phases – highlighted by a phenomenal dressage test that garnered the fourth-highest score of the day at 26.2 penalty points – and helped the Canadian Eventing Team bring home the bronze medal.

FE Golden Eye's talent and development have continued to grow following Lima under Peter and Colleen's careful guidance, and they ended the 2019 season on a high, winning the CCI 2* division at Plantation Field in Unionville, PA, on a new personal best dressage score of 25.1 penalties.

And FE Golden Eye is not the only rising star. Proving the strength of his breeding and horse management program, Peter has also provided Colleen with a number of other prospects, including Vermont (Van Helsing x Heraldik XX), a 2012 Hanoverian gelding. First reaching the FEI level in 2018 with Colleen in the irons, Vermont started coming into his own in 2019, claiming the CCI 2* Fair Hill International in Elkton, MD, before winning his CCI 3* debut in



Bromont, QC. Colleen and Vermont closed out the 2019 season by returning to the Fair Hill International for an impressive second place finish in the CCI 3*-L division.

Colleen credits Peter with making her quest to represent Canada a reality, and states that without his support, she would not have the horsepower to accomplish her goals and dreams. EC is grateful for Peter's long-time dedication and contributions to the Canadian Eventing Team as an owner, athlete and breeder, and honoured to shine the spotlight on Peter as the 2019 Owner of the Year.